

# Johnston Historical Society

## Historical Notes

Vol. XIV, #3

Christopher Martin, Editor Louis McGowan, Assistant

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[www.JohnstonHistorical.org](http://www.JohnstonHistorical.org)

### The Merino Mill

by Louis McGowan

The Merino Mill was located at the end of Ponagansett Avenue on the south side of the Woonasquatucket River and a little east of Glenbridge Avenue in what is now Providence. Until the 1898 annexation of the area to the city, the mill was located in Johnston. Plans were being formulated to rehab the mill, but it burned to the ground in the 1980s.



A drawing of Merino Mill from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commissions survey of Providence Industrial Sites (1981).

The first Merino Mill was erected in 1812 by John Waterman and his uncle, Henry P. Franklin. They ran the mill for seven years with Franklin as financial head and Waterman as the manufacturing agent. The mill had a capacity of 1,500 spindles during that time. The mill produced woolen goods for its first two years of operation, making Merino cloth, which was a fine woolen cloth made from the wool of merino sheep. After two years, they switched to cotton goods. By 1819, Waterman had lost a considerable amount of money in the venture, and he moved on to other mills, although he remained an owner of the property.

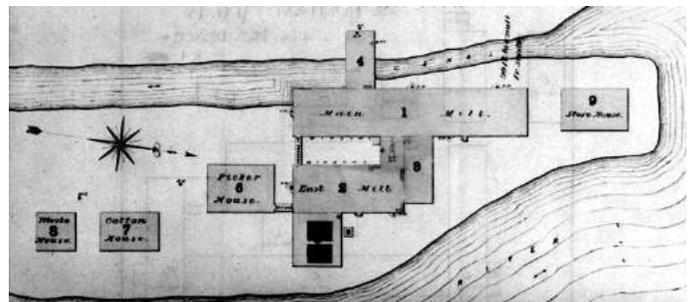
The mill continued to be run by Franklin after Waterman left the operation. Franklin is listed as paying taxes on the Merino Factory Company (1824) and the Merino Manufacturing Company (1840). In 1847, the mill property was bought by the Franklin Manufacturing Company, which consisted of Henry P. Franklin, Charles A. Franklin, and Amos D. Smith.

Secondary sources tell us that the Merino Mill was destroyed by fire in 1841, stood vacant for a while, and was rebuilt in the 1851-1853 period. This information does not agree with what is written in one of the reference books at the Johnston Town Hall. In *Partitions, Dowers, Agreements, and Liens #1, Johnston 1843-1874*, on pages 63 and 80, there are passages referring to one indenture and one agreement between Franklin

and Waterman on the one part and John Shields and George W. Cushing on the second part. With this paperwork, Shields and Cushing leased the Merino Mill property. Two mill buildings are mentioned as being on the site as well as textile machinery, a store, a dwelling house that would be occupied by Shields, and stone worker houses. The lease, drawn up in 1849, stipulated that the rent was \$1,000 for everything.

It can be speculated that the main mill burned in 1841 and was not re-built until the 1851 period. There may have been smaller buildings on the property that were used for textile manufacture and were the ones mentioned in the above-mentioned lease. We just do not know at this point.

The circa 1851 mill was a four-storied, stuccoed rubble stone building with a large mansard-roofed addition which was built in the 1860s or 1870s. A mid-nineteenth century insurance drawing shows a number of industrial buildings on the estate. Beside the main mill complex showing on the drawing, there were a store house, a picker house, a cotton house, and a waste house.



A map showing the layout of the Merino Mill from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commissions survey of Providence Industrial Sites (1981).

In the article about Johnston in the 1878 *History of Rhode Island* by Hoag and Wade, it is stated that the Merino Mill was run by the Franklin Manufacturing Company, and that they used 486 looms for their 300 workers. The company was bought out in 1885 by the Merino Manufacturing Company, ending almost forty years of occupancy by the Franklin Manufacturing Company. In 1891 Peleg J. Congdon was the president and treasurer of the Merino Manufacturing Company. At that time, they used 30,000 spindles with 569 looms and employed 325 people in turning out \$270,000 of manufactured goods annually.

The mill closed in 1897 and was sold at public auction. The estate totaled twenty-eight-and-a-half acres and included a number of tenement dwellings, some of which were made of stone. The Joslin Himalaya Company (Joslin Manufacturing Company) purchased the mill property in 1898 and replaced the looms with braiding machines. They made braids and laces at this mill complex and at five other mills that they owned in Providence and Scituate. The company was one of the largest narrow fabric producers in the area. Joslin continued producing textiles at the Merino Mill until the 1930s.

By the 1960s and through the 1970s the buildings were occupied by the Lincoln Lace and Braid Company, which produced braid throughout the period. The owner had plans to rehab the old mill in the 1990s, but the big main mill burned to the ground in 1994.

**Sources:**

- Bayles, Richard M., *History of Providence County, Rhode Island*, New York, 1891
- Bicknell, Thomas Williams, *The History of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*, New York, 1920
- Hall, Joseph, Ed., *Biographical History of the Manufacturers and Business Men of Rhode Island*, Providence, 1901
- Hoag, Wade, and Company. *History of Rhode Island*, Philadelphia, 1878
- Kulik, Gary and Julia C. Bonham, *Rhode Island, An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites*, Washington, D.C., 1978
- Woodward, William McKenzie and Edward F. Sanderson, *Providence, A Citywide Survey of Historic Resources*, R.I. Historical Preservation Commission, 1986
- *Blue Book Textile Directories*, Davison Publishing Co., 1894 to 1898
- "Board of Trade Journal," Volume XI, #1; March, 1899
- "Providence Journal of Commerce," Volume 5, #4; April, 1897
- "Estimated Highway Taxes," Johnston, manuscript copies at the Providence City Hall Archives, 1824 and 1840
- *Partitions, Dowers, Agreements, & Leases #1, Johnston 1843-1874*, Johnston Town Hall



**Producing Cotton Cloth**  
by Louis McGowan

Note: Since the textile industry played such an important role in our town's history, and since I have written a number of articles on Johnston's mills in our newsletter, I thought that detailing the steps in the cloth-producing process might be useful to our readers. The information used here was gathered during a recent visit to the National Park Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts. Part of the info was also obtained on-line from a 1939 government pamphlet entitled: "Job Descriptions for the Cotton Textile Industry".

1. **Picking:** Cotton bales are opened, picked and cleaned. *Breaking* and *opening machines* were used during this step.
2. **Carding:** Dirt and short fibers are removed from the cotton through use of the *carding machine* during this part of the process. The saved cotton fibers are laid parallel and straightened into rolls called slivers. A *sliver lapping machine* draws and combines several strands of sliver and winds it onto a spool ready for ribbon lapping or combing. A *combing*

*machine* then extracts fibers below a predetermined length and removes any remaining dirt.

3. **Drawing:** The long slivers of combed cotton are stretched and combined by the *drawing frame*.
4. **Roving:** A *slubbing machine* draws out or lengthens still further the slivers and gives a slight twist to the strands to make roving.
5. **Spinning:** The elongated roving is given a hard twist to lock the fibers together and then is wound as yarn onto bobbins. Now, either warp or filling is made. Warp is the set of yarn strands which run lengthwise in a piece of cloth. Filling, also called woof and weft, is the yarn which is interlaced through the warp to produce cloth. During this part of the process, a *twisting machine* is used to twist two or more strands of spun yarn in a heavier, stronger, single strand. A *winding machine* is also used. It winds yarn from several bobbins in a continuous length onto a spool.
6. **Dressing:** The strong warp yarn is coated with a hot starch solution to further strengthen it.
7. **Warping and Drawing-In:** The warp yarn is wound onto a beam which is fitted onto a loom and then the individual yarns are threaded through the loom harness in a process known as "drawing-in."
8. **Weaving:** Two kinds of yarn, the strong warp and the soft filling or weft yarn from a bobbin, are interlaced on the *loom* to make cloth fabric. As cloth is produced on the loom, it is wound onto a large roll and sent to the stitching machine where lengths of cloth are stitched together. The cloth is then put through the *shearing machine* which cuts away knots and loose yarn ends from the surface of the cloth to give it a smooth surface.

9. **Finishing:** The cloth is bleached, dyed, printed, inspected, and the edges are trimmed.

10. **Baling:** The cloth is pressed into bolts in preparation for shipping.



**From the Providence Gazette, December 25, 1784:**

TO be bound out, for the term of three Years, by Order of the Town Council of the Town of Johnston, one JAMES ATWOOD; an active smart young Fellow, about 24 Years of Age, who stands committed to Providence Gaol, for the Non-Performance of an Order made against him for the Maintenance of a Bastard Child. Any Person wishing to buy a Bargain, may know the Terms by applying to the Subscriber, who is fully empowered by said Town Council to dispose of the said Atwood for the Term aforesaid.

ANDREW HARRIS  
Johnston, Dec. 10, 1784

## **Eighteenth Century Door Surround**

by Steve Merolla

This past summer while driving along Cherry Hill Road I noticed that the old colonial-era house associated with the Stamp Farm was being renovated and that the beautiful pedimented door surround had been stripped off the front facade. I stopped and inquired of the homeowner of its whereabouts and was informed that it had been given to a local carpenter. Fortunately I was able to acquire it from him before he could sell it to an antique dealer in Connecticut. The doorway is quite fancy and elaborate, consisting of a triangular pediment with dentil molding, ionic pilasters or columns on the sides of the piece, and intricately carved scrollwork that sat above the pilasters. I don't think that there is anything similar to this piece still existing in Johnston.



Steve has been working to restore the doorway and so far has been able to strip away quite a bit of the old paint. *Photo by Christopher Martin.*

On account of the rarity of this piece, I decided to research the history of the house to which it was attached in order to discover who had the house (and doorway) built, and when. Rather than run a deed search from 2008, I took the shortcut of referring to old maps from the nineteenth century and then beginning the deed chain from there. Unfortunately, the 1851 Walling Map did not place an owner's name on the house but maps from 1860 and 1870 indicated that it was owned by George W. White. With that information it was just a question of working back from his time of ownership. Research showed that on March 15, 1855, George White purchased the house and thirty acres of land from Henry M. Sessions (Johnston Deeds 16/239). Subsequent to that, on March 15, 1865, Sessions sold a further eighty acres of land to White (J 21/119). In turn, Sessions had himself acquired the estate from Andrew Angell on December 9, 1840 (J 11/120). Angell had purchased the house and 115 acres from Providence merchant Charles Hadwen on March 17, 1828 (J 7/403). The next few deeds confirmed a hunch about the original owners of the land. During past research, I had learned that the Manton family had owned vast areas of land in the town; I knew for sure that they held properties extending from the present-day village of Manton near the Providence line, up to where Greenville Avenue meets the terminus of Atwood Avenue. I suspected that they also owned land ranging up Cherry Hill Road. In Deed 7/254 the Manton name appears. On March 26, 1825, a

partnership of Nicholas Brown and Joseph Manton, both Providence merchants, and Abraham and Isaac Wilkerson, North Providence merchants, had sold the estate to Charles Hadwen. Just a year earlier, on March 27, 1824, Jeremiah Manton (of Johnston) sold the house and land to the above-mentioned partnership (J 6/217). Just a month earlier, on February 4, 1824, Jeremiah Manton had received the property as part of an indenture or agreement in association with Daniel Manton Jr. (J 6/210). Basically, the agreement stated that Jeremiah would sell the property, with the proceeds paying off the debts of the two men, with any remaining money used to pay off further creditors of Daniel. The two men (who were brothers) may have gotten involved in some sort of partnership that went sour and thus put them into great financial distress.

The origins of the house would lead to the father of Daniel and Jeremiah Manton. On April 20, 1798, Daniel Manton gave to his son Daniel Manton Jr. about 115 acres of land along the "new highway" (Cherry Hill Road); however, there was no mention of the house in this deed (J 3/291). That extremely important deed was executed on November 25, 1795 (J 3/183). In that deed, Daniel Manton Esquire gave to his son Daniel Manton Jr. "...for love and good will to my son... two acres of land with a new Dwelling house thereon standing... and is part of my homestead farm and lyeth on the easterly side of the highway..." Finding this deed was a stroke of luck, for it mentioned that the house was built around the year 1795. Thus we know that the fancy door surround was produced around 1795, a date that correlates with door surround styles from the so-called Adam or Federal Period design era that stretched from about 1780 to 1820. The name of the family involved also made perfect sense. This elaborate and fancy door surround could have been afforded by only the wealthiest of families, and indeed the Mantons in the eighteenth century were one of the leading and influential people in town. They owned many hundreds of acres and indeed the present-day village of Manton is named after them. Colonel Daniel Manton Esq. (1743-1803), among other accomplishments, commanded a company of Light Horse during the Revolution and is buried in Johnston Historical Cemetery #18 just off Greenville Avenue, on Bucklin Street. Surprisingly, there is no record of Daniel Manton Jr. (1774-1831) being buried in the family cemetery, and neither is he to be located in the R.I. Historic Cemetery database.



A close-up of one of the capitals that tops one of the flanking columns. Note the detail of the carving. *Photo by Christopher Martin.*

## In Memoriam

### Gilda Perrotta, Past President of Historical Society



*Photo courtesy of the Perrotta family.*

Our society mourns the death of Gina "Gilda" (Almonte) Perrotta, who passed away on Sunday, October 5, 2008, aged 94 years. She was the mother of Louis Perrotta, formerly Mayor of Johnston, and wife of the late Louis Perrotta, with whom she founded The Louis Press in 1948. Her grandsons, Louis and Tom, now run the business. She moved to Johnston with her husband in 1938 and lived here all her life.

Mrs. Perrotta was very active in social groups in the area and was much loved. She was one of the original members of the Johnston Historical Society, a past President of our group, our oldest member, and our longest running active member. Up until a few years ago, Mrs. Perrotta attended many meetings and social functions at our headquarters. She had a great memory and was always a lot of fun.

Our sympathy goes out to her family.

### Herb Newman



*Photo by Beth Hurd.*

One of our dear friends, Herb Newman, passed away on November 11, 2008 at the age of 85. He was a long-time member of our group and enjoyed coming to our meetings. We remember his tales of the town in the old days, and we

remember his broad smile which he always showed for his many friends. He was a good friend and a really nice guy. Herb kept very active, working during apple season until a few years ago, preparing apples for the public. For a number of years he was a caretaker of the Mathewson property on Greenville Avenue and, before that, he drove truck for the Mathewson Tractor Company for many years. He was a World War II veteran and was active in the VFW. We remember him at the yearly Graniteville Memorial services, where he read "Flanders Field" during the ceremonies.

We will miss Herb at our meetings. He was much loved by our group. We extend our sympathy to his family.

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### Mathewson Farm Preserved

The fifteen-acre Mathewson Farm on Greenville Avenue in Belknap has officially been protected from future development! The development rights to the National Register property have recently been purchased by RI DEM, the culmination of a long drive by the family to protect their farm from being broken up and sold for development. With the help of the RI Historical and Heritage Preservation Commission, this preservation deal has finally been brokered. We at the historical society are very happy about this development and praise the family for their hard work and foresight in this matter.

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### Society Doings

#### Our Properties

The water tank in the basement of Elijah Angell House, which was pretty old, bit the big one in September and had to be replaced. Also, in an effort to save on heating this winter, we made sure our storm windows were installed.

It was reported at the October meeting that a window sill on the back of the museum barn is rotting and will need to be replaced.

Warren Lanpher, the contractor in charge of the Belknap School interior restoration, has received a down payment and plans to begin work in late November.

Our museum and Elijah Angell House continue to be open by appointment, and we always welcome visits by interested individuals or groups. Just shoot us an email at [info@johnstonhistorical.org](mailto:info@johnstonhistorical.org), or leave a message at (401) 231-3380 to set one up.

Our museum space is also available (on a limited basis) for meetings of small groups of adults at a reasonable price. If you know of a local group or organization that is looking for a meeting space, and might be interested in using our museum, please have them contact us.

#### Grant Activity

Through the efforts of Christopher Martin we received another \$500 grant from the Harvard Pilgrim Foundation. The money

will go toward the printing costs of our 250th anniversary booklet.

### **Cemeteries**

Dan Brown reported at our September meeting that, after haunting Highland Cemetery for a number of months, he finally got the management to complete the work on cemetery #78, relocated more than a year ago from Plainfield Pike. The earth has been smoothed inside the enclosure, grass planted, and the stones are in place.

After a three-month summer break the Cemetery Committee once again got back into the field. As noted in the previous newsletter, the Committee had reconstituted most of Cemetery #87 at the end of June. On October 4, a return visit was made and two repaired stones were reset in their bases, which basically finished work on this burial ground; all that remains is the placing of an historic cemetery marker sign.

For most of the weekends of October and November, Pat, Anthony, Joe, Everett, and Steve have been working on double Cemeteries #79 and #91, which lay adjacent to each other at the end of Mathewson Street in Graniteville. The reason we picked this as the present project is because of their location near our headquarters and the fact that an Eagle Scout, along with friends and family, did an outstanding job clearing and cleaning these two cemeteries earlier this year. The Collins, Jenckes, and Sweet families are interred here, these families being very important in the history of the village. Buried here are the Reverend Daniel Sweet (whose plaqued house is at 89 Putnam Avenue) and Prince Collins, who lived in our headquarters house at 101 Putnam Avenue. Nearly twenty gravestones have been repaired, reset in their bases, or straightened and re-aligned in these two cemeteries.

The mention of repaired stones in this report is an important development for the Committee. For years it was our intention to begin the process of repairing stones and finally it is being done. We learned the basics of the process from the Friends of Smithfield Cemeteries, who have been repairing stones for a few years and passed along their knowledge to our group. The process involves drilling holes into each end of a broken stone, inserting a threaded stainless steel rod and then gluing both ends together with a special masonry epoxy. The pieces are held together with clamps and solidly bond together within twenty-four hours. So far, the process has worked well.

As mentioned earlier in this report, Prince Collins and his family resided in our headquarters for many years. On May 8, 1841, Prince (then of Smithfield) purchased our headquarters house along with over eight acres of land (Johnston Deeds 11/155). After he died in 1879, his wife Susan continued to reside there until March 1885, when she sold out to Edwin Farnham (J new 8/142), thus ending forty-four years of ownership by the Collins family. An interesting transaction took place on June 30, 1882, when Susan Collins sold off to four other members of the Collins extended family part of Cemetery #79, none of these other persons being residents of Johnston (J 35/327). This meant that each party now owned a 1/5 share of the cemetery. This may help to explain some of the mystery of this burial ground. Though there are thirteen

members of the Collins family interred here, census records (1850, 1870, 1875, and 1880) indicate that only Prince Collins, wife Susan, and daughter Lucie lived in our headquarters (daughter Susan Levina died previous to the Collins moving to Johnston). In addition, death records also indicate that the three were the only members of this part of the Collins clan to die in Johnston; Prince died of paralysis (stroke?), Susan of a strangulated hernia, and Lucie of consumption (tuberculosis). It is obvious that Johnston Cemetery # 79 is a family burial ground for members of the extended Collins family, most of whom never lived in Johnston. Buried here are Prince Collins' father, mother, four sisters, a brother, sister-in-law, and nephew; all, it seems, who were either buried directly here or moved from other cemeteries. There is also an empty enclosure that measures twenty feet by nine feet that is demarcated by fine granite curbing. This area was almost certainly intended for another branch of the Collins family. These family members possibly decided not to use the Johnston cemetery as their final resting place for some reason; it is also possible that they were indeed initially buried here but were later moved to another cemetery.

Lastly, some unfortunate news: Construction of the new Walgreens at the corner of Atwood Avenue and Cherry Hill Road has resulted in all the trees around historical cemetery #23 being taken down. It appears that a small section of the cemetery wall was damaged, as well. A town ordinance that requires a twenty-five-foot buffer around historical cemeteries was apparently ignored by town engineers when approval was given for this project, and now it's too late to make changes. The society is mulling over ways to prevent this sort of thing from happening in the future.

It's never too late to adopt one of Johnston's one-hundred or so historical cemeteries. All you need to do is pick up trash, weed whack grass and undergrowth, and cut and clear brush at least once a year. Not only will you be helping to make your town more attractive, you'll also be helping to preserve our heritage. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please contact the Johnston Historical Society at (401) 231-3380 or [info@johnstonhistorical.org](mailto:info@johnstonhistorical.org), or Steve Merolla at (401) 944-3412.

### **Acquisitions**

- Louis gave volumes of his Johnston research, which he has collected over the years, to the society.
- A picture of the Viall Avenue School, drawn/painted by an Atwood, has been framed. The picture came from the estate of Mabel Sprague.
- Tommy Hartshorn gave a citation from France for service during WWI.
- Christopher Martin donated a large glass bottle with matching wooden crate, marked Ochee Springs Water, which he found at a yard sale in Exeter.
- Marty Cappelli donated two boxes of material from his late father, Angelo "Ace" Cappelli, who was Chief of the Johnston Fire Department and spent forty-eight years serving the Thornton Volunteer Fire Department and the town fire department. Included items are: many photographs (fire trucks, personal shots, etc.), trophies, a leather fire hat (given to him when he was elected President of the New England

Association of Fire Chiefs), newspaper clippings concerning the department, etc.

- Anthony Ricci donated a 1950s-era fall-out shelter sign.
- Larry Pezza donated a school desk which will help furnish the Belknap School.
- Louis picked up another school desk at a yard sale, bringing the society's total to around eight or nine.
- On eBay Louis found papers from the Rhode Island Adjutant General's office pertaining to the Johnston Guard dated 1863.

Our sincere thanks to all who have donated items for our collections. Keep it coming!

### Speakers

At our September general meeting we heard from Donna and Jessica Vilella who gave a presentation on their hobby of collecting U.S. military artifacts. They brought a number of interesting objects with them dating from as long ago as the American Revolution and as recent as the War in Iraq.

We also hosted a special presentation in September, sponsored by the Miriam J. Mohr Public Library. Author Ged Carbone spoke about his new book, *Nathanael Greene: A Biography of the American Revolution*.

Danny Brown gave a slide presentation on Hope Cemetery in Barre, Vermont, at our October meeting, featuring many interesting granite stones carved by master stone cutters. There was a stone shaped like an airplane, a racecar, a soccer ball, and even one depicting a couple in bed. Many of the stones were incredibly detailed.

The November meeting, held on a Monday because of the proximity of Thanksgiving, included a presentation by Colonial entertainer Dave Downs. Mr. Downs brought a number of historical medical devices with him and fascinated and horrified us with tales of extraordinary medical techniques practiced during recent centuries. One member was so affected by the graphic descriptions of surgical techniques that she felt compelled to leave the meeting early. For more information on Dave Downs, visit [www.magicdowns.com](http://www.magicdowns.com).



Some of Mr. Downs' medical devices. Photo by Christopher Martin.

### Other Past Events

We held open houses on August 17 and September 21, both of which enjoyed modest attendance.

September 27 found a large number of society members gathering at Hearthside House in Lincoln to celebrate the nuptials of society President Louis McGowan to trustee (and former Vice President) Belmira Peters. The ceremony was performed by fellow society member Warren Lanpher, with the couple dressed in 1830s-style period costume. Danny Brown was best man (doing a frighteningly good Franklin Roosevelt imitation) and sister-of-the-bride Ida Silva was maid of honor. Following the ceremony the happy couple spent a night at a Victorian bed and breakfast in Warren, followed by a few days' honeymoon in Maine.



The bride, groom, best man, and reverend. Photo by Christopher Martin

To view more photos of the proceedings, visit [picasaweb.google.com/johnstonhistorical](http://picasaweb.google.com/johnstonhistorical).

The society reserved a table for the Smith Appleby House's Colonial Dinner on November 8. The theme of the dinner this year was "From the President's Table," featuring favorite recipes of our former presidents. In attendance were Louis and Bel, Dan and Nancy, Anthony, Rolf, Joe, and a couple of friends. The meal was served by candlelight by costumed volunteers, and Louis and Bel got into the spirit of the event by dressing up themselves. Everyone had a lot of fun.

### Upcoming Events

Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at the Johnston Historical Society Museum Barn, 101 Putnam Pike, Johnston, and are free and open to the public.

#### December 13, 2008

JHS Christmas Party

6pm-9pm

Daniel Angell House, 15 Dean Avenue. Members Alice and Jim Lombardi have graciously opened their historic home to society members and their guests for this year's holiday gathering. Call Kit Rhodes at (401) 231-7523 to RSVP. Let her know if you will be bringing a dessert, finger food, or hors-

d'oeuvre. Parking at the house is extremely limited, so please park at our headquarters and walk over to Dean Avenue.

**December 14, 2008**

Christmas Open House

2pm-4pm

Elijah Angell House, 101 Putnam Pike. Come in from the cold, traveler, and join the Johnston Historical Society for candlelight, yuletide music, and refreshments in their restored 1824 farmhouse. The adjacent Johnston History Museum, housed in a replica post-and-beam barn, will also be open. Free.

**January 28, 2009**

General Meeting

7pm

Our speaker will be researcher Judith A. Bisette, who will give a presentation on the North Providence village of Lymonsville.

**February 25, 2009**

General Meeting

7pm

Ralph Florio will talk about the Italian community in Johnston.

**March 25, 2009**

General Meeting

7pm

Society member Fred Mikkelson will talk about his experiences as one of the last keepers of Conimicut Lighthouse (1958-'61).

**Johnston's 250th Birthday**

The 250th Committee has not been idle over the summer. They put together an eighty-page commemorative booklet and raised over \$4,000 for the printing of same through ad sales and a grant from the Harvard Pilgrim Foundation. Copies of the book should be available for purchase by mid-December.

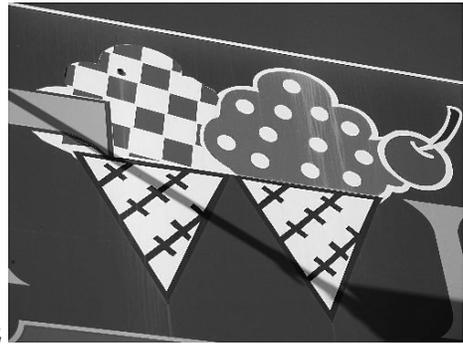
**What the Heck is That?**

A different look at some Johnston Landmarks  
by Christopher Martin

Following are some close-ups of places or objects located in the Town of Johnston. Can you identify what or where they are? (Answers will appear in the next issue).



1



2



3

Answers to last month's poser:

- 1) King Family Memorial, Neutaconkanut Hill, off Plainfield Street.
- 2) The weathervane on top of Johnston Town Hall.
- 3) Yankee Supply Company, 2140 Hartford Avenue.

**Contribute To Our Newsletter!**

We are always looking for articles for our newsletter. Naturally, we would like pieces that have to do with the town's history, but if you have an interest that ties in with history somehow, why not share it with us? Maybe you collect old snuffboxes or old railroad material. Maybe you have done some of your family history that others might be interested in. Maybe you would like to talk about the old days in Johnston. Wouldn't it be fun to share your knowledge! You do not have to be a great writer to put together an article. None of us are great literary figures. If you need help though, one of us would be glad to assist you.

We think that it will make for a much better newsletter if others contribute pieces that they have written. Remember, your reminiscences about the old days in Johnston will become valuable pieces of our town's history. But if you do not get them down on paper, they will be lost forever. We should make sure that future generations know what went on in times past.

**Next newsletter deadline: March 20, 2009.**

**Our Executive Board**

President: Louis McGowan  
Vice-President: Dan Brown  
Treasurer: Joe Jamroz  
Recording Secretary: Evelyn Beaumier  
Corresponding Secretary: Christopher Martin  
Trustee: John Barratini  
Trustee: Virginia Brunelle  
Trustee: Rolf Johnson  
Trustee: Bel Peters

Our Executive Board meets at 7pm in the Museum building, 101 Putnam Pike, on the second to the last Wednesday of each month, September through June (except December). All are welcome to attend.

General Meetings are held at 7pm the last Wednesday of each month, September through June (no December meeting. We hold our Holiday Party that month). The meetings are held in the Museum Building.

Our phone number is: (401) 231-3380  
Our website address is: [www.JohnstonHistorical.org](http://www.JohnstonHistorical.org)  
Our email address is: [Info@JohnstonHistorical.org](mailto:Info@JohnstonHistorical.org)

**Annual Dues**

Have you paid your 2008 dues yet? It is that time again. Your dues help us to operate. The price of a single membership is only \$15; a family membership is only \$20. Wotta bargain! So once more, please pay your 2008 dues. Send us a check today!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Renewal    Single (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_  
                  Family (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

New            Single (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_  
                  Family (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

Don't forget -- your donations to the Johnston Historical Society can be deducted from your taxes. We are registered with the Federal Government as a non-profit organization.

**JOHNSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
101 PUTNAM PIKE  
JOHNSTON, RHODE ISLAND 02919**