

Johnston Historical Society

Historical Notes

Vol. XVI, #2

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www.JohnstonHistorical.org

July 2010

JHS Silent Auction Fundraiser

On Saturday, April 10, 2010, our society held what we called a Vintage Dress-Up Fundraising Auction. The event was held at the Shang Bailey Roadhouse (formerly the Log Gift and Curtain Shoppe) on Hartford Avenue. The results of the event were spectacular!



Anthony Ursillo, as Shang Bailey, signs in two of his former longtime customers, Arlene Nerbonne and Susan McNamara. *Photo by Beth Hurd.*

Anthony Ursillo, owner of the Log Gift Shoppe, took the lead on the project, putting his years of retail experience to work on the Society's behalf. He worked tirelessly for weeks in preparation for the fundraiser, calling on his former customers who responded in grand fashion, with donations and with bids at the silent auction. He also secured many gift certificates and outright donations from businesses from our town and in neighboring towns and cities. He donated use of his building and did many behind-the-scenes things that helped to make the day a grand success.

Not only that, but he even put *himself* on the auction block, holding a raffle with the prize of a dinner with "Shang Bailey," Anthony's persona for the day. The raffle proved very popular, with many people coming back to purchase extra tickets to improve their chances of winning. In the end the winner turned out to be none other than our own Elijah Angell House tenant, Linda McInnery. Congratulations, Linda!

Our donation table was also very much a success. We advertised that the first fifty people who donated \$25 would receive a gift certificate valued at between \$15 and \$25. We were able to give away forty-six certificates which meant that there were forty-six donations of \$25 (a few people gave more than \$25). Thanks to all those generous donors and also to all the businesses who donated the gift certificates or who donated money directly.

One last minute addition to the event, thanks again to Anthony Ursillo's contacts, was a brief vocal performance by seventeen-year-old Emily Luther of Woonsocket, Miss Outstanding Rhode Island Teen 2009. She is an excellent singer who we're sure we'll hear more from in the future.



Left: Auction goers, including JHS's Bel McGowan (right), look over the bidding sheets. *Photo by Beth Hurd.* Right: Seventeen-year-old singer Emily Luther, Miss Outstanding Rhode Island Teen 2009, serenades the crowd. *Photo by Christopher Martin.*



As with any event like this, there were many people who contributed time, effort, and money. Tim Kee did an awful lot of background work, spending time helping Anthony put the event together. Dan Brown solicited a number of gift certificates from town businesses, helped haul things back and forth, and also donated a number of items for the silent auction. Bel McGowan put a lot of time in on food preparation, set up a display tea table, and donated a stained glass piece that she made to the auction. Christopher Martin and Kim Calcagno donated time on the computer, making signs for the big day, helped with set-up and publicity, and Christopher worked the day of the event on our book sales table. Anthony Ricci donated a large number of items that were used to make gift baskets for the auction. Joe Jamroz worked very hard before, during, and after the event doing anything that he could to make the day work. Rolf Johnson helped to haul items, donated to the auction, and looked sharp in his vintage outfit the day of

the event. Elise Carlson and her son Eric, both in splendid dress, greeted people at the door during the fundraiser. Dodi Falvo and Kit Rhodes worked hard the day of the event helping out with the food area and the donation table. Jim and Alice Lombardi, with the help of Roland Mergener, also did a great job at the donation table.

We would also like to thank the many people and businesses who donated to the auction and, of course, would like to thank the people who bid and bought items.

The main reason for the auction was to get the money to fund the installation of a new floor in the Belknap School. We made more than enough for this project and will use the rest of the money for restoration work on the Elijah Angell House and on the barn. The generosity of many has helped us to preserve a little more of our town's history. We thank you all.



Belknap School Dedication

The dedication of the Belknap School Dedication on May 15, 2010, was a rousing success. About sixty members and guests showed up for the event. The weather was perfect, and the school looked great! A special treat was having five former students present. They were thrilled to be there as we all were to have them there. The former students were: Alfred Newman and Lillian Threshier (brother and sister of Herbie Newman), Betty Kaye, and sisters Bertha (Bates) Clemence and Jenny (Bates) Morrisette.



Photo by Beth Hurd.

Although the interior of the school had been almost fully restored, a lot of work had to be done to make it presentable for the big day. Dan Brown, Joe Jamroz, Rolf Johnson, and Louis McGowan transported a number of displays and artifacts from our museum barn and set them up at the school. They put several vintage desks in place, as well as Mabel Sprague's old cast iron stove. Anthony "Buffy" Ferri's teacher's desk was placed at the head of the class. Other items were mounted on the walls, including photographs, diplomas, a period clock, and

wall charts. The attached ell was turned into a sort of mini-museum, with displays of artifacts and photographs related to several Johnston school buildings.



Left: Mayor Joseph Polisena tries out one of the old school desks. Photo by Christopher Martin. Right: Louis McGowan calls the room to order. Photo by Beth Hurd.

The day's program led off with the ringing of the original school bell, re-installed in the belfry during the restoration. Herbie Newman, longtime member and former student of the school, was anxious to see the school restored. Unfortunately, he passed away a couple of years ago, so his brother Alfred Newman and his sister, Lillian (Newman) Threshier rang the bell in his honor.

Next, society president Louis McGowan introduced the speakers. Leading off was Mayor Joseph Polisena. He spoke kindly about our efforts in restoring the school and had all historical society members present come forward as he read aloud a proclamation from the town. The mayor then introduced State Representative John Carnevale and Town Councilman Ernest Pitochelli who both added a few nice words about our work. (Mr. Carnevale also donated \$100 for work on the school). Next on the program was incoming Superintendent of Schools for the town, Bernard DiLullo, who voiced his pleasure with the restoration and spoke of his desire to have town schoolchildren visit historic sites in Johnston. Our last speaker was URI Professor Scott Malloy. He said that a preservation effort like ours was truly a patriotic act, because it is keeping alive a slice of our past.



Former Belknap school students Alfred Newman, Lillian (Newman) Threshier, Bertha (Bates) Clemence, Betty (Taudvin) Kaye, and Jenny (Bates) Morrisette. Photo by Beth Hurd.

After the last speaker, Louis introduced the five former students to the audience. He encouraged everyone to speak to them because they could really tell us what it meant to attend a one-room school. Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts was invited but could not attend, although she did send a citation from her office congratulating us.

The last part of our program was a presentation to Warren Lanpher, our preservation carpenter. Vice-president Dan Brown presented a nice plaque from the historical society to Warren, who seemed surprised and touched. We all appreciate his hard work and dedication to the preservation of the Belknap School. We know that without Warren we would be not be where we are today in the process.



Restoration carpenter Warren Lanpher accepts a plaque of appreciation from JHS vice-president Dan Brown. *Photo by Beth Hurd.*

Following the presentation, the guests spent a couple of hours chatting, looking at exhibits, and partaking of some homemade pastries and pizza strips. Guests also kindly donated \$40 for work on the school. It was a lot of fun talking and sharing stories in this old building. We look forward to the day when school classes will visit the building and learn about schooling in the old days.

Thank you to all who attended the event. And naturally, a big vote of thanks goes out to all who helped out on this day and in preparing for this day. It was truly a team effort.

Costanzo and Antonia Caparrelli

By Louis McGowan

Adapted from an interview with Christina Caparrelli Smith that took place on September 9, 1997.

Costanzo Caparrelli, born in Italy, came to the United States and worked in the coal mines of Pennsylvania for his first job. Not liking that line of work, he came to Rhode Island where he bought eighty-seven acres of land bounding on Plainfield Pike in Johnston. The farm extended on the north to Upper Simmonsville Reservoir and on the west it was bounded by Taylor Road, which Mrs. Smith said that Costanzo actually owned at one time. Its eastern boundary extended to the Dunkin Donuts Plaza.

Mr. Caparrelli had a small herd of thirty to forty cows which were housed in a long cow barn to the east of the house where the Dunkin Donuts drive-in access lies. He processed milk for a delivery route that he had on Federal Hill and in Silver Lake. He ran the route for between ten and fifteen years. There was also an orchard on the property. His farm also produced vegetables which he sold at Governor Dyer's Market until he died.

Mrs. Smith mentioned the narrow driftways or roads on either side of the cemetery on or near the property; they led over a brook that emptied into the Upper Simmons Reservoir.

Antonia was fourteen years old when she married Costanzo. She had twenty children in all with him. Her first daughter named Christina drowned at the age of nineteen in Upper Simmons Reservoir when she fell in the water after skating on thin ice. Three other children were probably still-born (it is presumed that the other sixteen children lived into adulthood).

Antonia did much of her cooking in a so-called "summer kitchen" that stood to the west of the main house. The structure was roughly fourteen feet by sixteen feet with a cement floor. There was a large oven where she baked bread. She also did her canning in the summer kitchen. In the warm weather the family ate many of their meals in the same building. When Antonia died, Christina (a second daughter by the same name) was asked by her father to move into the house to take care of him. Christina's husband, Edwin, came from either Thornton or Hughesdale.

Interview with Joe Rendine

By Louis McGowan

On April 3, 2010, I spoke with Joe Rendine, a long-time town resident, who runs a used goods business on Greenville Avenue. I stopped by to ask him about Johnston items for our museum and got to talking to him about the old days.

He told me that his father, Frank Rendine, bought the Odd Fellows Hall, which stood just outside Olneyville Square, in the 1970s. The building housed the Johnston Town Hall from 1886 to 1898, when the town hall moved to Thornton. The probate court, the police department, and the town jail were also housed there. The scale at the present court rooms on Atwood Avenue was purchased during these years (1891 he thought), and was kept in Odd Fellows Square until the move to Thornton.

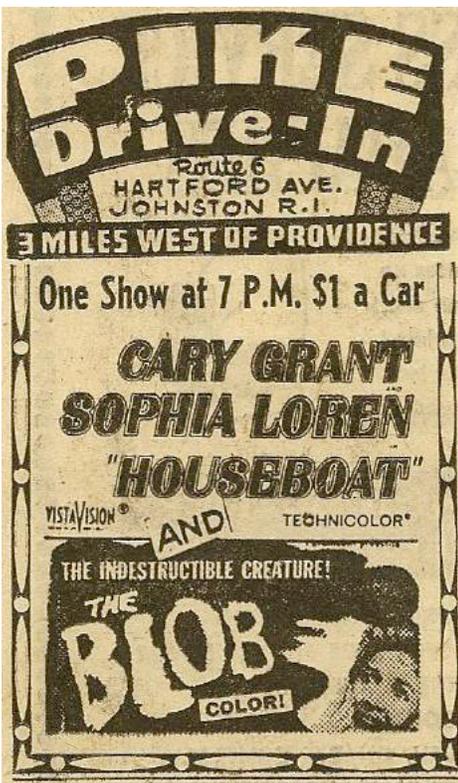
Joe said that the police department and jail cells (only one of the two jail cells was left by the 1970s) were on the first floor; taxes and deeds, along with the vault, were on the second floor; and the court was on the third floor.

Joe also told me that the building was quite beautiful, with mahogany woodwork covering the interior. Mr. Haxton bought the building from his father in the 1970s and soon tore the building down to make parking for his liquor store next door.



Detail of a circa 1915 photograph from our collections shows Odd Fellows Hall on the left at 161 Plainfield Street. Although the building no longer stands, to some the junction of Plainfield and Pocasset Streets is still known as Odd Fellows Square.

Mr. Rendine also related some history of the house at #42 Greenville Avenue. It is a post and beam structure which is listed on the 1870 Beers map as being the home of a Mrs. Davis. A man named Billings owned the house at one time. He was a carpenter in the nearby Manton Mills. Frank Rendine bought the house in the 1940s or '50s, when a Mr. Fraser lived there. He at that time used the outhouse, which still stands out back. He also had no electricity and the only running water he had was a cold water faucet that he tapped into from the house next door. Frank Rendine installed electricity and running water soon after he bought the house. Joe still owns the property.



Many of the floors in Mabel Sprague's house were covered with decorative, but very worn, oilcloth sheets instead of rugs. When Anthony Ricci began cleaning out Mabel's house he found, hidden under the oilcloths, dozens and dozens of pages from local newspapers. The ad at left comes from the March 11, 1959, *Providence Evening Bulletin*. The Pike Drive-In was put out of business by the building of the Route 295/Hartford Avenue interchange.

The 25 Year Club -- Hiram Kimball

Transcribed by Beth Hurd from a photocopy found in the Mohr Library. From The News-Tribune, Providence, Rhode Island, May... [year cut off, but published before his death in 1938].

Hiram Kimball of Johnston has served his town in various capacities for the past 50 years.

(The News-Tribune 25-Year Club is composed of men and women who have been in the public service a quarter of a century or more. All persons who have been in Federal, State or municipal employment in Rhode Island for at least 25 years are invited to join. This feature will run daily except Saturday.)

Nearly 50 years ago Hiram Kimball was made a constable in Johnston and he has served his town ever since, in one capacity or another. When the Democrats swept the town in 1934 Kimball was the only Republican that survived, retaining his present position of town sergeant by a handful of votes.

Just how old he is, the veteran town official refuses to say but one would hesitate to give him more than 55 years.

When Kimball was first appointed a Johnston constable the town line included Olneyville square and took in what is now known as the Annex section. In 1898 he was appointed chief of police and every night for many years policed the entire town in a horse and buggy. His beat was anywhere from the Smithfield line up beyond Graniteville to Olneyville square. He roamed the byways from Centredale to Scituate and knew his town well.

During his career as chief of police, which terminated when the Johnston Town Council named Chester B. Colwell to the position last November, Kimball personally handled 8000 cases, which is believed to be some kind of a record. In 1926 he was commended by the Attorney General's department for capturing a man who murdered his wife. Back in 1917 he distinguished himself by capturing a desperate criminal who escaped from the State Prison.

The biggest case Kimball ever investigated was the murder of Judge Knowles of the Eighth District Court many years ago near the Scituate town line. Although the case attracted wide attention it was never solved. But Kimball should not be held responsible for failure to find the killer with the meagre facilities provided for him by the town at that time.

Always a lover of fast horses, the former chief had plenty of them in his day and for years he was a familiar figure leading parades on his favorite steed. In fact no parade in Johnston was quite complete without Kimball at the head in full regalia. Besides horses his hobbies are hunting and fishing and 'dabbling' in politics.

His so-called dabbling and popularity were responsible for keeping the Republicans in power in the town long after the voters of the town had become fed up with his party's misrule. Kimball won't admit it, though.

Throughout his career the former chief has held many positions. He came to have charge of all poor funds as overseer of the poor and later as director of public aid. He was appointed health officer, dog officer, appraiser of damage done by dogs, keeper of the pound and later truant officer.

Like Achilles of old, Kimball has now retired to comparative solitude in his home off the Simmonsville road. For one whose years have been so active the position of town sergeant means little and he makes no attempt to overplay his role. He even refrains from taking part in the parades that once gave him so much enjoyment.

Society Doings

Our Properties

On Saturday, April 3, 2010, Anthony Ricci donated two hours of valuable time on his Cub Cadet bucket to our society. He dragged away junk vegetation, mostly poison ivy, and skimmed the soil around three sides of the Belknap School. It was a real mess before he dug in with his machine, but now, hopefully, we can get some grass on this section and mow it on a regular basis. We have already lined up some clean fill to be dumped in the shallow sections.

Warren Lanpher helped to make the work possible by bringing up his flatbed trailer from East Lyme, Connecticut, to use in hauling the bucket back and forth from Morgan Avenue.

Thanks also to Dan Brown for helping us to get a number of dump truck loads of fill for the area during April. Joe, Rolf, Louis, and Dan have been spreading it out by hand.

We still need to do some hand cutting of vegetation and some raking, and we probably need some more good soil dumped on top, but we are well on the way to making the yard look good. Many thanks to everyone involved for their efforts.

Bel McGowan is putting in a new garden at the front of the Belknap School. Warren helped her to set it up, and Phil Lemoi donated plants. Phil and his wife Lori also donated a beautiful wooden planter for the side steps of the school. Our thanks go out also to Dan Meunier and his wife, who donated \$100 for the grounds of the school.

Dan Brown has graciously donated and installed period-type shades for the Belknap School. They look good and will aid in keeping the sun out and helping with security.

On April 25, 2010, we had a spring clean-up of the yard at our headquarters, Elijah Angell House. Bel and Louis McGowan, Anthony Ricci, Joe Jamroz, and Rolf Johnson worked in the rain to get the yard spruced up. We got a lot done, and the area looks great.

Bel has been planting a bunch of plants in the existing beds. Many of the plants were donated by her sister, Ida Silva. Steve Merolla has also donated plants which Bel will put in the ground.

As of the last week of April, Warren Lanpher has completed the construction of the deck and staircase at the Elijah Angell House. He did a wonderful job, and our tenant will have both a very useful deck and a nice safe set of stairs. The wood used in the project is all pressure treated. All the work was paid for by a grant from the Champlin Foundations.

As part of the grant, Warren has also completed restoration work on the front of the house. He replaced some of the woodwork around the doorway, and replaced a sill and portions of the frame on one of the front windows.

We also commissioned Warren to tend to the windows on the barn. He has replaced a couple of sills and some small sections of wood frames, and has painted the outside of all the windows.

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, 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.

Cemeteries

After a hiatus of about three years, the Cemetery Committee was once again able to sponsor a town wide cemetery cleanup, which had gone dormant because of a lack of funding. This year the Committee was able to obtain a small \$250 grant from DEM (BJ's also contributed a \$25 certificate) that allowed us to purchase the bags and gloves necessary to rekindle the event. On account of the late approval of winning the grant, we only had a very short time to organize things, which cut down on the number of groups involved. The cleanup was held on April 24, and six cemeteries were cleaned (Cemeteries #12, 16, 21, 24, 76, 77). It is hoped that with more lead time we can add to the list of cleaned cemeteries.

Through much of the Spring, the Committee trudged along in Cemetery #21, the large burial ground at the corner of Hartford Avenue and Winfield Road (the Governor King/Borden Lot). The November 2009 Society newsletter noted that we had repaired six stones and reset twelve more in their bases. Subsequent to that report, we repaired a further six headstones (including the first slate stone repair) and reset eleven more headstones. With that, most of the main work in that cemetery is now completed, but because this burial ground is so large and holds so many stones, it will always be work in progress.

In June we moved operations into double cemetery #59/60, located next to the Morgan Avenue Condos. Cemetery #59 holds the original inhabitants of the area, the Thornton family, and almost all of these stones are made of slate. The adjacent cemetery #60 holds the remains mainly of the Fenner, Rounds, Young, and Crothers families, and all of these stones are made of marble. Unfortunately, in #60 we have an example of good

intentions gone bad, for it is evident that someone has been resetting fallen head and footstones. The result is that many footstones have been reset backwards, headstones have been dug into the ground instead of mortared into their bases, and most damaging of all, some stones have been moved from where they originally fell, making the discovery of their original locations problematic. As is often stated, the Society welcomes people or groups adopting and maintaining these burial grounds, we only request that stones not be moved or handled. More than likely, the Cemetery Committee will be spending the remainder of the summer at this site. Thanks again to our volunteers: Pat Macari, Anthony Ricci, Anthony Ursillo, Tim Kee, Joe Jamroz, Doug and Steve Merola.

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, or Steve Merolla at (401) 944-3412.

Museum Open House

On Sunday, June 13, 2010, we held an open house at our Putnam Pike property. It was a great event, with twenty-five people visiting the Elijah Angell House and the museum barn. There was a lot of interest about the collections and town history. It was fun talking with Adolph Aurecchia, who visited with his son, Steve. Adolph is ninety-four years old and remembers a lot about the old days, including memories of Police Chief Hiram Kimball when he was still on the job. Hiram left the police force in 1934, so there are not many people left who remember him as a policeman.

Thanks to Kit Rhodes, Anthony Ursillo, Anthony Ricci, Bel and Louis McGowan, and Elise Carlson, who all worked the open house.

Speakers

March 31, 2010: Our speaker was member Rolf Johnson who talked about the Work of the Wheelwright and showed us examples of tools, materials, and works in progress.

April 28, 2010: Member Jim Lombardi talked about his hobby of collecting Hot Wheels cars and accessories. He showed some rare stuff, and some not so rare. And everyone got a brand-new Hot Wheels car to take home!

May 26, 2010: George Sutcliffe, a decorated World War II pilot and longtime Graniteville resident who appeared in the History Channel show *Dogfights*, told us stories about pilot training and about his combat experiences flying a P-47 Thunderbolt.

June 30, 2010: Multitalented member Fred Mikkelsen gave a fun blacksmithing demonstration.

Acquisitions

- Eric Carlson donated an 1860 Johnston tax book, purchased from eBay.
- A register -- a stand similar to a podium where guests can sign in -- was donated by Anthony Ursillo. Anthony also donated a pile of display easels for our display cases.
- Louis bought ten vintage receipts for purchases made at area businesses in the first two decades of the twentieth century. The goods were bought for resale at the store of Joseph Webb, which was located on Morgan Avenue.
- Christopher Martin and Kim Calcagno donated an early twentieth century, multi-volume encyclopedia, as well as a number of other books, to the Belknap School.
- Graniteville resident Vin Crosby donated a number of wonderful Greystone photos. Many Johnston people worked in the mill, just a short walk across the Woonasquatucket River.
- Anthony Ricci donated an old time school slate and a number of papers relating to Johnston schools.
- Dan Brown donated an 1870 Beers map of Johnston and a late nineteenth century Rhode Island map, both for display in the school.
- Lillian (Newman) Threshier donated a photograph of her class at the Belknap School.
- Bel McGowan donated a small kitchen table for the school. She spotted it while "picking" on Pine Hill Avenue.
- Bel also donated a child's wooden table which will be used for displaying a child's vintage tea set in the Elijah Angell House.
- While visiting Brimfield Antique Flea Market, Bel and Louis McGowan bought for the society two more antique wooden desks. They bought another one at the Seekonk Raceway Flea Market.
- Bobby Aust donated the first minutes book of the Graniteville War Memorial Association as well as a number of papers relating to the group.
- Michael Smith donated a volume of Arnold's Vital Statistics (Marriages, Births and Deaths) which covers the town of Johnston from 1759 to 1850.
- Louis purchased for the society four period doorknobs to be installed in the school.
- Lucy Silva donated a two-draw file cabinet.
- Louis purchased a used female manikin which will be used to display a turn of the twentieth century swimming suit.
- Joe Costa donated a number of Priscilla Worsted Mills paper items and some Barker Chadsey Company items (both companies operated out of the old British Hosiery Mill on Mill Street).
- Steve Merolla donated an early wooden bottle crate from the Ochee Springs Bottling Co.
- Hede Aurecchia donated a number of paper items, including: copies of 1930s contracts for the Pocasset Casino Club in Thornton, a Thornton School Reunion booklet, an early ticket for a Thornton Volunteer Fire Department function, and a newspaper article about Ambassador Muccio. (Mrs. Aurecchia previously donated a framed photograph of a reception in his honor at the Myrtle Hall in Thornton).
- John and Robin Smaldone donated a wooden dining room table and four chairs to our museum.

- Phil and Lori Lemoi donated three early wooden desk and chair sets for the school.

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:

- A microwave oven
- Display cases
- Display mannequins
- Any Johnston-related memorabilia

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.

July-August, 2010

Summer meeting hiatus.

August 22, 2010

The 2nd Great Johnston Scavenger Hunt

11:30am-5pm

Elijah Angell House, 101 Putnam Pike. Think you know Johnston well? Test your knowledge against that of other teams and individuals in the second annual town-wide scavenger hunt! Use digital cameras and cell phones to capture images of items from our extensive list of common and not-so-common objects. Prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be served. \$8 donation per team, payable on day of the event. Call (401) 943-6961 or email cscm@toast.net for more information.

September 12, 2010

JHS Picnic

4-7pm

Johnston Historical Society members and their families and friends are invited to partake of hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, and anything else we can think of. Plus badminton, horseshoes, sitting around chatting, maybe even a raffle. Rain date: September 19.

September 29, 2010

General Meeting

7pm

Belknap School, 509 Greenville Avenue. Join us for the first ever general meeting in our newly restored 1892 one-room schoolhouse! Our speaker for the evening will be restoration carpenter Warren Lanpher, giving a presentation on how he brought the building back to life.

October 2, 2010

High Tea

3pm-5pm

Smith-Appleby House, 220 Stillwater Road, Smithfield. Socialize, enjoy homemade finger foods and desserts, and try your luck in the raffle/auction. Pat Perry from Sneak Peek Productions will give a presentation on "The Language of

Flowers." Hats and gloves are optional (or wear full costume if you like!). Tickets are \$20 and their number is limited, so reserve your space early! There will be no tickets sold at the door. Proceeds benefit the Johnston Historical Society. For tickets please call Kit Rhodes at (401) 231-7523. If you would like to help out on the day of the event, please call Bel McGowan at (401) 529-0873.

October 27, 2010

General Meeting

7pm

Our speaker will be David O'Brien, owner of Picture This Framing Centers and Galleries. David is an expert on historical maps and will bring several interesting local examples to show us.

December 1, 2010

General Meeting

7pm

Our speaker will be Thomas D'Agostino, author of numerous books on the paranormal, including *Haunted Rhode Island* and *Ghost Stories Of New England*. He'll be discussing Rhode Island legends and haunts, including the ghost of Ramtail Factory, local vampires, Nine Men's Misery, Hannah Robinson Rock, and the bones of William Blackstone.

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 info@johnstonhistorical.org or leave a message at (401) 231-3380.

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: November 15, 2010.

Our Executive Board

President: Louis McGowan
Vice-President: Dan Brown
Treasurer: Joe Jamroz
Recording Secretary: Evelyn Beaumier
Corresponding Secretary: Christopher Martin
Trustee: Bel McGowan
Trustee: Rolf Johnson
Trustee: John Barattini
Trustee: Kit Rhodes

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
Our email address is: Info@JohnstonHistorical.org

Annual Dues

Have you paid your 2010 dues yet? It's 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 2010 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
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