



JAMESTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE

SPRING 2012

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

WINDMILL DAY 2012 – JULY 14

One hundred years ago this August, twenty-six Jamestowners – both long-time residents and summer visitors – agreed to create an organization for “preserving old land marks and collection of historical relics” – the Jamestown Historical Society.

The first “old land mark” acquired in September of the same year was the Jamestown windmill. The Society has taken care of it proudly ever since.

As part of the 100th anniversary celebration, Linnea Petersen and Jane Bentley are planning a very special Windmill Day on July 14 from 11 AM to 3 PM. This free event is partially funded by a Legislative grant sponsored by our representative Deb Ruggiero.



**JHS volunteers help to raise the windmill sails,
Windmill Day 2010.**

Weather permitting, millwright Andy Shrake – who has amazing knowledge and expertise in windmill restoration, upkeep, and operation – will, with the help of Society volunteers, put up the sails and set “The Old Jamestown Mill” in motion.

Richard Donnelly, master johnnycake chef, will serve up his wonderful johnnycakes – made with stone ground corn meal from Kenyon’s Grist Mill in Usquepaugh – along with his recipes and stories.

For the children, Jane Bentley is organizing a series of games, and Martha Neale and Vivi Valentine of Windmist and Cottrell farms, respectively, are bringing farm animals for a “petting zoo.”

A quartet, led by Jamestown’s own Matt Bolles, will be on hand to provide music for the festivities. Matt has played at previous Windmill Days and has always been a crowd favorite.

Heather and Don Minto, with the consent of Historic New England, have opened the Watson Farm field across from the mill for parking. A stile is being built over the wall directly across from the windmill field entrance. The Jamestown Police have been contracted to help visitors cross North Road safely.

Admission is free!

Volunteers are needed to help on Windmill Day: “millers” to help set the sails and run the mill, parking attendants, mill tour guides, set-up and clean-up crews, and lemonade servers. Please call Linnea at 423-1820 or email her at linneac@cox.net if you are willing to pitch in make this very special Windmill Day a success.

Windmill Day 2012 is a salute to 100 years of Jamestown history and to the people who understood the vision and the goals of the founders of the JHS. Please plan to join the celebration on July 14.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Linnea Petersen

Exhibits

1912 and the JHS Centennial, this summer's exhibit at the museum, tells the story of our Society, its conception and its accomplishments. It opens June 17 and is curated by Rosemary Enright with help from Sue Maden, Brookie Harding, Dorrie Linn, and many other JHS members.

A new permanent exhibit, *Jamestown in the Resort Era*, in the east stairwell of the Jamestown Town Hall, officially opened in February. Over 100 people attended the opening and seemed to enjoy the exhibit about Jamestown at the turn of the 20th century. They were able to tour the JHS vault and enjoy refreshments provided by Town Clerk Cheryl Fernstrom and members of our Collections Committee.

A special thanks to the JHS members who served as docents that evening, to Sallie and Trum Richard who provided funding for the exhibit, to Rosemary Enright who directed the project, and to Adams Taylor for his design and installation of the exhibit. In your travels about town, be sure to stop by.

Volunteer Fair

In March, we participated in a "Volunteer Fair" hosted by the Friends of the Library to encourage awareness of and membership in the non-profit organizations in Jamestown. While we attracted few new volunteers, the event made the island's many volunteer organizations more aware of each other and of their missions.

And speaking of volunteers. We always need volunteers to serve as docents at the windmill and museum, to help keep the Battery in good shape, and to support events and activities. This year, Tricia Frary is again coordinating our windmill and museum "sitters." If you haven't volunteered before and would like to, contact her at tfary@cox.net or 401-644-6265.

History Articles in the Press

A series of very interesting articles are being printed in the *Jamestown Press* about Jamestown history. The articles are written by Rosemary Enright and Sue Maden in celebration of our 100th anniversary.

Speaking of those two ladies, on April 2, 2012, there was a wonderful article in the *Newport Daily News*

written by Joe Baker about Sue and Rosemary and the important contributions they have made to the JSH over the years. I was quoted, saying about them, "they have wonderful vision, they're so enthusiastic, and have tremendous talent and a lot of energy. We are very grateful to have them." I think, while all that is true, former JHS President, Bill Burgin, summed it up best with his words about their efforts, "It's a good thing we don't have to pay them!"

Lecture Series

Our *All About Jamestown* lecture series, celebrating our 100th anniversary, began on April 27 with a very interesting and extremely well attended talk by Nick DiGiando on native plants of Jamestown. The Quonnonoquott Garden Club cosponsored the talk.

On May 18, Jeremy D'Entremont, the author of *The Lighthouses of Rhode Island*, presented a program, cosponsored by the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association, about Narragansett Bay lighthouses.

The last of the spring series, on June 22, will be by Jim Buttrick on "Architecture of Jamestown and Its Lost Buildings." Additional programs are in the planning stages with announcements to come.

A special thanks to series coordinators Donna Fogarty of the Jamestown Philomenian Library and Suzi Andrews and Sue Maden of the JHS and to the other local organizations for their willingness to cosponsor these events.

Music for the 100th Anniversary

At his May 13 concert, sponsored by the Jamestown Community Piano Association, Dr. Manabu Takasawa announced that in honor of our 100th anniversary he had selected two pieces for the program that were composed around the time the Jamestown Historical Society was established. His wonderful performance was extra special for the JHS members in the audience. Thank you Dr. Manabu.

Windmill Day

Windmill Day will be held on July 14th and we look forward to celebrating our 100th anniversary at the site that was and still is the cause for our organization. See the front page for details of the day's activities.

SUMMER 2012 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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

Saturday, June 16

Jamestown Windmill Begins Summer Hours 1 to 4 PM

The windmill opens for the summer. Training for new and returning docents as well as visitor tours. Windmill will be open from 1 to 4 PM, Saturdays and Sundays through October 10.

Saturday, June 16

Quaker Meetinghouse Open House 1 to 4 PM

Guided tours of the Quaker meetinghouse. The meetinghouse is also open for Religious Society of Friends services at 10:30 AM on Sundays through October and by appointment throughout the year.

Saturday, June 16

Museum Docent Orientation 12 to 3 PM

Become a docent and enjoy a private tour of the new exhibit with explanation and commentary by Rosemary Enright and Sue Maden, exhibit curators.

Sunday, June 17

Jamestown Museum Opens for Summer 1 to 4 PM

Grand opening for the summer exhibit, *1912 and the JHS Centennial*. Museum hours: 1 to 4 PM, Wednesdays to Sundays through Labor Day and Saturday and Sunday through October 10.



Lawn Avenue fifth grade students visited the Jamestown windmill and the Friends Meetinghouse in April.

Friday, June 22

Jamestown Philomenian Library 7 PM

"The Architecture of Jamestown and Its Lost Buildings," with Jim Buttrick, author of *Images of America: Jamestown*.

Saturday, July 14

Windmill Day 11 AM to 3 PM

Windmill in motion. Johnnycakes and lemonade. Children's games. Petting zoo. Music. See page 1.

Thursday, August 9

Annual Meeting

Jamestown Philomenian Library, 7 PM

Election of officers and directors for 2012-2013. Program: "Jamestown Ferries: 1873-1969" by Archie Clarke, collector of Jamestown-Newport ferry memorabilia and information.

Friday, September 14

Members Only House Tour Preview Party 6 to 8 PM

Enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres at the 1901 "Quononoquot Club." Watch the *Jamestown Press* for details. Tickets \$40. Includes entry to Saturday's house tour.

Saturday, September 15

House Tour 10 AM to 2 PM

Visit historic Jamestown homes. Learn their history and the history of our community. Tickets \$20.

Saturday, September 29

Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day 11 AM - 4 PM

The museum, the meetinghouse, and the windmill will be open longer hours to support RI Historic Sites Coalition participation in National Museum Day. Get your ticket online and visit many RI museums for free.

Monday, October 8

Jamestown Museum and Windmill Close

Last day this season to visit the Jamestown museum or drop by the Jamestown windmill. Group visits can be arranged any time by calling 423-0284 or emailing your request to info@jamestownhistoricalsociety.org.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

by Tricia Evangelista

The Jamestown Historical Society's three endowments at the Rhode Island Foundation, created with donations from the 2006-2007 capital campaign, generated approximately 19 percent of the revenue needed to fund Society operations in 2011. Endowment funds held by third parties provide annual income for maintenance and improvements at the windmill and meetinghouse, and these monies were expended on those sites.

The remaining \$25,813 was funded by dues, donations, programs, and sales and by \$6,200 in grants that the Society received to support specific tasks.

2012 Operating Budget

The JHS board approved a 2012 deficit operating budget that anticipates net expenditures in excess of revenues of approximately \$7,000 due primarily to repairs at the buildings for which the Society is responsible and work at the Battery.

As in earlier years, assets accumulated in the investment accounts will be used for the expenditures. An unspent 2011 Battery grant, which is not included the 2012 income, will cover most of the work required at the Battery. Funds accumulated from donations designated for maintenance of the windmill will fund all work at the windmill.

General investments will be used for necessary improvements at the other sites.

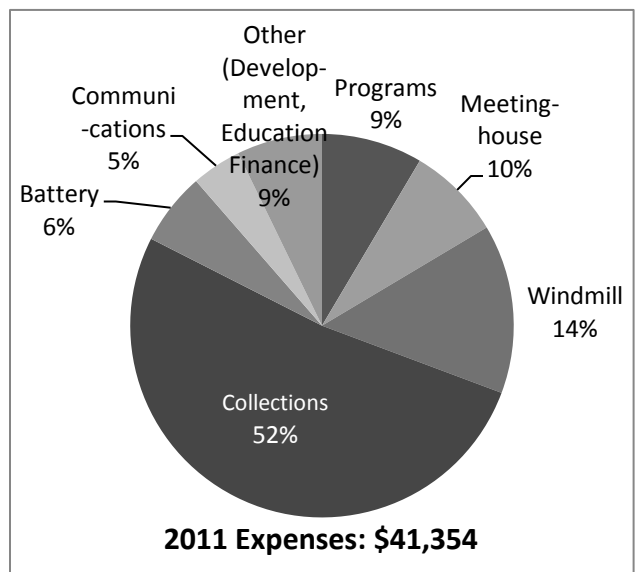
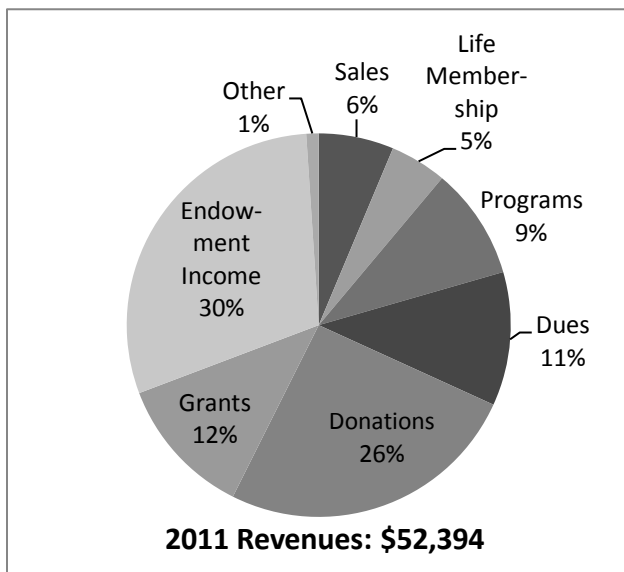
Endowment

Patron and 1676 Society memberships received in 2011 were transferred to the General endowment at the Rhode Island Foundation at the start of 2012. Life memberships in the endowment generate operating income approximately equivalent to the annual membership fee.

On December 31, 2011, the balances in the JHS investment and endowment accounts were:

General investments	\$	63,720.00
Meetinghouse investments	\$	2,182.00
Windmill investments	\$	34,826.00
Battery investments	\$	15,305.00
Total operating assets	\$	116,033.00
General endowment	\$	270,281.00
Windmill endowment	\$	8,436.00
Collections (Mary Miner) endowment	\$	8,221.00
Battery endowment	\$	32,000.00
Total endowment assets	\$	318,938.00

The investment of the operating assets is controlled by the JHS Finance Committee. The endowment accounts are, with the exception of the Battery endowment, invested by the Rhode Island Foundation.



WINDMILL

by

Caroline Frank & Linnea Petersen

The windmill will open for the season on Saturday, June 16, from 1 PM to 4 PM. All those interested in volunteering at the windmill site this summer are invited to an orientation at 1 PM that day. Linnea Petersen will take volunteers through the mill and give each a booklet that explains the history and working of the mill. Email the Society at info@jamestownhistoricalsociety.org or call Linnea at 423-1820 if you have questions.

The mill will be open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons through Columbus Day weekend. We are able to share our wonderful mill with the public because of your volunteerism. We are very grateful.

Improvements to the Mill

A new stone case or “vat” is being built to replace the old, tired, and broken Plexiglas that surrounded the stones. It will be made of wood – as it would have been when the mill was in operation – and will encase the mill stones. A “cut out” section will let visitors see the stones but the vat will give them a better understanding of how the ground grain was contained during the milling process.

Safety features recommended in our CAP report are also planned. Some of these will enable us to use more of the space on the second level for display of windmill photos we have in our collection.

Since it is impossible to make the mill accessible to those with limited mobility, two new signs have been installed in the field to the southeast of the building to explain the history and operation of the mill to those who cannot or choose not to go inside.

Fifth Grade Visit

On April 12, 2012, we had the pleasure of having the fifth graders from Jamestown School and their teachers and chaperones visit the windmill and the meetinghouse. Many came outfitted with “state of the art” technology that enabled them to capture the experience with photos taken with their phones and others had the more traditional method of pencils and notebooks.

The one thing that they all shared was a “step back in time” with the 225-year-old technology at the

windmill, which they all seemed to enjoy. We were very impressed with the wonderful questions they asked as well as their excellent behavior during the tour. There is nothing like a windmill build in 1787 to spark a young person’s imagination!

Rosemary Enright and Linnea Petersen at the mill and Harry Wright at the meetinghouse made this visit possible. A special thanks to them and to Paul Petersen for their willingness to explain these historic properties to the students.

Model A Club

Approximately 40 members of the Little Rhody Model A Club visited us on April 29, which was a beautifully clear and sunny day. It was quite a sight seeing 17 of these beautifully restored automobiles parked at the Mill. They took pictures of the mill, and we took pictures of their cars!

Many of them toured the inside of the Mill while others walked around the grounds taking in the wonderful views from Windmill Hill.

Rule of Thumb

To test the quality and grind of the meal, the miller would rub a pinch of it between his thumb and index finger. If the meal was too coarse, it would have to be ground again or used for a different purpose, such as animal feed.

Windmill Day

We are very excited about the upcoming Windmill Day that will be held on July 14, 2012. A lot of planning has gone into this event that we hope will be a fun-filled celebration of the Society’s 100th anniversary. Details can be found on the front page of this newsletter. Please plan to join us!



Seventeen Model A Fords from the Little Rhody Model A Club visited the windmill on April 29.

CONANICUT BATTERY

by

Larry McDonald & Dennis Webster

The JHS oversees and maintains the historic features within the Town of Jamestown's Conanicut Battery Historic Park at the end of Battery Lane on the Beavertail peninsula.

The contours of the battery are extremely sensitive to erosion, and in 2009 the committee had the battery seeded with native grasses that develop deep roots and grow slowly. The committee also developed a plan to control the vegetation by burning it back. Burning, rather than mowing, maintains the configuration of the battlements better.

Unfortunately, the much delayed burn conducted last December failed to accomplish its purpose, and the Society is once again back to hand-mowing the battlements, this time with the professional help of Atlantic Lawn and Garden.

New Signs

This spring we received a Senate grant, sponsored by Senate President Theresa Paiva-Weed, to replace some of the signs that were erected when the park was restored in 2002. The signs, now ten years old, are



This sign to be replaced at the Battery is crazed with weather and age.

showing their age, and the one in full sunlight at the entry to the field east of the Revolutionary War earthwork is in particularly poor condition.

The sign brackets on which the informational signs rest can be reused and, thanks to Mick Cochran, we have the original data files from which the current signs were made. Mick is also overseeing production.

The new signage will be in place by mid-summer.

EDUCATION

by Sally Schott

The JHS is continuing its efforts to reach out to Jamestown kids to share knowledge and resources about the unique history of our small island.

At the Lawn Avenue School, the exhibit in the display case outside the library this spring was *Notable Animals of Jamestown*, a light-hearted look at the animals – mostly dogs, but with some birds and a cow thrown in – that made the news on Jamestown, then and now.

As reported by the Windmill and Meetinghouse committees, Lawn Avenue School 5th grade teachers arranged a tour of Jamestown's historic sites for the entire 5th grade in April. On the tour, they visited the Jamestown windmill and the Quaker meetinghouse.

We are very gratified that the Jamestown Schools have taken such a strong interest in what we do, and that we have been able to forge a strong relationship to continue to bring Jamestown history to light for our

students. This year, the JHS is sponsoring the Excellence in Social Studies award, which is presented to two students selected by their teacher for high achievement in the subject.

Each day in the summer of 1892, a water spaniel named Tobey left his home at about 6 a.m. and traveled a mile to the East Ferry landing. He boarded the ferry for Newport and usually made his way to the pilot house on the upper deck.

In Newport, he picked up the morning paper. Sometimes a friend would place a bit of meat in a paper bag for his breakfast. He returned to the island on the next ferry with the newspaper and the bag. He usually delivered the morning paper to his master shortly after 10 o'clock.



The same summer that Tobey was riding the ferry to and from Newport each day, the *Newport Journal* reported the return of another non-paying passenger.

A mother sparrow set up housekeeping under the guards of the boat, where she reared her little ones. Most of her time was spent on the boat, either in her snug little nest or on the deck, where she gathered stray grain that had fallen from the sacks being transported over the ferry. Sometimes, when the ferry was in Jamestown, she'd visit the fields for buas.



From the spring 2012 Lawn Ave. School exhibit.

PROGRAMS

by Mary Heath

This year our big event celebrating the Society's 100th anniversary is Windmill Day on July 14, as reported on page 1. Please join us for a fun day at the building that inspired the formation of the Jamestown Historical Society.

Spring Lecture Series

Three lectures are being presented, in conjunction with cosponsors, this spring. Nick DiGiando's talk on native plants of Jamestown on April 27 and Jeremy D'Entremont's presentation about Narragansett Bay lighthouses on May 18 were both well attended and enthusiastically received.

The final talk of the spring series, on June 22, will be by Jim Buttrick on "Architecture of Jamestown and Its Lost Buildings." We are planning additional programs for the fall.

We send out reminders about all our events via email about a week before the event. If you haven't been receiving email reminders, please send your address to info@jamestownhistoricalsociety.org to get on our emailing list.

MEMBERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT

by Erica Gregg & James Wright

The committee is hoping that this will be a big year for new memberships with the publicity and activities surrounding the 100th anniversary. If you know someone you think might be interested in a membership, please let us know and we'd be happy to send them a membership information letter. Or consider making a gift of membership.

As of this spring, the JHS has 303 active memberships. Since 90 of these are family memberships and some of the older life memberships represent family rather than individual participation, we estimate that the total number of members is approximately 450, over 100 of whom also volunteer at the museum, the windmill, or other events.

Annual Renewal Letter

Our renewal letters will go out in June for the coming membership year (July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013). We're working with the technology team on some changes to our database and hope to be able to incorporate more email communications as we continue to make those improvements.

HOUSE TOUR WEEKEND

The annual House Tour Weekend – Friday, September 14, and Saturday, September 15 – is a joint effort of the Programs and Development committees.

Preview Party

On Friday evening, the Society will host a members-only cocktail party at the early 20th century "Quononoquot Club."

In June 1901, the *Newport Journal* reported that "a club and a casino similar in plan to the Newport Casino, at which entertainments and balls might be held, and for general social gatherings" would be built on property belonging to Dr. George McClellan on Walcott Avenue between Brook and Friendship streets.

The club was short-lived, and in 1904, the house became the summer cottage of Dr. Henry J. Rhett, a Philadelphia doctor who summered in Jamestown. Dr. Rhett died in 1912, and a subsequent owner

moved the building to the northern half of the original lot where it now stands.

The current owners have recently completed an extensive and thoughtful renovation, and the house is spectacular inside and out. We greatly appreciate the support they're showing for the JHS by opening their house for this members-only party.

House Tour

The annual house tour on Saturday is open to everyone. Announcement of the houses on the tour will be made in the *Jamestown Press* and by email and postcard to our members.

Tickets

Tickets to the preview party are \$40 and include tickets to the house tour, which are \$20 if purchased separately. Mark the dates on your calendars and watch for details in the *Jamestown Press*.

COLLECTIONS

by Dianne Rugh

CAP Spotlight

JHS received national recognition when Heritage Preservation, Conservation Assessment Program, the organization which funded the 2010 outside assessment of JHS, posted an article about the remarkable accomplishments of the all-volunteer Society. The article, "Spotlight on a CAPped Museum: Jamestown Historical Society" says "The achievements of the Jamestown Historical Society in Jamestown, Rhode Island provide an illustration to small museums and historical societies across the United States of what can be achieved through systematic planning efforts, regular incremental conservation improvements and timely grant applications."

You can read the full article at their website heritageperservation.org/spotlight.html.

JHS Exhibits Around Town

Exhibits offer a wonderful opportunity to share the rich JHS collection. Thanks to the efforts of JHS volunteers, new JHS exhibits around town joined existing displays in the Jamestown Philomenian Library, Recreation Center, and Town Hall. The new exhibits cover a wide range of topics from Jamestown businesses to Jamestown resorts. Some are permanent exhibits located in public spaces that give the collection wide exposure. Articles in the *Newport Daily News* and the *Jamestown Press* have drawn even more visitors to the exhibits and provide wonderful publicity, which can result in more volunteers and donations.

At the Museum

The summer exhibit at the museum, *1912 and the JHS Centennial*, presents a picture of life in Jamestown in 1912 and tells the story of the founding of the Society and its achievements over the last 100 years. Early 20th century items from the JHS collection will be on display so that visitors can better understand the era during which the Society was started.

The Ferry Room exhibit has also been enhanced. The pennant flown on the *Governor Carr* on her maiden voyage in 1927 has, with advice and help from our CAP assessor Alexandra Alardt, been mounted for hanging. JHS recently received two oarlocks and a boat hook from a *Governor Carr* lifeboat and

mouthpieces from *Governor Carr* speaking tubes. We will add both the flag and the other *Governor Carr* memorabilia to the permanent ferry exhibit.

At Town Hall

Jamestown in the Resort Era, a permanent exhibit in the rear stairway of Town Hall, opened in February. Signs from the era hang along with JHS photos of the buildings and a plaque recognizing the contributions to the exhibit of Sallie and Trum Richard. The exhibit opening drew over 100 people, many of whom also visited the JHS vault in the basement of Town Hall where Society's paper archives are held.

Another permanent exhibit was hung on the second floor of Town Hall. On display is the well known map, "Ye Olde Map of Jamestown" by S.C. King Jr. copyright 1928 by John F. Greene Co. Inc. The map was used on the dust jacket of W. L. Watson's 1949 *History of Jamestown on Conanicut Island in the State of Rhode Island* and on the cover of the 1976 Jamestown phone book. Dick Hull created a beautiful carving of the map. The carving, a recent donation, is displayed with the map. The architectural drawing for the fountain that stood near East Ferry from 1896 to 1904 is hung across from the maps. The fountain was recently the subject of a *Newport Daily News* "Then and Now" column. A 1944 navigational chart of Narragansett Bay is included in the exhibit.

At the Library

Signs of Jamestown businesses and institutions are installed in the Jamestown Philomenian Library meeting room. Included are signs from Godena's Garage, Lyons Market, Gladding's market, Island Realty, Meredith & Clarke, Battery Mitchell, the Jamestown Bridge, and the Newport Bridge.

Viewers will notice that the Lyons Market sign needs conservation work. A conservator provided JHS a quote for work to stop further deterioration of the sign. Funds are being pursued to cover the conservation costs.

There are revolving exhibits in the display case at the entrance of the library. In conjunction with the hanging of the Godena's Garage sign in the library's meeting room, the garage cash box, business card, Lewis W. Hull's invoice for building the garage, a

photograph of the Godena's Garage truck and another of John Godena Sr. with Mystery Car Awards, were placed in the display case. The Godena's Garage operated from 1952 to 1972 on the site where Cumberland Farms stands.

Fingers and Toes, another exhibit in the library case, showed some of the interesting items in the JHS textile collection: several pairs of handmade stockings, beaded ladies slippers thought to be almost 200 years old, a child's glove believed to have been knit in 1863, and wedding gloves with the ring finger cut off so that a ring could be slipped on the bride's finger.

Fort Dumpling drawings, photographs, maps, and souvenir items were on display in March. Fort Dumpling, also known as Fort Dumplings, Fort Brown, Fort Lewis, and Fort Conanicut, was built in 1800 and on November 26, 1898, the old tower was blown up to make room for Fort Wetherill.

The current exhibit shows pictures of Jamestown's peripatetic post office and equipment from post office buildings. Between 1847, when the first postmaster was appointed, and 1960, when the current post office opened, postal services were conducted from several different homes and offices on Narragansett Avenue.

In 2000, a further change was contemplated but never materialized.

At the Lawn Avenue School

Twice a year, exhibits are placed in the display case at the Lawn Avenue School. In January the exhibit *Notable Animals of Jamestown* was installed and will remain on display until the end of the school year. Two of the notable animals were bassets, Lord Dempsey and Gibson, who rode the Jamestown ferries.

The JHS Education Committee covers the costs of the school exhibits.

Collection Management

The Collections Committee composed of Dianne Rugh, Rosemary Enright, Joe Logan, Sue Maden, Alice Noble, and Linda Warner meets the first Tuesday of the month to consider donations according to the guidelines of the Collections Committee Collection Policy. The JHS vault in Town Hall is open Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Visitors are welcome to drop off donations, make reference inquiries, and see the collection.

A dedicated group of volunteers continues to catalog and scan donations, identify persons in JHS photographs, and inventory the collection. The

catalog contains over 23,000 records, which can be accessed from the JHS web site. In the first three months of 2012, over 145 users conducted 798 searches resulting in increased reference inquiries and awareness of the JHS collection. This summer, Wi-Fi will be available in the museum providing access to the JHS catalog for museum visitors and volunteers.

Grant Applications

Grants are critical to support JHS projects and to maintain the collection. In May, JHS received a Rhode Island Foundation Ott Fund grant to conserve between 60 and 70 town documents relating to the Revolutionary War, Apprenticeships & Indentures, and early Removals. Jamestown Town Clerk Cheryl Fernstrom, who received an Ott Grant in 2011 to conserve early marriages and deaths records, provided valuable guidance for writing the grant.

A grant request was submitted to the Rhode Island Foundation Newport County Fund Small Grants program to conserve materials and to produce two brochures: a self-guided *Walking Tour of Historic Narragansett Avenue* and an *Around Town* tour showing locations of JHS properties and exhibits. A draft of the Narragansett Avenue brochure was well received by Chamber of Commerce and Town officials.

JHS completed a Champlin Foundation grant request for funding to install compact shelving in the JHS vault, one of the recommendations in the 2010 Collections Conservation Assessment Report (CAP). The movable shelves would increase vault storage from 274 linear feet to 651 linear feet. In addition, two additional flat files, three wall-mounted cabinets, and a work table would be installed. We appreciate the cooperation and support of the Town of Jamestown with the proposed project.

Donations and Acquisitions

Wonderful donations continue to arrive and some can already be seen in JHS exhibits. All donations this winter and spring are listed on the next page.



The recently donated Godena's Garage sign is on display in the library meeting room with other signs from the JHS collections.

DONATIONS AND ACQUISITIONS: NOVEMBER 2011 THROUGH MAY 2012

Anonymous: Jamestown 1969 Zoning Map; RITBA cap; Island Realty brochure on Lionel Champlin House.

Vincent A. Arnold: five postcards of the Newport Bridge being built and of ferryboats.

Scott Biddle: LandVest card for sale of land at 333 Beavertail Road; *Views of Newport*, with photos of the Thorndike Hotel and Fort Dumpling; three sketches by Paule Loring; tax lists for 1922, 1923, 1924; photo of *Jamestown*, 1906; two photos of Jamestown Bridge dedication and construction, 1940; letter to T. Remington Wright from H. Foster regarding bridge photos, Sept. 16, 1940.

Alcina Blair: newspaper article, "Wind, Water & Woe" Providence Journal, May 24, 1999.

Kathy Brownell: two copies of pre-2000 Windmill Day photograph.

Ken Caswell: DVD of local events from the 1950s with parades, drum and bugle corps, and Maypole activities. Copied from 8mm color film.

Matt Clarke: two "For Sale" signs from Meredith & Clarke, Inc.; loan of portraits for scanning.

John Doty: articles on 1938 hurricane; copies of photos of Mackerel Cove Pavilion and of 1957 and 1959 Comets Basketball team; copy of Jamestown Sports Report v. 1 #9 Feb. 1, 1959.

Jessie Dutra: CD of presentation to St. Michael's Country Day School class by Rosemary Enright and Sue Maden.

Janice Fletcher: *Photographs*: 12 Hurricane Carol, 1954; Decoration Day, 1947; Narragansett Avenue, 1948; Mackerel Cove, 1939; Front Road, 1939; Drum and Bugle Corps, 1939; 2 aerial views of East Ferry. *Meredith & Clarke Holiday Cards*: East Ferry (3), Jamestown Day, Old Fort Dumpling, Jamestown churches, Four Corners, Volunteer Fire Dept., Conanicus Avenue, Dumplings, Beavertail Light, Sail boats.

John Godena and Geri Rogers: photograph and business card of Godena's Garage; cash box from Godena's Garage; invoice from Lewis W. Hull dated June 9, 1952 for building the garage; Godena's Garage truck; photo of John Godena with Mystery Car Awards and copies of articles on awards.

Dee Hellewell: three volumes of *The Old Stone Bank History of Rhode Island*; Annual Report Town of Jamestown for 1963-1969.

Shirley Hull: carved map of Jamestown by Dick Hull, based on map by S.C. King, Jr. dated 1928.

Jamestown Historical Society (purchase): photo of 13th Co. C.D.N.B. at Fort Getty, 1918; photo of the National Guard Co. at Fort Wetherill.

Holly Janney: sign from Benjamin T. Gladding grocery store, Narragansett and Howland avenues.

Alexandra Kent: Fort Dumpling photograph.

Marcy Lindsay and Rosemary Enright: *Kersey's Treatise on the Doctrine of Friends*, reprinted by the Trustees of the Green Farm on Canonicut, R. I.

Joe Logan: wireless router for museum.

Sue Maden: article on Drago garden, "Better Homes and Garden," April 2012; button, "Join the Light Brigade" RI Parks Assn, Beavertail c. 1980.

Pede Manchester: boat hook and two oarlocks from lifeboat; two different size mouthpieces from speaking tubes. All from *Governor Carr*.

Bill McCarthy: Mary Harris Howry scrapbook, DC, 1906-1913. Scrapbook given to Mississippi Department of Archives & History for collection of Howry family papers. Photo of Mary Howry kept.

Kathleen Morton: Family information on Charles Augustus Hayward (1880-1942) and his descendants; four digital images.

John Murphy: album of ferry photos by Ned Smith.

Ellen Noble: loan of photographs for scanning.

Betsey Outerbridge and the Jamestown Historical Society (purchase): ferryboat model/mailbox made by Manny Neronha Sr.

Cindy Peloquin: A two-part ceramic melted butter holder from the Casino on Conanicus.

Marion Pierce: 8 postcards of Jamestown.

Chris and Candy Powell: photograph of Jamestown's "cliff walk."

Donald Richardson: newspaper clipping, Lucy Cary Carr age 7 christened ferry boat, Feb. 6, 1927.

Annie Robinson: book, *Peabody & Stearns Country Houses and Seaside Cottages* by Annie Robinson, which contains photograph from JHS collection.

Edith Pierce Saccuzzo: reminiscences by her sister of the family's life in Jamestown from 1935 to 1942; account of 1938 Hurricane; related digital images.

Town of Jamestown Librarian: exhibit case; multiple photos from *Standard Times*, 1976-78.

Town of Jamestown Town Clerk: record of Jamestown alcoholic and beverage licenses, 1950-1979.

Linda Warner: first day Beavertail cover with drawing by Connie Armbrust; front of Jamestown post office box; sweatshirt with *Governor Carr* by Connie Armbrust; Town of Jamestown flag.

Evelyn Wheeler: research on Jamestown Historical Cemetery 13 on Dutch Island.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

by Greg DiGasper

The Building and Grounds Committee works with the property committees to maintain all JHS properties and keep them in good repair. After six years, it is with regret that I am leaving the board this summer. Matt Clarke will be shouldering the responsibilities of the B&G committee. Please welcome Matt in his new position.

Museum

No major repairs were needed at the museum this winter. The Heating Ventilating Air Conditioning (HVAC) unit is holding up well after 6 years. The system is professionally maintained by one of our local tradesmen.

The Collections Committee is looking into



One hundred “Mrs. John T. Scheepers” bright yellow tulips, planted last fall in the cemetery west of the museum, bloomed in late April. The tulip was developed by Jamestown summer resident John Scheepers and named for his wife, Rose. Harry T. Burn donated the bulbs.

lighting options since the old track lighting, recycled from the renovation, is obsolete and looking its age.

Some docents have been bothered by a musty odor that is evident particularly after the building has been closed for some time. B&G and the Collections committees are still looking into alternatives for dehumidifying the building and will determine the best course of action over the summer.

Windmill

At the windmill, Andy Shrake, our millwright, is finishing up repairs recommended in the CAP assessment. He is replacing the Plexiglas around the millstone with a replica of the original “furniture” and installing railings around the stairs and floor openings. Andy is also designing and building an old-fashioned stile to cross over Minto’s stone wall on North Road during Windmill Day.

The exterior of the building will be sprayed with an environmentally friendly solution later this year for wood boring pests.

New signs explaining the history and operation of the mill have been installed near the east wall of the windmill field.

MEETINGHOUSE

by Harry Wright

Over the winter the Meetinghouse Committee has continued exploring ways to improve the condition of the building.

After considering some fairly radical proposals, we invited representatives from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission to give us their assessment of the situation. We were pleased to find that they were more positive about the building than our previous consultants. They reported that, in comparison to many other buildings of its age and type, the Meetinghouse is, in fact, in relatively good condition. They also indicated that the RIHP&HC would be opposed to any drastic solutions – for example, those that might involve placing the building on a new and slightly higher foundation. They agreed that groundwater was our major problem, and so we are working on that issue.

Meanwhile, in April we were pleased to have over 40 fifth graders from the Lawn Avenue School visit the Meetinghouse and experience something of what it was like to be a Quaker over two hundred years ago.

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