

10-1-2010

Editor's Note

James L. Yarnall

Newport Historical Society, jyarnall@newporthistorical.org

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.salve.edu/newporthistory>

Recommended Citation

Yarnall, James L. (2010) "Editor's Note," *Newport History*: Vol. 79: Iss. 263, Article 1.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.salve.edu/newporthistory/vol79/iss263/1>

This Editorial is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Salve Regina. It has been accepted for inclusion in Newport History by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Salve Regina. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@salve.edu.

Editor's Note

The plight of American prisoners held by the British in New York City during the Revolutionary War has been the topic over the years of several in-depth books and articles. In an earlier issue of *Newport History*, D.K. Abbass also touched on the plight of these prisoners during the British occupation of Newport between 1776 and 1779 (“*Endeavour and Resolution Revisited: Newport and Captain James Cook’s Vessels*,” *Newport History*, vol. 70, pt. 1, no. 242 [1999], pp. 1-19). In this issue of the journal, Christian McBurney provides the first extended study of the British treatment of prisoners on prison ships and in jails during the Newport occupation. He concludes that, while there were some similarities in the unfortunate way in which American prisoners were treated in New York and Newport, there were also some important differences that at times made prison life in Newport more tolerable.

Mr. McBurney received his B.A. from Brown University in 1981 and J.D. from New York University in 1985. He has been a partner since 1990 in the law firm of Nixon Peabody LLP in its Washington, D.C. office. His past publications include *A History of Kingston, R.I. 1700-1900*, published in 2004 by the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society, and “Cato Pearce’s Memoir: A Rhode Island Slave Narrative,” published recently in *Rhode Island History* (vol. 67, Winter-Spring 2009, pp. 3-25).

This article grew out of Mr. McBurney’s extensive study of all aspects of the British occupation of Newport from 1776 to 1779. In the spring of 2011, Westholme Publishing in Yardley, Pennsylvania is scheduled to release his new book on the failed French-American attempt to capture the British garrison in Newport in 1778. He hopes to publish more on the topic of the British occupation of Newport in the near future.

This issue concludes with a spread of period photographs of the interior and grounds of the Edward King House, the largest and most lavish mansion in Newport before the Civil War. These photographs for the most part still hang on the walls of the house, which has been used since 1969 as the Senior Center for the city of Newport. The Newport Historical Society is grateful to the Senior Center for allowing the photographs to be reproduced here for the first time.