

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Newport Historical Society Announces 2010 Exhibits and Improvements *To Prepare for Improvements, Limited Summer Hours for Collections Access Announced*

Newport, RI – (April 2010) – The Newport Historical Society is pleased to announce details for several new exhibits as well as the next phase of restoration work on the historic Colony House. To prepare for these improvements, research access to collections will be limited in the coming months.

At the 1739 Colony House, the Society is working with the State of Rhode Island to assist with the restoration of this colonial building's historic windows. The Architectural Preservation Group (APG), headed by Steve Tyson, is performing the work. APG restored the windows at the Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House in an earlier project at the Historical Society.

A new exhibit space at the Convention and Visitor's Bureau on America's Cup Avenue is currently being conceived and prepared. The Historical Society is working with the CVB to provide a growing number of Newport's visitors with an introduction to the City's rich history. A small preview exhibit will open June 15th.

Lost & Found, a project to improve the documentation and care of the NHS library, manuscript, photograph and objects collections has begun. The first phase of this work, funded in part by the van Beuren Foundation and the Bay & Paul Foundations, will result in better access to information about the collections for staff, scholars and the public. At this project's conclusion, several years hence, the Historical Society will also have improved collections storage furniture and environmental systems in a new Collections Resource Facility at 82 Touro Street.

Two additional exhibits are planned to open this summer. "Tooth and Bone," the loan exhibit for the 2010 Newport Antiques Show, will feature scrimshaw and miniature paintings on ivory at St. George's School August 13 - 15. An exhibition of 19th century costumes, featuring men's military uniforms, will open in the Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House at the end of July.

"Last year we completed restoring several of our historic properties and offered more tours and educational programs to our growing audience," explains Executive Director Ruth Taylor. "Our current focus is on collections. We expect to deepen our knowledge of our extensive holdings, and prepare to do an even better job of sharing information about Newport's history with residents and visitors."

Because of the intensive collections work that has begun, access to object, manuscript and photographic collections will be extremely limited between May 1 and September 1, 2010. The library remains open during this period by appointment, Monday to Friday. For more information about collections access this summer, please contact info@newporthistorical.org.

For additional information about upcoming exhibits and/or to obtain media photos please contact: Elizabeth Sulock, Public Affairs Associate, 401-846-0813 x104, 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.

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