

For interviews, please contact Gerry Ward gward@portsmouthhistory.org

For images, please see <http://portsmouthhistory.org/media-kit-2017-john-paul-jones-house-exhibit/>

For more information:

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Portsmouth Historical Society announces

John Paul Jones House Museum + Garden 1758 National Historic Landmark

Open for the season!

Memorial Day Monday, May 29 - Columbus Day, Monday, October 9, 2017

+ Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11, 2017
Daily 11-5

Portsmouth, New Hampshire... Always wondered what that beautiful yellow mansion was on the corner of Middle and State Streets in downtown Portsmouth? Always wanted to come into the gardens or peek inside the house but haven't put that on your calendar yet? Now's your chance. Portsmouth Historical Society announces that the John Paul Jones House, a National Historic Landmark, will open for the 2017 season on Memorial Day Monday May 29. Open seven days a week from 11 am-5 pm, the landmark remains open until Columbus Day, Monday October 9, with special one-day opening on Veterans Day, Saturday November 11, 2017, when admission is free. New this year are renovations to the historic home which will include an archaeological dig (stay tuned!), and the return of a special exhibition entitled, *The Odd & the Elegant*, curated by Gerry Ward and Lainey McCartney.

Gerry Ward, curator, said, "It is a great pleasure to open the doors of the John Paul Jones House for the summer season. Once again, our visitors will have access to this grand Georgian mansion, built in 1758 and filled with collections pertaining to four centuries of Portsmouth's history. This year, in addition to the several galleries devoted to John Paul Jones, the Russo-Japanese Peace Treaty signed in Portsmouth in 1905, Portsmouth's maritime history, and local paintings and decorative arts, we are again featuring a special exhibition of amazing objects 'discovered' in storage, treasures that rarely see the light of day."

About the exhibition, *The Odd & the Elegant*

An historical society is many things to many people. Portsmouth Historical Society, founded a century ago, is home to an amazing collection of art and artifacts assembled since the John Paul Jones House opened its doors to the public in 1920. Principally given by many generous donors,

these three-dimensional artifacts complement the Society's rich holdings of manuscripts, photographs, and other documents on deposit at the Portsmouth Athenaeum. This exhibition includes more than 100 carefully selected objects from the Society's collection that illustrate the wide-ranging, eclectic nature of this institution's holdings. Widely varied in date and material, these objects represent one community's attempt over time to preserve the tangible goods that represent its history. The exhibition includes:

- Many "icons of continuity" that preserve the memory of deceased ancestors—a critical function of any museum collection.
- Some almost medieval-type reliquaries—associated with local people, events, and landmarks.
- Extraordinary silver, fans, woodwork, and other objects that demonstrate the significant aesthetic achievements of artists and craftsmen and the taste of local consumers.
- A group of locally owned ceramics, made around the world in China, Europe, England, and North America.
- Several exotic, unusual, and even "odd" items that were thought to be worthy of preservation, often reflecting out-moded customs or obsolete technology.
- A number of "curiosities," such as an ostrich egg and a seventeenth-century Syrian tile, that cause one to wonder what their connection to the history of Portsmouth might be!

About the renovations and archaeology

Reagan Ruedig, co-chair of the institution's Buildings and Grounds Committee, said, "We are happy to be continuing the renovation work at the John Paul Jones House this year. We have just received our second LCHIP award, which will allow us to make much-needed repairs to the foundation of the building. Archaeological work will go hand in hand with the foundation work this year, which will provide an exciting opportunity to dig a little deeper into the history of the property (pun intended)!"

Upcoming events

John Paul Jones House on South Church Pocket Garden Tour

Friday, June 23 5-8pm Saturday June 23 9-3pm

John Paul Jones Birthday Party

Sunday, July 9, 2017 1-4pm

John Paul Jones Fall Jubilee + Silent Auction

Thursday, September 7 5:30-8:30pm

Our sponsors

LCHIP (Land and Community Heritage Investment Program)

Portsmouth Painting Company

Star Island Builders

Cornerstone Tree Care

Rosamond Thaxter Foundation

We're grateful to our many volunteers who help keep the JPJ House Museum and Gardens

looking good – Liberty Mutual, Portsmouth Garden Club, and Portsmouth High School, and our Buildings and Grounds Committee.

About John Paul Jones

Scottish-born naval captain and colonial America's first sea warrior, John Paul Jones visited New Hampshire twice. In 1777, he took the Portsmouth-built *Ranger* with a Piscataqua crew to France. There he worried the British in a series of guerilla raids before his famous battle on the *Bon Homme Richard*. Later, as a hero decorated by the king of France, he returned to Portsmouth to fit out the *America*, the largest ship of war ever built in the nation to that day. While he was here, Jones stayed at the Purcell House, today the John Paul Jones House.

About National Historic Landmarks

A National Historic Landmark is a [building](#), [site](#), [structure](#), or [object](#) that is officially recognized by the [United States government](#) for its outstanding degree of historical significance. Out of over 85,000 places that have been listed on the country's [National Register of Historic Places](#) only about 2,500 are recognized as National Historic Landmarks. There are eight sites in Portsmouth: the USS *Albacore*, Richard Jackson House, John Paul Jones House, Governor John Langdon House, Warner House, Moffatt-Ladd House and Garden, Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion, and Wentworth-Gardner House.

About the Portsmouth Historical Society

Portsmouth Historical Society is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 nonprofit that operates Discover Portsmouth, a museum and cultural gateway, and the John Paul Jones House Museum + Garden, in downtown Portsmouth. Both locations are open seasonally. Discover Portsmouth is located at 10 Middle Street and is open 9:30-5pm daily through December.

About John Paul Jones House: hours, admission

The John Paul Jones House is located at 43 Middle Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801 and is open from 11am-5pm. Admission is \$6; \$5 for Portsmouth residents, AAA, Seniors and retired Military. Members of the Portsmouth Historical Society, children under 12 and active military personnel and their families are free. Group rates available; tours are self-guided; the last tour begins at 4:30pm.