



PORTSMOUTH

Historical Society

August 2017 Newsletter

Welcome to the monthly newsletter of the Portsmouth Historical Society. It is a busy time for the Society. The painting of our museum is nearing completion, and as anyone can see, putting a coat of new paint on a 1865 church building can work wonders on how it looks.

We have a number of upcoming events and our latest is initiating the detailed planning for a Christmas concert by the Navy Choristers on 8 December, as a benefit for the Historical Society. More details on that later.

We had a nice turnout on Sunday 23 July to celebrate **Anne Hutchinson's 426th birthday**. Both Gloria Schmidt and our President had short talks on both Anne and the other women who came to settle Portsmouth in 1638. And we all enjoyed her birthday cake.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday 6 August: The **Portsmouth Arts Guild (PAG)** from **2-5 PM** will be setting up their easels on the grounds of the Historical Society to paint local scenes. Many of them will also have their work on display for sale. This will be a unique opportunity to meet our local artists, watch them work and talk to them about their craft. In addition, our Museum buildings will be open for visitors to see our wonderful display of Portsmouth's history. This event is free and we encourage all members and guests to come by.

Tuesday 8 August: In partnership with the **Portsmouth Free Public Library** the Historical Society will host a talk by local historian **Fred Zilian** at the **Library at 6 PM**. Fred will speak on "**Life on Aquidneck Island during the British Occupation (1776-1779)**". This will be an interesting presentation on what life was like under a

rather oppressive occupation by the British during that time. Space is limited so please call the Library at 683-9457 for a reservation.

Other future events (Save the dates):

On Thursday 28 September, the Society will hold its annual **Harvest Social** at **Greenvale Vineyards**.

And the **Navy Chorister Benefit Concert** for the **Historical Society** at **St. Barnabas Church** on **Friday 8 December**.

Our Membership Drive has been going forward very successfully. But just a reminder: **dues for the 2017-2018 are now due**. If you have not yet renewed, please go to our website portsmouthhistorical.org and get an application. Or better yet, **come to the Museum on any Sunday from 2-4 PM** and fill out a renewal and see the excellent exhibit of Portsmouth history .

At the Museum there are three books available that will help you learn more about Portsmouth's history:

Jim Garman's "**Historic Tales of Newport County**"

John Pierce's "**Historic Tales of the Town of Portsmouth RI**"

Jim Garman's "**The Gentlemen's Farms of Portsmouth RI**"

All three are available at a reasonable price and all proceeds go to the Historical Society. We have other items, like coffee cups, not cards and ornaments for sale as well.

Our curators and our docents have been working very hard to organize, and to present our artifacts to the public, so please stop by on a Sunday afternoon between 2 and 4 to learn about Portsmouth's wonderful history. We'll see you there!

Jim Garman
President

TAKING PRIDE IN PORTSMOUTH'S HISTORY