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Editor's Note

Elizabeth C. Stevens

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Editor's Note

Our Winter/Spring issue of *Newport History* presents a combination of visual and intellectual delights. In her article, "A Web of Commemoration: Mary Clark Sturtevant and the Berkeley Memorial Chapel, 1881-1934," Sara A. Butler deftly tells a family history that intertwines with the founding of St Columba's, the Berkeley Memorial Chapel, in Middletown. In so doing, she takes us beyond the Gilded Age transformation of Newport to the development of another part of Aquidneck Island which has been less documented. She combines the significant story of Bishop George Berkeley who moved to Newport in 1729, with the nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century family history of Mary Clark Sturtevant, a preservationist, whose vision and determination led to the building of the memorial chapel. The author describes the "web of commemoration" that binds the Berkeley saga, the late-nineteenth-century development of Middletown, and family history in the shape of a "jewelbox" building adorned with significant decorative details. The exquisite photographs of Sarah Long, an NHS staff member, adorn the author's analysis of St. Columba's. Sara A. Butler is a professor of art and architectural history at Roger Williams University where she teaches courses on American art and architecture. and Newport art and architecture. She has lectured and published on American landscapes, commemoration and memory and American public art.

Our second article, "Behind the Camera," celebrates the Newport Historical Society's acquisition of a significant treasure trove of twentieth-century photographs taken by John T. Hopf, a Newport man who chronicled his native town for some seven decades. John T. Hopf photographed all manner of Newport life, from America's Cup races to shots that document the transformation of Newport in the 1960s. From "behind the camera," he caught family portraits, festivals, contests, newsworthy events, and familiar streetscapes. Significantly, Hopf made a specialty of aerial photographs and was the first to document Newport from the air. His extensive collection of photographs and negatives was recently donated to NHS by his wife Audrey Hopf, who advised the authors of this article, NHS Deputy Director and Director of Education Ingrid Peters and Sarah Long, Manager of Academic Services and Photo Archives at the Newport Historical Society. The result is, "Behind the Camera," in which Peters and Long provide an introduction to Hopf's life as a photographer, and then have carefully selected photographs from the Hopf Collection that demonstrate the breadth and depth of Hopf's work. Their article conveys the immeasurable value of the Hopf collection to the study of twentieth-century Newport history.

Elizabeth C. Stevens

EDITOR