Application Number: 34.10-13

Name of Organization: Scituate Preservation Society

Type of Organization: Private Non Profit

Location: North Scituate

Project Timing: (Please note that these dates are flexible.)
- May/June 2014 – Assessment of the SPS collection
- June – August 2014 - Documentation and Conservation of SPS collection
- September/October 2014 - Completion of a plan to address future collection contributions

Project Title: Scituate Preservation Society Museum Project – Collection assessment, conservation, and display

Project Synopsis: 1. In spring of 2012, the Scituate Preservation Society discovered a treasure trove of textiles and original artifacts representing the history of the town of Scituate. Of particular interest is a collection of antique/vintage clothing which was discovered in a metal locker and a storage trunk in the Scituate Grange. The collection contains 40-50 pieces of late 18th century to early 20th century clothing and bedding donated by two Scituate residents, Charles McCaffery and Una Potter. After a preliminary review of the collection by a textile conservator, the Scituate Preservation Society was advised that this was a collection worth preserving. SPS needs support/guidance from museum professionals to properly assess, document, conserve, store, and display our collection. What this support will do for the SPS is allow us to carry out our mission as described in Section 1 of this document with integrity. A collection maintained according to museum standards will allow SPS to be a research and educational resource to individuals or groups.

- Assessment of the SPS collection
- Guidance to document the collection to museum standards
- Guidance to conserve (cleaning/repair/storage/display) the collection to museum standards
- Development of a plan to address future contributions to the collection

What is the Final Product Output for this Project:
The SPS collection will be fully documented and appropriately conserved.
- A written plan to address future contributions to the collection

Designated Support from Staff/Volunteers: Two Volunteers

Does this Project have Funding? None at this time.

How will this Project Benefit the Organization? The Scituate Preservation Society has a long term goal of creating a Scituate Museum within the Scituate Grange Building. The preservation of our collection according to museum standards is the first step to realizing this goal. The project is consistent with the first part of our mission statement, “The identification, acquisition, preservation, restoration and maintenance of historical, educational, and cultural objects within the Town of Scituate, Rhode Island.” Once the collection is documented, cleaned, repaired, and properly stored it will be available for display at our local libraries and schools, may be reviewed at the Grange by appointment, will be available for local historical societies’ programming, and for research purposes at the Grange by appointment. The collection can also be used as a teaching tool for residents interested in preserving family textiles.
Why are you Seeking the CPC's Help? The SPS has had the textile items in our collection reviewed by a credentialed textile conservator who donated their time and expertise on the task. We were advised by this professional that we have a collection of historical value worth preservation. However, the expense involved in hiring a professional to direct SPS in the work of documentation, conservation, storage, and display is not fundable in our operating budget. Our operating budget is largely consumed by annual expenses leaving little funds for special projects.

Project Type/Discipline: Museum Studies and History/American Studies

Past CPC Participant?: No

Potential RWU Involvement: SAAHP, FCAS