Editor’s Note

James L. Yarnall
Newport Historical Society, jyarnall@newporthistorical.org

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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.


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.