

We Need Your Help!

Over the past few years our membership has dwindled to critically low levels. We warmly welcome and appreciate new members who bring with them fresh ideas and a commitment to make Pawtuxet Village better than ever. All that is required is attendance at our meetings, and the giving of some of your time to help run our events. The benefits are enormous.

So please join the Gaspee Days Committee! You'll not only make a lasting impression; you'll make lasting friendships!

Our History

Believe it! George Washington, himself, was noted to have attended the very first celebration of the burning of the *Gaspee* in June, 1774 outside Williamsburg, Virginia. Gaspee Parades were held only sporadically in Rhode Island until 1965, when the modern Gaspee Days Committee was formed to ensure a fitting annual observance of our state's participation in the struggle for independence.

Our Committee has received numerous awards from organizations such as Freedoms Foundation and the US Library of Congress. Gaspee Days has been repeatedly cited as one of the top tourist events in the Northeast.

We join with the State of Rhode Island and the cities of Providence, Cranston, and Warwick in celebrating each anniversary of America's 'First Blow for Freedom'®.



The Burning of the *Gaspee*

The HMS *Gaspee* and her hated commander, Lt. William Dudingston, were sent by King George III to Rhode Island waters in March of 1772 to enforce the Stamp Act and prevent smuggling. They made no friends amongst the colonists by harassing shipping and delaying, often unjustly, ships that had properly passed custom inspection in Newport.

The latter was the case on June 9, 1772, when the packet sloop *Hannah* left Newport for Providence. When the *Gaspee* gave chase, *Hannah's* Captain Lindsey deliberately lured her across the shallows off Namquid Point (now Gaspee Point) and left the British ship hard aground on a sandbar, unable to move until the flood tide of the following day.

Upon arrival in Providence, Captain Lindsey reported the event to John Brown, one of the most prominent shipping merchants in Rhode Island, who sent out a town crier inviting all interested parties to meet at Sabin's Tavern to plan the *Gaspee's* destruction. Under the leadership of Abraham Whipple, the small band of patriots rowed eight longboats with muffled oars to the stranded ship. After a brief fight, Lt. Dudingston and his crew were taken prisoner and removed to Pawtuxet Village.

Near daylight on June 10th, the Rhode Islanders set fire to the *Gaspee*, burning her to the waterline whereupon her powder magazine exploded. Efforts of the Crown to learn the names of the culprits were unsuccessful, although a sizable reward had been offered. Public sentiment was in accord with the venture; this spirit of unity soon spread to the other colonies with the formation of the Committees of Correspondence to prevent further threats. It was but a short step from here to the First Continental Congress and eventually, the Declaration of Independence.

Further information on this historic event can be found at our Gaspee Virtual Archives website at: Gaspee.org.

For more information please write, call, or visit our website:

Gaspee Days Committee

P.O. Box 1772

Warwick, RI 02888-8883

(401) 781-1772

Gaspee.com

You're Invited!

Please come to our Meetings

on the **first Thursday** of each month
(except July, August, & September)

at **7:30 PM** at our

Aspray Boat House
2 East View Avenue
Pawtuxet Park, Warwick, RI



Membership Application on Next Page



**GASPEE DAYS COMMITTEE
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Dues: **\$10** per calendar year per person, payable when application is submitted.

Date: ____/____/____

I hereby apply for membership in the Gaspee Days Committee and will abide by its bylaws:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Date Accepted: ____/____/____

Comments:

The Gaspee Days Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at our Aspray Boat House located at the water edge of scenic Pawtuxet Park, Warwick, RI.

Please Join Us!

GDCBrochure1 6/6/11



Gaspee Days Committee
PO Box 1772, Pilgrim Station
Warwick, RI 02888-8883
(401) 781-1772
Gaspee.com



Please Join Us!

If you live in Rhode Island, you're probably familiar with the annual Gaspee Days Parade held in Pawtuxet Village each June. This Parade is only one part of Gaspee Days, a month-long celebration that includes events such as the Gaspee Days Arts & Crafts Festival. Members of the Gaspee Days Committee do all of this in an atmosphere of community service and friendship, while having a lot of fun as well.