

Johnston Historical Society

Historical Notes

Vol. XXV, #1

Christopher Martin, Editor Louis McGowan, Assistant
www.JohnstonHistorical.org

March 2019

History of the Johnston Historical Society by Louis McGowan

[Continued from the previous issue...]

Dan Brown continued to head up yard sales during these years. In February 2002, a State Legislative Grant enabled us to purchase thirty photo reprints of town historic houses that were originally photographed by William Ely in the 1920s. We now have about seventy photos from his collection which is housed at the Rhode Island Historical Society.

We had a country tea at the Lanpher's house on Hopkins Avenue chaired by Bel. It was our biggest fundraiser to date, netting us \$700.

The town deeded over the Belknap School to us in March 2002. In the summer, our executive board stripped the interior of the building of its mid- to late twentieth century additions.

Our 2001 Champlin Foundations Grant totaled \$26,840 and was used for: a bathroom addition to our museum, applying preservative to the museum, and replacement of the baseboard heat in the Elijah Angell House.

In our museum in the summer of 2002, Arthur Iannelli set up an exhibit of Native American artifacts, most of which are from Johnston.

Vice-President Pat Macari and Treasurer Dan Brown switched positions in September 2002. Dan still serves as Vice-President.

The Champlin Foundations funded the restoration of the exterior of the Belknap School with a 2002 Grant of \$79,000. We did not receive a 2003 Champlin Grant or a 2005 grant. Our 2004 Champlin Grant of \$9,600 funded the replacement of the roof shingles on the Elijah Angell House.

Bel's tea committee was very busy in this period. In November 2004, we had a successful tea at Warren and Ellen Lanpher's house, and in November 2005, a wonderful tea was held at Nancy Nadeau's house on Winsor Avenue. In 2006, Nancy again volunteered for an ice cream social at her house. In 2007, we had a tea social at the John Stevens House (with ticket sales, a raffle, and an auction, we cleared \$960). In April 2009, we held a tea at the Graniteville Baptist Church, which was well attended.

In addition to those members already mentioned, new and valuable members have joined our group along the way in the last fifteen or twenty years, including: Liz and Mike Burch, Jim and Alyce Lombardi, Fred Mikkelsen, Rolf Johnson, Phil and Lori Lemoi, Kit Rhodes, Joe Jamroz, Elise Carlson, Kim Calcagno, Ellen Lanpher, Anthony Ricci, Beth Hurd, Anthony Ursillo, Tim Kee, and Virginia Brunelle.

Flea markets were held on the society property pretty much yearly.



Everett Cogswell, Pat Macari, and Doug Stevens working hard in Cemetery #58 in June 2015. *Photo by Steve Merolla.*

A 2004 Senate Grant enabled us to buy artifacts for the Belknap School. In 2006, Alan Iemma was able to legally transfer many boxes of early school attendance records from the town to our museum.

Around this time, Pat Macari led the cemetery committee on a drive to restore all the town's cemeteries. Up to 2017, he led the crew, meeting weekly to clean the lots and to re-erect and repair headstones. He, Steve Merolla, Doug Stephens, Elise Carlson, Shar DiMaio, and Marie Thierfelder have been the backbone of the committee right up to the present time. Also assisting along the way have been Everett Cogswell, Anthony Ursillo, Anthony Ricci, Bill Rotondo, and Tim Kee.

In the early years of the twenty-first century, a number of non-profits and other small groups met in our museum meeting room including: the local DAR chapter, the Republican Town Committee, the Southern New England Antiques Dealers Association, and the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council.

We organized a walking tour of Graniteville in June of 2006.



Recording Secretary Elise Carlson at a Society cookout in June 2014.
Photo by George Daignault.

As of 2006, our society had plaqued twenty houses, including those marked in the 1980s.

In December 2006, the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission announced they were awarding us a \$30,000 matching grant to go toward the restoration of the interior of the Belknap School. We would be responsible for matching funds of \$15,000. Thanks to Mike Salvatore, Rhode Island Resource Recovery gave us \$5,000 towards our goal. Another \$6,000 came from the sale of our Brown Avenue property to Rhode Island DEM. Other donors were: PreserveRI who gave us a \$699 and the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, which gave us \$700 towards the matching funds, needed.

Christopher Martin since 2006 has yearly enabled us to get \$500 grants from his employer, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. Anthony Ricci also facilitated us receiving a few grants from his employer, Verizon.

Thanks to Christopher, we set up a website in 2006. He also became co-editor of our Historical Notes, taking over as Editor in 2008 with Louis as Assistant Editor.

The Graniteville War Memorial disbanded in 2008 and responsibility for the war memorial passed on to our group as of January 2008.

In 2008, we started work on a book for Johnston's 250th anniversary in 2009. Ads and book sales financed the project.

Warren Lanpher was the lowest of three bidders for the interior restoration work at the Belknap School.

Bel led another successful fundraiser in June of 2008 (netting \$870), when we held a tea at the Graniteville Baptist Church.

JHS past-president and one of the original charter members of our group, Gina Parrotta, passed away on October 4, 2008 at age 94.

The JHS hosted a celebration on March 15, 2009, of the 250th Anniversary of our town's founding. The event was held at the town's Senior Center and 200-plus people attended. There were a number of historic displays to view as well as two slide presentations. Rhode Island College professor Bill Hutchison gave a talk while dressed as Roger Williams. Invited guests included town politicians and department heads as well as Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts and State Treasurer Frank Caprio. Our 250th Anniversary Book sold over 250 copies.

Christopher Martin put together our first Town-wide Scavenger Hunt in August 2009. Others followed in 2011, '12, '13, and '14.

In November 2009, we heard from the Champlin Foundations that they had approved our request of \$8,550, which was for exterior work on the Elijah Angell House (front door work and replacing the back stairs, which was completed by Warren in April of 2010).



Michael Smith and Rolf Johnson confirming finds during our 2009 Townwide Scavenger Hunt. *Photo by Beth Hurd.*

On New Year's Eve 2009 we hosted a fun dinner at the Smith/Appleby House. A JHS high tea was also held at the Smith/Appleby House in April, and a second one in November 2010. In the same year, we held a Vintage Dress-up Auction at Anthony Ursillo's Shang Bailey Roadhouse. In February 2016, we put on a Valentine's High Tea at the Elijah Angell House. In

May of 2016, Bel chaired a fundraiser at our museum, a Queen Mary Dinner, which was attended by forty people.

About sixty people attended the dedication of the recently restored Belknap School in May 2010. In October of that year we were recognized (of course, with our Warren Lanpher, who did the work) for our excellent work in restoring the Belknap School when we were given a Rhody Award for excellence in preservation. Preserve Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission present the awards annually. The Belknap School was also placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Corresponding Secretary Christopher Martin tries on an antique school desk for size at a 2015 fundraising yard sale. *Photo by Beth Hurd.*

In 2011, Robert Jackson turned over the records of Johnston Hose #2 (Graniteville Volunteer Fire Company) to the JHS. In September of the same year, Anthony Ursillo headed up a Fundraiser/Open House on our property. There were tours, a silent auction, demonstrations, and food items were presented. We netted close to \$4,000. In November, we had a nice tea at Mabel Sprague's House (as the owner Anthony Ricci always calls it). A 2011 Champlin Grant provided us with \$3,700 to fund upgrading of our alarm systems in the museum barn and in the school and also to apply preservative to the museum barn. For 2012, we held a self-guided tour of the interior of nine Johnston buildings.

We continued to receive Rhode Island House grants for most years, initially sponsored by Joseph Polisenia, later by John Carnevale, and lastly by Deborah Fellela.

In May 2012 we received a collection of family items from Nancy Fullerton and Donna Tornatore. The large collection consisted of items from the Evans, Harris, and Randall families that lived on Morgan Avenue. In the same month we received the second installment of items from the Webb, Wilder, and Westcott families that was given to us by Holly Beaudoin. The family of George Sutcliffe in February 2013 and in February 2014 gave us many items from George who used them during his flying days in WWII. They also donated a cabinet to store the items in.

In 2011 and '12, a few of our members painted two sides of the Elijah Angell House. In November of 2012, we received the news that the Champlin Foundations would fund the extension of our museum barn to the tune of \$69,300. When completed, the new ell would provide permanent meeting space for our general meetings and give us much-needed new exhibition space.

Elise Carlson enabled us to have wi-fi and internet access in our museum barn in the fall of 2013. Our 2013 Champlin Grant gave us \$5,355 to upgrade the heating system (installing a new gas furnace) in the Elijah Angell House. For 2014, the Champlin Foundations awarded us \$23,550 to paint and replace the clapboards on the east side of the Elijah Angell House.

The dedication of our new meeting room took place on April 26, 2014, with around 125 people attending. A silent auction, live music, and refreshments were offered. The highlight of the new addition was the inclusion of the doorway surround from the Daniel Manton House.



Steve Merolla and Kit Rhodes, as outfitted by clothing historian Pat Perry at our March 2008 meeting. *Photo by Christopher Martin.*

Right up to the present day, Dan Brown has continued to chair yearly yard sales for our group, with many items being donated by Robbins Funeral Home. Anthony Ursillo and Tim Kee also ran one at their home during this period. The three people mentioned in this paragraph have all been great in helping us raise funds. From 2014 to 2016, Anthony also organized a few wine tasting events at Verde Vineyards.

In May 2014, the Belknap Chapel gave us a number of artifacts from their building including the pulpit, the communion wine

glasses, and the meeting collection plates. In October, Kim Beaudoin let us rummage through a barn on her property to save a number of items that came from the Webb and Wilder families.

After thirteen years of ownership, in 2016, we turned over title to the Belknap School to the Town of Johnston. This move was made because we were unable to keep up with maintenance costs for the three buildings that were in our care. For various reasons, the school was under-used during this time. We are glad to have saved the building, though.

In 2016 and '17, a by-laws committee of Pat, Elise, Anthony, Dan, and Louis completely re-wrote our by-laws. A special thanks to Elise for organizing the final product.

Christopher Martin has been doing a wonderful job of maintaining the JHS Facebook page. He has posted dozens of ads from old town businesses as well as vintage photos and pictures of society goings-on.

We continue to host meetings of other non-profits. In 2017 and again in 2018, the Rhode Island Historical Society's Helping History and Heritage Happen series met at our museum barn.

In 2017, Warren erected a post and rail fence on our property, thanks to a recent GoFundMe drive that we set up on-line. We also continue to plan field trips to outside historic sites, e.g., 2017 trips to Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum and Clouds Hill Mansion in Warwick.

Louis McGowan has continued to work in the JHS archives, sorting, cataloging, and inventorying our holdings.

On December 3, 2017, our group held a recognition event for Pasco Macari. Pat was an active member in our group for thirty-six years and held many official positions, including President. For many years, he headed up the very successful cemetery group.

Our 2017 Champlin Grant provided us with \$25,000 to re-construct the chimney of the Elijah Angell House. The work was carried out in the summer of 2018. We also added a stainless flue liner with money from our treasury. We now have eight sponsors who funded our newsletters for the 2018 calendar year. In September of 2018, our society played a large role in Channel 36's Johnston edition of their "Our Town" series. Nine of our members took part in the production.

Sources:

- Johnston Historical Society "Historical Notes," 1984 to present.
- Minutes of the Johnston Historical Society general meeting minutes, 1976 to present.
- Papers of the Johnston Bicentennial Committee, Heritage Days Committee, and the Farnum House Committee, 1973 to 1984.
- Various *Providence Journal* articles, 1974 to present.

Simmons ville Bridge

As we reported back in our July newsletter, the Simmons ville Bridge replacement project was due to be completed around November 2018. The road actually re-opened on November 27,

with Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena and DOT officials in attendance. Further finishing work continued through January 2019, including the placement of the Simmons ville Flood historical marker.

The marker, which dates to the administration of Mayor Ralph R. aRusso, commemorates the deadly flood that took the lives of eleven persons on April 13, 1848. Previously it was located very close to the old bridge abutment; now it's in a slightly more prominent position, ten feet from the new bridge abutment, in the center of a low embankment. We're pleased to see this piece of our town's history preserved.



The Simmonsville Flood marker as it looked shortly after its replacement in January 2019. A short guardrail has since been installed in front of it. *Photo by Christopher Martin.*

Society Doings

JHS Members Visit Varnum Armory

January 10, 2019, twelve members and guests of our society visited the Varnum Armory in East Greenwich for a guided tour or their museum.



Varnum Armory Curator Pat Donovan (right) held our attention with the fascinating history of the Armory and its collection of artifacts. *Photo by Christopher Martin.*

The artifacts that were there, including everything from a Derringer to a Gatling gun, blew us all away. Many of the pieces have a Rhode Island connection. Of course, there were numerous

other items of a military nature, among them being manuscripts, photos, flags, miniature soldiers, and uniforms. Curator Pat Donovan was wonderful -- he knows the collections inside and out and loves to talk about them.

Members Visit Newport Historical Society

On February 19, 2019, Elise Carlson, Carl Johnson, Louis McGowan, and Bel McGowan visited the Newport Historical Society for a Rhode Island Historical Society presentation on the use of period costuming for historical society events.

School Attendance Records

Louis has been organizing and boxing up in acid-free boxes the large collection of school attendance records that were turned over to us by the town years ago. The records go back to the first decade of the twentieth century and run into the early 1980s. If you went to school in the town or had a relative who did, come see us.

"Our Town" Viewing at JHS

On March 10, 2019, a small but spirited group showed up on a snowy day to view PBS's "Our Town" episode on Johnston. Many of our members participated in the production of the episode. We drank Yacht Club soda and ate popcorn and generally had a fun time.

Volunteers Needed!

Retirees, Scouts, students! We always need volunteers to perform various duties to ensure the smooth operation of the society. For instance, we could use a Properties Committee to oversee the maintenance of our properties. Or volunteers to serve as docents in the Elijah Angell House during open hours. If you'd like to help out, please approach a board member at the next meeting.

Our Properties

Sign Installed

Our wonderful new two-foot by twelve-foot sign was installed on the outside of our museum barn during the first week of January 2019. It simply says: "Johnston Historical Society." The sign was routed around each letter so that it is three-dimensional in nature, with the letters painted brown on a cream background. The sign looks great, and we feel sure that it will bring some new customers through our door.



Photo by Christopher Martin.

Our thanks to John Eramian from Eramian Sign for the making and installing of the sign. He and his team did a great job. Thanks also, of course, to Deborah Fellela for our Rhode Island House Grant that financed the project.

Heating System Work Completed at Elijah Angell House

Vaughn Oil recently completed some needed maintenance work at our headquarters house. They insulated all the ductwork in the basement for the building heating system. We were losing a lot of heat with the old non-insulated ductwork. They also raised the air-handler a few inches off the floor to protect it from moisture.

These measures should help us save some money on heat and also help with the moisture problem in the basement.

Alarm System Maintenance Performed

Apple Valley Alarms visited us and performed some needed maintenance to our alarm system. Our valuables are well protected again.

Help From Members

Thanks to:

- Doug Stephens who donated a new plastic shelving unit that he purchased. Doug and Linda also made a generous monetary donation.
- Dan Brown who donated a shade and cover for the large window in our meeting room (for daytime meeting presentations).
- Joe Jamroz who continues to take care of shoveling and snow blowing around the property.

Photo Display Books

Louis McGowan has been putting together loose-leaf binders with photos on various topics of town history. These books are for public viewing and will available during meetings.

Our museum barn is open Tuesdays, 9-11am and 6:30-8:30pm; and Thursdays, 2-5pm; and the first and third Saturdays of each month, 9-11am, 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, 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.

Speakers

In November about twenty-five members and guests enjoyed an interesting travelogue titled, "The Life and Travels of Hiram Salisbury, 1815-1844," presented by Betty Mencucci, President of the Burrillville Historical and Preservation Society.

We did something a little different for our January 2019 meeting, holding it on a Sunday afternoon and linking it up with an open house. For our presentation, we put on a program honoring local military hero George L. Sutcliffe. We had a great turnout, with over seventy people attending, including at least fifteen members of the Sutcliffe family. Louis McGowan put on a slide show featuring highlights of George's life. Following this, he read a first-hand account of Mr. Sutcliffe's dogfight in June 1944 for which George won a Silver Star. His son, Barry, presented us with George's leather flight jacket, which we deeply appreciate.

The jacket is in the display case with other items from George's military career.



Barry Sutcliffe generously donated his father, George's, leather flight jacket to the Museum in January. *Photo by Christopher Martin.*

Thanks to all our members who helped out that day, including: Steve Merolla, Carl Johnson, Elise and Eric Carlson, Marie Thierfelder, Joe Jamroz, Bel McGowan, Anthony Ursillo, Evelyn Beaumier, and Louis McGowan.

Twenty members and guests braved the snow to attend our February meeting and were treated by Ray Wolf to a wonderful look at Rhode Island's vintage autos and trucks. Ray has taken 1,100 photos of Rhode Island's old vehicles that he visited in private collections, cruise nights, and sometimes just stopping people driving down the road. It was a fun presentation.

In March Steve Merolla gave a well-researched presentation on The Bordens of Neutaconkanut Hill, featuring many photographs and historical documents.

Acquisitions

- In January we received an eclectic collection of cobbler's shoe lasts, sad irons, handsaws, tobacco pipes, and card games from Cynthia Judge Nusbaum and Barbara Judge Shaughnessy. The items were collected by their father, Raymond Judge (aka DelGiudice), whose family lived in Simonsville from the late 1800s to the early 1930s.
- In February, Louis purchased online an envelope that was sent from James F. Simmons in the mid-nineteenth century (with his signature on it) to another member of the U.S. Senate. The letter was sent for free because Simmons was a senator.
- In March Christopher Martin donated a St. Rocco's Catholic Church 100th Anniversary book that he picked up at an estate sale.

Manton Hose 3 Donations

During February, thanks to the help of Stephen Ucci, the Manton Hose 3 Volunteer Fire group donated a number of items to our museum. The pieces are now displayed in our museum in a cabinet that the Hose 3 people have graciously paid for. Among the items donated were: photos, DVDs, an ambulance sign, two

banners, patches, a helmet faceplate, four trophies, and a record book. We thank the Hose 3 people for their generosity.

Thornton Hose 1 Donation

On February 26, Louis McGowan visited the old Hose 1 Volunteer Fire Station in Thornton, where he met with former Town Fire Chief Alan Zambarano and long-time Thornton Volunteer member Mike Placella. We chatted for 2 1/2 hours about the old days in Pocasset Village (Thornton). It was a lot of fun. I left with some nice pieces for our museum. They gave us a Hose 1 banner that was carried in parades many years ago. They also gave us some photos of trucks and a framed *Projo* article from 1924 showing many shots of Thornton fire trucks. Our thanks go out to Alan and Mike.

Many donated objects may be seen in the "Acquisitions and Items from our Collections" photo album on our Facebook page (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, slides, or home movies of Johnston
- Any Johnston-related ephemera or memorabilia



Cemetery Committee Report

by Steve Merolla

At the time of our last report in the November issue of our newsletter, it was assumed that with the approach of winter our activities would be severely curtailed. However, because of the lack of snow, even though it was rather cold, the group was able to get out into the field to do some cleanups, even continuing our raking and brush cutting into the new year.

The additional burial lots we cleaned since the last report were numbers 21, 28, 30, 36, 38, 58, 59, 60, 68, 71, 76, 77, & 81. Some of these lots were in fact cleaned twice. Thus, the Committee over the past year has cleaned a total of thirty-four cemeteries. This list does not include those cemeteries being maintained by Dan and Mitchell Parillo, Robert Aubin, and Kevin Sarli. Our heartfelt thanks to these volunteers for all their efforts.



JN007 as it looked at the end of December 2018. *Photo by Michael Laferriere.*

Upcoming Events

As related in the last newsletter, the main focus of the Committee has been restoring the huge Cemetery #7, located at the end of George Waterman Road as it meets Route 44. Thanks to the efforts of the Citizens Bank volunteers who cleared this vast cemetery, we were able to begin restoration efforts. The cemetery is now about three-fourths restored and these are the results of the efforts:

Twenty-one visits; fifteen headstones repaired; fifty-two headstones re-set. Of the footstones, three were repaired and nine were re-set.

Doug has taken on the job of erecting new cemetery signs from our stockpile and nine of them have been installed. Thanks again to our Committee members and volunteers who have done so much hard work during the course of the year.

HELP NEEDED: The most time-consuming job during the course of the year is mowing Cemetery #72. This large lot is located on the right side of Bucklin Avenue, just behind Rosa Mia's/Silvio's Restaurant. It takes about one-and-a-half to two hours to cut and is a big job. One of our members took on this project last year and mowed #72 six times. Kevin Sarli gave it the last cutting of the year. It would be great if a member, family, or group could step up and take a turn cutting this lot maybe once or twice during the course of the year to take the pressure off. Even one cutting would be a big help. Just across the street is Cemetery #18, and the same member cut this lot four times last year, with Kevin Sarli again providing the last cut. Help is needed here also, but the main focus is the big cemetery on the hill, #72.

Historical Advertising

Here's another old ad from the Historical Advertising photo album on our Facebook page. This one is from the June 9, 1977, issue of *The Observer*. The motel was demolished in the mid-2010s and the address, across the street from Shang Bailey Roadhouse, is now home to Tractor Supply Co.



April 13, 2019

Statewide Historic Cemetery Cleanup Day
9-12pm

Johnston Historical Cemetery #44, Borden and Hartford Avenues. The JHS Cemetery Committee will be cleaning this cemetery today. All are welcome to stop by and lend a hand.

April 20, 2019

Johnston Historical Society Yard Cleanup Day
8:30-10am

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.

April 24, 2019

General Meeting
7pm

Our speaker will be local writer and historian Jim Ignasher. The topic will be airships.

May 4, 2019

JHS Tag Sale
8am-12pm

Need some stuff? Come by our headquarters and see all the great stuff we have for sale. Or maybe you have some stuff you don't need anymore. You can donate that stuff to us, and we'll sell it! Proceeds from the sale benefit the Johnston Historical Society. A detailed listing will be posted to Craigslist under "garage sales" the week of the sale.

May 29, 2019

General Meeting
7pm

Grayce Moorhead, Associate Director of the Mohr Memorial Library, will give a presentation on genealogy.

June 1, 2019

Civil War Encampment
9am-5pm

Featuring Battery "B" 1st Rhode Island Light Artillery. Refreshments. Details TBA. Rain date: June 2.

June 26, 2019

General Meeting
7pm

Robert A. Geake, board member and archivist at the Warwick Historical Society, will give a talk on a topic TBD.

July and August

Summer Hiatus -- Executive Board meetings and General meetings are suspended for the summer. Have fun everyone!

September 15, 2019

Open House Fundraiser

Shang Bailey Road House, 2737 Hartford Avenue. Details TBD.

October 30, 2019

Slater Mill docent Carl Johnson will give a talk titled "Lovecraft: Rhode island's (In?)Famous Son," focusing on the horror writer's relationship with his home state.

December 4, 2019

Our speaker will be Etta Tramonti, Outreach Director, Stephen Hopkins House.

January 26, 2020

2pm
Special Sunday meeting. Details TBD.

February 23, 2020

2pm
Special Sunday meeting. Details TBD.

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 or leave a message at (401) 231-3380.



As of this month our Facebook page has 921 followers! Have you 'liked' us yet? To find us type this address into your computer browser:

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, 2019.

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Our Executive Board

President: Louis McGowan
Vice-President: Dan Brown
Treasurer: Joe Jamroz
Recording Secretary: Elise Carlson
Corresponding Secretary: Christopher Martin
Trustees: Steve Merolla, 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 2019 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 2019 dues. Send us a check today!

Name: _____

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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.

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