



Jamestown Historical Society **HERITAGE**

Fall 2023

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



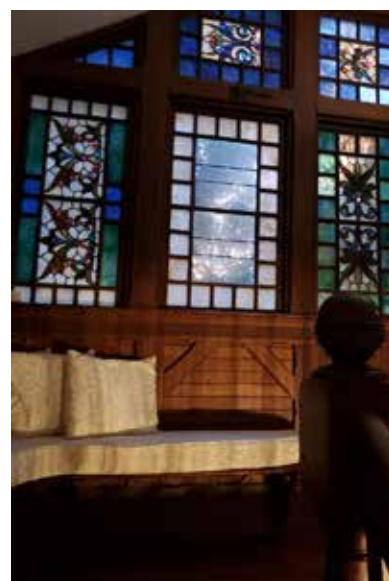
Windmill Day

The cloths were on the sails for Windmill Day. Visitors enjoyed music, food, tours of the mill, a grass maze, and games for the kids and young at heart.



House Tour Weekend

The September 15 Preview Party was held at the Boulders. The house offered beautiful views both inside (right) and of the surrounding landscape (left).



Programs Summer 2023

This spring and summer were very busy as the JHS offered talks, outings, exhibits, events, and gatherings. Some events were only for members, some for the wider community.

JHS Talks

In May, John Robertson, PhD, Colonel (Ret) Army Corps of Engineers, historian, and author, took a group on a tour of Revolutionary War military sites and gave a talk about his book, *Revolutionary War Defenses in Rhode Island*. In addition to the Conanicut Battery and the emplacement above Fort Wetherill, Dr. Robertson took the group to the site of a battery near the intersection of Longfellow and Plymouth roads in Shoreby Hill! With the land cleared of trees for farming, this high spot would have allowed open views of the bay. Thanks to the The Battle of Rhode Island Association for co-sponsoring Dr. Robertson's visit.

At our annual meeting in August, members were treated to a wonderful talk and slides by Archie Clarke on the history of Jamestown ferries. What a treat to hear him share stories and details about life in Jamestown when the ferries were so essential to the island.

On October 24, Christian McBurney, the publisher and editor-in-chief of the online magazine *Small State/Big History*, talked about his new book, *Machine Guns in Narragansett Bay: The Coast Guard's War on Rum-runners*. Between 1920 to 1933, during Prohibition, Coast Guard vessels in Narragansett Bay and nearby waters fired thousands of machine gun rounds at boats, many manned by local mariners, bringing alcoholic beverages into the country.

Museum Exhibit Opening and Celebration

This summer's exhibit, *Celebrating Jamestown Ferries: 150th Anniversary of Jamestown's First Steam Ferry*, opened on May 25 with a members-only party. The exhibit set the theme for many of the summer events.

In late June, a group gathered at the museum again to celebrate the completion of all the work on the outside of the building. The carpentry repairs, new paint and roof, and the gardens all look terrific. Many thanks to Rinaldi Brothers Roofing, Hanson Lawn Care, the Palmieri Fund, and Judy Knight and her team of gardeners.



Rosemary Enright, JHS Treasurer, accepting a grant for work at the museum from RI Rep. Alex Finkelman.

JHS Outings

In June, members visited the World War II Museum in Wakefield. Housed in a storefront, the museum displays a vast collection of World War II memorabilia, including D-Day maps, uniforms, posters, photos, recordings, weapons, and so much more. The guides were very knowledgeable. There's so much to take in that one visit is not enough to look at everything.

In August members were treated to a private tour of Vernon House in Newport. The house was built in 1708, modified in 1760, and was Rochambeau's headquarters during the Revolutionary War. It has some splendid original features and is now undergoing restoration by the Newport Restoration Foundation.

Evening at the Windmill /Windmill Day

A members-only party was held the night before Windmill Day in July. Everyone enjoyed wine and appetizers while taking a tour of the windmill, walking the grass labyrinth, and enjoying the view.



Under the tent at the Evening at the Windmill.

Programs Summer 2023 (continued)



Sails up on Windmill Day.

More than 300 people enjoyed Windmill Day this year and many stayed for hours. A big tent provided lots of cool shade for people to sit and enjoy pizza from the food truck or cornbread, windmill cookies, and lemonade provided by the JHS. The To Be Continued Band played fun eclectic music and some of the young danced along. The windmill and the Friends meeting-house saw many visitors.

Children and adults alike played cornhole, quoits, or tried walking with stilts. All ages walked the labyrinth mowed into the lawn. At the art table, kids tried their hand at creating their own labyrinth designs. Thanks to a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation, we were able to have the spacious tent, plenty of tables and chairs, and the wonderful music.

Preview Party and House Tour

We had a big turnout for the Preview Party held at the *Boulders*, a lovely home designed by Charles L. Bevins. The large porch was perfect for a party. Many enjoyed a tour of the house and learning about the William Trost Richards painting over the fireplace in the front hall. Thanks to Don Carlson for hosting!

Four houses were featured on the house tour this year. Luckily Hurricane Lee turned east and the tour could proceed as planned. The volunteers were wonderful about helping us develop a contingency plan that we didn't have to use.

A large turnout of 300+ people enjoyed seeing the four houses, all built in the late 1800s. Each house offered something special. Lisa Sallee of *Vinecroft*, now the Lionel Champlin Guesthouse, went above and beyond and baked goodies for all visitors to enjoy. Everyone especially loved the charming dorm for visiting grandchildren on the third floor of *Full House*. At *Meadowside*, which like the *Boulders* was designed by Charles Bevins, a trunk in the dining room belonged to the original owner's children and has traveled to exotic destinations. *Thorncroft's* large yard is full of different species of trees collected by one of the original owners, an arborculturist.

Thanks to Abigail Campbell-King, Chad and Nancy George, Susie Matthews, and Lisa Sallee for sharing their homes.

Volunteer Party

This year's party to celebrate and thank our many volunteers was held at the Jamestown Arts Center, a large accessible space with room for all our terrific volunteers. We enjoyed viewing the main gallery exhibit, *Coming and Going: New Work* by Algernon Miller. Miller is an Afrofuturist artist whose work draws on sacred geometry, numerology, and the structures of nature, science, and architecture and frequently references African and African-American artistic heritage.

Upcoming Events

Watch your email for details of upcoming events. If you are not receiving JHS emails, go to the website and subscribe. Renew to receive invitations to members-only events.

November 8, 10 am, Rosecliff: Members-only outing to Rosecliff for a tour of *The Celestial City: Newport and China* by the exhibit's curator.

December 2, 9 am-4 pm, Lawn Avenue School: CIAA Holiday Fair. The JHS will have books and other items for sale. Stop by and see us!

Winter Speaker Series - TBA

From the President

And all of a sudden, it's fall!

There are 181 names listed on the Honor Roll of Volunteers this year! These amazing people spent anywhere from 2 hours once a year to 40+ hours a week year-round working on JHS projects.

- Many were docents at the windmill, museum, meetinghouse, or at one of the houses on this year's tour.
- Some cleared trails at the Battery, organized events, served food, directed parking, arranged for outings, hired and oversaw contractors, planted and maintained gardens, and raised the cloths on the windmill sails.
- Others did research, created exhibits, gave talks, managed the JHS investments and accounting, applied for grants, maintained databases, or wrote articles, press releases, and this newsletter.
- The Vaultarians learned to use a new web-based system as they continue to manage the constantly expanding collection.
- Contractors provided services at free or reduced rates.
- We include the town officials with whom we interact regularly and who have been extremely helpful to the JHS.

With no paid staff, the JHS relies on and is very grateful for all that the volunteers do to make the organization vibrant and successful.

As we plan for 2024, we welcome ideas for events, talks, outings, exhibits, and more. If you have suggestions, please email us at info@jamestownhistoricalsociety.org



The 2023 Volunteers Party was held at the Jamestown Arts Center on October 21.

jhsociety.org or speak to one of the officers or directors listed below.

If you aren't already on the volunteer list, please look for emails this spring outlining opportunities to help. In addition to working with some great folks and meeting new people, you'll be invited to the really fun Volunteers Party celebration that happens every October.

A sincere thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!

Betsy Baldwin



Jamestown Historical Society Board

Officers 2023-2024

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

Directors to 2024

Peter Fay
Leo Orsi
Dianne Rugh

Directors to 2026

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

HONOR ROLL OF VOLUNTEERS FOR 2023

Dick Allphin	Roberta Fagan	Carol Lake	Carroll Pruell
Joyce Allphin	Peter Fay	Jean Lambert	Connie Rainone
Craig Amerigian	Aileen Flath	Anne Lane	Elizabeth Reid
Stephanie Amerigian	Bob Flath	Dave Lawson	Tim Riel
Carol Anderson	Kate Flath	Lynn Lawson	Matt Rinaldi
Betsy Baldwin	Edie Flynn	Christian Lazen-Bernardt	Nick Rinaldi
Ted Baldwin	Mary Forman	Cynthia Levesque	Wendy Ross
Fran Basso	Denise Gamon	Paul Levesque	Dianne Rugh
Judy Bell	Jane Garnett	Marcia Lindsay	Erik Saarmaa
Jane Bentley	Jeff Gaulin	Anne Livingston	Jody Saarmaa
Robert Berczuk	Lucille Gentsch	Joe Logan	Nancy Sall
Anna Bernath	Chad George	Sue Logan	Lisa Sallee
Charlotte Biddle	Nancy George	Mary-Alice Lurgio	Ginny Saunders
Sally Braun	Pam Gilpin	Sue Maden	Linda Sedgewick
Sam Braun	Nikki Gladding	Judy Mandel	Kerry Sheehan
Fred Brown	Michael Glier	Larry Mandel	Pat Sheehan
Lisa Bryer	Sandy Good	Maggie Marcus	Steve Sherman
Elle Burgess	Ted Good	Peter Marcus	Andy Shrake
Bill Burgin	Janet Grant	Roger Marshall	Jane Sigal
Alan Burse	John Grant	Susie Matthews	Cynthia Smith
Jim Buttrick	Mike Gray	Myrna Maxfield	Helen Smith
Abigail Campbell-King	Laura Gregg	Larry McDonald	Judy Smith
Don Carlson	Jack Gregg	Jean McDonough	William W. Smith III
Gail Chase	Mary Gregory	Ed Mello	Diane Stover
Harry Chase	Dianne Grippi	Lois Migneault	Lynda Sutton
Donna Chellis	June Halliday	Russell Miller	Debby Swistak
Carol Chew	Nick Hanson	Karen Montoya	Lydia Thomas
Sarah Civic	Lisa Harris	Betsy Moody	Jonathan Thurston
Archie Clarke	Gabrielle Highstein	John A. Murphy	Robin Tregenza
Christine Clarke	Deborah Homer	Michele Musselman	Pat Ustick
Mick Cochran	Joyce Hooley-Bartlett	Martha Neale	Tenley van der Wal
Tina Collins	Chad Howell	Carol Nelson-Lee	Nancy van Devanter
Trudy Coxe	Polly Hutcheson	Ken Newman	Christian Verrier
Judy Curtis	Mary Hutchinson	Pat Newman	Deborah Wadsworth
Alma Davenport	Sandy Johnson	Susan Nicholson	Chris Walsh
Anne De Stefano	Karen Kalisch	Ellen Noble	Linda Warner
Ray DeFalco	Rose Karentz	Keelan Noble	Epsey Weatherbee
Dorothy Denault	Varoujan Karentz	Sean O'Donnell	Dennis Webster
Elizabeth di Censo	Jane Kennedy	Leo Orsi	Kim Westcott
Pat DiPaolo	Delia Klingbeil	Barbara Parent	Ross Williams
Richard Doyle	Ralph Klingbeil	Roland Parent	Bill Wood
John Drotos	Judy Knight	Linnea Petersen	Harry Wright
Tina duHaime	Winston Knight	Paul Petersen	Josy Wright
Jesse Dutra	Jane Koster	Bill Pierce	Martha Yates
Joe Dutra			Ann S. Zartler
Rosemary Enright			Mike Zimmerman
Karen Estes			

Thank You!

Introducing Your New Board Members

At our August 2023 Annual Meeting, eleven new board members were elected to replace members leaving the board and to expand the talent available to address the many projects the society has undertaken.

Bill Burgin, a former JHS president, is a registered architect in Rhode Island. In the last four decades, Bill has been the architect for many significant structures throughout the island. He worked on the 2000-2001 restoration of the Jamestown Windmill and the renovation of Isaac Carr's 1829 general store. He restored the first level of stores and added the second level for apartments in the East Ferry Block and designed the Jamestown Police Station, Jamestown Town Hall, and the Jamestown Golf Club/multipurpose building. Bill is still actively designing building in Jamestown and across Rhode Island.



Bill Burgin



Abby Campbell-King



Chris Clarke



Alma Davenport

Abigail Campbell-King is a retired AIA Architect with 50 years of experience designing and renovating houses in Boston, Newport, and the New York Adirondacks. She was instrumental in founding the Arlington MA Historical Society in the 1970s, and is currently an Architectural Consultant for the renovation of the 1886 Belmont Chapel in Newport. She is also on the board of Preserve Rhode Island. Abby lives in a Charles Bevin's 1888 house in Jamestown and has done several neighborhood renovations including preservation of two of the three Sisters on Conanicut Ave.

Christine Clarke is a native Jamestown. She attended Jamestown schools and graduated from URI

with a focus in agriculture. She served three years in Jamaica with the Peace Corps as a soil scientist. She subsequently worked as a soil scientist, GIS specialist, and manager with U.S. Department of Agriculture over a 34-year career in several states. Her last posting was as State Conservationist for the state of Massachusetts. Christine retired in 2019 and returned to Jamestown to restore her childhood home.

Alma Davenport has lived on Conanicut Island since the late 1970s. She has both personal and professional interests in history and its documentation. She comes from a long line of New Englanders and was a member of the John Eldred chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Her Masters of Fine Arts is in Photography and she is author of the text *The History of Photography – an Overview*. Alma hopes to be useful to the JHS in preservation of its photographic collection. To this end, she has digitized the JHS photographic glass-plate collection. Also, Alma has a few ideas for topics to broaden the JHS webinar offerings.

Nikki Gladding is a Jamestown transplant married to a 6+ generation Jamestown. She has volunteered in the JHS vault, provided social media support, and helped at the Meetinghouse. You may have attended a volunteer party at her home on Blueberry Lane.

Nikki is a recovering engineer turned antiques dealer with a shop on Southwest Avenue across from McQuades. She and her husband own and operate two local construction businesses, K.M. Gladding Excavating and M.T. Lott Construction Management, and she had participated in the renovation of several homes in town. Nikki has also volunteered at the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum and is a Jamestown firefighter.

Sandy Good was born and raised in Newport and is a graduate of the Newport Hospital School of Nursing. Sandy and her husband Ted have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Sandy has moved around a bit, living in Rochester, NY, and Williamsburg, VA, before relocating to Jamestown in 2000. They live on Grinnell Street in a Baptist parsonage. Sandy has been a member of the Historical Society since 2021.



Nikki Gladding

Lisa Harris grew up in Cambridge, MA. She graduated from Marlboro College and has a MA in Counseling Psychology from Lesley University. Her family was very interested in preserving antiquities. One of her grandmothers was a woodworker who collected old shipbuilding tools. That collection has since been given to IYRS. Her grandmother's home in Boston is now the Nichols House Museum. Lisa has been married to Ross Harris for 50 years, has two grown children and three grandchildren. They lived in Concord MA for 35 years and moved to Jamestown 14 years ago. One thing they love about Jamestown is being surrounded by history, which is so expertly enhanced by the JHS and the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum. She is involved in music activities in town and is a serious student of the classical guitar.

Joyce Hooley-Bartlett from a very young age was determined to be a teacher. After attending SUNY Plattsburgh and Springfield College she taught at Suffield Academy in Suffield, CT, for 18 years, teaching science, coaching, and filling various administrative roles. During that time she and her husband, Fred, fell in love with Jamestown. They moved here and Joyce got a job teaching science at the Moses Brown School.

Seven years ago Joyce retired from teaching and began work for several farmers and as a deckhand for the Jamestown-Newport ferry. She is the narrator for the Lighthouse tours and on the Coastal Queen tour boat. Joyce has served on the boards of the Friends of the Library and the Conanicut Island Art Association.

Karen Montoya's love for history started when she was 11 years old. Her dad was in the Air Force and was stationed in Germany from 1959 to 1963. The children had the run of the little town they lived in surrounded by woods and many old historical farms and buildings. They took trips to castles and to towns founded in the Middle Ages. It was like stepping back 150 years. Karen went to an American school but learned German from her German friends. Years later she and her husband lived in Germany for 16 years before moving to Jamestown in 1993. They continue to travel to many other countries satisfying their love for history and different cultures.



Sandy Good

Elizabeth Reid has a lifelong interest in history,

and completed a bachelor's degree in history at Brown University. Her family has been coming to the Newport-Jamestown-Saunders area for many generations from Philadelphia, although she grew up in Cambridge, MA. Elizabeth spent her working years in management. After completing an MBA and Masters in Urban Planning, she started in corporate finance/investment banking and then worked as a CFO/COO in both tech start-ups and boarding schools for over 25 years. Her work in schools involved extensive oversight of buildings in a campus setting. She retired a few years ago to pursue music.

Pat Sheehan moved to the Island and joined the Jamestown Historical Society in the 1970s while employed at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission. She served for a time on the Society's Board and as President and appreciates the opportunity to serve on the Board once again. She continued in historic preservation as a consultant to municipalities and developers. A second career in yacht race management included running national and international competitions with the New York Yacht Club and as a consultant. A high point included two America's Cups in New Zealand working with the International Umpires and Jury. Pat is married to Jack Sheehan. Her daughter Eleanor and her husband, an active Marine, have four children.



Lisa Harris



Joyce Hooley-Bartlett



Karen Montoya



Elizabeth Reid



Pat Sheehan

Working Together

Conanicut Battery Park

The area of Conanicut Battery Park was a military installation during the American Revolution and during both World Wars. Along a 400-foot path at the crest of the hill above the 1776 battery - at an elevation of 125 feet - are six in-ground observation posts built in World War I.

When these posts were in use the surrounding landscape was entirely clear of trees so observers had an unobstructed view of the water to the east, west and south. The posts were manned by two to four soldiers and accessible only by ladder through an opening in the roof, which was slightly above ground level.



Employees of the Joseph Gnazzo Co. stabilizing the roof of a World War I observation post.

The pillars supporting the heavy cement roofs were rotting, making the emplacements dangerous. This summer, with the help of a Rhode Island Senate grant sponsored by Senator Dawn Euer and a contribution from the town, the supports were replaced. Netting was placed across the observation openings to deter visitors from slipping into the underground rooms.

North Road Wall

The stone wall along North Road between the meetinghouse and the Jamestown windmill has been in disrepair for several years. This spring JHS and the town, with the permission of the Dutras whose property it borders, worked together to rebuild the wall.

Town workers removed the vegetation between the wall and the roadway, essentially dismantling the wall. The society hired the recommended mason to completely rebuild the wall. Four very generous members contributed almost all the funds needed to complete the project.

The view of the windmill and the Friends meetinghouse from North Road is much improved.



Courtesy of The Jamestown Press

Abby and Jeff Boal at Fox Hill Farm

Preserve Rhode Island Award

“On a lark,” reads the Preserve Rhode Island citation for this year’s Historic Preservation Home Owners Award, “a couple drive up from New York, fall in love with a coastal farmhouse, and purchase it. Wanting to protect the rare historic landscape from development, they acquire the adjoining lots on either side. Thus begins a decade long journey transforming the land back into a working farm, a colonial farmhouse - parts of which date to the 17th century - into an elegant home, and the couple from city sophisticates to local farmers.”

The couple receiving the award on October 15 were Jeff and Abby Boal and the coastal farm they preserved and enhanced is Fox Hill Farm on Fort Getty Road. When the island was purchased in 1657, the farm was part of the land claimed by Benedict Arnold. Exactly when the house was built is unknown, although in 1733, Arnold’s grandson left the property and a house, elements of which form the base of the current structure, to his nephew.



Conanicut Island Friends meetinghouse seen over the reconstructed North Road wall.

Sharing

Summer Exhibit

The summer exhibit at the museum celebrated the 150th anniversary of the steam ferry between Newport and Jamestown and the 96 years that steam-driven ferries were the lifeline of the island. The steamer *Jamestown* – the first of four ferries with that name – made its first trip across the East Passage on May 13, 1873. The *Jamestown* [IV] made the last trip June 28, 1969.



Ship's wheel from the ferryboat the J.A. Saunders, borrowed from Linda Warner for the exhibit.

In Print

Over the summer, many of the articles on Jamestown history that appear monthly in *The Jamestown Press* were about ferries. In May, Peter Fay wrote about the dangers that ferrymen and passengers both faced as they crossed Narragansett Bay in sail ferries. In June, Rosemary Enright and Sue Maden told tales about famous people who rode the ferries. In July, their article talked about the purchase of the last ferries, and in October, they discussed Stillman Saunderson's opposition line, the Narragansett Transportation Company.

Not all the focus was on ferries. In August, Peter profiled Ormand Remington, a Jamestown slave who was able to buy freedom for himself and his family. In September, Rosemary and Sue wrote about Audley Clarke and his Beavertail golf course.

After publication, the articles are uploaded to the JHS website.

JHS Website

The website is in the process of being redesigned.

The main purposes of the redesign are to make the website more user friendly and easier to maintain. Although email is increasingly used for communication with members, the website is usually the way new members and non-members interested in Jamestown history find us.

Among the problems that have been brought to the attention of the redesign committee are the static nature of the landing page, the number of "clicks" needed to get to the collections database, and the difficulty in getting to the membership and donation page.

If you have had other issues with the website or would like to be part of the review team, please email Peter Fay at info@jamestownhistoricalsociety.org.

McDonough Case Exhibits

Each month a mini-exhibit is mounted in the case donated to the library by Jeff and Kim McDonough for historical society displays. During library construction, the case stands in the front hall of Town Hall.

The summer started with a display of badges that ranged from an 18th century British Royal Crest badge to toy police badges used as favors at the retirement dinner for Chief Thomas P. Tighe in 2011.

Other exhibits have shown some of the tiles in the collection, souvenirs of Fort Dumpling, archives of the Conanicut Yacht Club, invitations to house anniversary celebrations, and postcards of Fort Greble.

The November exhibit features objects that were found on eBay. These include the MGM report on Jamestown's Palace Theatre and a matchbook cover advertising Jamestown Shores Motel, which stood at the foot of the Jamestown Bridge and was demolished to make way for the John Eldred Expressway.



British Royal Crest badge. The hole is believed to have been caused by a rebel's musket ball.

Collection Donations *April to September 2023*

Ted Baldwin: poster, Conanicut Yacht Club 96th Annual Around the Island Race September 3, 2023.

Judy Bell: JHS Publications, newsletters, and articles.

Dorothy Richardson Blythe: portrait of Benjamin Ellery Hull.

Jim Buttrick: photo of Thayer Keeler and Brig Gen James T. Buttrick.

Edwina Cloherty: archives of the Piliska/Piliski family. Discharge papers for Antoni Piliski with re-enlistment noted for 1904, 1913, 1917, 1919 and discharge Fort Greble; copy of naturalization papers for Antoni Piliski, June 25, 1918, filed in Jamestown June 23, 1925; 1922 deed for lots 8 and 9 Block C of Bungalow Park plat from Fred A. and Lillian Reed to Antoni Piliski and Antonina Piliski of Newport; 1927 deed for lots 6 and 7, Block C of the Bungalow Park plat from John and Audrey M. Wilke to Antoni Piliski and Antonina Piliski of Jamestown; photographs of Antoni Piliski, Antonina Piliski, Henry Naruszewicz, Vitold Grudzinski, Florence Grudzinski Benirowska; membership cards for Antonia Piliski in the American Legion Auxiliary 1932, 1964; Our Lady Sodality St. Mark's church, 1965; Auxiliary United Spanish War Veterans, 1963.

Beth di Censo: items belonging to William Samuel Sheehan, who worked as a purser on the ferries; badge, Jamestown Ferry Division; whistle used to direct cars during loading of the ferry; two books of ferry tickets; ferry schedule, 1967; Coast Guard license; list of ferry employees in 1938; certificate of registry; certificate of Civil Service status; photo of Sheehan with other ferry employees,

John Doty: scan of scrapbook of 1930's Jamestown newspaper clippings,

Peter F. Drury: original plans for housing for the elderly on Watson Avenue.

Laura and Jack Gregg: door knocker and house numbers 75 from the Casino.

Gabe Highstein: R.I. Scenes & Seascapes, 2022. 12 month calendar with photographs by Jessie Dutra.

Leslie Kurz: DVD Viet Nam Veterans' Speeches Cedar Cemetery, March 29, 2023; Auxiliary American Legion cap belonging to Joe Frank.

Sue Maden: two variant copies of plan, War Department O.C.E. Construction Division. Real Estate. Fort Getty Jamestown, Rhode Island 1947-1948.

Barbara Magruder: Moore-Bates family tree; Bates family photo and correspondence; spoon belonging to William Lincoln Bates; Blanche Moore Bates papers and correspondence; two books with Bates Sanitarium bookplates; William Penn Bates wallets (donor donated the \$150 discovered in one wallet).

Karen Montoya: *The Green Leaf*. Green Leaf Farm Jamestown Rhode Island Greetings at Easter.

Terry McGill: wood etching of windmill.

Donna Richardson Peckham: copy of Article of Association of the Holy Ghost Society; copy of list of officers of the Holy Ghost Society.

Chris Powell: Conanicut Island Raptor Project cap; Jamestown Yacht Club Fool's Rule T-shirt, 2023.

Francis Rembijas: 2 military caps belonging to Lt. Col John C. Rembijas.

Don Richardson: *Poems 1979* by Winthrop Wilson; *Poems 1976* by Winthrop Wilson; *Poems 1975* by Winthrop Wilson.

Dianne Rugh: book *Freedom Journey: Black civil War Soldiers and The Hills community, Westchester County, New York* by Edythe Ann Quinn (Thirteen northern black men from The Hills served in company E, of the Fourteenth Rhode Island Heavy Artillery which had its training at Camp Bailey, Dutch Island).

Alvin Schaut: postcard "Busy Blues Beavertail," Jamestown R.I. oil by Catharine Morris Wright.

Rebecca Slattery and James and Suzanne Slattery: silver tray engraved CYC Labor Day Race Pilot 2nd Prize 1953 Price Wetherill Slattery.

Linda Warner: Jamestown school graduation photo, 1919; Jamestown School graduation program, 1955; Connie Armbrust's Scrapbook that includes Jamestown newspaper articles and political campaign material.

Victoria Williams: Journal of Light Station at Conanicut Island, Elmer V. Newton keeper, 1919-1921; Keepers Annual Property Return & Annual Requisition of Receipt at Conanicut Island, 1914 and 1933; Keepers Annual Property Return & Annual Requisition of Receipt at Penfield Reef, 1914; Keepers Annual Property Return & Annual Requisition of Receipt at Prudence Island, 1936; correspondence with Department of Commerce, 4 letters, 1936; correspondence with Department of Commerce, 1 letter, 1933; Photos of Keeper's House taken before 1976.

Pam Berry Wood: *John and Emily's Story*, written by their daughter Pam Wood.



A silver tray awarded by the Conanicut Yacht Club in 1953 as 2nd prize in the Labor Day Pilot class race.

Collections

Our Collection Online

The Jamestown Historical Society has been collecting material about Jamestown since 1912. Information about the collection was computerized in 2000. In 2006, the database was made available through the JHS website by periodically uploading a static copy of the database. By mid-December 2023, the collections database is going to the cloud.

For someone interested in searching the collection, the major advantage is that information will be available immediately. For the catalogers and the Collections Committee, there are other advantages. The new software enforces the use of authority files, reducing the probability of error. Spelling is checked automatically. For many entry fields, duplicate entry is reduced by autofilling and advanced search functions.

The volunteers in the vault have spent much of October and November learning the basics of the new system. At the same time, they are continuing to enter new donations and acquisitions in the current system. It's been a busy time.

From the Collection (FTC)

Each month a member of the Collections Committee selects an object from the collection, researches its meaning and its place in Jamestown history, and writes about it in an email.

The FTCs in the past six months have highlighted the Mackerel Cove Beach Pavilion; the works of Jamestown artist Jeanne Bunkley; a mailbox in the shape

of a Jamestown ferry made by Manuel Neronha; the pennant flown on the *Governor Carr* on the ferryboat's maiden voyage; and photographs of Jamestown telephone switchboard operators at work.

The October FTC focused on *Jamestown Harbor at Sunset, 1895*, an oil painting by Edward Mitchell Bannister (1828-1901). Bannister, a Black artist who lived in Providence, owned a small sloop and spent summers sailing Narragansett Bay.

The photograph of the painting was also displayed at Rhode Island School of Design on November 2 in conjunction with a discussion about the importance of Bannister's paintings. The discussion was part of a months-long celebration of Bannister's legacy that included placing a statue of the artist at Market Square in Providence.



Edward Bannister's Jamestown Harbor at Sunset, 1895, the subject of October's "From the Collection"

Museum Garden



(Above) The Cottage Gardeners who maintain the recently installed museum garden: Judy Knight, Nancy Sall, Alda Kaye, Lynda Sutton, and June Halliday. (Right) The garden along the museum access ramp.

At the museum, a grant from the Palmieri Fund was used to remove the old plant material, test the soil, and prep and replant the garden.

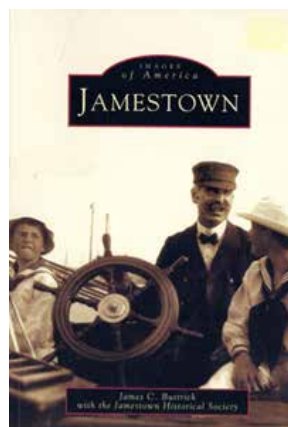
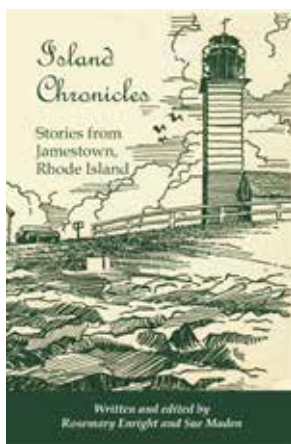
Judy Knight led the committee that selected mostly shade-loving plants because little sunlight reaches the area east of the museum. June Halliday, Alda Kaye, Karen Kalisch, Roger Marshall, Nancy Sall, and Lynda Sutton helped.



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

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