



Jamestown Historical Society

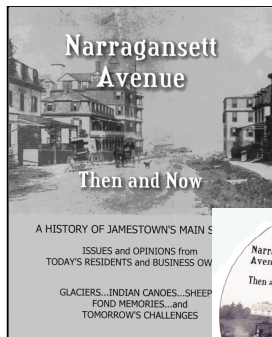
HERITAGE

Fall 2007

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

New Views of Jamestown History

Three exciting new publications about Jamestown came out this summer and fall. Each offers a different insight into Jamestown's history.



Narragansett Avenue: Then and Now is a fascinating video history of Narragansett Avenue. Barry Cook and Nicholas Schaus, who created



and produced the DVD, use interviews with island shopkeepers and residents to discuss both the

history of our "Main Street" and present-day village issues. The content is particularly appropriate now, as the town debates its vision for Jamestown in the 21st century and how to modify the zoning code to achieve that vision. The historic photographs used in the DVD are from the JHS collection.

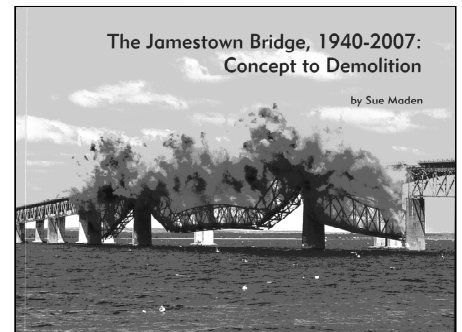
Nick and Barry have kindly donated the income from the sales of the DVD to the JHS. The price is \$20 for non-members and \$17 for members (tax included), plus \$2 shipping for mail orders.

Mister Miller, The Miller is a lively children's story set in the old Jamestown windmill, owned and maintained by the JHS. Martha Milot wrote and illustrated the book, which



tells the story of the miller, his cat, and the mice in the mill and includes drawings and descriptions of how the mill operates. Martha has also kindly donated the income from the book's sale to the JHS. Copies are \$5 for non-members and \$4.50 for members (tax included), plus \$2 shipping.

The Jamestown Bridge, 1940-2007: Concept to Demolition, a revision of Sue Maden's 1991 history of the bridge, arrived from the printer in mid-October. It is a joint project of the JHS, the



Jamestown Press, and the Public Archeology Lab (PAL). PAL chronicled the demolition of the bridge for the state, and its descriptions and pictures detail not only the blasts that demolished the structure but the less dramatic phases from the environmental studies through the creation of reefs from the recycled cement. The price is \$21.35 (\$19.95 and tax), plus \$4.00 shipping.

Copies of *The Jamestown Bridge* are available at Baker's Pharmacy, Conanicut Marine Ship's Store, Jamestown Designs, *Jamestown Press*, and Jamestown Hardware. All publications are available by mail. (Sorry, we don't have a distribution point for the other publications while the museum is closed.) Orders and checks can be sent to the Jamestown Historical Society, P.O. Box 156, Jamestown, RI 02835.

Development and Membership

By Shawn Mayers

We are pleased to report that membership in the JHS is growing stronger. In recent years, we have established a strong base of local support and added substantially to our list of out-of-town members. Currently, 70 percent of our members are Jamestown residents, while 10 percent live elsewhere in Rhode Island and another 20 percent come from as far away as California and Texas.

While it's wonderful to have support from all across the country (and how we love to see new faces and meet new friends), the reality is that out-of-towners – except our annual visitors – are not always likely to renew their membership year after year. Dues are important because this income directly supports operations and maintenance at the Jamestown Museum, the Windmill, the Quaker Meetinghouse, and the Conanicut Battery.

This year, the JHS will concentrate on solidifying and extending its membership base within the Jamestown community. A broad-based, local membership drive will help heighten awareness of the society, its properties, and its resources among Jamestown residents. We will seek to cross-promote our services with other local organizations whose members may have an interest in local history. Additionally, we will try to add special “members only” events and benefits to make membership more attractive.

The JHS is a valuable resource for educators, students, and history buffs throughout Rhode Island. Our membership committee is looking at ways to tie-in with colleges, universities, schools, and other historical associations state-wide to increase our potential membership.

If you belong to an organization that may be interested in exploring potential membership affiliations, please contact us – we'd love to hear from you. Our email is jhs@jamestownri.com. Our address is P.O. Box 156, Jamestown, RI 02835.



Honor Role of Volunteers for 2007

Each year we try to acknowledge the people who have contributed time and energy to the society's many endeavors. In the past, the names of these volunteers have been embedded in separate articles about the society's various activities. This year we have created an *Honor Role of Volunteers* designed to include them all.

Volunteers help the JHS in many different ways – as greeters at the windmill and the museum, as fundraisers for our capital campaign, as staff for

events, as members of boards and committees. Many of the people listed below have served in several different capacities.

The society thanks you all for your hard work and dedication.

There is always at danger in assembling a list like this that someone who has worked hard for the organization is unintentionally omitted. Please let us know, so that we can correct the omission. Send an email to jhs@jamestownri.com or call 423-2674.



David Adams	Tony Antine	Emily Boenning	Hannah Calcina
Debbie Adams	Mary Atamian	Fran Boyer	Ellie Chase
Dick Allphin	Jillian Barber	Erin Brennan	Donna Chellis
Joyce Allphin	Haley Barbour	Joan Briggs	Ennis Chestang
Lisa Andersen	Gale Bay	Leo Brown	Fred Clarke
Becky Andreozzi	Gerry Bay	Whit Brown	Holly Collins
Suzi Andrews	Judy Bell	Paul Brunelle	Mike Corcoran
Quentin Anthony	Nancy Bennett	Pat Buckley	Sue Costa
Carolyn Armington	Jane Bentley	Bill Burgin	Isabel Coyle
Rita Antine	Matt Bernardo	Jim Buttrick	Ann Crompton

Joe Davis	Rose Karentz	Martha Milot	Patricia Sheehan
Melissa DiFilippo	Emma Keaney	Jane Miner	John Slattery
Greg DiGasper	Hannah Keaney	Sylvia Monti	Betty Ann Taylor
Jan Doran	Betty Kinder	Eileen McCarney Muldoon	Barbara Trout
Donna Drago	Bob Kinder	William Mullins	Bob Trout
Joe Drago	Richard Kingsley	John Murphy	Carol Todd
Art Dutton	Bob Kinzel	Mary Jane Murphy	Tom Todd
Wooley Dutton	Ian Kirby	Chandler Neale	Geoffrey Turner
Rosemary Enright	Bill Knapp	Carrie Nelson	Shirley Utterback
Tricia Evangelista	Judy Knight	Ken Newman	Nancy Van Devanter
Cynthia Flagg	Anne Lane	Dan O'Donnell	Pat Venable
Linda Flinton	Annie Langan	Gloria O'Laughlin	Nancy Ventrone
Bob Florentino	Rayanne LaPierre	Don O'Laughlin	Richard Ventrone
Paula Florentino	John Leyon	Joseph O'Neill	Joan Vessella
Deborah Foppert	Teddy Leyon	Katherine O'Neill	Brandi Wade
Jeff Gaulin	Steve Liebhauser	Peter O'Neill	Skip Walls
Lucille Gentsch	Anne Livingston	Karan Osenton	Linda Warner
Marcia Glassie	Bruce Livingston	Meghan Ouellette	Dennis Webster
Emma Graham	Mary Livingston	Brian Page	Mary Webster
Eleanor Gravdahl	Phoebe Livingston	Roland Parent	Alex White
Paul Greene	Joe Logan	Dominique Perrin	B.J. Whitehouse
Sue Greene	Nancy Logan	Linnea Petersen	Sarah Wineberg
Phil Gregoire	Diana Luth	Paul Petersen	Kay Worden
Betty Gulley	John Madden	Kate Petrie	Georgia Wright
Anne Hager	Mary Madden	Marion Pierce	Harry Wright
Brookie Harding	Sue Maden	Nancy Pollock	Josy Wright
Janie Harris	Kathy Maloney	Candy Powell	Lily Wright
Anna Harrison-Auld	Cathy Manchester	Betty Purdum	ViVi Valentine
Mary Heath	Pede Manchester	Alexia Pyle	Patricia Young
Owen Heath	Michael Mangiante	Sylvia Quinn	Ann Zartler
Steve Heath	David Margolis	Connie Rainone	Greg Zeek
Dick Hines	Shawn Mayers	Cheryl Rebecchi	Deede Zeek
Ginger Holland	Larry McDonald	Sav Rebecchi	Dorothy Zenie
John Horton	Kelsey McDonough	Paula Samos	Jody Ziegler
Ellen House	Maureen McGuirl	Ginny Saunders	
Bill House	Lois Migneault	Bob Saunders	
Varoujan Karentz	Arthur Milot	Sally Schott	

Membership Reminder

Is your membership up to date?

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.

- The date tells you the latest year you were a paid member of the society. If we received your dues after October 1, 2007, you are paid through

2008. Annual dues are \$25 for a family and \$15 for a single person.

- If you are a life or contributing member, the code is "Life;" if you are an honorary member, it is "Hnr." In either case, you don't need to renew membership annually.

We always welcome voluntary contributions in addition to dues.

Programs

by Mary Heath

This summer's programs went off very smoothly thanks to all the volunteers listed on our Honor Role.

Battery Day

The summer started off on May 12 with a bang – literally – as the Newport Artillery fired cannon salutes across the West Passage and other Rhode Island regiments joined them with muskets.

Formal activities began at 11 A.M. with a serenade of martial tunes by the Jamestown Community Band. The Jamestown Cub Scout Pack 1, joined by some of the Boy Scouts from Jamestown Troop 1, came up from their Fort Getty Camporee. Representatives of France and Great Britain, whose troops occupied the Battery at different times during the Revolution, raised the flags of their countries. Jamestown's American Legion and VFW units raised the American flag.

After the ceremonies, the Cub Scouts visited the 2nd Rhode Island Regiment at their Revolutionary War encampment. The veterans showed the boys and girls how to melt lead over the campfire and make musket balls and how to line up for a drill.

Jamestown 350 Week

Jamestown 350 Week, August 11 -19 was a great success. Members of the JHS marched in the parade; some rode in a surrey donated and driven by Nick Robertson of North Meadow Farm & Carriage Co. Rosemary Enright presented the scissors used for the ribbon cutting at the new Town Hall. A



Greg DiGasper, Ken Newman, and John Horton carried the JHS banner in the *Jamestown 350* parade.



A member of Captain Tew's Company of the 2nd Rhode Island Regiment, Continental Line, demonstrates how to make musket balls.

series of posters with important dates in Jamestown history lined Narragansett Avenue for the week.

The Jamestown Land Agreement of 1657 was displayed in the Sydney L. Wright Museum in the library. In cooperation with the Teen Center and Rolling Agenda, the JHS sponsored a "scavenger hunt" for historical information around the island.

On Thursday, August 16, the JHS held its Annual Meeting and members learned about the Jamestown Bridge demolition from guest speaker Peter Healey, Principal Civil Engineer for RIDOT.

House Tour

The two 19th-century homes visited during the annual House Tour on Saturday, September 8, gave contrasting and complementary pictures of Jamestown at the height of its early popularity as a summer resort. The more compact and urban Admiral David Dixon Porter house at 36 Walcott Avenue conveyed the relaxed graciousness associated with flowing summer dresses and sun-blocking parasols. The Lippincott house, surrounded by verandas and spreading lawns, brought to mind swarms of energetic children in bathing costumes.

The event was an overwhelming success with more than 300 visitors and volunteers enjoying the wonderful houses and the hospitality of the Antine and O'Neill families.

Jamestown Bridge Presentation

Sue Maden presented a program based on her new book, *The Jamestown Bridge, 1940-2007: Concept to Demolition*, at the Jamestown Philomenian Library on November 1. She will present the program again at the North Kingstown Library in the spring.

From the President

by Rosemary Enright

Much of our attention during the past six months has centered on the JHS Capital Campaign. You can read about that on the next two pages. The most important other events related to another part of our Long Range Plan – the revamping of our administrative policies.

As I reported in the spring, we revised the bylaws to reduce the number of standing committees. Since then we have been moving toward setting up board-defined committees to address the issues of the society. We have tentatively divided the committees into three groups: Properties (Windmill, Meetinghouse, Battery, and Buildings and Grounds), Outreach (Collections, Education, and Programs), and Support (Development, which includes Membership, and Communications).

Board for 2007-2008

An important part of the definition of the committees was the identification of current and new board members to lead and serve on them. To a great extent, your Executive Committee's vision of the committee structure gave direction to the nomination process for new board members.

At the JHS annual meeting on August 16, Harry Wright and I were elected to our third terms as vice-president and president, respectively. Secretary John Horton and Treasurer Dick Allphin were elected to their first official terms – both have been serving on interim appointments since January. We constitute the Executive Committee.

One member of the 2006-2007 board, Dick Hines, completed his second term this year. Dick was our Finance Committee chair for the past five years. We are most grateful to him for his contributions to the financial stability of the organization and for his advice about endowments.

Five new members joined the board, increasing the size of the sitting board from 11 to 15: Tricia Evangelista, Shawn Mayers, William Mullins, Sally Schott, and Dennis Webster.

Tricia Evangelista, a CPA, will chair the Finance Committee. She is the current treasurer for the Capital Campaign.

Shawn Mayers will be our Development Committee chair. Shawn feels strongly that our first concern should be growing our membership and involving you in our activities. Expect to hear from her soon about your 2008 dues.

William Mullins is taking over from Linnea Petersen as Windmill Committee chair. He is relatively new to the island and has taken on the planning for the signage and lighting upgrades at the mill.

Sally Schott has served on our Nominating Committee for several years and has children in the Jamestown School system. She will be our liaison with the schools and chair of the Education Committee.

Dennis Webster will be our Battery Committee chair. He is already the chair of the Friends of the Conanicut Battery and will help us work out a closer relationship between the two organizations.

Returning members of the board are Greg DiGasper (Buildings and Grounds Committee chair), Deborah Foppert, Mary Heath (Programs Committee chair), Susan Maden (Collections Committee co-chair), Kenneth Newman, and Linnea Petersen.

As you will read in their reports, many of the new chairs are already hard at work. I am very grateful that the membership has elected this very active and hard-working board.

Clancy Zoning Appeal

In March 2005, the JHS Board directed a letter to the Jamestown Zoning Board of Review objecting to a new retail outlet, proposed by David and Jennifer Clancy, in the Windmill Hill Historic District. The variance was denied, and the Clancys appealed to Rhode Island Superior Court.

The Clancy's lawyers have suggested that it is improper for a non-profit to object to or to expend funds to protect a Historic District. It is the opinion of your Executive Board that exactly the opposite is true – that we would be failing in our duty both to Jamestown and to the JHS if we did not continue to protect the historic and rural character of both the windmill and the historic district to the best of our ability.

Capital Campaign Report

The JHS Capital Campaign began in January 2007. We set out to raise \$500,000 to renovate the museum, build a vault for our most precious archives, catalog our collection, expand our outreach to the schools, and establish an endowment to create a regular annual income to help support our mission.

Fund-Raising Status

The total pledged as of Thanksgiving was \$411,683.34 – over 80 percent of the necessary funds. Of the pledges, more than \$375,000 has already been received. The funds have come from

JHS Members, including private foundations controlled by members	\$217,543
Horsehead Gala, including our business sponsors	\$ 51,122
Foundation Grants	\$ 32,540
Other individuals and businesses	\$106,813
Interest	\$ 3,674

We are very grateful to everyone who has given.

As we enter the final months of the campaign, we are about \$90,000 short of our \$500,000 goal. Several grant requests are still under consideration at foundations, and your Capital Campaign Committee is continuing to ask members of the community for their support.

The week after Thanksgiving, the *Jamestown Press* contained a special insert from the JHS Capital Campaign Committee – an oversized, 5 by 7 inch, envelope with a request to each person reading the *Press* to help us. We hope that those of you who had not yet contributed took advantage of that opportunity to send a donation.

“Message to the Future”

If you have sent a donation of \$25 or more to the JHS Capital Campaign – \$10 if you are under 16 – you are invited to become a part of Jamestown’s history by writing a “Message to the Future.” The “Message to the Future” cards were included in the envelopes in the *Jamestown Press*. The cards will be put in a waterproof fireproof Time Capsule and placed under the floor of the museum. A small brass plaque above it will remind Jamestowners where and what the Time Capsule is so they open it in 2057, the 400th anniversary of the purchase of the island, to see what people were thinking 50 years earlier.

Building Status

Even as we have been raising the funds, we have been dispersing them in accordance with the society’s Long Range Plan.

	Budgeted	Expended
Museum	\$ 187,257	\$112,311.50
Vault	\$ 63,304	\$ -
Cataloging	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000.00
School	\$ 3,500	\$ -

The results can be seen at the museum, in the Town Hall, and at our on-line site.

Museum Renovation Progress

The renovation of the museum is about 70 percent complete, exclusive of the landscaping. Bill Burgin of Burgin Lambert Architects, a former president of JHS, designed and is overseeing the work. Our contractor is Coastal Restorations, Inc.

The interior remodeling was completed in the spring, as planned, and the new bright and airy look contributed to our successful summer exhibit. The windows are completely rebuilt and storm windows have been installed to prevent deterioration from recurring. A heat exchanger is providing heat and cooling as necessary. The floors are refinished, and with the new finish the building’s original configuration as a schoolhouse, with its cloakrooms and bolted-down desks and chairs, is clearly visible.



A handicap walkway is being installed on the east side of the museum. The slope is gradual enough to eliminate the need for handrails.

The exterior modifications are moving forward quickly. A new sewer line is in place. The stone wall along the east side of the property has been rebuilt. Both the handicap and new stair entries have been graded and the concrete poured and the finishing stonework begun. If the weather holds, the stonework will be completed this fall.

The landscaping is being designed by Betty Hubbard. The rhododendrons and day lilies that had been in front of the museum have been transplanted to temporary beds. They will be replanted and clematis will be added along the new stone walls. Most of the landscaping will be done in the spring.

Vault

The vault in the Town Hall basement is finished. The archival shelving was installed the last week of October. Transfer of the archives to their new home is temporarily delayed for several reasons. The lock on the vault door is not yet in place, so we are reluctant to store valuable material there, and the dislocation caused by the renovation limits access to the museum where archives are currently stored.



The vault shelving is designed for archival storage and was purchased, in part, with a grant from R.I. Historical Records Advisory Board Grant Program.

We have not yet transferred funds to the town because we are still negotiating the lease.

Cataloging

As Sue Maden reports on page 11, during this past year we have almost doubled the number of items in our catalog. Maintaining the catalog is an on-going effort but the grant we received from the Peyton Hazard Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation as part of the Capital Campaign gave us a big boost in addressing the backlog that built up while we transferred from a manual to a computerized system.

School

We have, to date, established an Education Committee, defined its responsibilities, and begun implementing plans to provide Jamestown students with better access to our collections and to Jamestown's past.

Endowment

The second major part of our Capital Campaign has been to create a permanent endowment for the society. Until now the JHS has managed its own money. Funds in excess of budget were invested. However, this investment policy could be changed at the will of the board, and no formal rules controlled the budgeting process. In addition, we are not investment managers, and with a relatively small amount of money at our disposal we were unable to get the best return.

During the planning phase for the Capital Campaign, several potential donors wanted assurance that the money they gave would always be used by the JHS in a responsible matter. For all these reasons, the JHS Finance Committee recommended that a large portion of our funds be placed with the Rhode Island Foundation.

In accordance with our policy of segregating funds given for specific purposes, the JHS has since created three funds at the Rhode Island Foundation.

The Old Jamestown Windmill Fund was started in 2006. This fund was not created with Capital Campaign funds, but with gifts that were received specifically for support of the mill. The income is entirely restricted to that purpose.

The Mary Miner Archives Fund was created using Capital Campaign donations that were directed by the donors for the "care and management of the society's manuscripts, books, documents, photographs, prints, and paper ephemera."

The third fund is a general JHS Endowment Fund created using undirected Capital Campaign donations. The purpose of the general endowment is "to support our mission to collect, preserve, and share with others the heritage of Jamestown, Rhode Island."

We have so far transferred \$67,000 in campaign donations to the Mary Miner and JHS Endowment funds.

Windmill Committee

by Linnea Petersen

The beautiful weekend weather we experienced last summer brought over 450 visitors to the Old Jamestown Mill.

Our docents, whose names are listed in the Honor Role of Volunteers, made it possible for so many people to come and enjoy a bit of yesteryear in Jamestown's history. I wish to thank you all for your dependability and willingness to give your time and energy to enable others to have this experience.

The windmill closed officially on September 16, but reopened for some special guests on September 28. Sixteen 7th and 8th graders from Ms. Stephanie Pamula's Robotics enrichment class at the Lawn Avenue School came to the windmill to study an early example of an alternative energy source. The students are preparing to represent the school at the "First Lego League" competition in January. The theme of the competition this year is *Energy Resources – Meeting the Global Demand*.

On November 11, Paul and I went to the mill to "button her up" for the winter. While we were there, four visitors came by. Two were from Attleboro; their two houseguests were from Prague in the Czech Republic. The man from Prague had an uncle who was a miller and he saw many similarities between our mill and his uncle's. He marveled at the preservation of our mill, and his eyes twinkled with delight as he relived some of his past.

None of us who visit and care for the mill have known a time when the mill was in operation. Yet, through it, we can connect to our past. We share in our Czech visitor's delight and in the sense of history the mill gives to Jamestown and ultimately to us. I am very proud that, in a world ever changing, the mill, in the hands of the JHS, has been preserved and protected for future generation.

Plans

Our mission of preserving and protecting the mill includes sharing it and our knowledge of its operation with others. Two years ago we updated the booklet describing the history of the mill and how it works. This winter William Mullins, your new Windmill Committee chair, and I are initiating plans to make the mill itself a "book" that describes

its own history through improved signage and more professional displays. Our intent is to make the technology of the mill more understandable and to place its operation in a historic context.

Our plans are in the very early stages. We have visited other mills and looked at their explanatory panels. We have also watched how visitors move through the buildings, learning as they go. With ease of movement in mind, we are investigating installing small unobtrusive lights so that the uniqueness of the craftsmanship can be more readily observed. Lights in the bonnet especially will let visitors see and understand the transformation of wind power into motor power. Better lighting will also make the stairways safer.

Friends Meetinghouse

by Harry Wright

The meetinghouse had a typical summer – occasional sightseers and the regular Friends' meetings for worship on Sundays at 10:30 A.M. from early May through late October. Visitors are always welcome to attend the Sunday meetings for worship or to make an appointment to see the building independently at other times.

The most important news of the summer is unfortunately one of structural deterioration. During the repair of a loose floorboard in the northeast corner of the building, several beams and support posts were found to be decaying from moisture trapped under the floor. The JHS has been in touch with Tim Healy, whose firm is doing such a wonderful restoration of the Museum, to discover the full extent of the problem. We hope to be able to raise sufficient funds to enable the building to be repaired before next summer's opening.



A flat stone, identified by an expert as a possible colonial headstone, was removed from the meetinghouse yard for further study.

Buildings and Grounds

by Greg DiGasper

As you read in the Capital Campaign report, construction of the new walkway and entrance are in full swing at the museum.

Several times over the past month, New England Security reported the motion detector alarm being set off in the rear of the building. The reports coincided with the times that workers occupied the area and were clearly false alarms.

Options to control moisture trapped under the meetinghouse floor are being explored. In the meantime, emergency measures have been taken to strengthen the area affected by the decay and ensure the safety of those using the building. Quotes are being sought for the removal of several tree stumps on the grounds and for trimming of the evergreens facing North Main Road.

During the windmill closing this fall, evidence of powder post beetle activity was discovered. Earlier this year all interior surfaces of the windmill were treated with a pesticide for powder post beetles. The infected areas seem to be the old jib crane on display to the west of the entrance and some of the vertical beams on the second floor. A follow-up visit by New England Pest Control has been ordered. Treatment will continue throughout the winter or until the beetles are exterminated.

Education

by Sally Schott

The first activity of your new Education Committee was to arrange the visit by Stephanie Pamula's 7th and 8th grade Robotics class to the windmill in September. The student toured the mill and made sketches of the mill and its environs.

The committee is now planning to put together a JHS field trip menu for the teachers at both the Lawn Avenue and the Melrose Avenue schools so that they are aware of all the opportunities on Jamestown for educational outings. We hope to share this menu of field trip opportunities with off-island schools as well in an effort to broaden our education outreach.

In support of the Capital Campaign, we have provided each student in the schools with a "Message to the Future" card. Lisa Casey, the librarian at the schools, is meeting with each of the classes and having each student complete a card for the Time Capsule. Ms. Casey expects to have all the cards completed by the beginning of December.

The Capital Campaign committee developed special, easily identified, yellow memory cards for the children. We hope that some of the students who fill in the cards will be members of the JHS Board of Directors when the Time Capsule is opened and will eagerly search through the cards to see what they and their classmates had written 50 years earlier.

Communications

by John Horton

The Communications Committee is working with the Development Committee to plan for more effective use of our written and web-based publications. While our website now tells the public a lot about our organization, it is difficult to keep up to date. The committee is looking for a volunteer with Information Technology (IT) expertise to help select easier-to-use software and to design a private administration page for use by the society. If you have this capability and would like to help, please call John Horton at 423-3767.

The three new publications offered by the JHS are featured on page 1. Promotion of *The*

Jamestown Bridge, 1940-2007: Concept to Demolition, primarily orchestrated by Sue Maden, has been extensive. Pictures of the building of the bridge – some from the book and others from the historical society's collection – were featured at the Newport Public Library throughout November as a follow up to its exhibit on the demolition of the bridge. Excerpts from the book are planned as a photo essay in the spring issue of *Newport History*, the journal of the Newport Historical Society.

Rosemary Enright's monthly column in the *Jamestown Press* continues to keep the JHS in the public eye.

Collections Committee

By Sue Maden & Harry Wright

The Collections Committee (Rosemary Enright, Joe Logan, Sue Maden, Linda Warner and Harry Wright) has lots of news to report.

Summer Exhibit

The summer exhibit, "The Jamestown Bridge, 1940-2007," attracted a steady stream of visitors during the summer. Over 750 people signed the guest book – far more than our usual summer attendance. Visitors were enthusiastic about both the exhibit and the extensive renovations to the building.

Our thanks to all our volunteer greeters, whose names are included in the Honor Role. Special thanks to PAL, which installed the exhibit panels; to Fran Boyer, who arranged for the volunteer schedule; and to Ellie Chase, who tended to the plants during a dry season.

Library Displays

The JHS display case in the Jamestown Philomenian Library has housed three exhibits since our last report. In the spring, we displayed information about the Capital Campaign and the JHS's future plans. This summer, in honor of the 350th anniversary of the island's purchase, artifacts from 300th anniversary celebration in 1957 were on display.

The current exhibit in the library display case features the Jamestown Garden Club Salt Marsh Project and recent Quononoquott Garden Club awards, including an award for the garden at the Jamestown Fire Department Memorial Museum.

Also on display in the library, in the Sydney L. Wright Museum, is the Conanicut Island Land Agreement document from 1657. The document will be moved to the new Jamestown Town Hall as soon as a protective case is installed. The case, donated by Kim and Jeff McDonough, is being constructed by SmallCorp, a company that specializes in the manufacture of secure, environmentally controlled cases of this sort.

The case will be placed in a niche in the hallway of the town hall between the Town Clerk and the Finance offices. Plans are underway to display an



The current exhibit at the library honors the Jamestown and the Quononoquott Garden Clubs for their many contributions to the island.

explanation of the document and other related material on the surrounding walls.

Oral History Project

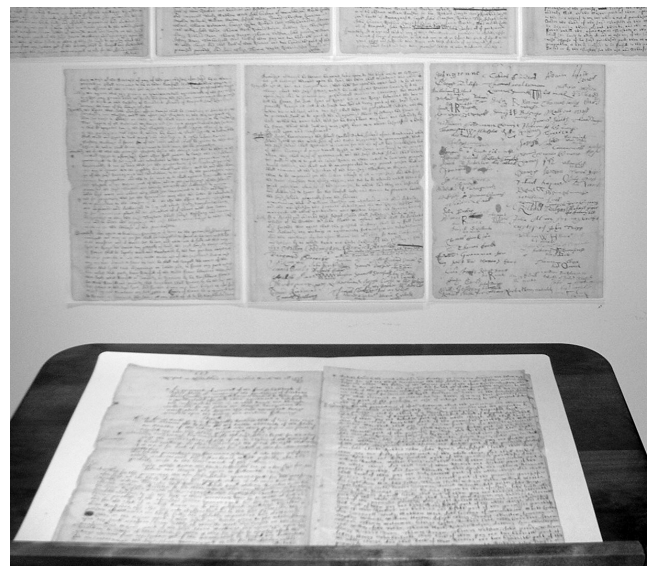
Fran Boyer has recently conducted an oral history interview with Jim Pemantell, Jamestown's former chief of police. The JHS is particularly interested in expanding its information about the Police Department.

Library Memories

Readers are encouraged to record their memories of the museum building when it was the library (1896-1971). Memories may be mailed to P.O. Box 156 or emailed to JHS@jamestownnri.com.

Summer 2008 Exhibit

Next summer we will present an exhibit on the Jamestown schools – as best as possible from the beginnings to the present and with a special section



The 1657 Land Agreement document will remain on display in the Sydney L. Wright Museum in the library until a case is installed in the Town Hall.

on how Jamestown students fared at (and getting to) the high schools in Newport and North Kingstown. Any memories you may have will be most helpful to us. Please write to P.O. Box 156 or phone Harry Wright at 423-2978 or send your memories to our email at JHS@jamestownri.com.

Cataloging

A total of 11,994 items have been cataloged into PastPerfect, the software program used to store data about the collections. There are four separate catalogs: objects, with 1,279 items cataloged; photographs, with 5,579 items; archives, with 4,990 items; and library, with 146 items. Great progress has been made. In the past year we have almost doubled the number of items catalogued.

A grant from the Rhode Island Foundation permitted the society to hire three interns over the

summer. Laurel Richardson worked for 300 hours and Brianna Cahoon for 150 hours. Beth Russell continues working toward a total of 150 hours. All three have made wonderful contributions to the society with their brightness, enthusiasm, commitment, and skillful cataloguing.

Vault

The JHS vault in the new Town Hall will house its archives, art work, and textiles. Shelving for archival items was purchased and installed using a \$2,000 grant from the Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board Grant Program. The JHS has bought additional shelving and files for large flat items.

By the end of the year the most vulnerable parts of our collection should at last be stored at high museum standards.

Donations and Acquisitions

Leo Brown: stencilled scarf, Jamestown Bridge, 1940-1990

Ken Caswell: 2007 collage picture of Jamestown Fire Department

Barry Cook: CD of John Murphy's talk at JHS 2006 annual meeting

Barry Cook and Nick Schaus: DVD, *Narragansett Avenue. Then and Now.* (2007)

John Doty: laminated montage of photos of bridge demolition

Jessie Dutra: poster with photos of 2006 Jamestown Bridge demolition

Henry P. Fletcher: rivet from Jamestown Bridge site from 1940

Jamestown Philomenian Library: "Beavertail stones and the wrecked schooner *H.F. Payton*," by Paul J. Perkins

Judith Fillmore: "History of Jamestown" by W.L. Watson and "Jamestown Sampler" by Bertram Lippincott

Varoujan Karentz: information on WWII night flyers at Beavertail

Joe Logan: photographs of wooden cow signs on North Road used in the 2007 Save the Farms campaign

Nancy and Joe Logan: DVDs of 2005 and 2006 Fools Rules Regattas

Nancy Logan: *Stars and Swastikas* by Walter Schroder (2007)

Sue Maden: two Notable Tree calendars with photos of trees from Jamestown; eight real photo cards from Bates family members to each other; Jamestown Bridge is falling down t-shirt; five decorative tiles with Jamestown buildings; Beavertail Lighthouse coloring book; four books on house histories; personnel records on Dutch Island Lighthouse keepers; Fort

Dumpling silver spoon; Fort Dumpling porcelain bowl, plate and saucer; tin can made into a house by Orville Minkler; Beavertail Light card; match stick covers from Fort Getty and Jamestown Bridge Commission

Patsie and Tom McCandless: CIAA poster for 1986 art show; photo of new Jamestown Bridge under construction

Martha Milot: 1928 booklet, "Souvenir Program. Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary"; three postcards of windmill; invitation to a 2001 windmill thank you event; Souvenir program, "The Town of Jamestown, Rhode Island 1678-1976"; *Mr. Miller, the Miller* (2007)

Marion Grant Moreau: Handwritten copy of "The American's Creed" by William Tyler Page written in 1917

John Murphy: Souvenir program from 300th celebration in 1957

Blanche Murray: ferryboat model of the *Gov. Carr* by Sherman Studios; brochure from Bay View condo 1989 sale; Meredith & Clarke greeting card

Carol Nelson-Lee: three copies of 2007 3-D Dutch Island Lighthouse calendar

R&R Gallery: Suncatcher with windmill

Bob Saunders: DVD of Jamestown Community Band's "Concert on the Green 2007"

Phyllis Suber: a "Nursery Refrigerator"

Town of Jamestown: 350th Celebration banner

Fricky Vaughn: articles about 1976 Tall Ships

Linda Warner: Jamestown telephone books, 2004-2006

Mary Webster: Newport Mercury and Weekly News, July 4, 1969

Jody Ziegler: 'The Portuguese of Conanicut Island: History Through Memories, 1895-1980,' by Shirley Tiexiera Quattromani, & Catharine Morris Wright (1980).

***Officers and Directors
2007 – 2008***

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Secretary	John Horton
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Directors to 2008	Deborah Foppert
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Jamestown Historical Society
P.O. Box 156
Jamestown, RI 02835

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and**



The New JHS Vault

**Sunday afternoon
January 20, 2008**

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