

Spring 2014

Editor's Note

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Recommended Citation

Yarnall, James L. (2014) "Editor's Note," *Newport History*: Vol. 83 : Iss. 270 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.salve.edu/newporthistory/vol83/iss270/1>

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Editor's Note

In this issue of *Newport History*, the focus is on several aspects of 18th-century Newport culture. Dr. Marian Mathison Desrosiers utilizes the record books of a wealthy merchant to explore aspects of daily life and consumerism in pre-Revolutionary Newport. Don N. Hagist delves into the intrigues and misfortunes of a marriage that took place at Newport's Trinity Church during the Revolutionary War. Adams Taylor shifts the focus to writing desks as they related to the evolution of Newport material culture, particularly as the form flourished during the last half of the 18th century.

Marian Mathison Desrosiers received a Ph.D. in Humanities from Salve Regina University at Newport in 2004. She also holds a B.A. in History from Salve Regina (1968), along with an M.A. in Political Science from Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts (1970). She taught American government and history in secondary schools for twenty-five years, and has been an adjunct professor at Salve Regina University since 2005. Among her many academic awards, she has held two Fulbright Scholarships, one to India and one to Russia. Her publications include articles in *The Journal of Feminist Thought*, *Minerva Journal of Women and War*, and a previous article in *Newport History* (vol. 75, no. 255, Fall 2006) on the ownership of the Old Stone Mill in Touro Park.

Don N. Hagist received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics from the University of Rhode Island in 1981. He has been an Engineer for Schneider Electric since 1993. He was a Contactor for the Naval War College and Naval Underwater Warfare Center in Newport from 1984 to 1992. Before that, he worked as an Engineer for Foster Wheeler Energy Corporation from 1981 to 1984. His previous publications include *British Soldiers, American War*, published by Westholme Publishing in 2012, and two books from Ballindalloch Press: *Wenches, Wives and Servant Girls* (2008) and *A British Soldier's Story: Roger Lamb's Narrative of the American Revolution* (2005).

Adams Taylor began his career in the field of Mesoamerican archaeology working at sites in Mexico and Guatemala. He has taught in the Department of High School Programs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and also served as a Curatorial Assistant in the museum's Department of Primitive Art. He later worked for fifteen years in exhibitions and collections at the Museum of the American Indian in New York, and as a preparator for exhibits at several other New York museums. During the 1980s, he became a Collections Manager at the Preservation Society of Newport County to inventory, accession, and computerize collections data. He later was Registrar at the Newport Art Museum, where he rehoused and reorganized the print collection, and created storage for paintings and other two-dimensional artworks. In June of 1997, Taylor joined the staff of the Newport Historical Society as Collections Manager. His focus there was on improving collections storage conditions while designing and installing most exhibits. As an Adjunct Curator, he currently continues to work on collections planning and exhibition production at the Society. His most recent exhibit on desks in the Society's collection served as the basis for his article in this issue of *Newport History*. Jennifer L. Robinson, a Curatorial Assistant at the Society, was instrumental in preparing the photography and facilitating the production of the article.