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Editor's Note

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Editor's Note:

With this issue of *Newport History*, we cross Newport Harbor and Narragansett Bay to examine "Some Jamestown Summer People," as written by Mary R. Miner. The Jamestown Summer Colony was a community separated from the more well-known "watering hole" in Newport not only by water, but also by the diversity of its members and the types of activities in which they participated. From wealthy industrialists, to Navy officers and enlisted men, to retired school teachers, Jamestown's summer residents chose fishing, swimming, and picnics over the more elaborate pastimes of coaching and formal parties enjoyed by their neighbors across the bay. The Jamestown Summer Colony was governed almost exclusively by relaxation.

Mary R. Miner was a Jamestown summer resident from 1942-1954 and has been a year-round resident since then. She was a member of the Newport Historical Society Board of Directors from 1988-1995, and currently is the archivist at the Jamestown Historical Society and the co-chair of the Newport Historical Society Museum Committee. She also serves as a member of the Newport Historical Society Building Planning Committee and is unflagging as a volunteer cataloguer and researcher in the Society's museum collections. She was the recipient of the Newport Historical Society's 1996 Volunteer of the Year Award.

If imitation truly is the sincerest form of flattery, then the statue of the Comte de Rochambeau designed by Fernand Hamar and installed in the Place St. Martin in Paris in 1900 is among the most flattered sculptures in the world. Four versions of this statue exist today, including one in Newport in King Park, the landing site of Rochambeau and his army in 1780. With French assistance, the American colonies won their independence from Great Britain. A. Curtis LaFrance, the author of "History of the Rochambeau Statue," writes that Newport's "Rochambeau statue remains an enduring symbol of that assistance."

A. Curtis LaFrance was born and raised in Elmira, New York, and received his B.A. with a French major from Yale in 1935. He held teaching positions at Lycée de Garçons, Brest, France, and at Yale. In 1937, he received an M.A. in Slavic languages from Columbia, then spent a year at Charles University in Prague, Czechoslovakia, studying for a Ph.D. He was in government service from 1939-1953, and in the fire apparatus export business until retirement in 1977. In that year he moved to Newport and became actively involved in community service. He currently is a member of the Board of Directors of the Newport Historical Society and serves on the Society's Publications Committee.

Also in this issue, "From the Collection" offers insights into the use of museum objects as research sources.