

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

June 2011 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Fellow Members:

It seems as though whenever we have more than two cars in the driveway at the museum, someone pops in to say hello. Recently, one of our members stopped by with some charming old tools: many thanks to our friend and neighbor Russ Godin and family for thinking of the museum. Also, thanks to fellow member John Emin for his gift of books from his collection. Anthony Ricci also dropped by, with some larger tools, including an Ice King blade for harvesting ice. Ask to see it the next time you are at the museum.

We opened the house in April this year for another Sew What? Program. We presented an appliqué class with a very spring like motif with 8 students in our class. We followed that event with our 38th Annual May Breakfast on May 1st. The event sold out quite early this year, making it a lot easier for setting up the tables in advance. Our new method of serving, which includes “lumpers”, is working well, and makes it more likely that the food gets to the table warm. I am not sure of the origin of the word “lumper,” other than my brother uses it to mean “to haul!”

The Historical Society was encouraged to march in the Memorial Day parade in North Providence. This was the first parade I ever marched in and it was only two miles. Imagine my surprise when we won First Place for most patriotic! The ribbon will be on display at the museum and pictures will be up on our web page.

In June we hosted school programs for the Anna McCabe School, LaPerche School and The Children’s Workshop. We received some wonderful letters from the children where they expressed their enthusiasm for the house. **Please ask to see them when you attend the Membership Meeting on September 8, at 6:30.** We hope to publish the agenda for the members meeting in the September Newsletter.

We have decided to share the fun of routine cleaning at the museum. It seems that many hands do make light work, and cleaning is fun if it’s not your own house! I have attached the dates that we would like to meet at the museum for work bees. Please consider helping if you can – certainly not every time (unless you want to!). The dates for cleaning roughly correspond to the remaining events on the calendar this year, so please let me know if you are able to help for those events as well: September 24 & 25 – Revolutionary War – Living History Weekend, October 15 - Gingerbread Day will be our first cooking related class, and patient bakers will be required to supervise children and icing. The Colonial Dinner this year will have a “Sons of Liberty” theme as mentioned previously and is already sold out. .

Regarding membership, a great many of our members have paid their 2011 - 2012 dues, however those in arrears will find a notice with their newsletter. Your membership dues provide funds for our operating budget, and your support in this way is greatly appreciated. Dues must be current in order to vote during our Membership Meeting.

Warmest wishes,
Maggie Botelho