



PORTSMOUTH

Historical Society

April 2017 Newsletter

Trivia Night: Big Success!: On 9 March we had our first **Portsmouth History Trivia Contest**. With the support of the Gulf Stream Restaurant at Melville six teams from the High School and the Middle School competed for the top prize. One of the Middle School teams came out on top in this first annual school event.

Spurred on by this success the Portsmouth History Society has decided to schedule a **Portsmouth History Trivia contest for Adults!** It will be held on Thursday evening 20 April at the Valley Inn (on the West Main Road). So get your teams of 2-4 participants together and sign up. We are asking a minimum \$5 donation for Historical Society members and \$10 for non-members at the door. Prizes will be awarded to the first three teams. As space will be limited we ask you to register your teams at phsinfo.org. We will limit the number to the first 12 teams that sign up. So get your group together and join us for a fun (and educational) evening.

Other upcoming events:

Sunday April 23: We will co-sponsor with the Library a genealogy lecture at the Library by Diane Boumenot: "Digging Deeper with Military, Probate and Pension Records". 2-4 PM. Sign up with the Library.

Saturday 13 May: Jacob Begin, a cemetery expert with RIDOT, will help us celebrate RI Historic Cemetery/Awareness Day with a workshop at the cemetery on Turnpike Avenue.

Saturday 20 May. We will have docent training at the Museum conducted by the Curators and me. **WE NEED DOCENTS FOR THE SUMMER. PLEASE VOLUNTEER.**

Sunday 21 May: Open House for members with a lecture on where the Portsmouth Historical Society has come from as we celebrate our 79th year.

Sunday 28 May: The Historical Society will be open Sunday afternoons from 2-4 until Columbus Day with a series of special events.

Monday June 19: Annual Meeting of the Historical Society with the election of officers for the next year.

.....many other events are scheduled for the remainder of the year. Check our website: portsmouthhistorical.org for details.

DOCENTS: If you have ever considered becoming a docent for visitors to our museum, please join us for Docent training on Saturday 20 May from 2-4 PM. This is a great way to learn about Portsmouth history and our exhibits. Following training docents can sign up for hands-on training by joining an experienced Docent when we open the next week. Additional docents are needed because we would like to be open more often to the public. Please consider volunteering a few hours over the summer hosting visitors to our museum.

ADA ACCESSIBILITY: The Society is making great strides toward making our museum fully ADA-accessible beginning with the construction of a handicap access ramp into the ground floor of our museum. Construction of this ramp will begin this summer thanks in part to the generous support of JAM Construction.

WEBSITE UPDATES: Our website (portsmouthhistorical.org) has been significantly improved lately by Rich Talipsky. Our front page has a slide show with important new information about how you can best contribute as a volunteer. Upcoming events can easily be viewed in a banner on all pages. We also post the logo of our corporate sponsors and show a scrolling list of our major supporters. Recently added to our "Collections" page are images of all the town documents from 1638 to 1640. The high-res images allow you to actually read the documents. Also added is a "Scrapbook" of news articles from 1930 to 1960. This was loaned to us by Steve Stone. Our new "In Memoriam" page lets you honor those people who have passed on by requesting that your donations be in their memory. The website will get you the information you need but also link you to other websites that have additional information on Portsmouth history. Send comments and recommendations concerning the website to Rich Talipsky at PHSPR@portsmouthhistorical.org.

MEMBERSHIP: Soon it will be time to renew your membership in the Portsmouth Historical Society. Our annual year runs from June to May. Watch for a town-wide mailing this month and remember to renew your membership and recruit all of your friends to join us for what is going to be a fun-packed year of Portsmouth history events.

Jim Garman
President, Portsmouth Historical Society

TAKING PRIDE IN PORTSMOUTH HISTORY