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Editor's Note

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Newport Historical Society

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Editor's Note

In our Summer 2016 issue, we present two articles on quite different but nevertheless compelling topics in Newport history. The first, Marian Desrosiers' "Daily Fare and Exotic Cuisine in Mid-Eighteenth-Century Newport," provides a window into the various foods and drinks consumed by eighteenth-century Newport residents. Thanks to a myriad of sources which include everything from merchants' account books to the excavation of garbage pits, historians can now precisely reconstruct eating patterns of centuries past. As Desrosiers shows us, the intensive commerce of the town insured that eighteenth-century Newport tables were filled with an array of comestibles and exotic foods. In January, the Newport Historical Society launched an initiative called Newport Eats, an investigation of Newport's culinary past through public lectures, exhibits, and other interactive programming. This initiative aims to connect Newport's past food traditions to modern trends, and to provide historical context for present ideas such as food sustainability, community development, and healthy eating. Marian Mathison Desrosiers, Ph.D. is an independent scholar and Adjunct Professor of History and Humanities at Salve Regina University. She is a former executive board member of the National Council for Social Studies and a two-time Fulbright Scholar. Dr. Desrosiers has published works on women leaders during wartime and in the judiciary, nineteenth-century Irish immigration, and colonial Newport.



A costumed interpreter portraying a fish seller at the Newport Historical Society's 1765 Stamp Act Protest Reenactment, 2015. PHOTOGRAPH, LEW KEEN.

Paul Harpin's article, "W. Douglas Hazard and the *Newport Herald*, 1907-1945" takes us to another century and another equally absorbing topic—the rise, success, and demise of a very popular daily newspaper. The *Newport Herald* was faltering in 1907 when three employees scraped together the funds to buy the paper from its owners. The three men not only revived the daily paper, but built it into a popular staple of Newport daily life. That success story owes much to one man, a cub reporter with deep Newport roots and instincts for creating and sustaining a local paper. Paul Hazard Harpin is a Rogers High School graduate and the grandson of W. Douglas Hazard. Harpin served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1988, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He has taught history at the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Army War College. Harpin published a chapter on counterintelligence in *Secrets of the Cold War* (Helion & Company Ltd., 2010), and is the author of a previous *Newport History* article: "John Alfred Hazard's Newport Legacy—Hazard's Beach, Gooseberry Beach, and Gooseberry Island." (2013)

Elizabeth C. Stevens

EDITOR