



# PORTSMOUTH

## *Historical Society*

### Portsmouth Historical Society Newsletter for October 2018

**An Apology:** Last month we mailed membership reminders to those whose memberships had expired and were not renewed through August. We are grateful for those of you who responded by renewing your membership for the current year (ending in June 2019). Unfortunately, several of you received this reminder letter in error due to data entry issues. We regret any inconvenience and we value your continued membership and participation in the PHS.

**Past Events:** The month of September proved to be the Society's busiest ever: On 15 September David Thieme carried out his Eagle Scout project with the assistance of his fellow-scouts. They broke the stonewall between the museum and the shopping center next door and built an earthen stepping stone ramp. This is a very useful project for visitors to our museum, especially on Sunday afternoons when the stores in the shopping center are closed. We are very grateful to David and his Scout friends for doing a very worthwhile project.

On 19 September we had another round of the **PHS History Book Club**. Gloria Schmidt, one of our Museum Curators, led a discussion on R.A. Scotti's book: "**Sudden Sea**" an account of the 1938 hurricane that devastated RI and most of New England. We had a lively discussion at the Library and everyone enjoyed it.

On 20 September we had our **Fall Harvest Social at Greenvale Vineyards**. There was a good turnout and we talked a little history while enjoying the fine wines of Greenvale.

On 22 September the **Portsmouth Community Players** presented a program at St. Mary's Church "Voices from the Graveyard". They reflected on stories from some of the people buried in the Church's graveyard.

And on Sunday 22 September we had a program at the museum titled "**Women of Portsmouth**". **Gloria and Richard Schmidt** and our other Curators put together a program on some of the important women in Portsmouth's history. It was a very interesting program and the large crowd learned a lot about the contribution of some of the Town's famous women.

**Upcoming Events:** Our events will slow down some in October but we are not quite done yet.

Our Museum will close for the winter after Sunday 7 October and we will begin to winterize the building. Some programs will continue, however:

On Monday 22 October from 6-730 PM we will have another session of our **PHS History Book Club at the Portsmouth Library**. Board member **Anne Burns** will lead a discussion on “**King Philip’s War: The History and Legacy of America’s Forgotten Conflict**” by Eric B. Schultz and Michael J. Tougias. The book is an account of a war between the colonists and the Native Americans in the 1670s. King Philip’s headquarters were located on Mount Hope in Bristol and the war spread all over New England with significant engagements taking place in Little Compton, the Great Swamp in South Kingstown and as far away as Deerfield MA. There is a considerable amount of local history in this book and we encourage you to go to the Library to borrow a copy and come to the Book Club.

Also, on Tuesday 23 October at 10 AM our Museum will host the **35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beirut Bombing Memorial Service** where 241 American servicemen were killed, including nine Rhode Island Marines. This memorial service is open to the public and always draws a large crowd. We are very proud to host this important event.

**SPECIAL OFFER:** Our thanks go out to PHS member **Nancy Parker-Wilson**, owner of **Greenvale Vineyards**, for donating all the wine consumed at our Fall Harvest Social. Nancy is also offering a **10% DISCOUNT** on Greenvale wines for PHS members through 31 December. Please take advantage of her very kind offer and enjoy Greenvale wines over the holidays at a discount price. A bottle of our best local wine makes an excellent Christmas present for your family, friends and neighbors.

Over the fall months the Society will be engaging contractors to do several projects at the Museum. We will be replacing worn gutters on the Museum Church building as we have had a few leaks that must be fixed. Also we will be replacing the worn roof of the Town Hall building which houses our agricultural tool collection. We will be adding storm Windows to our Museum building. And finally, we will be upgrading our alarm system on the main building.

We are always looking for tax-free donations and we would gratefully accept any support for any of these projects from our members.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jim Garman, President

*Taking Pride in Portsmouth’s History*