

Johnston Historical Society

Historical Notes

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

August 2017

Historical Notes by Mabel (Atwood) Sprague

[The following historical piece was written by Mabel (Atwood) Sprague, who lived most of her life on Morgan Avenue. The piece is undated (written between 1967 and 1982; she writes in this piece that she and her sister are the only family members left. Her sister Alice died in 1967 and her other sister Blanche died in 1982), and was hand-written. I have transcribed her notes from the original as accurately as I could. (LHM)]

"Things that have been told to me & some things I remember about this locality of Johnston, R.I.

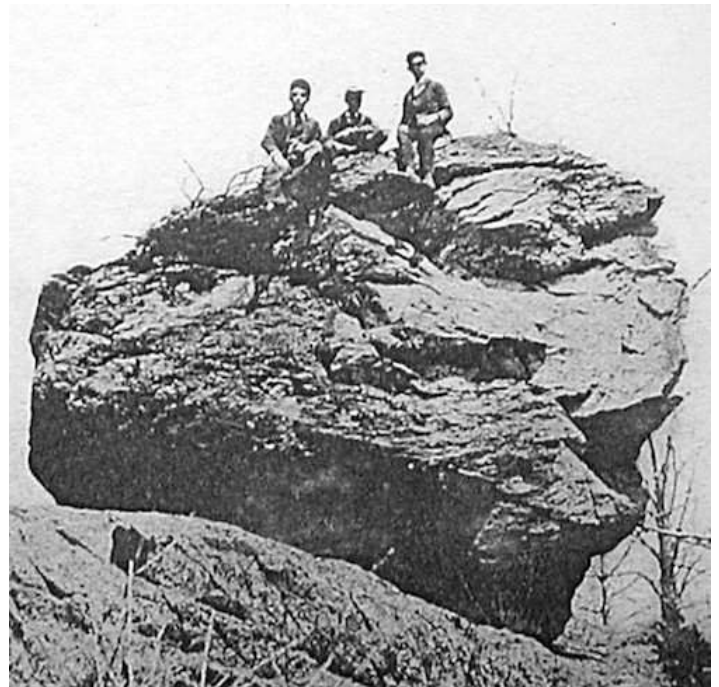
"Starting at the Johnston-Providence City line was the King Homestead with a very large house & barn & other buildings which were very old but very well kept. Mr. King's farm was large & it went up on to Neutaconkanut Hill. He left a will & left the property to his 2 sons & one daughter, neither of whom married. The children were Abby, Henry & William. Abby years later made her will & left the property to the City of Providence but her brother William had an illegitimate daughter by one of the married servants so Abby gave the child a lifetime interest in the property & a trust was left for her support. The woman was Louise Blackenberg. She lived her lifetime there also died there. I have talked with her many times. She was a very pleasant interesting person. The buildings were all torn down after her death, a big mistake as they were very historical.

"Across the street on the corner of Silver Lake Ave. was a cottage & small barn, a Mr. & Mrs Herbert Hendrick lived [*sic*]. 'Tip' as he was known to all went out by the day to work. The house was later moved & a commercial building built, an automobile salesroom & repair garage. Gagnier Nash was there for years.

"On the opposite side of Silver Lake Ave. (south side) was 2-2 tenement houses. In back of one house was a large barn also a large ice-house. A Mr. Fraddier employed quite a number of men. The ice house was down by the Pocasset River & the ice was cut from the river at intervals during the winter to fill the icehouse. The buildings are all gone now & LaFazia's body company is on some of the property, on the rest of the property is the remains of what was Rotelli's Artificial Ice Co.

"Along on Plainfield Street on the King estate property side is the remains of a house cellar. I have been told that the last family that lived in that house was named 'Hunt'. I never remember seeing the house.

"The fields on the opposite side of the road were all open until you came to the old Davis farm. The house still stands but has been made over some. The barns & the other buildings are gone, a large slaughter house [?] was down by the river. A large barn by the side of the road was made into a tenement house & that is still standing. When I was young a family by the name of [?] George Ducharme lived there. He was chief of police in Johnston at the same time my father (Edmund Clark Atwood) was town sergeant, this was about the turn of the century (1900).



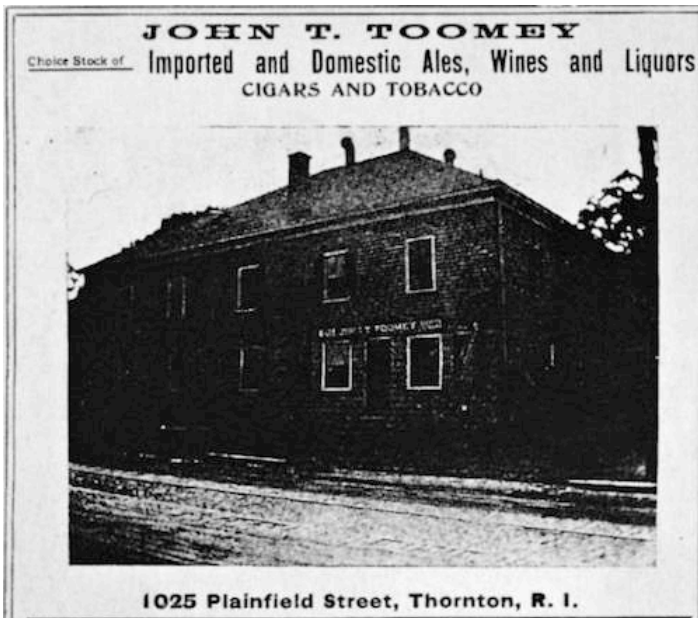
"Directly upon the hill in back of Albert's house stood a large balance rock."
Photo from The Influence of Physical Features Upon the History of Rhode Island by David Webster Hoyt (1910).

Diagonally across the road was a house. I never heard who built it but a family by the name of Chase lived there for a while, now it's Acme Cesspool Co. There was a basement store to the house & in the summer Mr. Chase sold ice cream. He bought the ice cream from Laurel Ice Cream Co. located at Dorchester Avenue & Laurel Hill Ave. Prov. Owned by L. Charles Walch. Mr. Walch sold that business to Fro-Joy & he later started Wellington Ice Cream on Plainfield St. at Lowell Ave. Prov. That too is gone now. [Editor's note: the business is gone, but the building is still there].

"Almost in Mr. Chase's yard was a house that stood endwise to the road. An old man by the name of Albert Daniel Searles lived there alone. He was a tall slim very pleasant old man with whiskers when I was very young. After he died the house was torn down and a bungalow was built there & that is still there. I didn't say Mr. Searles had a very large growth on one side of his neck. He was a distant relative of my mother.

"Directly upon the hill in back of Albert's house stood a large balance rock. It looked as if it might give way & roll down the side of the hill & land on Plainfield St. but it never did roll. After the bungalow was built & Acme Cesspool's garage was built & other houses on the opposite of the street the people made such a complaint that finally the State had the rock removed, why the State I don't know.

"Also a little farther back on the hill from the rock was a gold mine. When I was quite young the shaft holes were there. As I have told [sic] a lot of money was spent there but the mines had been well 'sugared.'



1913 ad for John Toomey's Liquor and Cigar Store at 1025 Plainfield Street, site of Fenner's Tavern (aka Fenner's Stand), a famous nightspot built in 1851.

"A vacant lot then (a large meadow) & my father cut hay there many times. Now it's a large parking lot for the 1025 club & then the notorious 'Fenner Stand.' It was originally a large wooden building with a basement & it had plenty of goings on there that wasn't legitimate [sic]. After that building was a large red brick building with ivy growing up the sides. I never heard why the brick building was built & the brick building was the first building I remember. It has always been a very notorious place with plenty of gambling, drinking, women & you name it. In back was a large shed where the horses could be tied up while the men were in gambling. The shed did protect the animals from the weather some.

"There was a large stone watering trough by the side of the road in front of the Fenner Stand with water coming by pipe from a spring in the side of the hill out in back of the shed where the horses could get water to drink. The water came from springs up

in back of the buildings. Also in front of the Fenner Stand was the turnout for the electric cars that went to Thornton & the end of the line at Hughesdale. The turnout was 2 sets of tracks so the electric cars could pass. The Fenner stand is now the 1025 Club.

"The Fenner Stand was closed for quite a number of years & somehow no one knew how it got on fire & burned. It was a square 2 floors red brick building.

"Next came a small building. It was always used for storage that I ever knew. An open field & a partly field stone house & a man named Joseph Linnell lived there. He originally came from Orleans, Mass. & was a tin peddler. He gave up his business & was the handyman for the Starkweather's on the south side of Plainfield St. There were nice springs in back of Mr. Linnell's house. Now his house & the springs are gone & the Thornton Plaza is there.

"Mrs. Starkweather was very pleasant as was Mr. Linnell but both were eccentric. Mr. Linnell stopped by often to see my parents & after one holiday he stopped so my mother asked him if he & Mrs. Starkweather had a nice holiday dinner & the reply was yes, they had creamed fish & potato. He had also been a tin peddler in Prov. He gave up the business & stored his wares in a barn on Whittier Ave. Prov. He finally had to move them out so my father Edmund Clark Atwood hitched up 2 horses in a large wagon & it took them almost a week to get the mess moved to Mrs. Starkweather's.

"There were 2 houses across the road from the Fenner Stand one of which has been torn down (Patrick Crowley lived in one) & the rest of way was open fields to Starkweathers. That was a small house with an ell with outbuildings also a very large barn. I have been told Mr. William Starkweather came from Scituate & he owned shoe string mills near Crazy Corners. When the reservoir is very low the foundations to the mills can be seen. They didn't have any children.

"There is a large section of woods next & that belongs to the Metropolitan Park Association & was part of the White estate.

"Next comes the Byron Sweet place formally the Latham's. Mr. Sweet was a farmer also our town representative for many years. On his place was & still is a very large spring that supplied his house with water also a Mr. Ordway bought spring water which he bottled & sold to offices & homes for drinking water for at that time the Prov. Water which came from Pawtuxet Valley was very poor. Mr. Ordway came several times a week with a horse & wagon. He bottled the water in large glass containers & if done today the way he did in those days there would be a big fuss made as there might be germs. Mr. Sweet's farm went out to the west side of Neutaconkanut Hill. In several places the hill was so steep the horses couldn't come down the hill they had to go north & gradually come down the hill. Mr. Sweet sold the property and a street was put there – Monson Street & gradually more streets & soon houses were built & now most of the side hill has beautiful houses. Mr. Sweet was also the R.F.D. mailman through this part of town for years. He grew older & gave the job up to his son Fred Sweet. The mail came from the post office in Thornton & Charles Holroyd was the postmaster.

"On the south side of the road a little farther along the roadside was a large farm. Hiram Chase Atwood built a cottage for he & his family. He also built a large barn. The house is still standing but has been made over some. The barn fell during the 1938 hurricane. The property was sold to E.S. Crandall the milkman in Nov. 1939. 2 years later was sold for development. Houses have been built but bankruptcy developed so it's a mess.

"On the other side of the road was a nice old house & a barn in back. I never heard who built the place but I have heard that Benj. Onsley & his family lived there for a while & Ethel the daughter was born there & that is about ninety years ago. A family by the name of Stone lived there also Craigs. Walter Waterman & his wife Fannie Sweet bought it close to 70 years ago. Mr. Waterman died & Mrs. Waterman sold it to Graham L. Smith. He was a horse trader & later [illegible] automobile junk dealer. He was known for miles around. The barn got on fire one day & burned. I don't know who built their place. We are now at Borden Avenue & when I was young it was always called 'Old Maids Lane' & was a lovers' spot. On the lane just in from Morgan Avenue was a house & a very large barn. It was called the Potter's place. The house & barn are both gone now but there are buildings there.



Around 2014, members of the Johnston Cemetery Committee reset the Potter sisters' headstones, as part of a larger cleanup of the Alverson Lot. Amelia, on the right, died June 7, 1880. Lydia, on the left, followed only a little over a month later, on July 15. They were 57 and 55, respectively. *Photo by Steve Merolla.*

"The two old maids – the Potter girls – lived there & they had a handyman & as the story goes he was not over bright. He got mad with one sister & murdered her. He became frightened and ran up the road & told my grandmother Clarissa Atwood something was the matter with one of the old maids. She hurried down there & found he had murdered the old maid & the other hysterical. Grandmother notified the officials & he was arrested & proven guilty & went to prison. The remaining sister didn't live many years as she mourned the loss of her sister. They were both buried in the Alverson Cemetery on the property that Allendale Ins. now owns. The old Potter House I understand burned.

"The house on the corner of Borden Ave. & Morgan Ave. was built by Benj. Onsley about 1905. [Editor's note: the section of Borden Avenue between Morgan and Central Avenue has since been renamed as Downing Avenue]. It was built for a show place & was very pretty inside. He & his wife entertained a lot. At present a great grandson owns the property. Mr. Onsley bought the Potter property. They were Indians.

"Along the road a way & over the brook on the south side of the road is the remains of 'Jerry's Shanty.' He was my father's oldest half-brother and Jerry was very pleasant but most people were scared of him. He went out by the day to work on farms. He lived in the shanty & did his own cooking. When he wanted some meal for johnny cakes he always went over to my father's barn & took the corn meal also got some milk. He had very long gray whiskers & when he ate the johnnycakes & milk the milk would run down both sides of his mouth. He also chewed tobacco & his whiskers were a mess. He never married like most of my father's family. He always carried a burlap bag twisted around a stick & over his shoulder. I don't know just how he made johnnycakes, but any that was left he always hung them on a nail on the inside of the shanty for later eating. He always ate out of an iron utensil & that too was hung on the wall when he was thru eating. He died in 1919 & the undertaker Arthur Carpenter, son of J. Will Carpenter from Plainfield St. Olneyville asked my father about Jerry's whiskers. My mother replied saying Jerry had worn them a good many years so Jerry he was buried with them & he was. Jeremiah was buried in the cemetery on the hill & I remember the horse drawn hearse with the fringe inside and the glass windows going up over the hill & I was afraid it would tip over but my mother assured me they would get to the cemetery safely & they did.

"Up the path from Jerry's shanty & over a way in the field but not on my property is the 'Indian Rock'. It was left there by the glacier period. It is very large & interesting to see. It is on the Benj. Harris property.

"We are back to the road now & we see across the field on the same side of the road a very old white house. Originally the road came over by the Indian Rock & passed the south side of the house. The story goes a man on horseback went by & saw a beautiful young lady out sweeping rugs. He was shocked at first glance & did not stop but shortly returned & made his acquaintance with the charming woman. A love affair blossomed & later they were married. I never did find out their names. This property was the Benj. Harris place. It had several old & large barns but all of them are gone now.

"Before Jerry's shanty was built there used to be a large cemetery close by & it was moved to the Benj. Harris property. This was done when my father was a young boy.

"Next on the roadside is my barn badly in need of painting. It is not the original barn as that was set on fire. My father was in politics & someone had a grudge on him so they set the barn on fire. Our horses & 12 cows along with a lot of other equipment were lost. There was a fire dept. over to Thornton. I've been told a bucket brigade was formed to save the house. The men went up through the house & out the skylight onto the roof. This happened in March 20, 1910. My father built the present barn

either in the fall of 1911 or the spring of 1912. All the lumber in the barn was from Vanity Fair. He carted the lumber with his horses from Pawtucket Ave. Riverside all the way here to Johnston. The floor hay [?] mow [?] of the barn was the dance floor of Vanity Fair.

"Vanity Fair was an amusement park. All the buildings were torn down. It was where the golf course is on Pawtucket Ave. before you get to Riverside. After Vanity Fair, Crescent Park was built.

"This present barn is built on the former foundation but is a smaller barn. Down back of the barn on the edge of the brook is a stone foundation – round & a hydraulic ram was installed. It pumped water from the brook to the barn for the animals to drink. There was also a pipe laid to the washhouse (near the house) where the weekly washings were done.

"Near the barn in the yard is the workshop a nice square building. It was moved from somewhere to where it now stands. The workshop is full of all kinds of old tools also a forge & bellows which was used when I was young. Also the anvil is still there. To one side in back of the shop was the old corn crib. That is gone now. That had been put together with wooden pins. Almost directly in back of that is the outhouse. This one has plastered walls & ceiling, not many were that fancy. There was a fairly long henhouse but that is gone now.

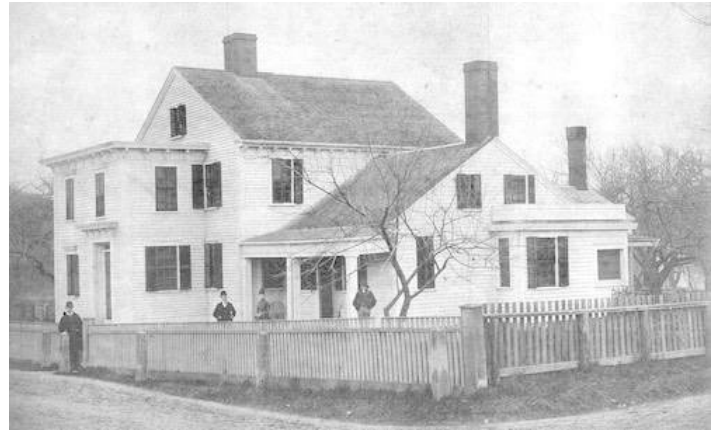


The workshop as it looked in 2008. It has since been restored. *Photo by Christopher Martin.*

"The house is very old, a 2 ½ story garrison type house. It has been made over several times. On the roadside is one addition with 2 bedrooms & a very large front hall that goes the height of the building. I have been told that the bannister is solid mahogany & each spindle cost 50 cents when it was built. The wallpaper is the original paper & (when this addition was added on my mother found out). The kitchen & dining have been added on.

"The wash house was in the backyard & that I have been told was the ell from the big house. The wash house was a nice building with plastered walls & small windows. It had a chimney & a very large set kettle to heat water in. The fire was built under the kettle. It had an attic that was used for storage. Just thru the outside door was an old ice chest, a long rectangular box shaped

thing on legs & the top lifted & it was insulated. I can't remember how it looked inside. There was lots of beautiful antiques in the building but the building is gone now. One night somehow it got on fire that was in Dec. of 1937.



The Atwood homestead in the late 1800s. *Photo by Heald & Co., Providence.*

"I didn't say the family cemetery is over on the hill but not all the family was buried there some at Pocasset Cem.

"The property is very old, the deed is 1789 & the property went from the right of way beside the house to School Street & Dr. Bowen's place belonged to this tract of land. It is the Abraham Latham Atwood place. My sister & I are the last of the family.

"Across the road is the old Welcome Alverson place. That house is large & has been made over several times. It had 2 slave houses in the yard but they are gone now. Also a large barn to the northwest of the big house. That barn burned in 1917. Frank W. Tillinghast a Prov. Lawyer bought the place in 1898 & improved the farm in years he owned it. The farm consisted of 60 acres. Mr. Tillinghast built a new barn after the 1917 fire. He always had a large herd of cows. There was another barn burned on the farm in Sept 1937. Mr. Tillinghast didn't re-build & on June 1, 1938 he sold the property to Edward S. Crandall the milkman in Prov. That summer of 1938 the present barn was built. Belnap [sic] Const. from South County built the barn & all the lumber came from the Wakefield Branch Co. The barn is called a Jamesway Barn. Mr. C. farmed it up until the spring of 1963. The farm was idle for some years."

Society Doings

"Helping History & Heritage Happen"

On May 10, 2017, we hosted at our museum a workshop on Disaster Planning organized by the Rhode Island Historical Society as part of their Helping History & Heritage Happen series. Donna Longo DiMichele from the State Library was the presenter. There were sixteen attendees from across the state. All participants were quite taken by our museum barn and the Elijah Angell House, where Elise and Bel gave guided tours. Thanks to Elise, Anthony, Tim, Louis, and Bel for helping out. We saw that it is necessary for our group to have a disaster plan in place. We will soon be working on this project.

Spring Yard Sale

On April 15, 2015, we held a very successful yard sale on our headquarters property. Dan Brown headed up the drive to acquire items and was in charge of the sale that day. As always, he did a wonderful job. Our board members came through big-time, spending the morning helping out with anything that they were asked to do. This wonderful group included: Joe Jamroz, Elise Carlson, Anthony Ursillo, Marie Thierfelder, and Louis McGowan. Other regular members who gave up their morning to help were Walter Thierfelder, Kevin Brown, and Shar DiMaio. Thanks to all these great people for helping us have a very successful day. We would also like to thank the people, unfortunately too numerous to mention, who contributed items to sell.

Items that did not sell were taken to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters storefront, just down the street from the museum.

Meeting With Archaeologists

On May 19th, Louis McGowan and Elise Carlson met at our headquarters with archaeologists Pierre Morenon (Rhode Island College) and Kristen Heitert (Public Archaeology Lab) to look over our early nineteenth century collection of redware pottery shards. The collection was donated to us many years ago by the caretakers of the Sarah Dyer Barnes Homestead on Greenville Avenue. The pieces were all found on the property of the homestead, which unfortunately was destroyed along with the pottery site when the Cherry Hill Nursing Home buildings were built around 1980. We were told that there are not many pottery-making sites in Rhode Island that have been excavated, and so our site (although not pinpointed exactly), would be important in the historical record. Kris estimates the site to be from around 1830.

Mohr Library Genealogy Group

On July 12, 2017, fourteen members of the Mohr Library Genealogy Group came to our museum for a tour of the facilities. It was nice to have people visit who were so interested in the history of our town. There were a lot of questions fielded by Louis and Elise.

Victory day

A group of local residents gathered at the Graniteville Memorial next to the fire station on Putnam Pike for an early observance of Victory Day on Saturday, August 12. Afterwards, about thirty people strolled over to the JHS Museum Barn to view our displays.

Our Properties

Tree Planting

Before our general meeting on April 26, 2017, we held a brief tree-planting ceremony at our property. The Apple Blossom Garden Club joined us for the planting of a Kousa Dogwood on the side of the Elijah Angell House. The tree was graciously donated by Central Nursery on Atwood Avenue. Members of the garden club toured the house after the ceremony.

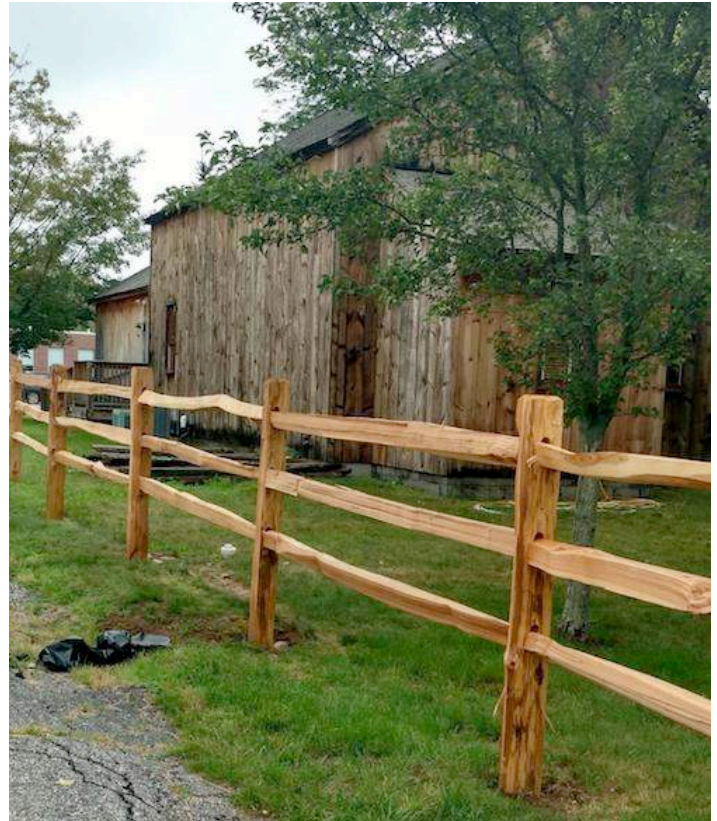
Yard Clean-Up

On Saturday, May 13, 2017, we cleaned up our headquarters property. There were not that many leaves left from the fall

clean-up, so we were able to tend to some areas that we do not usually get to. Elise did a wonderful job of cleaning up the holly bush/decorative grass area across from the school. Shar, Anthony, and Paul did a great job fixing up the flower beds. Louis helped out with various chores.

Fence Erected

Warren Lanpher has erected a new post and rail fence at our property. It looks great! The construction of the fence was funded by our recent GoFundMe drive. Once again, thanks to all who helped out with contributions.



A portion of our new fence. *Photo by Elise Carlson.*

New Signs

In late August we secured two new signs from A&A Thrifty Signs of Warwick. They will replace metal signs on our property that have deteriorated over the years.

Museum

Our museum barn is open Tuesdays, 9-11am and 6:30-8:30pm; and Thursdays, 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, 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.

Historical Advertising

Here's another old ad from the Historical Advertising photo album on our Facebook page. This one is from the April 8, 1965, *Observer*.



Cemetery Committee Report

by Pasco Macari

We spent most of our time this summer cutting grass and pulling weeds, and weren't able to fix any stones or clear any brush. We hope to get back to those activities in the fall.

Speakers

Helen Hersh Tjader of the Neutaconkanut Conservancy, gave a talk entitled "Neutaconkanut Hill -- Gateway to Sowams" in March.

Our April 2017 speaker was John McNiff, who enthralled us with tales of privateers and pirates, with an emphasis on Rhode Island's role in their story (which was a large role). Forty-two members and guests attended and were thrilled at John's presentation.

Our May speaker was Peter Hacunda, a volunteer tour guide at the New Bedford Whaling National Historic Park. He gave a wonderful presentation, detailing the reasons why whaling was so important to our economy and then telling us the history of whaling in Nantucket and New Bedford. Thirty attendees thoroughly enjoyed his talk.

Christopher Martin and David Stone entertained a crowd of forty members and guests at our June meeting with wonderful stories and photos of Rhode Island's clam shacks. Their presentation was based on their recently published book on the topic. We started the evening with a hot dog roast, supplemented with other goodies brought by our members. Our main point of business at the meeting was the election of officers and trustees. Eight members of our nine member board of officers and trustees were re-elected to their positions. Bel McGowan stepped down as trustee and was replaced by long-time member Steve Merolla. We thank Bel for her many years of service as an officer and trustee, and we welcome Steve as he returns to our board.

Acquisitions

- March eBay purchases: 1) an original photo of a NY, NH & H bus crash on Hartford Avenue; 2) an original Rhode Island

Agricultural Bank (Johnston) note signed by Samuel Ward King.

- April eBay purchases: a 1950s Graniteville BSA Troop 1 neckerchief and turtle slide; a 1950s Graniteville BSA First Class patch and card; a cloth label from the Pocasset Worsted Mill.
- Donations received through Doris Haskins (from her cousin Bob Vangermeersch): 100th Anniversary Booklet from St. Brigid's Church; bio of Bill Conti (a nationally-known musical writer from Johnston); and a photo of crossing guards including Mike from Lincoln School (1950s); a graduation photo from Graniteville School. Also, in May, we received from her cousin, Richard Vangermeersch, a number of items relating to the village of Graniteville, including his 1954 graduating class photo and his report cards. In June we received additional personal items from Richard.
- In April Steve Merolla donated a P.C. Petersen Dairy delivery receipt. He also passed on to us a number of documents from the Waterman family of Brown Avenue. They were originally purchased by Anthony Ricci.
- In May, George Picotte donated newspaper clippings from the 1930s about town political matters.
- Scott Sanderson gave some material related to his grandfather Senator Harry Sanderson.
- In August Louis purchased seventy-seven receipts for items bought by Joseph Webb for his store in Morgan Mills.

Many donated objects may be seen in the Acquisitions 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 of Johnston
- Any Johnston-related ephemera or memorabilia

In Memorium

Emily A. Brown

We are saddened by the passing of Mrs. Emily A. Brown, mother of our Vice-President Daniel Brown, on July 20, 2017. Her last years were spent in Smithfield, but before that she had lived all her life in the village of Graniteville. She was a remarkable woman, having to deal with total blindness the last third of her life, but living on her own until her last few months. Although not being able to see, she cooked, baked, and cleaned her own apartment. Her mind remained sharp until the very end. She will be fondly remembered by her family, which included her son Daniel and his wife Nancy, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Dodie Falvo

We regret to announce the passing of a long-time member of the Johnston Historical Society, Mrs. Fortuna "Dodie" Falvo, on July 31, 2017. For many years she helped Bel McGowan with organizing and setting up our tea events. She was 79.

Upcoming Events

August 5 and September 2, 2017

Open House

12-3pm

JHS is holding joint open house events with Historic New England, featuring JHS's Elijah Angell House, 101 Putnam Pike, and HNE's Clemence-Irons House, 38 George Waterman Road. Docents will be available at each location to talk to visitors about the story behind each house. First Saturday of each month.

August 27, 2017

JHS Tag Sale

8am-12pm

JHS Headquarters, 101 Putnam Pike, Johnston. Members and friends are invited to join us for a community tag sale. \$15 gets you a ten-foot square spot on our property. Bring your own table, chairs, and stuff to sell. Proceeds from the rental of spots benefits the Johnston Historical Society.

August 27, 2017

JHS Pot Luck Cookout

5pm

Johnston Historical Society members and their families and friends are invited to partake of pic-a-nic goodies. JHS will supply hot dogs, buns, and Yacht Club Soda. Anything else is pot luck, so please bring a dish to share. In the event of rain, the picnic will be held in the barn.

September 2, 2017

Trip to Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum

55 Bridge Street, Willimantic, Connecticut

10am-4pm

[This is another try at a trip that was previously scheduled for May 6, but which had to be cancelled because of rain.]

JHS members are invited to step outside Rhode Island for a day of railroading history. There will be train rides, demonstrations, and music, and JHS trustee Rolf Johnson has offered to lead a tour of the facilities. Museum admission: Adults, \$7; children 8-12, \$3; under 8, free. www.cteastrrmuseum.org. If you want to carpool, meet at JHS Headquarters at 8:45am that morning. (Willimantic is approximately one hour from Johnston via Route 6).

September 27, 2017

General Meeting

7pm

Captain Phil DiMaria will tell the story of the Gettysburg Gun, on display at the Rhode Island State House.

October 4, 2017

Society visit to Clouds Hill Mansion in Warwick

Details TBD.

October 25, 2017

General Meeting

7pm

Our speaker will be Dan Santos, Regional Site Manager at Historic New England. He'll be talking about recent work at the Clemence-Irons House.

November 29, 2017

General Meeting

7pm

Jim Ignasher, historian with the Historical Society of Smithfield, will regale us with Stories of New England Aviation Part 2.

January 24, 2018

General Meeting

7pm

Our president, Louis McGowan, will present something interesting.

February 28, 2018

General Meeting

7pm

Our speaker will be David Brussat, former member of the editorial board of the *Providence Journal*, and author of the History Press title *Lost Providence*. He'll talk about and sign his book, and we'll learn something about Providence's lost architectural heritage.

March 28, April 25, May 30, and June 27, 2018

General Meetings

Speaker 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.

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 Find us on Facebook  
As of this month our Facebook page has 738 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: November 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**