

The Historical Society of Smithfield, Inc.
Smith-Appleby House Museum
220 Stillwater Road, Smithfield, Rhode Island 02917 (401) 231-7363

September 2010 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Fellow Members:

Heads were bent towards hands, eyes intently upon their work. In one case, a little tongue was sticking out to the side through a space formally occupied by a tooth. This was the scene at the first “Sew What? With Maggie & Friends, held on August 14th. We had 17 students who attended our first sewing class at the museum. The students learned three basic embroidery stitches. During one of our breaks, the students also learned an 18th Century dance, just to get our hearts pumping! The students were between the ages of 7, and 63, and I believe that it was a very successful event. Many thanks to Michele Krakowski who was instrumental in organizing the event, and put her own sewing skills to work to make pin holders extraordinaire for the kits. Two ladies from the Hope Chapter of the Embroiderers Guild of America joined us, and assisted in teaching the students. We received enough interest that we will be holding a second class on October 9th. If you have some embroidery talent you would like to share, extra teachers would be very welcome, especially to help with the younger students.

I may be accused of “burying my lead,” however I would like to invite everyone to attend our **members meeting on September 9, 2010, at 6:30**. It would be wonderful just to see everyone again, and to get caught-up. We have two events remaining for the year, the Colonial dinner in November (12 & 13,) and the Christmas open house in December (5th). Please let me know if you would be able to assist with serving or kitchen support for the dinner, or would be able to help serve hot chocolate and cider for the open house. According to tradition, December 11th will be our annual members Christmas party. For our new members, this is a potluck dinner. Let me know what you would like to bring. Following our dinner, we have engaged in a Yankee swap; so if you would like to participate, bring a wrapped gift (under \$10).

Our Reptiles of New England program on July 17th had a reasonably good turnout, considering the temperatures were in the 90’s! Even the snake was too warm! Kim Calcagno from the Audubon Society did a wonderful job with presenting the mysteries of the reptile world.

Not mentioned on our published calendar of events, on September 25th, the museum is participating as a “Friend of the Challenge” sponsor for the Blackstone River Valley Greenway Challenge, an adventure race. The property will be used as a transition site for the bicycle portion of the race, with runners waiting for their team member to arrive. On the same day we are hosting a Museum day program, in

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collaboration with the Smithsonian, and the museum will be open for tours. I think hosting these events may generate interest in the museum, and the site.

If you would like to help with the race, or occupy a room in the museum while the self guided tours are underway, please leave a message at the museum, and I will contact you.

Remember the lost and then recovered dock? On July 17th, the dock was restored to its proper position, and is now fully functional, with some care being taken to ensure it does not leave again. Unfortunately, I arrived too late to view the process, however, I understand it involved many men, block and tackle, possibly a tractor, and plenty of Yankee ingenuity. Once again, our thanks to Don Burns, Lonnie Thurber and every one else responsible for the restoration of the dock.

While speaking of appreciation, we would like to thank Dorothy Reynolds, a member of the Historical Society, for donating a great many articles to the museum this year, as well as Sally Adams who has honored the museum with two family Bibles.

These items will be on display for the upcoming membership meeting, on September 9th, at 6:30.

In closing, thank you for your membership support, as it is an important part of maintaining the museum, and is very much appreciated. August 31st marks the end of our fiscal year, and membership dues will be required for voting purposes at our membership meeting.

Sincerely,

Maggie Botelho
Treasurer