



PORTSMOUTH

Historical Society

September 2017 Newsletter

Welcome to the September Newsletter. We have had a very busy year, so far for the Historical Society and there are a number of events planned for the fall. Most importantly, by the time you receive this, the outsider painting of the Historical Society's main building will be completed. The beautiful new coat, thanks to a grant from the RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, the work has been done by the Preservation Coop of Warren. But there is **more**: This fall the inside first floor of the Museum building will also receive several coats of paint as well. This is a part of the same grant and the same company will do the painting to really spruce up the inside of our museum.

Coming Events (Save the Dates):

Thursday 28 September 530-730 PM: We will have our annual Harvest Social Event at Greenvale Vineyards. For a donation of \$10 per person, you can come, socialize, hear about the activities of the Society and enjoy the fine wines of Greenvale. Tickets will be available soon from the Board members and also available at the door.

Sunday 8 October 2-4 PM: On the closing day of our Museum for the winter, we will celebrate by having **History Comes Alive 2017** at the Museum featuring a number of new historical figures from Portsmouth's past talking about their life and experiences in our town. Members of the **Portsmouth Community Theater** will represent historical characters, including George Manchester, Union Church Clerk (Ron Marsh), Emeline Eldredge (Cindy Killavey), talking about her friend, artist Sarah Eddy, Geri Camara (Tonya Kieron), talking about growing up on Glen Farm and farming in the town. And, of course, we will have James Preston (Richard Schmidt) teaching a 1725 class in our one-room schoolhouse. This promises to be an exciting event and something that would be of interest to adults and children alike. There is no admission fee; please come and spend some time with our historic ancestors.

Wednesday 18 October at 7 PM: A lecture entitled "**Aquidneck Island Bridges and Ferries through History: A Pictorial View**" will be given by our President, Jim Garman at the Common Fence Point Hall. This is a great place to have a large audience come to see another aspect of our rich history. Free admission.

Monday, October 23 at 10 AM: The annual Beirut Bombing Memorial Service will be held at the Museum, remembering nine RI Marines killed in a barracks bombing in Beirut Lebanon. Refreshments will be served after the memorial service.

Also: **Friday 8 December**, the **Navy Choristers** will perform a **Christmas Concert** to benefit the Portsmouth Historical Society at St. Barnabas Church. More details will follow.

Other activities are currently being planned for the winter season. So, as you can see, the Society's Board is very pro-active in planning events to celebrate the wonderful history. Please join us for as many of these activities as you can.

And while we have your attention, please renew your membership for 2017-18 if you haven't already. The application can be found on our website portsmouthhistorical.org.

As mentioned we intend to close our museum displays after 8 October and, because the museum will receive a fresh coat of paint inside, we will need to box up many of our artifacts temporarily. Therefore we would like to issue an appeal for boxes and packing materials, bubble wrap, tissue, etc. to help us store these materials safely for the winter. We appreciate your support.

We are also grateful to the **Portsmouth Arts Guild** for allowing us to display much of their artwork in the Museum for the past month. It is so nice to see paintings of historic locations in Portsmouth. We have a great community of great locations for paintings. This display was a very nice addition to our regular Sunday afternoon programs.

Our Curator staff, led by Nancy Crawford, is hard at work planning our annual display for next summer. There will be a common theme and, as usual, materials from our collection will be shown.

Our Society is always looking for donations relevant to the history of Portsmouth and Rhode Island. Please consider us before disposing of photographs, diaries, local old newspapers and other locally historic items.

We'll see you at our Museum on Sundays (2-4) or at our upcoming events.

Jim Garman
President

TAKING PRIDE IN PORTSMOUTH'S HISTORY