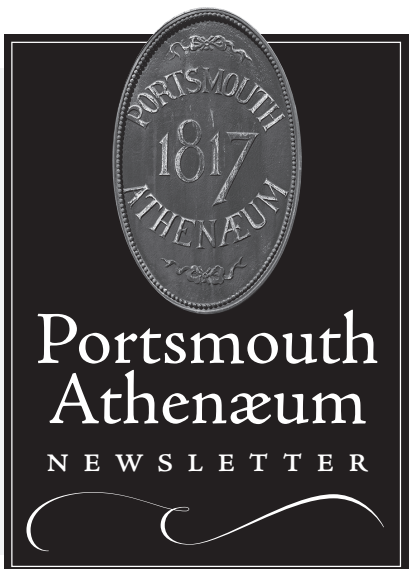


Spring 2021

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

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CONTENTS

As Seen on Social Media	2
Keeper's Report	3
Arcana: Boys and other Miscreants	4
Long-Range Planning	5
Waiting for the Wentworths	6
Proprietor Publications	7
Socially Distanced Research	9
On Volunteering	10
Virtual Events: Spring	11

Learning Portsmouth Street by Street

SHERRY WOOD

Proprietor Richard M. Candee fought the demolition of the North End during the 1960s and 1970s as part of Portsmouth Preservation Inc. Decades later, he is still preserving the history of the Port City and looking to the future.

"Our job at the Athenæum is to capture what we can so people can understand how Portsmouth got to where it is now," Candee said. He had been a graduate student, a research historian at Old Sturbridge Village, and taught historic preservation, when he returned to Portsmouth in the mid-1970s to do architectural surveys to qualify properties for the National Register of Historic Places.

"It helped me learn Portsmouth street by street," he said of the work that would eventually lead to the 1992 publication of his *Building Portsmouth*,



This contact sheet shows some of the hundreds of photos taken in Portsmouth's West End in the 1980s and 1990s by Athenæum Proprietor Richard Candee and a cadre of volunteers for an architectural survey of the neighborhood. Portsmouth Athenæum Photo.

The Neighborhoods & Architecture of New Hampshire's Oldest City.

The research for that book included Candee and volunteers taking photographs of hundreds of homes in neighborhoods that had previously been overlooked. "Much of the survey was related to pulling together

aspects of the West End, which I felt was totally ignored by all the local preservation people," the professor emeritus of American and New England Studies at Boston University recently recalled. "Nobody looked beyond Market Square and the South End." More than 1,000 of these photographs

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

As Seen on Social Media

JAMES SMITH, *Photographic Collections Manager*



*The Old Globe Tavern at Middle Road and Islington Street is shown circa 1897.
The building was demolished in 1914. Portsmouth Athenaeum Photo.*

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

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*P*ictured is the old Globe Tavern or Plains Hotel at the intersection of Middle Road and Islington Street, c. 1897. Unfortunately, you are looking at this once famous tavern at nearly the end of its existence.

Built about 1728, the public house was located two miles outside of Market Square near the crossroads that led west to Exeter and south to Boston on adjacent land to the militia training grounds at the Portsmouth Plains.

By 1768, the tavern was known as King George's Inn, and five years later, it was the Globe Tavern, bearing that name until 1839. In 1789, in front of the tavern, Maj. Gen. Joseph Cilley of Nottingham led in the salute of soldiers to

welcome President George Washington in his only visit to Portsmouth.

The building was home to auctions and large annual events such as the freemasons St. John the Baptist feast and early Republic grand Fourth of July celebrations.

In colonial Portsmouth, the Plains were part of the procession of Negro Court. Each June, the region's Black population assembled to elect a monarch and his court in what the book "Black Portsmouth" described as a "grand celebration" with brilliantly attired "festive music and boisterous gunfire." For many years, Nero, owned by Col. William Brewster, was elected king.

According to a 1913 account announcing its sale, the old Globe Tavern had been abandoned for the last decade and was owned by the Welch family for at least 25 years. It was described as having caved-in flooring, missing doors and "could not show a solid pane of glass to the passerby" and now offered "an abode for only tramps and other pedestrians of the road who reach that section of the city by nightfall."

There were hopes a new owner would restore the building, but the tavern was demolished a year later.

*To sign up for the
Athenaeum's weekly news e-blasts by
James Smith, go to
www.portsmouthathenaeum.org
and click on "social feed"
or "E-News signup."*

KEEPER'S REPORT

TOM HARDIMAN

2020 will not soon be forgotten, as much as most of us would like to wish it away. Many have compared it to the flu pandemic year of 1918. I see parallels with 1816, known as "the year with no summer." To me, 2020 seems like the year with no year.

In 1815, Mount Tambora in Indonesia exploded in the most violent volcanic eruption in the historical record. The vast quantity of ash and debris pushed into the upper atmosphere by the force of the eruption darkened the earth's skies for three years. Throughout the Northern Hemisphere there were frosts and snows in every month of the summer of 1816, damaging crops and leading to a surge of bankruptcies that in turn led to a national credit crisis. The New Hampshire Fire & Marine Insurance Company, which built our historic building in Market Square and occupied the two ground floor rooms, burned 14¾ cords of wood in 1816, vastly more than in previous years. For the first time, they had to restock firewood in August, when they usually ordered wood in October. The murky orange skies of 1816 can be seen in the moody landscapes of J. M. W. Turner and Caspar David Friedrich. The pervasive gloom is said to have inspired Mary Shelley to write her classic gothic novel, *Frankenstein*.

Here in Portsmouth in December of 1816, the darkest month of the darkest year on record, a group of citizens gathered to form a new

library and reading room that was incorporated the following summer as the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenaeum. In a time of tremendous uncertainty and social disruption, our predecessors bravely banded together to affirm that the best remedy for the devastating effects of the global darkness is the light of learning and literature and what was then called natural philosophy, now termed science. We will be well served by following their example.

So, in our 2020 version of a year without a summer (or fall, or winter), we have not surrendered to the shadows, but have worked faithfully to keep that flame sparked in 1816 alight. Even in three months of lockdown, we continued to circulate books by reservation and by mail. We also answered a flood of email research requests from those who otherwise would have just walked in. We have embraced new technologies to keep our staff, board, committees, and vital volunteers working and communicating. We have also built new connections to sister institutions to multiply the return on our combined efforts.

Your amazing Athenaeum staff, Robin, Stephanie, James, Carolyn, Katy, Susan, and volunteer Curator Elizabeth Aykroyd have been able to stay remarkably productive working partly or mostly from home. Herculean efforts from Treasurer Jeff Keefe and Office Manager Stephanie Tabit secured a Payroll Protection Plan loan that ensured that we could

keep all of our staff not just paid, but paid and productive. Stephanie also uncovered a check spoof fraud attempt on our bank account, saving us thousands of dollars and proving that work from home isn't all sweat-pants and Snickers.

Informed by a number of member surveys, interviews, and board retreats, our Long-Range Planning Committee has developed a strategic framework that will guide workgroups who will look at specific issues in greater depth (see Page 5.) Most of what is needed for near-term stability is either done or under way. The next step is to examine and define our ambitions so that we can map a clear path to achieve our goals. We will be asking for your help and input on that.

The one affirming bright spot of 2020 was the active engagement of our members. In a year when many non-profits struggled, our Proprietors, Subscribers, and Friends rallied and more than doubled the amount of Annual Appeal and unrestricted gifts from a year ago, filling the void left by lost earned income. I believe that our founders were intentional, incorporating their library started in December of 1816 not as an inanimate building or a collection, but as "The Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenaeum." They recognized that in dark, even volcanic days, it may be comforting to curl up with a good book, but it is better to build a library together and spread the light.

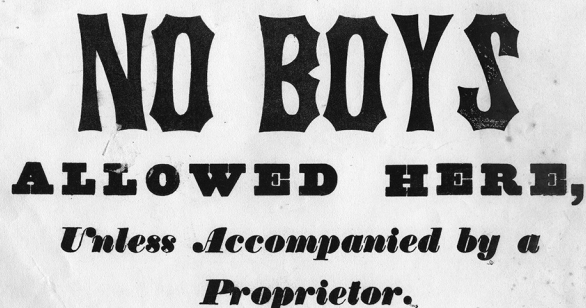
Arcana DICK ADAMS
*Boys and Other
Miscreants*

Near the staircase leading to the Gallery of the 1805 building hangs a sign that reads "No Boys Allowed." It's not known when the sign was created nor what prompted its posting, but Directors' minutes dating from the early years of the Athenaeum and other documents offer a few possible clues.

In 1837, for example, a Proprietor wrote to the *Portsmouth Journal*, a local newspaper, decrying the use of the Athenaeum by "...persons who have no right to be there," and if proper surveillance could not be maintained then measures should be taken to "exclude from it all boys, and such persons who are not Proprietors, Subscribers, or honorary visitors."

In September of that year, it was discovered that someone had cut two pages out of *Wilson's Ornithology*, and that a bust of Levi Woodbury, recently donated, had been badly damaged. Despite the offer of two separate \$50 awards, the perpetrators were never found.

The two acts likely emanated from very different motivations: the attack on the Woodbury bust was probably politically-inspired, as fierce hatred of the Jackson Democrat Woodbury on the part of Whig foes generated bitter excoriation in the local newspapers. It's



**NO BOYS
ALLOWED HERE,
Unless Accompanied by a
Proprietor.**

improbable that the theft of the plates was similarly inspired.

Possibly somewhat earlier, as evidenced by the typescript commonly used in the 1820s and 1830s, a notice was posted in the Athenaeum averring "The Directors of the Portsmouth Athenaeum will pay Ten Dollars for information of [sic] any person who shall take this Pamphlet from the Library Room."

A porter had been hired in 1841, in part to help bring about a better observance of the rules of the institution, but he was mostly unsuccessful in that endeavor.

In 1847 the minutes again reflect growing concern: "Boys and other unauthorized persons have made the Library of the Athenaeum a place of resort [sic] at improper hours...books have been taken from the Library by such persons and [they] are frequently

found defaced and injured; and false claims have been made in the Books of the Librarian, and the same have been defaced by Scurrilous figures and writings."

It's worth noting that at least one boy from those early years behaved admirably at the Athenaeum. James T. Fields (1817-1881), a South End lad born on Gates Street, recalled much later in life that he cherished

the memories of reading by the big arched windows in the Reading Room as a very young boy (he relocated to Boston at the age of 14).

In an address to students many years later, he said "it is not so much the books you study as the books you read which will be of permanent value to you," so we can derive pleasure from the knowledge that Fields' love of literature may have been spawned, in part, at least, in our Reading Room.

Fields became a renowned publisher who championed the works of a galaxy of famous writers, including Hawthorne, Thackeray, Dickens, and Longfellow.

Shown above: Dating back to the early days of the Portsmouth Athenaeum, this sign hangs near the staircase leading to the gallery of the 1805 building. Portsmouth Athenaeum Photo.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

UPDATE: LONG-RANGE PLANNING

DON MARGESON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Arcana: Boys and Other Miscreants...

Problems with theft and rowdiness gradually abated after the 1860s. In the 1870s the first librarian was hired. Thereafter there was always someone on duty, albeit with limited hours.

In modern times there have been relatively few instances of theft or malfeasance, a tribute to the integrity of the membership, given the extraordinary level of trust conferred through the absence of oversight.

In the mid-1990s a sword disappeared and has not been found. Around the same time a mezzotint of Governor Belcher was taken, but alert Proprietor Hollis Broderick spotted it in an antique shop on Route 4 and it was returned to the Athenaeum. The perpetrator(s) of these thefts has never been found.

Security has been substantially tightened since, with cameras in place and motion detectors throughout tied into a central monitoring facility.

Keeper Tom Hardiman notes that the most significant problem related to the security of our holdings today is the failure of borrowers to return books, particularly ones that are a part of sets. This is almost certainly ascribable to "out of sight, out of mind," where books end up on home shelves and are never thought of again.



The Athenaeum's Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) was established in late 2018 to consider how we can continue to be a great and vital institution for 25 years and beyond.

In 2019 the Board of Directors created a strategic task force to work with the LRPC and other committees to review the Athenaeum's mission and organizational position in the years ahead.

In 2020 the LRPC convened a task force to identify possible improvements in public access to the Athenaeum's programming as well as small-scale adjustments to room and furniture configuration and use of portions of the Athenaeum's public space and staff facilities. That task force submitted a report of its recommendations at summer's end; the report is being reviewed by the board and the Building Committee.

While laboring under pandemic-related constraints, the LRPC has developed a strategic framework to guide workgroups in looking at specific issues in depth.

The committee and the Athenaeum's executive officers, acting as an Implementation Task Force (ITF), have recently begun to flesh out to the board recommendations of goals for ensuring effective governance of the organization, one of the four components of the framework.

One of these goals is to evolve the Nominating Committee, which recruits and nominates candidates for

election to executive and board positions, into a Governance Committee, as some other nonprofit organizations are doing. Beyond traditional leadership recruitment, the only responsibility for the new committee that is specifically recommended to the board is to help develop a new committee structure for the Athenaeum.

The ITF would otherwise allow the Governance Committee to develop its own "job description" of its roles and responsibilities. The task force has attained consensus on the outline of a possible structure: four members, with both board and non-board representation. It has also agreed on some potential duties: reviewing board responsibilities for effectiveness; recommending changes in by-laws and board policies; and planning for board succession.

The ITF has discussed, but made no specific recommendations about, reducing the number of committees from the current 19.

This would be achieved not by eliminating the functions of any of the present committees, but through consolidation. The aim would be to minimize duplication and confusion, maximize communication and coordination, and reduce the time spent by committee members in meetings and staff in providing support. The first focus of the consolidation review will be the multiple committees concerned with building operations and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Waiting for the Wentworths

SANDRA RUX

This postcard depicts one of the Wentworth family homes being researched by Exhibits Committee Chair Sandra Rux for "The Wentworth Takeover" exhibition. Detroit Publishing Company, 1907. Collection of Sandra Rux.

While Peter Randall's "Hampton Beach: Summer of 1983" may be our longest-running and least seen exhibit because of COVID-19, the exhibit entitled "The Wentworth Takeover: How One Family Dominated New Hampshire from 1730-1775" may be our most postponed.

It is now likely that it will happen in Winter/Spring 2022. However, the Exhibits Committee is considering several options for Fall 2021 and the Proprietors Art Show for December 2021.

Meanwhile, here's a Wentworth family tidbit found in our research to keep you eagerly awaiting the exhibition.

The home of Lt. Gov. John Wentworth (pictured above) was demolished in 1925, but fragments survive at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Winterthur

Museum in Delaware and at Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth. For many years it was believed that Samuel Wentworth (1640-1690) had built this house as a public house when he moved to Portsmouth from New Castle in the 1670s.

Records show that in 1683, Samuel bought a house from Edward Cranfield that was part of the Richard Cutt estate. Samuel was living in this house when he died in 1690 of smallpox. He left half of the house to his widow Mary. She still owned it at her death in 1724 when she left it to the heirs of Samuel Rymes, who had married daughter Mary Wentworth, making his heirs her grandchildren.

Samuel also left another house to his son Samuel, who lived in it. Samuel moved to Boston shortly after his father's death and, over time, sold his holdings in Portsmouth.

It is possible that this second house is the one built by Samuel Jr., but also possible that John—who bought several parcels of land between 1695 and 1705 in the vicinity of the Manning Street location—built the house in the first decade of the 18th century.

It was known as the birthplace of Benning Wentworth, first Royal Governor of New Hampshire, but may not have been, since he was born in 1696. The large second-floor chamber has been reconstructed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art showing the elaborate bolection moldings and stylish fireplace wall. This room and the one below each took up the whole south end of the house.

My question is who lived here after 1740 when Sarah, widow of Lt. John Wentworth, died. How long did the house continue to be occupied by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

PROPRIETOR PUBLICATIONS

The Virtual Proprietors' Show in the weekly e-blasts by Photographic Collections Manager James Smith "got lots of positive feedback," according to Exhibits Committee Chairman Sandra Rux. Athenaeum Librarian Robin Silva traditionally assembles a display case of Proprietor publications in the Randall Gallery, which could not be replicated in a virtual format. Here is a list Silva assembled of some of those 2020 publications:

BOOKS:

Eastman, Carolyn, author, *The Strange Genius of Mr. O: the World of the United States' First Forgotten Celebrity*

Hodges, Margaret, co-author with Derin Bray: *Loud, Naked & in Three Colors, the Liberty Boys & the History of Tattooing in Boston*

Salome, Lou, author, *Thoreau, the Kid and Mr. Lou*

Ward, Gerald, W. R., author, *Family Treasures: 175 Years of Collecting Art and Furniture at the New England Historic and Genealogical Society*

Ward, Gerald, W. R., contributor, *American Furniture*, 2019

ARTICLES/PAMPHLETS/DIGITAL MEDIA:

Breslin, Pat, author, *Self-guided Tour of the Reading Room* (digital media/REF, available on our online catalog)

Hodges, Margaret, author, *Some Homes and Workplaces of the Gardner Family of Portsmouth, 1713-1894* (digital media/REF, available on our online catalog)

Richards, Kathy, author, *John Walbach: Jean Baptiste de Barth, Baron of Walbach* (pamphlet)



Edward "Dad" Liberty tattoos a sailor in Boston in 1942. This photograph is in *Loud Naked & in Three Colors, the Liberty Boys & the History of Tattooing in Boston*, by Derin Bray and Athenaeum Proprietor Margaret Hodges. Photo used with permission of Derin Bray.

Learning Portsmouth....

can be found in the online catalog of the Athenaeum.

In 1980, Candee and Proprietor Martha Fuller Clark founded Portsmouth Advocates to promote preservation issues not being focused on by individuals and city government. "That was quietly successful for a decade or so," Candee said. Since 1989, the organization has annually "bestowed awards of excellence to owners, designers and contractors whose exceptional work enhances the city's historic character." Portsmouth Advocates is now part of the Portsmouth Historical Society.

In 1990, Candee was asked to be president of the Vernacular Architectural Forum, a group dedicated to the study of ordinary buildings and landscapes. "I said OK, and then they asked 'Can we come to Portsmouth for our conference in 1992?'"

Candee took a sabbatical from BU, where he directed the Preservation Studies Program for nearly 30 years, and with the help of a graduate student, many volunteers and a couple of small grants pulled together the material for the conference—photographs, maps and written descriptions of neighborhoods and individual buildings.

"Somebody decided the Portsmouth Advocates should print it, and make it a book," Candee said of his *Building Portsmouth*. The book, which Candee describes as a "bible of buildings," is in its third edition. It can be found online and at Discover Portsmouth, which

Candee founded for the Portsmouth Historical Society.

What does the future hold for the architectural survey he began almost 50 years ago? "We've got my and other people's snapshots of places and buildings," he said, "all taken by film cameras through the 1990s. Then everything started going digital. That's a whole new challenge for Photographic Collections Manager James Smith and the Athenaeum's Special Collections."

Smith said while the Athenaeum hasn't received much material in a pre-existing digital format, "we are well into navigating the digital age in our entire collection.

With our online catalog, we can offer researchers high-quality copies without having to access and disrupt the original material," Smith said. "With collections such as the North End Neighborhood, we were able to create digital scans of original material and return the original material to the donors, the digitalization allowing us to preserve the content and document the neighborhood and its families for future generations."

Smith also noted: "None of our current goals would be possible without Richard Candee. When the Research Library opened in 1986, Richard was the president of the board and has guided the Athenaeum's special collections as its chair, always with the objective to preserve Seacoast history for future research."

Waiting for the Wentworths....

the Wentworth family? Lt. John had left the house to Sarah; she left her property to her children (about 10 of the 14 were still alive in 1740).

Working backward from the late 19th century when William A. Vaughan owned the property, the land records show that he purchased it from the Purcell sisters in 1835—Nancy (Ann) Purcell, Susan Purcell, Sarah Purcell Gardner (widow of William, Wentworth Gardner House) and Margaret Purcell Manning. A great clue!

They were children of Sarah and Gregory Purcell (John Paul Jones House). Sarah was one of four children of John Wentworth, son of Lt. John and probate judge, and his wife Sarah Hall. Sarah Hall Wentworth and her sister Mary Hall Wentworth (widow of William) apparently lived here until they both died in 1790. Sarah's eldest daughter, Mary Clapham, inherited and sold to her nieces in 1803.

Strangely, Judge John Wentworth's 1774 inventory does not include the house as his property, although the room list matches the rooms in the house.

While the title to the property is certainly convoluted, it stayed in the Wentworth family for over 130 years, much longer than any of the other Wentworth houses that survive in Portsmouth.

Socially Distanced Research at the Athenaeum

KATY STERNBERGER, *Research Librarian*

Despite the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, the Portsmouth Athenaeum remained a vital resource to researchers worldwide. The Research Library closed from mid-March to mid-June, followed by a limited reopening (masks and social distancing required!), but staff and patrons alike adapted to new means of conducting research.

The staff's project management tool called Asana, implemented in 2019, enabled us to efficiently track research and image requests while alternating between in-office and remote work.

Over the course of the year, 716 people visited, called, or emailed the Research Library, 80% of whom were nonmembers. Reference inquiries accounted for

46% of all contacts. The majority of reference services were provided via email due to the pandemic, although there was a steady stream of scheduled in-person research visits after the temporary closure.

We received an average of nine image order requests, 12 online reference requests, and 13 in-person reference requests per month. There was a significant increase in online inquiries over the previous year, with emailed reference requests in particular nearly doubling. Demand for digitized material, especially archival records, went up noticeably since most researchers were not able to travel. Inquiries arrived from as far away as Australia.

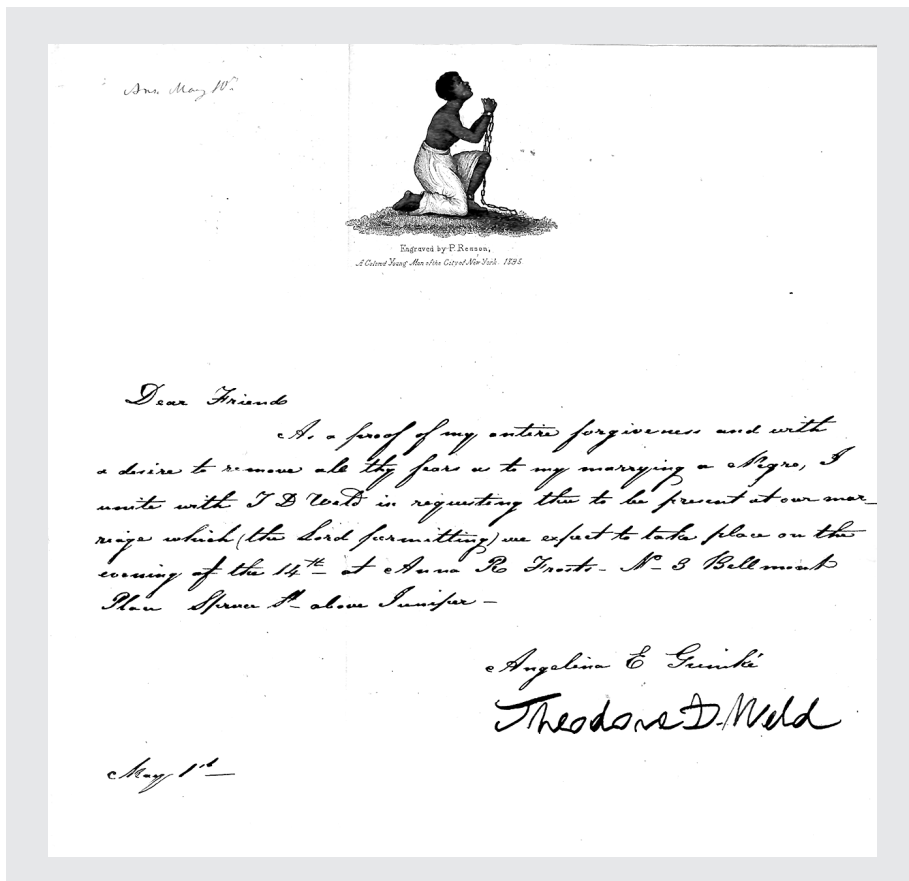
One example of a successful socially distanced project is that of University

of New Hampshire graduate student Cecilia Paquette (she wrote "Unrest in the Post Office" in the fall 2020 newsletter). Although her internship had been scheduled to take place in person, she transitioned to working remotely, using digital images from the John Langdon Papers (MS050) to transcribe letters documenting the formative years of the United States Postal Service. The transcriptions were then added to the respective catalog records.

Another project involved providing a biographer with digital access to letters exchanged between abolitionists Angelina and Sarah Grimké and Portsmouth peace activist William Ladd (from the William Ladd Papers, MS017).

Previously unused by Grimké scholars, this correspondence covers the 1830s, a period in which the sisters were particularly active but for which there is little documentation. However, numerous errors in the finding aid made it difficult to use the collection. In addition to scanning materials for the biographer, I created an item-level description to increase accessibility of the Grimké letters; new records are available in the Athenaeum's catalog.

Abolitionists Angelina and Sarah Grimké connected with Portsmouth peace activist William Ladd after the untimely death of their brother, Thomas Grimké. Over the course of 1833–1839, a pivotal time in the sisters' activism, they developed a strong friendship with Ladd, as indicated by this May 1, 1838, wedding invitation from Angelina. The letterhead includes an engraving by Patrick Reason, "A Colored Young Man of the City of New York, 1835." Courtesy of the Portsmouth Athenaeum, William Ladd Papers (MS017), on deposit from the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of New Hampshire.



ON VOLUNTEERING

DOUGLAS AYKROYD

The Portsmouth Athenaeum has been a vital organization for more than 200 years. Never during that time has there been a large paid staff.

Even today with more real estate to manage, more books to store and circulate, more documents to archive, and more members, the staff is very small. So how does it all get done? Who is responsible for the management and operation of this organization?

Of course you have Tom Hardiman, the Keeper, and his staff. But the real reason we get so much done for the benefit of members and the general public is our corps of motivated volunteers.

Take our annual holiday party—we hire a caterer to prepare and present delicious food, but it is the Social Committee, a totally volunteer group, that manages the event and keeps costs down.

The volunteers of the Exhibits Committee design and set up exhibits in the Randall Gallery, which many Proprietors consider one of the greatest benefits of membership. Looking for a wonderful music presentation? The volunteers of the Performance Committee have got you covered.

I could go on, but the important point is that the volunteers of the Athenaeum, acting as members of our various committees, make the Athenaeum the great organization that it is.

Who are these volunteers? Primarily they are the Proprietors, Subscribers and Friends of the Athenaeum. But they also include members of the public who have expressed an interest in helping with our projects and activities.

What do our volunteers get in return for their service? I would say that Proprietors, Subscribers and Friends all get an enhanced sense of belonging to the organization. They are not just spectators. They are members of the team, and they contribute to our overall success.

I met Proprietor James Shanley recently in the Manuscript Vault on the 4th floor. He has been working on organizing the negatives in the Douglas Armsden Photographic Collection for about a year. He told me that if he had to do this work for 40 hours a week, it would not be nearly as satisfying as it is in short bursts. It gets him out of the house on his own schedule and in a safe place. He told me that his volunteer work has really enhanced his membership.

No doubt the pandemic has had an effect on volunteering. It has been a while since the wine stewards have been available to serve you a beverage. But some of the traditional work involved with manuscripts and photographs goes on. As Photographic Collections Manager James Smith said, we are looking at ways to do some of this work remotely. Activities such as scanning and indexing records are still done on site.

Tom Hardiman told me about a group of volunteers helping to generate interesting online program content. He commended Jack McGee, Lou Salome, Carolyn Eastman, Elizabeth Howard and Jake Elwell for their efforts and suggested that this might be an area for increased volunteer support.

You will also notice elsewhere in the newsletter that the Building Committee has been active and is looking for help. The opportunities for service will grow as we get back to a more “normal” time.

Consider the committees available and see how your interests and theirs might intersect. Got an idea that is outside the box? Talk to Tom Hardiman. It’s worth considering any good idea to make the Athenaeum a better and more convivial place.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5
Long-Range Planning...

collections care. This is expected to be the start of an ongoing process.

The subject matter of long-term planning for the Athenaeum’s next generation has been largely ascertained, but most of the difficult work of settling on the necessary changes lies ahead. One can only wish the LRPC good luck in its efforts.

Virtual EVENTS

at the Portsmouth Athenæum

SPRING (and SUMMER PICNIC Live!) 2021

*For the latest listings of new events and collaborations,
visit the Events page of our website and sign up for our weekly email newsletter.*



Proprietor Ann Beattie is an educator with a fascination for the Isles of Shoals and its history and is known for her talks and tours. Pictured is the Appledore House on Appledore Island, formerly known as Hog Island. Beattie is a former president of the Shoals Historical and Research Association and has served as a board member of the Portsmouth Athenæum.

Thursday, March 11, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

The Portsmouth Athenæum and the Membership Libraries Group present a discussion with Charles Vidich, the author of *Germes at Bay: Politics, Public Health, and American Quarantine* (Praeger, January 2021), facilitated by Athenæum Proprietor Elizabeth Howard. To see the program on the Athenæum's YouTube page, click on the YouTube icon at the bottom of the Athenæum website.

Tuesday, March 23, 7-8:30 p.m.

The Portsmouth Public Library will be hosting Athenæum Proprietor Ann Beattie once more for her talk "The Grand Resort Hotel Era at the Isles of Shoals." Hear tales that inspired the building of the renowned Appledore House on Hog Island and the rivaling Oceanic Hotel across the harbor on Star Island. Find out why hundreds of people along the Eastern Seaboard and beyond packed their steamer trunks and spent the summer at one of these Isle of Shoals resort hotels in the 19th century. Discover how flames destroyed the original hotels, and investigate the legacy of one of New England's handful of remaining Victorian resort hotels, the second Oceanic, surrounded by the sea at the Isles of Shoals.

Tuesday April 22, 4 p.m.

A virtual Athenæum tea for new members. Join in to meet the talented new people who have signed on as Proprietors and Subscribers. To register, email info@portsmouthathenaeum.org.

April TBA

Athenæum Proprietor Peggy Hodges and co-author Derin Bray will give a book talk about their new book, *Loud, Naked, & In Three Colors: The Liberty Boys & The History of Tattooing in Boston*. The book gives a detailed new look at Edward "Dad" Liberty and his three sons and their near-monopoly of the tattoo business in early twentieth century Boston.

TBA

Author Charles A. Coulombe will give a virtual book talk on the theme of "The Loyalists of Colonial New Hampshire" based on his book *Puritan's Empire*. The talk will be facilitated by Athenæum Proprietor Jake Elwell.

Tuesday, Aug. 31, 5-7 p.m.

The Athenæum Potluck Picnic at the Seacoast Science Center. Stay tuned for further details.

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SPRUCING UP FOR SPRING!



Building Committee members Dick Adams and Ken Wolf recently painted the south wall and windows in the Research Library and 4th-floor stacks. Thomas Hardiman Photo.

Our intrepid Building Committee members, Dick Adams and Ken Wolf, have been busy in recent weeks making much-needed improvements to the Athenaeum.

They have cleaned the cellar and painted the south wall and windows in the Research Library and 4th-floor stacks.

Not content to rest on their laurels, Dick and Ken have come up with a long list of projects large and small that will make an immediate difference in our building's appearance and functionality.

If you are interested in joining a collegial, hands-on work group or just willing to tackle an individual project, please contact Dick: rgadams62@post.harvard.edu.