



PORTSMOUTH

Historical Society

April 2019 Newsletter

Welcome Spring! This time of the year the Portsmouth Historical Society gets very energized with all sorts of activities. Planning has been going on for several months and I am pleased to announce that we have at least 22 events scheduled for the current year. And we hope we will see ALL OF YOU at many of them!

Past Month's Events: We had the **Portsmouth Compact** on display for our Founders' Day celebration. A good crowd turned out including several descendants of those who signed that famous document in 1638. We are grateful the Secretary of State and the friends at the State Archives for allowing us to show this special document.

On Thursday, 14 March we had our **Third Annual Portsmouth History Trivia Contest** for students from the Middle School and the High School. Five teams competed and a team from the Middle School took honors in a very close contest.

On Monday the 25th we had a great turnout for our Book Club discussion of **Gerard Carbone's "Nathanael Greene"**. PHS member Anne Wagner was the discussion leader and she led a fascinating discussion about this Revolutionary War General and native Rhode Islander.

Please join us for our next book club which will meet in June. Date and location forthcoming in this newsletter or at the Library. Curator Nancy Crawford will lead a discussion of **Robert Geake's "Slaves to Soldiers; The First Rhode Island Regiment"** the story of the 'Black Regiment' who participated so famously in the Battle of Rhode Island fought here in Portsmouth in 1788.

Upcoming Events:

-Thursday 11 April-We will have our **Portsmouth History Adult Trivia Contest** at the Valley Inn from 630-830 PM. We need lots of teams so check our website for details on how to sign up.

Wednesday 17 April from 530-7 PM we will host the **Portsmouth Business Association "After Hours"**. We hope that all members of the PBA will come see our museum and prospective members are also invited.

On Saturday 20 April at 1 P:M there will be a program at the Library "**Cemetery Research**" with Pegee Malcolm and Lew Keen.

On Tuesday 7 May at 630 at the Library there will be a lecture by Cherry Fletcher “**The Mysterious Wives of John Clarke**”.

In April there will be a continuing exhibit at the Edward King House in Newport: “**Extraordinary Women of the East Bay: An Exhibition of Images, Artifacts and Biographies**” It is open from 9-4 (M-F) during the month. Several important women of Portsmouth’s history are represented in this exhibition.

The Society has received three notable donations lately. One is a piece of trolley rail from the Newport and Providence Street Railway Company which ran through Portsmouth to Bristol Ferry. This is a gift from **David Reise**.

Also we received what seems to be a church pew from Portsmouth resident **David Feinman**. It appears to have some of the original paint but what really makes it unique are some names and dates that are carved into its back. They include “A. Smith 27 July 1798” and a few others of that vintage. It will be on display when we open the museum for the season on Memorial Day.

And from **Russ DeSimone** we received two letters to famous Portsmouth artist **Sarah Eddy** that were found during the restoration and conversion of Miss Eddy’s home at Bristol Ferry.

Our Building and Grounds Committee is working hard on several projects this spring; the most important of which is getting the Museum in good shape for the upcoming summer season. We are looking for **volunteers to be Docents** at the museum this summer. **Docent training** will be held from 10-12 on Saturday 18 May. We will have our **Members Open House** from 2-5 on Sunday 19 May and the Museum buildings will be open for all on Sunday 26 May from 2-5, our regular hours.

Our Search/Nominating Committee, under the leadership of Board member Anne Northup Burns is moving along with its work to bring on new Board members and to choose a new President for the Society.

Please join us on Facebook at “Portsmouth Historical Society” or our website at portsmouthhistorical.org.

See you at our events!

Jim Garman
President

Taking Pride in Portsmouth’s History-