

# Johnston Historical Society

## Historical Notes

Vol. XXIII, #1

Christopher Martin, Editor   Louis McGowan, Assistant

March 2017

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

### The Johnston Elm by Steve Merolla

[Back in 2003, Dan Meunier and I authored a booklet called "Notable Trees of Johnston, R.I." Featured was a story on the great "Johnston Elm," a story bound up in town history. In recognition of Spring arriving, I thought it appropriate to reprise that piece. What follows is the same story presented on pages 7-9 of the booklet, with some additions and deletions. Copies of "Notable Trees" can be obtained at the Mohr library.]

There are many objects of historical interest in Johnston that have been wrought by the hands of its townspeople, such as houses, mills, dams, stone walls, cemeteries, public buildings, and the like. But there once stood in town an object of wonder that was part of the natural world. This was the famous Johnston Elm.

The American elm (*Ulmus Americana*) was for decades one of our most important shade trees, extensively planted along roadways and streets. I think we have all seen old pictures of magnificent elms lining the sides of city streets with their canopies of shade. They were well-suited to the urban environment, being tolerant of ice, salt, pollution, and drought. These great trees could grow to a height of 120-140 feet.

Originally ranging from the Atlantic coast to the Rockies, this species has unfortunately been devastated by Dutch Elm disease, a fungus that was introduced accidentally to this country on diseased logs from Europe in the 1930s. As a result, 90% of elms in this country have succumbed to the disease. It had previously wreaked havoc among the elm population of Europe. Interestingly, it is now thought that the fungus originated in Asia.

The Johnston Elm surpassed all other trees in the town in regards to size, stature, and renown. The fame of this tree spread outside the borders of Johnston. Oliver Wendell Holmes, an educated Bostonian who was a medical doctor, poet, novelist, and college lecturer, enhanced the fame of this landmark. His best-known literary work was *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table* (1858), a series of personal

essays and poems. Holmes had an abiding love for the great elms that once flourished throughout New England, and he would travel far and wide in search of such a specimen:

"I must tell you about my tree-wives. I was at one time devoted to the young-lady population of Rhode Island, a small but delightful State in the neighborhood of Pawtucket... I heard some talk of a great elm a short distance from the locality just mentioned... Knowing that it was on a certain farm in a place called Johnston, if I remember rightly. I shall never forget my ride and my introduction to the great Johnston elm... All at once, I saw a great green cloud swelling on the horizon, so vast, so symmetrical, of such Olympian majesty... that my heart stopped short, then jumped at my ribs... And I felt all through me, without need of uttering the words, 'This is it.' It is a grand elm for size of trunk, spread of limb, and muscular development -- one of the first, perhaps *the* first, of the first class elms of New England."



The carriage parked at its base gives some indication of the size of the famous Johnston Elm in this 1864 Manchester Brothers photo.

George B. Emerson, in his "A Report of Trees and Shrubs Growing Naturally in the Forests of Massachusetts" (1850), vol. II, pages 328-329, provides the following account of the tree:

"At Johnston, R.I., on the estate of Zuriel Potter Esq., is a magnificent elm, which I measured August 21, 1840, with the aid of the Hon. Horace Mann. At from 12 to 15 feet, it throws up a prodigious weight of branches, twelve, each equal to a tree, and forming a broad, one-sided head. At five feet from the ground, which is the smallest place, its girth is 22 feet 2 inches... The horizontal extent of the southeast branch is 69 feet, 1 inch. It is a very old tree and falling into decay, but it is still vigorous and clothed with rich, dark foliage. Its uncommon growth doubtless is owing to its particular situation. A perennial stream flows near it and its most vigorous limbs are stretched so as to overshadow for many feet, the little fertile glade through which it flows..."

This great elm was severely damaged by what is known as the Saxby gale, which roared up the New England coast on October 4-5, 1869, making landfall at the Maine-New Brunswick border. Some meteorological historians believe that this was possibly a Category 2 hurricane with sustained winds of between 96 to 110 miles per hour. The tree lingered on until 1873, when it was finally removed. One can only speculate at how much larger the tree grew in the thirty-three years after Emerson measured it in 1840.

The Johnston Elm was once the focal point of a historically interesting location. It stood near the old house located today at 823 Hartford Avenue. This house was probably built in the early eighteenth century by Mr. Mercy Borden. At the time the house was built, the elm was likely already a mature specimen, one source stating that it first sprouted in the late 1600s. Through marriage, the property passed into the King family, which became one of the most influential in town. Samuel Ward King became the only Johnston resident ever elected Governor of the State of Rhode Island. Many other members of the family were to serve as elected or appointed officials in the town, including Zuriel Potter (mentioned in Emerson's account), the last member of the family to own the property. Members of the Borden/King family are buried just up and across Hartford Avenue from where the elm once stood.

Towards the back of the old Borden/King house was the site of what became the Ochee Spring Water Company, which was established by Horatio N. Angell in 1875. The business operated until the 1940s, when it was destroyed by a fire. The Ochee Spring Co. bottled both clear natural water and carbonated soft drinks, utilizing the crystal clear water that flowed from the spring. The perennial stream mentioned by George Emerson in 1840 may in fact have been associated with the Ochee Spring of later years; if so, the waters of Ochee Spring also quenched the thirst of the Johnston Elm.

The majesty of the Johnston Elm was appreciated by many of the local citizenry of the late nineteenth century. Horatio N. Angell's estate was known as the "Big Elm Tree Farm." A grand old hotel was once located at the northeast corner of Hartford Avenue and Killingly Street, on the stagecoach route to Danielson, Connecticut. Located only about a quarter mile from the great elm, it was referred to as both the "Greek Tavern" and the "Elm House." Another indication of the renown of the tree was that a wonderful photograph was taken of it in 1864 by Manchester Brothers. In the early days of photography in the mid-nineteenth

century, landscape views were not as common as personal portraits. That this great elm was honored with its own portrait in 1864 shows the admiration that people have had for this tree for generations.

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### Simmonsville School

*[The following piece was put together from info gathered during my interview with Al Kimball on August 17, 2003. The last Simmonsville School was located on Kimball Avenue. -- LHM]*

Al remembered that the Simmonsville School had two rooms, one called the big room and one called the little room (even though they were the same size). The smaller room was for grades 1 to 3 and the larger room was for grades 4 to 6. There were six rows of desks in each room, all desks being the same size. Both the desks and the chairs were stand-alone pieces and all were bolted to the floors.

He remembers the school being vacant for many years after it closed. It finally burned.



The third and final Simmonsville school is pictured here between 1933 and '34. Photo courtesy of the DelFino family.

The school never had indoor plumbing. There was one big outhouse, one half with nine seats for the girls and the same for the boys. A partitioned-off seat was provided on each side for teachers.

The school had a coal-fired, hot air furnace. He said it was never too warm in the building.

Al remembered that Ruth Lindahl was the first grade teacher in 1921 or 1922.

School closed down at lunch time and most everyone went home. Sometimes, a few of the children would stay and play soccer, baseball or "dobbs." To play the latter game, one person would lean against the wall and others would lock arms around each other. The opposing team would then jump on top of the first group. If any of them touched the ground, that team lost.

Al recalled that the school bell was rung in the morning, at recess, and at the end of the day.

Al also told me about his sister, Gertrude Kimball. She graduated in 1934 from Rhode Island College of Education and started teaching the next year at Belknap School. She was the last teacher to teach there.

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## The Quarries On Pine Hill (Part 2)

by Louis McGowan

In our March 2015 edition of "Historical Notes," we published a story about the quarries on Pine Hill in Graniteville. We are publishing a second part to this story because new information has come to light. This info was gathered from a photocopy in our archives of a *Providence Sunday Journal* article from December 20, 1903.



The Weybosset end of the Arcade, 2014. *Photo by Christopher Martin.*

In this article, the unknown author states that the quarry was named after the Bear Rock, a huge boulder on the crest of the ridge at Pine Hill. He also tells us that the Bear Rock Quarry (aka Bare Rock Quarry) in Graniteville was exhausted for large work after the columns for the Arcade were taken out, jacked up and cut by hand. We are told the work was done quickly, and one workman is said to have finished a shaft in thirty days from the time that it was blasted out of the living rock. The contractor, after replacing a broken column, was said to have almost been ruined financially. The author tells us that the first column was crafted by a Boston stonecutter because the contractor for the job, Johnston's own James Olney, feared that he might not be able to do the work. The Boston stonecutter, though, made such a profit that Olney finished the others himself. Massa Bennett was the general superintendent of the work and Thomas Seckell and James Lewis were the master masons. The columns were cut out in three sections, the base, the shaft and the cap. The shafts were of one piece and were twenty-one feet high (an earlier article says the shafts were twenty-two feet in length). With the base and cap added on, the total came to twenty-four feet.

Olney went to central New York and bought yokes of oxen to haul the pillars from the ledge to the Arcade, seven miles away (a

source for my earlier article states that the distance was eight miles). The exact amount of oxen that was used is not definite, as was brought up in the first article. The author of the article I am taking information from for this article tells us that one source says there were twelve oxen, but another source says there were fifteen yoke. The custom-built wagon(s) had special low gears with unusually large and heavy wheels. The columns were hauled to the Arcade in less than a day. The bridge at Olneyville was strengthened, but no other measures were necessary. The pillars were hoisted into place at the Arcade by a large boom derrick placed in the portico and operated by a windlass rigged in the cellar. The author tells us that the architects, Russell Warren and James C. Bucklin, themselves swung the monoliths into position, and Bucklin oversaw the setting of each one. The latter was said to be a master builder. No one was injured during the setting of the columns, six of which were set in one day. Thus ends the story for now of Johnston's most famous granite quarry and its connection to one of the most important buildings in our state. The Arcade is still functioning nicely and is used by many people on a daily basis.

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## The Pocasset Casino

by Louis McGowan

The Pocasset Casino Holding Company was chartered on the 11th of March, 1935. The original signees on the incorporation papers were: Michael Riccitelli of Plainfield Street in Johnston; William J. Golini of Clemence Street in Cranston; and Carlo Rainone of John Street in Thornton. Members, mostly from Thornton and Simmonsville, paid annual dues, and became stockholders in the corporation. Soon after acquiring the Casino, the new owners installed a bocchia court out back.



The original Pocasset Social Club. *Postcard courtesy of Louis McGowan.*

The club burned in 1944. The members bought more stock, opened its membership to more stockholders, and rebuilt the building within three years.

The Pocasset Casino Club was incorporated on the 13th of January, 1948 "for the purpose of promoting social, fraternal, beneficial and literary advancement and also for the welfare of its members." The signees of the incorporation papers were: Joseph Mancini of Plainfield Street, Cranston; Luigi G. Aurecchia of School Street, Johnston; Frank Garofano of Plainfield Street, Johnston; Ernest A. Mongone of Pocasset Street, Johnston;

Joseph A. Russo of Simmonsville Avenue, Johnston; Vincent Izzi of Plainfield Street, Johnston; Italo A. Zambarano of Plainfield Street, Johnston; and Pasquale Scungio of Venner Street, Thornton.

*Sources:*

- Original Articles of Association for The Pocasset Casino Holding Co., State of R.I.; March 11, 1935.
- Original Articles of Association for The Pocasset Casino Club, State of R.I.; January 13, 1948.
- Paper presented at Rhode Island College on May 2, 1979 by Kevin P. Gatta entitled: "The Working and Social Side of an Italian Community, Thornton-Simmonsville, Johnston, R.I."

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**Pocasset Falls**

On Saturday, November 12, 2016, five society members departed from Johnston Memorial Park to view Pocasset Falls, only recently "re-discovered" by Benjamin Cote, President of the Ten Mile River Watershed Council. Tour leader Arthur Iannelli led Elise Carlson, Steve Merolla, Doug Stephens, and Louis McGowan on a fun-filled trek through the woods to the long-forgotten site, thought by many to have been destroyed by the construction of Route 295. It was a thrill to view the site which hikers long ago had enjoyed, photographed, and written about.



And here is a recent photo taken by Arthur Iannelli.



Pocasset Falls is seen here in an undated photo from our collection.

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**Society Doings**

**JHS Property Clean-Up**

On Saturday, November 19, eight members of our society spent the early morning cleaning up the yard on our headquarters property. We worked hard and got a lot done. Thanks to: Marie & Walter Thierfelder, Anthony Ursillo, Elise Carlson, Shar DiMaio, Joe Jamroz, Doug Stephens and Louis McGowan.

**Phil Lemoi Donates Holiday Decorations**

For a number of years, JHS member Phil Lemoi has been donating and putting up holiday wreaths and roping on our buildings for the Christmas season. This year he has once again put up roping on the Elijah Angell House and has additionally put up roping on the entire run of fencing on our property on Putnam Pike. A big thank you goes out to Phil. He and his wife Lori have also been helping Bel McGowan decorate the museum wing for our upcoming Christmas party.

**JHS Christmas Party**

On Sunday, December 4, 2016, we held our annual Christmas party. Over 50 people attended the festive event. We did something a little different this year. Pat Perry from Sneak Peek Productions visited and thrilled us with her tales of Victorian Christmas celebrations.

Chair of the event was Bel McGowan, who outdid herself in putting the party together. She decorated both the outside of the property and the interior of the museum building. She did all she could in keeping with the Victorian theme. She had some great help from Phil & Lori Lemoi and Ellen Lanpher.

After the one hour presentation by Pat, we settled down to some good food and conversation. Some wonderful finger foods and desserts were donated by our members. Mari Ingesson provided us with some very nice violin Christmas music during the afternoon party.

Special thanks go out to Bel, of course, and to all the others who contributed their time and effort to make a wonderful time for members, family and friends. The helpers included: Joe Jamroz, Elise Carlson, Phil & Lori Lemoi, Ellen Lanpher, Louis McGowan, Bel's sister Ida, Jim and Alice Lombardi and Bel's daughter's family (Stacy and her husband, Mike and grandchildren, Trevor and Kylie). Thanks also to all who attended. All in all, just a great event!

### Spring Cleaning

Thanks to Elise Carlson, with some help from her son Eric, for doing a wonderful job of cleaning up the museum barn.

### Facebook

We've recently been sharing dozens of old advertisements for Johnston businesses on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical](http://www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical)), dating from 1898 to the mid 1990s. If you haven't seen them yet, check them out in the Historical Advertising photo album.

This ad for Lennie's Restaurant comes from the January 12, 1967, issue of *The Observer*. The address at 2210 Hartford Avenue is now the site of a Progressive Insurance Service Center. Can't beat these prices!

<b>Lennie's Restaurant</b>	
2210 HARTFORD AVENUE, JOHNSTON	
<b>CHARCOAL BROILED HAMBURGER PLATE</b> FRENCH FRIES LETTUCE AND TOMATO VEGETABLE, ROLLS, BUTTER <b>1.10</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dinners</i></p> BUTTER BALL BAKED HAM ..... 1.35 CHARCOAL BROILED CALF'S LIVER ..... 1.15 CHOPPED SIRLOIN ..... 1.25 CHARCOAL BROILED PORK CHOPS (2) Choice Cut ..... 1.35 BREADED VEAL CUTLET ..... 1.25 CHARCOAL BROILED OPEN STEAK SANDWICH ..... 1.20 <small>Served on Toast — No Rolls</small> <small>ABOVE ORDERS SERVED WITH FRENCH FRIES            LETTUCE AND TOMATO, VEGETABLE, ROLLS AND BUTTER</small> <b>THE BEST FISH &amp; CHIPS IN TOWN</b> <small>Orders To Go    Friday Only    647-3857</small>
<b>SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN</b> FRENCH FRIES LETTUCE AND TOMATO ROLLS — BUTTER <b>1.35</b>	

### Our Properties

#### Museum

Our museum barn is open Monday nights (except holidays), 6:30-8:30pm; and Fridays, 2-5pm, for those who would like to visit the museum or examine the society's collection of printed materials. Both the museum and Elijah Angell House continue to be open by appointment -- we always welcome visits by interested individuals or groups. Just shoot us an email at [history@jhs.necoxmail.com](mailto:history@jhs.necoxmail.com), 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.

### Cemetery Committee Report

by Pasco Macari

Cemetery #30, the Sprague yard off Scituate Avenue near the start of Shun Pike, was very overgrown when the committee began cleaning and restoration. Arnold's inventory from the 1890s records sixteen burials. This yard is unprotected with several large boulders pushed onto the yard covering seven rude burials. Cleaning the yard was completed in two visits. Repairing and resetting stones was also completed in two weeks. Two slate foot and one slate head were repaired. We were able to move one large boulder to uncover a rude burial. Note: the carver of Joseph Sprague misspelled his last name. Also, a very nice find in this yard -- what we believe are three slate stones by Borden Thornton, a Johnston stone carver.

Cemetery #55, the Steare yard, is located on DEM property, Dame Farm, Brown Avenue. A totally molested yard, making for a very difficult restoration. There are seven marked stones, five slate, two marble, and we believe, also three rude burials. One repaired head and two repaired foot stones. We reset all seven head and four foot stones. We took liberties as to the location we chose to reset the stones. Again, this yard was so disturbed we could not determine exactly where the burials are.

The committee cleared and cleaned cemetery #50, the Hudson yard located on Taylor Road. With only two burials and no repairs this yard was completed in two weeks.

We completed the fall clean-up in the following previously restored yards:

- #16 Atwood Avenue
- #1 Hopkins Avenue
- #2 Winsor Avenue
- #76 and 77 off Greenville Avenue on DEM property

A special thanks goes out to the group of Citizens Bank employees, along with Elise and Steve, for cleaning and raking yard #21, Hartford Avenue. Thanks to the highway department for removing all the debris from the sites. Also, as always, we thank the Recreation Department crew for cutting the grass in many of our cemeteries.

### Speakers

Our November speaker was Ken DeCosta, Director of Rhode Island Society for the Examination of Unexplained Phenomena. Over forty members and guests attended Ken's presentation, which included a discussion of both explained and unexplained happenings. His team uses both photographs and recordings in their work.

Louis McGowan was our January 2017 speaker. He gave a slide presentation showing some of our recent acquisitions. His talk was well-received.

For February, Roberta Mudge Humble paid a return visit to our group. The topic for her slide presentation was the Armories of Rhode Island. She did a great job, showing us both vintage and modern views of each building. We all finished the evening with a much greater appreciation of our state's many armories.

### Acquisitions

- In Dec. 2016, we purchased on eBay some items that came from the Newman family in Manton. There was a 1909-1910 farm ledger, listing cash paid and received. There were also four receipts from various businesses. The items appear to come from Otto G. Newman, who ran a business in Manton.
- An eBay purchase brought us a R.C. Berker Machine Co. matchbook cover. The company was once located in Victoria Mill on Mill Street in Thornton.
- Donald Jackson and family have donated a number of items from their father's business, W.E. Jackson Bindery, to our group: six bookbinding tools; a beautiful display of leather bookends; photos of William E. Jackson and his wife, founders of the business; papers relating to the Graniteville Memorial; and various artifacts from the business.



A few of the items from the W.E. Jackson Bindery collection. *Photo by Christopher Martin.*

Many donated objects may be seen in the Acquisitions photo album on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical](http://www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical)). As always, our sincere thanks to all who have donated items for our collections. Keep it coming!

### Wish List

Following are a number of items we could make good use of:

- Display mannequins
- Old photos of Johnston
- Any Johnston-related ephemera or memorabilia

### In Memorium

#### Alfred R. Arsenault

Our society regrets the passing of Alfred R. Arsenault on November 29, 2016. Al was born in 1939. In his working days, Al was a librarian in the Harwich School system on Cape Cod and later at New England Tech. A long-time member of our group, Al had a keen interest in history and attended many of our monthly meetings.

#### George Caldwell

Our society also regrets the passing of JHS member George Caldwell, December 8, 2016. George was born in Graniteville in 1929 and had a life-long love of the village. He was a volunteer fireman there and always recalled fondly his days in Graniteville. He graduated from Bryant College in accounting, which became his career. George was a U.S. Army veteran from the Korean War and was long active in veterans' affairs. In 2013, he was one of the movers in obtaining the Korean War Memorial stones for Graniteville.

#### Robert Jackson

Long-time JHS member Robert Jackson passed away on January 17, 2017, at the age of 95 years. Bob was a member of our group for over thirty years and was instrumental to the re-forming of the JHS in the 1990s. For many years Bob was the owner and treasurer of the family business, W.E. Jackson, Bookbinders. He was a lifelong member of the Graniteville Volunteer Fire Department and a lover of history, especially the Civil War. He will be missed greatly by his family and friends.

#### Evelyn Merolla

Our sympathy goes out to Steve Merolla and his brother Tom and sister Joan on the loss on January 26, 2017, of their mother, Evelyn Merolla. Steve was her main caregiver for many years, a task he performed with love and selflessness. He, of course, was assisted by his siblings and friends. Evelyn was a great cook and a loving homemaker for Steve and his late father Tom before illness prevented her from doing what she loved most, taking care of her family.

#### John Barattini

Our society is saddened to learn of the passing of long-time member John Barattini, who died at the age of 77 on February 1, 2017. A former trustee of our group, John was very active in the JHS before health problems slowed him down. He enjoyed coming to meetings and had a quick smile for all his friends. John was generous with his time, teaching computer use at the VA Hospital and at the Johnston Senior Center. He and his wife Regina were able to attend our last event, our annual Christmas party. Our thoughts are with Regina and her family and many friends.

#### Vail Clemence

We have just learned of the passing of Vail Clemence, former member of our society. He passed away at the age of 85 while living in Bowie, Maryland, with his wife Barbara, they were married in Johnston in 1950. Vail was a member of the Clemence family of Johnston, which dates back to the seventeenth century in our town.

## Upcoming Events

### March 29, 2017

General Meeting

7pm

Our speaker will be Helen Hersh Tjader of the Neutaconkanut Conservancy, giving a talk entitled: "Neutaconkanut Hill -- Gateway to Sowams." It can be argued that, as a pivotal place of cultural exchange between indigenous people and colonizing settlers in North America, Neutaconkanut Hill is the gateway to Sowams. Come learn more about the incredible role of our local land and its people have played in our national history.

### April 15, 2017

Tag Sale

8am-2pm

JHS Headquarters, 101 Putnam Pike, Johnston. Come by and buy stuff. Better yet, donate some gently used stuff that we can sell. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Johnston Historical Society.

### April 26, 2017

General Meeting

7pm

Massachusetts Bay Colony governor John Winthrop famously called us "Rogue's Island." Find out why when Roger Williams National Memorial park ranger John McNiff gives a talk on Pirates, Privateers, and Rhode Island. Prior to the meeting, at 6pm, the Elijah Angel House will be open for viewing. And at 6:30 there will be a tree planting ceremony -- we received the gift of a dogwood sapling from Apple Blossom Garden Club, North Smithfield. Show up early if you want to tour the house and/or witness the spectacle.

### May 6, 2017

Trip to Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum

55 Bridge Street, Willimantic, Connecticut

10am-4pm

JHS members are invited to step outside Rhode Island for a day of railroading history. It's the Museum's opening day, and there will be train rides, blacksmithing demonstrations, and music, and JHS trustee Rolf Johnson has offered to lead a tour of the facilities. More details to come. Museum admission: Adults, \$7; children 8-12, \$3; under 8, free. [www.cteastrrmuseum.org](http://www.cteastrrmuseum.org). If you want to carpool, meet at JHS Headquarters at 9am that morning. (Willimantic is approximately one hour from Johnston via Route 6).

### May 13, 2017

Johnston Historical Society Yard Cleanup Day

8am-11am

Many hands make light work, so they say. Please lend your hands and help spruce up the yard around the Elijah Angell House and our museum barn.

### May 31, 2017

General Meeting

7pm

Our speaker will be Peter Hacunda, a Tour Guide with the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. Peter will explore the

extraordinary business of whaling in nineteenth century New Bedford with consideration given to the challenges, adventures, fortunes, and misfortunes of the myriad of people involved in the industry.

### June 3, 2017

Open House

JHS will be holding a joint open house event with Historic New England, featuring JHS's Elijah Angell House, 101 Putnam Pike, and HNE's Clemence-Irons House, 38 George Waterman Road. More detail to come.

### June 28, 2017

General Meeting

7pm

Christopher Martin and David Stone will be on hand to talk about their collaborative effort, the Arcadia Publishing title *Rhode Island Clam Shacks*. This meeting will also include an election for the JHS Executive Board.

**Note:** Our museum barn is open Monday nights (except holidays), 6:30-8:30pm; and Fridays, 2-5pm, for those who would like to visit the museum or examine the society's collection of printed materials. Just in case, call ahead to confirm we're here.

Do you have a suggestion for a future speaker? Or do you yourself have a topic you'd like to present at one of our meetings? Please drop us a line at [history@jhs.necoxmail.com](mailto:history@jhs.necoxmail.com) or leave a message at (401) 231-3380.



As of this month our Facebook page has 708 followers! Have you 'liked' us yet? To find us type this address into your computer browser:

[www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical](http://www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical)

### 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: July 15, 2017.**

**Our Executive Board**

President: Louis McGowan  
Vice-President: Dan Brown  
Treasurer: Joe Jamroz  
Recording Secretary: Elise Carlson  
Corresponding Secretary: Christopher Martin  
Trustees: Belmira McGowan, Doug Stephens, Marie Thierfelder, and Anthony Ursillo.

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 Barn.

Phone: (401) 231-3380  
Website: www.JohnstonHistorical.org  
Email: History@JHS.necoxmail.com  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical

**Annual Dues**

Have you paid your 2015 dues yet? Your dues help us to operate. The price of a single membership is only \$20; a family membership is only \$30. Wotta bargain! So once more, please pay your 2015 dues. Send us a check today!

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

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

Renewal    Single (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_  
              Family (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_

New         Single (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_  
              Family (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_

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**