

Fall 2019

*News and events for
Proprietors, Subscribers & Friends
of the Portsmouth Athenæum*

THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM
9 MARKET SQUARE
P.O. BOX 366
PORTSMOUTH, N.H. 03802-0366
603.431.2538
www.portsmouthathenæum.org



Portsmouth
Athenæum
NEWSLETTER

CONTENTS

<i>Money, Revolution, & Books</i>	2
1619 Anniversary Inspires Search	3
<i>Arcana: Dick Adams</i>	4
Help Us Conserve Four Records	5
Rice Tapped as Next President	6-7
Celebrating Proprietors' Anniversaries	8
<i>From the Secretary's Desk</i>	9
Answering Research Inquiries	10
Events: October – December	11

History Need Not Repeat Itself

TOM HARDIMAN, *Athenæum Keeper*

In August, the Athenæum Keeper and the Board of Directors received dire news about the state of the Athenæum's Foye building, which was rebuilt in 1985 after collapsing in December 1981.

As part of our recent NEH-funded study of how we might make the most efficient use of our space, a structural engineer was brought in to plan how we might reinforce the building to accommodate more library collections shelving.

The determination was the building could not be reinforced to take more weight and it was never engineered to take the weight of the existing shelving. The result is that we will have to move more than half of the collections stored in the building offsite to restore the space to a safe loading level.

The Keeper and Board are determined that we will not have a Foye collapse relapse. Actions are already under way to secure offsite space and to

safely inventory and pack materials for removal.

We welcome volunteers who will help with this massive undertaking. In the meantime, you may experience delays in retrieving books from storage and some parts of the building may have temporary closures as we change the shelving. We will try to have any book request retrieved in 48 hours.

Longer-term, the Board has created a strategic task force that will work with the Long Range Planning Committee, the Building Committee, and the Development Committee to take a holistic look at our mission and organizational position to determine how we might turn this challenge into opportunity and open the next chapter for the Portsmouth Athenæum.



This photo from the Athenæum archives shows the Foye building, which was rebuilt in 1985 after collapsing in December 1981.



Money, Revolution, & Books

Keeper Tom Hardiman, author of *Money, Revolution, & Books*, says the story of John Fisher, the “fixer” for the tory Wentworth family, exists in fragments in hundreds of books and letters. In his recently published book, Hardiman recombines those fragments to decode the hidden history of the Fisher family.

On November 7 at 7 p.m., Hardiman will give a book talk at the York Public Library in York, Maine. On December 10, he will give a talk at the Portsmouth Public Library at 7 p.m.

John Fisher, Sr. was Naval Officer for Portsmouth, Newbury, and York, then Collector of Customs

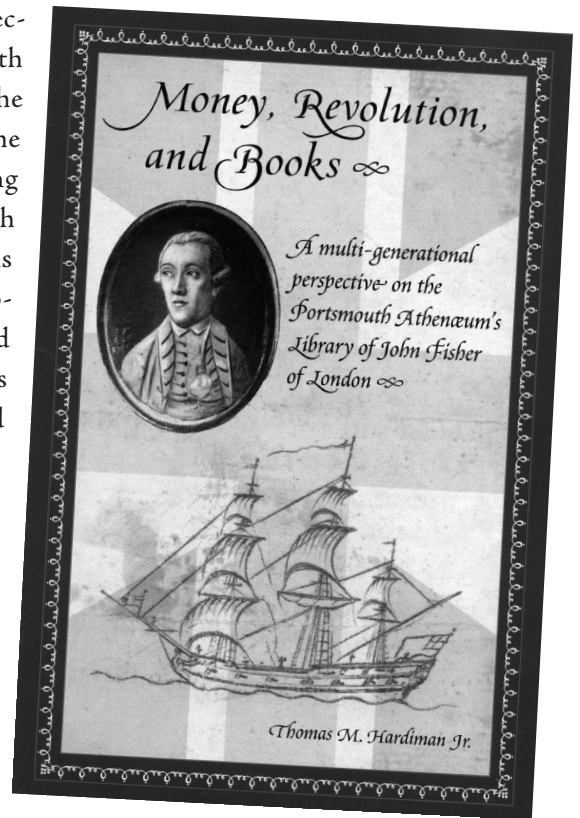
for Salem, and Under Secretary of State for North America near the close of the Revolutionary War. After the war he was a high-ranking bureaucrat in the British Excise Office who used his status to hold and sell property in New Hampshire and rescue much of the family’s wealth and property seized in the war.

His daughter, Sarah, married the wealthiest merchant in New Hampshire, James Sheafe, and became a major benefactor of the Portsmouth Athenæum throughout her life, donating valuable books and paintings, and arranging for the gift of her brother’s important library in 1829.

The story of John Fisher, the “fixer” for the tory Wentworth family, exists in fragments...

Her son, John Fisher Sheafe, married millionaire heiress Mary Lenox of New York and helped his brother-in-law build one of the world’s greatest libraries. *Money, Revolution, & Books* traces five generations of this fascinating family that has contributed greatly to Atlantic history and culture, but has escaped notice until now.

To order go to www.portsmouthathenaeum.org and click on “shop.”



Help Needed!

The Athenæum Program Committee is in desperate need of a chairperson.

The committee organizes our annual themed lecture series. The committee has a robust crew of volunteers who handle the setup and logistics of each lecture, but the ship needs a captain to organize the schedule and coordinate the volunteers.

Please contact the Keeper if you are able to help fill this key position.

Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter is published three times yearly. Deadlines for articles are March 1, June 15 and October 1.

Contributions and queries may be directed to Publications Committee Chair/Editor Sherry Wood at sixsword@aol.com.

EDITOR:
Sherry Wood

DESIGNER:
Susan Kress Hamilton

CONTRIBUTORS:
Tom Hardiman, Dick Adams,
Peggy Hodges, Don Margeson,
Doug Aykroyd, Sandra Rux,
James Smith, Katy Sternberger

1619 Anniversary Inspires a Search into the Archives

JAMES SMITH, *Photographic Collections Manager*

August marked the 400th anniversary of the first enslaved Africans brought to the English colonies. These “20 and odd Negroes” landed at Point Comfort, Va., where they were traded for food. This anniversary inspired a search of the Athenaeum’s collection on the topic of slavery. Pictured with this article is a memorandum dated Jan. 5, 1730/1731.

The court case involved Joseph Smith, a yeoman from Newmarket, who had appeared in front of Richard Waldron, the Justice of the Peace, at the tavern of Henry Sherburne (located in what is now Prescott Park) in Portsmouth. Smith was named as the principal “for his negro man servant Sambo” and was now facing a penalty based on the actions of Sambo.

The memo stated “the condition of the above recognisance [sic] is that if the above mentioned negro man Sambo, servant of the said Joseph Smith, shall be of good behavior toward all His Majesty’s...subjects within the Province, and especially towards Edward Hilton from this time to the next court” then the penalty would be null and void.

So what had Sambo allegedly done? And in particular, what did it have to do with Edward Hilton. According to New Hampshire Town Papers Vol. XIII, the incident between Sambo and Hilton occurred on Dec. 28, 1730. A few days after the incident, Hilton filed a complaint. Hilton claimed he was “in Great fear (even of his life) by the threatening Speeches and actual attempts made against him with force & arms” by Sambo.

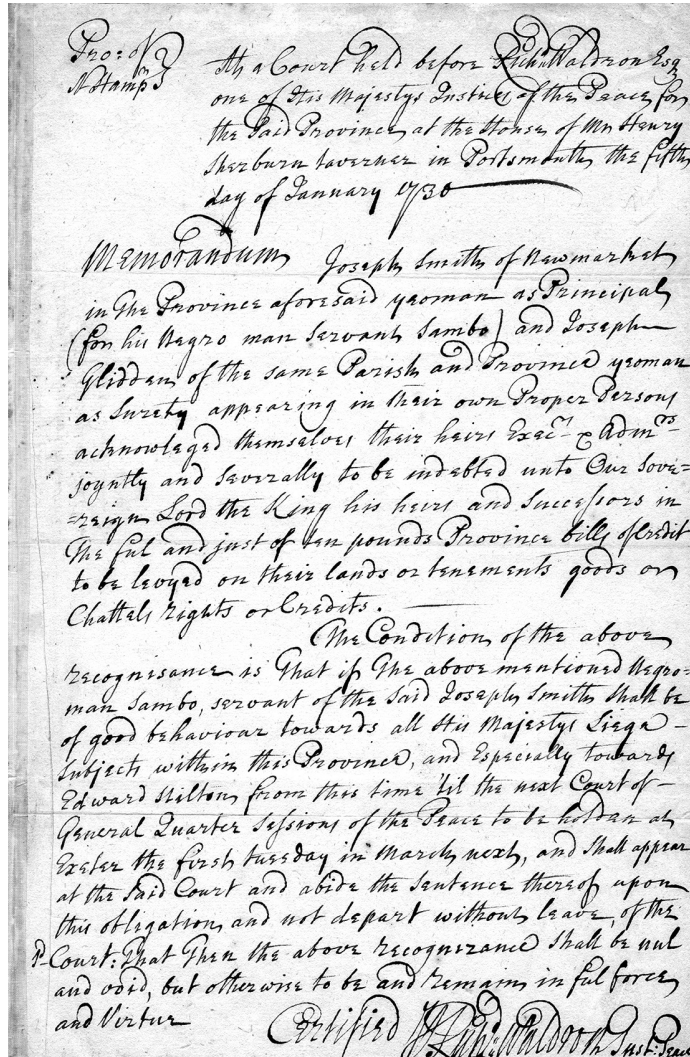
Hilton stated that on that late December day Sambo was carrying an ax, noted to be worth 12 shillings, and that Sambo struck at Hilton with a “ful blow with the Said ax.” Sambo then allegedly profanely swore that he was going to “split out the brains” of Hilton and bury him in a swamp. Hilton also had two witnesses who could corroborate his account.

Sambo was arrested and fined 10 shillings for profane swearing. Joseph Smith paid the fine and costs; however, it’s unclear if Joseph Smith owned Sam-

bo or if Sambo was owned by Smith’s mother-in-law, Lydia Folsom Glidden.

Most accounts indicate that Sambo was first owned by Lydia’s husband, Andrew, who had died. The second surety for Sambo’s recognizance was Joseph Glidden, who appears to be Lydia’s brother-in-law.

What is not mentioned is what led to the altercation, and given that Sambo was considered property, it is impossible to ever know Sambo’s version of events. And what became of Sambo after the incident is still unknown.



A memorandum in the Athenaeum archives dated Jan. 5, 1730/1731 details a court case involving Joseph Smith, a yeoman from Newmarket, named as the principal “for his negro man servant Sambo.”

While human nature has probably remained essentially unchanged over centuries, changes in the way we view societal norms have certainly occurred from one generation to another, often in pronounced ways.

A case in point is the difference in which young males' role in American society was regarded in the 18th and 19th centuries as compared with today. Then, boys as young as 9 were commonly regarded as young adults and expected to share the burdens and responsibilities of older men.

To cite a few examples: David Farragut went to sea as a midshipman at the age of 9 and served in the Navy until his death in Portsmouth at the age of 69. Portsmouth's Daniel Marcy, orphaned at 12 and a sailor soon after, became a ship captain while still a teenager.

Future president Andrew Jackson joined the militia at 13, was captured by the British, and was wounded by a sword-wielding British officer, irate because Jackson refused to shine his boots.

In the Athenaeum's archives are two sets of documents that offer further illustration of how different life could be for youths in the 19th century as contrasted with today. One is a diary kept by a Leander S. Huntress, a local boy who went to sea at 13 aboard the whaler *Ann Parry*. The other is a set of letters from Frederick Henry Franklin to his family on Middle Street in Portsmouth. Franklin took up a seafaring life at 14 and remained a sailor "ploughing the salt water," as he put it, for the rest of his rather short life.

Arcana DICK ADAMS

Franklin took up a seafaring life at 14 and remained a sailor "ploughing the salt water," as he put it, for the rest of his rather short life.



Huntress left a farm in Dover seeking adventure, but his diary reflects his rapid disenchantment with the whaling life, which was characterized by long periods of boredom. He noted that the first 790 days of the voyage—beginning with departure from Portsmouth in 1839—left the *Ann Parry's* hold empty of whale oil, not a single whale having been taken.

Still, his gripping description of some events makes it clear that his exposure to the harsh life of mariners of the era was unlike anything most teenagers of today might ever experience.

For instance, he witnessed the death of George Jenness, 20, of Wolfeboro, a non-swimmer who fell into the sea from high in the rigging. Huntress wrote that a rescue boat "got within a boat's length of him when he ceased to rise no more."

Later in the year he wrote that seaman John Sullivan was "siezed up [sic] in the mixen rigging and given seventeen lashes with a cat for insolent [sic] and disobedience of orders." And two months later he saw Charles Bodge of

Portsmouth fall from a high lookout perch, hitting his head on a capstan. Bodge, 17, expired about two hours later.

Franklin's letters are of interest primarily in that he offers remarkably candid views of his doubts as to whether he had lived up to his potential.

Of men on the Portsmouth City Council, he says, "could I have not have held my head as high as any of them...I think to myself what I might have been."

No doubt the monotony of life at sea had much to do with his discontent.

And yet he was in the thick of fighting in a little-known 1870 battle with Koreans a little north of Inchon, and for his heroism was awarded the Medal of Honor.

With characteristic modesty he makes almost no reference to the two-day battle, saying only in a letter to his mother "I hardly think that the trouble with the Coreans [sic] will be carried any further."

Franklin died of disease at 33, shortly after returning to Portsmouth in 1873.

Huntress apparently had his fill of life at sea in quest of whales. After a checkered career in a variety of occupations, his obituary observed that he had "been in the dentistry business for many years," dentistry presumably being little regulated, if at all, in those days.

Both of these most interesting documents can be obtained from Special Collections through any staff member.

PLEASE HELP US CONSERVE FOUR UNIQUE HISTORICAL RECORDS

PEGGY HODGES



The 2019 Library Conservation Fundraiser is underway.

This year, we hope to rescue four very different records of Seacoast history. These diverse historical records share two traits: all are irreplaceable, and all are in dire condition. Each will undergo professional conservation, including digitization, where appropriate, to preserve their content and improve their accessibility. The cost to treat and digitize the four records is estimated at \$4,000.

Here are the candidates in need of your generosity:

Left: Daybook with damaged spine, Badger Neal Locke Collection, 1832-33

Right: Account book with mold staining, Badger Neal Locke Collection

The Badger Neal Locke Collection was gifted to the Athenaeum in January. These 23 account books are a rich source of information for the study of mid-19th century maritime businesses in the Piscataqua region.

• **The 1823 Portsmouth Bicentennial Celebration Guest List**, which contains the signatures of over 200 early 19th-century Portsmouth luminaries who attended the gala 200th anniversary celebration at Franklin Hall of Portsmouth's 1623 founding. This large scroll currently hangs in the 1805 building stairway with a shade over it. An enhanced digital copy of this document will replace the original in its current

location, and the original will be placed in the vault.

• **The 1822 New Castle Bridge Association Papers**, including a 6-foot strip map, "Road to New Castle through Shapley's and Amazeen's Islands," by Benjamin Ackerman. These documents are brittle and torn, and are in need of cleaning and repair. Studio TKM Associates in Somerville, Mass., will surface clean,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

John Rice Tapped as Next Athenaeum President

DON MARGESON, *Publications Committee*

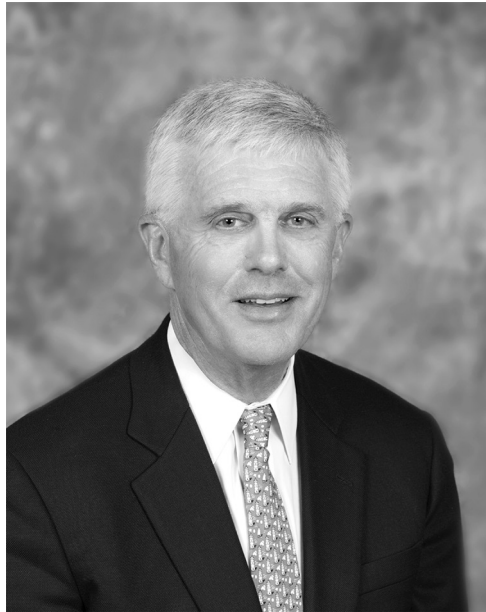
John Rice, currently Vice President of the Portsmouth Athenaeum, has been nominated for election at the January annual meeting to be our 36th President for a two-year term. He will succeed outgoing President Steve Roberts.

John was born in Portsmouth and has lived here most of his life. After graduating from St. Paul's School in Concord, he received his B.A. in History from Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., and earned an M.Ed. in counselor education at the University of New Hampshire.

It was at UNH that he met his wife Joan. He'd done play-by-play college sports announcing at Trinity's radio station, so as a graduate student he visited the offices of WUNH to scout the chances of extending his career as a broadcaster. Joan, a successful advertising saleswoman for the station, was working there that day and offered to show him around. They've been married for over 45 years and have a grown son, Thomas, now living in Nova Scotia.

Wanting a job that might provide greater security than that of sports reporting, John went into real estate; he has now worked in the field for 47 years and has been with Tate and Foss Sotheby's International Realty since 1992.

He has served a term as president of the New Hampshire Association of Realtors and two terms as president



John Rice. *Courtesy Photo.*

of the Seacoast Board of Realtors. He is currently the Seacoast Board's Chief (actually, sole) Statistician, a position he created himself. In this capacity he compiles volume and price data on Seacoast home sales for the monthly newspaper reports he writes; these are read avidly, not just by local Realtors and their clients, but by area homeowners generally.

John served for 33 years with the U.S. Army Reserves and the New Hampshire Air National Guard, retiring in 2003 as a lieutenant colonel.

He is a member of Portsmouth Rotary. He's also the Vice President of Portsmouth Pro Musica and sings in its a capella group, "The Overtones." He served for many

years as chair of the Portsmouth Historic District Commission and was a vice-chair of the Portsmouth Planning Board.

Outside of Portsmouth, he is a member of UNH's Wildcat Club and contributes to the UNH hockey and football programs. Finally, he is an avid hiker and has climbed all 48 of New Hampshire's 4,000-foot mountains.

John is a member of the Peirce family, which gave its name to the block containing the Randall Gallery and fourth-floor condominium above it that was deeded to the Athenaeum in 2002. He thinks that the family's continuous ownership of his Proprietor share, No. 22, has lasted longer than that of any other "descended" share. He acquired the share in 1976 from his grandmother, Constance Peirce.

John traces his engagement with the Athenaeum to his interest in history, his college major. This interest manifests itself particularly in his fascination with dramatic moments that assumed broad cultural significance when they occurred and have retained that significance ever since.

Among those he mentions are Lindbergh's solo flight over the Atlantic in 1927, the Battle of the Alamo in 1836, and the loss of the RMS *Titanic* in 1912. He gave a presentation here at the Athenaeum about the last of these events on the centennial of the *Titanic*'s sinking.

“Every Proprietor should be a recruiter.”

JOHN RICE

John says that he takes a “servant leadership” approach to the position of President, one that he learned from his experience in the Air National Guard and in Officer Candidate School. This approach locates the central responsibility of an organization’s leader in service to the organization’s needs and those of its membership.

He expects to apply this approach in particular to the Athenaeum’s operational areas, leaving the management of Athenaeum functions to the care of the committees and the Keeper. He looks forward to attending the meetings of some committees to become better acquainted with their members and activities, and to understand better what support they may need from the officers and directors.

John hopes that future Athenaeum members will include many with an interest in local history and a good number of creative people. He would also like to find more people willing to serve on our numerous committees and otherwise ready to help further the organization’s mission.

He encourages current Proprietors always to be on the look-out for potential new ones in the course of their regular lives, declaring that “Every Proprietor should be a recruiter.” He notes that some “regular life” activities lend themselves well to recruitment. For example, he has successfully kindled interest in

Athenaeum membership among participants in the historic walking tours he sometimes conducts in the South End and other parts of Portsmouth.

John identifies two projects he wants the Athenaeum to pursue during his presidential tenure. The first is a time-sensitive one, the need for which was uncovered by a structural report prepared by consultants and presented to the Athenaeum’s board of directors in August.

It seems that measures are required to relieve the stress that the weight of library and museum collections in the Foye block—the center building in the Athenaeum complex—are placing on the floors of that block. *(Please see related article on page 1.)*

This will involve moving to on- or off-site locations significant portions of these holdings, either temporarily while the floors are made better able to bear library/museum-grade weight, or else permanently. The costs and degrees of inconvenience associated with the measures under consideration vary widely. Choosing a solution and overseeing its implementation will occupy the officers and board for much of the next two years, and perhaps beyond.

The second project will be to establish a formalized, comprehensive development effort as a permanent component of the Athenaeum’s funding structure. Some time ago Steve Roberts, having entered his own Presidency with the same thought in mind, started things moving by establishing a Legacy Committee and appointing John as chair. John’s experience on the committee confirmed his belief that the Athenaeum needs a “strong, robust Legacy Society” that will encourage major donations and donative commitments, and publicly acknowledge those who make them.

He is interested in exploring with the board the addition of a professional director of development to the Athenaeum staff to advise and assist the Legacy Society and to plan and lead the development effort. A major goal of that effort would be to free the Athenaeum from the periodic capital campaigns it has had to rely on over the years to address the conservation and improvement of its glorious buildings and to stabilize its finances.

In addition to these “heavy-lift” projects, John hopes to find “ways for [members] to actually get to know one another better.” How might this come about? “Perhaps more social events,” he says.

Please help us conserve....

remove pinpoint accretions, mend tears, bridge losses for structural support, and flatten the document.

• **The Badger Neal Locke Collection, 1830-1900.** Gifted to the Athenaeum in January, these 23 account books are a rich source of information for the study of mid-19th century maritime businesses in the Piscataqua region. Five of the volumes suffer from warping and staining due to old water damage. Green Dragon Bindery in Shrewsbury, Mass., will clean pages, and flatten and repair spines as needed.

• **20th Century Kimball's Department Store Jingle.** Kimball's was a fixture in Market Square for decades. Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, Mass., will perform laser transfer to digital audio of the currently unplayable vinyl recording.

Ten generous donors have already given \$1,700 toward the 2019 Library Conservation Fundraiser. Please join their effort to preserve and make accessible these invaluable records of Seacoast history. We hope to reach our goal of \$4,000 before the end of the year.

Please contact Librarian Robin Silva at (603) 431-2538 to make a donation today, or go to www.portsmouthathenaeum.org and click the "Donate" button. Be sure to add "Library Conservation" in the optional note section when making your donation.

Thank you for your stewardship of Portsmouth's unique history!

Congratulations to the following Proprietors celebrating their long association with the Portsmouth Athenaeum:

Share	Proprietor		Years
72	Roger F. Wood	01-Jan-69	50
172	Charles Doleac	01-Jan-79	40
177	Cynthia Harriman	01-Jan-79	40
77	Jon Russ	01-Jan-79	40
201	John Lyons, Jr.	01-Jan-89	30
24	John McGee	01-Jan-89	30
240	Jay Gingrich	01-Feb-89	30
93	W. Peter Torrey	01-Jun-89	30
75	Gerald Ward	01-Jun-89	30
36	Hon. Ruth Elwin Griffin	14-Sep-89	30
125	Ronald Bourgeault	01-Nov-89	30
101	Donald S. Margeson	19-Jan-94	25
205	Irja Cilluffo	21-Feb-94	25
127	Barbara Renner	01-Mar-94	25
133	Elizabeth R. Aykroyd	20-Apr-94	25
14	Peter E. Paisley	01-Sep-94	25
123	Janet McCracken	01-Oct-94	25
287	Evangeline Brawn	01-Jan-99	20
22	John Rice	01-Jan-99	20
110	Deborah Richards	01-Jan-99	20
213	Mary Carter	18-Mar-99	20
37	Michael Baenen	19-May-99	20
106	David A. Taylor	19-May-99	20
59	Robert Gray Allen III	13-May-09	10
280	Mark Allinson	13-May-09	10
210	David Borden	13-May-09	10
195	Thomas Catalano	13-May-09	10
161	Patrick Clary	13-May-09	10
90	John Miles Evans	13-May-09	10
99	Sarah Ford	13-May-09	10
377	Dean Howells	13-May-09	10
334	Allen McGee	13-May-09	10
120	Samuel Page	13-May-09	10
319	Monica Reuss	13-May-09	10
107	Susan Reynolds	13-May-09	10
131	Stephanie Seacord	13-May-09	10
47	John R. Shaw	13-May-09	10
66	Elizabeth Tarbell	13-May-09	10
167	Nancy Wetzal	13-May-09	10
380	Douglas L. Wheeler	13-May-09	10

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Douglas Aykroyd
oakscouter@comcast.net

HOLIDAY GALA: One of the greatest attractions of our annual calendar is our Holiday Gala. This year the event will be held on Friday, Dec. 6 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. As was the case last year, the celebration will be held at the Athenaeum in the Reading Room, the Old Library, the Shaw Reference Library and the Randall Gallery.

Why is this event so popular? One reason would be the menu. In addition to the appetizers provided by the Social Committee, we will have butler-passed hors d'oeuvres such as caramelized onion and roasted tomato flatbreads with Provolone picante and balsamic glaze; sautéed shrimp with a fresh orange juice and brandy glaze; and lobster salad canapés. A second reason for its popularity is the wide selection of beverages served by our Wine Stewards.

Of course, the main reason why people attend the event is the people attending the gala. What better place to chat with a fine group of convivial souls!

Many of you will remember that we were unable to hold the event at the Athenaeum in 2017 because of a number of concerns for fire safety. Most of these were dealt with in 2018; there remain longer-term measures to deal with such as a fire suppression system. One byproduct of our work with the Portsmouth Fire



The 28th Annual Portsmouth Athenaeum Potluck Picnic was held on August 20 at the Seacoast Science Center at Odiorne Point State Park in Rye, NH.

Department was the identification of building occupancy limits on a room-by-room basis. Additionally, we need to secure a permit from the Fire Department to hold the gala.

Because of the concerns with the number of attendees, it is imperative that the Athenaeum receive RSPVs from all who plan to attend. We expect to send out the invitations in early November. When yours arrives, send the RSVP back promptly and plan on helping us eat the 20 pounds of beef tenderloin.

NEW POST OFFICE BOX: Many of you probably have an opinion about the Thomas J. McIntyre Federal Building and the various development proposals surrounding it. Of immediate import is the fact that the U.S. Post Office facility in the McIntyre Building closed on Aug. 31 and was replaced by an office at 345 Heritage Ave. A by-product of this move was a new post office box number for the Athenaeum. Our old box number was 848. Our new number is P.O. Box 366. The ZIP Code remains 03802.

GOING AWAY?: If you are going to be away long enough to have the Post Office forward your mail, please let us know your temporary address and how long it will be in use. We use bulk mail to send most of our mailings, and the Post Office will not forward this mail class. If we have your temporary address, you will keep up-to-date and the Athenaeum will avoid having to pay the postage due to have your mail returned to us. That's a win-win!

ORNAMENTS AVAILABLE: In 1998 the Athenaeum produced a round glass ball holiday ornament which was available to Proprietors. The Art and Artifacts Committee has discovered seven of these attractive ornaments which feature Henry Margeson's drawing of the first-floor doors and windows of the 1805 Building on the front and the logo of the Athenaeum on the back. The Arts and Artifacts (A&A) Committee has decided to make these available for a \$20 contribution to the Sir Peter Warren fund which supports the Conservation of our A&A collection. To give you a better look, we have placed one example in the Reference Library.

ANSWERING RESEARCH INQUIRIES

KATY STERNBERGER, *Research Librarian*

Answering research inquiries is an important part of the Portsmouth Athenaeum's mission as we preserve and make accessible our local history. In addition to serving the Athenaeum's membership and the community, we respond to international inquiries from researchers.

Portsmouth has long been a global city, from a trade hub in the 18th century to a tourist destination in the present. The Athenaeum staff aids the research process in person, by phone, by email, and even by snail mail.

Over the summer, the Athenaeum staff implemented a project management tool called Asana to track our research and image requests. This tool allows us to turn each request into a "task," which can be assigned to a staff member for follow-up, and it also enables us to discuss the requests.

We can now handle the variety of inquiries we receive more efficiently and quantify our reference statistics more easily. In our initial three months of using Asana, we received 16 research requests (excluding numerous drop-in visitors and phone calls) and 24 image requests via our online catalog.

The Athenaeum's research library sees hundreds of visitors over the course of the year. The website receives on average 75,000 unique visits per year, and there are about 40,000 digital objects available through our online catalog. Researchers often request information regarding genealogy, historic buildings, and image reproduction.

Users include students, authors, and folks who are simply curious. Neighboring institutions, such as the Strawberry Banke Museum and the Portsmouth Public Library, also consult with the Athenaeum. Research requests have arrived from across the country, including Florida and California, as well as around the world, including Canada, France, Germany, and Australia.

When we received an email in French regarding two letters from the John Langdon Papers, I used my language skills to communicate with the researcher. I digitized the letters, which concerned the friendship between America and France during the American Revolution, and sent them to the researcher. He asked for further information about the individuals mentioned in the letters, so I provided him with more context. I also took this opportunity to enhance our cataloging of the collection.

Additionally, a Seacoast-based production company approached the Athenaeum regarding research material for a historical documentary. I was able to provide evidence that separated myth from fact, and our beautiful building became part of the featured footage. Filming took place at the Athenaeum on Sept. 12, and the documentary will be premiered locally at a date to be determined.

One of the most exciting aspects of working at the Athenaeum is providing reference services. You never know what someone is going to ask, and there is the opportunity to learn something new every day.

Research inquiries may be sent to research@portsmouthathenaeum.org. Requests for high-resolution images from the Athenaeum's collections may be sent to images@portsmouthathenaeum.org.



A behind-the-scenes look at filming for a documentary, which took place at the Athenaeum on Sept. 12. Research librarian Katy Sternberger provided archival evidence related to a 19th-century tunnel beneath Bow Street and was interviewed. Courtesy of Local Legends LLC

Events at the Portsmouth Athenæum

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2019

Unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the public.

Reservations are requested since space is limited. Please call 603-431-2538x2 at least 48 hours in advance.

For more current listings, check www.portsmouthathenaeum.org.

OCTOBER 16: 2019 Portsmouth Athenæum Program Series *Scripting the Seacoast with Words, Beauty, Learning and Laughter*; Marguerite Matthews and Gregory Gathers, playwrights, 5:30 p.m. in the Research Library.

OCTOBER 21: Athenæum tour for Dondero School 3rd-graders.

OCTOBER 27: The 2019 Portsmouth Athenæum Chamber Music series concludes with the Naeve Trio, 3 p.m. at the Dance Hall, Kittery, Maine.

OCTOBER 29: Lecture by Kurt Leland: "Celia Thaxter: Ghosts, Ghouls, and Gurus," 5:30 p.m. in the Research Library.

NOVEMBER 1: Art Round Town in the Randall Gallery, 5 to 8 p.m.

NOVEMBER 3: The third annual presentation of the Portsmouth Athenæum Prize in the Humanities will take place during the intermission of the 3 p.m. Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra's concert at the Music Hall.

NOVEMBER 3: The Portsmouth Peace Treaty Forum presents Jake Sullivan, former National Security Advisor to the Obama Administration and a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The program is at 2 p.m., free and open to the public, at Wentworth By the Sea Hotel, Grand Ballroom, New Castle.

NOVEMBER 7: *Money, Revolution, and Books* book talk by Tom Hardiman at the York Public Library, 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER 9: The exhibit "By the Bottle or the Barrel: 400 Years of Brewing in Portsmouth," closes.

NOVEMBER 17: The Noree Chamber Soloists will be playing an in-house concert for Athenæum members at 3 p.m. in the Reading Room; space is limited. The program will be: the Mozart *String Duo No. 1 in G Major, K. 423*; the Francaix *String Trio*; and the Beethoven *C Minor String Trio, Opus 9 No. 3*.

NOVEMBER 20: The 2019 Portsmouth Athenæum Program Series: *Scripting the Seacoast with Words, Beauty, Learning and Laughter* features John Perrault, songwriter and poet, 5:30 p.m. in the Research Library.

DECEMBER 6: Athenæum Holiday Gala, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., invitations forthcoming.

DECEMBER 10: *Money, Revolution, and Books* talk by Tom Hardiman at the Portsmouth Public Library, 7 p.m.

DECEMBER 10: Sarah Hamill will present a book talk and signing for her new memoir: *When I was a Child in England During World War II*. 5:30 p.m. in the Reading Room.



THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM
9 MARKET SQUARE
P.O. BOX 366
PORTSMOUTH, N.H. 03802-0366
Return service requested

Non-profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 51
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Officers & Directors

PRESIDENT: Stephen H. Roberts
VICE-PRESIDENT: John Rice
TREASURER: Jeffrey Keefe
SECRETARY: Douglas Aykroyd
PAST PRESIDENT: Karen Bouffard
David A. Borden
Edward Caylor
Lynne Crocker
Janet Dinan
Ellen Fineberg
Sally Gayer
Peter Peirce Rice
Sandra Rux
Peter Tarlton

Staff

KEEPER: Tom Hardiman
LIBRARIAN: Robin Silva
ARCHIVIST: Susan Kindstedt
OFFICE MANAGER: Stephanie Hobbs Tabit
PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS MANAGER: James Smith
RESEARCH LIBRARIANS: Carolyn Marvin, Katy Sternberger
CURATOR: Elizabeth R. Aykroyd

CALLING ALL PROPRIETORS

SANDRA RUX, *Arts Athenaeum Committee Chair*

Calling all creative Proprietors (*Isn't that all of you?*)

The annual Proprietors Art Show is fast approaching. The show opens on Dec. 6, at the Holiday Gala and runs until the Annual Meeting on Jan 26, 2020. Proprietors and their spouses/partners are invited to show their creative work.

The show has included in the past paintings, photographs, sculpture, fiber works, jewelry, pottery and wood-working. We welcome both those who regularly participate and new contributors. As they have for many years, Barbara Adams

and Joan Graf will be hanging the exhibit.

Items should be delivered to the Athenaeum between Nov. 18 and Nov. 27. Wall art should be ready for hanging. Please call or email Sandra Rux if you have questions (203-654-0552 or sandrarux@comcast.net).

As part of the Proprietors Art Show, Robin Silva creates a display of all works published by Proprietors during the previous year—check with Robin to see if she has your work.

