



**The Historical Society of Smithfield Inc.
Smith-Appleby House Museum**

220 Stillwater Road, Smithfield, Rhode Island 02917 (401) 231-7363

November 2007 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Fellow Members:

Warm greetings to all of you! Since our last newsletter, our annual membership meeting was held on September 20, 2007. Unfortunately, we did not have a quorum, so we were unable to vote on any matters of business, other than the election of officers.

Based upon a motion put forward by Dolores De Cesare, the following officers have been appointed:

President – Geri De Angelis
Vice President – Jim Ignasher
Treasurer – Maggie Botelho
Recording Secretary – Paul Lineberger

There are still several positions available: Publicity, Membership and Correspondence Secretary. Due to the very small core group of active members, a few of us manage several roles, so if you have some spare time on your hands, please consider helping with some of these open positions.

A few changes have been taking place inside the museum, most notably, we now have a children's room. We have moved books from our former library, and are filling the shelves with small articles representative of childhood. Tiny shoes and dolls that in the past were placed throughout the house have found their way to the children's room. Two cradles, toys, pictures and dresses now grace this little room.

For those of you who remember the room with the WW2 Victory hooked rug, we are working to make that room commemorative of various wars, as we have the Civil War picture of Providence, and several old books with Revolutionary War era military listings. If you have memorabilia pertaining to a time of war that you would like to donate, you can call and leave a message at the museum (401) 231-7363.

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We had a yard sale on August 18, 2007, sold many items and managed to clean out the barn in preparation for the Ham & Bean dinner. We found that the combination of Revolutionary War Reenactment (August 25 & 26) and offering food for sale during the day worked very well. It was a very hot weekend, the hottest of the summer, but we had an amazing turnout. Many of the attendees toured the house during breaks in the schedule, contributing about \$400.00 in house tours for the two-day event. Don Mercier, Dolores De Cesare and Jim Ignasher were our tour guides, and we greatly appreciated their help, and especially their stamina, as the house was likewise very warm. In the barn helping to collect money, serve drinks and sundaes were Geri De Angelis, Carol & Lonnie Thurber, Marge & Ed Tudino along with Marge's mom Jeanne, Trudy Grinnell and Kathleen McHenry. Thanks to all of those who helped make the event a success, and my apologies if I have left someone out!

The All Hallows Eve event had fewer than 100 attendees, however we were delighted to have several Boy Scout dens in attendance for the Friday night rehearsal.

The Colonial Dinner was a sell out, and we managed to serve a total of 123 people. Our regular volunteer crew was complemented by Tom D'Agostino who played several period appropriated musical instruments, and Tom's wife Arlene Nicholson who braved banquet serving for the first time.

Our next event is the Christmas Open House on December 2 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. If we haven't seen you this year, won't you try to stop by?

We will be celebrating our membership Christmas Party the evening of December 8th. This is our customary potluck dinner, with a Yankee Swap for anyone who would like to participate. The gift amount is limited to \$10.00. Please call (401) 231-7363 (the museum) and leave a voice mail if you are able to attend, and let us know what you would like to bring.

For our long time members (thank you!) you will be familiar with the "red dot" that may be gracing the address label of your envelope. If you see the red dot, it means our records show we have not received your membership dues. Won't you take the time to renew your membership? Your show of support is valued more than can be expressed. Our news letter is also published on our web site, and if you will provide us with your email address, we can send you a notice when the site is updated.

We are looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely,

Maggie Botelho
Treasurer