

Spring 2020

*News and events for  
Proprietors, Subscribers & Friends  
of the Portsmouth Athenæum*

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## Portsmouth Athenæum

NEWSLETTER

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## Portsmouth Athenæum Temporary Closure

Out of concern for the health and safety of members, patrons, staff and volunteers during the coronavirus outbreak, the Athenæum research library and exhibit gallery closed March 17 until further notice.

As the newsletter went to press, the reading room remained available to Proprietors and Subscribers. We recommend that you maintain a polite social distance from others, observe vigilant hand washing and follow the preparedness guidelines issued by the

Portsmouth Health Department. If you feel ill, have been around someone who is ill, or have traveled recently, please stay home.

We will post regular updates as the situation evolves and hope that we will announce a reopening soon. In the interim, here are some ways you can stay involved with the Athenæum:

- Follow updates on our website and social media pages.
- Search our online catalog, including the endlessly entertaining "Random

Images" feature. Note that our librarian, Robin Silva, has included links to digital versions of books in our catalog if they are available.

- Email a research request to [info@portsmouthathenæum.org](mailto:info@portsmouthathenæum.org).
- If you need a good read for self-isolation, we can still circulate books through the mail or by local drop-off.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Tom Hardiman, Keeper  
Portsmouth Athenæum

## SCHOOL DAYS: Join the Athenæum's Indexing Team

SHERRY WOOD

The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) began scanning, indexing and making available online the historic records of the Portsmouth School Department in January. The Athenæum has housed the records since 1991, when the Portsmouth School Department placed them on deposit for safekeeping.

"It's nice, neat teacher handwriting," says Athenæum Archivist Susan Kindstedt of the contents of the collection's 122 volumes.

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Working on the Athenæum's Portsmouth School Records collection: Seth Robinson, Portsmouth Public Library's Great Bay Community College Intern; Portsmouth Public Library Assistant, Reference & Special Collections Poleena Vassiliev; Portsmouth Public Library Supervisor of Reference Services Nicole Luongo Cloutier; Athenæum Archivist Susan Stowe Kindstedt and Peggy Hodges, Athenæum board secretary and chair of the library committee. James Smith Photo.

# A NEW LOOK AT THE GARDNER FAMILY OF PORTSMOUTH

PEGGY HODGES



*The c. 1770 Peirce-Tuckerman House, on the corner of Manning Street and Meetinghouse Hill. Unmarried Gardner and Tuckerman ladies worked as milliners and sold "small wares" out of their home here around the turn of the 20th century. The house was demolished about 1960.*

*Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter* is published three times yearly. Deadlines for articles are March 1, June 15 and October 1.

Contributions and queries may be directed to Publications Committee Chair/Editor Sherry Wood at [sixswords@aol.com](mailto:sixswords@aol.com).

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As an Athenæum Proprietor and a professional genealogist, I enjoy looking for new ways to explore the lives of Portsmouth ancestors. The Athenæum and the Portsmouth Public Library now hold copies of "Some Homes and Workplaces of the Gardner Family of Portsmouth, 1713–1894," my study of Portsmouth places that reflects Portsmouth's changing character over time, and the Gardner family's participation in those changes.

The Gardner surname first appears in Portsmouth's public records in the summer of 1713, when David Gardner (d. 1723) married Margaret Cate of Portsmouth in the North Church. From obscure beginnings, the descendants of David Gardner flourished in Portsmouth for generations.

As the city burgeoned as a commercial seaport, fell and rose under embargoes, wars, industrialization and shifting commodity markets, Gardners worked as fishermen, farmers, merchants, bakers, shopkeepers, hairdressers, printers, clerks, hostlers, factory and Navy Yard hands, and city employees.

The neighborhoods where they lived reflected their ages, occupations, socioeconomic status, family affiliations—and, of course, the city's growth over time. Gardners owned and rented homes and halves of homes, both grand and modest; crowded in long- and short-term with parents, siblings and in-laws; and lived in boardinghouses, tenements and hotels.

My research for this short study included forays into Portsmouth city directories, census records, deeds, newspapers, historic maps and photographs, web-based mapping applications, and published town histories.

"Some Homes and Workplaces" also stands as a companion piece to Athenæum archivist Susan Kindstedt's 2008 work, "The Gardner Family of Portsmouth, New Hampshire: An Historical Perspective," also in the Athenæum research library, which provides historical context and greater biographical detail for the Gardner family.



In late 2019 the Athenaeum received three very generous bequests from the estates of recently passed Proprietors: \$50,000 from Eleanor Johnston Ford; \$20,000 from Michael Kenslea; and \$10,000 from Mark Connolly.

In addition to that, we received an unexpected residual bequest of \$20,800 from the estates of Paul Revere scholars Evelyn and Edward Stickney, whose individual trusts had already left us \$30,000.

In just over two years the Athenaeum received a record total of nine unex-

## GENEROSITY

TOM HARDIMAN

pected bequests adding up to more than \$180,000. It is worth noting that more than half of these were from non-Proprietor researchers who wanted to help ensure the preservation of the resources they had used.

The Portsmouth Athenaeum Legacy Society is working on a permanent memorial to honor the more than 40 individuals who have remembered the Athenaeum in their estates since

20-year-old James E. Sheafe left \$1,000 for the purchase of books in 1831.

These gifts of money, real estate, and other fungible materials have totaled more than \$1.3 million and form the core of our endowed and invested funds, which produce 20% of our operating income.

Making the Athenaeum a beneficiary of your will, trust, annuity or IRA is an important way you can ensure the future health of our favorite member

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## Hitting the Beach with Photographer and Proprietor Peter Randall

SHERRY WOOD



This photo by Proprietor Peter Randall is part of the exhibit "Hampton Beach, Summer of '83" at the Portsmouth Athenaeum Randall Gallery.

Longtime Proprietor Peter Randall's summer of 1983 was inspired by a small camera, 20 rolls of free film and street photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson's "decisive moment." The results are evident in a new book and the current exhibit in the Randall Gallery "Hampton Beach, Summer of '83."

Cartier-Bresson, who died at 95 in 2004, was a master of candid photography whose work influenced generations of artists. "The person, or persons, their expressions, their interactions with other people and environment...there's one aspect of that scene that's the quintessential moment," Randall said.

Randall, a professional photographer since 1963, may have started out to make art that summer, but he ended up having fun. "Sand and surf. Babes in bikinis and babies in diapers. Muscular teenagers and spry golden-agers," he wrote about his work in a blog for Red River Paper.

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The proposal to form a membership library known as the Portsmouth Athenaeum was first broached in late 1816 by “a number of gentlemen.”

The following year, 73 individuals expressed interest in joining. Among them were three ministers (Nathan Parker of the South Church, Charles Burroughs of St. John’s, and Israel Putnam of the North Church). Many other prominent citizens were among those expressing interest, including John Langdon and his daughter, Elizabeth Elwyn, the only woman.

In 1818 new bylaws were drawn up, authorizing 30 shares at \$50 each and 20 at \$5 each. While it is not possible to quantify with precision the relative value of a dollar at any given point in the past, there can be no doubt that the shares were expensive, with \$50 being equivalent to more than \$1,000 today. At the time a typical workman’s wage was less than \$300 per year.

In 1823 the Athenaeum relocated from the Custom House on Penhallow Street to the newly acquired New Hampshire Fire and Marine Insurance Company building, what we now call the 1805 Building. That year the number of authorized shares was increased to 100. By 1832, all of the shares had been sold, and virtually all of the town’s wealthiest men were members. The Athenaeum had become the cultural centerpiece of Portsmouth.

In 1860, Eliza Wentworth Haven became the first woman to purchase a share in her own name. (Three others had inherited their deceased husbands’

*Arcana* DICK ADAMS  
*The Evolving Face of  
Athenaeum Membership*

shares.) Mrs. Haven was the widow of founder Nathaniel A. Haven, Jr.

In 1863 the price of a share was increased to \$100, an amount that was to remain fixed for 146 years. By 1870 all shares had been sold, but a number of Proprietors did not regularly pay their \$7 annual assessments. Clement March, for example, remained a Proprietor for 24 years despite being in arrears over that span. An exasperated board of directors finally sold his share at auction in 1892.

Membership in the Athenaeum remained surprisingly expensive in a town not known for conspicuous wealth. Most membership libraries in the late 1800s charged less than \$10 for a share, and a typical annual fee was \$1.00 or less.

Beginning around the onset of World War I, membership began to wane, and for the next four decades the Athenaeum stagnated, nearly crippled by declining finances and indifferent Proprietors.

But in the late 1940s its fortunes abruptly changed for the better. In 1949, 100 shares were taken for the first time since 1870. From that year onward there was a steady increase in the number of board-authorized

shares, growing from 120 in 1961 to 170 in 1976 to today’s 400.

Currently there are 382 Proprietors and 37 Subscribers, from 19 states and two countries.

The latter category has gone through a number of iterations over the years. In 1824, for instance, subscribers were non-shareholders who could access the Athenaeum only if they were temporary residents or full-time residents paying less than \$20 in taxes. Today the only significant difference between the two is that subscriber access is limited to Monday through Saturday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The average age of our Proprietors is about 70, with 229 males and 153 females.

The great recession of 2008 caused a dramatic turnover in Athenaeum membership. Significant surrenders of Proprietorships at that time have subsequently been offset by the joining of 125 members since 2009, representing almost one quarter of the current total number of Proprietors.

A third category of Athenaeum supporter well worthy of note is that of Friends of the Athenaeum.

For \$25 a year Friends, currently numbering about 80, are welcome to attend social and cultural functions, receive the Athenaeum Newsletter, and serve on some committees. Keeper Tom Hardiman has observed that Friends are typically among our most generous supporters.

# ATHENAEUM 2020 CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

BILL WEITING

The ArtsAthenaeum Performance Committee announces the following concert series planned for Portsmouth Athenaeum Chamber Music this year:

**July 19:** The Central4 Quartet will play works for string quartet by Rebecca Clarke and Antonin Dvorak, among others. The concert will be at St. John's Church at 3 p.m.

**Aug. 16 or 23** (date to be confirmed): Musicians from Boston's acclaimed chamber orchestra A Far Cry will present a program of "Entartete Musik" or music declared "degenerate" by the Nazis. Starting in 1929, even before coming fully to power, the Nazis decried and ultimately banned music by a variety of modernist composers such as Kurt Weill and Paul Hindemith. This concert will be at the Dance Hall in Kittery at 3 p.m.

**Sept. 20:** Our good friends, the popular Omer Quartet, returns for a performance at 3 p.m. in North



*The Dance Hall in Kittery is one of the venues for Portsmouth Athenaeum Chamber Music performances.*

Church. Equally at home with classical (Haydn, Mozart) and modern (Janacek, Golijov) music, Omer Quartet always leaves audiences awed by their polished musicianship and shared insights.

**Oct. 26:** The Neave Piano Trio returns to us at the Dance Hall in Kittery at 3 p.m. The trio is equally at home with Haydn and Beethoven as well as

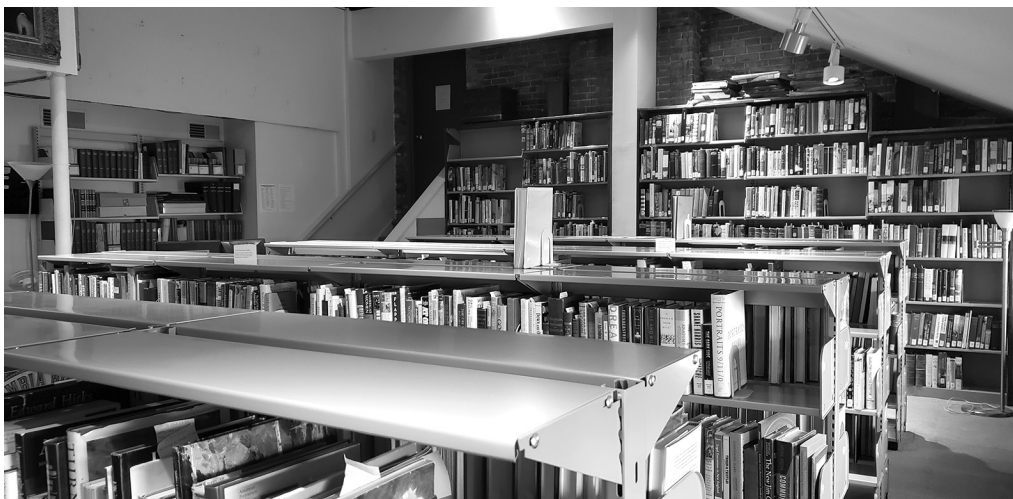
Rebecca Clarke, Astor Piazzolla and Dmitri Shostakovich.

Program details are subject to change, but you may rely upon all concerts being presented on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. Always contact the Athenaeum to confirm PACM locations, dates and music program details.

Tickets for each concert will be \$25 at the door, and series subscriptions are available for \$90.

Patron status is accorded those individuals who contribute \$250 toward the PACM series. Patrons receive a four-concert series subscription, are recognized in program notes, and are invited to attend private post-concert receptions with the performers.

Series tickets and patronages can be purchased at any time; just send an appropriate check to the Athenaeum with a memo explaining your intentions.



The Stacks are back! Librarian Robin Silva, with help from Proprietors Alison Tucker, Cindy Bufithis and Mary Carter as well as volunteer Ethan Carr, have successfully re-shelved the Stacks on the fourth floor. Great work by all involved!

# THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENAEUM WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT BRADLEY LOWN

DONALD MARGESON

Last November, when John Rice had to decline his pending elevation to the presidency of the Portsmouth Athenaeum for personal reasons, the Athenaeum's Nominating Committee turned to his prospective Vice President, local lawyer Brad Lown.

Without hesitation, Brad agreed to waive the usual vice-presidential apprenticeship and—as Nominating Chair Tom Watson put it—“jump into the hot seat immediately.” In a short speech after his formal election at the Athenaeum's annual meeting on January 26, Lown noted that one of the many great things about the Athenaeum was that it offered “rapid promotion.”

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, Lown attended Phillips Exeter Academy, graduating in 1976. In 1981 he graduated from Harvard College with a B.A. cum laude in history. He then attended the University of Maine Law School, made law review there and graduated with the Class of 1985.

Since then he has been in private practice, almost entirely in Portsmouth. In January 2000 he joined his current firm, Coughlin, Rainboth, Murphy and Lown, where he has regularly handled and tried civil cases of all kinds, both personal and commercial.

Over many years, Brad has been deeply involved in community service to Portsmouth and the Seacoast area. He sat on the Portsmouth Building



*Athenaeum President Bradley Lown.*

Code Court of Appeals (1988-1990) and the NH Hearing Care Board (1998-1991), as well as the Warner House Association Board (1987-1990) and the Wentworth-Coolidge Commission. He served as president of the Portsmouth Historical Society (1999-2001).

In Portsmouth city government, he has been a Trustee of Trust Funds (2007-2011), member of the School Board (1990-1993) and between 2002 and 2017, served four terms on the City Council, winning election every time he ran. He has coached Little League and youth basketball and served as a vestryman at St. John's Church in Portsmouth.

Brad has been married for 33 years to Chris Sieve, a psychologist; they

have three adult children. He became an Athenaeum Subscriber in 1991 and a Proprietor on January 1, 2000; he holds Share No. 236.

Asked what brought him to join the Athenaeum, Brad cites influences both personal and intellectual: “When my wife and I moved to Portsmouth in 1986, one of the first people I met was Margo Harrington, wife of Judge William F. Harrington Jr. She asked me if I wanted to be on the board of the Warner House Association, and I served on that board for a few years.

“I also got to know local attorney Wyman Boynton, with whose firm I started as an associate in 1986. His parents had signed him up as a member of the Portsmouth Historical Society right after he was born in 1919, and he was a continuous member of that organization until he died in 1996. He inspired me to join the Historical Society and I eventually became its president.

“I have always had an interest in history, including the history of the American Civil War and also the history of the New Hampshire Seacoast. It was Ellie Sanderson who asked me if I wanted to join the Athenaeum. I didn't know much about it—just that it was an exclusive and prestigious enclave. Over the years since, it has become

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### *Hitting the Beach-....*

He shot the photos in black and white, using a film by Agfa that could be processed anywhere. For the Athenaeum exhibit, he chose 30 of his book's 70 images, taken from the 700 or so he captured on his Olympus XA.

"Although I grew up on the Seacoast in New Hampshire, I never spent much time at Hampton Beach, at least not the two-mile section where most of the tourists go," Randall said. "In 1983 I was living in Hampton, so it was easy for me to get to the beach any day or time of day. With my little camera, I wandered the broad, sandy beach, the boardwalks, the sidewalks and the arcades. Almost no one noticed me working and none of the people who did see me objected to being photographed." That year, Randall got involved in other projects and put aside the photos for decades.

"I was starting my publishing business that year, and had begun a history of

Hampton," he said. "I had other things going on. Hampton Beach was mostly forgotten until last winter (2019) when a friend was helping me archive my work." The prints drew a big crowd at the February 7th opening, with many not only admiring the beautiful beach bodies, but the whimsical artifacts that Sandra Rux, Exhibits Committee Chairman, borrowed from the Hampton Historical Society and a movie from the photos created by Peter's grandson, Kael Randall. There are even two battered boom boxes (one belonging to Keeper Tom Hardiman and the

other to his wife, Anne.) As the founder of Peter E. Randall Publisher, Randall has produced some 450 titles of local history, poetry, fiction, memoirs, art and photography. He has also authored 13 books of history, photography and travel. The Isles of Shoals is a particular interest of his, and the subject of two books of photographs and a film, "Celia Thaxter's Island Garden."

Signed copies of *Hampton Beach, Summer of '83* are available for \$20 at [petererandall.com](http://petererandall.com).



The vintage boomboxes of Athenaeum Keeper Tom Hardiman and his wife, Anne, are included in the exhibit.



Athenaeum Librarian Robin Silva and others have been putting the research library back together book by book (literally). Great job, Robin! And once again, thank you to everyone involved.

# PORTSMOUTH ATHENAEUM PROGRAM SERIES 2020:

## *Elections with a New Hampshire Twist*

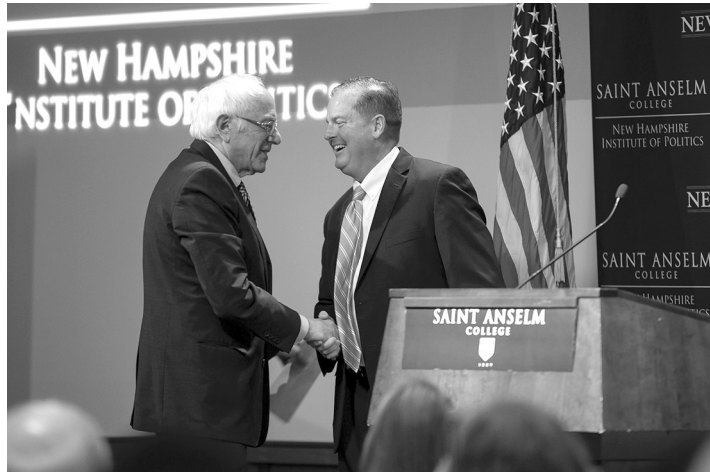
IRENE BUSH

This is a year of primaries, caucuses and a presidential election. While the excitement of the New Hampshire primary (still first in the nation!) has passed, there is a lot to know about elections and New Hampshire. In addition, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.

This year's Athenaeum speakers program will feature outstanding Proprietors and other experts in five programs on our state's roles in politics.

Programs begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Research Library on the Athenaeum's third floor. Reservations are required: call (603) 431-2538. If unable to keep a reservation, please call to release the seat for someone else. Reserved seats are honored until five minutes before a program begins. Guests and the public are welcome to attend the series by becoming a Friend of the Portsmouth Athenaeum for \$25, or may attend a single program for \$10.

On April 15, Neil Levesque, executive director of the nationally known NH Institute of Politics at St. Anselm College, will speak on "The History of the New Hampshire Presidential Primary." Currently, he is chairman of the New Hampshire Presidential Primary Centennial Anniversary Commission, on the Board of Trustees and vice-chair at Catholic



*Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders shakes hands with NHIOP Executive Director Neil Levesque. Levesque will speak on the history of the New Hampshire primary on April 15 at the Athenaeum. Facebook Photo*

Medical Center, and on the Board of Directors at Pease Development Authority.

On May 20, Gary Sparks and Paula Fortner will present "The Presidential Election Of 1852: New Hampshire's Franklin Pierce and Old Fuss And Feathers." Pierce's political and military experience, oratorical skills, adherence to the Constitution and his commitment to preserve the Union at all costs were just what the Democrats needed to defeat Gen. Winfield Scott. Pierce's meteoric rise to the presidency will be discussed within the framework of antebellum politics.

Sparks and Fortner are the Franklin Pierce Society's president and vice-president, respectively. The Society manages the Pierce Homestead in Hillsborough. Currently, Fortner serves as vice president of the Hillsborough Historical Society and works at the N.H. Historical

Society. Sparks has conducted tours at the Pierce Homestead and the Pierce Manse over the past 20-plus years. He is currently a member of the Pierce Brigade in Concord and is president pro-tem of the Hillsborough Historical Society.

On Sept. 16, Proprietor John P. (Jack) McGee, Jr. will discuss Justice Levi Woodbury. An associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Woodbury also served as a U.S. senator, the 9th governor of New Hampshire, and cabinet member in three administrations. Born in Francestown, he established a legal practice there in 1812. He was the first Supreme Court justice to have attended law school. McGee, a partner in Flynn and McGee, P.A. in Portsmouth, has served as a member of the Order of the Barristers, chairman of the New Hampshire Labor Board of Appeals,

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# ATHENAEUM BY THE NUMBERS

KATY STERNBERGER, *Athenaeum Research Librarian*

Results are in! As discussed in my fall 2019 article, “Answering Research Inquiries,” the Athenaeum has begun tracking reference statistics using two methods: a project management tool called Asana to manage online inquiries was implemented in June 2019, and tracking sheets to record in-person and phone interactions were added in September 2019. In January, I tabulated the numbers.

Using the tracking sheets, Athenaeum staff recorded 499 in-person and phone interactions over three months. These interactions included gallery visitors, people touring the building, research visits, and phone inquiries. About 80% of these interactions were with nonmembers while 20% were with

members. Specifically, there were 147 reference-related interactions, both in person and over the phone, which was about 30% of the total interactions. The majority of reference activities were related to drop-in researchers. Gallery visitors and people who toured the historic library accounted for 32% and 23% of all interactions, respectively.

In regards to online activities, tracked using Asana, we recorded 92 interactions over seven months. These were split evenly between research requests and image order requests.

Along with reference, other library services demonstrated the Athenaeum’s value to the membership and the community. Circulation rose about 14%

in 2019 with more than 800 checkouts. Also, the Athenaeum’s interlibrary loan lending has increased significantly since the launch of the New Hampshire State Library’s updated ILL system last October. Our books can now be sent to other libraries across New Hampshire, and sometimes the Athenaeum is the only library in the state to provide access to a particular book.

Visitors from around the world send their queries, stop by to wonder at our historic building, and explore our research collections. Over a short time, the staff have collected some concrete data to help us quantify our users and better understand the extent of services that the Athenaeum provides.

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*President Brad Lown...*

less exclusive, but only gained in prestige!”

Our new president sees the mission of the Athenaeum as being “to preserve and promote local history, to share the history with the public and to educate, to provide a quiet respite from the world for its members, and to be a convivial and social place.”

Exemplifying the organization’s educative mission, he recalls that “When my three children were younger, I used to take them into the Athenaeum to show them the whale’s eye and we would take them up onto the roof. It has always been a magical place for them. I’ve been teaching Sunday School at St.

John’s Episcopal Church for about 16 years and in the past I’ve walked to the Athenaeum with my class.” As for the Athenaeum’s social mission, he acknowledges that, like so many of us, he has “been a big fan and regular attendee of the Christmas party.”

From his extensive community service, Brad singles out one experience as potentially very helpful to him as president: “I served on the Portsmouth City Council for eight years. In that capacity, I learned the importance of listening and trying to include as many members of the community as possible in the decision-making process. I also learned that the way to accomplish anything in life is with relationships.”

Addressing the middle- and long-term funding needs of the Athenaeum, Brad

says: “The most important issue facing the organization is how to sustain itself for the decades to come. This pertains to the physical structure of the Athenaeum, the membership and the financial foundation of the organization. Although the Athenaeum is financially healthy and the 2019 revenue exceeded what was budgeted by a significant amount, the Athenaeum may face significant financial issues related to the building.”

He concludes: “My only goal [as President] is to assist in any way I can to come up with a long-range plan that will address the sustainability of the Athenaeum far into the future. And in so doing, I hope the Board and the Proprietors will have fun and will continue to enjoy each other and this special place.”

*School Days....*

What's written in the margins can be as historically valuable as the official information in the records, which date from 1846-1935. "President Lincoln assassinated. Schools closed till after the funeral, which took place Wednesday, April 19," reads an 1865 notation.

After scanning the records at their headquarters in Boston, NEHGS will work with volunteers to index the scanned volumes, ultimately making the records available on its digital database, American Ancestors. The Athenaeum and Portsmouth Public Library will maintain subscriptions to the database so that researchers will have free access to the records. The Athenaeum will also hold a digital copy of the records.

The information about Portsmouth students and teachers is particularly useful for genealogical research. The attendance records include each student's name, birth date, parent (or guardian) name and address. In addition to the genealogical data, records from the collection contain details about hiring teachers and curriculum, Kindstedt said.

She is working with Don LeClair, associate director, database search and systems at NEHGS, the largest and oldest genealogical society in the country.

A Rosamond Thaxter Foundation grant of \$1,865 is paying for boxes and the archival supplies required for storage.

"It's an exciting project," said Kindstedt, who said it all began last spring when she contacted NEHGS Library Director Jean Maguire after hearing her speak at a conference about the society's work with school records from Lowell, Massachusetts.

The Athenaeum is recruiting volunteers to work with NEHGS for the indexing portion of the project. Training will be provided and indexing can be done remotely from the comfort of your own home. For more information please contact Kindstedt at [skindstedt@portsmouthathenaeum.org](mailto:skindstedt@portsmouthathenaeum.org).

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*Generosity....*

ship library and joining the Legacy Society now is a way that we can show our sincere gratitude in advance.

For more information, please contact [legacysociety@portsmouthathenaeum.org](mailto:legacysociety@portsmouthathenaeum.org). And remember that there will be a memorial concert honoring all those Proprietors who passed in 2019 on May 24 at 3 p.m. at North Church.

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*Elections with a twist....*

and Vice President and President of the Portsmouth Athenaeum.

On Oct. 21, Liz Tentarelli will speak on "The Campaign for Women's Right to Vote." Her talk will cover the campaign from the 1848 Women's

Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y., to ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920. Who were the key players in New Hampshire and the nation? What issues and obstacles did they face? Who was left out when women got the right to vote? Using historic photos and documents, Tentarelli will guide us on the journey.

Tentarelli is president of the NH League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization that is the direct descendant of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

On Nov. 18, Proprietor Ann Beattie will delve into the complex character of Gen. Benjamin Butler. Born and bred in New Hampshire, Butler was a dynamic and audacious politician. He served as a Union Army general during the Civil War, earning the nicknames "Beast" and "Spoons." A successful lawyer, Butler was elected the governor of Massachusetts and made an unsuccessful bid for the presidency. Rumored to be a rather shady businessman, Butler was ahead of his time in championing the rights of women and African-Americans.

Beattie is an independent scholar who researches the history of the Isles of Shoals. She is a former president of the Isles of Shoals Historical and Research Association, currently serves as the Island Historian on Star Island and speaks about the Shoals and related matters both on the Isles and around the region.

*The Athenaeum's 2020 Program Series of speakers is sponsored by UBS Financial Services, Inc.*

# Events at the Portsmouth Athenæum

APRIL-JULY 2020

*Unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the public. Reservations are requested since space is limited.*

*Please call 603-431-2538 at least 48 hours in advance. For more current listings, check [www.portsmouthathenaeum.org](http://www.portsmouthathenaeum.org).*

BECAUSE OF THE ATHENAEUM'S TEMPORARY CLOSURE, BEFORE ATTENDING ANY EVENTS PLEASE CHECK UPDATED ATHENAEUM LISTINGS AT [WWW.PORTSMOUTHATHENAEUM.ORG](http://WWW.PORTSMOUTHATHENAEUM.ORG) OR CALL 603-431-2538.

**APRIL 15, WEDNESDAY:** 2020 Portsmouth Athenaeum Program Series: Elections with a New Hampshire Twist: "A History of the New Hampshire Primary" with Neil Levesque, executive director at the nationally known New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College. 5:30 p.m. in the Research Library.

**APRIL 19, SUNDAY:** Concert with Peter Griggs following 500 years of music for guitar. 3 p.m. in the Reading Room. Please call for a reservation as seating is very limited.

**APRIL 21, TUESDAY:** Athenaeum Tea for New Members in the Reading Room, 4:30-6 p.m.

**APRIL 26, SUNDAY: POSTPONED. CHECK PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY WEBSITE FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON THIS EVENT.** Haven School History Project & ID Party. Did you or a family member attend Haven School? Do you have photos, ephemera, objects and memories to share? Join the Athenaeum, Strawberry Banke and the Portsmouth Public Library for an afternoon strolling down memory lane as the three institutions collaborate to preserve the history of Haven School and the South End community for future generations. In the last year, over 1,000 images were preserved at the Athenaeum. While many of the subjects have been identified, there are images that need your help in identifying the people, events, etc. 2-5 p.m. at Portsmouth Public Library, 175 Parrott Ave.

**APRIL 30, THURSDAY:** Author talk and book signing with Lou Salome, whose new book is *Thoreau, the Kid and*

*Mr. Lou; Book Notes of a Foreign Correspondent*, 5:30 p.m. in the Research Library.

**MAY 1, FRIDAY:** The exhibition "Hampton Beach: Summer of '83," featuring photographs by Peter Randall will be open for Art'Round Town. 5-8 p.m. in the Randall Gallery.

**MAY 2, SATURDAY:** Concert with the UNH players; the program is yet to be determined.

**MAY 20, WEDNESDAY:** 2020 Portsmouth Athenaeum Program Series: Elections with a New Hampshire Twist: "Franklin Pierce's Election to the Presidency in 1852" by Gary Sparks and Paula Fortner of the Hillsborough Historical Society (Pierce's birthplace), 5:30 p.m. in the Research Library.

**MAY 24, SUNDAY:** A memorial concert honoring Proprietors who have passed in 2019 will be held at North Church at 3 p.m. The concert features Peter Sykes on harpsichord.

**JUNE 5, FRIDAY:** The exhibition "Hampton Beach: Summer of '83," featuring photographs by Peter Randall will be open for Art'Round Town. 5-8 p.m. in the Randall Gallery.

**JULY 2, THURSDAY:** "Hampton Beach: Summer of '83," closes.

**JULY 17, FRIDAY:** The exhibit "The Wentworth Take-over," telling the story of the 14 children of Lt. Governor John Wentworth and his wife, Sarah Hunking, and their influence in shaping NH history. 5 p.m. in the Randall Gallery.

**JULY 19, SUNDAY:** The 2020 Portsmouth Athenaeum Chamber Music series begins with the Central 4 piano quartet. They will play works for string quartet by Rebecca Clarke and Antonin Dvorák, among others, 3 p.m. at St. John's Church.



THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM  
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*This is a screenshot of an Athenæum Facebook December 22, 2019 post of Market Square during the holidays, circa 1930s. Thanks to Photographic Collections Manager James Smith, the Athenæum has a lively presence on Facebook and Instagram. Not on social media? Go to [www.portsmouthathenaeum.org](http://www.portsmouthathenaeum.org) and click on "social feed," just beneath "search catalog."*

## Stay connected!

JAMES SMITH

On social media, the Athenæum features the latest happenings and highlights the extensive collection of historic photographs, manuscripts, books, objects and ephemera. Last December, we shared an image of an early 20th century winter scene of Market Square enhanced with a digital snow squall and the sound of sleigh bells. The unique clip went viral reaching over 7,000, shared over 40 times and liked by over 100 people. If you aren't one of our over 1,100 likes on Facebook or nearly 1,400 followers on Instagram, you can sign up on our website and stay connected!