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## Editor's Note

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The French Naval presence in Newport at the time of the Revolutionary War was the subject of a special double issue of *Newport History* in 2003. Caroline Frank now revisits this topic with a fresh slant, examining the social and cultural implications of the relationship between a French officer and the daughter of a local Quaker family. Ms. Frank is a Ph.D. Candidate in the American Civilization Department at Brown University in Providence. Her affiliation with the institution began with work as a grant writer on Higher Education Policy between 2000 and 2001, followed by enrollment in Brown's Museum Studies Program, from which she received a Master's degree in 2003. Prior to her work at Brown, she earned a B.A. (1979) and M.A. (1980) in Anthropology from the University of Chicago. She applies this background today as director of an archaeology project on a colonial farm in Warwick, and by participating in undersea archaeology of Revolutionary-era shipwrecks in Narragansett Bay. Ms. Frank has also worked as a reporter covering Wall Street for Time, Inc., and as a grant writer for the New York University Medical Center.

Bertram Lippincott III is well-known in the area as the Reference Librarian and Genealogist for the Newport Historical Society, a post he has held since 1986. He last wrote for *Newport History* in the Fall of 1991 on Shamrock Cliff, the Ocean Drive estate of the Hutton family. This time, he turns his attention to the philanthropic Mason sisters and their unusual Rhode Island Avenue cottage, designed in 1901 by architect Irving Gill in a Spanish Renaissance Revival style derived from California Missions. Mr. Lippincott holds a B.A. (1980) in History from the University of Rhode Island, and has received Board Certifications in Genealogy since 1986. At the Newport Historical Society, he is also currently the Acting Curator of Manuscripts. In addition, he serves as the Registrar for the Rhode Island Society of Colonial Wars.

Paul F. Miller, Curator at the Preservation Society of Newport County, offers a second and last installment (see also the Fall 2005 issue) of an article derived from his exhibition *Lost Houses of Newport*, displayed at The Elms during the summer and fall of 2005. The great critical and popular success of this show bodes well for the next exhibition that Mr. Miller will mount from 8 April through late October of 2006 at the Rosecliff Costume Galleries. Focusing on historic dress, this exhibition will be titled *Pilgrims to Park Avenue: The Marguerite Almy Allyn Collection, 150 Years of Family Fashion*.