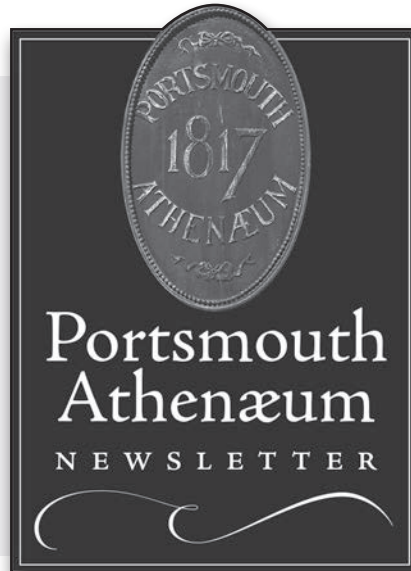


SPRING 2025

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

THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM
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IN THE RANDALL GALLERY: LET'S DO LUNCH

By SHERRY WOOD

THE SEACOAST'S oyster obsession became clear as soon as Proprietors Judy Groppa and Sandra Rux began research for the exhibit, "The Lunch Hour: Portsmouth," which runs through June 7 in the Athenæum's Randall Gallery.

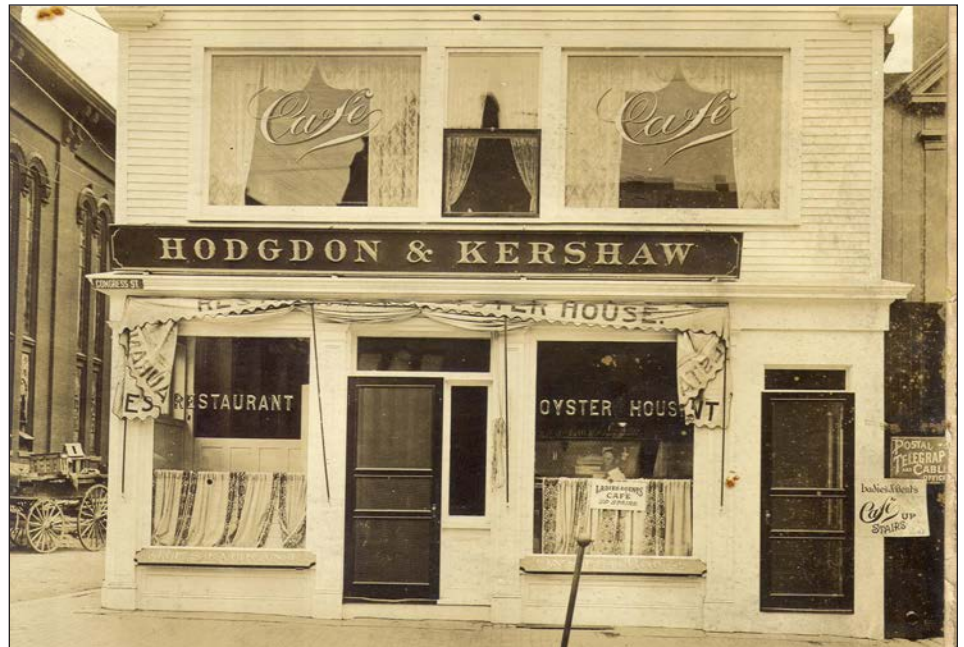
"It's a social history," Groppa said of the look at the city's preferred midday menus between 1800 and 1970.

Street vendors with ice-heaped carts and oyster saloons — including McIntire & Co. on Congress Street, which in 1849 advertised oysters "prepared in any manner desired" — proved the popularity of the tasty bivalve.

In 1834, the city directory listed one oyster shop, owned by Allen Freeman. By 1873, there were seven, including one owned by Freeman's relative, Washington Freeman. Washington advertised that he provided a private parlor for ladies to dine, according to Groppa, who is curating the exhibit.

By the early 1900s, the Sinclair Tea Room on Middle Street and Ye Chanticleer Tea Room on State Street were among the restaurants catering to the female lunch crowd.

Soda fountains in drug stores were also a place to meet for a light meal.



Next to the North Church in Market Square, the Hodgdon & Kershaw Oyster House (circa 1900, image by St. Clair Studio) has a sign reading "Ladies and Gents Cafe Up Stairs." The site is now occupied by Popovers on the Square.

"Some women started working in factories or offices. Various eating establishments catered to them," Groppa said.

Diners also became prevalent starting in the early 1900s. Gilley's, which dates to 1912 and is now on Fleet Street, is the last survivor.

Athenæum Proprietor Cliff Hodgdon's interest in diners began as a young man.

"I remember Phil's on Daniel Street and Arthur's on Congress Street," he said. "When I realized diners were starting to disappear, I started taking pictures."

Hodgdon will share a presentation on his lifelong study of diners on April 10 in the Randall Gallery, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

A collection of vintage school lunchboxes will also be on display.

"It's going to be fun," Groppa said. ☞

PATRIOT POET FEATURED IN SUMMER EXHIBIT

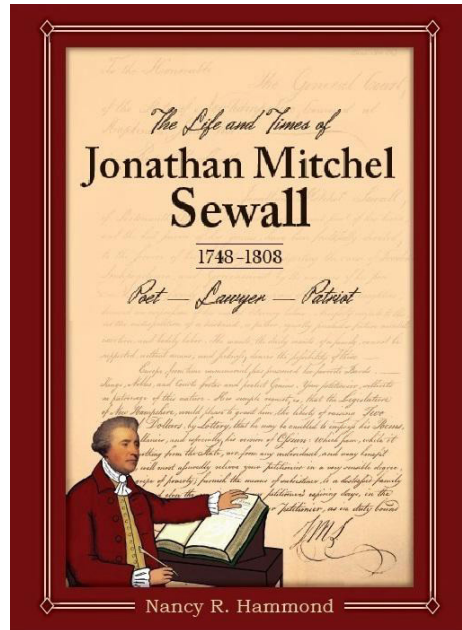
By MIKE DUNBAR
Exhibits Committee

HE WAS AN 18th-century poet, a lawyer with a humanitarian streak, and a local icon.

Jonathan Mitchel Sewall (1748-1808) lived a life so extraordinary, it's remarkable most Portsmouth residents have never heard of him. After passing the bar, Sewall became a public defender known for eschewing payment to help needy clients. But according to his friends, Sewall was never particularly fond of practicing the law. At heart, he was a poet and lyricist.

His "greatest hit" was a defiant battle anthem called "War and Washington." Jonathan's song was wildly popular in the Colonial army camps and taverns. He went on to write poems and songs throughout his life, and his verses can still be read on headstones in Portsmouth's North Cemetery.

The most recent scholarship on Sewall was conducted by Athenaeum Proprietor Nancy Hammond, who published a



Jonathan Mitchel Sewall wrote the Revolutionary War anthem "War and Washington."

book about him in 2022. She is curating the exhibit "Portsmouth in the Age of Jonathan Mitchel Sewall" in the Randall Gallery from June 27 to Nov. 15. The exhibit will include a diorama of Washington's visit to Portsmouth (during which

Volunteers needed!

The Portsmouth Athenaeum needs helpers who will volunteer their time giving tours of the 1805 building or staffing exhibits in the Randall Gallery (1 to 4 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday).

"We would love to have you become part of our volunteer team," Sharon Nichols, Athenaeum Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator, said.

You can reach Sharon at snichols@portsmouthathenaeum.org or by calling 603-431-2538.

Sewall's songs were sung) made by the Museum of Dumb Guy Stuff, a poetry contest for local middle schoolers, and a walking tour.

Hammond is seeking 18th-century items for the exhibit, including inkwells and a writing slope. If you have artifacts from that era that you would be willing to loan, please contact the committee at jmsewall1748@gmail.com. ☞



Terra String Quartet, performing Oct. 12, is new to the Athenaeum Chamber Music Series lineup.

SOPHIE KAYE PHOTOGRAPHY

2025 CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

By JANICE MURPHY

The Portsmouth Athenaeum Chamber Music Series is back, bringing world-class performances to historic venues in the Seacoast.

This season features a lineup of renowned and emerging chamber musicians: **Neave Trio**, Aug. 24, Kittery Dance Hall; **Balourdet String Quartet**, Sept. 28, South Church, Portsmouth; **Terra String Quartet**, Oct. 12, South Church; **Jessica Xylina Osborne** (piano) and **Yi Qun Xu** (cello), Nov. 9, St. John's Church, Portsmouth.

All concerts are on Sunday afternoons

at 3 p.m.

Series Subscription Tickets: \$100 for all four concerts.

Patron Sponsorship: \$275 (includes one ticket to the full series and post-concert receptions with performers).

Individual Concerts: Admission: \$30 (in advance or at the door). Student Tickets: \$10.

Payment Methods: Cash, checks, credit cards, and Venmo. Make checks payable to The Portsmouth Athenaeum, P.O. Box 366, Portsmouth, NH 03802. (Note "PACM" on the memo line).

BEAUTY ON THE SEACOAST AND BEYOND

By IRENE BUSH
Lecture Committee

THIS YEAR the Portsmouth Athenaeum Lecture Committee presents the series, “Beauty on the Seacoast and Beyond: Art, Architecture and Gardens.”

Each program begins at 5:30 pm in the Shaw Research Library of the Portsmouth Athenaeum at 9 Market Square (unless otherwise noted). Reservations for each program are required and can be made on the Athenaeum website; click on “Events.” Please call 603-431-2538 if unable to keep a reservation.

Attendance at programs is free for Athenaeum Proprietors, Subscribers and Friends. Guests and members of the public can attend the entire series by becoming a Friend of the Athenaeum for as little as \$25 per year, payable at the door. Admission to an individual program is \$15.

The lecture series this year is sponsored by Whole Wealth Management.

April 16: “Landmarks and Libraries: Building Collections and Communities,” with Ann Beha.

Beha will offer a slide presentation of library projects that inspire and engage their communities, blending new technologies and resources with landmark



This hand-colored poster of the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion is by Portsmouth illustrator John T. Ladd (1912-1974). The house is featured in a May 21 lecture.

settings. The presentation and discussion will consider the expanded role and responsibilities that public and special collections libraries have for campuses and their neighboring populations, and how historic settings must balance preservation with change.

As Design Principal of Boston-based Ann Beha Architects, now Annum Architects, Ann’s teams have renewed,

expanded and designed libraries, academic campuses and cultural resources nationally — including an expansion and renovation of the Boston Athenaeum. In New Hampshire, their work includes the expansion of the Currier Museum in Manchester; the Peterborough Town Library; and centers for the arts and com-

Continued on Page 10

MEMORIAL CONCERT IS MAY 29

By JANICE MURPHY

JOIN US on Thursday, May 29, at 5 p.m. at St. John’s Church in Portsmouth for the annual Memorial Concert, featuring organist Geoffrey Wieting.

The Proprietors being memorialized are Joan Christy, Gerard Wesley “Wes” DeVries, Felice Fullham, Ruth Griffin, Elinor “Liz” Lamson, Robert M. Mennel, Stephen Hall Roberts, and Richard Wilber Snowden, as well as Proprietor spouses Joyce Y. Hanrahan, Katharine “Trina” Ingram, Joan Slavin Rice, Robin Snowden, and Susan Thoresen.

Geoffrey Wieting’s musical journey began in York Harbor with organ studies under Ernest Fiske at Trinity Church. He continued his training at Phillips Exeter Academy, Oberlin College & Conservatory, and later earned a master of music degree from New England Conservatory. In addition to his work as a freelance organist, pianist, and vocal coach, he is also a classical music reviewer for the Boston Musical Intelligencer.

We hope you’ll join us for an evening of beautiful music and remembrance.

THE ATHENAEUM OVER THE YEARS

VERY LITTLE about the Athenaeum changed between 1823 and 1982. If Nathaniel Adams, its first president, could come back to life at any time in that span of years, almost everything about it would seem familiar to him. Its membership remained more or less static, with 100 or fewer prominent businessmen and professionals and a handful of women supporting the membership library with varying degrees of commitment.

The rest of the populace of Portsmouth, to the extent that they gave it any thought at all, found the Athenaeum a somewhat mysterious entity despite its location in the heart of Portsmouth.

After its brief tenancy in the Custom House on Penhallow Street, the Athenaeum acquired the handsome 1805 building in 1823 from the struggling New Hampshire Fire & Marine Insurance Company. Once a few structural alterations had been made, little was done in the ensuing decades except for cosmetic changes. Until 1982 the 1805 Building, as it is now called, was the Athenaeum's only real estate holding.

I have fond memories of visiting the Athenaeum as a small child with my grandfather, James P. Griffin. He had become a Proprietor in 1945, probably at the behest of friends on the Board of Directors. The board was desperately trying to arrest a decline in membership and generally flagging participation that had been in effect since before World War I and lasted through the Depression and World War II.

A memory of those visits in the 1940s is of seeing some of the oddities that had been acquired in the Athenaeum's early days, such as the model guillotine and the stuffed armadillo, both now



The Athenaeum's first president, Nathaniel Adams (1756-1829).

displayed in the mezzanine closet of curiosities.

A few years later I would borrow my grandfather's key (this was long before a card-entry security system was installed) and read for hours in a chair next to one of the arched windows facing Market Square. In those days it was uncommon to see anyone come into the building, save for a certain Proprietor (now long-deceased) who would enter through the front door and in a rather brusque manner ask me the same question every time: "Who let you into this room?"

He never asked me to leave, though it was clear that he did not approve of my being there. The sign now posted on the stairway reading "No Boys Allowed" could easily have referred to me (and probably should have), though I think it was directed at mischievous youths from a century earlier.

The decline in the Athenaeum's fortunes

began to improve in 1949, when for the first time membership reached 100, and the operating budget finally turned positive. But the most significant transformation from the Athenaeum of Nathaniel Adams' time to the one which we know today began with the near-collapse and subsequent acquisition of the Foye Building in 1981. That transformative event led directly or indirectly to the initiation of myriad changes that would astonish Adams. Among them are the expansion of the physical plant to include two additional buildings providing valuable rental income and additional exhibition and storage space.

The hiring of Jane Porter as "Keeper" in 1986 (a part-time assistant to the Board of Directors) resulted in a better-managed institution. During her long tenure a number of initiatives — including establishment of a lecture series and musical events — infused new enthusiasm into the membership.

In 2000, Tom Hardiman was hired, initially as Keeper but eventually becoming the Athenaeum's first Executive Director. Under his very competent management the staff gradually expanded to nine part-time positions. The board gradually increased the membership cap to 400, and that has resulted in a highly engaged base of support. Increasingly, the shroud of mystery surrounding the Athenaeum is steadily lifting, as more and more researchers perceive it as a primary source of information on area history.

From an unpromising beginning, through years of atrophy and financial struggles, the Athenaeum has emerged today as a strong, vibrant presence in the Seacoast region. Thanks to a highly professional staff and devoted membership, its future looks bright indeed. ¶

CELEBRATING ROBIN SILVA'S 30 YEARS

By SHERRY WOOD

ROBIN SILVA is celebrating 30 years with the Athenaeum and holds the distinction of being the longest-tenured Librarian in our history.

"In the pantheon of amazing Athenaeum Librarians, Robin stands head and shoulders above the rest," Executive Director and Keeper Tom Hardiman said. "She has transformed every system in every department of the library and her unflagging persistence has given us the first comprehensive library catalog in a century and a half."

Typically modest, Robin said, "Hopefully I will be able to give the Athenaeum a few more years before I wear out my welcome."

She added: "I am very grateful to be part of a great team of people at the Athenaeum — as evidenced by the wonderful effort to clear the reference library so the new floor could be installed and restoring the library after the installation. It was a tremendous effort by staff and volunteers."

We dipped into the newsletter archives and found this September 2012 interview with our esteemed librarian. Here is a slightly condensed version of it:

Q. Your title is Librarian. What does that mean?

A. It means I oversee the books, pamphlets and ephemera in the Athenaeum collection and decide what donations to accept and where they will go in the collection. With the help of the Library Committee, we decide which new books to purchase. We also decide which books to deaccession, replace or repair. The Library Committee accepts and encourages recommendations from anyone; just send them to me at rsilva@portsmouthathenaeum.org.

Q. How long have you been at the Athenaeum? What brought you here?

A: My husband and I moved to Portsmouth in 1993. We met at UNH and had spent a lot of time in Portsmouth in

Continued on Page 8



Librarian Robin Silva and Proprietor Phil Carling hold rare books that have been moved to the Athenaeum's storage site at 150 State St.

PHOTO BY TOM HARDIMAN

Rare books on the move (again)

By TOM HARDIMAN

SINCE THE ARTICLE in the last newsletter about the efforts to move literally thousands of books to our offsite storage to free up space for our ever-growing archival and photograph collections, people have been asking for updates on the project. More than 10,000 books and 250 years of Portsmouth newspapers were carefully packed by staff and volunteers and moved to offsite in 2019. As noted last year, everything stored in our other building is clearly marked in the online catalog as "Offsite."

If you want to see something so marked, all you need to do is talk to one of our library staff and we will go get it for you. If you say, "Well, I'm a shelf browser," we've still got you

covered. On top of the 4th-floor circulating stacks, Super-Librarian Robin Silva has created binders of photos of all of the book spines that were moved from each section so you can relive the experience of shelf browsing to find what you would like us to pull from offsite!

Even moving literally tons of books and newspapers didn't free up half enough space for our ever-growing special collections. So the painful decision was made to move the rare books out of the second-floor vault to make room for more manuscripts and other critical research materials. These often-fragile volumes obviously

Continued on Page 8

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

ADMISSIONS Committee Chairman Ed Caylor reports: **Christopher A. Matthews**, a firefighter and EMT at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, requested and received a transfer of the share of his mother, Jillaine Bitomski. Chris lives in South Berwick with his wife, Michelle, and is interested in history and reading.

The committee also recommended the following be approved as Subscribers:

David Anderson is a judge for the Hillsborough Superior Court (Northern District) and is interested in rare books and historic preservation. He lives in Portsmouth with his wife, Catherine.

Jessica Lee Anderson is a financial advisor and Senior V.P. with UBS. She lives in York Beach with her spouse, Harold, and is an avid reader who wants to spend time in the library.

Penelope (Penny) Bartko is a retired educator and social worker in Portsmouth where she lives with her spouse, Max. She is interested in theater, performing arts and literary events

Gerald Lee Beauregard Jr. is Vice-President of R&D at IDEXX Laboratories, with nine patents in medical instrumentation. He is interested in travel, history, cooking, and genealogy. He lives in Stratham with his wife, Diane.

Capt. John Michael Borden is an owner/operator and commercial fisherman in Rye, where he lives with his spouse, Dr. Vikki Howard. John is interested in maritime and local history, photography, and conservation.

Gary Cameron works for the Portsmouth DPW and has a passion for local history and community involvement. He lives in Portsmouth with his wife, Patty.

Dr. Benjamin Roy Cole is Dean of the School of Arts, Sciences, and Education at SNHU, with a major interest in historic preservation, civic engagement, and higher education. He lives in Kensington with his wife, Shannon.

Stephanie M. Dalgard is a business and marketing consultant as well as owner of Dalgard Communications Group, and is interested in travel, hiking, walking, reading, arts and crafts, food, wine, and ancestry. She lives in Portsmouth.

Wyatt Lane Davis is an independent

Bill Truslow joins Athenaeum Board

Bill Truslow will serve as a member of the Board of Directors through 2028.

He was trained as an architect, but later turned to his true passion, photography. After a stint in California to study at the ArtCenter College of Design, he returned to New Hampshire in 1986 to locate his photography business in Portsmouth. Working with clients nationwide, he specialized in business, healthcare, industrial, and product and personal photography and is best known for his location portraiture, telling the subject's story through the photograph. Many remember his widely acclaimed 2013 "Portsmouth Icons" photographic exhibit.

There are few Athenaeum Proprietors who have had such a view of the people and changes in our Seacoast community during the past 40 years. Bill and his wife, Danna, a consultant in land and water resources, live in Rye.

management consultant with Clarkson Davis, LLC and is interested in astronomy, bicycling, motorcycling, and barbecue. He lives in Rye with his wife, Janet.

Michael T. Dunbar is a writer and musician and Director of Content for Citizens Count. He is interested in music, literature, poetry, history, antiques, and preservation. He lives in Hampton.

Christer Ericsson is a civil engineer with an interest in Portsmouth history and house history. He lives in the South End of Portsmouth with his wife, Laurie.

Nancy Euchner is a nurse/ Nurse Practitioner with Focus on Aging. She is

interested in music, travel, and history. She lives in New Castle

Katherine (Kate) Fifield is a self-employed Jill-of-all-trades in Portsmouth, where she lives. She is interested in libraries, history, and historic spaces.

Lisa Gainty is a Business Development Officer for Bankprov and is interested in local and family history; she is a past Volunteer of the Year Award winner. She lives in Portsmouth.

Steven Hall Goldthwaite is CEO of Metem Corporation and has a deep passion for marine history and engaging with the community. He divides his time between Portsmouth and Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

Robert Richard LeGros is a lawyer with a long career with Sunoco, Inc. Bob lives in Portsmouth with his spouse, Barbara Franzoso.

Jason Lenk is a private-practice orthodontist interested in home improvement, fitness, and financial literacy. He lives in Portsmouth.

Andrew Charles Lord is a Financial Advisor in Portsmouth, where he lives with his wife, Nancy. He is an outdoors enthusiast and lover of history.

Vanessa Perez McElroy is a Senior Director of Product Management for Footwear at Sperry Top-Sider. She lives in Portsmouth with her spouse, Peter, and is interested in traveling, reading, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.

Janice Marie Murphy is a marketing director for many organizations, including Sail Portsmouth and St. Patrick Academy. She lives in New Castle and is interested in writing and history; she wants to help the Athenaeum with marketing and planning.

Robert Viking O'Brien is Professor Emeritus of English literature at California State University, Chico. He is a Fulbright Scholar and Mellon Fellow interested in classical, medieval, Renaissance, and modern literature, as well as local and maritime history. He lives in

Continued on Page 8

CREATING BREATHING SPACE FOR BOOKS (AND READERS)

RESearch LIBRARIAN **Jessica McClain** has been shifting and shelf-reading various parts of the collection, particularly focusing on the 4th-floor gallery and stacks. “The first row of books in the stacks (C-E) are now nice and neat, as are the World War II books in the D-DAs,” Jessica said. “Progress is slow but steady, but I’m hoping to make some real improvements regarding crowding, especially in the literature section.”

Jessica has also been updating cataloging for the 1895 diary of Portsmouth sail maker Lemuel T. Davis (1839-1900) and is working on cataloging ephemera, starting with some materials from the Portsmouth Historical Society.

At the bench

Special Projects Librarian **Susan Kindstedt** reports that a grant from the New Hampshire Society of Genealogists supported cataloging and digitizing the Athenaeum’s collection of Rockingham County Court Records dating from 1782 to 1846. The cataloging, completed in January, included 337 individual records and 858 digital images.

The records provide an interesting glimpse into everyday legal matters in Portsmouth, as well as, valuable genealogical information about individuals including town of residence, occupation and personal property.

For example, a record dated October 10, 1789 documents a case brought before Justice of the Peace (and first Athenaeum President) Nathaniel Adams. Thomas Ayers Neal alleged that two sheep and five geese were stolen from him by Aaron Randall and Samuel Marsh. Another case before Adams alleged four women, Mary Akerman, Ann Whipple, Ann Durgin and Elizabeth Cooke, stole various articles of silver and a chintz gown from Samuel Tripe.

Many of the cases came before Justice of the Peace, Wentworth Cheswell. Wentworth Cheswell, son of notable house-



World War II and other books in the fourth-floor gallery are more accessible after Research Librarian Jessica McClain worked her magic (before, left, and after, right) in the fourth-floor gallery and stacks.

PHOTOS BY JESSICA McCLAIN

wright Hopestill Cheswell, was a Revolutionary War veteran and is considered to be the first individual of African American descent to be elected to public office in America.

Case study

Archivist **Katy Sternberger** has published two articles via the Society of American Archivists. Her case study on deposit agreements appears in the January/February issue of *Archival Outlook* magazine. She describes the Athenaeum’s efforts to facilitate relationships with other local institutions by caring for their archival records. With colleagues from the Academy of Certified Archivists, Katy also discussed the value of archival certification in “Archival Certification Is One Piece of the Professionalization Puzzle” for the fall/winter 2024 issue of the *American Archivist* journal.

Plugging away

Assistant Librarian/Cataloger **June Spezzano** is still working on the Portsmouth High School rosters from 1846-1911. There are just over 4,600 names on the spreadsheet created by volunteer Joan Hammond.

“I’ve added 2,206 of these names, along with their parents, into Pastperfect (the Athenaeum’s online catalog),” June said.

Archives highlights

Here’s a selection of new research materials in the Athenaeum’s archives and special collections from Katy:

- **S1825: Robert Treadwell medical ledger, 1808-c1861.** Originally from the collection of Garland Patch Sr. Treadwell was a Portsmouth physician,

Continued on Page 9

NEW MEMBERS

From Page 6

Portsmouth with his wife, Katherine.

Joseph William Pace is a writer and public servant with interests in reading, writing, sports, history, and politics. He lives in Kensington with his wife, Sarah.

Kathleen Soldati is a public relations professional and marketing strategist with a long association with the Athenaeum through her work with the Portsmouth Historical Society and Portsmouth 400. She is interested in history, arts, culture, and music.

Ashleigh Tucker is the Associate Executive Director of the Music Hall and is interested in history, arts, and dance.

She lives in Dover with her spouse, Evan Pollock.

Courtney Vaughn is an attorney interested in family time, hiking, running, historical fiction, and other outdoor activities. She lives in Newfields with her spouse, Brian.

Mellissa T. Walls is a self-employed chef/bartender and proprietor of Maeve's Mobile Cocktail Hour, and is interested in community engagement. She lives in Portsmouth with her husband, Jason.

Karen Alderfer Whelan recently retired as administrative assistant in the Pathology Department at Portsmouth Regional Hospital. She has an interest in history and was a founder of the women's group, "Art and Soul." She lives in Portsmouth

with her husband, Peter.

Richard Alan Yeager II is an architect and Director for Campus Planning at UMass Amherst. He lives in Kittery Point and is interested in sailing, golf, skiing, hiking, kayaking, classical music, opera, art, and cultural events.

Stephen C. Yevich is Finance Director at SDYMCA/Camp Lincoln and is interested in Appledore history, railroads, and marine science. He lives in Newfields with his spouse, Terry Cook.

Robert Zimman is a retired Commander in the U.S. Navy Submarine Service and naval contractor with a major interest in lighthouse history and preservation. He lives in Portsmouth with his wife, Marilyn. ¶

ROBIN SILVA

From Page 5

college. We used to come almost every free weekend when we lived in Nashua and decided we might as well live here. I started working at the Athenaeum as the assistant librarian in early 1995.

Q. You may be the person with the most extensive knowledge of the Athenaeum's collections. What do you see as the greatest challenge as we prepare to enter our third century?

A. We always have a perennial space problem. With a collection that is constantly growing, there is always an

expanding need for space. However our biggest hurdle will always be trying to keep up with technology. Our collection is old, but how we access it is constantly changing. If we can't keep up with how researchers are researching, we run the risk of becoming irrelevant. That would be a shame. Our collection is a very valuable resource and I wouldn't want it to be overlooked because we can't reach the people who need it.

Q. Do you like the smell of books?

A. Librarians have a love/hate relationship with how books smell. That smell usually indicates old books and we love old books at the Athenaeum. However that old book smell is caused by decaying leather with the occasional mold

and mildew thrown in. It means we have books with condition issues; some are solvable, and others not so much.

Q. Please tell us more about yourself.

A. I am married to Mark Anderson, whom I met during our first week at UNH. We have a son, Nathan. I worked at Dimond Library for three years during college. I spent seven years working in the Business Department at the Nashua Public Library. In Portsmouth I worked at the Portsmouth Herald creating an electronic database of newspaper articles; during part of that time I also worked concurrently here at the Athenaeum.

Robin Silva started as assistant librarian in 1995 and became Librarian in 2006. ¶

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RARE BOOKS

From Page 5

needed more special care than the regular books and newspapers.

Proprietor and bibliophile Phil Carling has been painstakingly crafting individual acid-free boxes or enclosures for each and every one of our 3,000 rare books and carefully packing them into acid-free banker's boxes. Phil even makes trays for smaller books so they don't jostle around when the larger boxes are moved. This box-in-a-box system also creates a micro-climate that will be more

stable for the more sensitive materials.

As with the other books, all rare books offsite are so marked in the online catalog. If you want to simulate shelf browsing for these books, you can go to our website, click on "Search Catalog" in the upper right corner, select "Libraries" from the top tabs, and type in "Rare Book" in quotes. It can be lots of fun! If a title makes you curious, most of our rare books are out of copyright, so Super Robin has scoured the internet to find digital copies and links to those are at the bottom of each collections record. If you want to see the real thing, all you have to do is talk to Robin. ¶

SEEN ON SOCIAL MEDIA

By JAMES SMITH | Photographic Collections Manager

THIS CIRCA-1750, mixed-use building was occupied by Buckley's Barber Shop and the Progressive Beauty Shop, two Black-owned businesses at 117-121 Vaughan St. in Portsmouth's former North End neighborhood.

Recently retired United States Naval Chief Petty Officer Bishop L. Buckley (1918-2009) owned the barber shop and the building. In 1957, the Navy transferred Buckley and his family from Morocco to Kittery, Maine. When he retired three years later, he wanted to put down roots along the Seacoast. According to a 2020 Foster's Daily Democrat article, he and his family were initially denied home ownership on Rogers Road in Kittery after neighbors told the real estate agent that "they did not want a Black family moving in."

In February 1962, he and his wife, Jewel Lanier Buckley (1923-2023), purchased the building on Vaughan Street. According to the Portsmouth Herald, Buckley was the only Black barber in the city. He was active in the local NAACP and a deacon at New Hope Baptist Church.

As landlord, Bishop rented the other storefront to Elise Brinson Mosley, who operated the Progressive Beauty Shop. Little can be found about Elise, except she was a member of the local Navy Wives Club, and she married Jewell Carl Mosley (1930-1989) in New York City in 1956. In 1961, the couple lived on



Bishop L. Buckley (1918-2009) owned this building at 117-121 Vaughan St. He served as a U.S. Navy chief petty officer, retiring in 1960 and purchasing the property with his wife, Jewel, in 1962. Today the area is part of the Portwalk development.

Penhallow Street, and he was a sergeant in the United States Air Force stationed at Pease Air Force Base. From about 1963 until around 1967, Elise operated the beauty shop, but she lived alone in an apartment at 210 Deer St. At this time, Jewell was probably serving in the Vietnam War.

In June 1967, photographer Lawrence G. Straus captured this image as part of a North End urban renewal survey conducted by Athenaeum Proprietor James L. Garvin, a recent University of New

Hampshire grad who would later serve as the New Hampshire State Architectural Historian for 24 years. Straus would become an archaeologist and anthropology professor at the University of New Mexico.

The building was demolished in 1970 during the Vaughan Street Urban Renewal Project. In 1978, Buckley purchased a home on Manson Way, which is still owned by the family. In 2020, Manson Way Extension was renamed Buckley Way in his honor. ¶

CHECK-IN

and the bulk of this ledger includes his case notes, dating from 1857 to 1858. He details each patient's condition and treatments provided. In particular, he records the case of Hannah Candage of 76 Congress Street. She presented with stomach pains and died a few weeks later. Garland Patch Sr. had two doctors review her case in 1939, and both con-

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cluded that she had appendicitis. Scattered among Treadwell's medical cases are notes on Hebrew grammar as well as a list of men whom Treadwell evaluated for service eligibility in the Civil War. *(Gift of Deborah Patch Wilson)*

• **S1826: Esther Finck slam book, 1933-1939.** "Slam books" were passed around

at school for classmates to comment on one another, with the intention that the comments would be anonymous. The volume originally served as an autograph book when Finck lived in Nebraska and Maryland before moving to Portsmouth in the late 1930s. Finck was in seventh grade at Portsmouth Junior High School when she collected these often silly comments about her classmates. Index of names available in the Athenaeum's online catalog. *(Gift of Jake Elwell)* ¶

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LECTURE SERIES

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munity at St. Paul's School in Concord and Phillips Exeter Academy.

A graduate of Wellesley College, Ann received a Master of Architecture degree from MIT, was a Loeb Fellow at Harvard's Graduate School of Design, and serves on Harvard's Campus Design Advisory Council. She was Distinguished Visiting Professor of Design at Yale University and will return to their faculty in 2026.

May 21: "A Goodly Place: The Construction and Character of the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion," by John Rule and Adi Rule.

Overlooking the Piscataqua River's back channel at Little Harbor, the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion was home to New Hampshire's first Royal Governor, Benning Wentworth. The rambling 40-plus-room mansion represents one of only two Colonial governor's residences to have survived essentially unchanged. The Little Harbor estate has served as a

working farm, seat of government, summer home and artist retreat.

For 10 years, John Rule served as tour guide at the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion. He has lectured on the history of Colonial governor Benning Wentworth's land grants and participated in a public panel discussing little-known facts about the Wentworth mansion. Rule is also a volunteer archivist at the New Hampshire Historical Society, where he has lectured and written about the history of New Hampshire's Brown Paper Company.

Adi Rule was a guide at the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion for a decade. In addition, she facilitated and organized events, including moderating the panel "Secrets of the Mansion." Previously, she was an interpreter at Strawberry Banke Museum. Adi is a writer and editor, and teaches fiction at the Solstice MFA in Creative Writing Program at Lasell University in Newton, Mass.

June 18: "Bedrock Gardens: The Journey from a Privacy Sanctuary to a Public Garden," with Jill Nooney.

Jill Nooney, the creator of Bedrock Gardens, will talk about the 40-year journey she and her co-creator husband, Bob Munger, have taken to turn their 30-acre private sanctuary in Lee into a public garden, an oasis of horticulture, art and inspiration for the whole community.

Jill has many interests, including a practice as a clinical social worker; a second business of Fine Garden Art, which she founded and co-runs; designing and fabricating sculpture; and, most recently, the cello. She has written articles, been featured in numerous magazines, lectured on garden art, and designed award-winning displays at the New England Flower Show.

To see the lecture schedule for the entire year, go to www.portsmouthathenaeum.org and click on "Events." ¶