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Fashioning Her World: A Shopkeeping Widow in 18th Century Newport A Presentation on Archaeological Work at the site of Newport's Oldest Museum House

Newport, RI – (January 2010) – The Newport Historical Society hosts Christina J. Hodge, PhD, presenting *Fashioning Her World: A Shopkeeping Widow in 18th Century Newport*, on Wednesday, January 27th at 6pm at the Colony House.

The site of the Newport Historical Society's 1697 Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House, the oldest museum house in Newport, reveals much about its early inhabitants and the people who lived in Newport in the mid-18th Century. One of those individuals was Elizabeth Pratt, widow and shopkeeper.

Dr. Hodge's research provides an intimate perspective on the Pratt household's material world and daily activities. Her archaeological work at the site of the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House uncovered thousands of artifact fragments. She continued her investigations in newspapers, and merchant and court records of the time.

Christina J. Hodge received her PhD in historical archaeology in 2007 and MA in archaeological heritage management in 2000, both from the Department of Archaeology at Boston University. She is a Senior Curatorial Assistant at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University. Dr. Hodge currently lectures in the Harvard Department of Anthropology, where she co-directs the Harvard Yard Archaeology Project, and the Harvard Extension School Museum Studies Program. She has a chapter on the Widow Pratt project in the recent edited volume *The Materiality of Individuality* as well as a forthcoming article in the *Journal of Early American Studies*.

This program will take place at the historic Colony House on Washington Square. Persons with mobility issues should contact the Newport Historical Society to make attendance arrangements.

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



*Fragments of salt glaze pottery
found at the site of the
Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House.*

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.newporthistorical.org.

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