

Star Island and the Portsmouth Athenæum Present

Weaving the Threads of New England History

New England Heritage Conference 2016

August 27 to August 30 (3 nights) or August 27 to September 3 (7 nights)

starisland.org/newenglandheritage

newenglandheritage@comcast.net



Enjoy exploring the history of textiles in New England at the New England Heritage conference this summer on Star Island, Isles of Shoals, New Hampshire. Discover how textiles and clothing both shaped and reflected civilization in New England over time. Through a variety of lectures and workshops, explore transitions from farm to factory, homespun to decorative art and handcrafts to mill manufacturing. The exhilarating sea vista and the rocking chairs on the porch of the Oceanic Hotel await your arrival. Those who attend the New England Heritage conference in 2016 will automatically become “Friends” of the Portsmouth Athenæum and will receive the Athenæum’s newsletter and invitations to Athenæum events.

New England Heritage Conference Highlights: August 27 to August 30

“Weaving in Centuries Past” with Marjie Thompson

Step back to colonial days when early settlers discovered that they would have to produce their own textiles, from raw materials to finished clothing. Marjie Thompson, a noted textile historian and weaver, will focus on textiles from the 1600s to the 1800s, both those produced at home and those produced by professional weavers. Marjie is a past president of New England Weavers Seminar, a past Dean of the Weavers' Guild of Boston and a past president of Complex Weavers. She is one of a handful of weavers awarded the "Weaver of Distinction" title from New England Weavers Seminar.

“An Innovative New Hampshire Mill” with Aurore Eaton

Hear about the fascinating 105-year history of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, producer of cotton gingham and other textiles. Discover how this innovative corporation developed Manchester as a planned city, and built the massive mile-long mill yard along the Merrimack River that still defines the city’s landscape. Take a look at the company’s water power canal system, its immigrant labor force, and dramatic incidents in its history. Aurore Eaton is the former executive director of the Manchester Historic Association, a New Hampshire history columnist for the Union Leader, and author of the book on which this program is based.

“The Surprising Lives of Mill Girls” with Dr. Elizabeth De Wolfe

Take a behind-the-scenes look at the lives of female mill workers in this lively talk illustrated with sometimes humorous, sometimes scandalous, images. Elizabeth De Wolfe is Professor of History at the University of New England in Biddeford. Her research includes American women's history and nineteenth-century popular culture.

**New England Heritage Program Highlights:
August 27 to August 30 (continued)**

Wool Applique Workshop with Gretchen Gudefin

Explore the 19th century art of wool applique in this workshop with talented artist Gretchen Gudefin. Indulge in the color, texture and dimension of this felted wool craft. Gretchen Gudefin is a working illustrator in the style of the classic children's books that she grew up with, including those of Beatrix Potter and Tasha Tudor. She has engaged in writing, illustrating and photography for local publications including Kearsarge Magazine.

**New England Heritage Program Highlights:
August 31 to September 3**

“18th-Century Fashion & Material Culture” with Kimberly Alexander

Clothing and fashion can reveal quite a lot about a person: their economic status, their type of profession, and what they value. Join museum professional and textiles expert Kimberly Alexander to learn how John Hancock’s suit can disclose more about his life and personality than his documents and portraits. Kimberly Alexander is an Adjunct Professor of History at the University of New Hampshire. She has worked at Strawberry Banke, the Peabody Essex Museum and MIT’s museum.

“The Culture of Handspinning: Colonial Hearth to Contemporary Guild” with Peter Cook

Trace the history of the spinning wheel from the colonial hearth to the present day guild in modern fiber arts with well-known textile specialist Peter Cook. Peter is a spinner and a weaver and has served as director and chief curator of the Bennington Museum in Bennington, Vermont, the administrative director of Historic New England, and chief curator of Plimoth Plantation. Peter and his wife, Nancy, own Tare Shirt Farm, dedicated to craft interpretation and raising early breeds of domestic livestock.

“Native American Abenaki Clothing” with Denise and Paul Pouliot

Explore Native American dress and textile handcrafts in this informal program. Learn the captivating stories and meaning underlying the New England Abenaki People’s traditional dress and decorative embellishments Paul Pouliot is the "Sag8mo" or Chief Speaker for the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook and Abenaki People and President of COWASS North America. Denise Pouliot is a talented traditional Abenaki craftsman. She is also a member of the Cowasuck Band and has served in many capacities at the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum.

“The Isles of Shoals through Time” with Ann Beattie

Explore four centuries of life on the nine stark and hauntingly beautiful Isles of Shoals through a series of fascinating historical images. Investigate the role the Isles played in the worldwide fishing trade of the 17th and 18th centuries and the resort industry in the 19th century. Ann Beattie has a fascination for the Isles of Shoals. She is a former president of the Isles of Shoals Historical and Research Association, leads tours of Appledore and Star Islands, and hosts a variety of history programs on Star Island.

**New England Heritage Program Highlights:
August 31 to September 3 (continued)**

Other Events & Activities

In addition to the highlights described earlier, enjoy:

- ★ An ice-cream social
- ★ Afternoon social hours
- ★ Multiple thematic craft workshops
- ★ A rousing game of textile history Jeopardy
- ★ The opportunity to enact or enjoy an historical play
- ★ Historic candle-lit chapel services (nondenominational)
- ★ A history tour of Star Island & a ghosts and graveyard tour
- ★ A geology walk, a bird walk, a botany walk & a low tide walk

While every attempt will be made to offer these programs as described during the conference, weather and boat transportation, etc. may prevent programs from occurring as planned.