



The Rhode Island Historical Society

Notes and News

SPRING / SUMMER 2009

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ALDRICH HOUSE
110 Benevolent Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02906
PH: 401.331.8575
FAX: 401.351.0127
WEB: WWW.RIHS.ORG

JOHN BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM
52 Power Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02906
PH: 401.273.7507

LIBRARY
121 Hope Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02906
401.273.8107

MUSEUM OF WORK & CULTURE
42 South Main Street
Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895
401.769.9675

FRONT COVER PHOTO
Beaded bag of linen, silk, and glass beads, ca. 1860.
Gift of Mrs. Edgard (Mildred C.) Brunshwig,
1982.14.35.
In the mid-19th century, beaded bags were popular accessories.

Support the RIHS and Be Part of History

The Rhode Island Historical Society is a nonprofit organization sustained by our many generous donors, members and volunteers. While we preserve the past, our members and donors ensure our future through membership fees, special gifts, and donations. Rhode Island's history is the story of all the people who have lived here. We need your help to tell those stories. It is Spring Appeal time, so please remember us during this time of renewal!

MEMBERSHIP

Whether you join at the Basic Level or opt for a Lifetime Membership, your membership in the Rhode Island Historical Society supports our mission to collect, preserve and share our State's rich history. For more information please contact Ms. Mary Lou Upham at 401-331-8575, ext. 33.

HOW YOU CAN DONATE

For information on ways to give, please call the Development office at 401-331-8575, ext. 33, or mlupham@rihs.org.



Voice From The Past President Abraham Lincoln

On February 12, 2009, over 400 members and guests celebrated the 200th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's birth! Actor Robb Dimmick enthralled the audience with his acclaimed one-man performance of President Lincoln, entitled *A. Lincoln Portrait*.



Actor Robb Dimmick

The event was held at the First Unitarian Church, Providence. A reception followed, catered by Decadent Catering. We are so grateful to the evening's *Presenting Sponsor*, Capital Properties, Inc., and our other sponsors: Captain Nicholas Brown, George Goodwin, Ph.D., Hull Graphics, Inc., Mandel & Tracy, LLC, PrintSource, Ms. Carla and Dr. Russell Ricci, Mr. Dennis Stark, Winifred Brownell, Ph.D., URI, Luther W. Spoehr, Ph.D and Kathryn T. Spoehr, Ph.D.

The Society continues to celebrate the bicentennial of President Abraham Lincoln's birth with an exhibit that takes a look at life in Rhode Island during the 1860s: **Rhode Island in the Time of Lincoln**. The exhibit will be open through the Spring on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Aldrich House, 110 Benevolent Street, Providence.



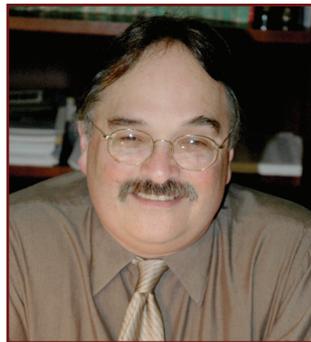
First Unitarian Church

Keep the Faith

By Bernard Fishman, Executive Director

As we endure the most dangerous economic climate that most of us have yet known in our lives, we can be sure that non-profit groups, especially cultural providers like museums and historical organizations, will suffer disproportionately. What lies in store for the Rhode Island Historical Society?

I'm sure we will endure, though not without painful adjustments. We lost half our state support this fiscal year, and have already reduced our institutional budget by 5%. But we have endured almost 200 years of history already, and innumerable ups and downs. We have survived one Great Depression, plus wars, fires, floods and political upheavals. Many of you will recall that only six years ago we were facing one of the grimmest financial situations in our whole history. But with a staff and board coming together behind a single, unified institutional vision, we managed to turn that enormously threatening situation around. We restored our finances, brought our endowments to the highest level in our history, and raised almost \$3 million for building restoration and technology enhancements. We created the Newell D. Goff Education Center with a new staff and a host of new educational programs. We utterly transformed collections management and instituted the first on-line public access collections catalogue. We established a campaign to create the first endowment for the Museum of Work and Culture. We made the Society stronger than ever before. That new strength will help provide the margin we need to overcome this current crisis. Of course, what really protects our future is that what the Society does, in collecting and preserving our special history and using it for education: our work reaches about as close to what constitutes honoring the heart and soul of Rhode Island as is possible. Rhode Island



would not be the Rhode Island we know without the Rhode Island Historical Society.

Still, times are hard. Our endowments in the past eight months have lost 20% of their value, but they are still at their highest level compared to anytime before 2007. The loss of state support is grievous,

but our budgets are balanced, we have no debt, we have built up some modest financial reserves, and our essential work proceeds robustly. Our grant income is at an all-time high; our educational initiatives and capital improvement projects at the John Brown House and the Library are moving ahead.

Most importantly, the staff operational management that pulled us out of the earlier crisis is still in place, and in the interim has expanded its talents. In addition, many trustees presently on the Board were directly involved in the critical years of institutional rebuilding from 2002-2005 and carry their boldness and leadership success with them today. These human resources are our true capital, as the loyalty and interest of our supporters are our true treasures. With these, we can weather almost any storm. The high quality of our work, the resilience of our present finances even today, and our implacable push to sustain our fundamental educational, preservation and collection projects should give you confidence, but it is the inestimable quality of the people that organize and propel our activities, that should compel the truest and most sincere faith in our institutional future. In the service of history, you can look at what we have already achieved, and absolutely count on us.

Library Renovation: Let the Planning Proceed!

The Society's library at 121 Hope Street holds Rhode Island's most important historical collections of archives, photographs and maps, but its 1874 building is sadly in need of a makeover. A 2006 study revealed that it needs extensive roof and masonry repairs, window replacements, lots of exterior painting and restoration, vital upgrading of mechanical, electric and safety systems inside, and significant improvements to the HVAC system. Of special concern is the crowded and unplanned nature of the public spaces, and the lack of storage room for the ever-growing collections. Cornelis de Boer of Haynes/de Boer Associates, the recent winner of a competition to design resto-

ration and planning improvements for the building, has now completed the building's first renovation plans. In addition to the repairs, the plans envision replacing the wooden floor in the first floor reading room with a concrete slab that will support the installation of compact shelving, something which has the potential to greatly expand the library's storage capacity, while still allowing more efficient spaces for public research, small offices and staff functions. The price tag for this project will be in the \$1.2 million range; thankfully, we have already raised over \$300,000 for it, and will proceed with fundraising as fast as the economic recession will permit.

A Stitch in Time

By Dana Signe Munroe, Rhode Island Historical Society Registrar

At the John Brown House Museum, we use textiles to help create the illusion that the Brown family still lives in the house. We put covers on the beds, upholstered furniture in the rooms, linens on the tables, and clothes on the mannequins; the dressed mannequins in particular help visitors step into the past. Textiles cover our bodies and display our personalities; they adorn our furniture, floors and windows. In the museum, we can connect to 1820's Providence through a dress on display: we know that someone wore it, and went about her daily life in it just as we go through our daily lives in our clothes. We know how cotton, linen and wool feel against our bodies; when we see a man's wool undershirt from the 1850's we can almost sense its rough fibres irritating our skin.

An object displayed in the John Brown House Museum must satisfy several requirements: it must have been created or used between the late 18th and early 19th century, the time period we interpret on the first two floors of the house (on the third floor, the mid 19th century is represented in the hall); and it must be stable enough to withstand display, a particularly important consideration for historic costumes, which have typically seen more use, and have more flaws, than such items as table linens or bed hangings. If an object is stable enough for display, the collections staff will prepare it with a mount or support. Some supports are supplemental display systems, like cotton twill straps sewn into a waistband which allow us to attach the straps to a mannequin without pinning the object itself.

Although the textile collection includes items dating from the late 17th century through the present day, we do not always have every item for a mannequin's ensemble, and so supplement the collection objects with replicas. The waistcoat currently on display in the dining room of the John Brown House Museum is a collection item, but the shirt and trousers are not, for although we have men's shirts and trousers from the 18th century, we did not have a suitable shirt or trousers able to withstand display on a mannequin. This is often true for men's clothing, which, due to longer use, do not survive to get into our collection the way more rapidly changing women's fashions do. Because of the extensive time involved in researching, cutting, and sewing replica garments, the collections staff often prepares missing garment pieces at home. In order to complete the servant's costume, collections staff made the shirt and trousers for the waistcoat over a weekend; the shirt, trousers, and waistcoat for the child in the formal parlor were also made over a weekend.

Collections staff are currently making two reproductions of John Brown's original waistcoat, which was taken off display to protect it from further decay; one will be for display and one for children to try on. We are also working on a full set of undergarments for dresses from the early and mid 19th century periods. These will



Mannequins dressed in original and replica clothing on display at the John Brown House Museum.



Original garments, needlework, and upholstered furniture from the 18th century may be seen at the John Brown House Museum



Collections staff member Dana Munroe carefully sewed the banner to its exhibition support.



The banner on display in the Rhode Island in the Time of Abraham Lincoln exhibition currently at the Aldrich House

be made from cotton that will not harm or react with the original dresses, but will provide the proper support for the garments, so that they can be seen as they would have been worn.

We also prepare exhibit supports for textiles, most recently for the banner currently on display in the *Rhode Island in the Time of Lincoln* exhibit at the Aldrich House. Once we decided to display the banner, we examined the front and back for weaknesses, holes, or tears that could be further damaged by hanging the display; fortunately, the banner is in good condition. To keep it that way, a second, slightly larger backer-banner of unbleached, un-dyed cotton muslin was sewn together with a tube at the top and bottom edges for hanging poles. The original banner was carefully stitched to the backer-banner through the back of its red cotton border because the center, or field, is made of glazed linen. Puncturing the glazed linen with stitches would create permanent holes, irrevocably damaging the original, but the stitches made through the red cotton border will close when the banner is removed from the backer-banner.

Textile objects on display are changed every six months to limit their exposure to light, dust and stress. We hope you will visit the John Brown House Museum often and see our ever-changing Textile Collection on display! ❧

MARY LYON BELKNAP PORTRAIT (CA.1808-1888)



The Society recently acquired a charming portrait of Mary Lyon Belknap and a hand-drawn map of Belknap Farm, Johnston, Rhode Island. These items exemplify the way that the Society's collections are related across type, and the way that the Society records family history in multiple formats.

Mary Lyon Belknap was born around 1808 in Connecticut; she married Emor Belknap of Johnston in 1836. In the mid-eighteenth century, Emor's great-grandfather, Benjamin Belknap moved from Connecticut to Johnston. His house, built at what is now the intersection of Greenville and Pine Hill Avenues, was the site of the first Johnston town meeting on April 18, 1759, when Johnston became independent of Providence.

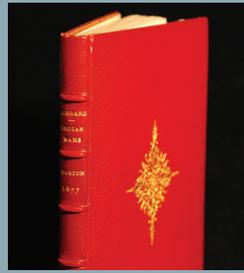
The portrait is said to have been made by an itinerant artist whose name has been lost. It is backed with a newspaper from 1824; from this, we estimate that the portrait shows Mary Lyon as a girl of about 16. Miss Lyon wears a high-waisted cream lawn dress with a blue skirt and portrait neckline edged with a sheer lace ruff; her tight sleeves and hairstyle, parted in the center and pulled back into an impressive round coiffure with side-ringlets, were quite fashionable at the time.

HAND-DRAWN MAP, BELKNAP FARM 1803

To outline the boundaries of the Belknap homestead, the map shows woodland areas filled in with rows of trees, dwarfed by a rabbit running to a "rocky corner," on the right, horse and rider travel down Killingly Road past "Widow Mathewson" toward "L. Mathewson's Meeting House." The map combines an accurate survey with charming detail in what becomes a portrait of the homestead as much as a map.

Both items are from Ms. Joanne Blanchard. The donor's grandmother, a descendant of Emor and Mary Lyon Belknap, grew up on the original farm property; the map and portrait stayed in the family until they were donated to the RIHS.

CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNT OF KING PHILIP'S WAR

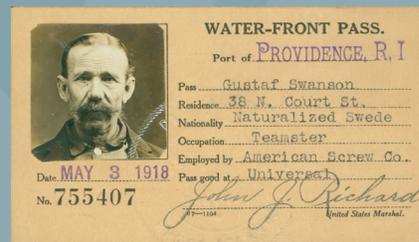


The Society's Library had the great opportunity to acquire one of the few essential early New England histories not in the Imprint Collection: *A Narrative of the Troubles with the Indians in New-England, from the first planting thereof in the year 1607, to this present year 1677*, by William Hubbard (1621-1704) and printed in Boston by

John Foster in 1677. Bound in striking, scarlet red leather, the book describes fascinating details of 17th century life as well as now legendary events. For example, after one of the swamp battles in Bristol, Captain Henchman "rows hard all or most of the day to get to Providence." On "Jan 5. An English child of about three or four years old, taken from Warwick..." is returned by the "Narhagansets" to help improve relations for a treaty. The Narragansett Indian Fort is discussed, and the Great Fire at Providence is recorded where 30 houses were burned to the ground.

DOCUMENTATION OF SWEDISH IMMIGRANTS

The RIHS Collections staff is constantly searching for materials that shed light on populations in Rhode Island not adequately represented in the historical record. We are therefore very pleased to now own Water Front Pass cards for the Port of Providence issued to 10 men who worked as teamsters during 1918 for the American Screw Company of Providence. The cards feature a photograph of the man, and list their residence,



nationality, occupation, and employer. All of the men were literate enough to sign their names on the back of the card. Seven of the men are of Swedish descent while the other three are listed

as Americans. Typical of immigrant populations, several of the men used "Americanized" names. Arthur Hall's given name was Arvid and the two men known as Charles were better known to their families as Carl.

Just like today, access to the Port of Providence was restricted for security reasons. These passes allowed the men to retrieve and deliver cargo from the port on behalf of the American Screw Company. They are also wonderful examples of early photo identification cards.



If you have materials that document working class or immigrant populations in RI, please contact the Collections staff at the RIHS library – 401-273-8107 x10.

Archaeology at the John Brown House

Krysta Ryzewski, Brown University, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World

For twelve lucky Brown University undergraduate students this past fall (2008), the expansive lawn of the John Brown House was their classroom. The students were part of the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World's popular course, ARCH1900 *The Archaeology of College Hill*, led by Dr. Krysta Ryzewski. *The Archaeology of College Hill* is an annual course designed to provide students from all disciplines with



Student holding a small shred of mulberry transfer printed whiteware (mid-late 19th century) from Unit 3.

an introduction to the practice and process of archaeological fieldwork. With its rich history, associated museum, and well-preserved landscape the John Brown House lawn was an ideal setting for *The Archaeology of College Hill*.

Overall, the goal of the excavations was to examine, through the material culture recovered, the everyday lives of the people who lived on or interacted with parts of the John Brown House property over the course of its existence.



Unit 5 – foundation wall.

A magnetometry survey recorded several intriguing sub-surface features, including the rectangular outline of what appeared to be a large structural foundation under the northwest corner of the lawn (closest to the corner of Benefit and Charlesfield Sts.).

The first two excavation units revealed the remains of modern

debris, associated with recently past generations of Brown and RISD students' social usage of the landscape. Below these materials, the aspiring archaeologists uncovered the remains of 19th century brick and stone wall, which was related to the large structure nearby, which was the focus of the excavations in Units 3, 4, and 5. It was in Unit 3 that the older historical materials were uncovered, including decorated shards of pearlware, whiteware, and porcelain ceramics, bottle glass, and clay tobacco pipe fragments. From these artifacts, it was possible to place the earliest date of the structure's creation to at least 1830.

Research at the Rhode Island Historical Society archives had revealed a map of the Robert Hale Ives house, a large Victorian mansion that stood on the northwest corner of the John Brown House property's lawn from at least 1857-1923. This historical information confirmed the identity of the archaeological features and matched the dates of the excavated material. Knowledge of these previous structures reminds us that until about a century ago, the landscape of the John Brown House was much more crowded than it is today.

Students' weekly field blogs, excavation images and projects are available publicly on the student-run wiki (interactive website): <http://proteus.brown.edu/archaeologyofcollegehill/6292>. Future plans for *The Archaeology of College Hill* involve a return to the John Brown House, where much of the property's rich history remains underground.

We are most grateful for the generous assistance and enthusiasm of the Rhode Island Historical Society staff members Bernard Fishman, Kirsten Hammerstrom, Dan Santos, and Dana Munroe.

Champlin Foundation Grant Awarded John Brown House Restoration, Full Speed Ahead!

We are grateful to announce a new major grant from the Champlin Foundations, which, with additional funds made available through a National Park Service Save America's Treasures grant, will make possible another phase of restoration for the John Brown House in 2009. This next phase (Phase IV, and representing the fifth consecutive year of restoration at the house), will enable us to install the building's first climate control system to provide the kind of environment that is best suited for delicate collection objects, or for visitors and staff. At present the building has heating only, which means that in

winter it is too dry, and in summer too wet and too hot. Our intent in this next phase is to install a system for the public exhibition areas of the house, and that system is now being designed. It will take advantage of the four environmental and engineering studies we have already completed, each exploring ways in which such a system could be deftly inserted into this ancient house without damaging it. We will also investigate the possibility of using a geothermal well on the site to reduce the cost of the energy such a system would require. It may therefore prove possible to make the Brown house green!

SPRING ARRIVED AT THE MUSEUM OF WORK & CULTURE

The arrival of spring was celebrated at the Museum of Work & Culture on Sunday March 8th at A Salute to Spring, the Museum's signature event. More than 175 people attended the festivities. The afternoon also marked the end of the Museum's Annual Appeal. The grand prize of a trip for two to Montreal was awarded along with over 50 dining and entertainment gift certificates. This year's appeal raised \$28,000 and the funds will be utilized to support the Museum's operation.

GIFT PRESENTED BY MOWC PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

The Museum's Capital and Endowment Campaign continues, under the auspices of the Museum of Work & Culture Preservation Foundation, a private organization dedicated to helping support the museum. For the first time, the Foundation presented \$500 to the Rhode Island Historical Society to help with the museum's operating support.



Foundation President David Fontaine presents check to RIHS Executive Director Bernard Fishman

INTERNATIONAL FRANCOPHONE WEEK CELEBRATION

The month of March marked the International Francophone Week; a week when the French language and culture is celebrated by the 56 countries from around the world where French is spoken. The Museum took part in the festivities and kicked off the events at the RI State House on March 19th with the raising of the International Francophone Flag. The Museum hosted officials from the Québec's Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques and the Québec Delegation in Boston. These folks met at the Museum with several of the area's Francophones and Francophiles, to discuss the type of support needed in order to continue and encourage the study of the French language in Rhode Island. The Center is also conducting several of these public consultations in other New England cities and towns. We are expecting to get the results from this investigation in the months to come...stay tuned.

SUMMER INSTITUTE: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SLAVERY

In our last issue we shared with you the extraordinary trip that we took down South with Rhode Island teachers as we explored the Civil Rights Movement and its legacy. This fall, as you may have heard, we were awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to run a summer institute for teachers. This is a new program for us at the Goff Center, but we have an experienced partner in co-director Dr. Joanne Pope Melish of the University of Kentucky, who just so happens to be a Rhode Islander and an RIHS member. She has years of experience with the NEH and teachers, so we are thrilled to be working with her as we embark on bringing RI and New England history to teachers from across the country.

Our institute, The Significance of Slavery in the Rise of New England Commerce, Industry and Culture to 1860, will examine not only the slave trade, but also New England's relationship with the institution as it became an industrial powerhouse. We will be bringing in top academics and reading the best scholarship on these topics. In addition, this grant will allow us to utilize our local resources, such as Brown University, Slater Mill, Linden Place, God's Little Acre, and Smith's Castle. Thus, in the two weeks in which these teachers will be grappling with the "tough stuff of American memory," they will also be seeing many of the amazing resources in our own backyards, which so many of us take for granted.

LESSON PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

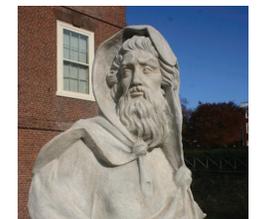
We know that space in our institute is very limited, but we are busily creating teacher resources that everyone, with access to a computer, can use. We have begun posting unit plans for teachers on the RIHS website. Some are related to the John Brown House Museum, which we hope teachers will use as pre- and post-visit activities. But others are part of a new joint venture with our journal, Rhode Island History. We are now creating lessons to go along with the articles in each issue. And, while these are designed for teachers, we encourage all of you to take a look, learn something, and even have some fun with Rhode Island History. We know we are! ❧

The John Brown House Restoration: 2008

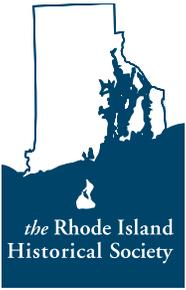
The restoration of the historic John Brown House advanced another step with the installation on the main gateposts of replicas of the two guardian sculptures that had graced the building for 170 years before being removed in the 1960's. These late 18th century French depictions of the Greek god Hades, ruler of the Underworld, and the goddess Persephone, his sometime consort, once again gaze over Power Street. The marble originals, still impressive even after generations of damage and erosion, are back in protective custody inside the house. Our 2008 restoration project rebuilt or restored the interior staircase of the house, the pergola with its century-old wisteria vine, the front gate, the east entrance portico, and replaced a literal ton of brownstone in the form of re-carved lintels, keystones, bases, columns, flagstones and other exterior elements. Only the carving of the pergola's main beams, with the animal heads that once adorned them, remains to complete the season's work. For 2010 we hope to install the John Brown House's first climate-control (HVAC) system, which will make the house a more comfortable place for visitors and for collections. ❧



Persephone



Hades



110 BENEVOLENT STREET
PROVIDENCE, RI 02906

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Permit No. 617

Historic Aldrich House Opens for Events, Receptions and Weddings

Enjoy your wedding, special occasion or event in the elegant setting of the newly renovated Aldrich House. This historic landmark is located on the beautiful East Side of Providence.

A reception area serves as the foyer entrance to the cozy 800 square foot ballroom, and our four French doors open to large and beautifully landscaped grounds. We now offer a lovely sitting room for the bridal party or for a small reception.

Thanks to the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society who has adopted the Aldrich House as one of their gardening projects, our grounds will offer a wonderful background to your special event, wedding or reception.

The Rhode Island Wild Plant Society (RIWPS) -- A non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of RI's native plants and their habitats -- will be working with the Rhode Island Historical Society

to create an urban native plant garden at the Aldrich House. This Spring they will begin creating a display garden featuring native plants to enhance the grounds of the Aldrich House.

Cheryl Cadwell, President of the plant society (and past president of Master Gardeners) will be the key advisor. Landscape designer Graham Laird Gardiner has generously volunteered to coordinate the Aldrich garden project for RIWPS. Thus far over nine volunteers have offered to be a part of the Aldrich House garden project! This is a tremendous opportunity for all involved. To learn more about the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society visit: www.riwps.org.



Discounted rates are available to Rhode Island Historical Society Members. For

more information or a personal tour, please contact Ms. Renata Luongo at 401.331.8575 ext. 34 or rluongo@rihs.org.

Concerts Under the Elms

HAPPENINGS

Presenting Sponsor: Capital Properties, Inc.

JUNE 25 | THE AMERICAN BAND
Patriotic music and "pops" repertoire

JULY 9 | DUKE ROBILLAD BAND
Classic blues, R&B, and swing

JULY 16 | PENDRAGON
Celtic-inspired "roots music"

JULY 23 | MAGNOLIA
Cajun music

JULY 30 | THE CARLOS DE LEON LATIN JAZZ BAND
Original and traditional Latin jazz

AUGUST 6 | GREG ABATE JAZZ QUARTET
Swinging melodic jazz

ADULTS \$8. RIHS MEMBERS AND
CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE.

All concerts begin at 6:30 pm on the
John Brown House Museum lawn, 52 Power Street, Providence.
For information call 401-331-8575, ext. 33 or mlupham@rihs.org.

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SUMMER WALKS

WALKING TOURS OF PROVIDENCE

JUNE 15 – OCTOBER 15, 2009

*Made possible in part by generous support from
AAA Southern New England & Parkside Rotisserie & Bar*

BENEFIT STREET:

A MILE OF HISTORY

TUESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS, 11:00 A.M.

Two hundred fifty years of history can be found in one action-packed mile. Trace the steps of George Washington and Edgar Allen Poe, find a 17th century burial site, a world-class art museum, and the homes of a Declaration of Independence signer and a Civil War general!

Adults \$12,

Seniors and RIHS members \$10,

Children under 12, \$6.

Tour departs from the

John Brown House Museum.

RIVERWALK:

BEFORE THE FIRES ARE LIT

EVENINGS OF FULL WATERFIRE LIGHTINGS, 5:30 P.M.

Discover the winding history and continued importance of Providence's rivers! Urban outdoor sculpture and beautiful civic and commercial buildings of varied architectural styles provide the setting for stories of Providence's fabled past and dynamic present.

\$10 per person.

Tour departs from the John Brown House Museum.

Reservations requested for this tour.

For schedule of WaterFire lightings: www.waterfire.org, or
(401) 272-3111. This walk is offered in collaboration with WaterFire.

SPECIAL WALKING TOURS

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY WALKING TOURS

SATURDAYS, 10:00 A.M. APRIL 25, MAY 30, JUNE 27.

Celebrate the history of African Americans who lived on College Hill from 1701 to the present. Ray Rickman will lead a lively discussion centered on the people and historic buildings of Providence's oldest neighborhood.

\$10 per person.

Tours departs from the John Brown House Museum.

A FOX POINT FOURTH OF JULY

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 11:00 A.M.

On July 4th, come take a patriotic stroll through Fox Point. Celebrate the life and works of Providence native George M. Cohan, the original Yankee Doodle Dandy. Learn about the neighborhood's ever-changing character, from its first colonial settlements through the waves of Irish, then Portuguese and Cape Verdean immigration, to the impacts of urban development.

\$10 per person

Tour departs from Reflections Café, 8 Governor Street, Providence.

Reservations are requested.

A CULTURAL DAY IN FOX POINT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8,

10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Today's route through Fox Point will focus on and include three active churches in the area: St. Joseph's, Sheldon Street Baptist, and Our Lady of the Rosary. The vibrant cultural history of the neighborhood comes alive in these parishes.

Lunch is included in the ticket price.

Reservations are required.

Tour begins at St. Joseph's Church, 92 Hope Street, Providence.



For Walking Tour reservations and more information:
Dalila Goulart (401) 331-8575 x45 or programs@rihs.org

LIBRARY

FLESH AND STONE: RUINS AND THE CIVIL WAR THURSDAY, MAY 7, 6:30 P.M.

Megan Kate Nelson, a New England Regional Fellowship Consortium Research Award recipient, will discuss her book, *Ruin Nation: The Destruction of the South and the Making of America during the Civil War Era*. Nelson will explain how and why Americans destroyed southern cities, plantations, forests, and how both soldiers and civilians responded to these different kinds of ruins.

Rhode Island Historical Society Library

121 Hope Street, Providence.

Free Admission, for reservations please contact:

Lee Teverow (401) 273-8107 x10 or lteverow@rihs.org

JOHN BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM

18TH CENTURY MANSION

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Hours and Tour Schedule

Tuesday, March 31 – Saturday, December 19

Tuesdays through Fridays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tours at 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tours at 10:30 a.m.,

12 noon, 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$8 per person; \$6 for students and seniors;

\$4 for children 7-17; FREE for RIHS members.

For more information:

Dan Santos (401) 273-7507 x60 or dsantos@rihs.org

GALLERY NIGHT

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 6:30 P.M.

If These Walls Could Talk ...

Nathanael Greene: A Biography of the American Revolution

John Brown House Museum, 52 Power Street, Providence

Free Admission

For reservations and more information contact:

Dalila Goulart (401) 331-8575 x45 or programs@rihs.org

MUSEUM OF WORK AND CULTURE

Open House., Monday, September 7, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FREE.