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Editor's Note

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Over the past few years a number of short articles have been submitted for inclusion in *Newport History*. These articles, from contributors who want to share their favorite story, show the reader a personal side of Newport history and include descriptions of interesting people and events from the City's past.

James Cole tells us that America's first native-born circus performer was from Newport. Christopher Gardner was a horseman and son of Captain Henry Gardner, owner of a tavern on Tanner Street. Christopher Gardner was the first in a long history of circus performers to thrill Newporters.

Mrs. Edith (Jurgens) Tilley, a Jamestown resident, reminisces with pride in the care with which the "Lily of the Valley" was raised in her family's greenhouse. Harold L. Scott, a resident of the State of Maryland, remembers the kindness shown to his ancestor Thomas Fatkin and to other survivors of the wreck of the brig *Sutledj*.

Susan Braley Franklin was a very special woman to many Newport students and their families but particularly to John O.C. McCrillis. In his story John McCrillis fondly remembers Miss Franklin as 'scholar and mentor.'

Boarding houses were popular "homes away from home" as early as 1774. Many Newporters of the early twentieth century recall the "good of days" while speaking of boarding houses operated by Mr. Abraham Potter, the Misses Hannah and Mary Wilbour, Mrs. Dame and many more. Mrs. Virginia Covell shares with the reader her appreciation for the quality of life in the boarding house.

How do most of Newport's legends get started? Are they invented just for the sake of the many tourists that visit the City? Most of the time the stories are based on historical facts that are misinterpreted. The cottage "Shamrock Cliff" has often been said to have been built as a birthday present for Barbara Hutton, the Woolworth heiress. Bertram Lippincott, the Society's librarian, has disproved this legend. His research has shown that "Shamrock Cliff" was owned by an unrelated Hutton family with a fascinating history of its own.