

The Historical Society of Smithfield Inc.

Smith-Appleby House Museum

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

November 2008 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Fellow Members:

We have a few upcoming events to tell you about. On December 6, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, the Greenville Library will hold a Holiday Silent Auction at the museum. Tickets are \$20.00 per adult, \$30.00 per couple. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Proceeds will benefit the Library Building Fund. For tickets or questions, call the Greenville Library at 401 949-3630.

On December 7, at 12:30 pm, we will have a dedication ceremony for Mr. Frank Champoux. A wooden flagpole has been erected by the Smithfield Conservation Commission to honor the many contributions made by Frank. He was a member of the Commission for many years, as well as a member of the Historical Society of Smithfield.

On the same day we will have our annual Christmas Celebration, from 1 pm – 4 pm. This is an opportunity to bring your kids, grandkids and your camera to have photographs taken with Mr. & Mrs. Claus.

On December 13, please join us for our members Christmas Party at 6:30 pm. For our new members, this is a potluck supper. Please call me at 401 233-2679 if you will be able to attend, and let me know what type of dish you would like to bring.

Following our meal we generally retire to the best parlor to exchange gifts in a Yankee swap. The limit for the gift is \$10.00. Each person wishing to participate puts a wrapped present under the tree. A numbered ticket is drawn at random from a hat. The tickets are numbered to correspond to the number of people participating, for example 1 - 14. The person who draws number 1 has the first choice of presents under the tree. The person who drew number 2 can choose another gift from under the tree, or take the gift from the first person. The process repeats until everyone has chosen a gift, and/or lost it along the way. The person who drew number 1 originally, can choose one gift from among the many now opened.

Regarding other news, on November 7 & 8, we hosted our Colonial Dinner – From the Presidents Table. We served 122 guests, and I believe the dinner was well received. On Friday evening, 22 ladies from the Red Hat Society graced us with an extravagance of red hats, red feathers and all manner of purple clothes. On Saturday night, members of the Pawtuxet Rangers joined us in their Colonial clothing, and several members of the Johnston Historical Society came adorned in 1830 style clothing. It was quite special to look about the rooms to see people dressed in a manner quite suited to the house.

This year we told you about the Images of America - Smithfield book, from Arcadia Press written by fellow member Jim Ignasher, and his associates Bill Pilkington and Ken Brown Sr. The authors donated their royalties to the Historical Society of Smithfield, and we recently received the first check, in the amount of \$677.54. This generous contribution is greatly appreciated.

At our September 25, 2008, meeting, new officers were elected:

President – Paul Lineberger
Vice President – Jim Ignasher
Treasurer –Maggie Botelho
Recording Secretary – Paul Lineberger
Corresponding Secretary - Vacant

Standing Committee Chairpersons Positions are:
Programs, Curator, Buildings & Grounds, History - Vacant
Publicity, Membership and Ways & Means - Maggie Botelho

Our new President, Mr. Paul Lineberger has already put time and energy into the property by removing the insulation from the cellar. During a visit by a preservation architect, we were advised to remove the insulation, as it was holding a great deal of moisture that would eventually cause damage to the timbers.

Another concern for the structure recently came to light during the first night of the Colonial Dinner. The door hinge on the front door pulled out from the casing. Upon a close inspection on Saturday, November 8, Jim Ignasher discovered that powder post beetles had destroyed the integrity of the wood. This will result in a need to reconstruct a good part of the Federal style doorway.

Regarding membership, 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 2008 – 2009 year. Not everyone can give of their time, however your membership dues contribute greatly to the care and upkeep of the Smith-Appleby House. Your show of support is valued more than can be expressed.

This newsletter is also published on our web site www.smithapplebyhouse.org.
To receive notification of a newsletter posting, please provide me with your email address, (smithappleby@aol.com) you will be notified when a newsletter is posted.

We are looking forward to seeing you all soon, and hope you will attend the Members Christmas party on December 13, 2008, at 6:30.

Sincerely,

Maggie Botelho