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Editor's Note

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Although apparently on quite different topics, both articles in this Summer/Fall 2018 issue of *Newport History* remind us that one strand of Newport's history in the last two centuries is inextricably bound with efforts to attract and entertain seasonal visitors. In the mid-nineteenth century, Newport flourished in the summer as impressive hostelrys were constructed and new modes of transportation facilitated travel to the area. At this time, the city became an internationally famed destination for seasonal travelers and vacationers. Brian Knoth, in "Music and Dancing at the 'Queen of Resorts': The Impact of the Germania Musical Society on Newport's Hotel Period," takes a closer look at one aspect of the magical summer scene at this time when he argues that a dashing ensemble of émigré musicians—the Germania Musical Society—was key to the burnishing and success of Newport's "hotel culture." Brian Knoth, a media artist, composer, researcher, and educator, is an Assistant Professor of Media Communication at Rhode Island College. He earned an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Music and Multimedia at Brown University and has also published recently in the *International Journal of Performance Arts and Digital Media*.

The second half of the twentieth century marked a decisive turning point in the "renewal" of the physical landscape near the Newport harbor front. Devon T. King, in "Cleared for Curation: America's Cup Avenue and the Creation of Newport's 'Historic' Downtown," aptly presents the history of plans to re-make this historic area—efforts that stretched back into the nineteenth century. It took at least half a century for the city to begin to realize those plans. It was another several decades before demolition and construction in the downtown area were completed. Using maps, models and photographs, King lays out the various twentieth-century redevelopment efforts that resulted in a radically redrawn cityscape. A recent graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he studied history, King was a Buchanan Burnham fellow at the Newport Historical Society in the summer of 2018. He is continuing his studies in preservation and urban planning, and currently works in the Boston area with an architectural preservation firm.

Elizabeth C. Stevens
EDITOR