



JAMESTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE

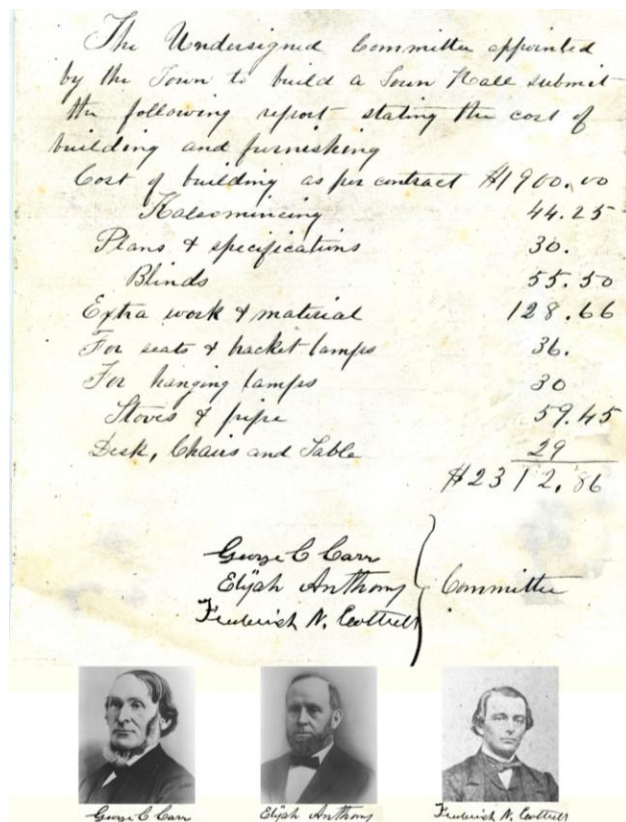
SPRING 2014

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

THE HISTORY OF JAMESTOWN'S TOWN HALL

A new permanent exhibit, mounted in the front stairwell of the Town Hall, tells the story of the long search for a permanent home for our town government – how for over 200 years Jamestown lacked a formal Town Hall or Town Clerk's Office.

As early as 1700, the need for a "Town House" was recognized and attempts were made to find one. In the meantime, as records displayed on the stairwell show, the Town Council met in whatever convenient location offered. The homes of council members and the schools were the most common venues.



Building Jamestown's First Town Hall, 1883

The Town Clerk – who was an elected official until the Town Charter was changed in 1974 – worked from his home or business. Town records were originally passed from clerk to clerk in a cloth bag especially designated for the purpose, while later a wooden chest was purchased.

The first Town Hall was built in 1883, and an office for the Town Clerk was added in 1914. Over the next 100 years, several proposals for a new and larger municipal building were put forward and plans for these are also shown. The exhibit culminates with the dedication of the new Town Hall in 2007, the 350th anniversary of the purchase of Conanicut Island.

The exhibit will be officially unveiled on Monday, May 19, prior to the Town Council meeting. From 5:30 to 7:30 that evening, the JHS vault in the Town Hall basement will be open and refreshments will be served.

A grant from the Newport Community Fund of the Rhode Island Foundation to exhibit historic documents and artifacts in public venues helped to defray the costs of the stairwell display.



Courtesy of The Jamestown Press

Dedication of the new Jamestown Town Hall,
August 11, 2007

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Linnea Petersen

We have been quite busy this past winter, despite the cold weather, accomplishing a number of projects and embarking on new plans for events that will take place over the next few months.

The vapor barrier and dehumidifier in the museum crawl space has been installed, as you will read in the Collections Committee report. We were able to fund this with profits from the Centennial Gala held last June. Dianne Rugh, who served as project manager, and Joe Logan, who assisted her throughout the project, are to be commended for their excellent work in bringing this to completion.

A Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (RICH) mini grant for the conservation of archival documents, combined with a Rhode Island Foundation Newport County Fund grant to display our collections in public venues, led to a wonderful exhibit on the Weeden family of Jamestown in the library in January. Carole Ann Penney, Director of Operation at RICH responded to our final report on the grant by saying, in part:

"Thank you for submitting such a thorough and thoughtful report, and congratulations on all that you accomplished through this project! Wow! It is clear that this project very effectively increased access and interest in Jamestown's historical documents, all through your volunteers' admirable efforts. It's amazing to see the breadth of what you achieved through leveraging this mini grant."

Kudos to all who were involved in this effort, especially Holly Collins, Arlene Petite, Sue Maden, and Rosemary Enright who put countless hours into this very successful project.

Senator M. Teresa Paiva Weed has again sponsored us for a Senate grant of \$1,000 to support our maintenance of the historic elements of the town's Conanicut Battery Historic Park. We are very grateful to Senator Paiva Weed for her ongoing support of our efforts to enhance the historic value of this wonderful park for the benefit of all who visit.

In June, the museum and windmill open for the summer season. If you have been a docent in the past, Myrna Maxfield will be calling soon to request your help again. If you have not volunteered before, and would like to participate, please call me at 423-1820. I'll be happy to make it happen. We can't keep the buildings open without volunteers to greet visitors.

July 19 is Windmill Day. Please mark your calendars. Or cut out page 3 of this newsletter, which lists all summer events, so you don't miss any of them. Jane Bentley, our new Windmill Committee chair, has been working hard organizing this event, and you can read about her plans on page 5.

Our annual meeting will be held on August 21 in the Jamestown Philomenian Library community room. A short business meeting, which will include the election of officers, will begin at 7:00 pm. This will be followed by a talk by Rosemary Enright and Sue Maden about their new book *Legendary Locals of Jamestown*. The book, published by Arcadia Press, is scheduled to be released July 14. These two special ladies continue to work tirelessly on our behalf, and I am pleased to tell you that the JHS will, once again, be the fortunate recipient of profits realized by the sale of their work. We appreciate all the support they have given and continue to give to the JHS.

September 12 and 13 is our annual preview party and house tour weekend. This year it will feature the special Ferry Meadow area of Jamestown. The JHS is very grateful to Terry Lanza and Jane Bentley who have found five wonderful homes – four for the tour and one for the party – which are not to be missed! A special thanks to those homeowners who are opening their beautiful homes on our behalf. Look for more details on page 6.

Our annual volunteer party will be held on October 17 at Sue Maden's lovely home. A special thanks to her for her gracious hospitality. The party is a wonderful opportunity to come together to celebrate our terrific volunteers and thank them for their willingness to pitch in to make our organization such a vibrant and successful entity. If you are one of our volunteers, please know your efforts on our behalf are greatly appreciated. If not, it is time to sign up! Together we can fulfill our mission of preserving, protecting, and sharing with others the rich history of Conanicut, Gould, and Dutch Islands – and have a lot of fun in the process. Hope to see you at the party!

The Society will have a table at the Rotary Club's Community Picnic at the Fort Getty Pavilion on May 24 in an effort to create more interest, awareness, and participation by Jamestown residents in the JHS.

SUMMER 2014 PROGRAM CALENDAR

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

Monday, May 19

Opening of Town Hall Exhibit

5:30 to 7:30 PM

New exhibit in the front stairwell of the Town Hall unveiled. Open house in the vault in the Town Hall basement.

Monday, May 26

Preview of Summer Exhibit in Museum

10 AM to 12 PM

Updated exhibit on Jamestown architecture previews during the Memorial Day parade.

Sunday, June 15

Jamestown Windmill Docent Training

1 to 4 PM

Training for new and returning docents at the windmill.

Saturday, June 21

Museum Docent Orientation

12 to 3 PM

Become a docent and enjoy a private tour of the expanded exhibit on Jamestown architectural styles, *Winter/Summer Architecture*, with explanation and commentary by Jim Buttrick, exhibit curator.

Sunday, June 22

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.

Sunday, June 22

Jamestown Museum Opens for Summer

1 to 4 PM

Grand opening of *Winter/Summer Architecture*, the expanded summer exhibit on Jamestown architecture. Museum hours: 1 to 4 PM, Wednesdays to Sundays and holidays through Labor Day and Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays through October 13.

Sunday, June 22

Jamestown Windmill Opens for Summer

1 to 4 PM

The Windmill will be open from 1 to 4 PM, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays through October 13.

Saturday, July 19

Windmill Day

10 AM to 2 PM

See the windmill in motion. Enjoy the improved authenticity of several mill components and the new signage. Listen to Blue Grass with the South County Rounders. Eat jonny cakes. Play with baby chicks and goats. Visit the Friends Meetinghouse, a block from the windmill. Fun for all ages!

Thursday, August 21

Annual Meeting

Jamestown Philomenian Library, 7 PM

Election of officers and directors for 2014-2015. Program: *Legendary Locals of Jamestown*. Rosemary Enright and Sue Maden will discuss their recently published book about some of the men and women who helped make Jamestown what it is today.

Friday, September 12

Members Only House Tour Preview Party

6 to 8 PM

Enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres at the 1875 Howland Mansion at 36 High Street. A \$40 ticket includes both the party and entry to the Saturday house tour.

Saturday, September 13

House Tour

10 AM to 2 PM

Tour of Ferry Meadow and Green Lane, the first summer development in Jamestown village. Watch the *Jamestown Press* for details. Tickets \$20.

Saturday, September 27

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 free.

Monday, October 13

Jamestown Museum and Windmill Close

Columbus Day. The last day this season to visit the Jamestown museum or drop by the Jamestown windmill. Group visits can be arranged any time by calling 423-0784 or emailing your request to info@jamestownhistoricalsociety.org.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Tricia Evangelista

As the charts below show, JHS ended the 2013 calendar year with a net operating excess of \$3,302 over expenses, excluding unrealized gains on investments.

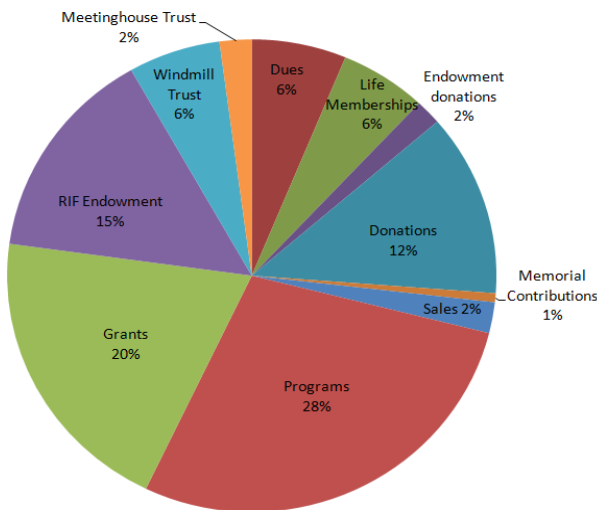
The Society's three endowments at the Rhode Island Foundation generated approximately 15 percent of the revenue used to fund the Society's operations in 2013. The RIF General Endowment was created in 2007 with money donated during the Capital Campaign. Lifetime dues from 1657 Society members and Patrons, as well as directed donations, have increased the endowment amount.

Endowment funds held by third parties provide annual income for maintenance and improvements at the windmill and meetinghouse. These monies were expended on those sites and, in the case of the meetinghouse, were sufficient to cover normal expenses. Grant income from other sources covered much of the meetinghouse actual expenditures.

The remaining budget was funded by dues, donations, programs, and sales, and by grants that the Society received to support specific tasks. The grant-directed expenditures included \$17,842 received in 2012 for the compact shelving in the vault

2014 Operating Budget

The JHS board approved the 2014 operating budget which anticipates expenditures of \$67,000. This exceeds anticipated income by approximately \$18,000 due primarily to spending of grant funds



2013 Revenues: \$87,474

received in 2013 and planned museum maintenance. Funds have been set aside annually in the General Investment account to cover the planned maintenance expenditures.

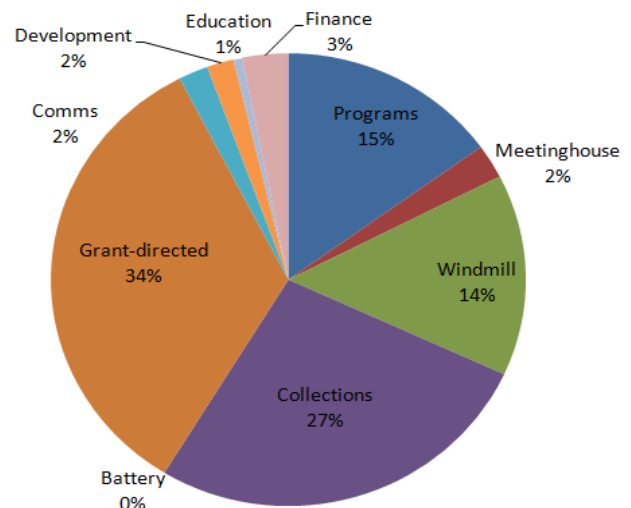
Investment and Endowment

On December 31, 2013, the balances in the JHS investment and endowment accounts were:

General investments	\$	85,538
Meetinghouse investments	\$	2,376
Windmill investments	\$	45,894
Battery investments	\$	14,338
Cash and Inventory	\$	77,434
Total operating assets	\$	\$225,580

General endowment	\$	335,238
Windmill endowment	\$	10,093
Collections (Mary Miner) endowment	\$	9,837
Battery endowment	\$	36,955
Total endowment assets	\$	\$392,123

The investment of the operating assets is controlled by the JHS Finance Committee, and these assets are available to cover any shortfall in anticipated revenues. The endowment accounts are, with the exception of the Battery endowment, held and invested by the Rhode Island Foundation, and the principle is not available. The endowments increased by 13.75 percent in 2013.



Grant-directed: 80% Collections, 10% Meetinghouse, 10% Battery.

2013 Expenses: \$84,172

WINDMILL

by Jane Bentley

The Jamestown Historical Society will host Windmill Day 2014 on Saturday, July 19, from 10 AM until 2 PM. This is a celebration of new signage and improvements to the authenticity of several components inside the mill. We hope that new lighting will also be in place. The work is being partially funded by a RICH grant. Many thanks to Rosemary Enright, our past president, for writing and implementing the grant that made these upgrades possible.

Windmill Day will have some exciting activities. Millwright Andy Shrake will be on hand and, weather permitting, we will put the cloth on the sails and, with his help, set the "Old Jamestown Mill" into motion once again. Docents will give guided tours and explain some of the changes to the mill.

Dick Donnelly will be offering fresh-cooked jonny cakes with his trademark butter and maple syrup topping. Enjoy his quick banter and reminiscing as well as the best jonny cakes around.

Matt and Judy Bolles and the South County Rounders will entertain with their Blue Grass music. Martha Neale and Linda Brodin have graciously offered to bring some baby chicks and goats and possibly a baby sheep. The animals were a big hit at Windmill Day 2012, especially with the little ones.

There will be historical books and souvenirs for sale and applications for membership to the Jamestown Historical Society.

Parking will be at the Dutra farm on Weeden Lane and a shuttle bus will bring everyone to and from the windmill.

It will be a fun filled day and your children and grandchildren will enjoy this very special event.

We look forward to seeing you there.

There has been a changing of the guard at the Jamestown Windmill this year. After many years, Linnea Petersen, our president, has passed the baton to me. I would be remiss if I didn't praise her and her husband, Paul, for all the hard work they have put into running two Windmill Days as well as the daily upkeep and operations of the mill. If you see Linnea or Paul, be sure to give them a big thank-you for all their hard work and dedication.

MEETINGHOUSE

by Harry Wright

The Meetinghouse had a very quiet winter. The new vapor barrier on the floor of the crawl space seemed to work well to contain dampness until unusually heavy rainfall in late March showed us we still have work to do. Water poured in through two small ground-level windows left open for ventilation and through leaks in the old stone and mortar foundation. It then puddled on the barrier's uneven surface.

Craig Clark, who installed the barrier, has inspected the area and cut small drains in the barrier's surface where puddled water had collected. We must, also, find some way to reduce leaking during any future downpours.

The Meetinghouse will be open on Saturday, June 21, on Windmill Day, July 19, and, as usual, by appointment all year, except for Sunday mornings between April and November at 10:30, when the Friends have their regular service for worship – a service to which visitors are always welcome.



The old windmill stone crane for lifting the runner millstone was reinstalled after being reinforced in the first phase of improving the authenticity of the mill mechanism.

PROGRAMS

by Terry Lanza

On a cold January evening, Curt Weeden, a descendent of William Weeden who signed the Jamestown prepurchase agreement, came to Jamestown from South Carolina to talk about his family and his novel *Dutch Island*. The talk was co-sponsored by the Jamestown Philomenian Library and the JHS, in conjunction with the exhibit about the Weeden family that the JHS Collections Committee had mounted in the library foyer. Approximately 65 people enjoyed his presentation and the refreshments provided by the sponsors.

Annual Meeting

The JHS Annual Meeting will be Thursday, August 21, in the Jamestown Philomenian Library. We will start at 7 PM with the president's report on the activities of the year and the election of officers and directors for 2014-2015. At 7:30, Rosemary Enright and Sue Maden will talk about their latest book, *Legendary Locals of Jamestown*, which will be released by Arcadia Press on July 14.

Rosemary and Sue are authors of numerous articles and publications about Jamestown, including

Jamestown: A History of Narragansett Bay's Island Town, published by The History Press in 2010. *Legendary Locals* tells the stories of some of the men and women of Conanicut Island who helped make the town what it is.

House Tour Weekend

Friday, September 12, 6 to 8 PM, the Members-Only House Tour Preview Party at the old Howland mansion, 36 High Street, kicks off the annual Jamestown House Tour weekend. The Howland mansion, later known as Fairacre and still later as Washburn's funeral parlor, was built in 1875 by John Howland, whose farm was developed as Ferry Meadow, the first vacation development in the village.

On the House Tour the next day, Saturday, September 13, from 10 AM to 2 PM, we will visit some of the homes in the old Ferry Meadows neighborhood.

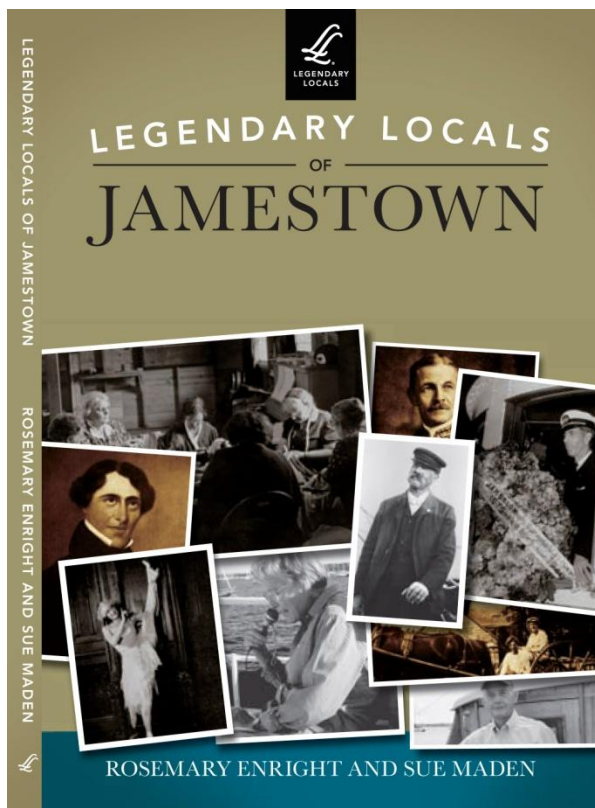
Ferry Meadows was the creation of a consortium of distinguished Jamestown residents – Frederick M. Cottrell, Pardon Tucker, John Congdon, and George C. Carr. In the early 1870s, the group purchased the farm that was bordered by Union Street, Brook Street, Green Lane, and Conanicus Avenue – then known as Water Street. (Some of the Howland property was also bought by the Jamestown & Newport Ferry Company, which was formed in 1872, as the site of the new ferry wharf.) The group platted the farm into 70 lots and called the development "Ferry Meadow."

With the help of Jane Bentley, who has been involved in many of the JHS house tours, we have secured four houses in this historic Jamestown neighborhood for this year's tour. The house tour is open to everyone.

Tickets to the Preview Party are \$40 and include tickets to the house tour, which are \$20 if purchased separately.

Details will appear in the *Jamestown Press* in early September, and emails and postcards will remind our members. Be sure to save the dates on your calendars now.

The annual House Tour Weekend is a joint effort of the Program and Development committees.



COLLECTIONS

by Dianne Rugh

The Collections Committee has many responsibilities in support of the JHS mission to collect, preserve, and share the artifacts and archives in our collections.

Sharing: Collections on Exhibit

Our newest permanent installation, the history of Jamestown's Town Hall in the front stairwell of the Town Hall, is described on page 1.

The largest and most ambitious winter exhibit focused on the Weeden family and was mounted in the foyer of the Jamestown Philomenian Library. Using documents and family artifacts, the exhibit traced the family through 12 generations, beginning with James Weeden and his son William Weeden, who was one of the 101 men who signed the original Conanicut and Dutch islands repurchase agreement.

A copy of the will of William's grandson Daniel Weeden Esq. (1696-1785) was one of the documents displayed. Daniel was only 14 in 1710 when his father drowned in Narragansett Bay traveling between Jamestown and Newport. He inherited the family farm on Weeden Lane, approximately where Windmist Farm is now, and lived there through the prosperous mid-18th century, the disastrous British occupation during the Revolution, and the depression that followed. Among the artifacts on display were a watercolor of the Weeden Farmhouse by James Brade Sword, a 1826 sampler and a beadwork bag from Lucy King Palmer Weeden (1813-1895), and wedding slippers worn by Esther Arnold Weeden (1875-1969).

In conjunction with the exhibit, JHS sponsored a lecture by Curt Weeden, a Weeden descendant and author of the novel *Dutch Island*. See Terry Lanza's Program Committee report for details.

The exhibit had a wide reach, bringing eight Weeden descendants from outside of Rhode Island to visit and eliciting emails and calls from others. The success of the exhibit can be measured not only by the positive feedback of visitors but also by the donations JHS received. These included the original of Daniel Weeden's 1784 will, a copy of which had been displayed in the exhibit, the will of George Weeden (1776-1855), the will of George Wager Weeden (1822-1893), and a clock given as a wedding gift to Esther Arnold and Robert Weeden. (They were married at the North Light where Esther's father was the keeper.)

In February, the exhibit, *Ye Olde Map of James Towne on Quononoquitt Island*, showed the ways the map, created in 1928 in honor of the 250th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Jamestown, has been used. The map depicts many of the important sites and events in Jamestown history, including Narragansett encampments, the Beavertail Light, ship wrecks in the Dumplings, and John Eldred's one-gun battery from the Revolutionary War era. The map was copyrighted by the John F. Greene Co. Inc., a printing firm that was partially owned by Walter Leon Watson, who helped plan the 1928 anniversary pageant and wrote many pieces on Jamestown, including the first complete history of Jamestown published in 1949. Watson used the map on the dust jacket of his book. Also on display were more recent uses of the map in advertisements and promotional material, and a footstool with the map carved on the top made by Richard Smith in 1950 for William Glen's manual training class at the Thomas H. Clarke School.

The current exhibit in the Jamestown Philomenian Library celebrates the 25th anniversary of the *Jamestown Press*, first published on April 21, 1989. On display are Volume 1 Issue 1 of *The Jamestown Press*, which is on loan from the library's local history collection, and copies of *The Electric Spark*, *Town Crier*, *Jamestown Gazette*, and *The Islander* – all Jamestown weeklies or monthlies from the first half of the 20th century.

Our newest venue for display is the foyer of the Jamestown Police Station. When Chief Mello asked us if we would be interested in mounting an exhibit in this space, we seized it as a wonderful opportunity to



Watercolor of Fort Dumpling on display in the Jamestown Police Station

display some of the original artwork in the JHS collection. The six pieces now on exhibit are all views of Fort Dumpling, an elliptical stone tower built just south of the current site of the Fort Wetherill Boat Basin about 1799. Fort Dumpling was never manned or maintained, and in the 19th century the deteriorating stone tower, with its unparalleled view of Newport and the lower bay, drew artists from across New England. It was blown up in 1898 to make way for the construction of Fort Wetherill.

To protect these pieces from light damage, they will be on exhibit for no more than three months, and will be replaced with a revolving exhibit of 19th-century to contemporary artwork.

School Days: Then and Now was mounted under the sponsorship of the JHS Education Committee in the exhibit case at the Lawn School in mid-January. See the Education column for details.

This summer's exhibit at the Jamestown Museum – *Winter/Summer Architecture* – is an expansion of last year's exhibit, *Architectural Styles in Jamestown: 1700-1950*. Jim Buttrick, the curator, has added a new dimension by finding the winter homes of people who summered in Jamestown and showing how they expressed their architectural tastes in two very different environments.

This new exhibit will be previewed during the Memorial Day parade and will open for the summer on Sunday, June 22.

The museum can't be open if no one is there to greet the public. If you've been a docent at the museum in the past, expect a telephone call from Myrna Maxfield asking if you will volunteer again. If you haven't volunteered before but would like to help, please call Linnea Petersen at 423-1820 or send us an email at info@jamestownhistoricalsociety.org.

Preserving: Collections Management

Sue Maden, JHS archivist, is a member of the Collections Committee along with Rosemary Enright, Joe Logan, Linda Warner, Delia Klingbeil, and Dianne Rugh, who serves as chair. The committee meets the first Tuesday of the month to accept donations that meet the guidelines in the committee's Collection Policy and to oversee the protection of the JHS collection. Recently a vault disaster plan was completed and shared with the Jamestown Fire Department. Emergency contact information was posted. Priority collections were identified. Archival boxes were marked with priority labels. A map of the

vault showing the location of the priority collections was posted on the vault door.

Cataloging donations, mounting exhibits, and caring for the collection is done by a group of dedicated volunteers who work in the Society's vault located in the lower level of Town Hall. The vault is open Tuesday and Thursday, from 9 to noon, to accept donations and answer reference questions.

A photograph identification group was recently organized by Linda Warner. Volunteers study photographs in the JHS collection to identify people and places. These important findings are added to the catalog records.

An ambitious winter project was the installation of a vapor barrier and dehumidifier in the dirt crawl space of the Jamestown Museum. The museum is climate-controlled but humidity levels, which are recorded daily, have been running higher than desired. Some museum volunteers mentioned a musty odor. The Collections Committee turned to professionals for advice on addressing the humidity level and musty odor. Although no evidence of mold was found inside the museum, the consultants recommended that a vapor barrier and dehumidifier be installed in the dirt crawl space. The project was completed in April.

Thanks to donations from private individuals, the conservation of 18th and 19th century documents, begun with grants from RICH and the Rhode Island Foundation Ott Fund, has continued. To date 535 documents have been conserved and placed in archival polyester sleeves. Scans of the documents have been attached to the catalog records, reducing the need to look at the original document. Please consider making a donation to continue this very worthwhile project.

The JHS online catalog with over 25,000 records is available by going to the JHS website at www.jamestownhistoricalsociety.org. Click on "Online Catalog" at the top right of the home page. In 2013, 841 users initiated 4,653 searches in PastPerfect Online – an increase of about 5 percent in searches and 10 percent in users over the 2012 numbers.

Collecting: Additions to the Collections

New additions to the Jamestown Historical Society collections come from several sources. JHS volunteers collect obituaries, programs, and advertisements. Offerings on eBay and other public sites are monitored and, if an important Jamestown relic is put on sale, the Collections Committee may use

JHS funds to purchase it. However, most new artifacts are donated by individuals.

Sometimes exhibits bring in exciting donations. The Weeden exhibit in the library led to many donations from the Weeden family. In addition to the will and clock mentioned earlier, members of the family gave us the hand-written family history recorded by Mary Louise Weeden in the 1890s and loaned us albums and photographs to be copied and returned. Walter Wadsworth recently donated the stained glass window from the "third sister," which he had loaned for the 2013 summer exhibit.

The Trustees of the Jamestown Philomenian Library again recognized the care JHS takes of its collection by transferring 18 volumes of newspaper clippings about Jamestown. The articles were collected from January 1966 to December 1979 by

Anna (Mrs. John) Champlin and are an invaluable tool for research of that period. John Murphy donated a diverse collection of over 75 items that cover many facets of Jamestown life, including activities of Jamestown organizations and town committees, political campaigns, and local events.

JHS is grateful for all the donations that have been offered to the collection. Every donation adds to our knowledge of the history of Jamestown and will benefit researchers for years to come. Please consider donating your Jamestown memorabilia. Come to the vault on the lower level of Town Hall or call 423-7202 any Tuesday or Thursday morning or contact Sue Maden at 423-2167 or sdmaden@aol.com.

A complete list of donors and donations since November follows.

DONATIONS AND ACQUISITIONS: NOVEMBER 2013 THROUGH MARCH 2014

Sandra and Peter Arnold: wills of Daniel Weeden (1784), George W. Weeden (1893), and George Weeden (1855); essay, *Conanicut Island*, dedicated to Chautauqua Circle Class of 1886 by Miss Mary A. Tucker; two Cedar Cemetery deeds: Mr. & Mrs. William A. Barber, Lucy A. Weeden, Lot No. 7 Plat No. 1 and Lot No. 10 Plat No. 1; *Hull & Weeden Families at Jamestown and Matunuck RI with a Brief Account of the Life of Sir Charles Wager* with a letter to Mrs. Marshall from William Wager Weeden, Nov. 22, 1937; *A Few Items of Interest to Weeden Family* by Mary Louise Weeden with handwritten note taken from Grace Church Yearbook (1895) and letter to George Wager Weeden from Louise (1893); Weeden genealogy material; draft of "Samuel Gorton" by William Wagner Weeden, for *Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society* No. 102, May 1942.

Judy Bell: patch, JEMS Jamestown Emergency Medical Service; poster for the *Twilight Golf Tournament* (1996) with original art by Darcy Magratten; magnets: *Dared to be TV-Free*, April 24-30, 1997, *Thanks from the Friends of the Library*.

David Bolger and Mark Lancaster: painting by Nicholas Biddle Jr. (1917-2013) of the Stearns Farms boathouses that won an Honorable Mention in the CIAA art show in 2001.

Donna Cameron: 27 Jamestown match book covers: Bay View Hotel (3), E.B. Brooks (2), Garnett's Sandwich Shop (2), Tefft's Restaurant (2), ER Vieira (4, different images), Narragansett Restaurant, Meredith & Clarke, Bowser Agency, Harbor View Inn, Theatre Spa (2), Doty's Repair Shop, Sylvia's Garage, Jamestown Water Taxi, Lang's, Bayview Hotel & Grill, Bayview Bar & Grill, Jamestown Garage AAA (2, different colors).

John Doty: 2 photograph: Mackerel Cove before 1938 Hurricane; TH Clarke School after snowstorm.

Rosemary Enright: book, *Admirals of the U.S. Navy*, v. 1, 1862-1900 by William B. Cogar.

Jamestown Community Chorus: CD of *On the Air* slide show from their Dec. 14, 2013 concert, which includes photographs from JHS collection

Varoujan Karentz: photographs of plaque at Beavertail.

Delia Klingbeil: 5 mousepads with photograph of windmill.

Bill Leonard: 2 computer mice.

Rozesilla "Polly" Snow Levesque (Marilyn Doane): numbered print of Joe Szarek's Jamestown Bridge; pen and ink of the windmill by Don or Dan Allen; autographed poster of production at Jamestown Theatre.

Joe Logan: photograph album of Jamestown Bridge demolition with CD of photographs.

Fran Lopes: book, *DiMillos Ship's Log. The History of DiMillo's on the Water*.

Sue Maden: photographs of filming of movie *Me, Myself, & Irene*; book, *Stars on the Sea* by F. van Wyck Mason (1940), American Revolution novel with one chapter at Conanicut Island (Fox Hill Farm); Jamestown Vineyard wine bottle; matchbook cover from Chopmist Charlie's; Conanicut Marine Service Christmas card; Jamestown blanket; book, *Jamestown Bridge, 1940-1990* autographed by project personnel; CD, *Davey's Compilation of Jamestown: The Jamestown Bridge Demolition 1940-2006*; postcards from Island Realty and Lila Delman of listed properties; autographed copy of *Workaday Schooners: The Edward W. Smith Photographs taken on Narragansett Bay, 1895-1905; With Writings and Plans Describing the Designs and Use of Schooners of the Period*, compiled by Edward W. Smith, Jr. (1975).

Ruth Matarazzo: postcards: Bay View Hotel and Ferry Landing at Newport.

Marjorie Montelem: slides of 1997 Memorial Day

Heidi Keller Moon: Bay View Condominiums scrapbook; pin in shape of map of Jamestown from J.H. Breakell & Co., Newport.

John Murphy: emergency pass issued to Neal Murphy by Jamestown Police Department, Sept. 3, 1954; poster, Community Fundraiser Night at Watson Farm, sponsored by Jamestown Chamber of Commerce and Historic New England; Notice, Changes are coming to the Newport Pell Bridge toll plaza; assorted newspaper clippings; letterhead stationery and envelopes of local organizations; additional assorted documents

Bonnie Reilly: painting by Betty Netten

Rhode Island Historic Preservation & Heritage Commission: CD showing views from Jamestown of Naval Station Newport Wind Turbine Project.

RI Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Commission: book *The Rhode Island Home Front in the Civil War Era*.

Dianne Rugh: paper on Central Baptist Church stained glass windows.

Kerry Sheehan: *The Jamestown and New Shoreham R.I. Directory 1928-29*; photograph of the Meetinghouse, undated.

Betsy Slattery: photographs of summer Jamestowners.

Dick Smith: stool made in shop class with map of Jamestown, 1950; photographs (4) of burning of *Conanicut* (1914); photograph of Smith Memorial Stone, St. Mark Cemetery, ribbons (2)

Jamestown Bridge dedication, Aug. 3, 1940; *Book of Treasures*, memories of John L. Smith of Jamestown; "*An Act Incorporating the Town of Jamestown*," *State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*, Jan. 1948, (*Jamestown charter act of 1948*, introduced by Senator Alton Head Jr.).

Trustees of the Jamestown Philomenian Library: Jamestown Women's Club Scrapbook; 18 volumes, newspaper clippings from *Standard Times* and *Newport Daily News*, 1966-1979.

Walter Wadsworth: stained glass window from 17 Conanicus Ave. (third sister), window used in museum exhibit.

Linda Warner: photographs to be scanned including photographs of the Coal Barge, Windmill Day 1967, Jamestown Brownie Troop, Hammonton sign, and Armbrust house on Narragansett Ave.; newspaper ad, *Attention! Jamestown Taxpayers An Act to Create the Jamestown Ferry Authority*, *Newport Daily News*, March 26, 1951; *Providence Sunday Journal* photograph (undated) from of the Jamestown Windmill; millennium 2000 celebration thank you and party invitation.

Donna Weeden: papers about the Weeden family; Weeden family photographs to be scanned; letter written May 14, 1955 after visit to Jamestown to be scanned and returned.

Weeden Family (Janet Howe): clock given as a wedding gift to Esther Arnold who married Robert Weeden at the North Light where Esther's father was the keeper; Weeden and Arnold family genealogical material which was copied and returned; Weeden-Arnold Album, selected items were scanned and album returned.

Edith Widdicar: pennant flown on ferry trip; 4 ferry boat uniform insignias: freight clerk JFA, captain JFD, fireman JFA, fireman JFD; band from ferryboat crew cap (N.B. JFA is Jamestown Ferry Authority).

Harry Wright: photograph taken at the windmill; book, *Seaweed Their Pasture* by Kit Wright (1946).

Ann Zartler: first day cover Millennium 2000 celebration postmarked Jamestown.

EDUCATION

by Dan Wright

Volunteers from the Collections Committee mounted *School Days: Then and Now* in the exhibit case at the Lawn School in mid-January. In addition to photographs of the school buildings where island children have studied since the first stone schoolhouse was built near Mackerel Cove in 1831, the exhibit showed some of the teaching tools used over the years: a puzzle that teaches spelling by associating pictures of animals with their names, a sampler that taught young girls both their stitches and letters, and a small slate for doing sums. Latin, arithmetic, reading, and geography texts used in the Jamestown schools are also on display.

The JHS will sponsor a \$50 Excellence in Social Studies award at the Lawn Avenue School Awards Day, Monday, June 23. The award is given to the graduating student selected by the teachers for proficiency in the subject.



The brass sign for the Liberty Tree

CONANICUT BATTERY

by Larry McDonald

The Battery survived the winter with relatively minor damage. The trails are all passable but currently a little wet.

Planning is underway for several summer projects:

- An aspiring Eagle Scout is devising a means to keep the path down to the boulder from washing out. The project will include improvement to the southern end of the upper trail.
- The area around the first fire control bunker on the upper trail is being cleared.
- A \$1,000 Rhode Island Senate grant sponsored by Senator M. Teresa Paiva Weed will be used to remove the stumps and grade the view corridor created last year with a similar grant. The area will then be planted with native grasses. The grant can also be used for poison ivy abatement on the parapets.
- A replacement for the missing Bicentennial Liberty Tree marker will be anchored to a rock near the weeping beech dedicated in 1976. The marker was purchased with an earlier grant sponsored by Senator Paiva Weed.

The town is in the process of bidding the contract for mowing the fields and trimming along the trails. Close cutting of the fields is anticipated to discourage the spread of poison ivy. The first cut should be done in May.

COMMUNICATIONS

by Delia Klingbeil

We are in the process of updating our website in both content and design. We have also begun to keep our members informed of current activities and news through informative and eye-catching emails. This newsletter is being sent in color to every member for whom we have an email address.

If you haven't received our recent emails, please send an email to info@jamestownhistoricalsociety.org so that we can capture your address for our database.

We also endeavor to keep the public aware of the Society's mission and activities through print media. The monthly JHS News column in the Jamestown Press tells everyone in town about our activities. The Press also publishes a monthly feature on some aspect of Jamestown history by Rosemary Enright and Sue Maden under the JHS logo.

And don't forget to friend us on Facebook!

DEVELOPMENT

by Betsy Moody

Did you know that there are no paid personnel in the Jamestown Historical Society?

As you read through the pages of this newsletter, take note of the number of properties the JHS cares for and opens to the public – the 1776 Conanicut Battery, the 1787 Jamestown Windmill, the 1786/7 Friends Meetinghouse, plus the 1885 Jamestown Museum and the vault.

Note that the Society preserves, catalogs, tracks, and displays over 27,000 historic artifacts.

Note the many planned events from historic exhibits, lectures, Windmill Day, to the House Tour and more.

Then just think that all of this is managed by volunteers!

So when you pay your dues or make a donation to the Jamestown Historical Society, 100 percent of those funds go directly to keeping Jamestown history accessible to all.

Now is a good time to renew your membership for the 2014-2015 membership year. Your dues entitle you to an invitation to the members' only cocktail party before the House Tour in September, as well as receiving news of all our activities, plus you are supporting the Society.

The renewal form to the right is provided for your convenience or you can download the form from the JHS website at jamestownhistoricalsociety.org.

Thank you for your generous giving.

JOIN / RENEW NOW

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

_____ Student - \$15
_____ Individual - \$25
_____ Family - \$40
_____ Patron - \$500 (individual life)
_____ 1657 Society - \$1,000
(family life + house plaque)

Voluntary Donation \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

*Please remember the
Jamestown Historical Society
in your estate planning.*

Mail to: **Jamestown Historical Society**
P.O. Box 156
Jamestown, RI 02835

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Seasonal only ☐ from ____ to ____

Tel _____

Tel (cell) _____

Email _____

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

Jamestown Historical Society
P.O. Box 156
Jamestown, RI 02835

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