

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

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

March 2009 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Fellow Members:

Please join us on **Thursday, April 9, 2009, at 6:30**, for our first members meeting of the year. We will be meeting at the Smith-Appleby House Museum, and encourage all members to attend.

On the agenda are several challenges facing the Society this year pertaining to the care and maintenance of the museum. Additionally we would like to recommend amendments to the charter, and require a quorum to make the changes.

On another note, if you have an interest in history, you may know the story of Joseph Plumb Martin, or a Rhode Island native by the name of Jeremiah Greenman. Both of these individuals were Revolutionary War soldiers, and they are remembered today because they preserved their experiences by publishing their memoirs, or by keeping a diary. As members of the Historical Society, we also have a story to tell. What was the interest that brought us to the Society, how long have we been involved, are we related to the Smith, or Appleby family? If you have a story you would like to share, we would love to add the information to the archives. I recently asked one of our members, Mr. Anthony Dusky to share his story. Anthony joined the Historical Society in 1990. He was born in Smithfield, on a farm on Rocky Hill Road. His homestead was originally the Jeremiah O. Enches homestead built around 1799. Anthony went on to explain his father's origins, who as a young man immigrated to Webster, Massachusetts in 1873, from Kwieciszewo, Poland. Please join Anthony in saving, and sharing a little piece of your own history.

With this in mind, we must say farewell to one of our members, Muriel M. Gustafson (Applebey). Muriel was a lifelong resident of Greenville, and she passed away on January 26, at home. We will miss seeing her at meetings, and the annual Christmas party, and would like to express our condolences to her husband Bill, and family

As it has become our custom, we would like to provide you with a little information on how we ended our event calendar last year, on December 6, 2008, we rented the house for a building fundraiser for the Greenville Public Library. The silent auction items were set up throughout the first floor, and with all of the holiday decorations, it was quite lovely. We set up four beautiful Christmas trees this year, all donated by Mr. John Emin from his business, the Seven Cedars Christmas Tree Farm in Smithfield.

On December 7, 2008, we hosted our Christmas Celebration, and had a wonderful turnout of adults, and over 50 children. We were delighted to see familiar faces from last year, who have decided to make the Smith-Appleby House part of their Christmas tradition.

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On this same date, the Smithfield Conservation Commission and members of the Historical Society met on the grounds to dedicate the new wooden flagpole to honor the service of Frank Champoux, who passed away one year ago in December. It was a cold, and windy day, and I think Frank would have laughed to see us all standing there sharing stories of our regard for him.

On December 9, 2008, we rented the house to the Blackstone Valley Interpreters Network for a catered potluck dinner.

On December 13, 2008, the member's party was a happy occasion, and the Yankee Swap was downright civil!

Enclosed is our events calendar for 2009. For our volunteers who have been so generous of their time and hands, please mark your calendars, and consider your ability to help with these events.

We would like to encourage property rentals for family picnics, weddings and photographs this year. We are also welcoming schools to bring their students for local history and education. We do not charge for the programs that are provided to the students, or to organizations such as the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts.

Regarding old business, not all membership dues have been collected for the 2008-2009 year, 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 current year. Now more than ever, remaining a steadfast member supporter provides the funding needed to take care of the museum.

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 – contact me at: smithappleby@aol.com you will be notified when a newsletter is posted.

Sincerely,

Maggie Botelho