

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

June 2009 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Fellow Members:

Please join us on **Thursday, June 18, 2009, at 6:30**, at the Smith-Appleby House Museum for our second members meeting of the year. We did not have the 15-member quorum required to vote on any business matters at our last meeting, so we would like to encourage all of our members to attend this next meeting. We have included an agenda in order to provide you with the substance of the items that we are considering. As noted in our last newsletter, there are several challenges facing the Society this year pertaining to the care and maintenance of the museum, and we want to ensure that our efforts reflect the wishes of the membership. Additionally we would like to recommend amendments to the charter, and require a quorum to make the changes.

Following my request last month to our membership to share a little piece of personal history, we were delighted to receive a letter from Sally Adams, a long time member, and great-great-great granddaughter of John Smith Appleby, and Patience Harris. Sally was able to describe the times she spent in Stillwater, the meals enjoyed at the table of Myra Appleby, and helping to serve guests at one of the May breakfasts that Myra hosted, and one particular breakfast in 1932. We are so grateful to add this information to our archives.

Speaking of May breakfasts, we departed from our May Breakfast tradition this year by omitting the second seating. This was done in an effort to reduce the amount of work required to set up between sittings. Our increased price (\$15 instead of \$8) included a house tour. The May Breakfast, Brunch! was sold out, and had the added benefit of requiring half the food. We still saw many of our regulars, but enjoyed meeting new people who had always wanted to tour the house. Also in May, the Smith-Appleby House participated in a Blackstone Valley event, Thresholds – Footsteps in History. This was a free, statewide event, and we were busy with tours from 11:00 am, until almost 4:00 pm, meeting at least 40-50 guests.

On August 8, 2009, we are hosting an Ice Cream Social on the grounds, but will also be recognizing the life, and contributions of Mary Mowry, who passed away last year. A copper beech tree has been planted in her honor. The dedication will be held at 12:00. Members of the Historical Society of Smithfield are encouraged to join with the Smithfield Conservation Commission and members of the Smithfield Land Trust to honor Mary's memory.

Again, please join us on June 18 at 6:30 pm, for our second membership meeting of the year.

Sincerely,

Maggie Botelho
Treasurer