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Editor's Note

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Editor's Note

During the year leading up to her one-hundredth birthday on 3 January 2010, Natalie N. Nicholson compiled a memoir about growing up on Prospect and Paradise Avenues in Middletown. As her longtime friend and as Editor of *Newport History*, I feel privileged to see this memoir through to publication in this issue of the journal.

Ms. Nicholson enrolled at Simmons College in Boston in 1928, and graduated with a S.B. (Bachelor of Science) in the Class of 1932. Soon after graduation, she embarked on a career as a professional librarian. From 1932 to 1937, Ms. Nicholson worked in downtown Boston at the Kirstein Business Library, a branch of the Boston Public Library. For the next seventeen years, she served as Librarian for the Graduate School of Engineering Sciences at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1954, she took the position of Reference Librarian for the MIT Libraries at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge. Between 1956 and 1972, she successively served as Executive Assistant to the Director, Associate Director, and Acting Director for the MIT Libraries. She then served as the Director from 1972 until her retirement in 1975.



James L. Yarnall, Editor of Newport History, and Natalie N. Nicholson attend the celebration of her one-hundredth birthday on 3 January 2010 at the Nina Lynette home in Newport. Photograph by Donnandrea Stemle.

Throughout her career, Ms. Nicholson was very active in library associations in the Boston area. She was also the recipient of a Carnegie Fellowship from the Rutgers School of Library Science from March to May of 1958. Targeted to those anticipated to become library directors, this prestigious fellowship also resulted in her article entitled "Centralization of Science Libraries at Johns Hopkins University" that was published in 1960 by Rutgers University Press in *Studies in Library Administration Problems*. She was also the author of many other articles on library administration. She received the Simmons College 1972 Third Annual Alumni Achievement Award for her work in libraries.

After returning to live in her childhood home on Prospect Avenue in Middletown in 1975, Ms. Nicholson became active in the Middletown Historical Society. She served on its Board and set up its Archives. She also became an active member of the Middletown Garden Club, and participated in the ceremony dedicating Paradise Park in 1993. Ms. Nicholson and I co-authored an article recognized with the Newport Historical Society's 2002 Award for Excellence in *Newport History*: "'A Grand Landscape in Miniature:' Great Rock, Paradise Farm, and the Barkers of Middletown" (vol. 70, 2000, pp. 97-124).

Zachary O'Brien, a senior majoring in Graphic Design at Salve Regina University, designed the map (inserted at the center of the article), showing the individuals and places mentioned in Ms. Nicholson's memoir.

Dr. John B. Hattendorf has been a moving force behind *Newport History* for the past twenty-one years, serving throughout that period as either Chair or Co-chair of the Publications Committee of the Newport Historical Society. From 1989 to 1996, he also served on the Board of Directors of the Society. To this issue of the journal, he contributes an article revisiting the impact of the closure of Rhode Island's naval bases at Quonset Point and Newport in 1973.

Dr. Hattendorf holds degrees in history from Kenyon College (1964), Brown University (1971), and the University of Oxford, where he completed his D.Phil. in war history at Pembroke College in 1979. He has published over forty books and numerous articles in the field of maritime history, and was editor-in-chief of the multivolume *Oxford Encyclopedia of Maritime History* (2007), which was awarded the Dartmouth Medal of the American Library Association in 2008. His most recent work is a three-volume series on *U.S. Naval Strategy: Selected Documents* from the 1970s through the 1990s. He has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards from both naval and civilian sources.

Since 1984, Dr. Hattendorf has been the Ernest J. King Professor of Maritime History at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, and is additionally the Chairman of the Maritime History Department. Since 2003, he also has been Director of the Naval War College Museum.