A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Emma Stratton, Executive Director

In 2023, Portsmouth commemorated the 400th anniversary of European settlement. Amidst a host of city-wide events, our focus was on two captivating exhibitions: “A Sense of Place,” complementing the renowned A History of Portsmouth NH in 101 Objects publication, and “Reinventing Portsmouth,” which delved into the city’s arts, culture, and historic preservation, juxtaposed against the challenging backdrop of urban renewal in the 1970s. Moreover, we launched a new introductory video on Portsmouth’s history, amplifying diverse voices and shedding light on previously underrepresented facets of our city’s past.

Our dedication to public engagement was evident through remarkable growth in our programs. Innovative series such as Portsmouth on Tap, Read it and Eat, and Family Days attracted over 2,000 enthusiastic participants.

Behind the scenes, we developed a new strategic plan, confirming our commitment to sustainability, growth, and inclusivity. The Portsmouth Historical Society serves as a source of community connection, welcoming both new members and familiar faces. With a record-breaking number of individuals engaged in our work last year, we take pride in being recognized as a vibrant hub where Portsmouth’s history truly comes alive.

I’m exceptionally grateful to be part of a fantastic team of colleagues, Board members, and volunteers—all of whom had a hand in 2023’s success.

As we enter into 2024, we will continue to expand our work out into the community through programs, advocacy, exhibitions, walking tours, and more. We hope you will join us once again in exploring Portsmouth’s past, present, and future.

Emma Stratton, Executive Director of the Portsmouth Historical Society

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Strategic Plan

The board and staff of the Portsmouth Historical Society began our strategic plan process in late 2022 and were delighted to adopt our plan in late 2023. The new plan codifies our commitment to inclusive storytelling, so we can begin to tell all stories of Portsmouth’s history and also reaffirm our work in historic preservation advocacy. We are excited to move more fully into advocacy work and to become a voice for historic preservation in our community.

Values

Stewardship
Inclusiveness
Advocacy
Collaboration
Integrity

Mission Statement
The Portsmouth Historical Society’s museums and programs connect the community to our past, present and future through collections, interpretation, education and preservation.

Vision Statement
Cultivate and enrich a greater understanding of Portsmouth histories

Where Portsmouth History Comes Alive

Priority 1
Diverse Stories
Collection Understanding and Curation
Exhibitions and Programs
Digital Archiving

Priority 2
Community Engagement
Partnership
Interactive Events
Volunteer and Membership Programs

Priority 3
Inclusivity
Accessibility
Representation in Leadership

Priority 4
Sustainability
Environmental Sustainability
Building Sustainability
Financial Sustainability
Operational Sustainability

Priority 5
Advocacy
Policy Advocacy
Public Awareness Campaigns
Education

By focusing on these five priorities, the Portsmouth Historical Society aims to create a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable organization that actively contributes to the preservation and celebration of Portsmouth’s diverse history.
FINANCIALS

2023 Income

PORTSMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET
January - December 2023

ASSETS
Bank Accounts
Restricted Use $606,711.66
Unrestricted $259,940.64
Total Bank Accounts $866,752.30
Total Accounts Receivable $2,095.60
Total Other Current Assets $2,268.68
Total Current Assets $899,591.73
Total Property, Plant, & Equipment $3,610,641.49
Total Fixed Assets $55,162.75
Total Long-Term Liabilities $3,643,299.10
Total Assets 589,222.19

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY
Total Accounts Payable $1,225.00
Total Credit Cards 888,754.30
Total Other Current Liabilities $63,595.83
Total Long-Term Liabilities $48,776.45
Total Liabilities $1,288,472.52
Total Equity $489,222.19

TOTAL ASSETS $3,610,641.49
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY $3,643,299.10

PORTSMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Profit & Loss
January - December 2023

Revenue
Contributions and Grants $281,894.30
Revenue from program-related sales & fees $1,972.70
Revenue from dues $837,245.94
Revenue from investments $82,771.87
Revenue from other sources $73.00

Total Revenue $1,262,042.71

Expenses
Museum Shop Income $84,859.97
Museum Shop Expenses $39,956.48
Salaries & related expenses $397,787.95
Contract service expenses $63,955.63
Non-personnel expenses $22,832.55
Facility & equipment expenses $116,359.51
Travel & meeting expenses $7,730.30
Program Expenses $24,577.98
Other expenses $84,971.75

Total Expenses $695,889.68

Net Operating Revenue $566,153.03
Net assets released from restriction $172,656.46
Net Revenue $738,809.49

2023 Expenses

A full copy of our financial records and 990 are available upon request.

VISITATION

Museum Traffic by Month 2023 vs. 2022

Total museum visitation numbers include visitors to all of our exhibitions, the John Paul Jones House, and the Seacoast African American Cultural Center, as well as those who attend our programs (such as lectures, book signings, workshops, and more) and visitors during our many events and rentals.

34,901 total foot traffic in 2023
32,243 total foot traffic in 2022

MARKETING AND OUTREACH

The year 2023 was the first time that Portsmouth Historical Society had a full-time Marketing Manager on staff to oversee all print and digital marketing. Consistency across platforms and a more intentional, data-driven approach characterized our strategy across all platforms. Last year, Google Analytics was added to our website for the first time, tracking user traffic and behavior for the year. Analytics has influenced our strategies to increase visitor traffic through Search Engine Optimization, identifying new keywords to incorporate on our website, such as “iconic Portsmouth places.”

The organization has also increased its visibility by developing connections with other local businesses. An in-kind partnership with Seacoast Lately, a regional events social account, increased our visibility on social platforms with a demographic between ages 25-45.

Our Gingerbread Exhibition was included in a PBS special, airing on 137 PBS stations nationally, with a potential reach of 150 million viewers.

A long-lasting project for 2023 was updating the decade-old welcome video. Along with Atlantic Media, new interviews and images were selected to tell a more inclusive history of Portsmouth. We hope that this 15-minute-long film will orient visitors for years to come.
COLLECTIONS

This year the Collections and Exhibitions team have moved the permanent collection to an online, cloud-based database called CatalogIt. Previously, the collection was housed on Past Perfect, which was only accessible on one computer. CatalogIt not only has desktop access, but a mobile app as well. Now, information can be updated at the drop of a hat! With the help of volunteers Lynne Costa, Brenda Brewster, and Diane Fagan Affleck, the records have been cleaned up and new information added. The next step is preparing for an online hub for visitors to view through our website.

Adopt an Artifact

This program was started in 2023 to bring attention to the critical work that our conservators do in order to preserve historical artifacts for future generations. We have approximately 3,000 objects in our collection, and much like any antiques, they require a little TLC. Artifacts often need specialized care or housing to keep them in stable condition. While all objects have their eventual lifespan; things such as damage, poor storage, and exposure can shorten that time.

In 2023 our Curator and Collections Manager got together with members and an expert in the field to showcase several artifacts and bring attention to their condition and needs. This members-exclusive event touched on why we save what we save, and what kind of detailed work is involved in caring for the physical artifacts that make up the story of Portsmouth.

We are excited to bring this program back each year during the summer, so that we can give our community a behind-the-scenes peek at what hands-on historical conservation really means. All adoptions support our preservation mission, and make a tangible impact on improving the ‘lives’ of the items in our collection.

ARTIFACTS SUPPORTED IN 2023:

- Bodice supported by Diane Fagan Affleck
- Child’s Dress supported by Diane Fagan Affleck
- Frank Jones Poster supported by Ellen Fineberg & Vincent Lombardi, and Elizabeth Valway
- Hair Wreath supported in honor of Molly Liolos
- Pitcher supported by Gordon Stone
- Polly supported by Margaret L. Clarke, in honor of Anna Herrera, and by Ellen & Walt Patton
- Ruth Blay Quilt supported by Diane Fagan Affleck, Robin Albert, Ceal Anderson, in honor of Patricia Brunette, and by Tammi Truax
- Tray supported by Karen McDonnell
- Unknown Portrait By Susan Ricker Knox supported by Tom Kaufhold
- Worktable supported by Sharon Churchill

EXHIBITIONS

Our collaboration with other local institutions and the Portsmouth400 project made “A Sense of Place: An Exhibition to Accompany A History of Portsmouth NH in 101 Objects” an engaging exhibit for local residents, as well as a diverse overview of the history of our city for visitors. Upstairs, “Reinventing Portsmouth, Renewal to Renaissance: 1970s” garnered so much interest and praise from local residents that we are currently pursuing a publication with Bob Thoresen to more fully explore the topics covered in the galleries.

In the fall, we hosted fan favorites the Pasted Society of NH and the Abstract Four—Barbara Adams, Tom Glover, Peter Cady, and Dusdan Knight—in our Balcony Gallery. We also installed a small, semi-permanent exhibition in our Program Room of objects, paintings, and prints in our collection to ensure that our treasures are always on view at 10 Middle Street.

“Captain, Celebrity, & Cliché” continued to be on view at the John Paul Jones House and continued to delight visitors with the lore and myth of Captain John Paul Jones himself.

All Things Merry and Bright

In 2023, we celebrated our 33rd Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Exhibition with the theme, “Portsmouth Past, Present, and Future.” Participants rose to the challenge and gave us everything from futuristic rock shows in Prescott Park to iconic Portsmouth tugboats, tall ships, and submarines! We never fail to be impressed by the creativity, ingenuity, and engineering prowess of these gingerbread architects. Gelatin sheet windows, bubble gum siding, rock candy pavement, peppermint shingles—visitors always leave abuzz with new ideas for the next contest! For the first time this year, we also hosted an in-house gingerbread house workshop, an ugly sweater cookie swap to celebrate the season (and bring even more sugar into the building, of course), and a smash to round out the season. We look forward to our 34th show in 2024 and thank our volunteer committee for all their support, including Kait Smith, Mary Ellen Hoermann, and Jillian Marquis.

Collections Manager Molly Liolos shows details on a pair of 19th century gloves to museum member Sharon Churchill at the inaugural Adopt an Artifact program.

Entry to “A Sense of Place” featuring 15 small paintings of historic properties in Portsmouth by H.M.S Harlow.
**New Programs in 2023**

**Family Days**
Held monthly on Saturdays, these events center around a theme, such as gardening, mending, ocean conservation, or experimental art and include hands-on activities for kids of all ages.

**Knit Happens**
Held monthly on Friday afternoons, this yarn social circle fosters conversations between community members and allows us to bring out unique fiber pieces from our collection to show and inspire the group.

**Read it and Eat!**
A potluck series that very literally brings people to the table (in our galleries!) to build community around recipes from local cookbooks.

**Programs**
This year witnessed tremendous growth for programs at the Historical Society. Our aim has been not only to bring in more visitors, but to diversify the types of programming we run in the hopes of reaching new, first-time audiences. History can get a bad rap as something stuffy and staid; we wanted to recontextualize how our visitors interact with the subject by presenting exciting hands-on activities, workshops, partnership programs with unique organizations, and events for the whole family.

In addition to these new series, we hosted many other workshops, lectures, community discussions, and curator tours. Some highlights include our Brewster Series bark-basket workshop with indigenous artist Jennifer Lee, a wonderful community conversation on the 1970s Portsmouth art scene with Marguerite Mathews, Jon Kimbell, and Bob Thoresen, and the return of our popular Curator Tours that provide visitors with an in-depth look at our exhibitions. Beyond our on-site work, we also began hosting more events in the community including a presentation and round of history trivia at the Portsmouth Senior Center.

**Portsmouth On Tap**
Connecting to new audiences by hosting history-themed trivia (paired with history-themed beer of course!) at five Portsmouth-based breweries.

**Humanities to Go**
New Hampshire Humanities’ statewide speakers’ bureau allowed us to host historians, specialists, professors, and musicians for lectures, workshops, and performances that were free to the public.

**Hands-on Workshops**
Bringing history and craft together through several one-off workshops, we were able to work with a diverse group of New England artists who guided attendees in creating their own one-of-a-kind projects to take home.
The Beck House, located at 43 Austin Street, in autumn. Photo © Kenneth R. Goldman

The former Beck family home at 43 Austin Street remains under the stewardship of the Portsmouth Historical Society. We continue to provide preventative maintenance including groundskeeping, furnace inspection, gutter cleaning, and more. In addition, we held conversations with many different community partners about a potential adaptive reuse of the Beck House. We look forward to sharing more information with you soon.

**The Year in Review**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAN</th>
<th>FEB</th>
<th>MAR</th>
<th>APR</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
<th>JULY</th>
<th>AUG</th>
<th>SEP</th>
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<th>NOV</th>
<th>DEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Fox composted gingerbread houses</td>
<td>Key boxes installed in buildings</td>
<td>Outdoor lighting replaced</td>
<td>City arborist trimmed trees</td>
<td>Spring cleanup of our properties</td>
<td>Portsmouth Garden Club grant received for John Paul Jones lawn</td>
<td>New HVAC condensers installed on the roof</td>
<td>Met with city regarding Islington Street planned work</td>
<td>Woodwork on the Morton-Benedict House replaced</td>
<td>Red Phone Box returned to 10 Middle Street after repairs</td>
<td>Gutter cleaning at all three properties</td>
<td>Grant submitted to continue preservation efforts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Repair work on the Morton-Benedict facade removed staining on the bricks and made repairs to exterior woodwork. Thanks to a grant from the 1772 Foundation, we were able to start work on the façade of the Morton-Benedict House. We were able to repair rotted window sills, preserve wooden columns at the entrance to the building, and complete a wash of the bricks to help improve its appearance. Additional grant funding has been secured for 2024 to complete the exterior work to include painting and masonry repairs.

**Donors to the Collection**

- Hollis Brodick
- Richard M. Candee
- Susan Cooper
- Ellen Fineberg and Vince Lombardi
- Tom Kaufhold
- Kevin LaFond
- New Castle Historical Society
- Caryl Sawtellie
- John Willoughby
- And several anonymous donors

**Donors to the Library and Archives**

- Sally Baybutt
- Kim Caldwell
- Charles and Mary Garland
- Leah Lachance
- Alvin Schaut
- Cheryl Sprague
- Barbara McLean Ward and Gerald W.R. Ward

**Recent Acquisition**

Founded in 1980 by Randon Eddy and Mercie Chick, the Iris Women’s Club was located at 40 Pleasant Street in Portsmouth. As Eddy recalled: “It was always billed as a Women’s Club. A safe place for women to visit and leave any harassment or stress from the outside, sometime unforgiving world, behind.” The iris flower gets its name from the Greek messenger goddess of the rainbow. The rainbow has been a prominent image within the LGBTQ+ community since 1978, when the first rainbow pride flag, designed by Gilbert Baker, was introduced at the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade. The private Iris club may have been the first organized lesbian club in the Seacoast and the only private lesbian club in New England at the time. It had some six hundred members when it closed in 1987.

Given by Tom Kaufhold, head of the Seacoast NH LGBTQ History Project, the Iris sign represents an initiative by the Historical Society to collect objects that are representative of the history of the Seacoast’s communities as a whole and in all their diversity.

DEVELOPMENT

In 2023, new Development Manager Kim Simmons hit the ground running. Since starting in January, she has dedicated herself to increasing Portsmouth Historical Society’s outreach, fundraising, and capacity to complete large projects. We restructured admissions to give discounts to local residents and joined Museums for All, a program which allows us to provide free tickets to people on SNAP/EBT. With the ability to follow up more consistently with members, we were able to grow our membership from 359 people at the end of 2022, to 461 members at the end of 2023.

Grants received this year covered more than just exhibition costs; we were awarded funds that allowed us to see to much-needed deferred maintenance. A grant seminar mid-July helped us focus our requests, and with those new tools in mind we were honored to receive a $20,000 unrestricted operating grant from New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, as well as a $7,500 grant to improve the storage and housing of our 3,000 object collection. In addition to adding a new program to support the conservation of our historical objects, Adopt an Artifact, Portsmouth Historical Society collaborated with local partners to put on a murder mystery event at the Music Hall Lounge in September.

We look forward to a fun and engaging year in this seaside community we call home. History is our passion and we are happy to share that passion with everyone who visits us here in the heart of Portsmouth. Thank you for being a part of our important mission to tell Portsmouth stories.

We could not do all that we do without you.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Corporate Sponsors

$5,000
Kennebunk Savings Bank

$2,500
EnviroVantage
Newburyport Bank

$1,500
The Chamber Collective of Greater Portsmouth

$1,000
Avery Insurance
Bangor Savings Bank
Devine, Millimet & Branch Professional Association
Piscataqua Savings Bank
Seacoast Lately

$500
St. Mary’s Bank

In-Kind Sponsors

Aster House
Bangor Savings Bank
The Black Dog
Richard Candee
Celtic Crossing
Circle Furniture
Diversions Puzzles & Games
Flatbread Company
G. Willikers
The Hammer Pub & Grille
Ken Goldman
Gus & Ruby Letterpress
Kennedy Gallery & Custom Framing
Nicholas Lasinsky
Macro Polo LLC
New Hampshire Made
Popovers on the Square
Portsmouth Soap Company
David Pratt
Richardson’s Market
RiverRun Bookstore
Alvin Schaut
Société
Ten Thousand Villages
Warner’s Card & Gift Shop

Foundation Supporters, Library Members, In-Kind Supporters

In-Kind Sponsors

Aster House
Bangor Savings Bank
The Black Dog
Richard Candee
Celtic Crossing
Circle Furniture
Diversions Puzzles & Games
Flatbread Company
G. Willikers
The Hammer Pub & Grille
Ken Goldman
Gus & Ruby Letterpress
Kennedy Gallery & Custom Framing
Nicholas Lasinsky
Macro Polo LLC
New Hampshire Made
Popovers on the Square
Portsmouth Soap Company
David Pratt
Richardson’s Market
RiverRun Bookstore
Alvin Schaut
Société
Ten Thousand Villages
Warner’s Card & Gift Shop

Foundation Supporters

$25,000+
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation

$5,000–$10,000
Fuller Foundation
New Hampshire State Council of the Arts
Samuel P. Hunt Foundation
Schleyer Foundation
Madelaine von Weber Trust

$1,000–$2,500
New Hampshire Preservation Alliance (1772 Foundation)
Horizon Foundation
New Hampshire Humanities
Rosamund Thaxter Foundation

Up to $999
Land & Community Heritage Investment Program - LCHIP
Portsmouth Garden Club

Library Members

Lee Public Library
North Hampton Public Library
Portsmouth Public Library

Representatives from exhibition sponsor Kennebunk Savings Bank stop by the Gingerbread Exhibition to serve as contest judges.

Key sponsorships from Newburyport Bank and Kennebunk Savings Bank allowed us to keep our Family Day programs free for the public.

The Madelaine G. Von Weber grant provided needed funds to improve our collections storage.
2023 MEMBERS AND DONORS

We are extremely grateful for the continued support of our members and donors, who make our important work possible.

$100,000 +
Martha Fuller Clark

$5,000–$10,000
Diane Fagan Affleck and James Affleck
Sharon Churchill
Charles Dolcek
Joseph MacDonald Family
Ed and Fran Mallon
McNab Properties
Robert and Susan Thorson

$1,000–$4,999
John and Pamela Blatock
Hail Brewster and Geoff Wetrock
Richard Cancade and Robert Chase
Bill and Linda Ceruzzi
Beverly Donahue
C. Deverick and Mike Rust
Ellen Fineberg and Vince Lombardi
Ms. Gonzalez and Mr. Foster
Granite State Minerals
Ann Hartman
John and Joan Henderson
Edward Lopes
John and Amanda McHenry
Karen Posner, in memory of Merrielle J Posner
Reagan and Adam Ruedig
Samuel Smoot and Karen McDonnell
James and Deborah Somes
Barbara Sweet

$500–$999
Erika and Cyrus Beer
Michael Berosky
William and Arlene Brewer
James Buttrick
Dominic Cancade
Patricia and Lance Day-Lolliri
Sandra and Gregory Delisio
Sally and David Dickson
Jameson and Priscilla French
Sally and Alan Gayer
Ken Goldman and Barbara Sadick

Members enjoyed the first chance to purchase tickets for our Murder Mystery Event, held at the Music Half Lounge, where a group of actors presented the evidence for a murder case loosely based on the Sweeney Todd Murders.

James Gray
Nancy Hammond
Catherine Howard
Deborah and David Kanne
John and Deborah Mayer
William McCarthy and Ana Egna
David Panek and Barbara Van Buskirk
Nancy Pearson
Teresa Rhodes Rosenberger
Gayle Sawtelle and Eric Maskin
Kerry Vauriot
Gloria Venning

$250–$499
Christopher and Gay Adams
Steve Amrano
Karen and James Battles
Shelley
Peter Bergh and Janet Prince
Nicole Bodh
Rebecca and John Brewster-Taylor
Lorn and Rosalie Buxton
Brijt Christiansen and Patricia Malloy
Michael Churbach and Donna Saunders
Louis F. Clarizio, DDS PA
Diane Davy and Robert Deaver
Christopher Depp
Natalie DeCristofaro
Joseph Distefano
R. David Drucker
Nancy Euchner
Julie Gowen Fehrstrom
Joanne and Peter Foster
Franca Borrachio and Bob LeGris
C. Wes Garten
Charles Gardner Jr.
Neil and Helen Garvey
James and Donna-Belle Garvin
Jay Gibson and Mary Pat Gibson
Jan and Jerry Gnauso
Alan and Susan Gold
Glenn Hammond
Richard and Rebecca Harris
Laurie Kennedy
Jack McGee, Jr., Esq and Diane McGee
Peter Michaud and Paul Chung

Lynne Monroe and Frank Whittemore
Mary Jo Monuck and Pete Carey
David Murray
Michaela Neiro and Tom Martin
Richard and Jane Nylan
Dawn Prychodzkin and Beth Jefferson
Lee and Rodney Roberts
James Rosenfeld
Kerry and Peter Rubinstein
Daphne and Peter Schwalb
Lucinda Spayne
David Taylor and Bonnie Price
James and Theresa Terry
Joan and Sheldon
Katie Wheeler
Christopher and Alice White
David and Margaret Watham
Julia and Martin Wybourne
Pamela Yonkin and Thomas Maheser
Mike and Conny Zani
Susan Zuckert and Steve Rogers

Elisa Arbogast
Barndollar LLC
Colleen Bean and Ceal Anderson
Pamela Bethel
Gayle Blumberg
Jeffrey Braut
Laura Calhoun and Jonathan McPhee
Marcia Call
Carol Cameron-Sears and Craig Sears
Dr. Thomas Canode and Ms.
Sue Peterson
Judith and William Castle
Lawrence and Beatrice Cataldo
Carol Cheney
David and Elizabeth Choteau III
Thomas and Pamela Clairmont
Kathleen Cour and Ernest Podrasky
Karen Bowden Cooper and John Bowden Cooper
Debra Coston
Raymond Croteau
Judith Currie
Iain Cutler
Beverly Daniel
Tom DeMitchell
Robert and Patricia Dempsey
Jeffrey Deunink
Erica Dodge
Ronica Benzel
Lawrence Drake
Gail Drobnik
Susan Duchoney
Andrea Dudley and Richard Massey
Susan and William Darling
Fred and Barbara Engelbach
Mary and Philip Engel
Cynthia Fenneman
Susan Frankel
Susan Friedman and Matthew DeAngelis
Julie and Wallace Gaye
Helen Gettelman
Elizabeth Gilbert
David Maurice
Maurice Glad
David Golbi
Russ and Karen Goldberg
Susan Goodall
Rebecca Gould and William Buckle
Joan and Frank Graf
Emme and Richard Greensdale
Michael Griffin
Linnea Grim
Sylvia and Bill Gunn
Nate Hamilton
Thomas and Janet Hand
Mr. and Mrs. Henry and Mary Harding
Jessica Harmon
Michael and Cynthia Harwell
Robyn and Tom Heany
Mary Ellen and Walter Heenan
Sarah Holly
Darron Hargis and Ellen Reese
Kathryn Howard
Barbara Jenny and Matthew Reeser
Alison Johnstone
Paula Jordan
JDA and Jennifer
Michael and Glick Kaplan
Tom Kaufold and Michael Engber
Cynthia and Jeffrey Knapp
Fred and Susan Lewis
Maria and Charles Leberge
Kevin Lnofad
Peter Lamb and Faith Harrington
Jane and Benjamin Lannon
Fred and Susan Lewis
Charline & Kathy Lewis
George and Dixie Leftridge
William Leftridge
Shelley Lloyd and Glenn Lail
Bradley Lownd and Christyn Sivs
Duffy MacCallum
Lynn Marsh
Janet C Marx
Marguerite Mathews
Maryvee and Alexes McConnell
Laurie McClay
Robert and Mary Lou McElwan
Allen Mcgee
Jessica and Paul McKeon
Jan Marasmus
David Mellick
Greg and Regis Muller
Judy Miller and Arthur Caritasone
Priscilla Muller
Chi Mo and Lourdes Rodriguez-Mo
Mike Nello
Tere Norell
Luce Palace
Chuck Petik
Susan Philliby and Peter Wissel
Regina Pientadosi
Nancy and Walter Pierce
Antonella Pollak
Noreen Polus
Joe Porter
Alden and Katie Quimby
Maureen Raasde
Paula Rais and Elton Shuffer
John and Joan Rice
Meghan Rice
Ann and James Rickards
Knut and Jean Reasig
Doug Roberts
Denis Robinson
Elizabeth Robinson
James and Michelle Robinson
Judith Ryde
Marcus Sarby and Michelle Fijalkowski-Sarty
Carol and Walter Sawyer
Juliette Schwab
Brenda and Tony Scolaro
Katie and Evan Shaffer
Caroline and Andrew Sloat
Mrs. Sally Smoyer
Kathleen Soldo
Peter Somssich and Kathleen Pohomsk-Simms
David and Janet Spilane
Bill and Bonnie Stafford
Michael and Laurie Steinberg
Martina and Erik Stone
Penelope and Richard Stratton
Banfie Barwise Museum
Susan and Neil Robinson
Donna Suly
Cathy Sunnun
Robert and Ann Swain
Kathryn Taylor and Kenneth Steven
Elaine Tuff
Carol Theurer
Michael Thiel and Gail Richard
Jeffrey and Corky Thomson
Danna and Bill Truslow
David and Linda Underhill
Elizabeth and William Walvey
Austin and Philip Vancollert
Lee and Peter Vandermark
Anna Vostage-Bord
Sandra Walet
Thomas and Kathleen Watson
David Watters and Janice Alberghen
Peter and Pat Weeks
Donal and Carol Welch
Gisella Wemp
Robert White and Karen Bolinas
Mark Willis
Marla Witting
Joanne and Dean Wolfe
Maryanne Worboys

Up to $999
Steven Achilles
Stephen Ake
Sue and Allen Allen
Tim Allison and Este Ot
Jean M Alvano
Linda and Erik Anderson
Mark Anderson and Robin Silva
Suzanne and Brittany Anderson
Dennis Ankirk
Mark Anarkirk
Karla Armento
Judy Arnold
Melissa Austin-Weeks
Cheri Bach and Roger Clum
Michael Bacher
Patricia and Richard Bagley
Karen Bailey
Laura Bain
Melanie and Todd Baker
Gele Beamer
Karin and Stephen Barndollar
Robert and Maria Barth
Makim and Penelope Bartko
Marjorie Beck
Ron Bedard and Bill Coughlin
Steve and Liz Bedard
Joy Bergdahl
Mark Kentish
Margaret and Deborah Berman
Helen Bish
Betse Bissnennon
Judith Blake
Lisa Blu
Kathleen Boduch
Jeffrey and Molly Bolster
Marc and Janet Bone
Diane Borton
John and Nina Bottom
Ronald Bourgault and Jim Horan
Paula and Stuart Bozer
Kate Brady
Brenda Brewster
Hollis Brodrick
Paula and Samuel Brundo
Mary Bronke
Peter and Suzanne Bowman
Harriette Bruneau
Irene and John Bush
Stephanie Campbell
Calvin and Elizabeth Canney
Judi Taylor Cantor
Jack Capra
Karen and Thomas Carpenter
Warren Caster
David Caswell
Edward and Janet Caylor
James Cerny
Patience and Tom Chamberlin
Jack and Dianne Chambers
Linda Chaleath
Deborah and Tom Child
Margaret Clare
Stephen Clarkson and Mary
Clyne Clayburgh
Burt and Patty Cohen
Linda Cohen
Ellen Cohn and Martin Richman
Roddy Cole
Kent Collins and Family
Will Cooper
Jane Copp
Lynne Courtois
Matthew Craig
Ann Cummings and Jim Lee
Judith Custer
Judy Dandison
Suzanne Danforth
and Deborah and Eibach
Kathleen Davis
Victoria Davis
Kim Davis Smith
Joojoo and Maarten de Ruiter
Charles DeGrandpre, Esq.
and Deborah DeGrandpre
Anthony and Patricia Delany
Jeff and Blair Demers
Paula Dempsie
Jon and Janet Dennon
Sandra and John Diko
Rose Downes
Janet Doyle
Virginia Drew and Judy Barnett
Tim Driscoll and Mary Ann
Dudley Dudley
Sharon Dunbar
Lorrie Eastwick and John Hardin
Sally and John Hetteau
Amy Lou Emanuel-Bassett and
Rose Eppard
We have made every attempt to recognize all contributors. If any information is missing or incorrect, please contact us at development@portsmouthhistory.org. We apologize for any oversights.

Volunteers

We count ourselves very lucky to have such a dynamic group of incredible volunteers. Their dedicated support is invaluable across everything we do, from cataloging new objects to assisting with programming to welcoming visitors, and much more. This year, our volunteers donated over 1,800 hours of their time, which we were able to track with our newly implemented scheduling software. This software, Volgistics, is both browser and app-based, and allows our volunteers to easily see all available shifts and sign up for them with a few clicks. On the backend, Volgistics gives us much better access to volunteer information and statistics. It has also allowed us to streamline our onboarding process and bring volunteers smoothly from an interest form to an application to an interview, a background check, and, if all goes well, an account in our database.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers this year:

Randy Absher
Diane Affleck
Josee Almeida
Michael Anderson
Denise Anchark
Karen Bailey
Caroline Bain
Louisa Bain
Gina Blas
Brenda Brewster
Louise Cameron
Richard Candeef
Alan Cohen
Ellen Cohen
Lynn Costa
Devaya Dutta
Jennifer Hance
Ann Hartman
Mary Ellen Hoerman
Tom Kaufhold
Charlotte Leatherman
Philip Lebrefere
Fred Lewis
Mia Little
Jillian Marquis
Mary Lou Mclellan
Barbara Newton
Julia Phelps

Frederick Pineau
Maureen Rassio
Knud Roaldvig
Reagan Ruedig
Sam Ruel
Barbara Sadick
Elizabeth Sanborn
Nancy Seesman
Anna Senecal Rodgers
Ron Sher
Kait Smith
Tall Spendto
Christine Stacey
Victoria Stanhope

With thanks to our walking tour guides:

Randy Absher
Alan Cohen
Tom Kaufhold
Fred Lewis
Knud Roaldvig
Elizabeth Sanborn
Ron Sher
Jeff Thomson

With additional thanks to our volunteer guest curators:

Richard Candeef, Robert Chase, and Bob Thoresen for “Reinventing Portsmouth”

Portsmouth Historical Society staff and volunteers celebrate Halloween. Photo © Kenneth R. Goldman
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Nancy Pearson, President; Chair, Governance Committee
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Kerry Vautrot, Board Liaison, Portsmouth Advocates

STAFF
As of 12/31/2023
Emma Stratton, Executive Director
Meredith Affleck, Exhibitions Manager
Beth Gross-Santos, Welcome Center & Gift Shop Manager
Sabina Ion, Marketing Manager
Jessica Kliskey, John Paul Jones House Site Manager
Molly Liohos, Collections Manager & Registrar
Robin Lurie-Meyerkopf, Facilities & Walking Tour Manager
Kim Simmons, Development Manager
Sarah Robbits-Terry, Volunteer & Program Coordinator
Jenn Thibadeau, Program Manager
Gerald W.R. Ward, Curator and Editor

With sincere thanks to our seasonal front desk staff:
Sharon Dunbar
Christina Johns
Roberta Lew
Donna Theodossiou

2023 by the numbers

WALKING TOURS
1633 walking tour guests
448 hours walked around Portsmouth
10 experienced guides

IN THE GIFT SHOP
Books sold in our April book sale 689

EDUCATION
3 Portsmouth elementary schools participating
9 third-grade classes served
68 classroom visits

COLLECTIONS
44 Objects given to the collection

JOHN PAUL JONES
28 Sea Shanties sung at the annual JPJ Birthday Party

GINGERBREAD
92 Houses entered into the competition

SOCIAL MEDIA
5,335 Facebook likes
2,615 Instagram followers
3,041 Twitter followers

Most viewed post of 2023: April 18 red phone box removal
11,719 views
251 likes
71 comments

VOLUNTEERS
28 new volunteers
68 total volunteers
1895 total hours volunteered
OVERVIEW OF THE 2024 CALENDAR

Exhibitions

“The Matter of Memory”
   at 10 Middle Street
   April 1 – November 3

John Paul Jones House Open to the Public
   May 24 – October 14

“Finishing Touches”
   at the John Paul Jones House
   May 24 – October 14

“It’s Pastel!”
   16th National Juried Exhibition by the Pastel Society of New Hampshire
   at 10 Middle Street
   October 27 – November 23

34th Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Exhibition
   at 10 Middle Street
   November 29 – December 31

New Hampshire Furniture Masters
   at 10 Middle Street
   December 2 – December 30

Programs

Historic Portsmouth Walking Tours
   Daily, May 1 – October 31

Twilight Tour
   with the Portsmouth Historic Sites Associates
   August 9

Curator Tours
   free First Friday admission all day long
   the first Fridays of the month
   at 12:00 and 5:30 pm

Family Days
   free drop-in activities and scheduled workshops for visitors of all ages
   the second Saturday of the month

Knit Happens
   a social yarn circle
   fourth Fridays of the month

Read It and Eat!
   a community conversation centered around food
   four Mondays throughout the year

Front cover:
Charles Herbert Woodbury (1864–1940)
Portsmouth
Oil on canvas, 1934
Private collection