

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

December 2010 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Fellow Members:

It's that "Hap-Happiest Time of The Year" again, and time to remind you about the annual members Christmas party on December 11, at 6:30. Please give me a call at home, 233-2679, if you are able to attend, and what potluck dish you would like to bring. One of our members is collecting wonderful recipes for a cookbook, so if it's not a family secret, please bring along a copy of your recipe. Following our dinner, we will have a Yankee swap, so if you would like to participate, bring a wrapped gift (under \$10).

Our last official event for the year is our Christmas open house in December 5th from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Please let me know if you would be able to assist with manning a room, collecting money or serving hot chocolate and cider for the open house. I'd like to call upon all cookie bakers, to make some cookies for the refreshments that day. Last year we had over 100 adults, and a great many children, so we can't have too many cookies. If we have leftover cookies, perhaps we can begin a cookie swap tradition! Remember my motto, "nothing goes to waste!"

Part of our Christmas Remembered theme will be stories written by our members, and friends of the Society, retelling a favorite memory of a Christmas past. I would like to have a story (about one paragraph) for each room, so if you have a story to share please mail it to the museum as soon as possible, or email it to me at smithappleby@aol.com. I'd like to compile all the stories I receive, and they will become part of our archives.

Since I am asking favors at this point, I would like to ask if any of our members have any old or odd chairs (hidden in the attic or stored in the garage) that might be suitable for use in the museum for our dinners. We have a charming set of eclectic chairs, about 35 or so, and with the addition of some new (old) chairs, we won't have to use the metal folding chairs, which are generally cold, and don't fit the charm of the house. We can arrange for pickup.

Just to let you know what we have been up to, the Blackstone River Valley Greenway Challenge (adventure race) took place on September 25th. Thank goodness for Historical Society volunteers, Jeanne Betancur, Sal Capirchio, Michele Krakowski, Michael Korba and Tew's Company, 2nd RI Paul LeComte, and Josh Bowe, friends of the Society who manned positions of traffic control, and spotting. In the museum we had June Giammarco (with Sassy), Peter Giammarco, Greg Williams, and Dolores DeCesare. On the same day we hosted a Museum day program, in collaboration with the Smithsonian Magazine.

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The museum was open at no charge for the participants of the Challenge, and a Cub Scout pack, with their parents.

I'm glad to report that the Colonial Dinner was well attended, and actually sold out weeks before the event. We had more volunteers than ever before! One of the guests volunteered her husband to assist in "lumping" trays, so a special note of thanks to Steve Cimini. Remaining our kitchen anchor was Claire Mercier, with Ann Marie Ignasher dishing up, along with Michele Krakowski and Paul LeComte on Saturday night. Serving, and lumping was brilliantly executed by: Keri Dyer, Fallon Issler, Mary Ann Lowe, Donna Gemma, June Giammarco, Teresa Lorencovitz, Jeanne Betancur, Barry Lowe, Dennis Botelho, Peter Giammarco, Michael Korba and Greg Williams. The newest position "dish dawg" (scraping plates) was handled by Don Goncalves, who made it look easy on Friday night, and then on Saturday night, Brian Mello of Tew's Company, 2nd RI, met the challenge. Acting as seating hostesses, we had young volunteers Miss Julia Mendonca, Miss Abby Goncalves and Miss Catherine Sherman. The Friday night "drumming of the beans" was received with laughter and applause, ensuring it has a place in future dinners. I was overwhelmed with the help and hands for the Colonial Dinner, so many thanks to everyone.

On November 18th, we had a tour at the museum, a group from Emerald Bay Manor. The keeping room was filled with walkers and wheel chairs - the nicest people you would ever want to meet. The group came with a box of popcorn and cranberry garlands they strung for us.

I must say Saturday, November 20th, was a busy day, starting with the Roger Williams Family Association, tour, then the Vernacular Architecture Forum, New England Chapter members who combed the house for unusual architecture, and then a family birthday party. The house was warm, happy and humming with activity from 9:15 am to 10:15 pm.

One piece of old business, our new fiscal year officially commenced September 1st, with the same slate of officers as last year.

As I have mentioned in the past, your membership support remains an important part of maintaining the museum, and is very much appreciated. If our records indicate your membership has expired, your newsletter will include a reminder.

Warmest wishes to you all, and please try to join us for the members Christmas party this year, on December 11th, at 6:30.

Sincerely,

Maggie Botelho