

## ***Dressing Manifest Destiny: Men's Clothing in America 1800-1850***

*Newport Historical Society Opens Second Exhibit in Summer Exhibit Series*

**Newport, RI – (July 2010)** – The Newport Historical Society presents *Dressing Manifest Destiny: Men's Clothing in America 1800-1850* featuring items from the Society's costume and image collections. The exhibit is on display in the restored 1730 Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House in the Historical Society headquarters building at 82 Touro Street in Newport. The public is invited to the exhibit opening on Saturday, July 31, 2010, from 1pm to 3pm.

In the half century leading up to the Civil War, dramatic stylistic changes accompanied changes in the production of clothing. *Dressing Manifest Destiny* examines those changes during a time when masculine dress began to resemble what is worn formally today. The exhibit showcases some of the finest pieces of early 19th century men's clothing and accessories in the collections. Articles on display range from working clothing, formal wear, and military dress. Images include daguerreotypes and portraiture reflecting men's dress of the time.

"*Dressing Manifest Destiny* seeks to show the variety available to men who had many more choices in their clothing than in the past," explains exhibit curator and Historical Society Fellow Matthew Keagle. "Although this exhibit addresses themes of fashion and industrialization in America more broadly, it also looks at how men in Newport actually acquired their clothing."

*Dressing Manifest Destiny* will be open to the public Monday through Friday, 11am to 3pm. Exhibit admission is by donation. For information please see [www.NewportHistory.org](http://www.NewportHistory.org) or call 401-846-0813.

Exhibit curators Matthew Keagle and Charlotte Wolfe will lead a gallery talk about the exhibit on Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 11am. Admission is by donation.

*Dressing Manifest Destiny* is one in a series of current exhibits showcasing items from Newport Historical Society's collections. *Handwritten History: Correspondence of Great Americans* is on display at the Colony House on Washington Square through October 2010. *Hold Fast: Newport's Enduring Bond with the Sea*, featuring maritime artifacts from the Historical Society's collections, is on display daily 9am to 5pm at the Newport County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, 23 America's Cup Avenue in Newport. *Tooth & Bone*, featuring miniature portraits on ivory and scrimshaw will be the featured exhibit at the 2010 Newport Antiques Show, August 13-15, 2010. For additional information including exhibit hours and admission, please see [www.NewportHistory.org](http://www.NewportHistory.org) or call the Museum & Shop at Brick Market: 401-841-8770.



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For additional information and/or to obtain media photos please contact: Elizabeth Sulock, Public Affairs Associate, 401-846-0813 x104, [esulock@newporthistorical.org](mailto:esulock@newporthistorical.org).

**About the Newport Historical Society**

Since 1854, the Newport Historical Society has collected and preserved the artifacts, photographs, documents, publications, and genealogical records that relate to the history of Newport County, to make these materials readily available for both research and enjoyment, and to act as a resource center for the education of the public about the history of Newport County, so that knowledge of the past may contribute to a fuller understanding of the present. For more information please visit [www.newporthistory.org](http://www.newporthistory.org).

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