



# PORTSMOUTH

## *Historical Society*

### January 2018 Newsletter

**Happy New Year everyone!** As the Portsmouth Historical Society begins its 80<sup>th</sup> year we wish you all the best! We have a full year of activities scheduled and we hope we will see all of you at them.

**Navy Chorister's Concert:** On 8 December the Navy Choristers sang a Christmas concert at St. Barnabas Church, a fundraiser for the Portsmouth Historical Society. The attendance was over 350, a wonderful turnout. Thank you all for coming. We are very grateful to the Choristers, especially Pat McGue and Lori McDowell, for their beautiful program of Christmas music. We are also thankful to St. Barnabas Church for providing a special place for the concert. And finally, we greatly appreciated all of our sponsors who are listed on the program, created by our Board member and Chorister soloist, Rich Talipsky. The program is available on our website: ([portsmouthhistorical.org](http://portsmouthhistorical.org)).

**Upcoming events:** We start off the year's events with a lecture by Jim Garman on **Wednesday 24 January** at 7 PM at the **Common Fence Point Community Center**. Titled "**Island Park 1898-1938**" it will be a look at the hub of social life in Portsmouth between those years. From the early days of an amusement park and a dance hall, the area was a center of a great deal of interesting activity. Sadly, the hurricane of 1938 brought a 12-foot wall of water up the Sakonnet River and caused the end of an era. Reservations are not required.

Also, on Monday 12 February, we will host a lecture on the **Battle of Rhode Island** by **Christian McBurney**, author of several recent books, including "The Rhode Island Campaign". The lecture will be at the **Portsmouth Library** at 6 PM. Seating is limited so please call the Library (683-9457) to make a reservation. His books will be available for purchase.

**Volunteers needed:** The Historical Society is always looking for volunteers. Our paint job is nearly finished and we will need assistance in

setting up the museum soon. We are looking for volunteers to help with our scheduled events and to give us suggestions on events related to Portsmouth's wonderful history that you would like to see us do. Please contact us on our website.

By the way, we are pleased to welcome Kathy Hickey as a new member of our Board of Directors. Kathy was a very helpful docent last summer at our museum and she shows a great deal of enthusiasm for our activities. We are happy to have her with us.

**From Our Membership Committee:**

Our Society membership continues to grow with well over 500 new members joining in the past 3 years. Renewing your membership in our Society each year helps us show potential grant donors that we have community support, and membership fees provide a major source of funds for our ongoing programs. 150 or more members are currently delinquent, however, so if you haven't done so already, please renew your Historical Society membership now. We will be mailing or emailing reminders to all those who have let their membership lapse in the next few weeks. If you value our local history like we do and want to continue to receive our monthly newsletter, please take a minute to renew your membership, either online on our website, [www.portsmouthhistorical.org](http://www.portsmouthhistorical.org), or by mail to our mail address: PHS, PO Box 834, Portsmouth RI 02871.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming lectures and activities, including a showing of the original **(1638) Portsmouth Compact on 7 March, Founders Day**. Portsmouth Trivia History is also coming!

Jim Garman  
President

*TAKING PRIDE IN PORTSMOUTH'S HISTORY*