



The Historical Society of Smithfield Inc.

Smith-Appleby House Museum

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

March 2008 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Fellow Members:

This is our first newsletter of the year, and a good time to announce the publication of the new Images of America Smithfield book, from Arcadia Press. Fellow member Jim Ignasher, and his associates Bill Pilkington and Ken Brown Sr., who have collaborated on the writing of a book about Smithfield have most generously named The Historical Society of Smithfield as the recipient of the royalties.

Since our last newsletter, we held our Christmas Open House. We had a very nice turnout with many guests stopping by the barn to enjoy hot drinks. The house was beautiful, and despite the cold, our guests looked very happy during their visit.

On a sad note, we lost one of our very dear volunteers, Mr. Frank Champoux, on December 18, 2007. Frank was a hard working, industrious and talented man, who never seemed to seek the limelight or praise, but who was always there in the background, tending to the lawns, painting a building or a mailbox, fixing a bridge or a door, planting a shrub or just dropping by to make sure all was well. Frank was also a photographer and a wonderful woodworker; stop by to see the wooden muskets he carved for our upcoming Militia Days this August. We hope to honor Frank in some way this year, and will let you know when that will occur.

An archival project was undertaken last fall with Mr. Russell Franks to preserve and protect the many historical documents and collections that had been donated to the museum over the years. Russell, who is also a member of our Historical Society, obtained a grant for the work as part of a degree program he was working on. Our inset photograph was taken last year during a visit by Elliott Caldwell, Project Archivist/Outreach Coordinator with the RI Historical Records Advisory Board. We are very grateful to Russell for the many hours he has spent organizing the collection. If you have documents that reflect the life of Smithfield that could be preserved in the collection, please leave a message on the voicemail at the museum (401) 231-7363.



We have finalized our events for this year and hope you will take the time to stop by and support the fundraising events.

May 3, 2008 – 35th Annual May Breakfast

9:00 am & 11:00 am seating, \$8.00 per person, reservation required

Join us for a home made country breakfast that includes ham and eggs, served by our costumed volunteers, amidst the charming memorabilia of long ago.

July 26 & 27, 2008 - Welcome Weekend

10:00 am – 4:00 pm, each day, museum tours \$4.00 per adult for non-members

This is a day devoted to those guests who would like to visit the museum.

August 23 & 24, 2008 – Militia Days

10:00 am – 4:00 pm, free to the public, museum tours \$4.00 per adult for non-members

Close to home, but a look into the distant past, Colonial childhood games will be played again with a tug-o-war (French & British) and drill with the militia. Before the Revolutionary War, Colonists met regularly to practice their military skill and socialize with their friends and neighbors. Classical food favorites such as corn on the cob, watermelon and other light fare will be served at a nominal fee.

November 7 & 8, 2008 – Colonial Dinner – From the President's Table

6:30 pm seating each evening, \$25.00 per person, reservation required

This year the menu will be derived from favorite recipes from our former presidents.

December 7, 2008 – Christmas Celebration

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, \$5.00 per adult, children free

Mr. & Mrs. Claus will be reserving the day for us, so please bring children and grandchildren alike to have their picture taken by you, amidst the green of branches, red berries and old-fashioned charm. The hearth fire will warm hands and eyes alike.

December 13, 2008 - Members Christmas Party

6:30 pm, this is a potluck dinner followed by a Yankee Swap (\$10.00 maximum gift exchange).

Keep your eyes open for the perfect gift!

As a reminder to all of our members, your membership dues entitle you to free tours of the museum, so please leave a message on the answering machine (401 231-7363) if you would like to arrange a visit to see the changes that have been taking place.

We are still working to get all of the membership dues collected, so if you see a red dot on your address label, it means our records show we have not received your membership dues (\$20.00 family, \$10.00 individual) for the 2007-2008 year. Your show of support is valued more than can be expressed.

Our newsletter is also published on our web site www.smithapplebyhouse.org. If you will provide us with your email address, you will be notified when a newsletter is posted. We are looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely,

Maggie Botelho