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## Editor's Note

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In November 1663, John Clarke arrived in Newport with a new Charter for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Granted by King Charles II four months earlier, the Charter was groundbreaking in containing for the first time a monarch's guarantee of freedom of religion. In 2013, organizations throughout the state of Rhode Island plan to celebrate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the Charter with a host of commemorative ceremonies.

In this issue of *Newport History*, Tracy Jonsson provides a detailed analysis of the Charter and its impact. Her study includes the Charter's background, its primary importance in the establishment and future of religious toleration in this country, the lesser-known role it played in land quarrels among neighboring New England states, and its strong influence on the taxation disputes that made Newport an instigator of the American Revolution. Ms. Jonsson received a B.S. in Historic Preservation from Roger Williams University in Bristol in 2011, with Minors in Art History and Anthropology. She continued on at the same institution to earn an M.S. in Historic Preservation in 2013. Her past employment in Newport includes work at the Museum of Yachting and the Preservation Society of Newport County. During the summer of 2012, she was a Buchanan/Burnham intern at the Newport Historical Society, where she focused her research on the Rhode Island Charter. She currently is a student recruiter at the Paul W. Crowley East Bay Met School in Newport.

In 1663, the Charter arrived in Newport on the threshold of explosive growth fueled by maritime commerce. During Newport's subsequent "Golden Age" leading up to the Revolution, merchant wealth and civic pride fostered a flowering of sophisticated architecture inspired by English styles of the Georgian era—the period from 1714 to 1830 when four monarchs named George occupied the British throne. The second article in this issue of *Newport History* is a photographic essay on Georgian architecture in Newport prepared by the Editor in collaboration with Jennifer L. Robinson, a Collections Assistant at the Newport Historical Society whose main focus is on the photographic collection. This is the second photograph spread co-authored by them in the journal; the first on the Belair estate of George Henry Norman appeared in the Fall 2012 issue.

Jennifer L. Robinson holds a B.S. in Textiles, Fashion Merchandising, and Design from the University of Rhode Island. After graduating in 2009, she took online courses to supplement her interests in the care of museum textiles (Northern States Conservation Center, St. Paul, Minnesota), in architectural history (Oxford University [England] Continuing Education), and in historic preservation (Boston Architectural College). During the summer of 2009, she was a Buchanan/Burnham Intern at the Newport Historical Society, where she helped to curate an eighteenth-century fashion exhibit, *From Homespun to High Fashion*. The following year, she worked as a Visitor Services Associate and Tour Guide for the Society's Museum and Shop at the Brick Market. In addition to her current work at the Society related to the photographic collections, she assists researchers, catalogues and rehouses objects, and helps with exhibits, among other collections-related tasks.