

# Johnston Historical Society

## Historical Notes

Vol. XXV, #2

Christopher Martin, Editor....Louis McGowan, Assistant  
[www.JohnstonHistorical.org](http://www.JohnstonHistorical.org)

July 2019

### President McGowan Steps Down

On June 26, 2019, I stepped down as president of the Johnston Historical Society, a position I had held since 1996. It is, of course, with mixed emotion that I do so as the historical society has been such an important part of my life for the last thirty-five years. I initially envisioned having more time to spend on some of my other pursuits and hobbies, but, realistically, I know that I will be coming to the museum most days. I will still be serving as curator and archivist of the museum, jobs I truly love.



Danny and Louis were given Certificates of Appreciation at our June 26th meeting, a small token for all they have given us. *Photo by Christopher Martin.*

In 1996, Pat Macari and I re-formed our group, and I took over as president. We had a wonderful open house soon after and picked up some key people, who became the backbone of group in the next few years after that. Those people were: Dan, Steve, Everett, Bel, Mike Carroll, and Rolf Johnson. We did a lot of great things over the years, including: restoring the Elijah Angell House, saving and doing the initial restoration of the Belknap School, starting up our still-running Historical Notes (JHS journal and newsletter), pulling in over \$200,000 in grants for our various projects, keeping a very active cemetery committee going, publishing two photo books about our town and, of

course, building and stocking our wonderful museum barn (and its two additions).

Helping with many of these accomplishments were all of our great members, too numerous to mention, that were added over the years. Our executive board, made up of Dan, Elise, Joe, Christopher, Anthony, Marie, Steve, and Doug has done a wonderful job keeping us on the right track.

But, things are always changing in life, and twenty-three years is way too long for any president to serve. New blood will be added at the top, which is a good thing.

Obviously, all that we have accomplished as a group was only possible because a lot of people worked well together in trying to achieve the common goal of saving our town's history. I think that we have made great strides in that direction. I believe firmly that our new board, led by the incoming president, Elise Carlson, will continue moving in the right direction, always moving to uphold our mission.

I thank all of you for supporting me, and most of all, supporting our historical society in all that we have done.

### Vice President Dan Brown Steps Down

Dan Brown, vice president of our group since 2007, also declined to run for his office in our July 2019 election. Besides his many years as VP, Dan also served as treasurer and trustee from 1996 to 2007. So, for his all his time with our group, he has served on the executive board in one capacity or another!

Whenever a call or a visit to town officials or to vendors was needed, Dan was there to call or pay a visit. He developed a great relationship with the good folks at Champlin Foundations, which I know helped us over the years. He was active in fund-raising for much of his time with us and also for many years has headed up our annual yard sales. Whenever window treatments were needed, Dan was always there helping us. Dan also helped me in constructing apparatus for some of our exhibits and in general maintenance around the museum grounds.

Thankfully, Dan is not leaving us. He will serve as a trustee on our board and I am sure will continue to do the things that he has always done quietly behind the scenes. (LHM)

## The Bordens of Neutaconkanut Hill

by Steve Merolla

The Bordens were an early and influential family in the history of Rhode Island and Providence/Johnston. It may be of some surprise, but the Borden family line originated in Normandy, France. It is possible that the family name was originally DeBourdain. When William the Conqueror invaded England in 1066, amongst his warrior knights were members of the Borden family. In repayment for their services, they were given lands in Kent, which is in the southeastern part of England. Through time, the family name was anglicized though there were several variations of spelling -- Burden, Burdin, Bordon, and Borden. However, the most common spelling in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in fact seems to have been Burden.



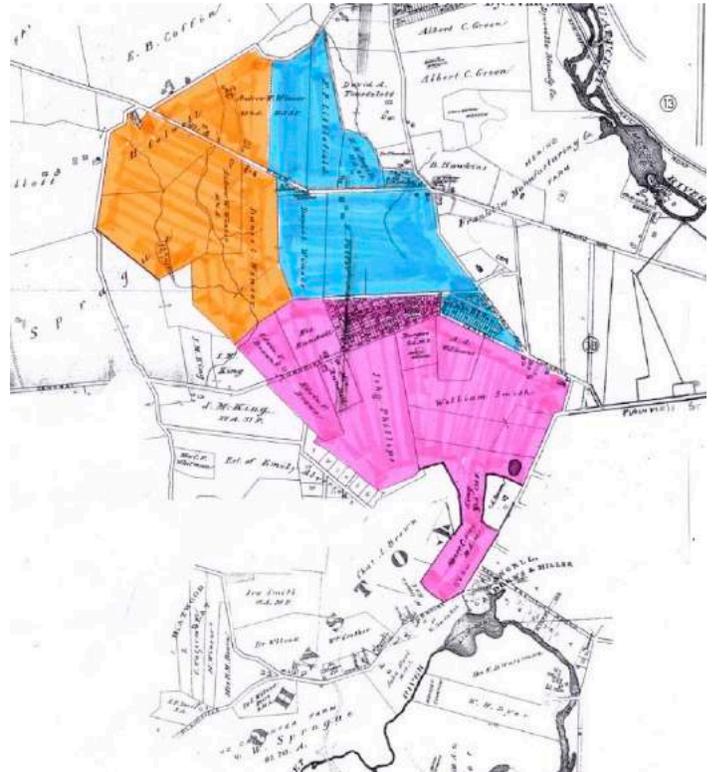
The Borden family coat of arms.

Richard Borden was born in Headcorn, Kent around 1601, and his wife Joan Fowle was born around 1604. Richard Borden was a Quaker, and like many other worshippers not of the Church of England at the time, the Quaker sect was persecuted for their beliefs. It was most likely the reason that Richard Borden, his wife, and two children decided to emigrate to America, where they arrived in 1635 in Boston.

By 1638, he had moved to Aquidneck Island in Rhode Island, likely forced out of Boston by the Puritan authorities, as were many others such as Ann Hutchinson, who appeared in what became Portsmouth, Rhode Island, at about the same time. Richard was one of the founders of Portsmouth, and it was said that his son Mathew was the first English child born on Aquidneck. He was also one of the founders of the Quaker Church in Portsmouth and was also a surveyor who helped map out the new town. Mr. Borden's activities were far afield. In 1653, he, along with others, was sent to Long Island to deal with the Dutch, and in 1667, he ended up purchasing lands in New Jersey, where two of his sons would later settle.

Perhaps it is not surprising that Richard Borden would also purchase land much closer to home. On March 17, 1659, he bought of William Field eighty acres of land on the northern side of Neutaconkanut Hill in Providence: "*William Field of Providence sold unto Richard Burden of Portsmouth on Rhode Island two parcels of land being neere unto the Hill called Neotoconkonutt... 80 acres... one of these parcels bounds on the east with Edward Manton, on the west with the Common, on the north with Shadrach Manton... the other parcel... bounding on the east with the Common, on the west with Joseph Wise of Roxbury in Massachusetts... on the north with Edward Manton...*" (Early Records of the Town of Providence, Vol. II, page 32). On September 6, 1661, he purchased a further sixty acres on the Hill, this time from Shadrach Manton (E.R.I: 73). Though he purchased this land in Providence, Richard Borden never actually lived there.

It should be noted that up until the twentieth century, Neutaconkanut Hill was an area much larger than thought of today. It encompassed an area reaching from the former 1025 Club, the King estate, and the ball fields at Neutaconkanut Park, then stretched along a short section of Killingly Street and then up Hartford Avenue at its intersection with Borden Avenue. When Richard Borden died on May 25, 1671, he left a considerable estate that included 200 sheep, 100 lambs, four oxen, twenty-one beef cattle, and forty-one hogs. Unfortunately, Mr. Borden also owned human chattel, they being a black man and woman along with three children. In his Will, he left his Providence landholdings to his eldest son, Thomas Borden. Thomas was born in England October 3, 1627, and made the journey from England to America with his parents. In 1663, he married Mary Harris, daughter of William Harris, one of the leading men of the colony. Even before his father's death, Thomas purchased his own parcels of land in Providence. On November 8, 1662, he purchased sixty acres of land from Joseph Wise of Roxbury, Massachusetts: "*...upon the Hill called Neutaconkonut... bounding on the north with land partly of Richard Borden of Portsmouth & partly with the Common, on the southwest with the remainder of the said Farm belonging to me...*" (Johnston Deeds 2/583). It was in this year, 1662, that Thomas Borden officially became a resident of Providence. Through other transactions and his inheritance, Thomas amassed an estate of some 390 acres, almost all of it on the hill called Neutaconkanut. The land involved basically was situated on the forward brow of the Hill, as previously described.



The shaded areas on this old map represent Thomas Borden's original 390 acres of land holdings, later divided into three equal parts upon Thomas's death.

Thomas and Mary Borden had eight children: Richard (b. c.1663), Mary (b. 1664), Dinah (b. 1665), William (b. 1668), Joseph (b. 1669), Mercy (b. 1672), Experience (b. 1675), and

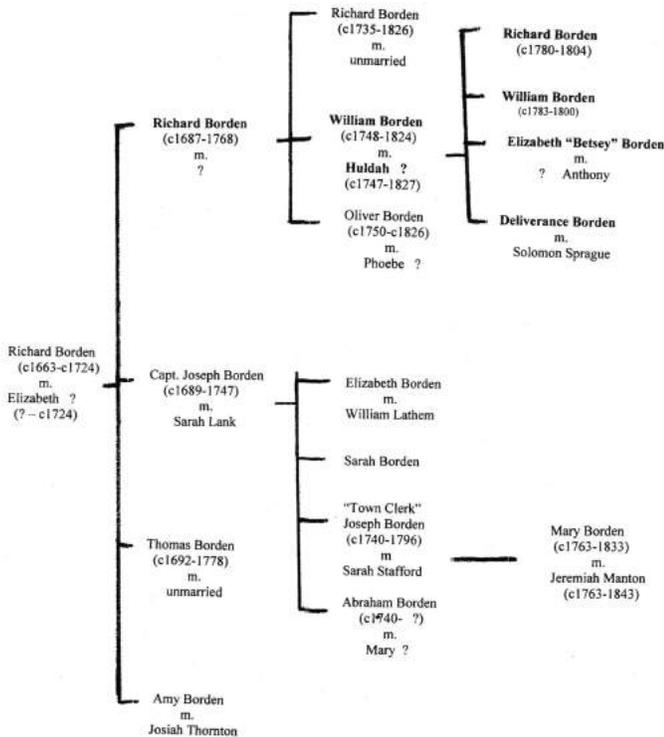
Meribah (b. 1676). It is not known where they built their dwelling house, but a good guess may be on the north side of Hartford Avenue, about a half mile west up from Killingly Street, in the area that became known as Ochee Spring. This would have been a prime area because of the spring and the fact that the Woonasquatucket River was only about half a mile away to the north. Wherever the house was located, it would have certainly been burned down in 1675 during King Phillip's War, when nearly every structure on the mainland of Rhode Island was destroyed by the Native Americans. Most residents on the mainland fled to the safety of the islands in Narragansett Bay, and for the Bordens it would have been a sort of homecoming because they still had considerable family residing in Portsmouth. On May 5, 1675, Thomas Borden was selected as an Assistant of the Governor of Rhode Island for the duration of the war. He was also a member of the Court Martial held at Newport for the trial of Indians involved in the insurrection; several of these were in fact executed. The war ended in 1678, but unfortunately Thomas Borden was never to return home to Providence, for he died on November 25, 1675, in Portsmouth. He is buried in Portsmouth Historical Cemetery #10 along with his parents. The exact date of the family's return to Providence is not known, but by 1679, Mary Borden and her sons are back on the Providence tax rolls. In 1680, she petitioned the Town Council to be reimbursed for a barrel of her husband's gun powder "...used by the Colony troops... in ye late war with ye Indians..." In his Will Thomas Borden divided his 390-acre estate equally between his three surviving sons, Richard, Joseph, and Mercy, each receiving a 130-acre share.

eldest son, had the legal right to claim the whole estate. However, hearing the wishes of his father on his deathbed and knowing the terms of the Will, Richard proceeded to quit-claim to his brothers their portion of their father's estate. The portion Richard received was located at the southeastern side of the great estate. This area stretched from the former location of the 1025 Club, then along Plainfield Street to the bottom of Central/Sunset Avenue, and then westerly up and over the brow of the Hill on all sides for a distance of between one-half to one mile distant from Plainfield Street. Aside from his quit-claim deeds to his brothers, Richard Borden did not carry out much deed activity during his lifetime.

Richard and Elizabeth had four children that we know of: Richard Jr. (b. c.1687), Captain Joseph (b. c.1689), Thomas (b. c.1692) and Amy (b. c.1694). When Richard Sr. died on September 27, 1724, he left a considerable estate valued at £313-17-10. In livestock he owned nine cows, a pair of oxen, two steers, a bull, six calves, forty sheep, along with a couple of swine and two horses. He also owned a cider mill and for some reason also possessed some 2,500 feet of oak and pine boards. For produce, he had on hand forty-nine bushels of corn, nine of rye, twenty of oats, and nineteen loads of hay. Also 157 pounds of butter, 256 pounds of cheese, 117 pounds of skim milk cheese, and ninety-two pounds of sheep's wool. Quite surprisingly, it seems that Richard Borden was also cultivating tobacco on Neutaconkanut Hill, for he had on hand 107 pounds of that product.

His daughter Amey and her husband Josiah Thornton would set up household on the north side of present-day Morgan Avenue, near to the intersection with the former Borden Avenue (now Downing Drive). Thomas Borden never married; his property was located along both sides of Central Avenue, from the brow of the Hill and as it flattens out, westerly to about the area of Ashby Street. His farm was comprised of sixty-six acres.

Joseph Borden was married to Sarah, maiden name unknown. He owned about sixty acres of land on the very westerly end of his father's farm, perhaps reaching westerly to about the area of Mills Drive, which is about a mile from Plainfield Street. On March 14, 1737/8, Joseph sold about fifty acres of this farm to John Thornton, whose own farm bordered the Bordens on the west (P A10/222). This transaction gave the Thorntons ownership of a large estate stretching along Central Avenue from Atwood Avenue to around Ashby Street (about one-and-a-quarter miles). On the very same day that Joseph sold off most of his farm on the Hill, he proceeded to purchase a thirty-four-acre tract of land from the estate of Stephen Thornton, a sort of even exchange (P A10/201). This particular parcel was located on the north side of Plainfield Street in Olneyville, just east of today's St. Anthony's Church, and about one-quarter mile east from the Hill. Joseph Borden was referred to in many records as "Captain." He did serve as a Captain of the 2nd Company of the Providence Militia during the March 1744 expedition against the mighty French fortress of Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island, Canada. Joseph Borden was one of only 300 Rhode Islanders to take part in the victorious expedition, which was the main action in what was called King George's War in the Americas, and the War of the Austrian Succession in Europe. Captain Borden was fifty-eight years of age when he died in 1747; his eldest son,



The Borden family tree, beginning with Richard Borden (c1663-1724).

Richard Borden was born in December of 1663, and was the eldest son. His wife was named Elizabeth, maiden name unknown; also not known was the date of their marriage. According to the English right of primogeniture, Richard, as the

Joseph Borden Jr., was only seven years of age at the time, and son Abraham even younger. In his Will, Captain Joseph Borden left his estate to be divided between his two sons, but because of their ages, they and sister Elizabeth were put under the guardianship of their mother Sarah (officially recognized by the Town Council in 1754) who in the meantime married Daniel Lank.

On July 4, 1762, Joseph Borden Jr. purchased the half part of his uncle Thomas Borden's sixty-six-acre farm on the Hill, a transaction that was quite controversial at the time and for years later. Only about a month later, in September, Thomas Borden was declared "non compos mentus" and a guardian was appointed for him. After Thomas died on June 30, 1778, the rest of the family brought suit against their kinsman Joseph Borden Jr., perhaps feeling that Joseph had taken advantage of his uncle's mental state. In a somewhat surprising verdict, Joseph won the case and continued in ownership of half the farm with the other heirs dividing the rest of it. However, besides this rather nasty dispute, Joseph Borden Jr. ended up being a servant to his community for many years. He served as Town Clerk/Justice of the Peace for seventeen years, and consecutively from 1781 to 1795. His handwriting is beautiful and the script immediately recognizable in the town records. In 1762, he married Sarah Stafford and it seems that they had only one child, Mary A. Borden, born in 1763. Joseph died March 11, 1796. His widow, Sarah, now alone to run the farm, probably felt it too much to do so on her own, thus in 1801, she sold the estate to Peter DeBosq. More than likely, she moved into the household of her daughter Mary, who had married Jeremiah Manton; this is reinforced by the fact that Sarah and Joseph Borden Jr, along with daughter Mary, and Jeremiah Manton are all buried together in Johnston Historical Cemetery #18, in the Manton section of town. It is quite possible that Joseph Jr. had been initially interred somewhere on Neutaconkanut Hill and then later moved to Cemetery #18.

Town record from June 4, 1787, bearing the signature of Joseph Borden.

Of Joseph Borden Junior's younger brother, Abraham, not much is known. He and his brother had sold off their father's estate in Olneyville in 1785 to Laban Waterman. He is enumerated in the 1790 Federal Census as living in Johnston, but after that there is

no longer record of him living in Rhode Island. Later census records do enumerate an Abraham Borden as living in upstate New York, but it can't be known for certain if this is the same person. It should be noted that this was a period in which many natives of this state pulled up stakes and emigrated to either New York or the Ohio Country.

Richard Borden was the oldest son of Richard Borden Sr., born around the year 1687. The name of his wife is unknown. They had three sons, the youngest being Oliver, who was born around 1750; Oliver and his wife had at least three children. In 1774, Oliver sold to his brother William the one-third part of their father's estate on the Hill (J 2/393). Oliver relocated a few miles further west along Plainfield Pike, somewhere in the vicinity of Comstock Parkway. In her genealogy of the Borden family (published 1901), Hattie Borden Welch states of Oliver Borden: "He was a Baptist preacher or exhorter but without much intelligence, natural ability, or education. A person who had frequently heard him preach remarked to me that Elder Wilson of Providence once said of Elder Borden "that there is a minister in Johnston, I hear, who preaches for nothing & I think is as worth as much." Oliver Borden died at some point in the year 1826. Unfortunately, there is no evidence of any gravestones extant of him or his family, though Ms. Welch says that she did see the graves of two of his children, though we know not where they were located. The widow Phebe Borden was given her widow's rights in the thirty-acre farm (J 6/268), including the dwelling house, but her financial situation must have been difficult, for she transferred her interest in the estate to Samuel Jacoy of Cranston in 1822 in return for him giving her \$30 per year or to give her room and board with his family for the term of her natural life (J 6/319).

After Oliver Borden sold off his share of his father's estate on the Hill, it meant that his brothers Richard and William would now be the sole owners. Richard Borden Jr. was born around 1735; he never married and carried out very little deed activity. His brother William was born around 1748; he and his wife Huldah had four children: Richard (b. c. 1780), William (b. c. 1783), Elizabeth "Betsey" (b. ?), and Deliverance (b. August 13, 1768). Unlike his brother, William did buy and sell a few parcels of land, much of it around the Hill. A tax document from 1779 gives an interesting look at the William Borden farm, which was located at the very southern end of the Borden family holdings, in the area of the former 1025 Club. The document states that there was a dwelling house, small barn, cooper's shop, old corn crib and thirty-eight acres of land with eighteen of it being timber, the rest pasture. He could cut one-and-a-half tons of upland hay and plant one-half an acre of tobacco that could yield 500 weight of that product. He also possessed a mare, two cows, two heifers, two steers, seven sheep, two hogs, and four shoats, along with £105 in cash. This was a modest estate but probably quite typical for the period at that time in Johnston. The one surprise is that William carried on in the footsteps of his grandfather in continuing the cultivation of tobacco on the Hill, the only instance I have ever discovered of this crop being grown in Johnston.

Misfortune struck the family in the form of the early deaths of the sons of William and Huldah Borden. The older brother William died in 1800 at twenty-two years of age, and the

youngest son, Richard, died in 1804 at twenty-four; neither of them had children or had married. Their father William Sr. himself passed away on April 18, 1824, at seventy-seven years of age. His obituary was printed in the Providence Gazette and is quite interesting: “...for more than 50 years he was a member of the Baptist Church in Johnston. He was the first person who attended the Providence Public Market with a fruit and vegetable wagon, which he continued for 56 years of his life.” It is quite interesting that a type of truck farming or market gardening was carried out back in the 1760s and that William Borden was one of the founding participants. Most likely, along with his fruits and vegetables, William also sold some of his “Neutaconkanut Hill Tobacco” to the growing population of Providence. Also, it seems that after their Quaker beginnings, at least this branch of the Borden family were firm Baptists. After William’s death, the Probate Court document that set off Huldah’s dower rights stated that the farm now consisted of fifty-seven acres of land with two dwelling houses. The Court granted Huldah the smaller, older of the houses along with the cider house and fifteen acres of pasture land on the Hill. The document describes the second house as the “new house,” and a map attached to the document shows it to be the much larger of the two (J 6/258).



The headstones of William and Richard Borden; both died too young, both are buried in Johnston historical cemetery #81. Photos by Steve Merolla.

Of course, William’s two daughters, Elizabeth “Betsey” (who married Paul Anthony), and Deliverance (who married Solomon Sprague), were to divide the remainder of the estate between themselves. Huldah Borden died September 5, 1827. In her Will she stated that she had one surviving daughter, Deliverance Sprague, meaning that her other daughter, Elizabeth had died by that time. She left to Deliverance two cows, a gold necklace, earrings, the household furniture and all her wearing apparel (Probate 6/281). As noted before, William Borden Sr. had died in 1824; his unmarried brother Richard died in 1826 without heirs. Since William’s estate had not yet been settled at the time of his brother’s death, and since Richard’s only heirs were his brother’s children, the Probate Court on September 27, 1828, decided to combine the two estates and divide them between Deliverance Sprague and the heirs of Elizabeth (“Betsey”) Anthony (Probate 6/293). The two farms were divided as to equal value. The heirs drew lots and Deliverance Sprague drew Lot #2, which comprised forty-six acres and encompassed most of the Richard Borden farm. This was basically the area of the present-day ball fields and the old ski runs. The Lot #1 by default fell to the heirs of Betsey Anthony, which lay to the south of Lot #2, and

comprised about forty acres of land. This was the whole of the William Borden farm with the two houses, cider house, and other outbuildings referred to earlier. It was also mentioned that in Lot #1 there was located a burial ground (JN #81) that was to be used by members of the family.

Betsey Anthony’s family at this point lived in LeCroy, in upstate New York, and had no interest in the property on Neutaconkanut Hill. Thus, on October 20, 1829, three of the heirs sold off their shares of the estate to Samuel W. King, the future governor of Rhode Island (J 6/434); only a month later, in November of 1829, Mr. King sold the same property to his brother John King (J 6/434). This was the beginning of the King dynasty on the Hill. Just a couple of years later (April 1, 1831), John King purchased another part of the farm from the last heir, Oliver Anthony (J 8/136).

Deliverance Sprague and her husband Solomon did not remain much longer than the other heirs. Solomon Sprague had added on to what he and his wife had initially inherited, including a five-acre parcel that belonged to the original William Borden estate (J 6/362). Sprague built up the farm to about seventy-one acres, but on December 29, 1832, he and Deliverance sold it all to William Smith. The deed stated that the Spragues were now living in Marion County, Ohio. (J 8/256). Deliverance and Solomon Sprague were both buried in Evansport Cemetery in Defiance, Ohio; Solomon died August 15, 1837, and Deliverance died August 19, 1848. William Smith and his heirs, much like the Kings, remained on Neutaconkanut Hill much longer than the Borden heirs, as they remained in the area (the area of the ball fields near Central/Sunset Avenues) up into the twentieth century.

With the departure of the Spragues in 1832, the presence of the Borden family on this section of Neutaconkanut Hill had finally run its course, a period of time spanning about 170 years. While other families replaced them, none lasted longer here than the Bordens.

## Society Doings

### JHS Gives Tours of Belknap School

On May 31, Louis McGowan, Elise Carlson, and Steve Merolla met with two classrooms from Thornton School for tours of the Belknap School. Louis provided the narration. We had a lot of fun with the children. Thanks to Judy Kawa of the Land Trust for setting up the visits.

### Joe Jamroz Leads Walk

On June 5, 2019, Joe Jamroz, as representative of the Woonasquatucket River Watershed council, led a walk of fifteen people from the Manton Avenue Bridge to the Clemence/Irons House and back. On the way out and back, Joe did a nice job of entertaining us with an overview of Johnston history. At the Clemence/Irons House, Dan Santos from Historic New England talked to us about the history of the structure.

## Election of Officers

On June 26, 2019, we had our election of officers and board members. Tim Kee presented the slate of nominees, and as there were no additional nominees from the floor, board member Joe Jamroz cast the vote for the nominated slate. The electees are:

President: Elise Carlson  
Vice-President: Stephen Merolla  
Recording Secretary: Louis McGowan  
Treasurer: Joseph Jamroz  
Corresponding Secretary: Christopher Martin  
Trustees: Marie Thierfelder, Daniel Brown, Anthony Ursillo and Douglas Stephens.



The officers of the new Executive Board: left to right, Christopher, Joe, Elise, Steve, and Louis. *Photo by Pete Fontaine.*

## Recognition Time for Louis And Dan

Before our June meeting we held a recognition get-together for out-going President Louis McGowan and Vice-President Daniel S. Brown. It was a beautiful evening and over sixty people attended the outside event. It was a real fun time. Thanks to Anthony Ursillo and Elise for putting the time together. Thanks also to Anthony, Tim Kee, Alice Lombardi, and Fred Mikkelsen, who bought or donated food items that night.

## 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

### 2019 House Grant

State Representative Deb Felella sponsored a 2019 Rhode Island House Grant for \$1500 for us which we will use to purchase a computer system for the society.

### A Big Thank You to Parks and Recreation

A big thank you goes out from our society to Dan Mazzulla and his crew at the town Parks and Recreation Department for the

help that they give us every year on our grounds at our museum. They have lots to do around town keeping up with building grounds, ball fields, cemeteries, and parks, but they never forget us. They do a great job making our property look good with their mowing and weedwhacking.

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 [johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com](mailto:johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.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

Our April speaker was our good friend Jim Ignasher, who presented a slide show on early balloon flights. His talk was very informative and included many illustrations of early balloon flights.

Our May speaker was Grace Moorehead, who presented a slide talk on beginning Genealogy. Her talk was very well received by the thirty people at the meeting. She used many examples from her own family tree to explain important points.

Robert A. Geake, board member and archivist at the Warwick Historical Society, gave a talk in June entitled "A Separate War of Independence: The Militias Struggle to Retain Independence in the American Revolution." We learned a lot about all the different militias of the period, and how they were pulled between duty to serve the revolutionary cause and duty to protect their local towns and lands.

## Acquisitions

- In April, Mary Baney donated four town documents from 1779 and 1780.
- In May, Louis picked up on-line a 1959 Calef School graduation lapel pin.
- In May, Thomas E. Greene donated sixty different copies of the Rhode Island Manual (which are full of facts and figures on Rhode Island). They range in age from 1867 to 1977.
- In June, Don Jackson gave us a reproduction decorated, brass nineteenth century powder flask and two civil war rifle shells from Gettysburg.
- In June, we purchased an Old Village Farm Dairy milk bottle.
- In July, Elise purchased on-line a 1775 public house license petition from Abraham Borden.

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

## Wish List

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

- Display mannequins
- Old photos, slides, or home movies of Johnston
- Any Johnston-related ephemera or memorabilia

## Cemetery Committee Report

by Steve Merolla

As has been related in previous newsletter articles and at our monthly meetings, the main project of the JHS Cemetery Committee this past year has been Cemetery #7, the very large burial ground located at the end of George Waterman Road, where it meets Route 44. Our first visit there was on May 20, 2018, and our last full work session fell on June 23, 2019, a span of a little over a year. During that period we made work visits to other cemeteries as needed, almost exclusively for clean-ups. The Committee made thirty work visits to Cemetery# 7. During those sessions fourteen headstones were repaired and a whopping seventy-one headstones were re-set. In addition, three foot stones were repaired and twenty-two re-set. It has been quite a monumental task and full kudos to members of the Committee who worked that cemetery in both the cold of Fall and early Winter along with the sizzling Summer heat. Again, many thanks (alphabetically) to those members: Elise Carlson, Everett Cogswell, Carl Johnson, Stephen Merolla, Dave Morrocco, Nick Sprague, Doug Stephens, and Marie Thierfelder.



Doug Stevens mixes some mortar in cemetery #7. Photo by Steve Merolla.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the help of the Citizens Bank volunteer group, who did most of the clearing of what was a briar infested disaster -- we can't thank them enough. They will continue to maintain this cemetery in the future, which is a great help to the Committee. As always, high regard and many thanks to those additional volunteers who have been cutting cemeteries for us; their work is very important to the success of our group: Dan and Mitchell Parillo, Kevin Sarli, and Robert Aubin. The Town of Johnston Parks and Recreation Department is maintaining a couple of cemeteries for us and the Department of Public Works always steps in when we ask for help.

## Historical Advertising

Here's another old ad from the Historical Advertising photo album on our Facebook page. This one is from the Warwick Musical Theatre program for July 21, 1987 (Perry Como was the headliner). The Johnston address, just up the street from our Society headquarters, is also the former location of The Bread Boss, one of our newsletter sponsors.

**Tops and Bottoms**  
The Fashion Place For Men and Women

**\$5 OFF**  
five dollars  
\*Any Regular DENIM JEAN

Jordache\*Sergio\*Colter\*Corniche\*Alessio  
\*Does Not Include Stretch or Acid Wash Jeans  
Valid thru 9/15/87

432 ATWOOD AVE. 64 PUTNAM PIKE (Rte. 44)  
Cranston \* 943-0817 Johnston \* 231-1420

Mon.-Fri. 10-9 Sat. 10-6, Sun 12-5 Mon.-Wed. & Sat. 10-6 Thurs. - Fri. 10-9

## Upcoming Events

### July and August

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

### Fall -- Date TBD

JHS Tag Sale

8am-12pm

JHS Headquarters, 101 Putnam Pike, Johnston. 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.

### September 15, 2019

Open House Fundraiser

1-5pm

Shang Bailey Road House, 2737 Hartford Avenue. Please come by and see the recently renovated first floor of the circa 1798/1833 Shang Bailey Road House, also known as the former Log Gift Shoppe. Tour the first floor, extensively renovated by JHS member Warren Lanpher of Circa 1700 Inc. The second floor will also be open. Donations in support of the Johnston Historical Society, a 501c3 tax exempt organization, will be graciously accepted. Light refreshments will be served.

### September 25, 2019

General Meeting

7pm

Patrick Donovan from Varnum Armory will be our speaker.

### October 30, 2019

General Meeting

7pm

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**

General Meeting

7pm

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

**January 26, 2020**

Special Sunday meeting

2pm

Arthur Ianelli will tell us about Ramstail Factory, Rhode Island's only "official" haunted place.

**February 23, 2020**

Special Sunday meeting

2pm

Steve Merolla will present The Bordens of Neutaconkanut Hill Part II.

**March 25, 2020**

General Meeting

7pm

Tony Carlino will be our speaker, telling us something about Roger Williams.

**April 29, 2020**

General Meeting

7pm

Food historian David Stone will talk about his recent books, *Lost Restaurants of Providence* and *Lost Restaurants of Newport*.

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 johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com 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, 2019.**



As of this month our Facebook page has 987 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)

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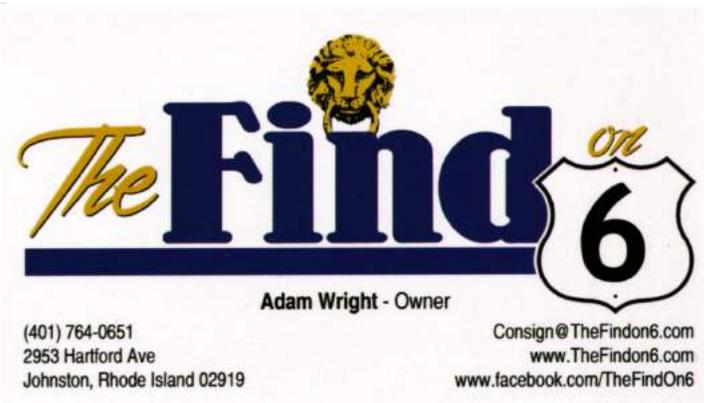


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**Our Executive Board**

President: Elise Carlson  
Vice-President: Steve Merolla  
Treasurer: Joe Jamroz  
Recording Secretary: Louis McGowan  
Corresponding Secretary: Christopher Martin  
Trustees: Dan Brown, 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: johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.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.

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