



Jamestown Historical Society

HERITAGE

Spring 2020

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

Quarantine Quandary: What Did You Do?

Our mission at the Jamestown Historical Society is to collect, preserve and share the history of Jamestown. To that end, we think it's important to have some record of how the people in Jamestown are reacting to the coronavirus pandemic. One way to approach this concept is to make a visual record, one that would call upon the creative juices of everybody from our youngest residents to our oldest ones.

The postcard template below can be cut out - we've left the other side blank - or copied. Or if you are reading the online edition, you can click on this link. Or you

can make your own card, using anything you have on hand. You should not go buy anything.

On the address side, write a short note about what you are doing while staying at home. On the other side, create a visual rendering - just like any postcard - of what you are doing or feeling. Use paint, markers, crayons, pencils, ink - anything that you have and feel comfortable with. We will treat these cards just like any other document that comes to us. We will catalog them and enter them into our database as a permanent record of Jamestown history.

Quarantine Quandary
What I did

Postage
Stamp
Here



Quandary (continued)

We are tentatively planning an exhibition of the postcards in our museum sometime in the future, depending on the path of the virus. At the very least, we will be posting a selection of them to our website and, after they are cataloged, all of them will be viewable in our on-line collection.

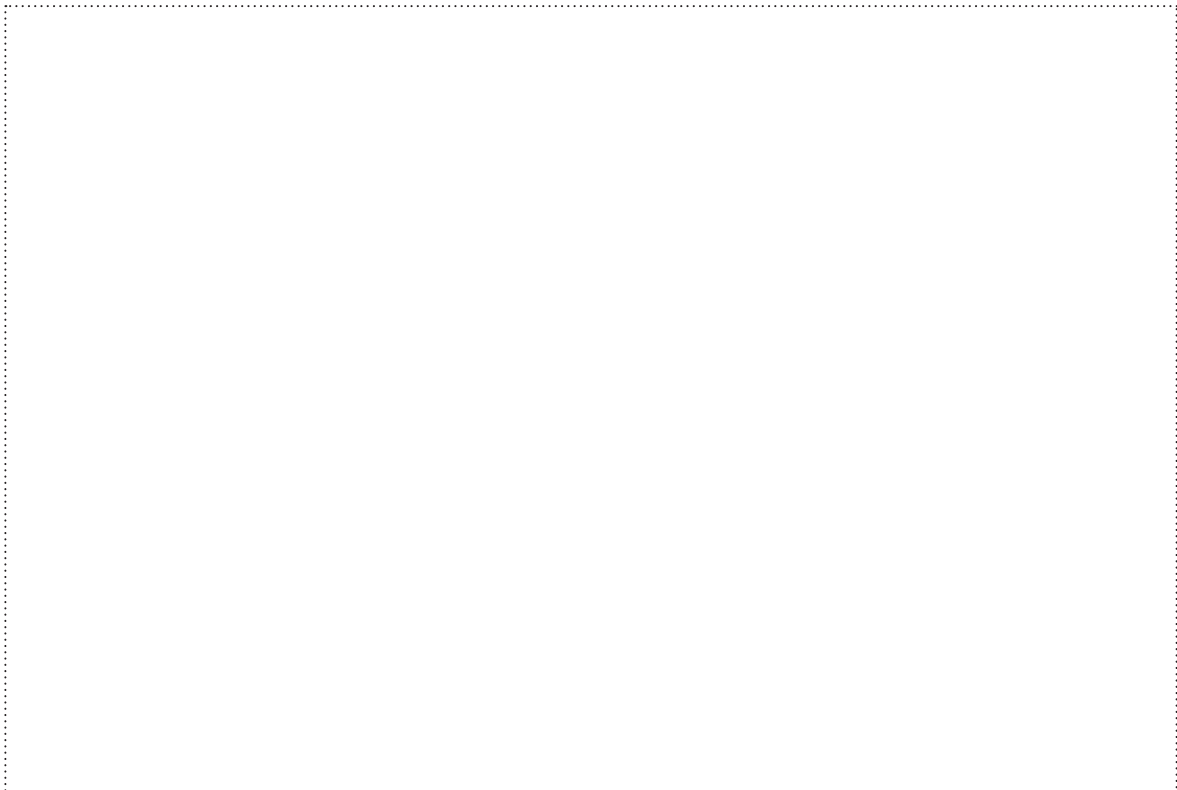
The students at the Jamestown schools are already engaged and we have received many interesting postcards from them. We'd like to hear what all generations are doing to keep themselves and their families busy and healthy in this scary time. So, please, cut out the postcard below, write and/or draw what you like, put on a stamp, and drop the card in the mail.

Be part of the JHS Postcard Project

Here's what to do . . .

- 1. Cut out or print out or download the postcard OR make your own from anything you have at home. No larger than 4" by 6", no smaller than 3-1/2" by 5".*
- 2. In the area next to our address, write us a note about what you are doing while social distancing.*
- 3. On the other side, be creative. Draw or paint a picture about you or something you did while staying home or print a photograph. If you are totally word oriented, write us some more.*
- 4. Please include your gender and age. No need to be specific, just the decade. You can add your name and other personal information if you wish, but it's not necessary.*
- 5. Put a stamp on the card. Postcard stamps are 35¢.*
- 6. Mail your card to us. We'll put it in our collection & post it on our website.*

cut on dotted line



From the President

Dear Friends,

What an extraordinary time we are going through. I hope and pray that you and your family are well.

As President, my job is to keep things going. Making plans is very difficult at the moment, but we are doing our level best to make decisions that reflect both the seriousness of the present situation and the uncertainty of the next six to eight months.

That said, we have shut down operations in the vault, both because it is in Town Hall and therefore difficult to access and because work there requires close interaction among the volunteers. This affects many efforts, most directly Collections, Membership, and Exhibits.

We have decided to cancel the 2020 House Tour and our annual fundraiser, the House Tour Preview Party. We cannot ask our supporters to offer their homes - nor do we believe they would be comfortable doing so - with the knowledge that many people of unknown virus status would be entering the house in the fall when a resurgence of the virus is predicted.

In accordance with Governor Raimondo's latest Executive Order prohibiting groups larger than 50 for the summer, we are also canceling Windmill Day on July 18.

Our summer exhibit at the Jamestown museum is "The Art of Jamestown," a selection from the over 100 works of art that the society owns. When we will be able to open is an unknown. We had planned to put digital images of all our artwork on a touchscreen in the museum. Use of a touchscreen will definitely be postponed until we can safely use that technology, perhaps modified with a non-contact sensor. Instead, we are setting up a virtual exhibit on-line. This is a new area for us, so anyone with some expertise, please step forward. We could use the help.

In normal circumstances, you would have received a telephone call or email sometime this month asking you to volunteer to open the windmill or the museum and to pick a specific date to oversee our visitors there for an afternoon. With everything in flux and when/whether we will be able to open at all unknown, we are delaying this effort. Which means that when we *do* get the okay to open the museum, we will need you to reply as promptly as you can with available dates.

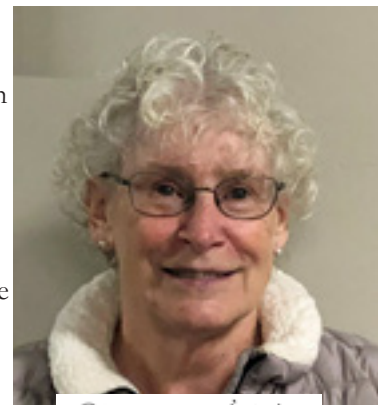
If you have never been a docent before, you can put your name on the list by sending an email to info@jamestownhistoricalsociety.org or using the form on the back of the renewal card on the last page of this newsletter. We'll get back to you with a brief of what is expected so you will be prepared when the time comes.

You can contact me or any of the Board at any time by sending an email to the info address above. In case you'd like to direct your question to the person responsible for a specific activity, below is a list of board members and their areas of responsibility. (Of course, these aren't their only areas of interest - just what they report on.) I'm sure you know many of them and can contact them directly.

Our membership year is July 1 to June 30. Normally, we mail out membership renewal envelopes in mid-June. This year we are encouraging you to renew early to reduce our renewal processing load in the vault. See page 11 for details.

I am personally looking forward to the day we can look through the products of our Postcard Project and reminisce about our experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic.

With hope for a safe future,
Gabe



Gabrielle R. Highstein

Officers 2019-2020

President	Gabrielle Highstein	<i>Membership</i>
Vice President	Jim Buttrick	<i>Finance</i>
Secretary	Delia Klingbeil	<i>Mailings</i>
Treasurer	Rosemary Enright	<i>Windmill</i>

Directors to 2020

Fred Brown	<i>Buildings & Grounds</i>
Bob Flath	<i>Site support</i>
Marcia Lindsay	<i>Meetinghouse</i>
Larry McDonald	<i>Conanicut Battery</i>
Linda Warner	<i>Volunteers</i>

Directors to 2021

Suzi Andrews	<i>Exhibits</i>
Madeleine Gromada	<i>Programs</i>
Dianne Rugh	<i>Collections</i>
Bill Salmons	<i>Outer Islands</i>

Directors to 2022

Stephanie Amerigian	<i>Communications</i>
Elizabeth DiCenso	<i>Sales</i>
Sue Maden	<i>Nominating</i>
Devi Ross	<i>Education</i>

Winter Chores

In the Vault

During the winter months, much of JHS activity shifts to the society's vault in the basement of Jamestown Town Hall. The collection is the main focus, and Collection Committee volunteers spend Tuesday and Thursday mornings each week organizing and documenting donations and caring for the collection.

They also add material that they have collected through their own research. Some of the research is discussed on page 8, and the donations received since November are listed on page 9.

Before vault activity was curtailed by the Covid-19 "shelter in place" directive, the "vaulterians" – Stephanie Amerigian, Elizabeth DiCenso, Rosemary Enright, Mary Forman, Madeleine Gromada, Gabe Highstein, Polly Hutcheson, Delia Klingbeil, Carol Lake, Sue Maden, Carol Nelson-Lee, Dianne Rugh (Collections Committee Chair), Ginny Saunders, Cindy Smith, and Linda Warner – had entered over 1,500 new records since early November. Another 3,100 had been improved, corrected, or had photographs added. Some of the corrections came from our online database users.

Care of the collection is always ongoing. Of special note, Linda Warner is inventorying and repackaging items stored in the flat files. In the process, she is removing smaller items that are still too large to store in a file folder and placing them in a single drawer in which Jim Rugh has installed dividers that create three bins for them. Housing the smaller items together will result in



This view of the movable chapel on the move was scanned this winter as part of a project to provide digital images of all glass negatives in the JHS collection.

better use of the flat file space and make retrieval of all items easier. The move also required changing the home location of the items in the database, which accounts for some of 3,100 modifications.

Stephanie Amerigian and Carol Lake have started a photograph preservation project that includes rehousing the photographs to flat storage and editing the catalog records' home location field. At the same time, they are removing postcards and moving them to specially sized postcard boxes.

On some days, the catalogers are joined by volunteers doing outreach – members of the Membership, Exhibit, and Communications committees use the vault resources and enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow volunteers. The individuals not directly involved in cataloging also have an afternoon each week for work that doesn't mesh easily with cataloging and preservation activities. Alma Davenport used that time to scan the glass negatives in the collection.

At Our Sites

Meetinghouse

Work at the Conanicut Friends Meetinghouse continued this winter and spring with a grant from the Buttrick Building Fund. Years of invasive vines were removed from the hemlock border along North Road. It will be a continuing challenge to stop regrowth of the bittersweet, grape, and bullbrier. In addition, three large and storm damaged locust trees just outside the northwest corner of the property were cut to ground level with the permission of property owners Joe and Jesse Dutra.

Visible with closer inspection is the repointing of the old stone and mortar foundations on both the east and west sides. A structural assessment report by Michael James last year strongly suggested that this be done to avoid animal entry as well as water intrusion. There were several mild days in March that offered the perfect weather for mason Chris Evans to complete each side, although on different days.

Another James' recommendation, sealing seams in the dimple vapor barrier installed in 2014, was also completed in March. The barrier has been very effective in minimizing potentially damaging moisture buildup.

As with any old building, there are many other projects ahead. The most pressing is the repair of two sections of old ceiling plaster that has separated from its lathe. James also suggested that hurricane bracing at the rafter joints and eaves be installed in the attic. We are getting estimates for those tasks.

Winter Chores (continued)



The meetinghouse after the removal of vines from the hemlocks and before the locust trees were cut down.

Members of Conanicut Friends Meeting are hopeful, especially with this difficult year, to return to worship in this simple historic structure as soon as restrictions on gatherings are lifted.

Windmill

The most noticeable work at the mill is the removal of the trees and brush along the south wall of the windmill property. With the permission of the Dumas, whose farmland surrounds the windmill field on the east and south, all the growth on the south side of the wall has been cut back. The clearing brings the appearance of the area closer to what it would have been in the 19th century.

Docents will miss the shade given by the old birch tree there, but the tree was dying and its falling branches were damaging the stone wall. Vines were growing into the wall and tree roots were expanding under it, pushing it out of alignment. As at the meetinghouse, the continuing challenge will be to stop regrowth.

The work is in preparation for the task of mending the wall all around the property.

At the same time, the area around the old Town Pound farther north on North Main Road was cleared. The wall there is also in need of repair.



Before: The south wall of the windmill field.

Our millwright, Andy Shrake, evaluates what needs to be done at the mill each spring and fall. This year he treated the mill for powderpost beetles and warned us that in the near future, probably 2021, we will need to replace the wind shaft. This is not unexpected. The wind shaft was last replaced in 2001.

Over a year ago, Dennis Webster recalculated the weight of the granite grindstones at the windmill. His calculations indicated that together the stones weighed close to 9,000 pounds, considerably more than our earlier documentation indicated. Our millwright agreed, so this winter a corrected sign was put up in the windmill and the windmill booklet was updated to show the corrected weights. When the windmill opens again, docents will be given copies of the new booklet.

Several years ago, the brass plaque telling visitors that the Jamestown Windmill was on the National Register of Historic Places disappeared. The society recently received a grant from The William G. Pomeroy Foundation for a replacement plaque. The plaque will be mounted on the mill exterior left of the south door.

Conanicut Battery

The 1776 Conanicut Battery in the town's Battery Park on the West Passage off Beavertail Road has seen little work this winter. The flagpole has been repaired and plans have been made and funding requested under a Rhode Island Senate grant to replace some of the signs and to reshingle the kiosk at the entry of the park.

It has been seven years since the signs were replaced – the normal life for outdoor signs that are subject to direct sunlight. However, in addition, someone had been using one of the signs for target practice, and it is cratered with what look like BB pocks.

The park is closed now, but as soon as it is open, we will schedule a cleanup day to remove the fallen branches and ensure that all trails are passable. Please keep an eye on your email or cut out the renewal card on the back page and send it in with “Spring Cleanup at Battery and/or others sites” selected. (You can underline Battery, if you want to be more specific.)



After: Looking over the wall to the meetinghouse.

Outreach

Our Collection Online

In January, the Collections Committee uploaded 41,834 records to the online database of our holdings, which is accessible through our website at jamestown-historicalsociety.org. The next update, delayed because of Covid-19, will contain at least 1,500 more items plus more digital images of existing entries.

The accessibility of the JHS collection for researchers and members of our community is something that we are constantly reevaluating. We've learned through analysis of website searches that there is a particular interest in the photograph collection.

In order to make searching photographs easier, we have launched a new Welcome page online. Five button categories were selected based on the number of photographs available in each category and level of interest expressed through searches and requests for reproductions. The five categories were: Film, Ferryboats, Resort Era, Forts, and National Register of Historic Places.

Currently, the smallest category from a volume perspective is Film. An on-going Collections effort to preserve VHS, DVD, and early films in the collection by creating digital versions also allows the videos to be seen on our website. We have more films to catalog, convert, and then upload, and we believe this will add an interesting dynamic element for our online visitors.

Naturally, the "Keyword Search" and "Advanced Search" are still there so that items not included in these five button categories can still be found easily.

Our Media Presence

Our last major update to the JHS website, jamestownhistoricalsociety.org, had been five years ago. After we made the changes to the Collections Welcome page, we took a look at our website itself. Our goal was to streamline the site and make accessing information easier.

We cleaned up pages to load faster and changed layouts on other pages to make them more useful. A Museum Store that better highlights the Jamestown items and books we sell replaced Publications. On the new Exhibits page, you can now more easily view our permanent exhibits as well as look at earlier summer exhibits at the museum.

Finally, we've streamlined the join/renew process. To renew your membership or make a donation, just click on the "Join/Renew" button in the footer of any website page.

Our social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram show us that most of our viewers are from James-

Welcome to your source for Jamestown, Rhode Island History

The online catalog contains 40,000 plus records of the Jamestown Historical Society and the records of the local history archives of the Jamestown Philomenian Library. JHS has over 10,000 images in the collection. Click on one of the images below to view Featured Searches from the photo collection. The selected images are just a sampling of the many photographs in our collection.



Films

Home movies preserve for us cinematic events that are poignant reminders of past family activities, vacations or special events. Originally home movies usually limited the movie maker to about three minutes per roll, so often one roll would consist of short vignettes with unrelated subject matter. We are lucky to have in our collection family films that show glimpses of Jamestown starting with the 1930s and moving forward to present day.



Ferryboats

The first steam ferryboat was the Jamestown I built in Newburyport, Massachusetts. It ran from Jamestown to Newport, 1873 through 1886, and then from Jamestown to South Ferry Landing until 1896. The last steam ferryboats were the Jamestown IV and Newport II that ran Jamestown to Newport until the completion of the Newport Pell Bridge in 1969.



Resort Era

The summer resort business began on Conanicut Island soon after steam ferryboats were introduced in 1873. The summer season lasted for about four months and families, many from New York, Philadelphia and St. Louis returned annually and stayed for long vacations. In 1903 there were over 1,000 accommodations available in Jamestown. The hotel era ended with changes in transportation and travel, the Depression and World War II.



Forts

The location of Jamestown on Conanicut Island and the surrounding islands has always been strategic for the coastal defenses of Narragansett Bay. During the course of conflicts Jamestown residents gave up homes, property and land confiscated for defense purposes. Fort Dumpling was built in the late 19th century. During the world wars, Jamestown hosted Fort Greble, Fort Getty and Fort Wetherill. The selected images are just a sampling of military forts in the collection.



National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of properties that are significant in American history and worthy of preservation. Sites in Jamestown including the Jamestown Windmill and the Beavertail Light are listed on the National Register.

The new Welcome page for the Collections database.

town, followed by Newport with scatterings of followers ranging from Providence to South Kingstown. Gender breakdown indicates our viewers are 62 percent female – thank you, ladies – in the 35 to 44 age group.

Within the last few months our most liked posting featured Catharine Morris Wright and the "Extraordinary Women of the East Bay" exhibit. The posting on the architecture of Charles Bevins, who designed many of Jamestown's late 19th century Shingle Style cottages, also attracted viewers. We find that postings showing vintage photos, an important part of our collection, consistently draw attention.

Our Constant Contact emails average about a 56 percent open rate, which is above the industry standard. Most successful is the "From the Collection" initiative started by our Collections Committee chair Dianne Rugh in December 2018. Each month a member of the Collections team selects an item in our collection to highlight. An email with information about the item and links to our online collection database is sent to all members. So far in 2020, the April Fort Dumpling post has received the most notice.

Outreach (continued)

We hope you've been enjoying Rosemary Enright and Sue Maden's monthly articles about Jamestown's history in the *Jamestown Press*. The May article is the 108th vignette they have written since the series began in 2012.

The *Press*'s "Pastime" page, added for your amusement during the Covid-19 quarantine, is also enlivened by history questions from the JHS archives.

Exhibits

The summer exhibit in the museum will be "The Art of Jamestown." Peter Marcus, artist and curator for the exhibit, has selected the works to be displayed. Under his direction, the members of the Exhibit Committee have modified the layout of the museum to make the art show to the best advantage. Cushioned benches for comfortable contemplation of individual pieces have been introduced.

The society has purchased a touchscreen display table to allow visitors to view related objects not on display and to learn a little information about each. We do not plan to use the display table this year for fear of Covid-19 transmission. Because of that and since we do not know when the museum will open, the Exhibit Committee is currently working with the Communications Committee to develop a virtual version of the exhibit. The exhibit images are available at the JHS website under the "Exhibits" tab.

On March 1, the traveling exhibit "Extraordinary Women of the East Bay," which includes six Jamestown women, came to the Jamestown Philomenian Library. The library and JHS co-sponsored a panel discussion on March 9, just as we were all recognizing the Covid-19 threat, with five extraordinary women of Jamestown: Deb Ruggiero, the Jamestown/Middletown representative in the General Assembly; Valerie Southern, a transportation consultant who has served on the Jamestown



"Jamestown Harbor at Sunset" by Edward M. Bannister is one for the works of art to be shown in the summer exhibit.

Town Council; Leslie Clarke Kurtz, a member of the R.I. Air Force Reserves until 1995 and past commander of the American Legion Arnold-Zweir Post 22; Heidi Keller Moon, who recently lobbied successfully for the creation of the town's Department of Senior Services; and Sydney Keen, a 2017 graduate of Smith College and an activist on social justice issues. Jane Koster, president of the RI League of Women Voters moderated.

The panel was well attended, with everyone greeting each other by touching elbows and smiling. A week later the library was closed. Unfortunately, the exhibit will be removed before the library reopens to allow better social distancing for library patrons.

The first 2020 exhibit in the JHS display case in the library foyer showed off our donations in 2019. In February, mugs and cups in the collection were displayed. For Women's History month in March, the six Clarke cousins - Lena, Mary, Clara, Jennie, Flora, and Elizabeth - were celebrated for their contributions to Jamestown's library and historical society.

Our Sites

This winter, for the first time, the JHS Board and some of the committees held their meetings in the museum. Display boards were pushed to the sides and tables and chairs brought in. We will be using the site whenever possible although, while the summer exhibit is open, meetings will be held elsewhere.

During the winter months, the meeting space can also be made available to other groups as long as a JHS member is present and can be responsible for opening and closing procedures.

Our outreach efforts include increased cooperation with other non-profit organizations in town. In support of that effort, one meeting at the museum brought together JHS Exhibit Committee members, a Jamestown Art Center (JAC) representative, and Cynthia Farnell, the artist selected to create an installation near the museum as part of the Outdoor Arts Experience (OAE) 2020.

The OAE exhibition is sponsored by the JAC and will be mounted from late June through October. Farnell's installation will stand along the access ramp to the east of the museum. The multipanel display depicts vintage photographs from the JHS collection in collages with Farnell's own photographs of Jamestown.

The windmill will not be opened for visitors this summer. The site cannot be made contamination-safe: no water for washing is available; use of the handrails is essential; 6-foot social distancing could not be maintained.

Procedures for opening the sites have changed very little, and even the minor anticipated changes will not be implemented this year.

Plans and Programs

Tentative plans have been made for the summer. They will be adjusted as needed. At each step, we will act in accordance with the governor's Executive Orders. Watch your email and the *Jamestown Press* for changes.

Meetings and Gatherings

Our bylaws require an annual meeting in August to review the activities of the past year and to elect officers and directors for the year ahead. Officers are elected each year; directors are elected for three year terms.

We are planning to have an annual meeting in August, although no firm date has been chosen. If non-essential gatherings are still forbidden, we will ask you to vote for your officers and directors by email. If you do not have email and/or wish to receive a paper ballot, please let the Nominating Committee know by a telephone call to 401-423-2674 or email to info@jamestownhistoricalsociety.org by August 1.

All other meetings and gatherings, including the formal opening of the museum exhibit, Windmill Day, and all House Tour Weekend activities have been canceled.

Museum

Our planned opening date is June 20. That seems unlikely. Everything about the exhibit has been planned and much has been implemented. A week to ten days after restrictions are lifted, we should be ready for visitors on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 1 to 4 through Columbus Day.

If the restrictions are still in place on July 30, wait until next year. It will still be a wonderful exhibit.

Windmill

Windmill opening was also planned for June 20 with Windmill Day on July 18. Regretfully, the windmill will not be opened this summer.

Meetinghouse

The Conanicut Friends meet every Sunday at 10:30 AM. Meetings will begin the first Sunday after such gatherings are allowed.

Battery

The town will determine when the park opens.

Vault

As soon as town officials allow us to return to the vault, volunteers will be working there in groups of three, three mornings a week. Visitors are not allowed until social distancing rules are relaxed.

Please contact us by email at info@jamestownhistoricalsociety.org or by voice mail at 401-423-2674.

Thinking Ahead

An *ad hoc* subcommittee of the Programs Committee has been working since January on a series of programs and events for the 2020-21 winter season. The group, which calls its program "Stories in Stone," was inspired by JHS member Mary Forman who is very interested in the stories that the monuments in cemeteries tell about people and the times in which they lived.

Events they are planning include –

"Finding Your Roots," a workshop on Jamestown genealogical sources, led by representatives from the Town Clerk's office, the library, and JHS.

Talk by Dan Goldman on "Early New England Gravestones and the Stories They Tell." Goldman has spoken on the subject in several Rhode Island venues.

Talk by a representative from the Stevens shop about the history of the shop and about the stones from that shop in Jamestown's Arnold cemetery.

Participation in "Historic Cemetery Restoration & Awareness Day" next April. This is an annual event sponsored by the Rhode Island Cemetery Commission. In addition to St. Mark's Catholic Cemetery, Cedar Cemetery, and the Town cemetery, Jamestown has nine small historic cemeteries, mostly on private property.

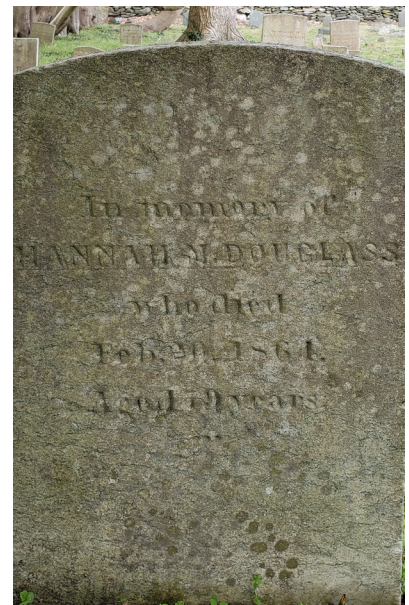
Cemetery pageant at Town Cemetery. The Historical Society would tell stories about the men and women buried in the land around the Jamestown Museum.

Outing, in conjunction with the Senior Center, to Swan Point Cemetery, Providence, one of the foremost garden cemeteries in the United States.

Outing to the Common Burial Ground in Newport, established in 1640 and the resting place of many colonial era Blacks.

These outings had been planned for later this spring and had to be canceled.

The committee is hoping to engage the school and other Jamestown organizations in the program.



Hannah Douglass' tombstone in the Town Cemetery.

What We Learn from You

Each Spring and Fall, the newsletter lists the donations that we have received for the collection. What is often equally important in expanding our collection and our knowledge base are your questions and comments that start us down paths to new discoveries.

Oliver Caswell

Michelle Roche alerted us to the existence of the Oliver Caswell silhouette shown on the next page, and we were able to purchase a copy from the National Portrait Gallery. Caswell, born in Jamestown in 1836, lost his sight and hearing when he was two years old.

Commerce Oil

An exciting expansion of our Commerce Oil collection started with a request from the East Passage Estate's Lot Owners Association for someone to give a talk at their annual meeting about the Commerce Oil Refining Corporation. In the mid-1950s, the company had bought over 700 acres of land north of Eldred Avenue, intending to build an oil refinery there. It was a contentious proposal.

Sue Maden, our archivist, put together a presentation, which was videotaped by Sav Rebecchi and is available through our online catalog. In her research, Sue reached out to descendants of the families that Commerce Oil had sued to stop their opposition to the refinery. One of them was Ken Froburg, who has since donated his father's papers of the Jamestown Protective Association and Narragansett Bay Home Owners Association. The two groups had led the fight against the establishment of the refinery.

Dave Martin, whose mother Mary Stearns McGaughin wrote *Dismissed with Prejudice* about the events, gave the society permission to create a digital version of the book, which is out-of-print. The digital copy is now available through our website.

Stolen Telephone Cable

In early March, an email came in to info@jamestownhistoricalsociety.org from Ed White: "I believe it was late 1960 when the underwater telephone cable from Newport to Jamestown was cut and stolen. I . . . am looking for more information . . ."

A search of our records and a query to board members who might remember resulted in nothing. But archivist Sue Maden was intrigued. If this had happened, our archives should have a record. She found news articles online that told the story. The two men who had stolen the 45 tons of armored cable and briefly disrupted Jamestown telephone service were from Bristol. They were arrested when they brought their boat into Mackerel Cove.

Ed White added a personal note to the story: "I knew two of the four men from the Nov. 10, 1960 article. Edward Raposa, known as "Whitey" and Frank Pires, known as "Freddy." Whitey often worked as a quahogger and was so strong that he used tongs with a basket size almost twice what most of the guys used."

Please keep those questions coming. Email us at info@jamestownhistoricalsociety.org or leave a message at 401-423-2674.

Donations and Acquisitions

Donations

Barbara Benson: brochure, *Jamestown Rhode Island*, Jamestown Chamber of Commerce, date unknown.

Lisa Bryer: New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. bill, Aug. 12, 1959; H.F. Hammond bill, Mar. 1, 1952; Millennium 2000 Celebration button that lights up; Jamestown Bridge tickets.

Jim Buttrick: 3 views of house plans for 24 Prudence.

Ken Caswell: images of Old Jamestown Bridge causeway after bridge demolition; photo of AV Richardson Garage with Alfred Richardson.

Archie Clarke: three photos -Jamestown Day 1900; Gardner House; Movable Chapel, 1898.

Elizabeth Delude-Dix: research material collected for

"Jamestown, Rhode Island, a nineteenth century resort and Shoreby Hill, a resort suburb," 1986 Columbia University M.S. Thesis.

Paul DiCenso: Carr/Clarke 2009 Reunion cap; Jamestown-Verrazzano Bridge cap.

East Passage Estates Lot Owners Association: North Island Properties price list, Aug. 25, 1986; North Island Properties, 47 Conanicus Ave., price list, undated; North Island Properties, American Way, price list undated; Notice of Appointment. Temporary Receiver, 1994; sales brochure, "Next to Everything Yet Away From It All."

Rosemary Enright: Newport Bridge bookmark.

Peter Fay: transcription of town document (T2007.026.018) To Robinson and Joseph Underwood, Aug. 30, 1809.

Donations and Acquisitions (continued)

Ken Froberg: papers of Jamestown Protective Association and Narragansett Bay Home Owners Association between 1956 and 1960, during their fight against the establishment of a refinery in Jamestown. Papers include correspondence, minutes of the JPA Board, promotional material and pamphlets, newspaper articles, financial records, the "1947 Geological survey for Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut," and legal papers, which in addition to communications between the Jamestowners sued by Commerce Oil and their lawyers, include volumes iv, v, and vi of No. 5475. United States Court of Appeals for the First District. Commerce Oil Refining Corp., Plaintiff, Appellant, v. William W. Miner et al., Defendants, Appellees.

Ann Gagnon: "The Narragansett Bay Oyster Company Watch House" by Roger Wilkins.

Judy Garlick: scrapbooks of graduates of the Clarke School 1923-1955; Jamestown Community Theatre scrapbook.

William House: June Webb drawing of the windmill; scans of 2 photos of the Windmill from 1954; stationery, U.S. Naval Radio Station (T) (R) Beavertail Point Jamestown, Rhode Island.

Peter Janaros: newspaper clippings about the building of the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge.

Diana Luth: opening of the Newport Bridge official cachet created by the Newport Stamp Club and the Newport Chamber of Commerce; brochure, "Ceremonies for New England's Largest Suspension Span The Newport Bridge."

Sue Maden: *Hurricane 1954*.

Ryan Marsh: two scans of 1954 photos of Windmill.

Mickie Musselman: T-shirt from 2017 Neon Night.

Linnea Petersen: East Passage Estates sales brochure; newspaper advertisement for lots in East Passage Estates; two maps of East Passage Estates Section 1, Commerce Oil Refining Corporation, Oct. 19, 1977; North Island Properties price list, Mar. 1, 1986.

Sav Rebecchi: video of Sue Maden presentation, "Commerce Oil Refinery Corporation."

Michelle Roche: copy of lithograph of Oliver Caswell from the National Portrait Gallery; copy of Caswell's journal which is posted on Perkins School for the Blind website; copy of Perkins School for the Blind Annual Report, 1834.

Dianne Rugh: *William Trost Richards Hieroglyphs of Landscape*, edited by Jeffery Howe.

James and Agni Saucier: documents relating to 46 Clarke's Village Road, a building moved from Maplewood.

Town Clerk's Office: poster, Bombay Bash Nov. 5, 2011 Jamestown Art Center; 3 Jamestown maps; Town seals.

Linda Warner: QGC Christmas party photo, 1965; Baker's Pharmacy 2019 pocket planner.

Charlene Waters: two Ed Silvia albums.

Dennis Webster: copy of press release from Arnold Zweir Post 22, American Legion.

Charles Wharton: letter to Robert K. McInnes from F.H. Balsley Real Estate concerning purchase of Clingstone, Nov. 4, 1961.

Susan Wright: Narragansett Bay Home Owners Association letter to members, Nov. 5, 1959; prepared statement read by Mr. John Nicholas Brown.

Acquisitions

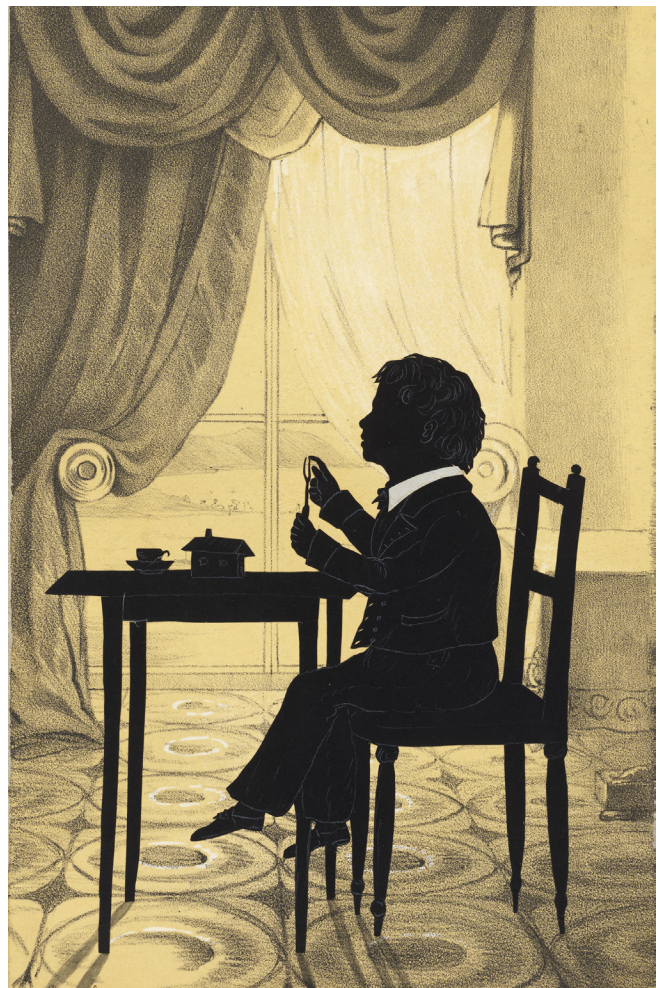
Six Jamestown postcards and four Jamestown photos.

Image of Oliver Caswell by Auguste Edouart; 1843 lithograph, chalk, cut paper on paper. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; gift of Robert L. McNeil, Jr.

1898 cyanotype of Beavertail Light and 1911 photograph of carriage at Beavertail.

"Untold stories from World War II Rhode Island" by Christian McBurney, Norman Desmarais, and Varoujan Karentz.

"Jamestown, Rhode Island, a nineteenth century resort and Shoreby Hill, a resort suburb," by Elizabeth Delude-Dix, 1986, Columbia University M.S. Thesis.



Copy of lithograph of Oliver Caswell. Purchased from the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution.

Membership and Volunteers

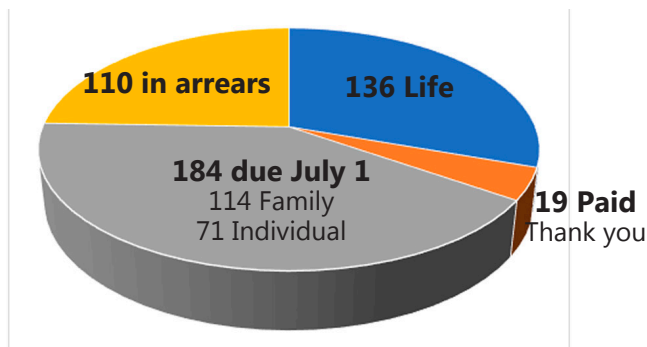
The Jamestown Historical Society is an all volunteer organization. Your membership and willingness to volunteer are very important to us.

Our membership year is July 1 to June 30. Normally, we mail out membership renewal envelopes in mid-June. This year we are encouraging you to renew early, so that we can reduce the vault time needed to process renewals.

To renew early, you can –

- Cut out the card below, fill in your identifying information on the reverse, and mail it with your check to P.O. Box 156.
- Go to the jamestownhistoricalsociety.org web-site and renew using a credit card or PayPal.
- Access the link in the email reminder that will be sent in early June.

Society Membership



We will send out the usual letter and return envelope to those we haven't heard from in late June. If you can renew now, that would be an enormous help.

This side of the renewal card asks you about your volunteer interests. Over 145 people contributed time last year to make our activities happen. That is the about the number we need in a normal year to cover the house tour, which is a two-hour shift on a single day; the windmill, which is usually open 9 hours a week for 15 weeks in 3-hour segments; and the museum, which is open 15 hours a week for the same period; plus the less easily quantifiable tasks of caring for the collection, organizing volunteers, and directing society activities.

We need your help for whatever time commitment you can make.

Being a windmill docent can mean a delightful summer afternoon in the sun talking to whomever shows up – often parents with children – about the windmill, the meetinghouse, and the Newport Bridge.

Museum visitors tend to be more sedate and to be interested in the history of the island as a whole. The Ferry Room is a particular attraction.

Neither of these commitments is time-consuming. You can sign up for one three-hour day or volunteer more often.

All these are summer-only jobs. If you are interested in volunteering on a regular basis throughout the year, consider working with the collection or with volunteers.

We need you.

Volunteer Interests

- _____ Work with Collection
- _____ Volunteer and Member Solicitation
- _____ Program Support (e.g., house sit for house tour, event parking)
- _____ Museum Docent
- _____ Windmill Docent
- _____ Spring Cleanup at Battery and/or others sites
- _____ Committee/Board Member

Committee: _____

Send card and check to:
Jamestown Historical Society
P.O. Box 156
Jamestown, RI 02815

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

**Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
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RENEW TODAY

Name: _____

Primary Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Seasonal Only ☐ **from** _____ **to** _____

Alternate Address: _____ **City/State/Zip:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email: _____ **Email:** _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: Annual: Student (\$15) _____ Life: Patron (\$500) _____
Individual (\$25) _____ 1657 Society (\$1,000) _____
Family (\$40) _____

(See other side)