Editor's Note

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EDITOR’S NOTES

It is with pleasure that the Newport Historical Society presents the following article titled “John Howard Benson and the John Stevens Shop” by Fisher Benson. John Howard Benson is fondly remembered by the Newport Historical Society as a contributor to the history and beauty of Newport. He was also on the Society’s board of directors from 1934 until his death in 1956.

John Howard Benson was a man of virtue. He drew his inspiration from the ideals of the ancients and from the carving traditions of the eighteenth century. At his workshop, The John Stevens Shop, Benson carried on his work in the traditional method of stonecutting.

The Society is proud to have several items associated with JHB and the John Stevens Shop in the museum collection. These items have been catalogued in the appendix to this article. The information in the appendix has been compiled from the resources of the Newport Historical Society and has been written in consultation with Esther Fisher Benson and Gladys Bolhouse.

The Newport Historical Society wishes to extend their appreciation to Esther Fisher Benson. Mrs. Benson has been involved with the Newport Historical Society for many years. A member since 1933, Fisher Benson was appointed to the Board of Directors in 1973, and in 1982 was elected Second Vice President. She is also the treasurer of the Friends Meeting House Committee with which she is very active.

Fisher Benson has also assisted the society in many volunteer efforts. She was chairwoman of the Oldport Committee and coordinator of the society’s walking tours for many years. A past issue of Newport History, number 112, published in 1963 featured an article by Esther Fisher Benson titled “The History of the John Stevens Shop”.

N.E.G.