



Jamestown Historical Society

HERITAGE

Spring 2008

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



Renovated museum with new ramp and stairs

Capital Campaign A Success !!!

In early 2007, the Jamestown Historical Society 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 support our mission.

With the help of many people both on and off the island, we have exceeded our \$500,000 goal. Thank you all!

We have also made great progress toward implementing the improvements we envisioned when we started the campaign.

Museum Renovation

The renovation of the museum is almost complete—thanks to Bill Burgin and his colleagues at Burgin Lambert Architects and our contractor Tim Healy at Coastal Restorations.

Betty Hubbard's landscape design enhances the simplicity of the architecture. While the professionals of David Meloni Landscaping did most of the heavy work, a nine-member crew of volunteers planted 1000 vinca for ground cover on a dreary Saturday morning. Despite the uncooperative weather, most of the plants have survived.

A few details remain. A storm/screen door will be added on the front door. A new bench, donated by Diana Smith, will soon replace the wooden bench on the deck.

Vault and Cataloguing

An agreement to build a separate vault for the historical society in the basement of the new Town Hall was negotiated before the Town Hall was built, and a modification to the Town Hall contract specified the cost that the vault added to the basic contract. In January, the society paid the town for the building of the vault and signed a 99-year lease for its use.

In February, as soon as weather permitted, we began moving the archives to their new home.

A small grant received as part of the Capital Campaign gave us a head start on the task of transferring accession records—recorded manually in notebooks over the past 95 years—to the computerized database.

The responsibility for arranging, repackaging, and completing the cataloging of the material in the vault has been returned to the Collections Committee and its volunteers. (See page 9.)

Outreach to the School

A small portion of the capital campaign donations was allocated for educational outreach. We are using these funds to partially fund the 1657 Land Agreement display in the Town Hall.

When the new Town Hall was designed, a niche for the 1657 Land Agreement—the signed contract among the future purchasers of Conanicut Island about how the land would be paid for and held—was built into the west wall of the hall between the Town Clerk and the Finance department offices. An exhibit explaining the document will surround the document case.



Vault in basement of Town Hall

Kendra Davis and Emmy Lutes, class of 2009 at North Kingstown High School, helped ensure that the explanatory material was understandable to non-historians and that all the important questions were addressed. Adams Taylor, an independent exhibit designer in Newport, has been our invaluable consultant as we put the exhibit together.

Endowment

About half of our campaign donations will be added to our endowment. Most of the funds will be placed in a general endowment fund for the historical society at the Rhode Island Foundation. The income from this fund will be used to support our general mission. In particular, it will be used to ensure that the facility improvements paid for by the Capital Campaign are maintained and that programs are developed that reach out into the community to increase interest in our history.

Some donors gave their donations in memory of Mary Miner, who serve so many years as our archivist, or requested that their donations be used specifically for the care and management of the society's collection. These donations have been placed in the Mary Miner Archives Fund, also at the Rhode Island Foundation.

Thank you everybody!!

From the President

by Rosemary Enright

This has been an exciting winter, but most of the excitement has been reported in the cover story, so I won't repeat it here. Let me just say that the attendance and enthusiasm at the May 11 Open House made us all very happy—I'm still smiling.

What wasn't said on page 1 is how much we owe to so many people for the success of the Capital Campaign. First, foremost, and beyond any possibility of thanking them enough are Anne Livingston and John Murphy. Without Anne's knowledge of fund-raising, John's ability to stay on target, their mutual willingness to meet with anyone any time, and their enthusiasm for the goals of the campaign, we simply would not have succeeded.

Each of the members of the committee worked hard. Bill Burgin not only designed the renovations of the museum but also served as our intermediary with the town in negotiating for the vault and the Land Agreement display. Did you receive a recognition gift? Jim Buttrick selected and, in the case of the framed photos from the JHS collection, personally printed and framed your gift.

Fred Clarke, John Horton, John and Mary Madden, and Arthur Milot canvassed their friends and neighbors, ensuring that our "ask" reached broadly into the community.

Paul Greene and Tricia Evangelista shared the finance tasks, making sure that incoming funds were properly recorded and that bills were paid on time. Tricia also successfully solicited donations from the business community. Gale Bay organized the Horsehead Gala—our hugely successful fund raiser—as well as hosting our kick-off party in January 2007. Kenneth Newman developed grant applications to non-profit organizations—his considerable "people skills" put a face to our name and our cause. Daniel O'Donnell designed our logo and brochures, while Pat Sheehan handled our interface with the press.

Harry Wright, like me an *ex officio* member of the committee, went far beyond his *ex officio* duties—approaching potential donors, opening Horsehead for the gala, participating in the weekly meetings of the committee, and serving—with Bill

Burgin, Joe Logan, Greg DiGasper, and me—on the building committee for the museum.

Over 225 individuals, families, and foundations contributed directly to the campaign. Their names will all appear in the final report on the campaign. A plaque honoring the major donors is already on display in the museum.

"Message to the Future" memory cards from donors and from the students at the Jamestown schools are being placed in a box beneath the floor of the museum near one of the trap doors to the crawl space. A plaque on the trap door reminds Jamestowners of 2057 to retrieve the cards on the 50th anniversary of the campaign and 400th anniversary of the purchase of the town.

Thank you to everybody who gave money or time—and in many cases both—to make this effort so successful.

Treasurer and Finance Committee

Last August, the society membership re-elected Dick Allphin as treasurer, with his term under the new by-laws to start officially on January 1, 2008. Tricia Evangelista was elected to the Board and asked to serve as Finance Committee chair.

In January, Dick and Tricia asked to trade duties. Tricia, a CPA, felt more comfortable dealing with the society's day-to-day finances, while Dick enjoyed overseeing the investments and budget. The Executive Committee agreed to their request, and the action was confirmed at the March meeting by the full Board.

Board Activities

The Executive Committee concept is working well. We meet formally once a month—but not a week goes by without informal discussions. The EC has twice gone to the Board between its bi-monthly meetings for decisions that went beyond administrative actions. We have used email extensively to keep the Board informed and for voting on time-critical issues. The administrative website, discussed on page 8, will go a long way toward reducing the email glut.

The committee chairs, in the meantime, have kept the organization going and on track. You will read about at least some of the things they've accomplished in the following pages. Thank you to each of them and to the members of their committees.

Capital Campaign Financial Report

A final report from the Capital Campaign Committee will be sent to all donors within the next month. It will include a financial report as of June 1. The figures below are an early look at the final report. They will change slightly as final adjustments are made.

| Source | Amount Pledged |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Individuals & Families | \$ 276,320 |
| Family Foundations | \$ 90,350 |
| Non-Profit Grants | \$ 70,040 |
| Businesses & Event Sponsors | \$ 10,400 |
| Other Organizations | \$ 6,407 |
| Events (less business sponsors) | \$ 43,112 |
| Other (Interest) | \$ 7,096 |
| In-kind | \$ 17,900 |
| Total June 1, 2008 | \$ 521,625 |

All but \$13,100 of the pledged funding has been received.

Expenditures have been close to those planned in the original budget. The budget figures below differ from those presented in the Fall 2007 newsletter because in-kind donations and expenditures were not included in that budget. To account for in-kind donations, both the budgeted amount and the amount expended have been increased by the amount of the in-kind donation.

| | Amount Budgeted | Amount Expended | Amount Committed |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Museum | \$ 198,261 | \$ 189,978 | \$ 3,700 |
| Vault | \$ 63,304 | \$ 56,215 | \$ 8,000 |
| Cataloging | \$ 5,000 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 0 |
| Education | \$ 3,500 | \$ 0 | \$ 3,500 |
| Campaign expenses | \$ 16,200 | \$ 14,161 | \$ 2,000 |
| Total | \$ 286,265 | \$ 265,354 | \$ 17,200 |

“Amount Committed” is the amount expected to be paid for future services. In most cases, a contract or agreement is already in place. In a few, the commitment is estimated based on budgeted amounts or on-going negotiations.

Activities of Interest

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

Historic District Study Group

The Shoreby Hill Historic District Study Group—a group of Shoreby Hill residents investigating the desirability of a historic district on Shoreby Hill—conducted a survey of the Shoreby Hill residents this winter. In a presentation to town officials on May 23, the group reported that 85 percent of Shoreby Hill residents responded to the survey; of the respondents, 74 percent favored establishing an historic district on Shoreby Hill.

Creation of a specific historic district is a multi-step process, starting with action by the Town Council requesting state permission to enact an historic district ordinance. Public input would be requested prior to any Town Council action.

The Board is watching closely the proposals for an historic district and the new zoning ordinance being developed as a result of last October’s “Jamestown Vision Design Charrette.” We support concepts that give Jamestown residents the legal means of protecting the historic character of their neighborhoods.

70th Anniversary of the 1938 Hurricane

This September 21 is the 70th anniversary of the devastating hurricane of 1938.

Jane Bentley, a former member of the JHS Board and now on the Board of the Friends of the Library, is interviewing Jamestown residents who lived through that day and recording their personal memories. She is working with the school librarian, Lisa Casey, to create a professional video.

A plaque will be installed in the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum on September 21 to memorialize Walter Eberle, the Whale Rock Lighthouse keeper who died when the light was swept away in the storm. David Robinson, an undersea archeologist who lives on Jamestown, discovered remains of the lighthouse and worked with the BLMA and the Foundation for Coast Guard History to have the plaque erected.

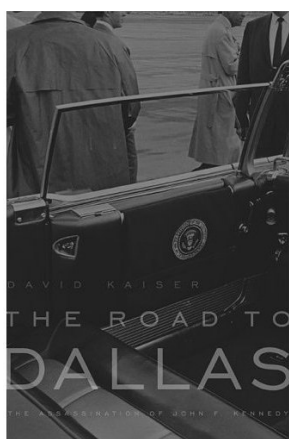
Program Committee

by Mary Heath

Spring programs kept the committee busy for the past few months, although much of the work was done by other groups within the society.

April 17, The Road to Dallas

The JHS and the Friends of the Jamestown Library co-sponsored a presentation by David Kaiser, professor of history at the Naval War College and long-time Jamestown resident. Professor Kaiser discussed his newly released book, *The Road to Dallas: The Assassination of John F.*



Kennedy, published in March by Harvard University Press.

Attendees filled the library meeting room and peppered the author with questions after his talk. Several Jamestowners revealed remarkably detailed knowledge of the different theories about the assassination.

May 11, Museum and Vault Open House

The Open House celebrated the successful completion of the Capital Campaign and gave everybody an opportunity to visit the renovated museum and the new vault. Capital Campaign Committee chairs, Anne Livingston and John A. Murphy, were the hosts.

Festivities started at 5 PM. At 6, Sue Nicholson brought out her flute and began playing the *Star-Spangled Banner*, while representatives of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars raised the American, state, and town flags on the museum flagpole. The glorious notes of the flute silenced the crowd long enough for short speeches by Anne, John, and Rosemary to be heard.

Wine, beer, and hors d'oeuvres were served at the museum, and a steady stream of visitors moved between the museum and the vault in the Town Hall, escorted across the street by Paul Brunelle in his Revolutionary War uniform.

It was an exciting and satisfying day.

June 14, Windmill Opening and Quaker Meetinghouse Open House

The windmill opened for the summer with a day that included training for new windmill sitters. The mill will be open from 1 to 4 PM, Saturdays and Sundays through September 14.

The same day the annual open house at the Quaker meetinghouse offered visitors an introduction to our Quaker heritage.

Both the windmill and the meetinghouse are open by appointment throughout the year.

June 29, Museum Exhibit Opening

The museum exhibit opening on June 29—following so closely on the heels of the Open House—may seem quiet by comparison. The museum opens at 1 PM. The girls of Girl Scout Troop #612 will serve lemonade and cookies on the deck. Members of the Collections Committee and the board will be there to show off the new exhibit.

Date TBA, Unveiling of Land Agreement Display

When the new Town Hall was designed, the historical society and the Town agreed to dedicate the west wall of the hall between the Town Clerk and the Finance department offices to a display of the 1657 Land Agreement—the signed contract among the future purchasers of Conanicut Island about how the land would be paid for and held.

The Wall installation is almost done. Sometime in late June or early July, at the convenience of the Town Council and the organizations that have funded this effort, the Town and historical society will have a formal unveiling. Watch the *Jamestown Press* for an announcement.

August 14, Annual Meeting

The JHS Annual Meeting will be held on the second Thursday of August. Rosemary Enright will give a short report on the year's activities and Tricia Evangelista will present a financial report, including the final disposition of the Capital Campaign funds.

The speaker of the Annual Meeting has yet to be determined. You will receive a postcard reminder in early August.

September 12, Members Only House Tour Cocktail Party

Save the date! Don't miss the "Members only" JHS House Tour cocktail party on the Friday before the house tour. This exclusive party will be at Eleanor Gravdahl's historic *Birdview*. Built for J.W.M. Newlin in 1888, this large shingled house has a huge porch that looks north and east toward the Newport bridge. Although the first floor rooms had to be significantly re-done after a burst pipe flooded the house in the 1960s, the lovely two-story entrance hall with a balcony running around three sides of the landing remain largely untouched.

This private fund-raiser will be your only chance to see this lovely home as it will not be part of the Saturday House Tour. Invitations will be mailed to members in July. See Shawn Mayers' story below for membership information.

September 13, House Tour

The annual house tour is scheduled for the Saturday after Labor Day, September 13, from 10 AM to 2 PM. Tickets are \$20 and will be available in advance, as well as at the homes.



Riven Rock

One of the homes featured on this year's tour is *Riven Rock*. Built in 1911, *Riven Rock* is a classic Jamestown summer home overlooking the West Passage. It recently received national attention as the home where the major motion picture *Dan in Real Life* was filmed. The second house on the tour will be announced in mid summer.

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 619-1100 or send an email to JHS@jamestownri.com.

Development Committee

by Shawn Mayers

The JHS has kicked off a new membership drive with the goal of attracting more island residents to the organization and its programs.

"JHS: We are History" is a multi-faceted campaign that will use advertising, direct mail, and membership premiums to help attract new members and communicate the organization's goals, with the hope of enticing island residents to "be a part of history."

The campaign was kicked off in the *Jamestown Press* on June 5 with the first of several "local history" profiles. In our ads, colorful anecdotes from long-time island residents offer a window into the Jamestown of bygone days.

The JHS hopes to share stories of people, places, and preservation in a way that will be of interest to islanders of all ages. Several well-known islanders will be featured. If you are interested in sharing your story, please call Shawn Mayers at 423-9678.
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New membership categories are: Student (\$15), Individual (\$25), Family (\$40), Patron (\$500), and The 1657 Society (\$1000). The first 100 new members will receive a sterling silver windmill charm, regardless of participation level. Patron members will receive an individual lifetime membership and the *Narragansett Avenue: Then and Now* DVD produced by Nick Schaus and Barry Cook.

The 1657 Society, named for the date of the Jamestown Land Agreement document purchased by the society in 2005, is an entirely new giving level. Participants at this level will receive all of the above, plus a hand-made, customizable, house plaque individually produced by a local craftsman.

Membership forms are published at the bottom of each advertisement in the *Jamestown Press*, and can be printed out on the JHS website. The ad also appears on the back page of the newsletter.

Windmill Committee

by William Mullins

This year the windmill will be open each Saturday and Sunday from June 14 to September 14 – a total of 28 days – from 1 to 4 PM.

And we're ready to go.

Spring cleaning is complete. A mill-sitter has been scheduled for each Saturday and Sunday afternoon. The schedule and instructions have been sent to all volunteers.

We're still looking for volunteers for our backup team—as you know, plans change over the course of the summer and we need “emergency sitters.” It is really easy duty. Visitors love our mill. The setting is beautiful. The views are spectacular. To become a backup docent, please call 423-2674 or email jhs@jamestownri.com with your name and phone number.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Early Visitors

Several groups of visitors came to the mill before the official opening. Walter Akers, the engineer in charge of building a replica of an 18th

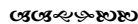
century windmill in Yorktown, Virginia, visited in early April to photograph the windmill mechanism.

Each spring the Jamestown Rotary sponsors a visit of fellow members of Rotary International to the island. This year five Rotarians from India toured the meetinghouse and the mill on April 30.

Tour Rhode Island day, May 3, was a state-wide event to introduce Rhode Islanders to the beauty of their own state. “The Best of Jamestown” tour, organized by the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce, brought fifty people from all over Rhode Island to the mill and meetinghouse to learn about our agricultural history and our Quaker heritage.

The most exciting early visitors were eighteen seventh and eighth grade students from Mrs. Stephanie Pamula's tech ed class at the Jamestown school on May 19. The visit was arranged through the historical society website email by Nick Lutes, one of the students in the class, whose email explained, “We are doing a project that works with windmills. If you could show us how it works and some history on it that would be great.”

The students walked the mile from the school to the windmill, toured the mill, and ate their lunches in the field before trekking back to an afternoon of class work.



Friends of Conanicut Battery

by Dennis Webster

Last year when the Friends evaluated the condition of the battery, we noted that the grass on the Revolutionary War earthworks had grown thin. If this grass is not maintained, the earthworks will erode. Warm season grasses, left to grow to their normal height rather than mowed like the field, should contain the erosion. The longer grass will also discourage visitors from running and sliding on the slopes, which contributes to their deterioration.

This summer we will be hydroseeding the earthworks with the proper seeds. It will cost about \$3,000 and with the help of State Senator Teresa Paiva-Weed we have received a Senate Legislative Grant to defray one-third of the cost.

Education Committee

by Sally Schott

A large number of students at both Melrose and Lawn Avenue schools completed memory cards to be buried in the time capsule under the floor of the renovated museum. While some children made predictions for the future (flying cars was a popular one), others wrote of their favorite places in town—like Sheffield Cove, the farms, and Spinnakers.

We are working with the girls and leaders of Girl Scout Troop #612 who will be acting as greeters at the museum on Sunday afternoons. The girls are very eager to help. The summer exhibit is on the Jamestown schools, and we couldn't be happier to have some young students interested in this bit of Jamestown history. Be sure to come down to the museum this summer to meet them!

Communications

by John Horton

JHS is now using the Internet to help Board members do their administrative work and communicate with volunteers.

In the past, meeting agendas, minutes, drafts of communication, and membership information have been kept on individuals' computers and passed around as needed. While efficient by standards of ten years ago, it is not efficient today for our all-volunteer Board members and workers. JHS now has an administrative online Internet site on which Board members can store, find, and use JHS operating documents.

And we now have an online database for membership information—which also used to be kept on different lists on various home computers. With the new online database, Board members can check, add to, and correct member contact information. They can know that they have the latest corrected information from everyone's

sources—not just one person's list. Before we had to compare lists for updates.

We are in the process of updating the database to include email addresses. (Email saves money for the society.) So, send us an email on any subject, and we'll capture the address. To email us, go to jamestownhistoricalsociety.org and click on our email under Contact Us in the left menu, or just email jhs@jamestownri.com

Our new database was used to send out this newsletter. We hope this transition hasn't caused any glitches, but would appreciate it if you would let us know of any problems you notice.

We are planning to make changes to the JHS website at jamestownhistoricalsociety.org also. Keeping the website up-to-date is an on-going task and we sometimes fall behind. If you have expertise in websites, we could certainly use your help. Just drop me an email at the JHS email above.

Buildings and Grounds

By Greg DiGasper

Two major problems—one at the mill and one at the meetinghouse—kept us busy this winter.

Powder Post Beetles

Both the windmill and the Quaker meetinghouse were treated last spring, and the mill was treated again in the fall, for powder post beetles. When we opened the mill this spring, we found evidence of more powder post beetle activity.

Powder post beetle infest some beams for generations. We think the source of the problem may be the old jib crane kept in the mill since the 2000 renovation. The area was treated again this spring, and we are debating removing the old crane to see if that solves the problem.

Damp and Mold

The Quaker meetinghouse has been severely affected by moisture. The problem seems to have started in the foundation crawl space. Water was collecting there due to rain run off, a rising water

table, and build-up of earth around the perimeter of the building forcing rainwater to flow back in through the cracks in the foundation. Poor ventilation caused mold to build up on the walls and ceilings. Also, water from snow accumulating on the north side of the roof this winter seeped through the shingles adding to the moisture problem.

The Meetinghouse Committee rejected the most drastic solution—lifting the Meetinghouse and pouring a concrete slab foundation at an estimated cost of \$50,000—for both historic and financial reasons. Instead, the rotten joists were replaced. Archie Clarke installed a drainpipe that does directly from the floor of the crawl space to Weeden Lane. Bill Westhall Jr. made repair to the chimney and roof flashing, sprayed a water sealant on the roof shingles, and applied a bleach solution to the interior ceiling and walls to remove mold and retard its return.

All of these measures have helped.

Collections Committee

By Sue Maden

The Collections Committee—Sue Maden, Rosemary Enright, Joe Logan, Dianne Rugh, Linda Warner, and Harry Wright—meets monthly. Dianne, a recently retired librarian, just joined the committee and we are very pleased to have her.

Vault

The most significant event for the Committee this year was the move into the society's vault in the Town Hall. The shelving was installed in late October; finishing touches—including the repair of a faulty lock—were completed in December. The lease was signed in January. Transfer of the archives from their temporary homes began in February.

Finally, there is both adequate storage and workspace. It is wonderful!

We were very pleased to have the public see the vault at the May 11 Open House, celebrating the end of the Capital Campaign. Researchers are welcome but need to make arrangements by emailing jhs@jamestownri.com or calling 423-0784.

Cataloging

A major effort has been made to arrange the archives logically as they are brought to the vault and to track progress in storage and cataloging. As of May 28, some 13,110 records have been created in the PastPerfect software. There are four catalogs: Archives (5,934 records), Library (164), Objects (1,308) and Photos (5,704). Since April 2007, the number of cataloged items has grown by over 5,000.

Volunteers are a major key to this success, and we are pleased that a number of people have learned the cataloging software program, PastPerfect.

Recent volunteers are: Joyce Allphin, Stephanie Amerigan, Carolyn Armington, Jessica Burrows, Nancy and Joe Logan, Kaitlin Morton-Bentley, Dianne Rugh, Ginny Saunders, and Linda Sullivan. This summer we will also have the help of Stacey Lyon and our summer intern, Laurel Richardson.

Internet users can access the records in the database at jamestownhistoricalsociety.org, by selecting "Collections" in the menu in the left column.

Summer Intern

Laurel Richardson, a student at The College of the Holy Cross, has returned for a second year as our intern. We are very happy to have her back and are using this opportunity to develop a robust internship program that will provide a wide variety of experiences. While cataloging remains a major thrust, the program will offer an opportunity for exhibit preparation, experience in preservation, and instruction in techniques of archiving.

Part of the funding for our intern came from the Rhode Island Department of Transportation to catalog and preserve material relating to the Jamestown Bridge.

Exhibits

The Collections Committee has developed several exhibits this year in support of our mission to share our knowledge of the history of Jamestown.

Summer Exhibit

The 2008 summer exhibit, *School Days! How Jamestown Taught Its Children*, opens with an opening day reception in the afternoon on Sunday, June 29. Learn about the history of education on Jamestown and see pictures of many of the students who attended our schools. Maybe you'll be able to help us put names to some of the faces.

The exhibit was curated by Harry Wright and will be open every Wednesday through Sunday from 1- 4 p.m. throughout the summer.



A travelling exhibit about the construction (above) and demolition (not shown) of the old Jamestown bridge was displayed at the Feinstein School in March.

Museum Volunteers

Fran Boyer has taken on the volunteer scheduling again this year and will be calling (if she hasn't already reached) those of you who have volunteered in recent years. More volunteers are always welcome. If you have not served in the past, please call Sue Maden at 423-2167 or send us an email at jhs@jamestownri.com.

We have some very special greeters joining the docents on Sundays. The girls of Jamestown Girl Scout Troop #612 have volunteered to help welcome our visitors. Members of the troop will also be serving lemonade and cookies on opening day.

Orientation will be held on June 28 from 1 to 3. If you cannot make it then, come to the museum when it is open, prior to your scheduled time. Whoever is on duty can orient you. If you still have questions, call Sue Maden (423-2167), Harry Wright (423-2978), or Rosemary Enright (423-2674).

Library Display Case

The JHS display in the lobby of the library has held several different exhibits this winter. From November to February, the focus was on the Jamestown Garden Club and the Quononoquott Garden Club. Delancey Converse and Gloria Westlake selected artifacts and pictures that told the history of the clubs.

The case held an exhibit of letters to and from Jamestown residents from January to April. In the spring, we selected farming for a theme and displayed artifacts from some of Jamestown's 19th and early 20th century farms along with pictures of farming activities.



The Community Showcase in the lobby of the Island 10 Cinema in Middletown offered the historical society an opportunity to reach out beyond the island.

This month an exhibit on summertime activities on Jamestown will be put up. The activities haven't changed much over the years—swimming, golfing, boating, clamming—but what people wear while doing them certainly has.

Other Exhibits

Last fall an exhibit on the Jamestown Bridge was at the Newport Public Library and for a month last winter at the Feinstein School in Providence. The portable exhibit is available for use by other schools and organizations.

During May and until the end of June an exhibit on Jamestown ferryboats is on display in the *Community Showcase* at the Island 10 Cinemas in Middletown. Items displayed include the wheel of the *J. A. Saunders* lent by Linda Warner and two models of ferryboats made by Roland Parent.

Other Activities

The Jamestown Bridge, the subject of last summer's exhibit, created multiple opportunities for outreach this winter. Sue and Rosemary gave a program on the bridge at the Jamestown Philomenian Library, the North Kingstown Library, and the Feinstein School. The Spring issue of *Newport History* contains an article drawn from *The Jamestown Bridge, 1940-2007*, Sue Maden's book published last fall. The book will be on sale at the museum this summer. Members receive a 15 percent discount on the purchase price.

Fran Boyer conducted an oral history interview with Jim Pemantell about his years as Chief of Police on the island.

Rosemary Enright is working with Judy Bell to create a plan for digitizing a set of slides of Jamestown houses that were taken in 1976-77. We have received a \$150 grant from the Jamestown Community Fund to help defray costs.

We have applied for a grant from the Newport County Fund to finance a second intern during the latter part of the summer. We would like to test the internship program we are developing to see if it is truly robust.

One of our most enjoyable tasks is answering people's questions. We have fielded a large number of questions this year. As we find answers, we add the information to the collection. If you have questions about Jamestown history, please ask us.

DONATIONS AND ACQUISITIONS – October 2007 to May 1, 2008

- Bill Burgin: windmill plans from 2000 renovation.
- Fred Clarke: Jamestown Bridge books of tickets 1940; certificate for Frederick C. Clarke as member of Jamestown Bridge Commission; newspaper clippings, mostly about the Jamestown Bridge being built.
- Jessie Dutra: 17 Jamestown postcards.
- Rosemary Enright: Slattery family photographs of people, houses, golfing, boating, etc.
- Julio DiGiando: eight scorecards from Beaver Tail Golf and Country Club, given to Julio by Frank Madeiros who had caddied at the club.
- Elaine Folsom: "Emma Lavinia Wilson Hackett 1876-1961" copies of letters by her grandmother to her great-grandmother in Vermont, from Jamestown and Providence, 1917 to 1920.
- Joanne and Alton (Bud) Head III: quilt made by Caroline Head's great-grandmother. Items about Alton Head (State Senator), Ralph G.P. Hull, (builder). Includes invoices, election material, membership cards, building plans, contract to build Mackerel Cove Beach Pavilion, invitation to library dedication (1971), programs for Arbor Day (1938), and Salute to USO (1983).
- Varoujan Karentz: *Beavertail Light Station on Conanicut Island*, by Varoujan Karentz.
- Marty Keeler: materials covering many years and many organizations and events, including Quonset Point Air Station, America's Cup races, Jamestown Casino, Beaver Tail Golf & Country Club, Jamestown Garden Club, Jamestown Chapter of the American Red Cross, Conanicut Yacht Club, Jamestown Bicentennial, Jamestown Appreciation Day, Jamestown Bridge, Jamestown 250th celebration.
- Bill Knapp: Tres Moutard program from Oct. 3, 2007; pencil from Jamestown Hardware & Lumber.
- Nancy Logan: information and images on the use of a sheep as the town symbol.
- Joe Logan: postcard on completion of renovation of Dutch Island Lighthouse; DVD copy (converted from videotape) of a 1991 talk by Sue Maden on The Dr. Bates Sanitarium.
- Sue Maden: *Home Lifestyles* 2007; Jamestown glass; Jamestown Shores poster, 1948; *New Yorker* cover of Conanicut Yacht Club dock; Jamestown Village Association material 1995-96; *The Jamestown and New Shoreham Rhode Island Directory* for 1922-23 and 1930-31; *Missing Links. America's Greatest Golf Courses & Holes* by Daniel Wexler; catalog of William Trost Richards exhibit 1982-83; *A Short History of Transportation on Narragansett Bay and its Environs* by Wilfred E. Warren; Kay Worden catalog; 1871 Town of Jamestown tax book; 2001 Bates exhibit poster; *Public Access to the Rhode Island Coast; 41 degrees north*; "Conanicut Island Trail Guide"; Jamestown & Newport Ferry Company 1675 to 1969 poster; photos of Jamestown-Verrazzano Bridge construction; brochure "JEMS 24/7."
- Jane Miner: *The Narragansett Naturalist*, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, 1963; "Beavertail Light" by Jeanne Bunkley; *Sunday Journal Rhode Islander*, Special issue on Narragansett Bay, 1968; nine-part series on "Battle for the Bay," *Sunday Journal Magazine*, 1988.
- John Murphy: documents, brochures, financial papers, newspaper clippings covering many years and multiple subjects.
- PAL: Vinyl sign for Jamestown Bridge exhibit in 2007; DVD of display panels.
- Jim Pemantell: pre-WWII photo of Fort Greble.
- Virginia Remington Rich: "Lydia's Letters" compilation of 54 transcribed letters (1813-1896) from descendants of John Remington (1761-1847) who lived in Jamestown.
- Paul Robertson: Arnold family items. Certificate for Armed Forces service for George R. Arnold; booklet "Veterans Welcome Home Celebration," 1946; multiple items related to Howard W. Arnold who died in WWII (October 8, 1944)
- Toby Rossner: Item about The Chapel of Transfiguration in Eastside Marketplace flyer
- St. Matthew's Thrift Shop: photos from an album donated to them.
- Dwight Smith: *Life on The Rock. 02835*, a book of his cartoons.
- Jim Smith: framed chart from the Geodesic Survey of Narragansett Bay from 1945.
- Fricky Vaughn: McQuades Market flyer when first opened on Clarke Street, June 1982.
- Linda Warner: 1951 sample ballot, 1957 Democratic candidates, 1971 Republican campaign platform and candidates, 1985 Democratic candidates; newspaper clippings on elections (3), St. Matthew's 1962 proposed expansion brochure; telegram re 1938 Hurricane; photo of windmill with sails; 1957 town budget and article on Dr. Alfred B. Gobeille; 1917 Grange booklet; "Discover Jamestown" brochure by Jamestown Businessmen's Assn.; Bay View Hotel promotional page; USO Third Birthday program, 2/28/1945; sardines netting in Potter's Cove in the 1930s/40s from San Diego paper (1999).
- Tot Wright: two colonial documents (1754 and 1756) about the construction of Beavertail Lighthouse.
- Yankee Magazine, *New England Travel* issue of May-June 2008 with an article on Jamestown.

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