

Fall 2000

Editor's Note

Ron M. Potvin
Newport Historical Society

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.salve.edu/newporthistory>

Recommended Citation

Potvin, Ron M. (2000) "Editor's Note," *Newport History*: Vol. 71: Iss. 246, Article 1.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.salve.edu/newporthistory/vol71/iss246/1>

This Editorial is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Salve Regina. It has been accepted for inclusion in Newport History by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Salve Regina. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@salve.edu.

Editor's Note:

In February of 1783, an infuriated prisoner in Newport Jail furiously wrote in his diary his unmitigated contempt for that "Miserable impertinent Rascally Ignorant Mule headed puppy...who put me to jail." Who was this indignant prisoner? Why was he confined to Newport Jail? Who were the people he mentioned in his diary? Did he ever regain his liberty? In her article, "A Rhode Island Patriot in Newport Jail," Virginia Steele Wood assumes the role of a detective, sifting through scores of contemporary records to discover the identity of the unknown diarist and learn his fate. The diary yields startling glimpses of the turmoil in Newport that accompanied the final days of the American Revolution, and offers poignant glimpses into the life of a prisoner in the eighteenth century.

Virginia Steele Wood resides in Washington, D.C., where she is the naval and maritime history specialist at the Library of Congress, a member of the Secretary of the Navy's Advisory Subcommittee on Naval History, and the award-winning author of *Live Oaking: Southern Timber for Tall Ships* (1981; reprint, Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1995). This is the eighth early diary she has edited for publication. Her other Rhode Island endeavor was *Robert Durfee's Journal and Recollections of Newport, Rhode Island, Freetown, Massachusetts, New York City & Long Island, Jamaica & Cuba, West Indies & Saint Simons Island, Georgia, ca. 1785-1810* (Marion, Mass.: Belden Books, 1990).

Since the advent of photography in newspaper journalism, the *Newport Daily News* has kept the community apprized of progress, difficulties, and activities at the many Newport city schools through the use of pictures. Hundreds of such images comprise an important segment of the *Daily News* Collection at the Newport Historical Society. In this issue of *Newport History* are thirteen photographs from the Newport Historical Society's recent exhibit, "Newport Schools in the *News*," selected by the exhibit's curator, M. Joan Youngken. They document the daily lives of teachers and students in Newport's schools from 1906 to 1965.