



PORTSMOUTH

Historical Society

Portsmouth Historical Society Newsletter for November 2018

Museum Closing: Our Curators have been very busy closing down our 2018 displays and preparing the displays for 2019. Our Museum is now closed for the winter. However, much activity is still going on at the Society's property as explained below.

Construction Updates: We have a number of projects underway to upgrade our facilities. They include:

1. A more modern security system for the museum has been installed.
2. A new roof has been put on our 1853 Town Hall. This was necessitated by some leak problems and we had the prospect of water damage to some of our equipment.
3. Storm windows have been ordered and they will soon be installed on the building to protect the paint job, secure the interior and give us protection in the winter.
4. Still to come is a gutter and soffit repair job on the exterior of the Museum building to correct some leak problems we have recently encountered.

Also, long term, we have begun the planning stages of a more modern heating/cooling system for the main building. **Climate control** is a serious need for the Society's building to protect our considerable collection of historical artifacts. Consultations are underway; this project will probably not be done until late in 2019 if funds can be acquired.

We have received plaques for the Museum building (1865) and the Southermost Schoolhouse (1725). These denote that these buildings are listed on the **National Register of Historic Places** by the US Department of the Interior. These listings were approved a number of years ago and the brass plaques will now be installed on each building.

Past Events: The Society was very honored to provide a site once again for the 35th memorial service for victims of the bombing of the Beirut barracks (1983) in which 9 Rhode Islanders lost their lives. Our church was full and the service concluded at the memorial monument on our property.

If you missed our “**Portsmouth Women**” celebration you can view some of the displays on 6 of our women in the display cases at the Portsmouth Library.

On 29 October Board member **Anne Northup Burns** led a meeting of the Portsmouth Historical Society’s Book Club at the Library. We had a lively discussion of “**King Philip’s War**” by Eric B. Schultz and Michael J. Tougias. We look forward to further meetings of the Book Club. We will announce the schedule and the book here in the Newsletter.

Upcoming Events: On **Thursday 29 November (6PM)** I will be giving a lecture at the Portsmouth Library titled “**Portsmouth: Then and Now**”. This will be an illustrated lecture showing some scenes from Portsmouth many years ago and the same scene as it is today. Seating is limited and you need to call the Library to reserve a seat.

Veterans have played a big role in our history and on Veteran’s Day, 11 November, there will be a memorial service to honor all of our veterans at Portsmouth Town Hall at 9 AM. I hope that you will take some time to join us as we celebrate our veterans on this solemn Day.

By the way: The Society is in the process of planning next year’s events and we would like to hear from you about programs relating to our town’s history that you would like to see us put together. Please email with your suggestions at PHSPrograms@portsmouthhistorical.org.

Portsmouth Business Association Polar Dive to benefit the Portsmouth Historical Society. Join the fun (to brave the water or just cheers the divers on) on 1 January 2019 at Portsmouth’s Island Park Beach. Bonfire is at 11 AM, the Dive at noon and the After Dive Party at Trembley’s Restaurant immediately afterwards.

We greatly appreciate all of the support that we have had from you in the community during 2018. We are very pleased for the interest and participation in the activities of our Society and your interest in the history of our town. Please support us further by getting your friends and neighbors to become members. Membership information is on our website: portsmouthhistorical.org.

Thank you,

Jim Garman
President

Taking Pride in Portsmouth's History