



# PORTSMOUTH

## *Historical Society*

## February 2018 Newsletter

Welcome to the February Newsletter of the Portsmouth Historical Society. In spite of the winter weather the Society has continued to be very active to bring historical information to our membership.

On 24 January a large crowd turned out for my **Island Park** lecture at the Common Fence Point Community Center. The crowd was nearly 130, one of the largest we have had for one of our lectures in memory. We are grateful for **Conley Zani** and the Common Fence Point Improvement Association for giving us a new venue to hold such a large and enthusiastic crowd. And we are grateful for **Jim McGaw** of the *Portsmouth Times* for great press coverage. Look for more upcoming lectures to be held soon.

### Upcoming Events:

Monday 12 February at 6PM: Author **Christian McBurney** will give a lecture on **The Battle of Rhode Island** at the Portsmouth Free Public Library. He will also have copies of his books on the RI campaign and other local Revolutionary War incidents like the capture of General Prescott for sale. Seating is limited and you need to call the Library at 683-9457 to make a reservation.

On Wednesday 7 March we will again celebrate **Portsmouth's Founders' Day** with a display of the original **1638 Portsmouth Compact**, with some comments by your President describing the context of this wonderful founding document of our town. This will take place at the Town Hall between 11AM and 1 PM with the comments being at about noon. This is a fascinating opportunity to see this original document written by our founders in the year 1638.

Study your Portsmouth history! It is time once again for our **Portsmouth History Trivia Contests**. On Thursday 22 March from 6-8 PM at the **Gulfstream Restaurant** at Melville we will host teams from the Middle School and the High School in a competition to see who has the best recall of our town's history. The Middle School will be defending their title won last year and the High School teams will be trying to dislodge them. As it was last year it will be a lot of fun! So, students, get your teams together and join us.

On 11 April we will also again have a **Portsmouth History Trivia Contest** for adults from 6-8 PM at the Valley Inn.

And finally, look for information for the forthcoming **Portsmouth History Book Club** which will start on 23 April from 6:30 to 7:30 at the Portsmouth Library. The first book to be discussed will be "**American Jezebel**" by Eve LaPlante. This is a biography of Anne Hutchinson, one of the founders of Portsmouth.

So you can see that we are starting off the year with a number of interesting activities, all emphasizing the wonderful history of Portsmouth. Please join us! Thanks to Doug Smith, VP and Program chairman, for his hard work on organizing these events.

**Museum Refurbishment Project:** The exterior painting of the Museum is complete and the inside of the first floor is almost done. Then the fun starts: moving the furniture back in place and replacing the archive material that had to be moved and stored away.

One thing that we noticed in moving the furniture is that several of our pieces of furniture are in need of loving attention. If we have any members out there who have woodworking or furniture repair experience who would like to volunteer to adopt one or more pieces to repair or refinish we would love to have you volunteer your services. It will be possible to look at the furniture during our open house in May to see how you can help. Or you can contact your President.

**New Board Member:** We are pleased to add **Lois Ryan** to our Board of Directors. She has been an excellent Docent at our Museum and a member of our Curator's Committee. We are always looking for volunteers for our Board, our Docents and for various committees. Let us know if you can help and what your interests are.

This month we are very grateful to Clement's Marketplace for putting our name on their donation box for a month. Through that, and by the generosity of their patrons, we just received a check for a little over \$100. Thanks to Clements and you.

Please join us for our activities and if you have not yet renewed your membership for 2017-18 please go to our website ([portsmouthhistorical.org](http://portsmouthhistorical.org)) and do so now. Thanks to Gary Gump, Membership committee chairman and Rich Talipsky for sending out recent reminders. Thanks for your support!

Jim Garman  
President

*TAKING PRIDE IN PORTSMOUTH'S HISTORY*