

July 28, 2007

Dear Friends & Fellow Members:

Please join us on September 20, 2007, for the annual meeting at the Smith-Appleby House at 7:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served. Some of the items on the agenda include the election of officers, an update on the Williams Road property, and proposed revisions to the by-laws.

To update you on recent activities, the May Breakfast fundraiser was well attended, patronized by a busload of visitors with the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council. Our second event of the year, a Children's Victorian Tea with Teddy was also well received. We managed to fit in two private lunches, and two dinners for church groups and the Red Hat Society ladies in June.

Those of you with Internet access have been sent this newsletter electronically, in order to reduce printing and mailing costs. In the future, our newsletter will appear on our web site: www.smithapplebyhouse.org. Please send us your email information if you would like to be notified of upcoming meetings utilizing your email. For those of you who do not use email, we will continue to mail a copy of the newsletter to your mailing address.

During your next visit to the house, please take notice of the new dock at the water's edge. Mr. Tom Tetchner, along with several other volunteers, built the dock as an Eagle Scout project for Tom. Another change resulted from a driving accident that damaged one of the flagpoles. A decision was made to move the flagpoles to a more prominent position on the property, and the grist stone was raised to be more visible. The grist stone had been used as a base for the center flagpole for many years. Perhaps you will remember that the stone had been found near the Smith-Appleby House years ago, where it had been recovered from Georgiaville Pond.

Other changes on the property include the removal of several large trees, which was done in an effort to improve the damp conditions in the house that contributed to the need to repaint every few years. You will also see that the caretaker's house (our new office) has a new roof.

In an effort to improve the grounds, a large number of flowering bushes were purchased, and these have been planted near the rock walls. The former woodpile near the barn has been transformed into a bed of Hosta, and it certainly looks more presentable for the weddings that we are booking.

A major effort took place in April to clean the barn and house attic. A dumpster was donated, and the disposal fee was waived. Great care was taken to ensure that nothing of

any value was accidentally disposed of. In actuality, several items were unearthed that had been lost in all the debris, and these included a silver spoon with the initials of one of the family members, a lovely old doll worthy of restoration, and some table linens that, with a bit of laundering, have been put back into service.

Other news includes the efforts of fellow member Jim Ignasher, and his associates Bill Pilkington and Ken Brown Sr., who have collaborated on the writing of a book about Smithfield as part of the Arcadia Press Images of America series. The authors have most generously named The Historical Society of Smithfield as the recipient of the royalties.

It had been our intention to include with this mailing, membership cards, as we have been remiss in mailing them out for the 2006-2007 year. However, because the current year runs from September 1, 2006 – August 31, 2007, rather than mailing cards that are only good for one month we would like to offer this as a reminder that membership dues for the 2007-2008 year would be appreciated prior to the August 31, 2007 year end. We will mail out the new cards for the 2007-2008 year as renewals are received. *Current membership is required to vote at the annual meeting.* Your membership is truly valued, as it is a show of support for the Smith-Appleby House. The money generated by membership dues and donations comprises about one-ninth of the money needed to maintain the house for one year. Although you may not be able to give of your time, your membership dollars do make a difference. Your dues (Individual \$10.00, Family \$20.00) should be sent to: The Historical Society of Smithfield, 220 Stillwater Road, Smithfield, RI 02917.

On behalf of Geri DeAngelis, President, and Helen Gaudreau, Treasurer, we would like to thank you all for the trust you have placed in us during this past year.

Sincerely,

Maggie Botelho
Vice-President