



Jamestown Historical Society

HERITAGE

Spring 2007

To collect, preserve, and share with others the heritage of Jamestown, Rhode Island.

Renovation of Jamestown Museum Begins

On April 16, the Jamestown Historical Society signed a contract with Coastal Restorations, Inc., of Newport to renovate the Jamestown Museum. The renovation will proceed in two phases.



Conceptual view of renovation

Phase 1, to be completed before the museum opens for its two-month summer season on June 30, will include the installation of insulation and an environmental control system. The windows will be restored and outer storms installed to protect the windows from continued deterioration. The interior of the building will be refurbished and painted. An emergency exit door will replace the northernmost window on the east side of the building.

Phase 2 is planned for the fall and will address the building's exterior. A handicap access ramp is being built along the east side of the museum; the ramp will lead to a new porch across the right front of building. New steps, with a gentler rise than the current stoop stairs, will also permit direct access from the street. The exterior of the building will be scraped, repaired as necessary, and repainted. New signage and landscaping are also planned.

The total cost of the renovation is budgeted at \$162,000. A capital campaign is underway to raise these funds as well as the money needed to complete the vault in the new Town Hall and to provide an endowment to support the society's larger mission.

Capital Campaign Report

The JHS Capital Campaign Committee under the direction of co-chairs Anne Livingston and John A. Murphy, met weekly throughout the winter to plan and track the Capital Campaign fundraising activities. The campaign's goal is to raise \$500,000.

The efforts of the committee range from encouraging gifts from generous donors; developing and submitting grant applications; and engaging the Jamestown community.

Major activities planned for May and June are direct appeals to JHS members and to businesses in town. At the Memorial Day Parade, a 'Cards for the Capsule' program will be introduced. Children and adult are invited to purchase a card on which to record their observations and wishes for the future. Cards will be stored in a time capsule in the museum and be opened and made part of the permanent collection in 50 years. The cards will be available for purchase throughout the summer at the museum.

A plaque listing the names of donors contributing \$2,500 or more will be mounted in the museum as permanent recognition of their generosity. Individuals giving \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000 will receive extraordinary panoramic photographs of Jamestown taken in August 1906. Donors in the \$500 and \$1,000 categories will receive a framed photograph of their choice from the JHS photo collection.

The one, not-to-be missed party of the campaign and the summer is the fund-raising event at Horsehead on July 28. The committee will start taking reservations in June. Mark your calendars!

Summer Program 2006

Saturday, May 12

Battery Day

11 AM to 2 PM

Join Major William Blodgett, the Newport Artillery, Captain Tew's Company, the Jamestown VFW and American Legion, the Scouts, and the Jamestown Band at Conanicut Battery Park for the raising of the flags of Great Britain, France, and the United States over the fort that was manned at different times by each country.

Saturday, June 16

Jamestown Windmill Begins Summer Hours

The windmill opens for the summer. Training day for the docents. Windmill will be open from 1 to 4 PM, Saturdays and Sundays through September 16.

Saturday, June 16

Quaker Meetinghouse Open

1 to 4 PM

Guided tours of the Quaker meetinghouse. The meetinghouse is also open by appointment throughout the year.

Saturday, June 30

**Jamestown Bridge Demolition Exhibit
Opens at Jamestown Museum**

Grand opening for a new exhibit and the partially renovated museum. Summer exhibition is *The Jamestown Bridge 1940-2007. Concept to Demolition*. Museum hours: 1 to 4 PM, Wednesdays through Sundays through September 2.

Saturday, July 7

Museum Docent Orientation

12 to 2 PM

Become a docent and enjoy a private tour of the new exhibit with explanation and commentary by Sue Maden, the Collection Committee Co-Chair.

Saturday, July 28

Capital Campaign Fundraiser

Horsehead, 5 to 8 PM

Ride by horse and carriage up the original sweeping entryway to Horsehead. Wander through the grounds with cocktail and hors d'oeuvre in hand. Bid for exciting gifts at the auction. Have fun while you help the Jamestown Historical Society reach its capital campaign goal of \$500,000.

Thursday, August 16

Annual Meeting

Jamestown Philomenian Library, 7 PM

Election of officers and Board of Directors for 2007-2008. Learn more about the Jamestown Bridge demolition from guest speaker Peter Healey, Principal Civil Engineer for RIDOT.

Sunday, September 2

Jamestown Museum Closes

Last day to visit the Jamestown museum before work begins to complete the exterior renovation.

Saturday, September 8

House Tour

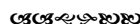
10 AM - 2 PM

Visit two late 19th century summer homes, *Belvedere* on Walcott Avenue and the Lippincott-O'Neill house on Beavertail Road. Learn their history and the history of the early 20th century summer community on Jamestown. Tickets \$15.

Sunday, September 16

Jamestown Windmill Closes

Last day to drop by the Jamestown windmill this summer. Group visits can be arranged any time by calling 423-0284 or emailing your request to jhs@jamestownri.com.



Go to jamestownhistoricalsociety.org and select JHS Calendar for a complete list of JHS and other Jamestown events of historic interest.

From the President

by Rosemary Enright

So much has been happening this winter that it is difficult to know where to begin.

Museum and Collections

As promised in the Fall 2006 newsletter, the museum renovation is underway. See the front page and the Collections report for details. Clearing out the building to allow the work to start was a major task. Joe Logan and Harry Wright led the volunteers who organized, packed, labeled, toted, and/or stored the contents of the museum and the attic. Volunteers included Nancy Bennett, Matt Bernardo, Jim Buttrick, Greg DiGasper, Jeff Gaulin, Lucille Gentsch, Phil Gregoire, Brookie Harding, John Horton, Ian Kirby, Nancy Logan, Sue Maden, and John Slattery. Many thanks to all.

All the collections are now at interim sites. Beginning in late June, we will reverse the process – but more slowly. Cataloging of uncataloged material will be part of the relocation. Under the direction of Sue Maden, our two interns, paid with a \$5,000 mini-grant from the Rhode Island Foundation, will be making sure that everything that is moved back to the museum or to the vault in the new town hall is properly described in our on-line catalog, marked, and stowed in the correct area. At least some of the archives and photographs will stay at their interim locations until the vault is ready.

Land Agreement and Vault

We've been watching the progress on the town hall with more than just community pride. When the building is complete, the JHS will place the Conanicut Land Agreement document in a specially built case in the interior hallway. We hope we'll be able to do that during *Jamestown 350 Week*, the town's celebration of the 350th anniversary of the Land Agreement and the purchase of the island from the Narragansett Indians. However, the building may not be finished until after the celebration. Our back-up plan is to display the Land Agreement document in the library for *Jamestown 350 Week*, August 11 through 19.

During the spring, the original document was at the New England Document Conservation Center in Massachusetts being cleaned and repaired. At the suggestion of the conservators at NEDCC, the binding – a later addition to the document – has been removed and the holes repaired. The conservation was partially financed by a \$540 grant from the Ott Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation.

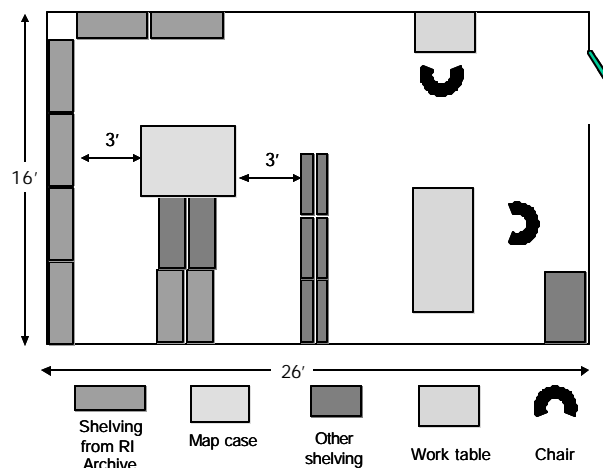
The vault in the basement of the new Town Hall is well underway. It will cost a little more than we had hoped – about \$63,000, including finishing and furniture. The RI Historical Records Advisory Board Grant Program has contributed \$2,000 for archival shelving in the vault. Our lease with the town is not yet signed, but the plan is to tie it to the museum lease ending in 2105.

The drawing below shows the floor plan vault.

Funding

As you read on page 1, the Capital Campaign is progressing well. Major gifts are being solicited. Grant applications are being worked on under the guidance of Ken Newman. We've already received the three small grants mentioned above.

Watch for a letter within the next month asking you for your contribution. We know that as JHS members you are already committed to helping and that our request won't fall on deaf ears. If you want



Vault floor plan

to talk about your giving plan, just call Anne Livingston at 423-0627 or John Murphy at 423-0400. Or me, of course, at 423-2674.

JHS Administration

Marion Pierce, our value treasurer since 2005, left the board at the beginning of January. Dick Allphin has taken over the treasurer responsibilities, and John Horton has moved to the vacated secretary position. We thank Marion for her hard work – both during her tenure and over the past months filing the end of the year reports.

The Long Range Plan recommended that the JHS Board “evaluate and . . . revise if necessary its general administrative structure and procedures in light of its current goals and responsibilities.” Harry Wright took the lead in the evaluation with Deb Foppert, John Horton, and me on the team. Our revision to the bylaws was presented to the Board in December 2006 and finalized in January 2007.

The major change is in the committee structure. Instead of defining a specific set of committees that address the current concerns of the JHS, the new bylaws call for only three standing committees: Executive, Nominating, and Finance. Other committees are established by the Board “as it shall deem necessary or desirable.”

We also agreed to increase the maximum number of members on the Board to 20. The activities over the past year have stretched the capacity of the current Board almost to the breaking point. While everyone on the Board contributed enormous amounts of time, we still have many things left undone. We hope that by increasing the size of the Board and defining a more fluid committee structure we can involve more members directly in achieving the JHS mission.

You’ll find a copy of the new bylaws in the center of the newsletter.

Publicity

The JHS mission, as stated in the bylaws, is to “collect, preserve, and share” our local heritage. Both collecting and sharing require that people in the community know who we are and what we offer.

Thanks to Sue Maden and John Horton articles have been appearing regularly in *The Jamestown Press* about our collections. In March I began a monthly column that discusses our activities and

plans. The monthly column will keep you up to date on our plans between the biennial newsletters.

We’ve also been working to expand our visibility off island. JHS photographs are being provided to *The Newport Daily News* to ensure that Jamestown is well represented in its Thursday “Then and Now” feature. And we’re not neglecting the web. If you haven’t been to our website lately, go to jamestownhistoricalsociety.org. John Horton and Dick Allphin make improvements regularly so check it out for the latest news.

Finances

With the expansion of the JHS’ responsibilities, the need to ensure the financial stability of the organization has become more evident. At the recommendation of Dick Hines and the Finance Committee, the Board has authorized three endowment funds at the Rhode Island Foundation: the JHS Endowment Fund for the support of our general mission, JHS Windmill Fund specifically to provide for the windmill, and JHS Mary R. Miner Archives Fund for “the direct care and management of the Society’s manuscripts, books, documents, photographs, prints, and paper ephemera.”

The general Endowment Fund will be funded as part of the Capital Campaign. The Windmill Fund was started with funds previously donated for windmill support. The Mary R. Miner Fund was initiated with gifts received in memory of Mary and a major gift from Jane Miner, Mary’s daughter and a long-time member of the JHS Board. We are exceedingly grateful for her continuing support.

Minding the Store

When the Long Range Plan was agreed to, the Board decided that not everyone could focus all the time on the implementation of its recommendations – somebody had to make sure that programs were planned and existing facilities maintained. Mary Heath has taken on the planning of our summer programs. Linnea Petersen continues her responsibility for the windmill. Greg DiGasper oversees the care of our facilities and coordinates with Joe Logan and Harry Wright on the museum renovations. Sue Maden manages the collections and exhibits.

They have soldiered on in the midst of their Long Range Plan work. Most of the rest of newsletter is devoted to their activities. Many thanks to all for your hard work.

JHS Summer Programs

by **Mary Heath**

Four major events are scheduled for the summer months, with participation in the *Jamestown 350 Week* celebration still in the planning stages.

May 12, Battery Day

The JHS has been working with The Friends of the Conanicut Battery to organize Battery Day for Saturday, May 12. Battery Day is early this year to coincide with the spring, Jamestown Cub Scout Pack 1, Ft. Getty Camporee. The Cub Scouts and their parents will be joined by some of the Boy Scouts from Jamestown Troop 1 in a march from Ft. Getty to the Battery to join in the celebration.

Formal activities begin at 11AM. Once again, Major William Blodgett, General Nathaniel Greene's Aide-de-Camp in 1776 and 1777, will be present to emcee the proceedings.

The Jamestown Community Band will provide patriotic music. The Newport Artillery and representatives of the Varnum Continentals will fire several salutes across the West Passage. Captain Tew and his Company of the 2nd Rhode Island Regiment, Continental Line, will reenact a Revolutionary War encampment.

Representatives of the British and French will raise the historic flags of their nations to commemorate their occupation of the fort during the war. Jamestown's American Legion and VFW units will raise the Betsy Ross American flag. During the flag raising, the band will salute the countries with their national anthems.



Photo by Janie Harris

Newport Artillery at Battery Day 2002

Captain Tew's Company, with its camp followers and encampment, will remain on the grounds till 3 pm, showing young and old what it was like to live out of a tent during the long fight for independence.

Come enjoy this Jamestown celebration, learn about our history, and show your support for Jamestown's only historic park.

June 30, Museum Exhibit Opening

The museum exhibit opening on June 30 is a two-fold celebration. The exhibit itself is a major event, sponsored by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) and mounted in cooperation with the Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL). The opening will be our first chance to show off the interior of our partially renovated museum.



Photo by Rob Brewster, Warren Jaeger Photography, Inc

Jamestown and Jamestown-Verrazzano bridges

The festivities will start at 1 PM. Expect an invitation and plan to be there!

August 10, Annual Meeting With Peter Healey of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation

Our annual meeting this year will be held during *Jamestown 350* week in the Jamestown Philomenian Library. In keeping with the theme of our museum exhibit, we have invited Peter Healey, Principal Civil Engineer for RIDOT, to tell us about the demolition of the old Jamestown bridge.

Mr. Healey was chief engineer during the demolition and will discuss how the bridge was taken down. See the exhibit first and come prepared with questions about how they managed to bring down the old bridge, only 400 feet from the Jamestown-Verrazzano bridge, without any damage to the new structure.

September 8, House Tour

The annual house tour is scheduled for the Saturday after Labor Day, September 8, from 10 AM to 2 PM. Two late 19th century homes are on the tour this year.

The first house on our tour, located on Beavertail Road, was built in 1893 for J.B. and Joanna Wharton Lippincott. It is now owned by the O'Neill family, direct descendants of the original owners. Pritchett & Pritchett of Philadelphia designed the fieldstone and shingle dwelling and an accompanying guest-carriage house. While simple in overall form, the buildings show eccentric flourishes like upturned gable peaks of quasi-Art Nouveau and Crafts inspiration.

The second house, *Belvedere*, is a Walcott Avenue gem designed by Charles C. Bevins and built in 1888 for Admiral David Dixon Porter. Admiral Porter served in the U.S. Navy during the Mexican-American and the Civil Wars, and was superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy from 1865 to 1869.

As originally built the house had three stories; the upper floor was removed in the 1940s. This radical change in the external appearance did not affect the piazza porch or the interior detail.

During the House Tour, JHS volunteers will provide insight into the architectural features of the homes, information about the original owners, as well as the history of the home's transformation over the years. If you'd like to be one of the volunteers, please let us know. You can call me at 423-3371 or send an email to JHS@jamestownri.com.

Don't miss a special opportunity to see and learn more about two very special Jamestown houses.



Photo from Jamestown Historical Society Collection

Belvedere about 1910.

Activities of Interest

The JHS Board has been following with great interest several activities by other organizations and individuals on the island.

Jamestown 350 Week

The week beginning Saturday, August 11, and ending Sunday, August 19 has been set aside for the celebration of the settlement of island by our colonial forebears. An ad hoc committee led by Charlie Petit is meeting bi-weekly to coordinate the activities of the many different island organizations that will be participating. The week will begin with a Chamber of Commerce fundraiser at Fox Hill Farm for the Dutch Island lighthouse restoration and end with the Community Band concert at East Ferry.

Watch the Jamestown Press and the signs around town for a complete calendar of activities.

Historic District Study Group

The Shoreby Hill Historic District Study Group, a group of Upper and Lower Shoreby Hill residents, has been meeting this winter to assess the desirability of creating an historic district on Shoreby Hill. They have arranged for Pamela Kennedy of the Rhode Island Preservation and Heritage Commission to come to Jamestown to explain what an historic district is and what establishing one involves.

Ms. Kennedy's talk is scheduled for Thursday, June 21, at 7 PM at the library. Everybody is invited.

'38 Hurricane Memories

Last fall several native Jamestowners who had lived through the 1938 hurricane approached Jane Bentley, a former member of the JHS Board and now on the Board of the Friends of the Library. They asked her to help them record their personal memories of the catastrophe. She has since video-taped about ten people and their stories and is working with the school librarian, Lisa Casey, to create a professional video.

A showing of the video and a panel discussion with the participants are tentatively planned for the 2007 hurricane season.

JAMESTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY BYLAWS

Approved: January 11, 2007

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization is "The Jamestown Historical Society." The Society is incorporated as a nonprofit organization in the State of Rhode Island and is located in Jamestown, Newport County, Rhode Island.

ARTICLE II

Mission

The mission of the Jamestown Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and share with others the heritage of Jamestown, Rhode Island.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Membership in the Society shall be open to all persons interested in the mission of the Society. The board of the Society shall from time to time establish categories of membership and the privileges and dues that pertain to each category. It shall not, however, infringe on the existing rights and privileges of current membership categories nor shall it deprive the right of all memberships to elect members of the board at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV

Board of the Society

4-1. Members. There shall be not fewer than ten and not more than twenty members of the board of the Society (henceforth the "board"), which number shall include the directors and the officers. All board members shall be members of the Society.

4-2. Appointment. All board members shall be elected by the membership of the Society at the annual meeting. All board terms, except that of the treasurer, shall begin and end with the dates of the annual meetings. The treasurer's term shall coincide with the dates of the fiscal year. Resignations of board members shall be effective upon receipt by the president of written notice and do not have to be accepted by the board to be valid. Any board member who

misses three or more consecutive board meetings without prior notice or excuse shall be considered to have resigned from the board. In the event a vacancy shall occur in the board, the remaining board members may at their discretion fill that vacancy until the next annual meeting.

4-3. Terms. Directors shall normally be elected for three-year terms, staggered so that approximately one-third shall be elected each year. Directors may serve no more than two consecutive three-year terms. Officers shall be elected for one-year terms. No officer shall serve more than five consecutive terms in one office, except that the treasurer shall be exempt from this provision. Under no circumstances may any board member serve on the board more than eleven consecutive years. After their term limits have expired, board members shall be eligible for reelection to the board after the period of one year.

4-4. General responsibilities. Subject to the provisions of these bylaws, the Society's articles of incorporation, section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, and the laws of the State of Rhode Island (R.I.G.L. 7-6-1 et seq), the board shall have general control and supervision over the property, affairs, and business of the Society, including--but not limited to--the Society's governance and the establishment or approval of policies pertaining to the Society's real estate, collections, finances, programs, and general activities. It shall control, directly or by delegation, the accession and the disposition of any assets of the Society. It may authorize any officer or officers to enter into any necessary contracts or to execute documents in the name of and on behalf of the Society. It shall approve both the annual budget and the Society's general investment policies, and no changes in either shall be undertaken without the authorization of the board or its designees.

4-5. Individual responsibilities. In undertaking their responsibilities members of the board shall act in good faith, with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a similar position would exercise under similar circumstances, and in a

manner they reasonably believe to be in the best interests of the Society. They shall serve without compensation of any kind and are prohibited from benefiting from any objects that may be deaccessioned from the collection. They may be reimbursed for the actual cost of out-of-pocket expenses incurred while undertaking Society business, but any request for reimbursement of non-budgeted expenses must be approved by the executive committee. Board members shall promptly disclose all potential conflicts of interest to the board prior to any consideration of any matter in which a potential conflict of interest exists.

4-6. Indemnification. Board members and members of the Society are not individually or personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the Society. The Society shall attempt to indemnify any of its past or present board members or employees against claims and liabilities incurred by them while acting in good faith at the request of the Society-- including expenses, attorney's fees, judgments, findings, and amounts paid in settlement. Indemnification shall not in any way exceed the limits of state law or jeopardize the tax exempt status of the Society under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

4-7. Meetings. The board shall meet at least four times a year at times and places designated by the president, or at the call of the president, or upon the request of any three members of the board. A majority of the current members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE V Officers

5-1. There shall be at least four officers of the Society. These shall include a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

5-2. President. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Society or the board and shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to this office. The president shall be ex-officio a member of all committees, with the exception of the nominating committee, and shall chair the executive committee.

5-3. Vice president. The vice-president shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the

president and shall assist the president in such duties as the president may delegate.

5-4. Secretary. The secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of meetings of the members and of the board. The secretary shall distribute the minutes to all board members at least one week prior to the next meeting; and shall see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws or as required by law. The secretary shall be custodian of the records; shall keep a register of the mailing address and telephone number of each board member; and shall keep a record of attendance of board members at meetings. The secretary shall perform all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the president or by the board.

5-5. Treasurer. The treasurer, under the supervision of the Board, shall have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds of the Society. The treasurer shall keep, or cause to be kept, and be responsible for the keeping of, accurate and adequate records of the assets, liabilities, and transactions of the Society; and shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, all monies and other valuable effects of the Society in the name of and to the credit of the Society in such banks, trust companies, and other depositories as the board may designate from time to time. The treasurer shall disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the Society based upon proper vouchers for such disbursement and in accordance with the board-authorized budget; shall report to the board on the state of the treasury at the time and in the manner that the president shall request; and shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, all other financial reports as required by the Society. The treasurer shall perform all the duties incident to the office of treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the president or by the board. The treasurer shall be an ex officio member of the finance committee.

ARTICLE VI Committees

6-1. General. Subject to the specific requirements set by other provisions of these bylaws: 1) the board shall determine the size, purpose, and other attributes of all committees;

2) the president, with the approval of the executive committee, shall appoint the chair and the other members of all committees; 3) all committees--except for short-term ad hoc committees--shall have at least two board members and shall be chaired by members of the board; 4) all committees, except the executive, may have members who are not members of the board and may enlist such other help as may be needed from the membership to carry out their responsibilities; 5) all committees shall report to the board and to the membership from time to time as the president and/or the board shall deem necessary; 6) every board member shall serve on at least one committee; and 7) in addition to the three standing committees--executive, finance, and nominating--the board shall have the power at any time, and from time to time, to establish such other permanent or ad hoc committees as it shall deem necessary or desirable.

6-2. Executive Committee. The executive committee shall consist of the officers of the board. The president, with the approval of the board, may appoint to the committee not more than two other board members for such time as the president and board shall determine. The executive committee shall meet at the call of the president or of any two of its members. Unless the board determines otherwise, the executive committee shall have and may exercise all of the powers of the board in the management and direction of the affairs of the Society during the intervals between meetings of the board except that it may not expend any part of the permanent endowment, or dispose of any other assets of the Society, or alter the budget or investment policies without the approval of the board. All actions of the executive committee shall be reported to the board at its next regular or special meeting and shall, except as to completed transactions, be subject to board revision or alteration.

6-3. Finance Committee. The finance committee shall be charged with preparing and submitting to the board a recommended budget for each fiscal year. It shall be responsible for the investigation of financial matters, the recommendations of policies concerning investment strategies and insurance coverage, as well as any other financial matters as are referred to it from time to time by the board. It

shall arrange for the conduct of an annual audit of the Society's financial records, to be performed in accordance with an approved audit program.

6-4. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall have at least one non-board member chosen from the Society's membership. At the annual meeting it shall present in writing a slate of officers and directors for the ensuing year for the approval of the membership. Nominations may also be made from the floor. Should the board decide to fill a vacancy or vacancies between annual meetings, the nominating committee shall provide nominations for the board's approval.

ARTICLE VII Financial Policies

7-1. Fiscal Year. The dates of the fiscal year shall be January 1 to December 31.

7-2. Donor Restricted Funds. All monetary gifts or bequests accepted by the Society that are accompanied by donor directions or restrictions of any sort shall constitute restricted funds. Such funds shall be applied only to the specific purposes and within the specific restrictions designated by the donor. Should a donor not provide specific directions as to the rate of expenditure of investment of a restricted fund, the fund shall be managed on the same terms as the permanent endowment fund; but no part of the income shall be expended for any purpose other than for such purposes as are authorized by the terms of the gift or bequest, or for investment or reinvestment in the restricted fund.

7-3. Board Restricted Funds. The board may establish a restricted fund or funds separate from the permanent endowment to be reserved or expended for such general or specific purposes as it shall determine.

7-4. Permanent Endowment Fund. All monies accepted by the Society by gift or bequest and not otherwise designated by the donors or the board, and such other sums as the board shall from time to time direct, shall constitute a permanent endowment fund. This fund shall be kept invested by the finance committee, and without the approval of two-thirds of the current members of the board voting at a regular or

special meeting of the board or by mail, no more than five percent (5%) of the average value of the endowment over the previous five financial years shall be expended annually for any purpose other than investment or reinvestment.

7-5. Real Estate and Tangible Personal Property. The sale, transfer, exchange or other conveyance of any real estate or of any tangible personal property that is not part of the collection, with a value of over one thousand dollars (\$1,000), and the sale, transfer, exchange, or other conveyance of any part of the collection, without respect of value, shall require approval by the board. The notice for any such meeting shall contain a description of the substance of the matter upon which such action is to be taken.

7-6. Signature Requirements. Checks or withdrawals for non-budgeted purposes in excess of \$250 shall carry the signature of the treasurer and one other board member designated by the president with the approval of the executive committee. Each year the president shall appoint two alternate signatories, in addition to the treasurer, for the Society's financial transactions.

ARTICLE VIII Meetings of the Society

8-1. Annual Meeting. There shall be an annual meeting of the members of the Society for the election of members of the board and the transaction of such other business as may come before it, which meeting shall be held each year in the month of August unless circumstances require another date. Twenty memberships of the Society shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the annual meeting; and the order of business shall be as follows: 1) the reading of the minutes of the previous business meeting; 2) the president's annual report; 3) the reports of such officers and committees as the president or the members present deem appropriate; 4) unfinished business; 5) the report of the nominating committee; 6) the election of new members of the board; 7) new business; 8) adjournment.

8-2. Special Meetings. Special business meetings of the Society may be called by the

president at any time thought to be necessary or desirable and in addition shall be called within a month of the receipt of a written petition signed by any ten or more members of the Society in good standing addressed to the president and/or the board that explains the purpose of the proposed meeting.

8-3. Parliamentary Authority. Roberts Rules of Order shall be the authority at meetings of the Society and of the board when applicable and not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE IX Amendments

These bylaws may be amended or repealed, and new bylaws may be adopted, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the board members present at a regular or special meeting of the board, provided that the changes have been proposed and approved at a previous meeting of the board and provided that written notice of such meeting and of the proposed changes in the bylaws is given at least ten days prior to the meeting at which such changes are to be presented for adoption. No diminishment of the powers granted to the members of the Society by these bylaws shall be valid without the approval of two-thirds of the Society's memberships present and voting at a meeting called for that purpose with due notice and with the substance of the amendment having been sent to the membership at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

ARTICLE X Dissolution

If the corporation be dissolved, the board shall donate its remaining assets to a similar non-profit corporation, organized under Rhode Island Law, which is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) and in accordance with the laws of the State of Rhode Island.

Windmill Committee

by Linnea Petersen

We usually think of the summer months as the time to welcome visitors at the mill, but this past fall and winter brought an impressive number of visitors.

Winter Visitors

In November we hosted a tour of the New England Association of City and Town Clerks. About 60 clerks filed through the mill as part of their bus tour of Jamestown's historic sites.

Bill Hutchinson's students from the Quest Montessori School in Exeter visited in January. In April, the Rotary Club brought five exchange members from Australia to visit.

A special thanks to Harry Wright, Rosemary Enright, Jim Buttrick, and Paul Petersen who gave of their time and expertise to allow those tours of the mill to occur.

We are more than happy to arrange special tours of the mill for groups – especially schools. Our young people need a sense of ownership of the Old Jamestown Mill if this unique building is to survive in the future. Access, education, and a feeling for the island's agricultural past will help build this commitment.

Summer Plans

Spring cleaning and the scheduling of docents for the season are underway. We're looking for volunteer mill-sitters. Rosemary Enright's April column in *The Press* perfectly describes the job:

"The task is simple: Before 1 PM on your selected Saturday or Sunday, pick up the keys and drive up to Windmill Hill. Open the mill doors and windows, put out the "Open" banner, and relax for three hours in one of the most beautiful spots on the island. Chat about Jamestown with people who stop by. Ask visitors to sign our log and allow them to embark on a self-guided tour of yesteryear. Point out the wall-mounted placards and the booklet that explain how the windmill works.

"At 4 PM, bring in the banner, close the windows, lock the doors, return the keys, and drive home rested and at peace."

Visitors love our mill. The setting is beautiful. The views are spectacular – made even more so by the work of the Nature Conservancy to clear the view. The peaceful quiet of the place is wonderful. Dick Allphin's picture of the mill on our website captures the awesome views and sense of peace the mill provides all who come.

This year the windmill will be open each Saturday and Sunday from June 16 to September 16 – a total of 28 days – from 1 to 4 pm. We'll have a "docent's day" on opening day June 16 to familiarize the volunteers with the mill. To become a docent, please call me at 423-1820 or email me at linneac@cox.net with your name and phone number. I will contact you to confirm a date during the season for you to mill-sit. I look forward to hearing from you!

Friends Meetinghouse

by Harry Wright

The meetinghouse also had a busy winter. Bill Hutchinson's students from the Quest Montessori School visited and sat for a minute in silence to help them understand the Quaker experience. According to some of the students it was the hardest thing they had ever had to do.

The Australian Rotarians braved our cold raw April weather, to learn about the history of the Society of Friends and hear about the Quaker experience in Jamestown.



Photo by Rosemary Enright

Australian Rotarians and their Jamestown hosts listen intently to Harry Wright's explanation of Quaker meeting.

Publications

by John Horton

Do you know many people bought Conanicut Island from the Narragansett Indians? One?, ten? one-hundred? Have you ever seen Benedict Arnold's signature? Are you interested?

If you are, go to the JHS website and see the original Land Agreement. Look at the signatures of many of the early colonists in Rhode Island. Read a transcription of the contract. The recently purchased Conanicut Land Agreement is one of many items on JHS's recently upgraded website.

You'll also find 75 memories of the old bridge from past and present Jamestown residents. Maybe yours is there. Or maybe you'd like to send us a memory. You can mail your story to us at P.O. Box 156 or email it to JHS@jamestownri.com. We are continuing to post stories as they arrive.

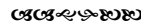
The website has a map of historic sites and an up-to-date calendar of JHS activities and other events of historical interest. The Collections catalog is available and you can view hundreds of pictures from the society's collections. You can read about our exhibits at the Jamestown



Map of historic sites on JHS website

Philomenian Library as well as learn about JHS properties, like the windmill and the museum.

Many of our brochures and bulletins, including all past newsletters, are available. The web address is jamestownhistoricalsociety.org.



Buildings and Grounds

By Greg DiGasper

As you read on page 1, renovations at the museum are underway, including installation of the heating and cooling systems. A new fire/smoke alarm will be connected directly with the Jamestown Fire Department in order for the museum to have its own alarm zone.

Late last summer we were experiencing slow sewer drainage. Taking advantage of the warm February weather, we had the waste line cleaned from the corner of the museum to the street. Some clogged places were cleared, and it was reported that roots are probably penetrating the pipe. Since the planned access ramp will be built directly over the current sewer line, the town is going to replace the pipe before Phase 2 of the renovation begins.

Bids are being sought for scraping and painting the exterior trim of the Friends Meetinghouse and out building. The window glazing is also in a state of deterioration and will be addressed. In addition to repairing a loose floorboard in the northeast corner of the room, we hope to remove several tree stumps in an effort to clear the grounds around the building.



Photo by Rosemary Enright

First step in the museum renovation was to remove the windows for refurbishing.

Spraying for powder post beetles, carpenter beetles and carpenter ants was recently completed at both the meetinghouse and the windmill. The last treatment for these pests occurred several years ago and had to be repeated in order to keep them from doing further damage. The total cost for spraying both buildings was \$1700.

With the help of a Boy Scout, the windmill was cleaned up and is now in shape for its first visitors in June. In preparation of Battery Day, the Battery will be visited and spot cleaned by volunteers.

Collections Committee

By Sue Maden & Harry Wright

The Collections Committee has met monthly. The members are Rosemary Enright, Joe Logan, Sue Maden, Linda Warner and Harry Wright.

Summer Exhibit

The summer exhibit at the museum, *The Jamestown Bridge 1940-2007. Concept to Demolition*, will open on June 30 with a reception. You'll all receive an invitation. The JHS is working with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation and the Public Archeology Laboratory (PAL) to premiere the PAL traveling exhibit documenting the demolition and to integrate it with JHS pictures and artifacts of the bridge's history.

The museum's interior will have quite a different look this year. As part of the renovation, the ferry exhibit has been retired. The displays that blocked the two windows in that area have been taken down and the windows exposed. The shelving in the front room is being removed and the plaster walls are being repaired. The shelving in the back room is being retained as a reminder of the days when the building was used as the town library.

One of the two dividers that separated the ferry room from the front display area has been removed and the other is now on wheels, making it more versatile. The walls and woodwork are being painted. Consequently, the space will be more open, much brighter, and because of the environmental controls, much more comfortable.

Museum Docents

Fran Boyer has taken on the docent scheduling task this year and will be calling those of you who volunteered in previous years. The museum will be open each Wednesday through Sunday from opening day through September 2, plus the Monday and Tuesday, August 13 and 14, of *Jamestown 350 Week*.

More docents are always welcome. If you have not served in the past and would like to, please call Sue Maden at 423-2167 or send an email to jhs@jamestownri.com.

A formal orientation for docents will be held on July 7, the Saturday after the exhibit opens, from noon to 2 PM. If you can't make it then, Board personnel familiar with the exhibit and the logistics for opening and closing the building will be serving as docents on July 4, 5, and 6 from 1 to 4 PM and can answer your questions.

Volunteers are also needed to tend to the garden outside the museum. Please call Sue if you are interested in helping in this area.

The Jamestown Bridge, the Book

A second edition of *The Jamestown Bridge, 1940-1990* by Sue Maden will be released in conjunction with the exhibit. For the new book, renamed *The Jamestown Bridge, 1940-2007*, the material in the first edition has been edited and updated and new chapters on the building of the Jamestown-Verrazzano Bridge, the demolition of the Jamestown Bridge and the impact of the bridges over the East and West Passages have been added.

The update, a joint effort of Sue Maden, the JHS, PAL, and *The Jamestown Press*, will be published by *The Press*.

Library Display Case



The display case that the Society donated to the Jamestown Philomenian Library in May 2006 now has a brass plaque commemorating the gift.

The Collections Committee changes the exhibits in the case every three to four months. This winter



Photo by Joe Logar

The early winter exhibit in the library showed some of the JHS ferryboat models.

we had two displays: one of ferryboat models and the other about Fort Wetherill. The next exhibit will focus on the Capital Campaign and JHS's plans for the future.

The summer exhibit is being planned around the 350th celebration of the island's purchase in 1657.

Donations

Donations accessioned over the last six months are described in the box to the right. Of particular interest – especially in light of this year's exhibit – are the 839 photographs from the Vieira family. From 1960 to 1969, E.R. Vieira had the contracts to maintain the bridge. Each week that maintenance was performed, he took numerous photos of the



**Jamestown Bridge
maintenance**

condition of the bridge and the work being done. The photos were including in his report to the Jamestown Bridge Commission and the engineers overseeing the bridge maintenance. The collection complements the Harold Sherman

collection of over 130 photographs of the building of the bridge.

Cataloging

As of April, the number of records cataloged were: Archives, 1,960; Objects, 1,252; and Photographs, 4,284. Since the fall, two volunteers have tackled significant parts of the collections – Nancy Logan is working on the library and Holly Collins is cataloging the society's own records.

This summer two interns from the College of the Holy Cross will continue our cataloging efforts. They are Laurel Richardson and Matthew Guardino. Our thanks to Jody Ziegler, a professor at Holy Cross and a Jamestown resident, who helped identify these students.

Caring for the Collections

Proper storage for the collections has been addressed in several ways. Textiles, after being cataloged, have accession numbers sewn inside them, are wrapped in special tissue paper and then are stored in archival textile storage boxes. Our thanks to Judy Knight who continues with this task.

Donations and Acquisitions

Judith Babcock: certificate of appointment to the Jamestown Ferry Authority in 1951

Ken Caswell: a DVD, "Why We Belong 1891-2005. A Short Pictorial History of the Jamestown Fire Department and Its Members"; a souvenir felt pennant from Jamestown with an image of the windmill

Fred Clarke: 1928 booklet, *Souvenir Program. Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary.*

Marjorie Cottell: photos of naval ships from the Admiral Wadleigh family

Department of Transportation: a copy of "Recycling From Rhodes to Reefs" by Daniel J. Berman, an article on the Jamestown Bridge, in *Public Roads* magazine (September /October 2006)

Milo DiGasper: two milk bottles found at the Battery

Island Realty: a 2006 holiday postcard with the windmill on it

Varoujan Karentz: a transcript of an October 2003 "Oral History of the 76th Night Fighters"

Bill Knapp: Jamestown Community Band CD of Christmas music

Judy Knight: ten t-shirts from Fools Rules and the *Oklahoma* production by the Jamestown Community Theater

Sue Maden: articles on the town hall from 1982; Town Hall mug (1884-1984); two notebooks relating to the 1990 Jamestown Bridge project; a scrapbook of articles about the building of the Jamestown-Verrazzano Bridge; five photographs from the early 1930s of an American Legion carnival

Jane Miner: a gate-leg table and a ferryboat model of *Jamestown IV*

Marion Pierce: commemorative tercentennial plate from 1957

Linda Nilsson: a toy model of a ferryboat, with "JAMESTOWN" on both ends, and six toy cars and trucks that fit onto the ferryboat

Walter Schroder: Battery Mitchell sign that had been at Fort Greble on Dutch Island; a map of Fort Wetherill

Ernest Vieira family: 839 photographs and related reports from the years when Ernest Vieira had the Jamestown Bridge maintenance contracts (1959-1968)

Eoin Walsh: sign from movie made in Jamestown, *Dan in Real Life*

Linda Warner: two articles on Conanicut Battery from 1975

Membership Dues

To determine whether or not you need to renew your membership, look at the address label on this newsletter. Just after your name, you will see the parenthetical (Mbr:) followed by a year or a code word.

- The date tells you the latest year you were a paid member of the Society. If we received your dues after September 2006, you are paid through 2007.
- If you are a life or contributing member, the code is "Life"; if you are an honorary member, it is "Hnr." These members don't need to renew membership annually.

We always welcome voluntary contributions.

The membership form is printed below for your convenience.

Photographs from the JHS Collection



Select any reproducible photo in the collection.
Get a 13 x19-inch framed copy with a \$1,000 donation to the Capital Campaign.



Jamestown Historical Society Membership

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____

State: _____ Zip Code _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

_____ Single - \$15

_____ Family - \$25

_____ Life - \$200 per person

Donation

_____ Voluntary contribution

_____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

PAYMENT

Please make checks payable to Jamestown Historical Society and send this form to

Jamestown Historical Society

P.O. Box 156

Jamestown, RI 02835

VOLUNTEER

The Jamestown Historical Society is an all-volunteer organization. Join a committee and help us do more for our community. Check any activity you are interested in.

Collection _____ Windmill _____

Programs _____ Publications _____

Development _____ Finance _____

Building & Grounds _____

YOUR THOUGHTS

Please let your Board of Directors know about programs and projects that interest you.

Jamestown Historical Society

401-423-0784

www.jamestownhistoricalsociety.org

JHS@jamestownri.com

**Officers and Directors
2006 – 2007**

President	Rosemary Enright
Vice President	Harry Wright
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**Celebrate
Jamestown's First
Historic Park at:**



Conanicut Battery Day

Saturday, May 12, 2007 - 11 am - Battery Lane



COME EARLY • Bring Chairs & Water

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Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
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