

4-1-2012

Editor's Note

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Recommended Citation

Yarnall, James L. (2012) "Editor's Note," *Newport History*: Vol. 81: Iss. 266, Article 1.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.salve.edu/newporthistory/vol81/iss266/1>

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Editor's Note

With this issue of *Newport History*, the Newport Historical Society celebrates the beginning of its one-hundredth year of publishing a journal focused on the history and culture of Newport County. Produced under the title *Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society* from 1912 to 1963 in 112 issues, the journal has since 1964 continued under the title *Newport History* for an additional 154 issues, including the present number. The Society is proud to celebrate the centennial year of the journal and looks forward to its second century.

In this issue of *Newport History*, both articles focus on the accomplishments of a handful of privileged individuals who left their mark on the cultural life of Aquidneck Island during the Gilded Age. These men and women of means were quite different from the better-known Vanderbilts, Astors, and Belmonts, who enlisted grand architecture and social pageantry to promote aristocratic status. Rather, the subjects of this issue of the journal pursued distinctive intellectual and personal interests, and embraced architectural styles that mirrored a lifestyle centered on quiet self-fulfillment.

In the lead article, Peter Colt Josephs draws upon a large collection of family papers and photographs in exploring an unusual residence originally called Louisiana, built during the early 1880s on Easton's Point in Middletown. Working from previously unpublished material, Mr. Josephs relates the complicated story of a patrician family immersed in American history, before explicating the history of Louisiana from the time of its construction through the World Wars. Peter Colt Josephs is the youngest grandchild of the patrons of the house, Alice V. Wilson Josephs and Lyman Colt Josephs. His life has been steeped in Newport history. He grew up on the original Easton's Farm (1640) on the west side of Paradise Avenue in Middletown, not far from Sachuest Beach. His maternal great-grandfather, U.S. Congressman William Paine Sheffield I, was a charter member of the Newport Historical Society. His grandmother, Mrs. Lyman Colt Josephs I, was a charter member of the Art Association of Newport.

The early education of Mr. Josephs included several public and private schools on Aquidneck Island and in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He received a diploma in 1957 from the Virginia Episcopal Diocese Christ Church School. In 1966, he graduated with an A.B. degree in Political Science from The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He holds teaching certificates for secondary English and Social Studies in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island. He went on to teach politics and economics as an Assistant Professor at Vernon Court Junior College in Newport from 1967 to 1968, leaving to pursue a Master's Degree in Constitutional Law at the University of Rhode Island. Social activism between 1964 and 1972 made him a catalyst in two organizations that effected important changes in 20th-century Rhode Island law in 1973. From 1978 to 1998, he held elective offices at the town level on Martha's

Vineyard, Massachusetts. To this day, he maintains his interests in social reform, public health, and conservation.

Mr. Josephs has previously published fiction and non-fiction in the *Vineyard Gazette* and *Yankee Magazine*. He has written for the old Dukes County Historical Society's *Intelligencer* and contributed in 1985 to the historical section of the *Town of Chilmark's Master Plan*. In 1974, he published *The Remarkable Brick Barns of Martha's Vineyard*, followed by a 1975 public health tract, *Ticks and Babesiosis (Disease) on Martha's Vineyard*, and a 2011 booklet *Megalith to Monolith: Pre-Columbian Fertility Monuments on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket*. His current project is a novella set in the 1950s.

Four of Newport's Renaissance men—Alexander Agassiz, Raphael Pumpelly, Theodore Montgomery Davis, and William Fitzhugh Whitehouse—are the subjects of an article by Dr. Evelyn M. Cherpak, Head of the Naval Historical Collection at the Naval War College in Newport since 1974. Her intriguing discussion of the lives and careers of these men not only reveals the accomplishments of four adventurous and genial personalities of Gilded Age Newport but also paints a picture of the cultural context surrounding those not caught up in the familiar rituals of New York society.

Dr. Cherpak earned her Ph.D. in 1973 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an M.A. in 1965 from the University of Pennsylvania, and a B.A. in 1963 from Connecticut College. She has been active for more than a decade in studies of women in the Navy. Her previous articles in *Newport History* include *The Women Officers School at Newport, 1949-1973* (vol. 75, no. 255, Fall 2006) and *The Naval Historical Collection, 1969-2009: Forty Years of Collecting Naval History* (vol. 78, no. 261, Fall 2009).