Bret Harte in Newport

Carbon 14 Testing of the Newport Tower Reconsidered

From the Collection
OFFICERS
Bradford A. Becken, President
Richard B. Sheffield, 1st Vice President
Ronald J. Onorato, 2nd Vice President
Howard F. Burdick, Jr., Secretary
Joseph F. Neil, Treasurer
Samuel M.C. Barker, President Emeritus

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Brig. Gen. John C. Burney
Evelyn Cherpak
Elizabeth B. Connelly
Constance F. Dealy
Theodore L. Gatchel
Nancy W. Heer
Jack Jefferies
Eleanor Keys
A. Curtis LaFrance
Curtis Magee
Charles P. Neimeyer
Maureen Manton O’Gorman
Brooke Roberts
Dominic C. Varisco
Stephen G.W. Walk

STAFF
Daniel Snydacker, Jr., Ph.D.
Executive Director of the Society
Cynthia Fish
Administrative Assistant
Bertram Lippincott III, C.G.
Librarian
Kirtley S. Mitchell
Director of Development
Ronald M. Potvin
Curator of Library Special Collections
Pieter Roos
Director of Education
Kate Sexton
Membership Sec./Executive Assistant
M. Joan Youngken
Deputy Director For Collections

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE
Theodore L. Gatchel, Co-Chair
John B. Hattendorf, D. Phil., Co-Chair
Hugh D. Auchincloss, Jr.
Jane E. Carey
A. Curtis LaFrance
Curtis Magee
Heath Twichell
Ronald M. Potvin, Editor
M. Joan Youngken
Bradford A. Becken, Ex-Officio
Daniel Snydacker, Jr., Executive Director

Cover: This photograph of Bret Harte may have been taken in 1871 during his stay in Newport. Courtesy of Gary Scharnhorst. Original owned by John Bret-Harte.

Membership in the Newport Historical Society is renewed annually. Current membership fees: Individual, $30; Family, $40; Business/Professional, $50; Supporting, $60; Contributing, $100; Corporate, $175; Sponsor, $250; and Life, $1,000. Those interested in becoming members are cordially invited to do so. A membership form can be found on the back pages. Newport History is published quarterly, October, March, April, July. $10 of the membership fee is for a subscription to Newport History for one year. Contributions and membership dues are deductible to the extent allowed by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. All correspondence regarding membership including subscriptions to Newport History, should be addressed to the Society. Newport History is published quarterly by the Newport Historical Society, Museum and Library with the assistance of a grant from the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Lincoln Almond, Governor. All classes of membership include a subscription to Newport History. Institutions may subscribe to this journal at the rate of $10 annually. Articles appearing in Newport History are abstracted and indexed in Historical Abstracts and/or America: History and Life published by the American Bibliographical Center. Newport History solicits original articles on any aspect of Newport County history. All submissions will be considered by the Publications Committee for publication. Obtain information from the editor at Society headquarters.

Copyright © 1998 by the Known Office of Publication Newport Historical Society, 82 Touro Street, Newport, Rl 02840; (401) 846-0813. USPS 384380 All rights reserved, Printed by R.E. Smith Printing Company, Fall River, MA. Periodicals postage paid at Newport, RI, ISSN 0028-8918. Postmaster - Send address changes to: Newport Historical Society, 82 Touro St., Newport, RI 02840.

Printed on recycled paper.
# Table of Contents

Editor's Note: .......................................................... V

"How Genuinely Unaffected a Man He Was"
Bret Harte in Newport
   *Gary Scharnhorst* ........................................... 1

On the Carbon-14 Analyses of Mortar From the Newport Tower: Theoretical Considerations
   *Andre J. de Bethune, Ph.D* ............................... 18

From the Collection:
   Family Association Newsletters .......................... 27

*Of her association with Newport's literary summer colony, Julia Ward Howe wrote, "My club-loving mind found sure material for many pleasant meetings, and a little band of us combined to improve the beautiful summer season by picnics, sailing parties, and household soirees, in all of which these brilliant literary lights took part."*
NEW MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL
Claire H. Benson
Cdr. Roy H. Callahan USN (Ret)
Jenny Chirchirillo
Paul L. Gaines
Arek W. Galle
Roger B. Gilman
Patricia Hastings
Roy D. Lauth
Stephen T. Lawton
Liz Mathinos
Connie May
Robert G. McClain
Jane S. Miner
Michael Moses
Thomas A. Perotti
Anthony C. Pertoso, Jr.
Edward A. Sokoloski
Claire Tague
Daniel P. Titus
Harry M. Wilson
Mrs. J.B. Wilson

FAMILY
John & Carol Bilacic
Dr. J. Richard & Mrs. Carlyne Durna
Steve & Linn Freedman
Gale & Darius “Peter” Goff
Mr. & Mrs. G. Randy La Cava
Mr. & Mrs. David P. Leys
Dr. & Mrs. William J. Maxwell
Melissa Joly Picard & Eric Picard
Abby Van Pelt & Jeff Silverman
P. Scott & Dorothea Thomas
Carl & Kathleen Townsend
William Allen & Barbara Westerm
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Wright
John & Rhonda Wyman & Family
Mr. & Mrs. John E. Yocom

CONTRIBUTING
Jerrold & Jane Goodman

SUPPORTING
Kathleen Lawrence
National Society of Colonial Dames of America
Brian M. Stinson

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL
Jim & Wendy Bolster
Bruce Crawford
Gustave J.S. White Real Estate
Public Library of Cincinnati
Robert A.M. Stern Architects
The Newport Historical Society
Museum and Library

The Newport Historical Society has maintained a library and museum of Newport and Rhode Island history since its incorporation in 1854. For almost 150 years the Society has continued to grow both in membership and in the extent and diversity of its collection.

Society activities include lectures, walking tours, and educational outreach programs and special events. The Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House, built in 1730, now attached to the main building, is a treasure of colonial architecture. The library and manuscript collections contain a wealth of information for researchers.

HOURS: The Society’s research facilities are open to the public
Tuesday through Friday 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
Saturday (September 1 to Mid-June) 9:30 A.M. to 12 Noon
(Mid-June to August 31) 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

For information on current exhibits and programs please call (401) 846-0813

The Museum of Newport History at the Brick Market is an entertaining, multidimensional exhibit of over 350 years of Newport history told through objects, images, and paintings, as well as state-of-the-art interactive computers and videos. On display are examples of Newport’s finest colonial furniture, samplers, and manuscripts, as well as artifacts representing all walks of life from Newport’s colorful past.

The Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House, 17 Broadway, illustrates the history of Colonial America through the daily life of individual Newporters.
Call the Society for hours.

The Quaker Meeting House, built in 1699, the oldest religious structure in Newport is open for viewing by appointment.
Become a Member of the
Newport Historical Society

Membership Benefits

❖ Unlimited free admission to the award-winning Museum of Newport History at the Brick Market.
❖ Free copy of Newport: A Short History, a lively history of the area from its settlement by Native Americans.
❖ Subscription to the quarterly journal Newport History, which contains a variety of articles on Newport County's past, and a periodic newsletter with information about the Society's activities.
❖ Free admission to Walking Tours of Historic Newport.
❖ Free admission to the Society's historic sites: The Wanton-Lyman Hazard House, the Friends Meeting House, and the Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House.
❖ Reduced rates for all educational programs, special events, and activities.
❖ Reduced rates on all services (photographic, genealogical research, etc.)
❖ Discount on all items sold by the Society.

Membership Form

Life Membership $1,000 ______ Supporting ______
Sponsor 250 ______ Business / Professional 50 ______
Corporate 175 ______ Family 40 ______
Contributing 100 ______ Individual 30 ______

Complete and mail this form with check for appropriate amount to:
The Newport Historical Society, 82 Touro Street, Newport, RI 02840

Name ____________________________________________________________

Street ___________________________________________ Phone __________________

City __________________________ State ______ Zip Code _____________