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Editor's Note

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Editor's Note

Between 1830 and 1860, Newport became a favored summer haunt for moderately wealthy southerners, Bostonians, New Yorkers, and Philadelphians. Staying at first in boarding houses and hotels, and later in summerhouses termed “cottages,” these summer residents transformed the city from a sleepy, post-Revolutionary ruin into one of the leading resorts in America. The post-Civil War Gilded Age brought with it the “New York invasion” of unbridled wealth and aristocratic ambition, eclipsing this earlier summer society in the popular mind and replacing many of its cottages with palatial mansions.

Eliza Cope Harrison and Rosemary F. Carroll return to antebellum Newport in an article drawing on previously unpublished manuscript collections and early newspaper accounts. In 2000, while editing the letters of the Middleton family of South Carolina, Eliza met Rosemary at a conference on southern history and agreed that an article on Newport's antebellum summer colony was long overdue.

Eliza Cope Harrison holds a B.A. from Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania (1958). She received her M.A. from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1965 with a concentration in early nineteenth-century American history. From 1980 to 1988, she served as Director of the Hershey Museum of American Life in Hershey, Pennsylvania, administrating its significant collections devoted to eighteenth- and nineteenth-century history, decorative arts, Pennsylvania German arts and culture, and American Indian life. She has also been a Board member and Interim Director for the Awbury Arboretum and a Board member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, both in Philadelphia.

Since 2001, Rosemary F. Carroll has been the Henry and Margaret Haegg Distinguished Professor of History, Emerita, at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She taught history at the college for thirty years starting in 1971, and chaired the Department of History from 1988 to 2000. She holds a B.A. in American Civilization from Brown University in Providence (1957), an M.A. from Wesleyan University in Connecticut in History and Government (1962), a Ph.D. from Rutgers University at New Brunswick, New Jersey, in United States Social and Intellectual History (1968), and a J.D. from the College of Law at the University of Iowa in Iowa City (1983). Dr. Carroll's family has been in the Newport and Middletown area for over sixty years, and her elementary and secondary educations took place in area schools.

The topic of Newport's lost past was the theme of an exhibition organized recently by Paul F. Miller, Curator of the Preservation Society of Newport County. Shown at The Elms in the summer and fall of 2005, *Lost Houses of Newport* spanned the history of the city, using images and text to document dozens of vanished residences. In two installments, beginning with this issue of the journal, Mr. Miller translates *Lost Houses of Newport* to the printed page.

Paul F. Miller, a native Rhode Islander, has worked since 1977 in many departments of the Preservation Society. He has been Curator of its eleven house museums since

1995. With an M.A. from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore (1979), he is known for his expertise on interior decoration, garden design, and historic costume. He is in constant demand as a speaker, including at the Louvre Museum in Paris, where he has presented lectures. He is also the author of numerous articles and a collaborator on exhibition catalogs. In the winter of 2005, he became a Getty Scholar at the J. Paul Getty Trust in Los Angeles in order to conduct research on interior decoration at the Getty Museum.