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## Editor's Note

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#### Potvin: Editor's Note

#### **Editor's Note**

Joan Youngken, Curator at the Newport Historical Society, writes in the feature article of this issue of *Newport History*, "It is essential that we understand that the evolution of this Society has always been driven by its commitment to its collections." The article points out that before there was a headquarters building or museum, before there was even a Newport Historical Society, there was a collection of artifacts and memorabilia gathered by individuals interested in the preservation of Newport County's history. These individuals were motivated to form "Cabinets" by their own curiosity in local and national history and in how that history was influenced by the natural and physical world surrounding them.

The Newport Historical Society has continued to collect and preserve, as is evident in the other major component of this issue: the Annual Reports. In these reports, the President, Executive Director, and staff of the Newport Historical Society bring members and interested individuals up-to-date on issues and concerns that affect the basic mission of the Society. The curatorial staff also provides lists of objects, photographs, books, and manuscripts acquired by the Society this year alone that would make our nineteenth century predecessors more than envious.

Joan Youngken, author of "Our Cabinet of Curiosities: The Early Collections of the Newport Historical Society," has been Collections Manager and Curator at the Newport Historical Society since 1990. She brought with her over twenty years of museum and curatorial experience gained at the Adirondack Museum, the Glens Falls-Queensbury (New York) Historical Society, the Peace Dale Library, and as a free-lance collections consultant. Joan has written several articles on the management of institutional and private collections of artifacts and photographs. Joan was also an essential creative force in the opening of the Museum of Newport History at the Brick Market, which highlights only a small portion of the remarkable overall collection of the Newport Historical Society.

#### Membership form enclosed

We invite all non-members of the Newport Historical Society to join us in the preservation of Newport County's past by filling out the membership form enclosed in this publication. Among the many benefits you will receive is a regular subscription to *Newport History*. This form will be in all upcoming issues, so we urge members to invite their friends to join them.

#### **New Sponsors**

*Newport History* welcomes its new sponsors: The Bank of Newport, Packer Braman Insurance, the accounting firm of Hoff, Raiche, Koziara and Martland, and William Vareika Fine Arts. We also would like to welcome back our original sponsor, Slocum, Gordon and Co., investment management and counsel. Please patronize our sponsors. The Society's mission depends greatly on the support of the business community, as well as our other members.