



# PORTSMOUTH

## Historical Society

### June 2019 Newsletter

Welcome to the June Newsletter. The Portsmouth Historical Society Museums are now open and we await your visit on any Sunday afternoon (2-5) from now until Columbus Day. We have quite a few activities scheduled and the Board of Directors are working hard to upgrade our facilities and to show off Portsmouth history.

Our Curators have put together a new exhibit emphasizing the old and the new familiar items and you will be surprised to see how the old and the new compare.

**Annual Meeting:** Please come to our Annual Meeting on **17 June at 7 PM** at the Museum. We will give you a review of our activities for the past year and a preview of what is coming up as we work hard to get the word out about the wonderful history of our town. In addition we will have a **presentation by Gloria Schmidt entitled “If These Walls Could Talk”**. Gloria is one of our Curators and she also writes a blog on Portsmouth history. She is fascinated by many aspects of our town's history and this presentation will highlight her research on the beautiful stone walls we see every day. We hope you all will come and enjoy this annual meeting. Refreshments will be served.

#### Other Upcoming Events:

On **Monday 24 June** we will have the next meeting of the **Portsmouth History Book Club** at the **Library from 6-730**. The book to be discussed is Robert Geake's recent **“Slaves to Soldiers: The First Rhode Island Regiment”** which is about the Regiment of ex-slaves who fought so valiantly at the Battle of Rhode Island here in Portsmouth during the Revolutionary War.

On **Friday 28 June at 630** we will have a special treat at the Museum. We are hosting a **concert by the US Navy Band Brass Quintet**. This promises to be a wonderful free event for the public and you are all invited to enjoy an evening of great music. Please plan to attend.

In July we will bring out the Town's copy of the second generation of the **Declaration of Independence** and have a short ceremony to honor this special archive. And we will also celebrate the birthday of our "Founding Mother", **Anne Hutchinson's** 428<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Also events are being planned around the famous **Barton's Raid** which took place at Prescott Farm in 1777. Stay tuned for details.

On 21 August author **Christian McBurney** will deliver a lecture on "**Spies in the Revolutionary War**" based on his research and his book. That will be at the newly-renovated Common Fence Point Community Center.

As you can see we have a number of historical activities being scheduled to emphasize our local history. Please plan to attend.

Recent donation: Dave Reise added a number of items to our collection of old farm tools. We are most grateful for any and all donations that relate to Portsmouth or Rhode Island history. Of particular value are photographs, letters, diaries, business billheads, relevant books or other items. With donations we reserve the right to not receive the items if we feel that they are not relevant to our mission.

So please join us at some of our activities and be sure to visit our museums on a Sunday afternoons. Check out our website [portsmouthhistorical.org](http://portsmouthhistorical.org) for Society information and view our Facebook page as well.

Don't forget the annual meeting on 17 June at 7 PM. At that meeting, I will be stepping down as President and we will welcome Anne Northup Burns who will be installed as Interim President of the Portsmouth Historical Society.

Jim Garman  
President

*Taking Pride in Portsmouth's History*

