



Jamestown Historical Society

HERITAGE

Spring 2025

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

Preservation and Renovation



Meetinghouse renovation.

(left) Moving the building off the current foundation.

(right) Building on blocks to allow assessment of damage to supporting beams.



As the oldest surviving public building on the island, the 1786 Friends Meetinghouse on Weeden Lane is an important relic of our history. The Friends deeded the property to the Jamestown Historical Society in 1997 when the group realized they no longer had the resources to maintain the old building.

The society commissioned a report about the structural condition of the building. Many problems were identified. The most dire were sagging support beams under the floor, powderpost beetle damage, and water collecting under the building. Over the last 25 years, several measures have been taken to alleviate the problems. French drains were installed and liners were put in place to reduce water damage. Insect infestation was curbed.

The results were not satisfactory.

Last year, a committee was established with Bill Burgin as chief architect to take a more holistic approach. The Meetinghouse Restoration Project will have three phases:

In phase 1, now ongoing, we have lifted and moved the building and are in the process of digging a foundation and creating a water-secure crawlspace. While the

new foundation is being built, Burgin is assessing and documenting what needs to be done to fix the structural weaknesses and make the building secure. He will then request bids from preservation-conscious contractors to do the required work.

In phase 2, the structural weaknesses identified in the original report and documented in phase 1 will be repaired.

Phase 3 will see the building restored so that the repairs are not visible and the meetinghouse looks as it did in 1786. Windows, shutters, and doors will be fixed as necessary and repainted. The interior will be replastered in the traditional manner and painted. The exterior of the new foundation will be dressed with stone. The site will be landscaped using 1786 design and plantings.

The work is anticipated to take approximately a year. Grants and donations are being solicited with a goal of raising \$500,000, some of which will be sequestered as a maintenance fund.

Please contribute to this very important project. You can donate through our website at jhsri.org/donation or by sending a check to P.O. Box 156, Jamestown, RI 02835.

Summer/Fall 2025 Program Calendar

Thursday, May 22

Exhibit Opening Reception
5 to 7 pm

Jamestown Museum

**Jamestown Organizations:
Creating a Community**

Learn more about the exhibit on page 9.

Friday, May 23

Opening Day for Museum and Windmill
1 to 4 pm

*Sites will be open the same hours every Friday, Saturday,
Sunday, and holiday until October 13.*

Friday, July 25

Evening at the Windmill
5 to 7 pm

Jamestown Windmill

Tour the windmill, enjoy wine and appetizers, contribute to the fund for the preservation of the Quaker meetinghouse.

Tickets: \$35 for members, \$50 for non-members
See page 4 for details.

Saturday, July 26

Windmill Day:

A Celebration of Jamestown's Azorean Heritage
11 am to 2 pm

Jamestown Windmill

*Watch the windmill sails turn in the wind.
Tour the 1787 Windmill. Enjoy music, games, food.*

Admission free. Donations appreciated.

ALL WELCOME

See page 4 for details.

Tuesday, August 12

Annual Meeting
7 pm

Jamestown Philomenian Library Meeting Hall

*Elect officers and directors for 2025-2026.
Watch video of The Last Azorean Whalemens.*

ALL WELCOME

See page 4 for details.

Friday, September 19

JHS Gala Preview Party
5 to 7 pm

Howland House, 36 High Street

Enjoy cocktails and appetizers at the 1875 Howland House, designed by George C. Mason. Now the home of Sandy and Rick Johnson.

Suggested donation: \$50

MEMBERS ONLY

*All attendees must register by September 15.
See page 4 for details.*

Saturday, September 20

House Tour
10 am to 2 pm

Tour historic Jamestown houses and learn their history.

Pre-ticketing online: \$20; tickets at the door: \$25

ALL WELCOME

See page 5 for details.

Saturday, October 11

Pop-Up Exhibit of Revolutionary War Documents
10 am to noon

Jamestown Philomenian Library

Exhibit cosponsored by the Friends of the Jamestown Philomenian Library and Friends of Jamestown Seniors.

ALL WELCOME

See page 5 for details.

Monday, October 13

Closing Day: Museum and Windmill

Saturday, October 18

Volunteer Appreciation Party
5 to 7 pm

73 Standish Road

Wine and appetizers and a chance to say "thank you."

VOLUNTEERS ONLY

See page 5 for details.

From the President

The JHS has hundreds of terrific volunteers who contribute in various ways to fulfill our mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing Jamestown's heritage. And then there are Rosemary Enright and Sue Maden.

These two extraordinary women go above and beyond what others do and have been doing so for decades.

- They have held different leadership positions at the JHS over the years.

- They researched and wrote hundreds of articles, the biannual newsletter, and – together or separately – published ten books about Jamestown's history.

- They mounted innumerable exhibits including a new one every summer in the museum, twice a year at the Lawn School, and every month in a case at Town Hall, as well as more permanent displays at the Library, Recreation Center, and Town Hall.

- They created explanatory signs at the Windmill, Community Farm, Fort Getty, and other locations.

- With help from the other Vaultarians, they cared for the Collection and answered research questions that come in frequently asking about people, buildings, or past events.

- They spent many hours as volunteers at the Museum, the Windmill, the House Tour, and other JHS events.

- They functioned as editors for any JHS document others produce and are very particular about grammar, punctuation, and phrasing.

- They built solid relationships with local and state officials, which in turn benefits the JHS.

On their watch, the Museum, Windmill, and Vault were created or renovated.

Rosemary has served as Treasurer for years. I learned early on to pay attention to keeping receipts and sticking to the budget and to explain deviations in detail or expect to hear from her. Your generous donations have been accounted for and guarded carefully! She has also written dozens of grants, almost always with success, enabling

the JHS to maintain our buildings and to plan unique events and exhibits. For many years, Rosemary also kept the interior of the windmill and museum clean. She has often delivered checks and book orders in person to save on postage.

Sue is one of those people who thinks of something at 2 am and calls first thing in the morning with another brilliant proposal. She dreamed up the idea of the wonderful 2021 Cemetery Tour, wrote the scripts with Rosemary, recruited volunteer actors and a wonderful costumer, planned the exhibit of artifacts, and made the whole thing an enormous success. She has organized the House Tour docents for many years. Many of the JHS guest speakers were her suggestions. She's a great judge of people and has good suggestions for filling particular roles at the JHS. I have learned, as have many others, that it is hard to say "no" when she asks for help!

At the annual meeting in August, Sue and Rosemary are retiring from the JHS Board. They will continue to volunteer at the JHS, and we are counting on them to mentor the dozen or so people it will take to cover the many things they have done so well for so long.

We are deeply indebted to Rosemary and Sue for their decades of incredible contributions and service to the JHS. Thank you!!

Betsy Baldwin



Jamestown Historical Society Board

Officers 2024-2025

President	Betsy Baldwin
Vice President	Sue Maden
Secretary	Ross Williams
Treasurer	Rosemary Enright

Directors to 2026

Bill Burgin	Lisa Harris
Abigail Campbell-King	Joyce Hooley-Bartlett
Christine Clarke	Karen Montoya
Alma Davenport	Elizabeth Reid
Sandy Good	Pat Sheehan

Directors to 2027

Carol Chew
Peter Fay
Timothy Noble
Patricia Perreira

Summer 2025 Programs

Azorean Dinner

The first event of the summer season was May 17 when we began our year-long celebration of Jamestown's Azorean population with a dinner and talk at the Conanicut Yacht Club. The "members-only" event sold out quickly.

Speaker Timothy Walker, Professor of History at UMass Dartmouth, had done many years of research in the Azores and talked about the importance of the islands to European exploration of Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

Descendants of early immigrants helped with the menu and table décor. They loaned the silver crown of Queen Isabel that is the center of the Azorean *Festa do Espírito Santo* to the society for the occasion.

Timothy Walker, Professor of History, UMass Dartmouth.



Evening at the Windmill

The annual celebration of Jamestown's agrarian past on Friday, July 25, will this year raise funds to help with renovation of the Conanicut Friends Quaker meetinghouse.

Although other religions were represented among the colonial settlers of the island, only the Quakers, as the Society of Friends were known, were sufficiently numerous to build a place of worship. Their first meetinghouse was mid-island, near the Quaker burial ground that has since been incorporated into Cedar Cemetery. The current meetinghouse and the windmill were built almost at the same time, in 1786 and 1787 respectively, as the town was recovering from the deprivations of the British occupation during the War for Independence.

Attendees must register by July 21 on our [website](#) or by a check to JHS, PO Box 156, Jamestown, RI 02835. Come, relax, enjoy a glass of wine or beer and an appetizer, and at the same time help us maintain the historic edifices on Windmill Hill.

Windmill Day

The day after the Evening at the Windmill is Windmill Day. Our millwright Andy Shrake will be present to help us raise the cloths on the windmill sails so that the sails will turn in the wind.

In keeping with our celebration of Jamestown's Azorean heritage, the food and entertainment will have an Azorean slant.

The To Be Continued Band will play throughout the day. We've asked them to include some Azorean folk music with their traditional mix of bluegrass, newgrass, country, and folk. Wally's Weiner Wagon food truck will offer hot dogs and hamburgers with a variety of toppings (veggie versions, too) as well as fries, onion rings, and drinks. The JHS table will offer assorted Azorean cookies.

Parking is in the Dutra field off Weeden Lane or, with disability placard, on site at the Windmill. Admission is free. Our new gate to the parking field will make getting to and from your car easier, although the stile is still there for those who enjoy crossing walls the way our ancestors did.



Stile and gateway between windmill and Dutra fields.

Annual Meeting

All are welcome to join us at the Jamestown Philomenean Library meeting hall on Tuesday, August 11, at 7 pm for the election of Board members and officers for the 2025-2026 year. At the meeting, we will continue our celebration of Jamestown's Azorean heritage with the showing of "The Last Azorean Whalemens." The 17-minute documentary by Nick Francis follows a group of Azorean whalemens septuagenarians in Pico and Faial, preserving their shared oral history of whaling, survival, and friendship. The documentary shares the natural beauty of the Azores where whaling once stood as a prominent fixture of survival on this mid-Atlantic archipelago.

House Tour Weekend

The gala house tour preview party will be held on Friday, September 19, from 5 to 7 pm at the home of Sandy and Rick Johnson, 36 High Street.

The house has a rich history. It was built in 1875 by John Howland, whose farmland along the East Passage between Narragansett and High Streets was platted as Union, Lincoln, and Friendship streets – Jamestown's first development. Howland's new mansion, the most imposing house on the island at the time, was designed by

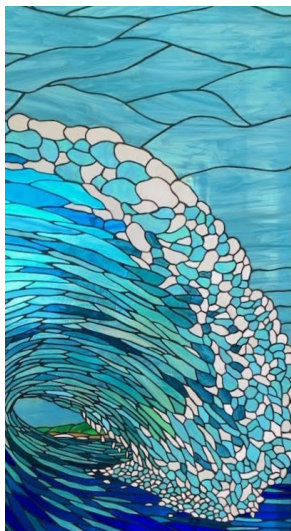
Newport architect George C. Mason and built on the site of the original farmhouse.

Howland's house appears to have become a boarding house after his death in 1882. Purchased in 1895 by Lyman Tiffany of Washington, DC, it was his summer residence for about 15 years. After Tiffany's death in 1912, his family made it available as a summer rental, known as *Fairacre*. Between 1951 and 1970, Arthur Washburn, Sr. maintained it as a funeral home.

In 2010, the house was purchased by Richard and Sandra Johnson. Sandy is an accomplished artist and has created wonderful stained glass pieces for the house.

Attendees for this "Members only" event must register by September 15 on our [website](#) or by a check to JHS, PO Box 156, Jamestown, RI 02835. The suggested donation is \$50 and includes a ticket to the House Tour.

*Stained glass created by
Sandy Johnson for the
Howland house.*



The House Tour itself is Saturday, September 20, from 10 am to 2 pm. Negotiations are still underway with some of the homeowners. We will be announcing the exact itinerary by email later in the summer. Pre-event tickets are available [online](#) for \$20. On the day of the event, tickets can be purchased at the door for \$25.

Outings

Jim Buttrick has organized two "members-only" summer outings: a special guided tour of the Herreshoff Marine Museum in Bristol and an excursion to the Richard Morris Hunt exhibit at Rosecliff. Other outings are in the planning stage.

Members will get invitations with details and transportation options approximately two weeks before each outing.

Revolutionary War Document Exhibit

2026 is the 250th anniversary of our country. The state-wide RI250 Commission has assembled a number of Revolutionary War documents and is showing them in short-term "pop-up" exhibits around the state.

The documents are coming to Jamestown on October 11 and will be displayed at the Jamestown Philomenian Library from 10 am to noon. The exhibit is cosponsored by the Friends of the Jamestown Philomenian Library and Friends of Jamestown Seniors.

Volunteer Appreciation Party

Each year the society thanks our many volunteers with a party. The 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Party will be held at the house of Susan and Howard Zwick, 73 Standish Road, on October 18 from 5 to 7 pm.

Every one who has volunteered during the year will get an invitation by email with details and instructions for an RSVP. When you get your invitation, please let us know if you are coming so we can have sufficient food and beverage available.

Volunteers

Volunteering is fun and rewarding. We have more than 230 slots to fill and need your help. Please consider spending 2 or 3 hours helping out at one of our sites or events. We provide instructions, mentors, and all the information you need to host visitors at the Windmill, the Museum, the annual House Tour, Windmill Day, and other events.

Docent at windmill: There's always a nice breeze at the 1787 Windmill, and the views are spectacular! We had visitors from 16 countries and 41 states last year – more than 1,000 people stopped to see this historic site.

Docent at museum: The Museum has air-conditioning and is handicapped accessible. This year's exhibit features the volunteer organizations that have built our community.

Windmill Day: At Windmill Day, volunteers welcome visitors, help put the sails on the arms, oversee the art table, or give tours.

House Tour: House Tour volunteers host visitors in historic private homes for two hours and have an opportunity to visit all the houses before or after their assignment.

We will hold brief training sessions at both the Windmill (378 North Road) and the Museum (92 Narragansett Avenue) on May 31 at 10 am and 11 am. Please attend a session at either or both sites. Ted Baldwin will be at the windmill; Betsy Baldwin will be at the museum.

If you aren't sure about volunteering, come to a session to find out more about it. We encourage responsible teens as well as adults to volunteer.

Volunteers are welcome to sign up for multiple dates and locations. For insurance purposes, all volunteers must be members of the JHS. Please contact Betsy Baldwin (betsybaldwin0107@gmail.com) if this is a financial hardship.

For all volunteer opportunities, sign up at the Volunteer page on our website or click [HERE](#).

At Our Sites: Windmill Hill

In December, before the work on the renovation of the meetinghouse began, Nathaniel Kitchel and Heather Rockwell, both Assistant Professors in the Cultural and Historic Preservation department at Salve Regina University, did an archeology survey at the meetinghouse using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). They examined the area to see if they could determine the location and size of the earlier meetinghouse on the site. They also looked closely at the northeast corner of the meetinghouse lot for evidence of graves. The British had used the meetinghouse as a hospital between 1776 and 1778, and tradition said that they had buried the soldiers who died in that area.

Nothing of note was found.

In May, Professors Kitchel and Rockwell returned with nine Salve Regina students in Cultural and Historic Preservation. At the meetinghouse, they added soil resistivity and magnetic gradiometer data to complement and expand the earlier GPR data. They checked what is left of the old foundation of the meetinghouse to ensure a

new foundation would not obscure any evidence of historic importance.

They surveyed the field around the windmill to search for the site of the windmill that had existed prior to the current 1787 building.

Thanks to John Robertson, who gave a talk in 2023 about Revolutionary War Defenses, the JHS learned of a map and drawing of a square fortification located in Shoreby Hill near the intersection of Longfellow and Plymouth roads. Since in 1776 the area was farmland with few trees, this high point would have had views of both passages of Narragansett Bay. We are all very interested in whether the group can find any evidence of trenches there. The JHS appreciates the homeowners who allowed the students to access their yards.

The students also spent some time at the Conanicut Battery.

The analysis of the new data is ongoing. Initial reports show evidence of some anomalies at the windmill but nothing of significance at the other sites.

*Salve Regina archeology students at work in the windmill field.
Using Ground Penetrating Radar.*



Using a magnetometer.



First Steps in Meetinghouse Renovation



Dig out the old foundation.

Lift and brace the building..



Move the building to the north edge of the lot.

Preserving and Sharing Our Collection

Each Tuesday and Thursday morning, volunteers converge on the JHS vault in the basement of Town Hall to work. They create records describing additions to the collection, photograph or digitize the new artifact if possible, and post the record and photo on the JHS website under the Collection tab. During the spring semester, intern Sarah Mikalay, a senior in Cultural and Historic Preservation studies at Salve Regina University, joined the volunteers in the vault. In the past six months, over 630 records, some of them describing multiple additions to the collection, were entered.



Vaulterians at work.

Once a month, the Vaulterians and members of the Collections Committee meet to make decisions about additions to the collection and ways to make the collection more accessible. This winter, the committee decided that digital copies of printed material should be attached to the records so that researchers could read the whole document online. Of the almost 52,000 records describing the collection, 30 percent now include images of the object described and another 200 have downloadable digital files attached.

New Vault volunteers are always welcome. Stop in the vault any Tuesday or Thursday between 9 and noon or email the Collections Committee chairs Carol Chew and Elizabeth Di Censo at info@jhsri.org to learn more.

The Written Word *"From the Collection"*

The most read emails sent out by JHS are the monthly "From the Collection" articles written by the members of the Collections Committee.

This winter and spring the topics included Jamestown phonebooks; the Enterprise Line steamships that carried passengers from New York to Jamestown in 1906 and 1907; photographs of Jamestown in the 1880s and

1890s from the album *Conanicut*; the artwork of Catharine Wharton Morris (Kit) Wright; "From Bleecker Box to Brushwood, 1889 to Present," the history of the house at the corner of Racquet Road and Walcott Avenue; the fire on the steam ferryboat *Conanicut*; and most recently, Portuguese traditions in Jamestown.

In the Press

Rosemary Enright, Peter Fay, and Sue Maden continue to write monthly columns on historical subjects for *The Jamestown Press*. As usual the columns cover widely diverging topic. The articles in November and January discussed the importance of tea and slavery in the disputes between Britain and her colonies that led to the American Revolution. December celebrated one of Jamestown's centenarians, Mary Elizabeth Arnold. Recent articles reflected on civil rights abuses, the building of Jamestown's Town Hall, and the history of the Striper Club.

Walking Tours

Two walking tour guides, funded in part by the Rotary Club of Jamestown and CruiseRI, are now available at outlets around the island. One tour guides walkers across the island from East to West Ferry. The second introduces them to the historic sites in the village, including the JHS museum and the many exhibits in the Town Hall.



A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF NARRAGANSETT AVENUE IN HISTORIC JAMESTOWN



Jamestown Historical Society

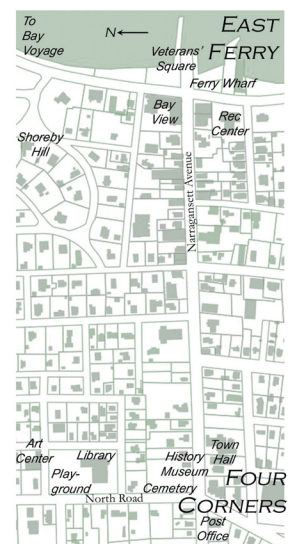


JHS website



Audio tour

HISTORIC SITES IN JAMESTOWN VILLAGE



Jamestown Historical Society



JHS website

Exhibits

Town Hall

Each month an exhibit is mounted in the JHS display case in the Town Hall foyer. Objects and archives from the collection are displayed under the direction of Exhibit committee chair Sue Maden.

In November, the exhibit featured menus for holidays dinners in the early 20th century. In December, documents from the life of Mary Elizabeth Clarke Arnold visually told the story of the centenarian, complementing that month's *Press* article about her. To encourage others to donate their family's memorabilia, January's display showed some of the more recent additions to the collection. Generic postcards were displayed in February and models and plaques of iconic Jamestown building in March.

While most of the Town Hall exhibits were designed by Sue Maden, Sarah Mikalay, the spring semester intern from Salve Regina, took over for April, designing and documenting an exhibit about movies made in Jamestown, which she called "Lights, Camera, Jamestown." She used the exhibit and her experience developing it as the basis for her senior presentation. Sarah also helped with the May exhibit on the telephone in Jamestown.

Lawn Avenue School

The spring semester exhibit at the Lawn Avenue School, *Keeping House*, shows the changes in how people store food, cook, and clean from the colonial period to the present. When the committee put up the new display in the school, they moved the three panels from the fall display *Voting in Jamestown* to the Senior Center.

Summer Exhibit

The summer exhibit, *Jamestown Organizations: Creating a Community*, opened on May 22 with a reception at the museum for JHS members. The exhibit explores the contributions of volunteer organizations to making Jamestown the community it is today.

In designing the exhibit, the curators, Rosemary Enright and Sue Maden, were overwhelmed by the sheer number of volunteer and special interest organizations that have contributed to the culture of the town.

"We couldn't name them all without the exhibit being just a list of names," Rosemary explained. "So we tried to group the organizations by similar interests: religion, history, economics, neighborliness, beauty, and fun. Of course, most organizations don't fit tidily into one category. The Community Farm, for example, could fit into almost any interest category. I put it with neighborliness," she added.

Early in the design of the "Capturing the Beauty" aspect of the exhibit, Rosemary realized that Kay Worden's

statue "Dreams of Tomorrow," originally displayed in the Jamestown Philomenian Library children's area, was stored in the basement of Town Hall. Thinking it would be a perfect addition to the exhibit, she approached the town and the library about borrowing it. Both agreed, and the statue is now installed in the garden in front of the museum.



Opening night at the Jamestown Museum.

"It's a very appropriate spot," Rosemary said. "The building that is now the museum was built as a primary school for children the age of the child in the statue. And then for over 70 years, the town library was housed here."

The exhibit will be open every Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and holiday from 1 to 4 p.m. until October 13. Docents are always needed to open and close the building and to greet visitors. You can volunteer at the "volunteer" page on the [JHS website](#).



Kay Worden's statue "Dreams of Tomorrow," in front of the Jamestown Museum.

Additions to the Collection:

November 2024 to April 2025

Donations

Quentin Anthony, Conanicut Island Land Trust: Corn shell-er.

Betsy Baldwin: Menu, Our Table, Jamestown from Thursday, November 21, 2024; photographs of restoration work at Conanicut Friends meetinghouse.

Ted Baldwin: Jamestown Philomenian Library tote bag with library logo on front pocket.

Judith Bell: Jamestown Community Chorus 75th Anniversary Commemorative Ornament.

Kathy Brownell: Four family photographs: Cole Street Cottage, 1920s before the addition; Howland Avenue house, 1910; Mary Wood Clarke, circa 1880s; Mary Elizabeth Clarke, circa 1920s.

Carol Chew: Zeek's Creek cap from final week of shop being open; JB's on the Water menu and fall drink menu, 2024; *Island Boy*, by Jeffrey A. Caswell, 2022; Zeek's Creek Bait and Tackle Shop sign.

Dave Chew: "In The Studio with Printmaker Josy Wright," *Newport Life Magazine*, January 8, 2025, digital copy.

Colleen Calkum-Rancher: Menu, Christmas 1916, First Company, Fort Greble, RI.

Jamestown Philomenian Library: Watercolor, "The Old Jamestown Library," by Constance Armbrust.

Jean Brazil Della Vecchia: Collection of newspaper articles; booklets including the Tall Ships and the America's Cup; school class pictures from Jamestown schools where donor's mother taught.

John Doty: Photograph of Navy Veteran John James Doty, donor's father, born October 11, 1916, died October 18,

1997; newspaper articles regarding John James Doty's custody battle, 1944-1948, for his 8-year old daughter, Virginia Ann Doty; Cedar Cemetery map and alphabetical inventory of graves.

Rosemary Enright: Collage on Washi paper, "Jamestown Windmill," by Patricia Smith McCandless; article on The Southern Family and the Jamestown Touch Football Team, *Newport Daily News*, December 9, 1963; notecard with print of Beavertail Lighthouse from watercolor by Shirley Bell.

Suzanne Fay: Selection of books and documents including: *Jamestown Sampler*, by Bertram Lippincott, 1980; *Dismissed with Prejudice*, by Mary Stearns McGaughan; "Rhode Island Water Trails", pamphlet.

Paul Jutras: Large fish plaque and 5-small plaques with brass tags listing Striper Club fisherman awards; Jamestown Striper Club cap.

Judy Knight: Materials from the Millenium quilt committee.

Barbara MacGruder: Portrait of William Lincoln Bates, age 2 circa 1857; daguerreotype (damaged), William Lincoln Bates; Humane Society of Jamestown Pet Calendar 2025 with Jamestown Activities.

Sue Maden: Seven postcards from Jamestown 1910-1958; poster, Jamestown Rotary Club Fall 2024 48th Annual Classic Bike Race; JPL decal; magnet, "St. Matthew's Worshipping, Growing, Sharing;" real estate announcement, "Island Realty has joined Residential Properties, Ltd."

Carlton "Pede" Manchester: T-shirt, "I Walked the Bridge" October, 1992; T-shirt, Jamestown Striper Club, est. 1965.

Martha Mulvey: Six Polaroid photographs, 1991-2005; photograph of Matthew Winton with fish at Zeek's Creek.

Leo Orsi: *Striper Chronicles, East Coast Surf Fishing, Legends and Adventures* by Leo Orsi, 2008.

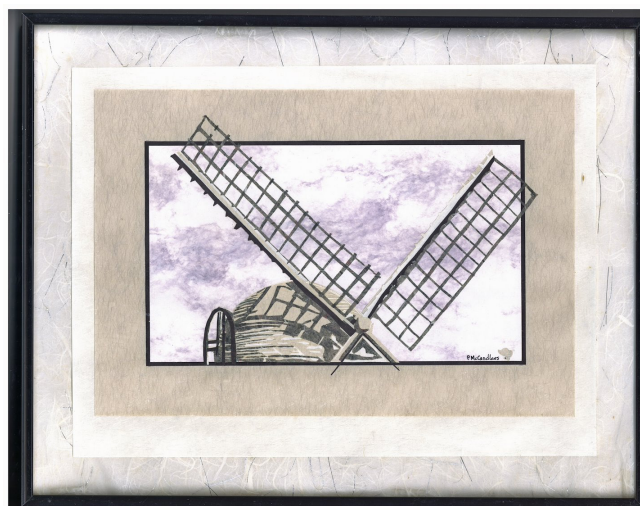
William Richardson: *Eight Generations of the Family of William Richardson, Yorkshire, England to Newbury, Massachusetts, 1640*, by John W. Richardson III, 2019; letter from William Phineas Richardson to John W. Richardson re 1790 barn relocated to Racquet Road, Jamestown, November 21, 1922; letter from Security State Bank to J.R. Richardson re Racquet Rd property, August 13, 1927.

Rhode Island PBS: Two copies each, *Our Town Jamestown*, Part I and Part II.

Senior Center: Poster, "Aging in Place Resource Fair," Fort Getty, June 21, 2023.

Kerry Sheehan: Eight Penguin Plunge T-shirts from 1980, 1992-1999; decals: "JTN" with white silhouette of Island, JTN Quahog, Jamestown Sheep 1678.

Bob Sutton: Photo album of Barn Raising at Community Farm 2011-2012 by Gloria C. Dahl; handwritten record of Barn Raising December 2010-2013, Jamestown Commu-



Papersolo (Ocho Tsugigami) painting of Windmill by Patricia Smith McCandless.

nity Farm, by Bob Sutton; DVD “The Community Builds a Barn,” narrated by Lynda Sutton; architectural drawings of the Jamestown Community Farm barn by Estes/Twombly architects.

Beverly Viviano and Nancy McDermott: Photographs and documents concerning Aaron Richardson, Aaron Richardson Jr., and Harold Richardson, including deeds on buildings in Jamestown Village to be scanned and returned.

Linda Warner: Photograph of Armbrusts at old fire station; Navy blue felt Town of Jamestown pennant.

Mary Webster: Original coal clinker from ferry boiler room; ship’s clock on stand from the *Beaver Tail* ferryboat, 1896-1938. The donor’s father, Timothy McGrath, Sr. was on the ferryboat during the 1938 Hurricane.

Linda Greeson Yates: Shot glass from the original Thorndike Hotel with a pale image of the hotel printed on it, circa 1914.

Susan Zwick: The History of 73 Standish Road including details of house and previous owners.

Collected by Staff.

Handouts: Jamestown Election Day Voter Information 2024; Voting District Street List; Voting District Map.

“The Scoop: East Ferry Deli, Rhody Gem,” *Hey Rhody Magazine*.

Multiple articles from *The Jamestown Press*.

Programs and flyers for events in Jamestown.



Clock from the Beaver Tail.

Acquisitions

Matchbook cover, Jamestown Country Club.

Photo, aerial view Jamestown, 1960s.

White golf ball with island silhouette and red golf flag indicating Jamestown Country Club location.

Postcard of Conanicut Yacht Club at Walcott Avenue and Brook Street.

Things We Learned from You

The 250th anniversary of Rhode Island’s transition from a colony to a state is less than a year away. Individuals and organizations are gathering information and planning events to celebrate both May 4, 1776, the date Rhode Island became the first of the thirteen colonies to officially break ties with Great Britain, and July 4, when the Continental Congress followed suit.

As part of Jamestown’s preparation, John Doty and Ken Caswell have been at work sprucing up the Quaker cemetery, the oldest communal burial ground on the island and now part of Cedar Cemetery. In the process, they noted a stone base with no gravestone attached.

Caswell prodded the ground on both sides of the base. When he hit something hard, the men began to carefully excavate along a line running back from the exposed base. About six inches below the surface, under sod that had been placed in the graveyard before it was turned over to Cedar Cemetery in 1928, was the broken grave marker for Alice Weeden Congdon, who has died in 1854.

Aside from the break, the stone – protected for at least 100 of the 170 years since Alice Congdon’s death by the dirt above it – is in good condition and easily readable. Caswell plans to make a new base and epoxy the broken pieces together.



Board of Directors News

Your Board of Directors meets bimonthly to plan events and set direction for the coming years. This year some important changes were made that affect all members.

Membership Year

The membership year for the society has been changed to coincide with the calendar year.

If you were a member of the JHS for the July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 year, you received an email in March letting you know of the change and that we have extended existing memberships by six months through December 31, 2025, at no charge. You will receive a renewal notice at the end of 2025 for the calendar year 2026. You do not need to pay a membership fee until then. We thank you for your support of the JHS!

If you are not currently a member of the Jamestown Historical Society, we encourage you to join as a member for the calendar year 2025 for several reasons.

First of all, you will be supporting a vibrant all-volunteer organization whose mission is to collect, preserve, and share the history of Jamestown. As you have read, we have an ever-growing collection of artifacts, documents, and photographs. Our collection also includes our 1786 Friends Meetinghouse and the 1787 Windmill, and we have agreements with the Town to maintain the historical character of the Conanicut Battery and the old Town Pound on North Road.

We share the island's history through exhibits in several locations including a seasonal exhibit at the JHS Museum and through articles and emails. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, our sites are open regularly to the public for free.

As a member you will receive invitations to members-only and members-first events, often at a member discount, such as:

Members-only talks and dinners. Recently, we celebrated the Azorean community in Jamestown with a sold-out dinner and talk at the Conanicut Yacht Club.

Member-only outings with special tours of nearby sites. Last year, we conducted an exclusive tour of the Vanderbilt family apartment and attic at the Breakers, a private tour of the Gilbert Stuart House and Museum, and a special tour of Casey Farm.

Fun parties. You'll be invited to the opening reception for the summer exhibit at the museum, the gala Evening at the Windmill in July with members discount, and the members-only House Tour Preview Party in September.

Become a member [HERE](#).

Donations

The JHS welcomes all donations but did you know that you can donate appreciated stock and required minimum IRA distributions?

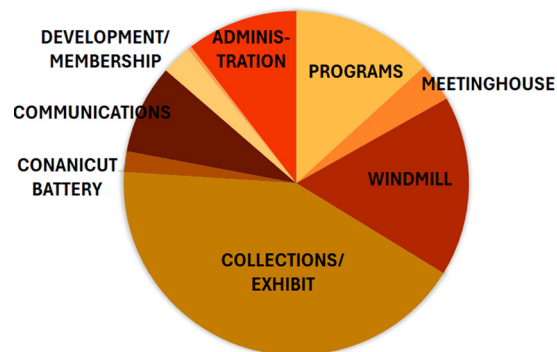
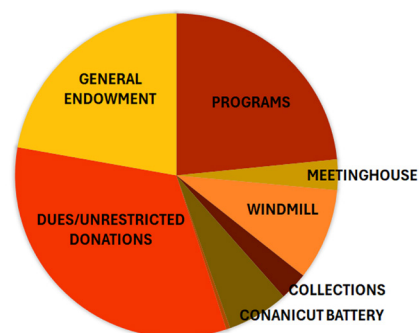
Donating appreciated stock can be a highly advantageous strategy for both the donor and the recipient. By directly transferring appreciated stock, donors can avoid paying capital gains taxes while still receiving a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock. Additionally, individuals aged 73 or older have the option to direct their required minimum distributions (RMDs) from traditional IRAs and 401(k)s to qualified not-for-profits like the JHS. This strategy, known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), allows the RMD to count towards the annual distribution requirement while excluding the amount from taxable income, potentially providing significant tax benefits for the donor.

For additional information or assistance in making such gifts, please contact Ross Williams at rosswilliamsz@gmail.com.

Budget

The operations budget, exclusive of the capital expenditure at the meetinghouse, projects expenditures of \$107,860 against income of \$90,120 with an anticipated deficit of \$17,740.

Income by income source



Expenses by type