



PORTSMOUTH

Historical Society

May 2019 Newsletter

Welcome to the May Newsletter. Spring MAY be coming soon and the Portsmouth Historical Society is gearing up for our new season, our 79th!

First, however, we are very pleased to announce a major acquisition for our museum.

Sarah James Eddy was a major world-known artist and she made Portsmouth (Bristol Ferry) her home for many years. She was installed into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame last year in recognition of her fine work in painting, sculpture, the suffragist movement and several other endeavors. A few weeks ago the Society received a portrait painted by Miss Eddy through the kindness of John Peixinho. It is of an African-American woman and our “Eddy experts” are working hard to try to identify the subject. Interestingly there is a signature which we believe to be Miss Eddy on the back and the frame has letters etched into it which include “Portsmouth Rhode Island 1920”. We are most grateful to John for his gift.

In addition, on E-bay, Curator **Gloria Schmidt** purchased a beautiful small head sculpture done by Miss Eddy. Our collection is thereby growing with these two wonderful artifacts by our local renowned artist. Make it a point come see them when the museum opens!

Upcoming Events:

On **Saturday 18 May (10-12 AM)** we will have a training session for Museum Docents. We are always looking for volunteers to help staff the Museum when we are open from 2-5 PM on Sundays. (26 May-Columbus Day). The only requirement is interest in Portsmouth’s wonderful history and a willingness to help tour people around to see our great museums. It is not necessary to be an expert in Town history; we will train you and we will also pair you up with a veteran to help you adjust. So please consider helping us out on an occasional Sunday afternoon. Information is on our website under “Docents” and you can contact Head Curator Nancy Crawford at PHSDocents@portsmouthhistorical.org. Please come and volunteer.

Sunday 19 May - (2-15 PM) - Open House at the Museum for our Members

Sunday 26 May (2-5 PM) -The Society opens for the season.

Sunday 9 June we will have an historical drama by the **Portsmouth Community Players** titled “**Ghostly Witness**”. Stay tuned for details.

Monday 17 June at 7 PM we will have our Society’s **Annual Meeting** at the Museum.

Monday 24 June-Our **PHS History Book Club** will meet to discuss Robert A. Geake’s recent book: “**Slaves to Soldiers: The 1st RI Regiment**”.

Tuesday 28 June (630 PM) we are pleased to host a concert by the **US Navy Brass Quintet** at the Museum. Details to follow.

Be sure to check our website portsmouthhistorical.org for more details on all of these upcoming events. And join us on Facebook.

Membership Fees: At our April board meeting the Board voted to increase the annual single and family membership fees by \$10.00 per year effective with the start of our FY 2020 year June 01. This modest increase will help insure that we all continue to enjoy the 20 plus historical lectures, activities and events that have been added over the past 3 years. We appreciate your continued support and urge you to invite your friends and neighbors to join the Society and participate in Portsmouth’s rich history.

Donations: As seen above the Portsmouth Historical Society is always looking for donations of Portsmouth or nearby historical artifacts. Photographs, diaries, business records, almost any archival materials are very useful to us. Family histories are also great source of research materials.

Volunteers: We always are looking for volunteers to help out at our programs.

Businesses: we are interested also in having sponsors for some of our programs as well.

Come join us!

Jim Garman
President

Taking Pride in Portsmouth’s History