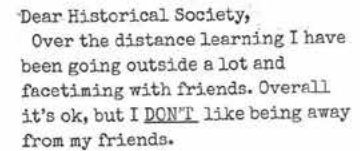




*To collect, preserve, and share with others the heritage
of Jamestown, Rhode Island.*

You can see all the postcards on our website at jamestownhistoricalsociety.org/exhibits/postcard-project-2020/



Memories of the 1950s

Did you grow up in Jamestown? Do you have photographs or memories of the days before the Newport Pell Bridge? Debby Anderson Swistak and Linda Armbrust Warner are looking for your help to write a book of memories of that era.

The JHS online catalog has many pictures of the era – such as the one in the poster below – that can stimulate your memories. We always welcome more pictures, especially when they come with stories about the people and places they depict.

DO YOU REMEMBER?



Anderson's Dairy

Anderson's Dairy was located on Narragansett Avenue in the current Atlantic Landscaping building. The milk was collected from 11 farms on Jamestown each morning, processed, bottled, and delivered to homes and stores in Jamestown. Home delivery was 3 times a week and store delivery was daily.

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.

From Your President



Dear Friends,

When our Spring Newsletter came out, we really didn't understand how much the pandemic would affect our lives. We reported then that we were canceling all events for the summer: Windmill Day, the Exhibit Opening party at the museum, the House Tour Preview Party and House Tour. The Vault was closed, partially because it is in a town building and partially to safeguard our volunteers. The museum exhibit was delayed – at the time we held out hope for a late opening. The windmill and meetinghouse were closed to casual visitors.

Over the summer little changed.

The Conanicut Friends met weekly, usually on the grass in front of the Quaker meetinghouse. Several private tours were conducted of the windmill for groups of two to six visitors who wore masks and understood the risks of touring a building in which six-foot separation was not always possible and wooden handrailings could not be properly sanitized.

In late June, we got permission to return to the vault. Until the recent “pause,” three volunteers spent Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, entering data in our catalog and working with the collection. The volunteers miss the camaraderie and the easy communication of the past. It takes many emails to keep people aware when one conversation in the vault did the trick.

Meetings have been kept to a minimum. The Executive Committee met on my back deck a couple of times. The July and September board meetings were held in my backyard, with masks and six-foot separation. Our November board meeting was by Zoom - a program that was new to many of us, but it went smoothly.

We said good-bye to outgoing board members Jim Buttrick, Bob Flath, Polly Hutcheson, Linda Warner, and Madeleine Gromada at the July meeting. Thanks to each of you for your years of service.

We fulfilled our bylaw requirement that an Annual Meeting be held in August by voting for new officers and board members via email. At the September meeting, we welcomed Betsy Baldwin, Judy Knight, and Debby Swistak to the board. Learn more about them on the next page.

It has been a good summer for maintenance and repairs at our sites. See page 7 for details of what has been accomplished and what still needs to be done.

Even with the vault closed, we continued to field questions and to learn more about Jamestown as a result. Some of these insights are discussed on page 11. We also continued to receive and process donations to the collection. They are listed on pages 10.

Debby Anderson Swistak and Linda Armbrust Warner are spearheading a new project, which we are calling *Memories*. Their request for input is on page 2.

So we are still here even if it sometimes feels as though we have disappeared. We are functioning and our new Program Committee chair Betsy Baldwin has come up with some great ideas for non-contact and outside programming. See the details on page 5.

Someday things will get back to where we can open our sites, and our volunteers will be safe welcoming visitors to them. Meanwhile, we miss you all a lot. We miss not getting to see our many volunteers. We hope you do not forget us when things *do* get back to normal - until then, check out our Museum Store (jamestown-historicalsociety.org/museum-store/) to find



interesting articles to download and books and videos about Jamestown.

*Gabe
Highstein*

Your New Board Members

Because the quarantine denied you the opportunity to meet your new board members in person at the annual meeting, we want to introduce them here. If you see them around town, please introduce yourselves and welcome them on board.

Betsy Baldwin

I was born and grew up in Westerly. When I was 10, we moved to an old farmhouse that was built about 1790 with an 1820 addition. Old newspapers, a few tools, and the detailed bills for renovations in 1860 turned up in the attic, and I became a history buff.



After graduating from Smith College and marrying my husband Ted, I moved to the Boston area, earned an MBA, and worked in Human Resources at several high tech and financial consulting firms, while raising two children, serving as a town meeting member, and chairing fundraising committees for the PTO and the local art center.

For several years Ted and I kept our cruising sailboat at Dutch Harbor and fell in love with Jamestown. When we retired in 2017, we moved here permanently and enjoy gardening, reading, NYT puzzles, bridge, travel, long walks, and frequent visits with our children, their spouses, and our five grandchildren.

Judy Knight

I was born and grew up in England and I am still, after 44 years of living here, having to translate what I think into American, so forgive me if I still use the wrong terms for things. It was years before I found out that you didn't know what I was talking about when I referred to an airing cupboard not a linen closet.



I love living here. I play a lot. I no longer play tennis or sail but love sewing, painting, gardening, and potting. Since I now have time to volunteer, I really enjoy meeting people, especially through the Jamestown Historical Society.

Debby Swistak

I was raised in Jamestown along with my siblings, Jack, Carol, and Peter Anderson, and I'm happy to say we all live here today.



In 1970, my husband Mark and I moved back to Jamestown after he completed his military service. We bought our house on Lincoln Street, where we raised our four children and have lived for the past fifty years.

In the early 1970s, as our family was expanding, I left teaching. Our community was adjusting to a new way of life as the Newport Pell Bridge had replaced the ferry system. My mother, sister, and I saw this as an opportunity to start a business. In May 1972, we opened Jamestown Designs, a custom framing and gift shop. During our 43 years in business we became friends with so many wonderful people that I'm not sure we'd have met, if not for our business.

In retirement, I enjoy many different community activities. However, my 13 grandchildren capture most of my attention, and that pleases me greatly.

What They Will Be Doing

Betsy has agreed to take on the task of Program chair, which in this COVID year is particularly challenging. Instead of spending some time becoming acquainted with past programs, she has had to approach the job with a blank slate. Some of the programs she is initiating are described on the next page.

Judy is in charge of volunteers, so once we are able to open our sites she will be contacting you about museum and windmill-sitting. In the meantime, she is putting her considerable talents to work helping with membership development and contacting new arrivals to our island.

Debby, as you read on page 2, is devoting her time to collecting memories of Jamestown in the era between the building of the Jamestown Bridge and the Newport Pell Bridge – 1940 to 1969 – with special emphasis on the 1950s. If you were in Jamestown during that period, your memories are very important to her. Please email or telephone either Debby or Linda Warner – contact information is on page 2 – with your thoughts about the era.

Winter 2021 Programs

Instead of the day trips to local historical sites and museums that Jim Buttrick has organized and we have so enjoyed for several years, the JHS Program Committee is planning a free monthly series of lectures, slideshows, and videos which will be presented via Zoom this winter.

We have two acclaimed authors and a JHS documentary lined up for the first three months of 2021 with the dates and times to be announced shortly. You'll be getting emails with the connection information and it will also be posted on our website (jamestownhistorical-society.org/) and Facebook pages.

We hope all will join us for these presentations. Look for additional presentations this spring.

Special Presentations

Ceremonial Stonework:

The Enduring Native American Presence on the Land



Markham Starr, a documentary photographer from North Stonington, has walked hundreds of miles across New England photographing stone objects and structures that are physical manifestations of early Native American beliefs and spiritual practices that have long been overlooked and ignored.

Author of several books, his work has been featured in magazines such as *Yankee* and *RI Monthly* as well as in museums including the Mystic Seaport Museum and the Museum of Work and Culture. He has inspired several Jamestowners who have heard him speak to head out into the woods to view some of the remarkable stonework themselves. Learn more about his work at www.markhamstarrphotography.com.

We Took the Ferry

Ferry Boat Students of Narragansett Bay

Before the Newport Pell Bridge opened in 1969 and the Jamestown-Newport ferry ceased operation, Jamestown high school students took the ferry to Newport. In this documentary produced by Jamestown resident Bob Sutton, students who traveled the ferry to and from classes daily during the 30 years before the bridge was built tell delightful stories of their adventures while taking the ferries.

This entertaining JHS oral history with lots of old photos and videos makes the era come alive.

Brilliant Beacons

A History of the American Lighthouse

Eric Jay Dolin, an award winning author from Marblehead, MA, has written 14 books on maritime topics and the environment. With degrees from Brown, Yale and MIT in environmental policy, he found that his passion was writing and telling stories.



In *Brilliant Beacons*, he traces the evolution of America's lighthouse system, highlighting the political, military, and technological battles fought to illuminate the nation's rugged coastlines. He shows that the story of the nation, from a regional backwater colony to global industrial power, can be illustrated through American lighthouses including our own Beavertail Lighthouse and others in the area.

Learn more at www.ericjaydolin.com.

Slave History Medallion

The Rhode Island Slave History Medallion organization is a statewide public awareness program committed to marking those historic sites connected to the history of slavery in Rhode Island.

Jamestown is one of those sites.

A Slave History Medallion commemorating Jamestown's part in American slavery will be erected at East Ferry this month. The dedication, planned for December 12, has been postponed, due to the pandemic.

The medallion has a QR code that will take you to the rism.org web page about the history of slavery in Jamestown. Peter Fay, a member of the Jamestown Historical Society and an activist in ensuring that our history of Black enslavement is acknowledged, has taken the lead in researching and writing this history.

The gravestone below, which was carved in Newport by Pompe Stevens, an enslaved artisan, in 1768 for his deceased brother Cuffe Gibbs, is the basis for the motif on the medallion.



Outreach

Our Media Presence

The “Quarantine Quandry” postcard project this spring was a big success. We received over 100 cards. You can see them all on our website at jamestownhistoricalsociety.org/exhibits/postcard-project-2020/

Our “From the Collection” posts continue to be our most popular emails. The posts, which are emailed on the first day of each month, are designed by members of the Collections team. A member selects an item or a group of items in the collection, researches the topic, writes it up, and sends out an email with links to our online collection database.

November’s “[From the Collection](#)” highlighted Jamestown’s voting record and received much praise.

Rosemary Enright and Sue Maden have been writing monthly articles about Jamestown’s history for *The Jamestown Press* since 2012. This year’s articles are now available on the Jamestown Historical Society website under “News and Events.” To see the articles only, go to jamestownhistoricalsociety.org/category/jamestown-history-articles/.

We are still struggling a bit with social media. We have Facebook and Instagram accounts and try to make them interesting with somewhat spotty success. If you know anything about these programs and are interested, we could use your help.

Exhibits

Although the summer museum exhibit, “[The Art of Jamestown](#),” curated by Peter Marcus, was postponed until next year, when we hope the pandemic will have waned, you can get a taste of what is in store on our website. Images of the artwork to be displayed are available under the “Exhibits” tab.

These paintings and drawings are just a subset of the over 150 works of art in the collection.

Library

The March exhibit at the library, that celebrated the six Clarke cousins – Lena, Mary, Clara, Jennie, Flora, and Elizabeth – remained in the JHS case in the library through September.

In October, we returned to our usual schedule and mounted an exhibit about “Markets and Grocery Stores” in Jamestown. In the early 20th century, multiple small markets served the needs of the town. The period ended between the building of the bridges.

The [November exhibit](#) is about our lighthouses. At one time seven manned aids to navigation guided ships around Conanicut, Dutch, and Gould islands and



Extraordinary Women of the East Bay.

warned them of the dangers in both passages of Narragansett Bay. Beavertail, now unmanned, is the last.

The Jamestown portion of the traveling exhibit *Extraordinary Women of the East Bay*, returned to the Jamestown Philomenian Library soon after the library reopened and remained on display over Labor Day.

The panels were also an important part of the celebration of the centennial of women’s suffrage, sponsored by the Jamestown Democratic Party Committee at Fort Getty August 18.

Lawn Avenue School

Voting. What could be more important in this election year? Our exhibit in the Lawn Avenue School talks about who can vote, how votes were and are cast, who we voted for, and some firsts in Jamestown elections.

A copy of the panels from the school exhibit are on display outside the Town Clerk’s office, at the request of Erin F. Liese, the Town Clerk.

Panel from School Exhibit on Voting

WHO CAN VOTE?

Early Jamestown

Only a land owner or the eldest son of a land owner or a man who had valuable assets – the value of the assets changed over time – can vote. Men of all races and religions can vote if they meet these criteria. Women – even women who own land – cannot vote.



The list of the 45 men who voted in Jamestown in 1766. About 575 people lived in the town.

19th Century

A new state constitution of 1843 allows landless men to vote. Women still can’t vote.



Thomas Wilson Dorr, who led the rebellion that resulted in the 1843 constitution.

20th Century

The 19th amendment to the U. S. Constitution, ratified August 18, 1920, gives women the vote.

Current Requirements

Voters must be

- At least 18 years old
- Resident of the state and town for 30 days
- Registered at least 30 days before election

Voters must NOT be

- Legally declared insane
- In jail on a felony conviction

VOTING BEFORE THE VOTING MACHINE

At first, voting was not secret. Voters met in public meeting and voted by voice or by premarked or colored ballots.

Later, printed ballots listed the candidates. The voter marked the ballot in private and put it in a locked ballot box.

At Our Sites

With all sites with the exception of the Conanicut Battery closed to casual visitors, it was a quiet summer.

Jamestown Museum

The society's only visible presence at the museum was Cynthia Farnell's sculpture for the JAC's "Outdoor Arts Experience." The piece, *Presence: Jamestown, 2020*, displayed along the handicap access path, was designed around photographs from the JHS collection.

Buntings on the railings, put up to honor the Lawn Avenue School graduates, signaled our wish that things were different.

Planned maintenance includes touch-up of the exterior paint. The storm windows in particular need re-caulking and painting. We hope to update the lighting inside the museum. The current track lights were installed in 1972 and replacement parts are not available.

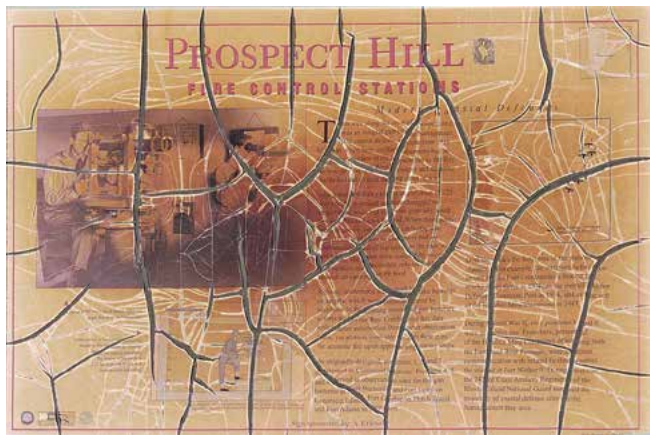
Conanicut Battery

Conanicut Battery Historic Park has become more popular than in the past. Dog-walkers, the most frequent visitors, have been joined by families with young children looking for outdoor activities.

Our main task through the summer has been keeping paths clear and cutting back unwanted growth. As usual as the seasons change, we recently replaced the Betsy Ross flag that flies over the field.

The signage in the park is in terrible condition. Much of the deterioration is weather-related, but in some cases vandalism has contributed. Last spring, we applied for a state grant to help us replace the signs, but it was not forthcoming. We will be going ahead using income from our small endowment for the task.

We will need your help with cleanup in the spring. A call for assistance will go out in March or April.



Deteriorated "Prospect Hill" sign in Conanicut Battery Park.

Windmill

Our millwright Andy Shake has begun some much-needed repairs at the windmill. A new wind shaft, which was ordered last year, has arrived and rests in the field east of the windmill. Andy has begun the process of shaping it. One of the stocks that hold the sails cracked during the summer, and the sails were removed earlier than anticipated. The stocks and sails will be repainted before reinstallation.



A witty comment on the windmill work.

Courtesy of The Jamestown Press

Our mason Chris Evans fixed several weak places in the stone walls around the windmill field. His job was made easier by Atlantic Lawn and Garden, which has kept the walls clear of briars and other invasives on both sides. Keeping them clear will also decrease damage to the walls in the future.

Visits by appointment and with safeguards were conducted on five occasions and went smoothly.

Town Pound

In 1969, the Town Council granted custody of the Town Pound on North Road to the society. In recent years, Bob Sutton has kept the interior of the pound mowed, but the area around the pound was too difficult to mow. This year we added keeping the exterior walls clear of briars and other invasives to Atlantic's tasks.

Meetinghouse

The Meetinghouse building was used for worship only twice this pandemic summer as Conanicut Friends Meeting "indulged" in outdoor Meetings under the shade of a small maple and in sight of the new pollinator garden planted in the early spring.

The building was opened twice for visitors, one paired with a windmill visit and another from a longtime Jamestown resident who stopped by after a visit to the nearby Windmist Farm for cider donuts.

Bids to repair the weakened ceiling above the west entry and window and to replace two floor boards at the divider have been received. The work has been delayed, but hopefully will be accomplished in the early spring. No interior cleanup is planned until after the repairs.

The current landscaper, Atlantic Lawn and Garden, has kept regrowth away from the walls and from under the hemlocks, making a tidy exterior appearance, although the health of the hemlocks is still a question.

Collections

Over the past months, the Collections Committee has soldiered on despite the difficulties created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vault Closing

In order to catalog new donations or to correct/update existing catalog records, volunteers need access to the JHS vault in the basement of Town Hall. From March to mid-June, Town Hall was closed.

When limited access was allowed, social distancing became a concern. Dianne Rugh, the chair, and Elizabeth DiCenso, whom Dianne was mentoring to take over as chair when the new board took office in August, worked out a plan to protect the health of the volunteers in the enclosed area which has limited ventilation.

- Only three volunteers worked in the vault at any one time, which allowed for six-foot separation. No visitors allowed.
- Masks and gloves were worn by all volunteers.
- Each volunteer was assigned to a specific computer.
- The vault was manned only on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, to allow for air circulation.

The plan worked well until the upsurge of cases in November led to a pause in even this limited attempt at normal operation.

While donations have slowed during this period, several large projects ensure that everyone is kept busy.

Native American Burial Ground

Early in the 1930s, native American graves were uncovered on the Sherman Farm, where the schools now are. In 1937, the town purchased the property to prevent further desecration of the burial ground and later that year entrusted Catharine M. Wright and Sydney L. Wright with the care of artifacts from the site.

Papers, newspaper clippings, and photographs, including a history of the site from the 1930s and material about the 1966-1967 archaeological excavation of it, have been stored at the Jamestown Philomenian Library. This fall these extensive archives were transferred to the historical society.

A significant portion of the archive is the correspondence of Catharine M. Wright, Sydney L. Wright, and William Simmons, who led the team that excavated the site. The correspondence from the 1960s and 1970s covers a wide range of topics: the employment of Simmons, exchanges with directors of cultural institutions, and requests to state officials to establish the post of state archaeologist for Simmons, among others. Of special note are the letters between the Wrights and the

Reverend Harold Mars, a prominent Narragansett Native American Christian preacher.

The archive contains Simmons' original notes detailing the excavation along with laboratory analysis of the artifacts and the records of various transfers, loans, and exhibits of artifacts from the excavation. Additional material concerns the publication of Simmons' book, *Cantantownit's House*, reviews of the book, and brochures and announcements of Simmons' speaking engagements.

The Sydney L. Wright Museum at the library was built to house artifacts from the excavation. Information about the museum begins with the establishment, funding, and design and extends into the minutes of the Advisory Museum Board meetings.

We have just begun sorting and analyzing this archive.

Other Long Term Projects

Janaros Verrazzano Bridge Collection

Last year, Peter Janaros, who was the Project Manager during the building of the West Passage bridge that opened in 1992, gave the society his collection of photographs, clippings, and articles about the bridge. The photographic record of progress on the bridge – 746 photographs – has been entered. Entry of the printed archives is ongoing.

Judy Garlick Collection

For many years, Judy Garlick, who was born and grew up in Jamestown, collected pictures and memorabilia about every class and, to the extent possible, every student who attended the Thomas H. Clarke school. The school opened where the library is now in 1923 and housed the middle school grades until the Lawn Avenue school opened in 1955.

Information about the students who graduated in 1924 through 1928 is now available online. Many years still need to be cataloged.

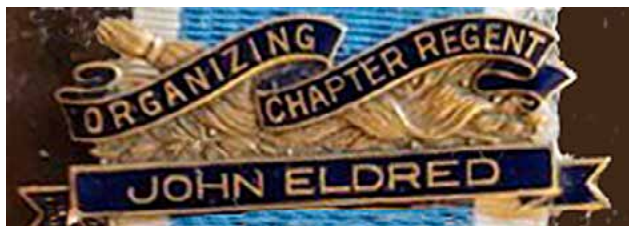


Clarke School Class of 1925.

Donations and Acquisitions

Donations

Elliott Brown: DAR ribbon with pins that belonged to his grandmother, Marguerite Eddy, who was the founder of the Jamestown John Eldred chapter of the DAR.



Marguerite Eddy DAR pin.

Courtesy of Elliott Brown

Ken Caswell: 1946 photo of World War II spotter observation tower located near Watson and Melrose avenues.

William Dutton: collection of Hazard family photos sent to him by Miranda Hazard, granddaughter of the late Luke F. Hazard Jr.

Marion S. Ellis: two booklets with pictures of Kay Worden's works.

Rosemary Enright: two photos of John Price Wetherill cottage and Wetherill dock; ticket issued to George Stout (Wetherill's son-in-law) for travel from NYC to Bahamas; packet from the May 2020 Jamestown Financial Town Meeting.

Ed and Judy Evans: Key chain Bayview Hotel Room 12.

Consuelo María Correa Gana: photographs of Ann Louis Clarke, Dorothy Clarke, unidentified Clarke family woman, and other Clarke family members in South America.

Caroline Parsons Raymond Hulick: Meredith and Clarke Christmas card with photograph looking south on Conan-icus Avenue in the late 1800s.

Jamestown Town Clerk: copies of deeds in 1957 and 1958 related to Commerce Oil purchase of land for the refinery including land acquired by Eldred Realty which then sold it to Commerce Oil.

Steve Kennedy: material and photographs related to the Kennedy family, owners of "Grey Legend" in the 1930s.

Make	Model	Year	General
American	D-66	127	
Anderson	41	115	
Anderson	50	122	
Apperson	6	120	
Apperson	8	130	
Auburn	6-42	114	
Auburn	6-63	122	
Barley	6-50	118	
Buick	Standard	114	
Buick	Master	120	
		128	
Cadillac	V-63	132	
Case	JTC	122	
Chalmers	Y	117	
Case	Y	132	
Chalmers	Y	122	
Chandler	SS	123	
Chevrolet	Superior	103	
Chrysler	Six	112	
Cleveland	45	115	
Cole	Master	127	

Page 1 of a list of make/model and wheelbase of cars expected on the ferry in 1929.

Courtesy of Donald Richardson

Delia Klingbeil: six photos taken of Jamestown School during COVID-19.

Larry McDonald: *The Guide to the American Revolutionary War in Canada and New England* by Norman Desmarais.

Sue Maden: photograph of remodeling of Hunt Building; photograph of group who completed Jamestown/Verrazano Bridge walk.

Barbara Magruder: Dr. W. Lincoln Bates business card.

Donald Richardson: (loaned for copying) arm band, pin, and thank you letter for World War II U.S. Army air watch observers; World War II ration books; notebook listing the wheelbase of 113 different automobile Make/Models expected on the ferry in 1929. Price of tickets varied with the wheelbase of the car.

Jim and Dianne Rugh: manuscript drawing describing a plot of farm belonging to Job Watson surveyed by Joseph Martin for a subdivision March 2, 1832.

Bill Salmons: *Naval Torpedo Testing Facility*. Prepared by Marcos A. Paiva, archaeologist U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, April 8, 2020.

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

Ginny Shatzer: vase believed to have been attached to Harry Shatzer's coach for holding funeral or wedding flowers.

Cindy Smith: Jamestown Telephone Directories for 2000-2001, 2002-2003, and 2003-2004; Jamestown Business Guide 1995-1996; Discover Rhode Island Tall Ships 2004.

Helen and Michael Smith: slides of building overpass over North Road during construction of John Eldred Expressway between the two bridges; "Clingstone" photograph.

Phyllis E. Suber: Two Beavertail postcards.

Norma Walsh: (loaned for copying) three scrapbooks of newspaper articles, programs, and photographs of the Girls' Drum and Bugle Corps between 1940 and 1952.

Acquisitions

Radio card from 1939 for James Howard Bowen, 70 Narragansett Avenue.

Vintage Jamestown, Rhode Island Travel Souvenir Collector Pin-Sailboat 1950.

Medal for canceled 2020 half marathon race.

Transfers

From Jamestown Philomenian Library. Photographs and records of the West Ferry archaeological studies by William Simmons in the mid-1960s.

Some Things We Learned From You

Jamestown Equal Suffrage League

Louis Morgan wrote to the library asking for information about Amy Nason, secretary of the Jamestown Equal Suffrage League from 1916. “In addition to Miss Nason, the documentation I have lists other League officers as Mrs. J. A. Weeden, Jennie Tefft, and F. S. Gamache.”

The librarians, like us unaware of the existence of the Jamestown Equal Suffrage League and of Amy Nason’s importance in Jamestown history, passed the question on to the historical society. We provided Louis with information about Amy Martin Nason. She was born in Jamestown on December 7, 1889, and was the many times great-granddaughter of John Martin, who was shot in the skirmish at the Four Corners when the British burned the houses on Narragansett Avenue in 1776.

Louis sent us a copy of the constitution of the Equal Suffrage League as a thank you.

Dorothy Clarke

Consuelo María Correa Gana sent us a query from Santiago, Chile: “I am looking for information about



San Antonio, Chile, 1935. Dorothy Clarke, a member of Jamestown's Clarke family.

Courtesy of Consuelo María Correa Gana

the Clarke Family. My great-grandmother’s name was Dorothy Clarke and we would like to know more of her family.”

Sue Maden did the research and found out a lot about Consuelo’s family for her. She is a descendant of Joseph Clarke, one of the original purchasers of Conanicut Island. Her three-times great grandfather was the keeper at Rose Island. Her great-great-grandfather, who was born in Jamestown, was an early electrical engineer who took his expertise to Latin America about 1915.

Consuelo filled us in on the family in South America. The family spent a long time in Ecuador. Her great-grandmother – alternately called Dorothy and Dolares – met a Chilean physician, Oscar González Laisea, and married him in 1935. Dorothy and Oscar had six children – Ana María, Patricia, Oscar, Enrique, Felipe, and Lucía. The donor’s grandmother was the oldest, Ana María. Ana María had three children. Consuelo’s mother was the middle child.

Consuelo provided us with a number of pictures of the family, including photographs of her great-great-grandmother and her great-grandmother’s brother Merton.

Our interactions with Consuelo also led us to an 1889 photograph of Rose Island in our own collection, which we shared with the Rose Island Foundation.

“Philomenian”

The Philomenian Debating Society, one of the two organizations that gave up their libraries to form the Jamestown Philomenian Library, was founded in 1828. For many years, people have wondered how the debating society decide on that name and what the word meant.

Susan Clarke Murray sent this derivation. She attributed the creation of the word to one of her Clarke ancestors.

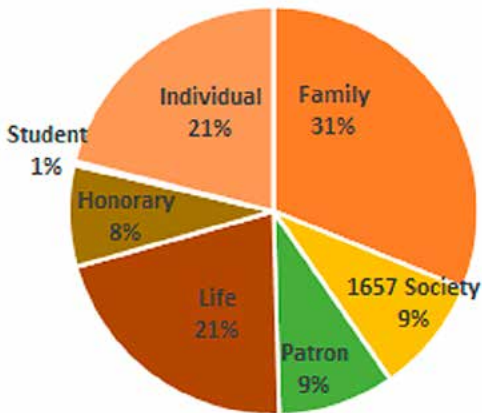
The word is rooted in two different languages. The first part is, of course, Greek *philo*, meaning “love of” as in “philosophy,” love of wisdom. The second part is old Saxon *mena*, which is also the root of our English words “mean” and “meaning.” Thus a “menian” is someone who looks for meaning.

Certainly, a lover of the search for meaning is an appropriate name for either a debating society or a library, although since the word was coined almost 200 years ago, it is not possible to verify the derivation.

Susan also sent us a genealogy of the Clarke family, photographs of members of the extended Clarke/Cottrell/Tucker family, and stories about family members in photographs already in the JHS collection.

Membership and Finance

Membership



Almost 40 percent of our memberships are life memberships. This year three families became life members at the 1657 level and one individual joined at the Patron level. (“Life” members became life members before the other levels were instituted in 2006.)

Many members, both life and annual, were very generous with donations, which actually exceeded the amount donated last year. We are very grateful for their generosity. However, annual family memberships dropped by 13 percent, causing our total membership to decrease by almost 9 percent.

If you have not yet renewed for 2020-2021, please help us by rejoining now – online at jamestownhistoricalsociety.org/become-a-member/ or by mail to P.O. Box 156, Jamestown, RI 02835.

Finance

It will surprise no one that the society’s expenses exceeded its income during the past year. Over the 12-month period November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020, total operating revenue, exclusive of investment gains, was \$57,622, which is \$27,268 less than the same

period last year. Operating expenses remained essentially stable at \$63,623 vice \$65,136 last year.

Income

Almost every income area dropped. Cancellation of the fall House Tour weekend, the society’s annual fundraiser, accounted for over one-third of the short-fall. Sale of JHS books, both at the museum and at local stores, was greatly affected by the pandemic closures. Dues payments decreased, as did donations at our sites.

For the first time in years, no grants for specific projects were received.

Expenses

Expenses increased substantially only in the area of outreach. The redesign of the website and purchase of the touchscreen for the museum, two major outreach expenses, were contracted before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Together they account for most of the \$8,000 by which the category exceeded last year’s outlay.

Much of the site maintenance expense, especially at the meetinghouse, was paid for with a grant from the Buttrick Fund - monies that were received early in 2019 and so do not appear as 2020 income.

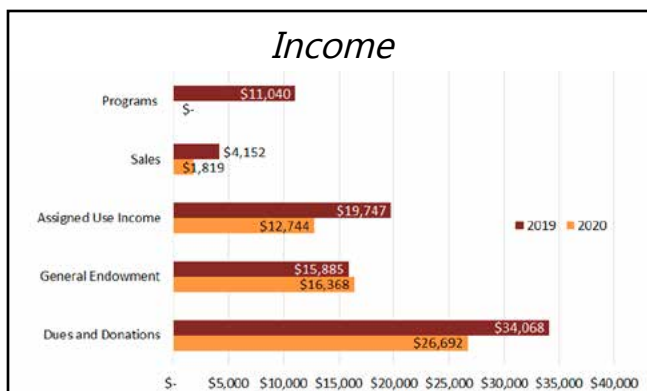
As usual, over half of the administrative expense is for insurance on our properties and to protect the society and its directors from liability.

Investments and Endowments

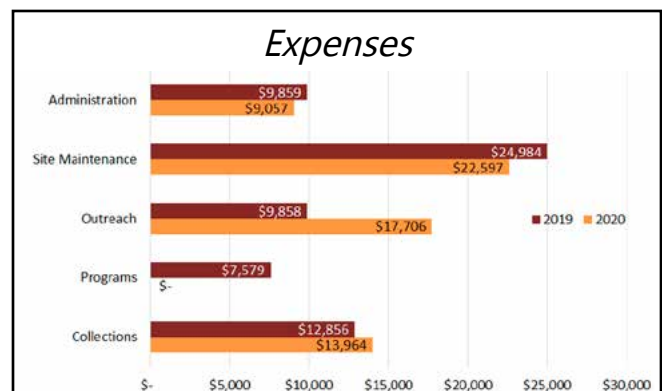
As of the end of the 3rd quarter, our \$350,000 in investments at Fidelity were doing well – up 5.6 percent since the beginning of the year as compared to the S&P up 4.1 percent. Approximately two-thirds of the investments are for general use and provide a cushion against continued pandemic-related losses. One-third is allocated to specific purposes.

Our six endowments, valued at about \$1,600,000, distribute 4 percent of their value as grants each year. The society does not have access to the principal.

Income



Expenses



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

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

Officers 2019-2020

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

