



# PORTSMOUTH

## *Historical Society*

## December 2016 Newsletter

(portsmouthhistorical.org)

Welcome to the December edition of the Portsmouth Historical Society's Newsletter. This month marks my completion of a first year as President of this wonderful organization. It has been a most productive year; our membership has grown significantly. Through the efforts of Doug Smith we have had at least one public program each month. Museum attendance was also up considerably. We look forward to continuing to grow and to draw attention to the very rich history of our town.

**Donations:** We have received a number of Portsmouth-related donations lately. Among them are the Hathaway family records for the Hillcrest Farm, a series of billheads for Portsmouth businesses from the 30s to the 60s and loan of a scrapbook from Steve Stone of newspaper clippings of the activities of the Historical Society from the 30s to the 60s. All of these are valuable contributions to our historical archives and we continue to search for photographs and other artifacts from our history.

**Final Event for 2016.** President Jim Garman will close out our yearlong event schedule with a public photographic lecture on "**Island Park: A Unique Portsmouth Community**" on **Thursday 15 December at 6:30 PM** at the Portsmouth Free Public Library. Come see what Island Park looked like over the years as its roots from its early history to a trolley amusement park to the mostly residential community that it is today. The lecture is free, but space is limited. **Please contact the Library at 683-9457 to make a reservation.**

**Event Planning for 2017:** Doug Smith, VP and Program Chairman has begun developing ideas for 2017 events showcasing our history. Guest lectures on the history of Prudence Island and Tiverton are in the works for the spring, along with a **Portsmouth History Trivia Contest** featuring teams from the High School and the Middle School. If you have ideas for programs and events and would like to

help out, please contact Doug Smith by email at the following email address: HSPrograms@Portsmouthhistorical.org.

**Grant Administration Group formed:** At our November Board meeting Treasurer Dave Faucher announced the formation of a subcommittee of the Finance Committee to coordinate Historical Society Grant applications and management. Board member Gary Gump will lead this group assisted by Rich Talipsky and Mike Paglierani.

**Historic Cemeteries and Historic Houses in Portsmouth to be inventoried:** Portsmouth Town Planner and PHS Board member Gary Crosby has identified two areas where the town can use our help. These include updating a photographic inventory of Portsmouth's historic houses and creating/supplementing a photographic inventory of our numerous historic cemeteries. Both of these efforts will require volunteers to plan, conduct and codify these inventories for inclusion in the Town's Comprehensive Plan. These projects are currently in the planning phases and we are looking to our membership to get involved and help out. Some training will be provided. Further details will become available soon.

**Your donations are needed and appreciated:** I'd like to remind everyone that our Society is a **501(c)3** charitable organization and your gifts or donations to our Society are tax deductible. Your kind donations will enable us to continue to provide programs and events throughout the year that celebrate our proud history. A holiday donation in the name of a family member is a nice way to remember a loved one and help us to keep memories of Portsmouth history alive.

**No Board meeting in December:** There will be no Society Board meeting in December, and our next Board meeting will be on Monday 23 January at 6:30 PM at the Portsmouth Free Public Library. All Board meetings are open to the public. Feel free to come meet with us anytime.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support and interest in the Portsmouth Historical Society over the past year. On behalf of the Society Board I wish all of our members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season.

Doug Smith  
Vice-President  
Portsmouth Historical Society

Jim Garman  
President  
Portsmouth Historical Society

*TAKING PRIDE IN PORTSMOUTH'S HISTORY*