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Editor's Note

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Editor's Note

This issue of *Newport History* approaches familiar topics in intriguing new ways. First, Allen Mansfield Thomas demonstrates that debate over the causes of the Newport Stamp Act Riot of 1765 is far from complete. Thomas's portrayal of the motivations—or lack thereof—of the rioters raises questions about Newport's pre-Revolution political dynamics. Second, Berit M. Hattendorf examines portrait painter Gilbert Stuart's most lasting legacy—his daughter, Jane. The life and work of Jane Stuart has been overlooked by art historians, perhaps because she resided in the shadow of her father. Hattendorf seeks to correct this imbalance in her article, which includes a complete catalogue of known Jane Stuart paintings.

Allen Mansfield Thomas is in his third year as an undergraduate at Brown University, concentrating on North American history prior to 1789, and has taken two classes with Pulitzer Prize winning author, Gordon Wood. Last summer, through a Brown University "Undergraduate Teaching and Research" fellowship, Thomas assisted Professor Wood on his upcoming book, a synthesis of the history of the early American republic that will appear as part of C. Vann Woodward's Oxford History of America series. The first draft of Thomas's article in this issue of *Newport History* was written as an independent project for Gordon Wood's class on the American Revolution. Thomas is hoping to write an honors thesis in his senior year under the direction of Professor Wood. Thomas also writes opinions columns for the *Brown Daily Herald* and has worked as a "Curricular Advisory Program" fellow at Brown. Thomas spent several months guiding tours and conducting research at the historical society in Princeton, New Jersey, and he just returned from three months of study at the University of Valencia in Spain.

Berit M. Hattendorf was born in Stockholm, Sweden, and came to the United States in 1965. She has lived in Rhode Island since 1975 and is married to Professor John B. Hattendorf of the Naval War College in Newport. The Hattendorfs have three daughters. This is Berit Hattendorf's first article, prepared as part of her training to be a docent at the Newport Art Museum. Mrs. Hattendorf is also known in Newport for her collection of different editions of "The Night Before Christmas" by Clement Moore. Her collection was exhibited at the Redwood Library during the Christmas season in 1993.

"From the Collection" examines a painting depicting the hanging of Mary Dyer. The piece is written by the Society's librarian, Bertram Lippincott.

Finally, we are pleased to announce the addition of Genga Brothers Incorporated as a sponsor of *Newport History*. You will find their advertisement, as well as those of our other sponsors, in this issue.