



Jamestown Historical Society

November 2005

Dear Historical Society Member,

Earlier this year, the Jamestown Historical Society acquired the 350 year-old original land deed document of the town. Today, when you purchase real estate, your title search ultimately goes back to this document.

The document was signed in the spring of 1656 by 100 prospective Jamestown colonists. It divides the Island, assigns ownership to individual plots, and establishes a committee to negotiate with the Indians. Among the attendees and signators were William Coddington, Benedict Arnold, and other future governors of the colony.

When the document was coming up for auction this spring, our Town Clerk Arlene Petit alerted the Society. Against highly competitive bidding, we got the document for \$27,750.

And this is where we need your help.

The Society has begun a special fundraising effort called the 'Jamestown Property Agreement Fund' to underwrite the cost of acquiring and displaying the document. We are seeking support from local foundations, trusts and individuals.

The document is of great interest and value to collectors because of the signatures it contains - many the only extant examples. But its value to Jamestown and its people is incalculable. We hope you will join us in contributing to the purchase and display of this defining and seminal artifact.

Your contribution to the Jamestown Property Agreement Fund is fully tax deductible and will be kept segregated from other Society funds. Our goal is to reach \$35,000 by the end of the year. Please send your donation to: Jamestown Historical Society - Property Agreement Fund, P.O. Box 156, Jamestown, RI 02835. The Society is able to receive gifts of stocks also.

I hope that you will be able to contribute. All amounts are welcome.

Thank you.

Rosemary Enright
President

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President

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Museum & Collections
92 Narragansett Avenue

Windmill
North Road

Meetinghouse
North Road

The Battery
Beavertail Road