



PORTSMOUTH

Historical Society

Portsmouth Historical Society Newsletter for August 2018

Summertime is a very busy time for the Portsmouth Historical Society. There are lots of opportunities for our members to participate in our activities in addition to stopping by the museum on a Sunday afternoon (2-5) to see our display of Portsmouth history items.

On **30 June** your President gave a talk on Portsmouth History on Prudence Island. We have been continuing to plan with the **Portsmouth Garden Club** for landscaping improvements to our site. The plan now is to add two trees to our grounds and possibly a hydrangea or two. We are very grateful to the Garden Club for obtaining a grant from the Aquidneck Land Trust for this enhancement of our grounds. Plans are also underway to enhance the **Leonard Brown house** in the Glen with a number of historic images, thanks to the Friends of the Brown House organization (Craig Clark, chairman). On 18 June a photographer and a writer from **RI Monthly** magazine gathered information and photographs on our **1725 Southermost** School for their "back to School" magazine issue. We are currently working on obtaining plaques for our Museum and the Schoolhouse announcing that they are on the National Register of Historic Places Those designations were made quite a few years ago and the Board has decided to finally get the plaques. We also hosted a fine lecture by Fred Zilian on Anne Hutchinson.

Upcoming Events: The PHS will be hosting a reception for the **Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, United Kingdom** at the Museum at the end of August. Look for details.

On **Sunday 26 August (5:30 PM)** **Christian McBurney**, famed Revolutionary War historian, will give a lecture at the Museum on the

Battle of Rhode Island. This will be just a couple of days before the 240th anniversary of the Battle that took place in Portsmouth. The lecture is free to all, but unfortunately the meeting room is not (yet) ADA-accessible.

On Wednesday **19 September the PHS Book Club** will meet at the Portsmouth Library at 6PM. The book to be discussed is R.A. Scotti's "**Sudden Sea**" a fascinating account of the hurricane of 1938. Sign up at the Library for this meeting.

Our annual "**Harvest Social**" will be on **Thursday 20 September at Greenvale Vineyards**. Save the date and join the PHS Board for an evening of socializing and informal discussion of our history while having a glass of wine in the Vineyard's Tasting Room. More information will be forthcoming.

On **30 September**, we will be featuring a Sunday afternoon program on prominent **Portsmouth women of the past**. Led by Gloria Schmidt, this will be a fascinating look at a number of the women prominent in Portsmouth's past.

Other events for the fall season are in the works as well. Stay tuned!

We are looking for someone to take over the **Portsmouth Cemetery inventory** project from former Board member Gary Crosby. Please contact any Board member if you are interested.

If you haven't renewed your membership, now is the time to do so. Details are on our website: portsmouthhistorical.org.

Through the salvage efforts of Board member Dave Gleason, we have obtained a number of very early colonial doors from a Portsmouth house that is being torn down. We are offering them for sale (\$100 donation to the Historical Society) and they can be viewed any Sunday afternoon when the museum is open (2-5 PM)

So, there is lots going on with the Historical Society, as you can see. Please join us for these activities.

Jim Garman
President