



Jamestown Historical Society

HERITAGE

Spring 2021

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

Stories in Stone



Photograph by Andrea Von Hohenleiten

*Captain William
Pemantel*



Photograph by Andrea Von Hohenleiten

Olivia Rice

The gravestones in Cedar Cemetery are like a mirror held up to Jamestown history. This fall on October 2 – rain day, October 3 – at 1 PM the Jamestown Historical Society will conduct a tour to look into that mirror at nine people who lived and died in Jamestown from the late 17th century to the early 21st century.

The oldest grave on the tour is that of Abel Franklin, the first keeper of the Beavertail light, who died in 1758. He is buried in the Quaker cemetery, which from 1710 to 1928 was an independent burial ground and the only cemetery, until St. Mark cemetery was laid out in 1955, associated with a religious group.

Next to the Quaker cemetery is one of the few surviving family cemeteries. The Hazard farm abutted what in 1861 became Cedar Cemetery and in 1942 the two cemeteries merged. Thomas Hazard (1753-1815) and his great-granddaughter

Lucy Ann Hazard Tefft (1837-1908) will represent the family.

In Cedar Cemetery proper, the tour stops at the graves of George W. Champlin (1809-1884) and his daughter Hannah E. Champlin (1855-1928), Ellen Cottrell (1847-1925), Lena Clarke (1867-1955), Olivia Rice (1880-1973), and Captain William Pemantel (1918-2000).

During the tour, guides will escort groups of ten between the sites. At each site, interpreters will tell the stories of the people buried there.

The tour is scheduled to take about an hour and a half and includes a half-mile of walking between the graves. Most of the walk is on pavement, but some is on uneven ground. Only 70 tickets will be available. We have applied for a grant so that there will be no cost; if we do not receive funding, tickets will be \$20.

Summer/Fall 2021 Program Calendar

Summer Hours

Museum and Windmill

1 to 4 PM

Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays
June 25 through Columbus Day, October 11

Museum exhibit: "The Art of Jamestown,"
curated by Peter Marcus

Quaker Meetinghouse

10:30 AM

Sundays through October

Services of Religious Society of Friends
All are welcome

Friday and Sunday June 18 and June 20

Museum and Windmill Docent Orientation

Museum: June 18 and June 20 at 11 AM

Windmill: June 18 and June 20 at 1 PM

Learn about the exhibit, the new touchscreen
display, COVID limitations, and new opening/
closing procedures

Friday, June 25

Opening Day

Museum and Windmill

1 to 4 PM

Saturday, June 26

Quaker Meetinghouse Open House

1 to 4 PM

Explanatory tours of the Quaker meetinghouse

Tuesday, August 10

Annual Meeting

7 PM

Venue: TBD

Annual report of society.

Election of officers and directors for 2021-2022.

Guest speaker: TBD

Thursday, August 26

Annual Tour Preview Party

5 to 7 PM

36 Whittier Road

Join other members of the society for a fund-raiser
and cocktail party

Tickets: \$50

Saturday, August 28

[Rain date: August 29]

Farm Tour

9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Visit Jamestown's farms and see in action the
connections between our history and our present

Tickets: \$20; limited to 75 attendees

Saturday, September 21

Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day

11 AM - 4 PM

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

Saturday, October 2

[Rain date: October 3]

Stories in Stone

1 to 4 PM

Tour Cedar Cemetery, visit burial sites of nine
early Jamestowners and learn their stories

Tickets: \$20; limited to 70 attendees

Monday, October 11

Jamestown Museum and Windmill Close

Last day this season to visit the museum or drop
by the windmill.

Visits to any JHS site may be arranged at any
time by emailing your request to info@jamestownhistoricalsociety.org.

From Your President

Dear Friends,

Despite COVID restrictions — and once we had adjusted to them — your historical society had an active winter.

We are moving forward with the Memories Project spearheaded by Debby Swistak and Linda Warner. Each week a poster including a picture and a memory are posted on the Facebook page *Jamestown, RI*. We have been getting some wonderful memories from the comments. See the report on page 10 for an example of a poster.

The vault was not completely closed down. Rosemary came in frequently to update Past-Perfect and to gather objects for the monthly exhibits in the library. I joined her once a week to enter membership information into the database, although I processed the acknowledgment letters from home.

We had committee and Board meetings via Zoom. Although we've all been vaccinated, we will continue that for a little longer in keeping with CDC recommendations to avoid close contact with large groups in enclosed areas. When the weather gets better, we plan to have outdoor meetings. (Your Executive Committee had its first face-to-face meeting in April. It was good to be together at last.)

We had a great response to our webinars. See the full report on page 4.

People are still bringing us donations. We received two major new collections: the papers of Central Baptist Church and Bird Count Notebooks for the last 40 years. See page 9 for a complete list of donations and acquisitions.

As to the future, we are optimistic and going forward almost as if it were pre-COVID. The main changes are a restriction on the number of people we can have at any event — even an outdoor one — and that all larger events are outdoors.

Vaccinated volunteers are back in the vault working. Visitors are not welcome yet.

The Conanicut Friends are gathering each Sunday at 10:30 AM at the Quaker meetinghouse. We will open the Museum and Windmill albeit with some restrictions in late June.

The Program Committee is in the middle of arranging a full summer schedule.

The first "Members Only" outing — to the Common Burial Ground in Newport — is June 3. Watch your email for others over the summer.

The annual meeting will be August 10.

A Farm Tour on August 28 — preceded by the Tour Preview "Members Only" Party — will replace our annual House Tour. See the details on page 7.



The tour of Cedar Cemetery on October 2 is described on page 1.

Of course, all plans are contingent on CDC guidelines for public gatherings.

Looking forward to an almost normal year,

Gabe Highstein

Officers 2020-2021

President	Gabrielle Highstein	<i>Outreach Liaison</i>
Vice President	Sue Maden	<i>Programs Liaison</i>
Secretary	Delia Klingbeil	<i>Collections Liaison</i>
Treasurer	Rosemary Enright	<i>Site Maintenance Liaison</i>

Directors to 2021

Suzi Andrews	<i>Exhibits</i>
Bill Salmons	<i>Finance, Outer Islands</i>

Directors to 2022

Stephanie Amerigian	<i>Website</i>
Elizabeth Di Censo	<i>Collections</i>
Devi Ross	<i>Outreach to Schools</i>

Directors to 2023

Betsy Baldwin	<i>Programs</i>
Fred Brown	<i>Buildings & Grounds</i>
Judy Knight	<i>Volunteers</i>
Marcia Lindsay	<i>Meetinghouse</i>
Larry McDonald	<i>Conanicut Battery</i>
Debby Swistak	<i>Memories</i>

Winter Programs

About 350 viewers tuned in to the JHS webinar series this winter.

The 2014 video “We Took the Ferry” produced by Bob Sutton, was shown three times due to popular demand. This documentary tells wonderful stories of the teens who took the ferry to high school in Newport before the bridge opened in 1969.

Also popular was the 2007 documentary by Nick Schaus and Barry Cook. “Narragansett Avenue: Then and Now” focuses on the development of Jamestown’s main street. Both videos feature many old photos, videos, and information from the JHS archives as well as interviews with residents.

If you missed the webinars, DVDs of both videos are available in the Museum Store on the JHS website and in the museum.

We also sponsored two very interesting talks.

“Bondage to Boatsteerer” by Jamestown resident Peter Fay traced the history of Jamestown’s Black and Indigenous People in the 19th century. Many who had been enslaved on the island, when freed, went to sea on whaling ships or on ships involved with the slave trade. As sailors they were treated as equals and received the same pay as their white counterparts.

“Brilliant Beacons — the History of the American Lighthouse” by acclaimed author Eric Jay Dolin of Marblehead portrayed the importance of lighthouses in our country’s growth. The talk was cosponsored by the Friends of the Jamestown Philomenian Library and the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association.

Both talks featuring old photos, maps, and paintings were very well received. Attendees had a chance to ask follow up questions. We hope to have the speakers return in person.

While many of us look forward to attending live events when it is safe, the webinar allowed people who might not have come to an in-person talk to participate. We had quite a few who were from out of state — summer folks, former residents, or friends of people here.

The JHS may consider providing online access to future events for those unable to attend in person. Please let us know if you would be interested.

On-going Projects

Exhibits

As soon as the Jamestown Philomenian Library reopened, monthly exhibits in the JHS case in the library resumed. In the past months, the exhibits featured the World War II aircraft observation tower, the history of Jamestown’s Black community, eBay acquisitions, Jamestown dogs and dog registration, and insignia patches.

An expanded dog exhibit was mounted near the Town Clerk’s office to encourage dog registration during the April registration period.



One of the panels from “Dogs of Jamestown” exhibit in Town Hall

From the Collection

Each month a member of the Collections Committee selects an artifact from the JHS collection and researches its history. An email with the story of the artifact is sent to everyone on our email list. Among the latest “From the Collection” subjects was the portrait of Lt. John T. Greble for whom Fort Greble on Dutch Island was named.

If you missed any of this winter’s historical tidbits, you can see them on the JHS website under [News & Events](#). To get them all, subscribe to JHS news in the website footer.

Slave History Medallion

A Slave History Medallion has been erected at East Ferry to commemorate Jamestown’s part in American slavery. Peter Fay, a member of the JHS and an activist in ensuring that our history of Black enslavement is acknowledged, spoke at the dedication on May 22.

The medallion has a QR code that will take you to the rishm.org web page that contains Fay’s history of slavery in Jamestown. Funding for two more Jamestown medallions is available.

Summer at JHS Sites

Friends Meetinghouse

The Meetinghouse on Weeden Lane reopened for weekly seasonal worship on Sunday, May 2. Worship is each Sunday of the summer at 10:30. All are welcome. We will be open for tours on June 26, the first Saturday that the mill is open, and Smithsonian Day. We will also show visitors around by appointment any time of year.

We had some special visitors at the end of February. Jay and Finn Driscoll, who were married at the Deerfield meeting, brought their two children to Windmist Farm and made arrangements to come by the meetinghouse. They plan to be back in the fall for apple cider donuts.

Like any old property, the meetinghouse is in constant need of attention. Landscaping and the stone walls have been our major focus lately. The wall along North Road and the north facing section, which is only a single layer of fieldstones, have been of most concern this spring.

Unlike previous years, we made no interior repairs over the winter because of disruptions caused by the pandemic. Hopefully much needed repairs to the old horsehair plaster ceiling and replacement of floorboards on the eastern side will be completed this summer.

The trim will be touched up over the summer by members of Conanicut Friends Meeting, with a professional top to bottom scraping, priming, and paint job planned for the fall or next spring.

Conanicut Battery

The Conanicut Battery has been enjoyed by more people than usual in the past months. Whole families have discovered the joy of exploring the trails and climbing the battlements.

Spring cleanup is ongoing to clear winter debris from trails and repair and replace signs.

The posts for some of the signs for the trails have had to be replaced. Whether the damage was caused by weather or vandals is hard to tell, but we have been experiencing some destructive behavior recently.

All historic signage has been replaced. It has been twenty years since the signs were erected and, in most cases, ten years since the signs themselves were refreshed. A Rhode Island Senate grant, sponsored by our senator Dawn Euer, is defraying the cost of the replacements.



Photograph by Marcia Lindsay

The spring meetings of the Conanicut Friends have been held on the grounds of the meetinghouse in compliance with COVID restrictions..

The new trail to the portion of the park between the battlements and the water is on hold as safe and easy ways around the battlements are investigated.

We are looking for two or three people willing to work a couple of hours every third or fourth week keeping the trails cut back and doing general maintenance. The task is an ideal one for someone who already walks their dog in the park, as many Jamestowners do.

Even if you can't commit to helping on a regular basis, if you see something wrong in the park, please let us know. Report vandalism to the police at 423-1212. For other issues, drop an email to info@jamestownhistoricalsociety.org or leave a message at 401-423-2674.



Photograph by Larry McDonald

The posts for both the Boulder Path (left) and North Loop Trail (right) signs were broken during the winter.

Summer at JHS Sites (con't)



JHS 1986.008.001

“Weeden Farmhouse,” painted by James Brade Sword, a long time summer visitor, probably in the 1880s, will be on display in the museum this summer.

Museum

“The Art of Jamestown,” the delayed exhibit planned for last summer, will be mounted this summer. Artist Peter Marcus, who curated the exhibit, selected a wide variety of works from the JHS collection. Together they cover a century and a half of Jamestown artists and views.

Under Peter’s direction, the members of the Museum Committee have modified the museum layout to show the art to the best advantage. Cushioned benches for comfortable contemplation of individual pieces have been introduced.

We are working on new lighting for the museum and have obtained a \$1,500 R.I. Legislative grant, sponsored by Deb Ruggiero, to fund the effort. We had hoped to have the new lighting



“Measure twice, cut once.” Andy Shrake and Jesse Lambert at work on the new wind shaft for the mill.

in place for this summer’s exhibit, but have been delayed.

The society has purchased a touchscreen display table to allow visitors to view art in the collection that is not on display and to learn a little bit about each work.

The number of hours the museum will be open has been reduced. We will open only Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from 1 to 4 PM from June 25 to October 11.

To ensure museum visitors are safe, we have initiated a few restrictions. Everyone entering the museum must be masked. No more than six visitors – unless the whole group is a pod – can be in the building at one time. At least one person in a group must leave a name and address so that they can be contacted in case a COVID issue arises. Styluses will be used on the touchscreen display. When they are returned, they will be cleaned before being used by another person.

With these restrictions, we look forward to a healthy summer.

Windmill

Wood for the new wind shaft was delivered almost a year ago and is sitting next to the mill curing. Our millwright, Andy Shrake, is fashioning the new shaft on site and expects to install it and the new sails in September.

In the meantime, the exterior signage has been refreshed.

Even without the sails, the mill will be open to visitors this summer on the usual schedule: Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from June 25 to October 11 from 1 to 4 PM.

Restrictions similar to those in place at the museum will keep windmill visitors safe. Everyone must be masked. Only one pod of visitors may be in the building at one time. At least one person in a group will be asked to leave a name and address in case a COVID issue arises.

Vault

JHS vault remains closed to visitors although members of the Collections Committee have returned to work.

If you have a question about anything in the collection or about Jamestown history, go to our [online catalog](https://www.jamestownhistoricalsociety.org) or contact us at info@jamestown-historicalsociety.org.

Summer/Fall Programs

Farm Tour

On Saturday, August 28 – rain date August 29 – we will offer a tour of the Godena, Windmist, and Watson farms. The cost of a ticket is \$20 and we can accommodate about 75 people. All attendees must be preregistered and prepaid.

Each ticket holder will be assigned to one of three groups of 25 and will be given time slots at each farm for 9:30, 10:30, and 11:30 AM. The groups will rotate among the locations.

Quentin Anthony at the Godena Farm, Martha Neale at Windmist, and Jane Hennedy for Historic New England at the Watson Farm will give talks and lead tours of the farms. Attendees will receive a handout with additional information about the history of the farms, including old photographs from the JHS collection.

A few volunteers will be needed to oversee parking and help manage the groups to ensure timely arrival at the next venue.

Farm Tour Preview Party

A preview party for JHS members only will be held on Thursday, August 26, on the terrace of 36 Whittier Road from 5 to 7 PM. This 1927 Shoreby cottage, designed by D.E. Sullivan, was renovated and restored recently by owner and interior designer Courtney Taylor. It has sweeping views of the golf course, salt marsh and Windmist Farm. Tickets for the party are \$50.

For the party, we will work with a local caterer to serve products from the farms.

Those who attend the party will be given the opportunity to register for the farm tour at no additional cost. When all party attendees have registered, the remaining slots will be offered to JHS members. If there are still slots left, which is unlikely, registration will be opened to the public.

Walking over fields and rough ground may not appeal to all party participants so we anticipate that the party can accommodate more than the limited number on the tours.

Stories in Stone Cemetery Tour

On Saturday, October 2 – rain date October 3 – 70 preregistered attendees will move in groups of ten to tour seven selected sites at Cedar Cemetery and the attached Hazard family and Friends cemeteries and learn about nine Jamestown residents. See the details on page 1

Jamestown's cemeteries have many more stories to tell. If this tour is successful, a cemetery tour may become an annual event.

Other Projects

Jim Buttrick is organizing a group trip to the Newport Common Burying Ground on June 3. Attendance is limited to 20. Watch your email for other outings over the summer.

The annual meeting is scheduled for August 10. We are negotiating for a venue and seeking a speaker who can talk about historic cemeteries.

We may also add a lecture on cemeteries in the fall.

Restrictions

Because of the need to limit the number of individuals at each event, all events require preregistration and, for those with ticket costs, prepayment. Four to six weeks before the event, JHS members will receive an email inviting them to the event. The email will contain details about the event, a link to the registration form, and, as appropriate, our PayPal payment site. [If you prefer not to use PayPal, your registration will be held for five days pending receipt of payment.]

Tickets will be awarded on a first come-first served basis with the exception that those registering for both the Preview Party and Farm Tour will receive preference for Farm Tour tickets.



Windmist Farm

Watson Farm



Godena Farm

Outreach

Children's Scavenger Hunt

In conjunction with the Jamestown Schools and the Parks and Recreation Department, the JHS is developing a historical scavenger hunt just for Jamestown kids (or kids at heart).

Each week this summer, there will be a post on our Instagram page showing a clue about an historic site in Jamestown. Kids will be encouraged to find the place and post a picture of themselves at the site, tagging JHS in their Instagram post. At the end of the summer, we will tally up the Instagram posts and see who has the most entries.

There will be a prize for the person with the most correct posts! Please follow the JHS Instagram page to find out more information.

We are also working with the library staff on a program at the town cemetery for the older children. By examining the tombstones and looking into the lives of the people buried there, the kids will learn to do research, identify and evaluate sources, and do statistical analysis.

JHS on Facebook

The Facebook group page *Jamestown, RI* has more than 5,200 members with an interest in topics related to Jamestown. People share gorgeous pictures and drone shots of the island, notices of events of interest, recommendations for restaurants and service providers, and more.

For the past six months, Betsy Baldwin has been posting items for the JHS, including invitations to register for this winter's webinars, weekly Memories Project posters asking for stories about the 1950s and 1960s in Jamestown, appeals for photos and anecdotes about memorable canine residents, and, most recently, a post about ongoing windmill repairs.

This spring and summer we will post reminders about times the museum and windmill are open.

We have received many "likes," great tales, and old photos. Quite a few webinar attendees were summer or former residents and visitors who would have missed a live event.

Several of those who commented on the Memories posters reconnected with old friends and spurred others to add their own stories. See some of those stories on page 10, "Some Things We Learned from You."

Collections

Your Collections Committee is back in the vault! Although all of us are vaccinated, we have been very cautious. Since the work area has little ventilation, each member of the committee has been working only one morning a week with no more than four workers in the area at one time.

We hope to return to our normal Tuesday and Thursday schedule soon. Masks would still be required and no visitors allowed.

The committee has a lot of work to do. Cataloging of the material related to the 1960's excavation of the Native American burial ground received last fall is just starting. Processing of Judy Garlik's collection of photographs and archives about every student who attended the Thomas H. Clarke School is less than a third complete.

While most of the committee is concentrating on these and other large projects, we are still trying to process the new material that has come in.

The two West paintings donated by the Rughs are currently at ArtCare Resources for conservation. Francis X. West-Polusney was a Jamestown artist whose studio was on Cole Street. His favorite subject was marine scenes. The new acquisitions are two pictures of Beavertail Light, one in daylight and one under the moon.

Several recent donations arrived in digital format — Tom Mackie's photos of the builder's signature on the beams of his house, for example. Conservation of digital media includes making sure that the digital files are readable by the next generation of computer hardware and software. The society tries to keep digital data in two formats and, of course, backs up that data regularly.

All of which requires time and resources.



*"Beavertail Light by Moonlight" by Francis West.
Donated by Jim and Dianne Rugh.*

Additions to the Collection

October 1, 2020-April 30, 2021

Donations

Judy Bell: Jamestown EMT shirt.

Jim Buttrick: Jamestown Board of Trade Jamestown & Newport Ferry Company schedule, 1939; Jamestown Board of Trade Ferry Time table showing train connections at Kingston to and from New York City and Philadelphia, 1939; James T. Buttrick's American Legion membership card, 1936; John J. Watson obit from *NY Herald Tribune*, March 31, 1939; box of VMail forms to be used during World War II to send letters to men in the service.

Ken Caswell: 1946 photo of World War II spotter observation tower located near where the schools are today; two photographs of John Robert Caswell; 14-pages of descendants of Thomas Caswell; letter from Victor Richardson dated 2/9/2003 describing John Robert Caswell's mechanical abilities, radio skills, and store in Tennessee.

Trustees of Central Baptist Church (with provisions for access): records of the First Baptist Society Jamestown, RI, July 1841-April 7, 1905; Records of the Central Baptist Church Jamestown, RI, Feb. 21, 1867-Aug. 29, 1897, Jan. 14, 1913-Nov. 29, 1918; Jan. 14, 1919-Jan. 2, 1925; May 4, 1939-March 21, 1941; May 5, 1938-July 22, 1947.

Peter Fay: PDFs of Jamestown tax lists; tax list, 1760 [list of 144 people (including one woman, Phebe Arnold) assessed taxes on 29 August 1760]; tax list, 1783 [two-part list with the evaluation of property on which taxes were based, including the signed property lists from 40 property owners; 83 people (including one woman, Mary Franklin)]; tax list 1797-98 [two-part list with the evaluation of property on which taxes were based and the names of 53 people and amount of the tax assessed].

Lew Kitts: Jamestown Fire Department patch and Fire/Rescue patch.

Carol Lake: Beavertail lighthouse model.

Tom Mackie: photographs of builder's name on beams at 21 Lawn Ave.

Sue Maden: Baker's Pharmacy prescription bottle; Humane Society of Jamestown Pet Calendar 2021; sign supporting "yes" vote for Library in Nov. 2020 election; disposable mask from doctor's office; Island Rubbish 2021 desk calendar.

John Murphy: 2020 political election signs.

Carol Nelson-Lee: letter to voters from Rebecca Schiff in 2016 during her first campaign against Ruggiero; Jamestown Democrats post card from 2020 election with personal note asking for support on reverse [card with notes sent to all registered Democrats in September 2020].

Jim Pemantell: photographs of former Jamestown police chief Chester Greene.

Candy and Chris Powell: records of the Conanicut Island Bird Counts.

Dianne and Jim Rugh: two Francis West paintings.

Barbara Schubach: "New Bridge Ends That Ferry Ride to Newport," photograph only, *The New York Times* June 15, 1969; "Abandoned Yacht Club Burned," *Newport Daily News*, Aug. 7, 1965; "Jamestown Digging Out," *Newport Daily News*, Sept. 3, 1954; "Newport Bridge Takes Shape," photograph by John Hopf, *Newport Daily News*.

Phyllis E. Suber: Beavertail postcard; postcard of Lens Room in Beavertail Lighthouse Association museum.

Debby Swistak: postcards with A. J. Miller and Harold Sherman photos.

Linda Warner: copy of photo of inside of Gladding Store located at the corner of Howland and Narragansett avenues; copy of photo of Westall's Ice Cream Stand just south of the Jamestown Bridge on Rt. 1A.

Charles Wharton: Joseph S.L. Wharton's obituary.

Acquisitions

Postcard with message written in 1941 by soldier stationed at Fort Wetherill with the Coast Artillery.

Postcard from Private Ridgway Sparks who served with the World War I American Expeditionary Forces addressed to Lena Clarke in Jamestown saying the ship on which he sailed had arrived safely overseas.

Fun Ferry postcard.

Two Jamestown Police patches.

Copy of Real Photo postcard with close up of two Jamestown store fronts — Pitchers and store next door.

Postcard postmarked Jamestown 1916. Cover with unidentified house. On verso, message to Private Edward B. Fox, Troop B, Connecticut Militia Cavalry.

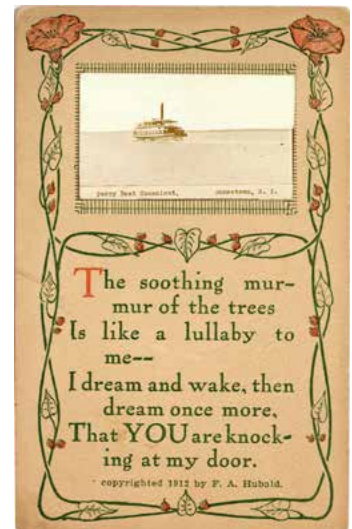
Stationery card dated 1889 from Ellen Cottrell, Jamestown, to a Rev. Tefft at a college for African-American women in Richmond, VA. Message refers to a cut and basted patchwork to possibly be offered to a mission. Card has three postmarks: NY, Jamestown, and Richmond.

Postcard of Central Baptist Church.

Silver identification bracelet belonging to Esther Crawford. Possibly made by her son when he was apprenticing at Gorham.

Antique tobacco card showing fishing boat off Gould Island.

F.A. Hubold 1912 post card of the *Conanicut* with poem (right). Similar to another Hubold postcard of the *Conanicut* in the JHS collection but with a different poem.



Some Things We Learned From You

Spending hours at East Ferry, which was the official town beach at the time. This is where we learned to swim. Frances Diner was across the street, where we'd run to get a popsicle for 5 cents.

Basically kids living east of the Four Corners swam there; kids west of the corners swam at the West Ferry Beach.

Ice skating at Clarke's Pond, the Crusher, and the reservoir. There was often a hockey game at one end, and on particularly cold days, a nice fire to warm you up.

Christmas at the fire station, where Santa (Tom Hunt) would hand out a small bag of hard candy, a pencil (from JT O'Connell), and an orange.

DO YOU REMEMBER?



Telephone Operators

You picked up the phone and the operator said "number please"

If you had a 2 party line the number had a W or J after it.

The operators knew EVERYTHING !!!

MEMORIAL HISTORY

Debby Anderson Swistak and Linda Armbrust Warner want to write a book about growing up in Jamestown in the 1950s.

WILL YOU SHARE YOUR MEMORIES?

Call Debby at 401-741-4313 or Linda at 401-423-1278 or email jamestownmemories2020@gmail.com?

We will need permission to use your shared memories and pictures as a possible part of the book. As a thank you, you will receive a year's free membership in the Jamestown Historical Society.

The circus coming to town and erecting its tents at the site of the current Jamestown Lawn School. In later years, it was at Ft. Getty.

Square dancing at the Rec Center on Fridays, where the Warners were the callers and we learned to Do Si Do and Allemande Left.

Another popular Friday activity at the Rec was roller skating, where you could rent skates that attached to your shoes. You tightened them with a skate key, which was often worn on a string you hung around your neck.

Living in a town of approximately 2,000, and feeling that you knew everyone.

Thank You for the Memories

The 1950s Memories project, honchoed by Debby Anderson Swistak and Linda Armbrust Warner, collected many memories over the winter. Some of the ones most often repeated are shown above.

They are looking for more.

Do you have photographs or memories of Jamestown in the middle of the last century? Call Debby (741-4313) or Linda (423-1278) or email them at jamestownmemories2020@gmail.com. And join the Facebook group page *Jamestown, RI* to see what everybody else remembers.

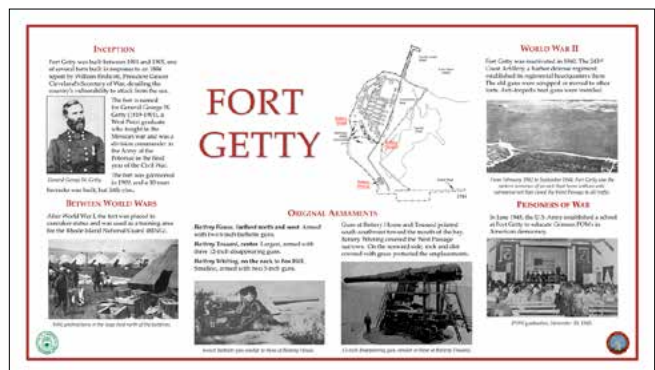
The society is also looking for stories about Jamestown dogs. How did your dog weather the pandemic? Is there a story about your dog that you like to tell at parties? We'd like to hear it, too. And get a picture of the pooch, if possible.

Send your dog stories to info@jamestownhistoricalsociety.org. The *Jamestown Press* has agreed to publish a few of the most interesting, and all of them will be added to the JHS collection.

Fort Getty

Fort Getty played an important role in the defense of Narragansett Bay in the early 20th century. For a long time the JHS has wanted to tell the story with signage at the fort.

This winter the town agreed to purchase and install a National Parks Service sign frame and the JHS agreed to provide a sign (below) telling the history of the fort. The sign should be in place within the month.



Membership and Volunteers

Membership Dues

A large portion of our budget comes from your membership dues and donations. In 2019, 40 percent of the revenues came directly from those sources and another 20 percent from the General Endowment at the Rhode Island Foundation, which is the repository of life memberships.

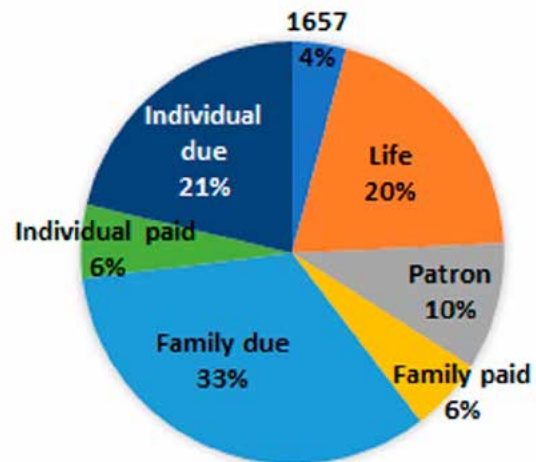
Dues are payable soon. Our membership year is July 1 to June 30. You can save the society both time and money by renewing now.

There are many ways to renew. You can -

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

As the chart to the right shows, some of you have already taken advantage of the early renewal option. Thank you.

Although we encourage you all to renew early, we will send out the usual letter and return envelope to those we haven't heard from in late June. If you are a life member, you won't be receiving an envelope, but we urge you to consider a donation.



Volunteers

Everything the Jamestown Historical Society does is done by volunteers. We are happy to say we have a lot of volunteers. This spring Judy Knight signed up 43 volunteers to cover all 50 days that the windmill and the museum will be open.

Thank you all for your enthusiastic response. If you want to volunteer but didn't get a chance, we are still looking for help at the Battery and at the events. On the back of the renewal card, you will find questions about your volunteer interests. Please let us know how you would like to help.

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)

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

**Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Newport, RI
Permit #286**

Volunteer Interests

- _____ Work with Collection
- _____ Volunteer and Member Solicitation
- _____ Program Support (e.g., 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 02835