Editor's Note

Ronald M. Potvin
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Observant readers of Newport History have already noticed a small change in the title of our journal. As of the previous issue, the subtitle has been changed from “Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society” to “Journal of the Newport Historical Society.” The Publications Committee of the Society felt that the new subtitle was in keeping with the increasingly high standards of quality of our publication and a more accurate reflection of the goals and achievements of Newport History. We understand that the word “bulletin” is ingrained in the lexicon of our long-time readers, some of whom have collections that date back to the very first issue in 1912. Though at first the words “the Journal” may not roll off the tongue as easily as “the Bulletin,” our members should say it with pride in the publication they receive every quarter.

With this issue, Newport History shares with its readers the memories of one of Newport’s long-time residents, John G. Winslow, using extracts from a recently completed oral history. Mr. Winslow contributes his extensive and intimate knowledge of the history and architecture of Bellevue Avenue. The article that we publish in this issue is only a tiny fraction of the wealth of information that resulted from the John G. Winslow oral history project. The total project amounted to over eight hours of interviews and over 300 pages of important historical information, which currently is being processed at the Historical Society and will be made available to researchers soon.

John G. Winslow was born on September 22, 1917. He attended Buckley School in New York City and St. George’s School in Middletown, Rhode Island. He worked for City Bank of New York for forty years until retiring in 1975. He served in the Army during World War II through five battle campaigns, enlisting as a private and leaving as a captain at the end of the war. He has been President of Bailey’s Beach for nearly thirty years and was President and Chairman of the Board of the Preservation Society of Newport County from 1977 to 1989. His mother, Mrs. Garrow T. (Rose Kane) Geer, was a Trustee of the Newport Historical Society.

The John G. Winslow Oral History Project was sponsored by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission and the Newport Historical Society, with funds provided by the State of Rhode Island. The project was coordinated by Linda Wood, who also was the principal interviewer. Linda Wood is an oral historian and past President of the New England Oral History Association. Newport History is the first publication to present extracts from this lengthy and important oral history, the latest of many the Society has conducted. This is a reflection of the ongoing commitment of the Newport Historical Society to the preservation of our history in all media.