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in Honor of the Society of the Cincinnati in the
State of Rhode Island and Providence
Plantations*

Article 1

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Editor's Note

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Editor's Note

Planning for this special double issue of *Newport History*, produced to honor the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, began in early 2002 with the examination of past publications of the Newport Historical Society. Members of the Publications Committee met with representatives of the Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati to single out five texts related to the French presence in Newport from 1778 to 1781. During the summer of 2003, the Buchanan/Burnham interns and selected staff of the Newport Historical Society transcribed and proofed the texts. Participating in this process were Gregory Ablavsky, Emily Brush, Stacey Gerson, Jenna Higgins, Charlotte MacLennan, Anne Marisic, and Caroline Ruess. During the fall of 2003, John B. Hattendorf and Charles P. Neimeyer prepared two additional new texts.

Editing the texts for republication in an anthology led to the imposition of uniform formatting for paragraphs, headings, and quotations. It also meant providing editorial guidance for arcane references or other peculiarities in the earlier texts. These editorial commentaries appear in the footnotes for each anthology text set off by square brackets and the tag “—ed.” Brief biographies of authors also appear in this format at the start of the notes for individual articles.

Creating an anthology of writings that spans generations and disciplines produces special problems in the iteration of proper names. The name authority at the rear of this issue provides consistent information on the most commonly accepted spellings and life dates for individuals, along with brief indication of nationality, profession, and importance. This eliminates the need within each text to introduce cumbersome brackets or footnotes to identify individuals. Hence, only grossly misspelled names have been emended in the text itself. To simplify captions, full illustration credits appear near the end of the volume.

All illustrations from the original articles have been republished here. In addition, M. Joan Youngken, Associate Director & Curator of the Newport Historical Society, added dozens of new plates in consultation with the editor. Other staff members at the Newport Historical Society provided invaluable assistance. Jessica Files, Director of Education, coordinated the transcription work. Bertram Lippincott III, the Reference Librarian & Genealogist, fleshed out the biographies of deceased authors. Kimberly A. Hanrahan, the Registrar, produced scanned images for publication. As in many projects, the driving forces behind this one stayed in the background. Thomas I. Goddard, representing the Society of the Cincinnati, inspired and planned the undertaking. Daniel J. Snydacker, Executive Director of the Newport Historical Society, administered and facilitated the complex project.

The resulting tome with its diverse texts, copious illustrations, and wealth of new and old material fully rewards the considerable efforts of all involved.



JEAN BAPTISTE DONATIEN DE VIMEUR
 COUNT DE ROCHAMBEAU
 MARSHAL OF FRANCE
 1725 - 1807

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE FRENCH ARMY
 AT THE SIEGE OF YORKTOWN
 OCTOBER 18th 1781

FIRST SET FOOT ON AMERICAN SOIL, WITH
 6000 GALLANT OFFICERS AND MEN OF FRANCE,
 AT NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, JULY 13, 1780.

" TO THE GENEROUS ASSISTANCE OF YOUR
 NATION AND TO THE BRAVERY OF ITS TROOPS
 MUST BE ATTRIBUTED IN A VERY LARGE DEGREE
 THAT INDEPENDENCE FOR WHICH WE HAVE FOUGHT
 AND WHICH, AFTER A SEVERE CONFLICT OF OVER
 SEVEN YEARS, WE HAVE FINALLY SECURED."

WASHINGTON TO ROCHAMBEAU
 GENERAL HEADQUARTERS AT NEWBURGH
 MAY 10th 1783.

Memorial to Rochambeau, colored steel engraving by Silvain Guillot.