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Editor's Note

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Editor's Note

This issue of *Newport History* features an extensive study of Solomon Southwick, a Newport native who became the printer and editor of the *Newport Mercury*, and an important voice for American independence. The author of his complex and fascinating story is C. Deirdre Phelps, who shares ancestry with Southwick—who was in turn a descendant of Lawrence and Cassandra Southwick, the Quaker martyrs of Salem, Massachusetts.

C. Deirdre Phelps holds a Ph.D. in English from Boston University (1993), along with three Masters degrees: an M.A. in English from Boston University (1987); an M.A. in History from Boston University (1986); and an M.S.L.S in Library Science from Columbia University (1984). Dr. Phelps is currently an independent scholar. She served on the Board of Directors of the American Printing History Association from 1992 to 1994, and as President of the New England Chapter of the association from 1985 to 1986.

Dr. Phelps condensed the study of Southwick presented here from a monograph that she produced in 2001: “Solomon Southwick (1731-1797): Patriotic Printer of Rhode Island.” She is also the author of two articles on related topics: “The First Publication to Use American-Made Type” in *Printing History, The Journal of the American Printing History Association* (1985); and “Printing, Publishing, and Bookselling in Salem, Massachusetts, 1825-1900,” published in the *Essex Institute Historical Collections* in October of 1988.

The photograph spread in this issue celebrates the recent issuance of the third edition of C.P.B. Jefferys’ brief monograph on Newport. First published by the Newport Historical Society in 1976, and then revised by its Publications Committee and republished by the Society in 1992, this “vest pocket” history of Newport has been continually popular over the decades—and there is no doubt that the latest edition will be the same for years to come.