



The Rhode Island Historical Society

# Notes and News

FALL / WINTER 2009

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110 Benevolent Street  
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PH: 401.331.8575  
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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

### Cover Image

Carved polychrome wood bust of a young girl  
ca. 1810 RIHS Museum Collection

# You Can Make a Difference! Support the RIHS and Be Part of History

## YEAR END CAMPAIGN IN PROGRESS!

The RIHS 2009/2010 Year End Campaign is under way and provides funding that is absolutely essential for day to day operations. The donations are provided by generous friends like you who have a commitment to Rhode Island history, education and preservation, and who recognize the crucial role that the Rhode Island Historical Society performs.

## DONATE ONLINE TODAY!

[www.rihs.org](http://www.rihs.org) or call 401.331.8575 ext. 33

## HOLIDAY GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP!!

Last year, so many of our members gave the Gift of Membership. Share your passion for Rhode Island history with a gift that keeps on giving year round. And with each gift purchased, YOU will receive the Society's popular note cards and envelopes featuring a beautiful drawing of the John Brown House.

The cost of an annual gift membership is only \$45.00 and includes our two popular twice-yearly publications; *News & Notes* newsletter and *Rhode Island History Magazine*. Other membership categories are also available. Membership makes a wonderful gift, and helps the Society fulfill its mission of preserving history so you can enjoy it today. For further information call 401.331.8575, ext. 33, or [www.rihs.org](http://www.rihs.org). We will send a gift acknowledgement to the recipient in your name! 🎁

## New Beginnings: The 188<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting *with Dr. Maury Klein, guest speaker*

On Wednesday, November 4, 2009, the Rhode Island Historical Society will hold its 188th Annual Meeting to review the past year and celebrate our progress and achievements, while anticipating exciting new beginnings for the future!

This year, we are delighted to have Dr. Maury Klein as our keynote speaker. Join us to hear his fascinating discussion entitled "1929 and 2008: Similarities and Differences". The current crisis has invoked endless comparisons with the Great Crash of 1929 and its sequel, the Great Depression. Are the comparisons valid? Professor Klein will sort out some of the comparisons that are meaningful and point out some important differences between the two eras.

Maury Klein is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Rhode Island. He is the author of fifteen books and numerous articles in scholarly journals and magazines. Three of his books have been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize; one was a finalist. He has also been a consultant for a variety of projects ranging from television documentaries to Trinity Repertory to humanities projects within Rhode Island.

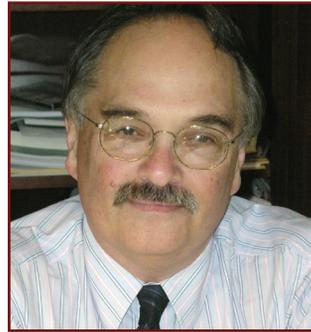
A reception will immediately follow the conclusion of the business meeting and speaking program. The public, RIHS trustees, members, guests and staff are invited to attend this celebratory evening.

## Weathering the Recession

By Bernard Fishman, Executive Director

As the Rhode Island Historical Society approaches the two-year mark in withstanding this brutal recession, it is worthwhile noting how relatively well we have weathered this most severe financial battering our economy has suffered in 60 years. Of course our endowment was staggered by the fiscal blow, but because our investments were careful and cautious, and diversified, the loss was only 20%, much less than that of many comparable institutions and our endowment is now roaring back. The disappearance of so much of our support from the State of Rhode Island in 2008 and from the City of Woonsocket in 2009 was lacerating, but we plugged many of the gaps with new sources of income, project grants, development grants, program and sponsorship support, and we were able to keep on a steady course despite the shaking and tossing. We were, and are, greatly helped by the reserves we diligently assembled in the better times, and though these stores are now greatly diminished, the ant-like diligence which piled them up was effort very well spent. It is true that there have been some reductions in staff pay and hours, and a third year of no raises, but we have so far been able to avoid laying off any full or part-time permanent staff, or curtailing any of our core activities. Our educational programs, research activities, collections management, and capital projects have all been able to continue essentially as planned. We have not had to close buildings and made only one reduction in the open hours of one of our facilities.

We note that our membership, overall attendance, and contributions have risen slightly (1%-2%) in the Fiscal Year 2009, and I am grateful for this evidence of the continuing loyalty and generosity of our supporters. We clearly have a very stable and constant group of friends and attendees for our programs and projects. We have been able to get an increasing amount of grant support, and virtually every RIHS department



is actively engaged in helping to raise funds for its projects. In the past months we have received several major gifts, totaling more than \$500,000, from the Champlin Foundations (for the ongoing John Brown House restoration), from the National Endowment for the Humanities (for the Teachers' Summer Institute developed by the RIHS Education Department), and from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (to sustain the cataloguing of the RIHS's vast photo collections, for the first time being substantially revealed and properly documented). We even won a 2009 Best of Rhode Island award for our incomparable walking tours. And I can report that the City of Woonsocket has now restored some of the reductions it had earlier made, and our Museum of Work and Culture received its first Community Development Block Grant, \$33,000, for student education, so that part of our operation is also regaining stability. It may be too early to believe that the hurricane has actually passed, but we hope those watching us will notice our strength, resolution, success, and devotion to our mission, especially in these demanding and threatening times.

Here, however, is the best news of all. We have recently secured a challenge gift, one that is intended to strengthen our endowment in a very significant and permanent way. This is one of the greatest opportunities the Society has ever had in its long history, and we will need all our members and friends, all who cherish the indelible value of Rhode Island history, to help us meet the challenge goals. I'll have more details about this transformative opportunity in the next newsletter issue, but in the meantime be certain that we will continue to build and improve this vital organization, to better serve you and honor Rhode Island. ❧

## John Brown House Restoration Phase III Completed

At long last Phase III of the historic John Brown House restoration has been completed. This part of the work involved rebuilding the pergola and main gate, and replacing a great deal of damaged stonework on the outside of the building. Phase IV, the design and installation of the building's first climate-and-humidity control system, is well underway. The project architect continues to be Cornelis de Boer of Haynes/de Boer Associates, and the Engineering firm is Landmark Facilities Group, which has worked at such historic places as the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston and Rhode Island's own Redwood Library. We are hoping to install a geothermal

well as part of the HVAC system. Geothermal wells are an exciting aspect of new 'green' technologies, as they can tap the earth's stable underground warmth to assist the heating or cooling systems of buildings, saving considerable energy costs. However, such wells are expensive and a little chancy, as they sometimes have to drill 1500 feet or more to reach the right conditions. So we are still investigating this possibility. If we do use a geothermal well, the John Brown House will be one of the first National Historic Landmark buildings in the country to do so. I'm sure if John Brown were here, he would be pleased at that prospect. ❧

## GRAPHICS

Key moments in an immigrant's life, learning English and becoming an American citizen, are represented by an important new collection of lantern slides. The photograph below is of an English class taught in 1916 at Brown and Sharpe, a precision tool manufacturer in Providence, RI. The men in the front row hold the first lesson in the 'English for Coming Americans' course, "Getting up in the Morning." The collection also includes slides of an English class at the Ward Baking Co. of Providence (c.1916), a Citizenship class on the main steps inside the Providence Public Library and on the front steps of the State House (1916), and a rare nighttime photo of a large gathering of people in Providence's Federal Hill neighborhood (circa 1915).



*Industrial English Class, Brown & Sharpe, Providence, RI, 1916, RHI X17 334*

## COLLECTIONS

### DEXTER HOMESTEAD:

TREEN BOWL, BUTTER CHURN, FOOT WARMER, BIBLE BOX  
The Society has recently received several interesting objects representing the domestic activities of the Dexter family of Providence. One of these is a large "treen" bowl used to mix sausage meat. (Treen is an archaic term used for objects hewn from logs, or trees, hence "treen.") The bowl, made in the 18th

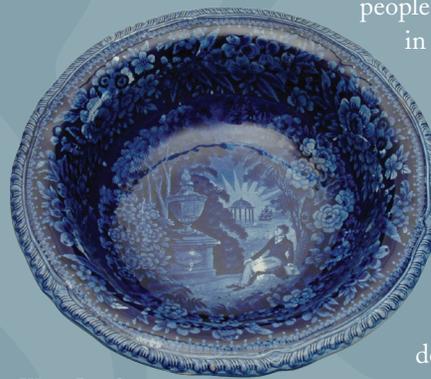


*Treen Bowl*

century, is 39 inches long and 18 inches wide. A macabre detail unconnected to the bowl, but tantalizing nonetheless, concerns the death of Stephen Dexter, father of the Jeremiah Dexter who built the 1754 farmhouse that remains on North Main Street at Rochambeau. Stephen Dexter is said to have died of an apoplectic fit "while attending to the salting of some beef in his cellar." One wonders if the treen bowl now in the Society's Permanent Collection was witness to that sad event.

### STAFFORDSHIRE WASTE BOWL, LAFAYETTE AT FRANKLIN'S TOMB PATTERN

This twelve-inch washbowl was the generous gift of Mr. Robert Galli, who previously donated an eight-inch waste bowl of the same pattern. These pieces augment the Society's collection of dark blue Staffordshire transferware originally donated by Harriet Ames Fuller Claffin (Mrs. Albert Claffin) in 1982. In addition to these pieces, the Society owns other Staffordshire transferware pieces in this pattern: a teapot, coffeepot, sugar bowl, creamer, tea cup and saucer. The pattern, Lafayette at Franklin's Tomb, is taken from a lithograph by D. W. Jackson made around 1825. This imagined view commemorates Lafayette's tour of the United States in 1824-1825, when the General visited the country he had helped win the Revolution. When he arrived in Providence on August 23, 1824, he was welcomed by an immense crowd of people. "The houses and streets



*Waste Bowl*

in the western part of the town, where he entered, were filled with citizens who greeted him as he passed with reiterated cheers." The tour was commemorated in banners, coins, medals and other souvenirs depicting the General.

These pieces were made by Enoch Wood & Sons of Burselm, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England, for the American market. The British potters were eager to capitalize on the American enthusiasm for the hero, and a series was made to commemorate Lafayette's arrival in New York and his visit to Washington's Tomb (virtually identical to the scene at Franklin's tomb) as well as views of his French residence, La Grange. The waste bowl and wash bowl are particularly nice additions to the Society's collection of the pattern, currently on display in the pantry at the John Brown House Museum.

## RIHS Collections Work Awarded Grants

### MUSEUMS FOR AMERICA AWARD



*James DaMico, RIHS Graphics Project Archivist.*

The RIHS recently received several grants to support collections work, most significantly a \$99,450 Museums for America award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for the Graphics Inventory Project. James DaMico, Graphics Project Archivist, will continue to create inventory and basic catalog records for the collection, which consists largely of photographs, maps and plans.

Estimated at 400,000 items or collections, this is the largest existing assemblage of visual materials documenting Ocean State history. Thanks to the award, records for a portion of the Graphics collection will soon be available through NETOP, our online public catalog. Our ability to provide researchers access to unique historical materials will increase exponentially based on the foundation built by this project.

### AMERICAN HERITAGE PRESERVATION GRANT

The RIHS also received a \$3,000 IMLS American Heritage Preservation Grant to begin the “Rhode Island Civil War Restoration Project” to preserve bound records of soldier’s day-to-day lives. The first artifact selected for conservation by the Library curators is the Clothing Book of Company A of the Third Regiment, Rhode Island Heavy Artillery, August 1861 - September 1865. The regiment served at multiple locations in the Confederate south. The volume will be professionally conserved by the New England Document Conservation Center.



### NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION FOUNDATION GRANT

The National Film Preservation Foundation awarded the Society a \$9,000 grant to preserve *Diamonds*, a 1915 crime drama by the Eastern Film Company of Providence that includes a very early scene of the Narragansett Pier. The work will be done by Cinema Arts in Pennsylvania where the original nitrate negative is stored.

## All Aboard...

### *The Providence and Worcester Railroad*

Some very lucky trustees and senior staff from the Rhode Island Historical Society had a rare opportunity recently to see the facilities and travel on the track of the Providence and Worcester Railroad, one of the oldest Rhode Island business enterprises still in operation.

This delightful jaunt started with a discussion between Marlene LeRoy, RIHS Director of Development and PR, and Todd Turcotte, Vice President of Capital Properties, an organization affiliated with the railroad, and which has been a very generous supporter of the Society.

A few weeks later, RIHS President Emeritus Roger Begin, Secretary Robert Flanders, Executive Director Bernard Fishman, and Marlene LeRoy were on their way to the Worcester repair facilities, one of the most advanced in the nation. Many of us have little-boy railroad excitement still locked inside us, and this was a chance to let some of it out as we saw massive diesel engines being repaired up close and personal. One of the high points of the trip was riding in SUV’s specially adapted to be able to drive on railroad tracks, and it was a signal pleasure to note the shocked expressions on the faces of other nearby drivers as our vehicles drove normally onto railroad crossings and then casually turned onto those ribbons of steel and took off down the track. From our perch as we rattled along, we saw the remains of the Blackstone Canal hiding in the woods below. Originally suggested by Providence’s own John Brown, the canal between Providence and Worcester was finally built at vast expense and with gargantuan difficulty, only to be put out of business within a few short years by the new P&W Railroad in 1844.

Back at P&W headquarters, we were regaled during lunch by fascinating stories of business bravery and boldness told by Bob Eder, P&W’s Chairman since 1965, who wrestled the railroad out of the dying clutches of the old Penn Central system and proudly boasts that the mighty P&W, with over 500 miles of track, is the only presently existing American railroad that has never fallen into bankruptcy.

For those of us who like the crackle of old maps, plans and paper, the crowning glory of the day might have been seeing the railroad archives. From the mid 1840’s until today, even the tiniest changes affecting the railroad’s property holdings and rights-of-way are all still recorded with the diligence of medieval scribes on close to a thousand hand-drawn maps on imperishable antique linen, and are also reflected by rank upon rank of ancient deeds. It is a model archive and a profound inspiration to those who love both order and historical preservation.

The Rhode Island Historical Society is deeply grateful to Bob Eder, Todd Turcotte, and the staff of the Providence and Worcester Railroad for this great opportunity to ride into history.

## Symbols of the Zodiac the John Brown House Pergola

In 1901, when Marsden Perry renovated the venerable John Brown House for his own use, he hired the Olmstead Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts, to design a new landscape plan which included the terraces and the vine-covered pergola we see today. The pergola eventually began to collapse after decades of neglect, and when we examined it prior to restoring it last year, we made a surprising discovery: it had once had a cycle of fully-carved symbols of the Zodiac emerging from its main beams. The Zodiac heads were not arranged in the typical pattern of the progressing 'months' they normally represent, and it is an enduring mystery as to what their peculiar order does signify, but we are certain that the heads were there, as parts or traces of several of them had survived the ruin of the years, and the written symbol of each sign remained carved in the beams even where the heads had disappeared. We knew we would have to include creating new carved heads as part of the restoration.



Aries (the ram)



Leo (the lion)

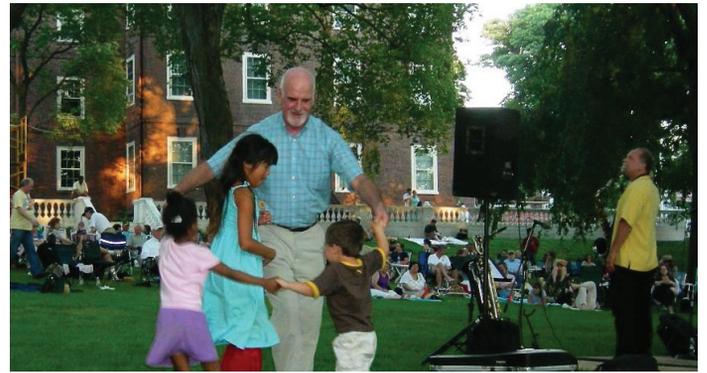
It took us a long time to find the right artist for the work. Skilled representational woodcarvers are now a rare breed, and we needed a sculptor who would be inspired by the old carvings and would create a new set of figures. At long last we found what we sought: Cathleen Scanlan, a RISD-trained sculptor who works with her husband Karl Dennis to make exquisite wooden stringed instruments in Warren, Rhode Island. The first two of her mahogany heads, Leo (the lion) and Aries (the ram) are illustrated here, and we hope to install them on the pergola quite soon. The heads are true works of art, skillfully carved, majestic and bold. Each head takes a month or so to carve, so it will be well into next year before the set is complete. But when finished, the heads will make the pergola into a fine new addition to Rhode Island's works of public art, and something worthy of Marsden Perry's original vision. We hope the heads will remain to be seen and appreciated for a least another century.

We are also glad to say that one of the carvings, the Gemini, will be dedicated to the memory of Angelo Fraioli, the very long-serving and beloved John Brown House guide who died in 2008. ☞

## Sizzling Summer Sounds

Thanks to our sponsors and enthusiastic attendees, our 2009 *Concerts Under the Elms* summer series was a smashing success!

Despite the rainiest July ever, we welcomed over a thousand concert-goers and new members this summer. Friends and families relaxed on lawn chairs and blankets while savoring delicious food, and enjoying superb music week after week.



## Humbled by History

By Karen Ebehart

Special Collections Curator

As the Special Collections Curator at the RIHS, I have the rare privilege to meet and become acquainted with Rhode Islanders who lead both ordinary and extraordinary lives. Most often I meet them through their documents and photographs and will never speak with them in person as they have already died. I am often quite humbled that people are willing to allow the rest of the world into their lives and grateful for the universal impulse to be remembered. Researchers of all types are the beneficiaries of generous donors who open their lives and their families and become part of the historical record. People like Guiseppe Zambarano, an Italian immigrant raising a family on Federal Hill in Providence at the turn of the 20th century. His diary records the birth of his daughter, Theresa, in 1909. His 6-year old son Enrico, ponders the baby for a minute and asks the central question for so many immigrants: "Ma, questa è Italiana o Inglese?" - "But, is she Italian or American?" The RIHS would love to preserve your uniquely Rhode Island story. We are currently collecting the stories of 20th and 21st century immigrants to RI from every part of the globe. To discuss potential donations simply write to or call the RIHS Library, 121 Hope Street, Providence, RI 02906; [reference@rihs.org](mailto:reference@rihs.org); 401-273-8107 x10.

## MUSEUM OF WORK & CULTURE NEWS

### GRANT AWARDED

The City of Woonsocket awarded the Museum a \$33,000 Community Development Block Grant for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. This successful application resulted from a fruitful collaboration of the museum staff with the RIHS Education Department. This CDBG grant will make it possible for all 5th and 11<sup>th</sup> grade Woonsocket students to participate in curriculum-related programs at the Museum, and will include transportation for the students and professional development days for the teachers involved. The grant is above and beyond the \$15,000 contribution that the City makes annually to support the museum's operation, and its very valuable in-kind assistance for the building's operating systems.

### EXHIBITS

In May the Museum Gallery featured a collection of photos from the Northern Rhode Island Camera Club. The exhibit featured creative and professional portraits, seascapes and nature images.

For the 8th consecutive year, the Museum hosted the Holocaust exhibit created by Mount Saint Charles Academy students. The class project consisted of students who researched individual Holocaust victims and provided appropriate artifacts. The artifacts were placed in old suitcases reminiscent of those carried by Holocaust victims during World War II.

From June 28 through Labor Day the Gallery highlighted the works of Madeleine O. Robinson of the Attleboro Arts Museum. Her show, "Happenstance: Women at Work," consisted of photographs of women at their worksites.

### LABOR DAY OPEN HOUSE

Labor Day 2009 was celebrated by an Open House at the Museum of Work and Culture. The day's activities commemorated the 75th anniversary of the 1934 national textile strike. The Museum presented a play titled "The ITU Meeting," which included eleven volunteer actors re-creating a meeting taking place a week after the Woonsocket strike and riot of September 11 and 12, 1934. The Rhode Island Labor History Society donated \$500 to support the day's activities and offered a power point presentation depicting the dramatic events of 1934.

## TEACHERS THINK ABOUT RHODE ISLAND HISTORY

By Dr. Morgan Grefe, Director, Newell D. Goff Education Center and Public Programs

Since 2005, the RIHS has provided Teaching American History Program summer institutes for teachers from Rhode Island. In 2007, historian Joanne Pope Melish suggested a summer institute for teachers from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the proposal won NEH funding, and was designated a "We the People" project. The NEH enabled us to bring New England history to educators from all over the country and highlight the amazing work being done by our region's historians and historic sites and organizations.

This July, 28 teachers from 13 states and some the nation's top academics arrived at Brown University for our two-week institute, "The Role of Slavery in the Rise of New England Commerce, Industry and Culture to 1860." The rich itinerary started with Katrina Browne showing *Traces of the Trade*, followed by trips to Bristol and Linden Place; other renowned speakers included co-director Joanne Melish, Jim Campbell, Joseph Inikori, Eric Kimball, Margaret Newall, Seth Rockman, Margot Minardi, and Jim Horton. Keith and Teresa Stokes welcomed participants to Newport, and additional field trips included Smith's Castle, Slater Mill, and the John Brown House Museum. Intensive scholarly work at the RIHS, John Carter Brown, John Hay, and Rockefeller Libraries gave participants resources to begin crafting lessons for their classrooms. It may have been an institute for teachers, but I learned as much as any of them about how to see my own state with the eyes of a visitor and scholar fresh to the field. Thanks to the NEH for this tremendous opportunity!



*Our NEH "We the People" Scholars hear from Teresa Stokes at God's Little Acre in Newport.*

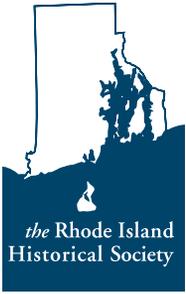


*"We the People" scholars spend the afternoon at Slater Mill Historic Site.*

## Preserving and Conserving Your Family Heirlooms

*A new library resource through the IMLS*

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has awarded the Rhode Island Historical Society a grant to provide new resources for the Library to assist patrons to learn about preserving and conserving their own family heirlooms. Through the "Connecting to Collection Bookshelf" project, our reference staff can provide you with sources to learn about digital photography, documenting conservation treatments, caring for family treasures, and developing botanic gardens. Ask when you're next in the Reading Room!



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## SummerWalks Receives Best of Rhode Island 2009 Award

*By Barbara Barnes, RIHS Tour Services Manager*

It's nice to be rewarded for work you enjoy. In July, the Rhode Island Historical Society's walking tour program, its enthusiastic staff and dedicated guides received two honors.

The first recognition came for special Benefit Street and Downcity walking tours and city-wide motor coach tours prepared for the national convention of the Garden Club of America (GCA) last May. The goal of each tour was to celebrate the urban landscape. An unexpected \$1500 donation from GCA on behalf of "those individuals who worked tirelessly so that (conference) attendees could experience all that Providence and Rhode Island have to offer" was gratefully received.

Then on July 23, the Rhode Island Historical Society received Rhode Island Monthly's 2009 Editors' Poll Award for Providence Walking Tours. The July issue of Rhode Island Monthly noted, "The Rhode Island Historical Society's stellar lineup of Providence walking tours reaches beyond the typical tourist trappings to present sides of our fair capital that we've never even considered before."

We walk and talk with pride and enthusiasm. Recognition for our work is the icing on the cake.



# Fall/Winter Returns: 2009-2010 Calendar

**GALLERY EXHIBIT**

**"NEW EYES ON WOONSOCKET"**

Now through Sunday, October 25

**MUSEUM OF WORK & CULTURE**

This photography exhibit by local artist Christina Lauzon offers a new viewpoint on buildings in Woonsocket in terms of architecture, texture, character and history.

For more information: Ray Bacon (401) 769-9675 or rbacon@rihs.org

**SAVE YOUR COLLECTION, SHARE YOUR STORY, SUSTAIN YOUR MISSION:**

Saturday, October 3 & 17

**ALDRICH HOUSE**

A Primer for Small Museums and Historical Societies: New England Museum Association  
With Kirsten Hammerstrom, Deputy Director for Collections & C. Morgan Greffe, Ph.D., Director for Education and Public Programs, of the RIHS. \$35 for two workshops, lunch included.

To register: [www.nemanet.org/workshops/PrimerRI.htm](http://www.nemanet.org/workshops/PrimerRI.htm)

**GALLERY NIGHT**

**IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK....**

**A LOOK AT GRAVESTONES AND BURYING GROUNDS**

Thursday, October 15, 6:30 P.M.

**JOHN BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM**

Robert P. Emlen, Senior Lecturer in the Department of American Civilization and curator at Brown University, studies issues of historical representations of place, including the burial grounds of 18th and 19th century America.  
Free Admission.

To R.S.V.P.: Dalila Goulart (401) 331-8575 x45 or [programs@rihs.org](mailto:programs@rihs.org)

**JEWISH GENEALOGY WORKSHOP**

Wednesdays, October 21 & 28,

6:30-8:30 PM

**RIHS LIBRARY**

This two-part genealogy workshop is offered in collaboration with the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association. Presenters include Barbara Carroll and Dr. George M. Goodwin.

Fee: \$20 per session, \$15 for members.

To register: (401) 273-8107 x12

**RIHS PRESENTS**

**HOME MOVIE DAY 2009!**

Saturday, October 24, 1:00 - 4:00 P.M.

**ALDRICH HOUSE**

Do you have home movies on film you haven't seen in years? Don't throw them away -bring them to Home Movie Day. Films will be screened on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For more information and drop-off days: Karen Eberhart(401) 273-8107 x20 or [keberhart@rihs.org](mailto:keberhart@rihs.org)

**GALLERY EXHIBIT**

**RHODE ISLAND IN THE TIME OF LINCOLN**

Sundays, November 1 & February 14

**MUSEUM OF WORK & CULTURE**

Continue celebrating the bicentennial of President Abraham Lincoln's birth with an exhibit that takes a look at life in Rhode Island during the 1860s. Sponsored by the RI Foundation and the RI Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

For more information: Ray Bacon (401) 769-9675 or rbacon@rihs.org

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**NEW BEGINNINGS:**

**188TH ANNUAL MEETING OF**

**THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Wednesday, November 4, 5:30 P.M.

**ALDRICH HOUSE**

You are cordially invited to attend the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Rhode Island Historical Society for a review of the past year.

To R.S.V.P.: Mary Lou Upham (401) 331-8575 x33 or [mlupham@rihs.org](mailto:mlupham@rihs.org)

**CARING FOR YOUR FAMILY PAPERS**

Saturday, November 7

10:00 A.M. -12:30 P.M.

**RIHS LIBRARY**

You can take steps to ensure that your family's papers last well into the future. Join us for the first session of a two-part series in which you will learn techniques to care for your family records. \$35, \$30 for members.

To register: (401) 273-8107 x12

**WOLVES AND OYSTERS: HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN THE EARLY UNITED STATES**

Thursday, November 12, 6:30 P.M.

**RIHS LIBRARY**

Between the American Revolution and the Civil War, historical societies created a tradition of historic preservation in the United States. Come hear Alea Henle, a New England Regional Fellowship Consortium award recipient, speak about our country's first historical societies. Free Admission.

To R.S.V.P.: Lee Teverow (401) 273-8107 x10 or [lteverow@rihs.org](mailto:lteverow@rihs.org)

**GALLERY NIGHT**

**IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK....**

**RI REDS HOCKEY: ITS PAST AND PRESENT**

Thursday, November 19, 6:30 P.M.

**JOHN BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM**

The Rhode Island Reds haven't played a hockey game in 32 years, but there's still a group of fans cheering for them: the Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society. Buster Clegg, a former Reds general manager and the group's current president, will share the history and the growth of the Heritage Society today.  
Free Admission.

To R.S.V.P.: Dalila Goulart (401) 331-8575 x45 or [programs@rihs.org](mailto:programs@rihs.org)

**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE!**

Sunday, December 6, 2:00 - 5:00PM

**ALDRICH HOUSE**

The Aldrich House will open its doors with joyous entertainment for one and all. First, transport yourself over three centuries of Christmases-past with a lecture on Christmas celebrations in New England. Sit back and enjoy local actor Robb Dimmick's dramatic reading of A Christmas Carol. Then, be dazzled with a live performance by the Concert Handbell Ringers of the Wheeler School. Invitations to follow.

To R.S.V.P.: Dalila Goulart (401) 331-8575 x45 or [programs@rihs.org](mailto:programs@rihs.org)