

Johnston Historical Society

Historical Notes

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Christopher Martin, Editor
www.JohnstonHistorical.org

September 2022

The Joseph P. Mathewson House (c1809)

by Steve Merolla

[Note: the numerals alongside first names indicate the generation of that person]

Situated along Simonsville Avenue is a fine looking Federal-style dwelling house just at the entrance to the Simmons Village Apartments. In the front yard is a white picket fence; the address is 333 Simonsville Avenue. The land on which the house sits was once part of a quite large farm owned by James Mathewson (4), the great-grandson of James Mathewson (1), who was resident in the colony as far back as the mid-1600s; he was married to Hannah Field, daughter of John Field. This first James Mathewson died on December 3, 1682, leaving to his son James (2) 120 acres of land. James (2) was married to Elizabeth Clemence, daughter to Thomas and Elizabeth Clemence. James died January 7, 1737; in his Will, he left son Daniel twenty-two acres of land and much of his moveable estate, with the intent that he care for his mother; Daniel was also made executor of the estate. Daniel was born October 6, 1700; he married Amey Edmunds (born 1717; died 1751) around the year 1737. It is possible that Daniel and Amey had only one child, that being James (4), who was born in 1739. This James may have had more than one wife. One source states that his first wife was named Mercy (or Marcy) Angell. What is known for sure is that his second wife was named Prudence, who was born in 1771, many years younger than James; she died in 1826. At the time of his death around late 1797, James Mathewson (4) owned around 216 acres of land along both sides of what became Simonsville Avenue. This large parcel of land extended from the intersection of Simonsville and Scituate Avenues down to the area of where the bridge at Simonsville Avenue crosses over Cedar Swamp Brook, near where the auction barn now stands. The northern boundary of the farm extended for a long distance along the south side of Scituate Avenue. This was surely quite a large estate.

James Mathewson died intestate, leaving a wife and eight children. As a result, his widow Prudence Mathewson petitioned the Superior Court in Providence for its March Term of 1798 to make division of the estate. In addition, at a Johnston Town Council meeting of March 17, 1798, Captain Caleb Remington was appointed guardian of Nathan, Joseph P., Abigail, William B., and Ann Thankful Mathewson, all minors under 21 years of age and heirs at law to their father James (two of Captain Caleb Remington's children had married into the Mathewson family);

the older children were Marcy, Reuben (married to Waity Remington), and Amey Mathewson (married to William Remington). The Commissioners chosen to divide the estate were all prominent citizens of the town -- William Borden King, Ebenezer Sprague, and Andrew Harris. They first set off to the widow Prudence Mathewson her dower or "widow's thirds." An outstanding plat map of the estate was drawn and divided into eight equal parts as to value. The heirs, or their guardians, then presumably drew paper lots to pick their "shares" of the estate (Johnston Deeds 4/262).



Photo by Christopher Martin, July 27, 2022.

Joseph P. Mathewson received the Right No. 5: *"The Right No. 5, including the Burial Ground, contains 17 acres of land... bounded northerly on the Highway (present-day Scituate Avenue) southerly on Right No. 3, easterly on Right No. 4 and westerly on Rights No. 6, No. 2 and part of the widow's thirds..."*

At this point in time, 1798, Joseph Pain Mathewson was about 11 years of age, having been born on August 28, 1787. He was still a minor and surely living in his parent's house. Not being of age and not yet financially independent, Joseph would not have had the means to build a dwelling on the land he had just inherited. His first deed activity occurred on April 11, 1807 (J 2/564), when he was 20 years of age. On that date he acquired, for \$147.00, the part of his deceased father's estate that had fallen to his sister Abigail, who was now married to Zurial W. Harris: "*A certain tract of land containing 18 1/2 acres... However otherwise bounded, it is the same lot of land set off & divided to Abigail Mathewson, daughter of James Mathewson, deceased, as by the division of said estate will appear...*" This parcel adjoined to the south side of Joseph's lot. On February 15, 1812, he mortgaged this same property back to Abigail and Zurial Harris, now resident in New York state (J 5/82 and 83). On November 29, 1815, Joseph purchased from his brother William Bussey Mathewson, William's rights, title and interest in the individual lots set off to their mother Prudence (J 5/413). Five years later, on May 9, 1820, this agreement was affirmed by another quit-claim from William to Joseph in the rights to their mother's "widow's thirds." After the death of the widow Prudence Mathewson in 1826, her "thirds" were divided and partitioned to her children (J Probate 6/372). Joseph P. Mathewson received a lot of 2 1/2 acres in his own right, being the Lot No. 2, and also the right to the Lot No. 6, containing ten acres, which he had acquired from his brother William B. Mathewson. With these transactions, Joseph P. Mathewson now owned around fifty-one acres of land, much of it on the rather steep section of hill on both sides of Simmonsville Avenue. The area involved was around the site of Johnston Historical Cemetery #33 and down towards the intersection of Simmonsville and Scituate Avenues.



Joseph P. Mathewson's headstone in nearby JN033.
Photo by Christopher Martin, July 27, 2022.

Joseph P. Mathewson did carry on some other deed activity concerning properties further down Simmonsville Avenue, towards Cedar Swamp Brook (the auction barn area), but these were basically of a minor level and were not related to what was his homestead estate (J 8/229 and 230; 9/222 and 224; 12/604).

Of great interest, on February 3, 1843, Joseph and his sister, Ann Thankful Mathewson leased out his farm to Beriah Potter for a term of five years, for the sum of \$500.00 (J 12/31): "*This Instrument made & executed February 2, 1843, between Joseph P. Mathewson & Ann T. Mathewson of the one part, and Beriah Potter of the other...do hereby demise & farm let a certain Farm with 1/2 part of the house & 3/4 parts of the cellar & all the other buildings... bounded northerly by the Scituate Road easterly by Thankful Mathewson & James F. Simmons, southerly by the said Simmons & Thomas Smith, westerly by William Lathem & the widow of Joseph Hoel, Edward Taylor & Samuel Kent.*"

To have & to hold the same to him the sd Potter for the term of five years from March 25, 1843... Potter is to pay the Mathewsons as a rent the sum of \$500.00... the Mathewsons shall have the privilege of getting so many apples as is necessary to use in their family & Potter agrees to carry on to sd farm one chord of manure for every ton of hay carried off sd farm..." Reading the deed does not clarify whether the stated rent was a yearly payment or the total over the five years. Beriah Potter transferred the lease to William Lathem and Reuben Mathewson by March 25, 1846.

It seems that neither Joseph nor his sister Ann T. Mathewson ever married or had any children. In fact, census records seem to indicate that the siblings lived together in the house that Joseph built. The 1850 Federal Census indicates that Joseph, then 64 years of age, and sister Ann, age 54, were both living in the same dwelling house; they were enumerated as living in House #111/Family #116. This is confirmed by the fact that the two of them were named in the lease to Beriah Potter. Why would they have leased out half of their house and farm? Probably because of advancing age and the fact that they had no children to work the farm or support them in their old age.

Joseph died on November 22, 1850, at 67 years of age, just after being enumerated in the Federal Census of that year. As noted above, he never married or had children. He did not have a Will, and thus the estate was put into administration. Joseph's only heirs were his siblings. Two of those siblings were William Bussey Mathewson, now of Kent County, Michigan, and Abigail Harris, now of Crawford County, Ohio (previously residing in New York). The two of them sold their rights in Joseph's farm and his personal estate to William Lathem for \$150.00 (J 15/28). I have not been able to determine what happened to Lathem's interest in the farm.

On March 27, 1853, Robert Wilson, administrator on the estate, finalized the settlement of the same (J 15/150). At a Court of Probate held on February 12, 1853, it was ordered that the property be put up for auction, to be sold to the highest bidders. The auction was held on March 19, 1853, the highest bidder being Mary A. Riley of North Providence, the wife of Job Riley; the price was \$2,346.00: "*...A certain Farm... on the southerly*"

side of the old Scituate Road (so-called), the driftway leading by Simmons Old Mill [present-day Simmonsville Avenue] passing through said farm, containing 51 acres & 42 sq. rods of land... bounded northerly by said Scituate Road, southerly by James F. Simmons & others, easterly by land of Ann T. Mathewson & westerly by land of William Pirce & Ann T. Mathewson, said driftway running through said farm... also a right of way from the driftway aforesaid through the bars on to said burying ground..."

A little less than a year later, on November 27, 1854, Mary Riley added to the farm by purchasing a small lot of land from Joseph's sister Ann T. Mathewson, for \$242.00 (J 16/171). This was a small parcel of 2 3/4 acres on the south side of Simmonsville Avenue on the boundary of the two properties; there is also mention of buildings on the property. Of much importance however, the deed states that Ann is by now living in Providence, which makes sense because of the sale of her brother's house, where she had resided. (However, Ann T. Mathewson did in fact return to the place where she once lived. The 1870 Federal Census records her as living with Mr. Sanford Knight, and the 1880 Census enumerates her in the household of Lydia Hoyle. Their dwellings were quite close to the Joseph P. Mathewson house and they were in fact long-time neighbors).

Mary A. Riley lived on the Joseph P. Mathewson estate for about ten years. On April 16, 1864, she sold out to Nehemiah Sheldon Fenner of Scituate for the sum of \$3,000.00 (J 20/481): "*A certain Farm... 55 acres... by the Driftway leading to Simmons Old Mill [Simmonsville Avenue]... said Driftway running through said Farm, meaning to convey all the land that I own in Johnston, reserving however to the heirs of Joseph P. Mathewson... the burying ground... It is also meant to convey the lot on the northerly side of the driftway, running through to the Old Scituate road with the barn thereon...*" Fenner, however only owned the premises for about a year. On March 30, 1865, he sold the estate to Mr. John Entwistle, the deed description the same as for when Fenner purchased the property (J 21/133).

So began the long habitation of the subject house in the hands of the Entwistle family, for they would reside in the dwelling for over sixty years, longer than any other family. John Entwistle would farm and work the land for many years. He was born in Lancashire, England on September 5, 1828; he was married to Ellen Turner, also a native of England. It is not known why Mr. Entwistle emigrated to America; many people did so at this time to work in the various textile mills in the area, but all the census records indicate that he was a farmer. John and Ellen had three children; William (born August 13, 1859; died February 25, 1949), a daughter who was born and died in 1860, and John Jr. (born April 18, 1862; died 1922); John Jr. married Cora Belle Thompson on September 3, 1883. All three of the siblings were born in Johnston. John Entwistle's first wife, Ellen, died on March 13, 1875. On December 23, 1875, John married Sarah Ann Loomis (born 1850; died 1904); they had no children together. It seems that the Entwistle sons were involved in the milk business, for the 1885 Johnston Town Census lists William as "*drives milk team*"; John Jr. is listed as a "*milk dealer*."

On January 28, 1905, John Entwistle Sr. transferred the estate to his son John Entwistle Jr. (J New 1/486): "*...Being all the*

premises conveyed to this grantor by deed from Nehemiah S. Fenner, March 30 1865..." He died May 13, 1908, just three years after he had passed along the farm to his son. John Entwistle Jr., now residing in Cranston, drew up his Will on November 27, 1920; in it, he left the estate to his wife Cora and their nine children. John Jr. died in 1922 and his Will was probated on December 29, 1922. Within about four years, the heirs decided to dispose of the estate. On February 15, 1926, they sold the former Joseph P. Mathewson estate to the D&H Realty Co. (J New 37/520 and 521): "*...the John Entwistle Farm... 53 acres... lying on both sides of the road known as Simmonsville Avenue (formerly known as the road leading to Simmons old mill); the part on the south side of the said road bounding northerly on said road... and the portion of said farm lying on the north side of Simmonsville Avenue... bounded southerly on Simmonsville Avenue & running through from said Avenue to the old Scituate Road, so-called; being the same premises conveyed to John Entwistle Jr. by John Entwistle, February 7, 1905..."*

The estate was subsequently broken up into smaller pieces by the realty company. However, the Joseph P. Mathewson house still stands today at 333 Simmonsville Avenue, a proud reminder of what was once a large estate owned by one of the early families of this town.

What must be determined next is the approximate build date of the house. As stated previously, Joseph inherited the land out of his father's estate when he was around 11 years of age. The house, of course, was built at a later date. As early as 1801, there is a Joseph Mathewson on the tax rolls, his tax being a nominal .25 cents (I am not sure this is our Joseph Mathewson). Also taxed was the widow Prudence Mathewson for five of her children. In 1809, the tax list is the same: there is a Joseph Mathewson taxed at .25 cents, Prudence Mathewson taxed \$1.98 for her five children, and Reuben Mathewson, older brother of Joseph, taxed at .85 cents. At this point in time, Reuben owned his own dwelling house and a fair amount of land. For the year 1810, however, the tax picture changes: Reuben Mathewson is still taxed at .85 cents for his house and land, but we now have a "*Mathewson, Joseph P*" also taxed at .85 cents which would strongly indicate that he also is now being taxed for the value of a house. In addition, the tax now being paid by the widow Prudence Mathewson "*for part of James Mathewson's estate*" is now decreased to \$1.13. Coincidentally, this rate of \$1.13 is .85 cents less than the year before, and this is the same .85 cents now being taxed on Joseph P. Mathewson's estate. As stated above, Joseph's older brother, Reuben, definitely owned his own house and was being taxed the same .85 cents as Joseph. That being the case, it can fairly certainly be deduced that the Joseph P. Mathewson house was built around the year 1809, the year before he began to be taxed for this new dwelling house.

Film Digitization Project
by Christopher Martin

My wife bought me a machine for my birthday that can digitize 8mm and Super8 films. Being a frequent attendee of estate sales. I've picked up quite a few over the years. Their contents had mostly remained a mystery because, although I have an 8mm

projector, I hadn't gotten around to systematically viewing them. The acquisition of the digitization machine changed that, and I quickly ran through the twenty-or-so films I had. They turned out to be mainly Christmases, birthdays, graduations, and parades. Interesting, but not the old films of Rocky Point or Crescent Park I would have wished for.

Then Louis McGowan reminded me that there was a box of old films in the Johnston Historical Society collection that had never been viewed. The box is marked "1950s old Thornton films," and a note inside further elucidates that they came to us through former Johnston Fire Chief C. Cappelli. Unfortunately, only four of the films are 8mm/Super8. I've digitized them and uploaded them to our new Youtube channel. Just go to Youtube and search for "Johnston (RI) Historical Society."

One film, which was labeled "1963 Playground" on its case, depicts the building of Rainone Gym at 40 Mill Street in Johnston. The other three, unlabeled, together contain footage from an early 1970s parade. Included are several local marching bands and fire departments, as well as The Flintstones, Burger King, and Smokey the Bear!

The rest of the films in the box are 16mm films. I'd love to get these digitized, as well, but I'll have to find another method, as I don't have access to a machine that can handle them.



A still image from one of the 16mm films in the JHS collection.

Society Doings

We finally returned to in-person meetings April 27th, when our speaker was Richard Ring, Deputy Executive Director for Collections and Interpretation at the Rhode Island Historical Society. He gave a presentation on the early years of Rhode Island theatre.

Our semi-annual tag sale on May 14th made \$864.

Jim Ignasher, author of *Rhode Island Disasters: Tales of Tragedy by Air, Sea and Rail*, gave a talk about aviation urban legends at our May 25th meeting.

Retired Rhode Island National Guard Master Sergeant and State Command Historian Jim Loffler spoke about military heraldry at our June 29th meeting.

The Society organized a field trip for members and friends to the Varnum Armory in East Greenwich on July 27th. About fourteen people showed up and thoroughly enjoyed a tour of the 1913 structure given by knowledgeable curator Pat Donovan. Afterward a portion of the group reconvened at Twin Oaks in Cranston for a delightful lunch.

This worked out so well we did it again on August 17th, with a field trip to Slater Mill Historic Site in Pawtucket.

Our Museum Barn is hosting in-person beginning yoga sessions, led by Satya Wellness, on Monday nights. It's \$15 per class (prepaid cards are available), and open to all. Details at www.Satya-wellness.com.

Cemetery Committee Report

by Steve Merolla

Our last Cemetery Committee report ended at the close of the 2021 work season. The 2022 season opened up on March 14 with a rather pleasant surprise, as a unit of the Rhode island National Guard and the Johnston High School National Honor Society did a fantastic job cleaning up Cemetery #21, the Governor King Lot, along Hartford Avenue. These two groups did a great job cleaning the cemetery from end to end, as good a job as we have ever seen. Our sincere thanks to these soldiers and students for their efforts.

Our own group attacked the always troublesome Cemetery #72, the large cemetery on the hill across from the back of Silvio's Restaurant. Last year we did not touch this cemetery because it is such a great challenge, and of course it got totally overgrown and was a near disaster. This year we decided to tackle it again, and in three visits at the end of March and early April we were able to get it in order again. A great help was a walk-behind brush cutter given to us by Anthony Ricci. We have already had to re-cut this lot two more times since.

On April 7, the Committee took part in the annual statewide Historic Cemetery Cleanup Day, sponsored by the state Historic Cemetery Commission; this year a co-sponsor was the R. I. Historical Preservation Commission. On that day we cleaned another of the town's large cemeteries, Cemetery #7, located at the end of George Waterman Road, almost where it meets Route 44. We had a good turnout of volunteers and the job was completed.

With the cleaning of these large burial grounds, the Committee has started out the work season quite well, and we are now into our normal routine of cleaning, weeding, and mowing. The cemeteries that have been cleaned and or mowed are cemeteries # 5, 7, 9, 11, 18, 19, 21, 22, 29, 33, 38, 40, 44, 48, 55, 56, 59, 60, 69, 72, 74, 76, and 77. That is an impressive list of twenty-three cemeteries, especially when one considers that some of them have had repeat visits.

Unlike last year, when we did not get into repair work until the middle of Fall, this year we have been able to do so by August. We have been able to resume our restoration work at Cemetery #57, on Anthony Ricci's property, a process we began late last year. Cemetery #57 is a medium sized cemetery, with around

seventy-five burials, about half of which are unmarked "crude" stone markers. It is also an old burial ground, first and principally used by members of the Harris family, who lived in the area starting in the late 1600s. Over the course of time, other family groups were also interred here, either people of the locality or those who had married into the Harris family. There are a mix of marble and slate headstones, one of the slates being a most beautiful memorial to Phebe Carpenter. As of the time of this report, mid-September, the Committee has visited #57 five times. This cemetery has been a bit of a challenge, with many repairs to be effected. In addition, because the site is so old and there are so many family groupings, the rows of gravestones do not always line up, making placement a bit tricky. Worst of all, many of the slate gravestones had either fallen over or were pulled out of the ground and thrown into piles, making their re-setting quite problematical; for some of them we do not know exactly where they should be placed. Most marble stones have separate bases, and bases usually stay in the ground where they were originally set, giving us a definite location for re-setting the head and footstones. However, slates rarely have bases, so there is no indication of where they should be re-set once they are moved from their original location. As noted, this is going to be a bit of a problem as we continue work in this burial ground.

A special word of thanks to Kevin Sarli, who mows several lots during the course of the year. Of course, thanks also to Dan and Mithcell Parrillo, who tend to the Governor King Cemetery and to our own Joe Jamroz, who takes care of Cemetery #11, near Dame Farm. Last but not least, we must acknowledge the members of our Cemetery Committee, who week after week go out into the field in all kinds of weather to get the job done. What a great group!!!

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. Or someone to help on meeting nights, setting up coffee, setting up the room, etc. The president would like to see many people doing small jobs.

More examples:

- 1) Help out on the cemetery committee, maintaining lots and repairing stones.
- 2) Someone familiar with excel to help keep track of membership dues.
- 3) Someone to transcribe old documents.
- 4) A "handy person" experienced in handling odd jobs and small repairs.
- 5) People willing to show the museum to visitors. Most of the exhibits are marked, so it doesn't require an in-depth knowledge of the town or its history.
- 6) Weeding our gardens.
- 7) Knowledgeable people who can help identify some of our old photographs.
- 8) Someone with design or layout experience who can help us revamp our tri-fold flyers.

Or, if you have a special talent that you think could help the JHS, let us know! Indoor tasks will be completed in small groups. Not all tasks are long-term, so you're not "on the hook" once you volunteer. We would like to establish a "who to call list" as needs arise. Interested parties should send an email to johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com.

Our Properties

We reported in our last newsletter that we had applied for a \$1000 "house grant" at the behest of State Representative Deb Fellela. We did receive that grant and the funds were used to make much-needed repairs to the bathroom of our tenant apartment on the second floor of Elijah Angell House. We thank you, and our tenant thanks you, Representative Fellela!

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, 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.

Acquisitions

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

Wish List

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

- Display mannequins
- Old photos, slides, or home movies of Johnston
- Any Johnston-related ephemera or memorabilia
- A gas-powered leaf blower
- Fire extinguishers

Eight Ways You Can Help the Johnston Historical Society:

1) The Find on 6, 2953 Hartford Avenue, is still accepting consignment items on behalf of the JHS! That means you can donate some gently used white elephant items and, if they sell, JHS gets 60% of the proceeds! Each person may bring two boxes of goods at a time, Wednesday through Friday, 11am-4pm. Appropriate items include antiques, collectibles, vintage clothing or handbags (in good condition), jewelry, kitchenware, furniture, etc. Nothing broken or soiled.

2) When purchasing items on Amazon, if you enter via smile.amazon.com, you can designate JHS to receive a small portion of the purchase price as a charitable donation!

3) Buy a book! We still have copies of *Images of America: Johnston I and II*. \$15 each, or two for \$25!

4) Buy a t-shirt! We still have new t-shirts for sale in slate blue and khaki, and we have a few left in sage green. S/M/L or XL. \$15 each. Pick one up at an upcoming general meeting, or drop us a line and we'll arrange to deliver one to you.

5) Keep your membership up-to-date. Your dues help keep us in the black!

6) Volunteer! (See above, "Volunteers Needed").

7) Advertise in this newsletter. Each issue of the newsletter costs about \$120 for 100 copies. We started carrying ads in 2018 with the goal of making the newsletter self-supporting. Do you have a local business that our members might want to know about? See our rate card on the next page.

8) And of course, we always welcome cash donations!

Historical Advertising

This issue's historical ad was found in the February 29, 1968, issue of the *Observer*. The address is now the home of Lighting & Design by J&K Electric, opened in 1973.

INVENTORY SALE
SAVE FROM 20% to 40%
ON FAMOUS NAME MANUFACTURERS
 PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE — FRIGIDAIRE — AND OTHERS

CONTEMPORARY WALNUT BEDROOM SUITE By THOMASVILLE 14" TRIPLE DRESSER & MIRROR, REG. 500R CHEST, NIGHT STAND REG. \$649.00 SALE PRICE \$469.00	DREXEL BEDROOM, ITALIAN PROVINCIAL TRIPLE DRESSER, MIRROR, FULL or QUEEN SIZE HEADBOARD, CHEST & NIGHT STAND REG. \$595.00 SALE PRICE \$449.00	PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE SOLID CHERRY BEDROOM SUITE, TRIPLE DRESSER, MIRROR, POSTER BED, HIGH BOY CHEST & NIGHT STAND REG. \$1095.00 SALE PRICE \$850.00
8 P.C. FRENCH PROVINCIAL CHERRY DINING ROOM SUITE 84" BREAKFRONT, OVAL EXTENSION TABLE, 84" BUFFET, CANE BACK ARM CHAIR, 4 CANE BACK SIDE CHAIRS REG. \$995.00 SALE PRICE \$795.00		
SPANISH STYLE LIVING ROOM By DREXEL 88" SOFA & 7 CHAIRS, DESIGNATOR COVERS REG. \$868.00 SALE PRICE \$595.00	FRENCH PROVINCIAL LIVING ROOM By DREXEL INCLUDES 88" SOFA & TWO CHAIRS, HAND TUFTED BACKS, RUBBER TORSIONS, SCOTCHGARD FABRICS REG. \$695.00 SALE PRICE \$649.00	MODERN HIGH-BACK SOFA & TWO CHAIRS SOLID PINE CUSHIONS, ARM COVERS, CHOICE OF SCOTCHGARD FABRICS REG. \$509.95 SALE PRICE \$398.00
OPEN STOCK SOLID MAPLE BEDROOM PIECES 4 DRAWER CHEST REG. \$ 73.50 — \$ 59.90 SINGLE DRESSER & MIRROR REG. \$109.50 — \$ 89.90 CHINA/BACK BED REG. \$ 94.50 — \$ 69.90 TWIN OR FULL SIZE NIGHT STAND REG. \$ 49.50 — \$ 37.50 50" DOUBLE DRESSER & MIRROR REG. \$149.95 — \$119.90 CANNON HILL BED TWIN OR FULL SIZE REG. \$179.95 — \$139.90 TRIPLE DRESSER & MIRROR CHEST OR CHEST REG. \$ 99.50 — \$ 79.90	QUALITY Lamps MOST AT 1/2 PRICE	2 P.C. EARLY AMERICAN LIVING ROOM By BROOKHILL REVERSIBLE RUBBER CUSHIONS, ARM CAPS, CHOICE OF TWEEDS, SOLID OR PRINT FABRICS, SCOTCHGARD REG. \$379.00 SALE PRICE \$295.00
MANY OTHER ITEMS NOT LISTED PRICED FOR CLEARANCE		
CONVENIENT TERMS AVAILABLE OPENLY MON. - TUES. 9 A.M. - 6 P.M. WED. - THUR. - FRI. 9 A.M. - 9 P.M. SATURDAY 9 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.		

COLETTI'S FURNITURE inc. 1253 HARTFORD AVE. JOHNSTON PHONE 831-5421

Upcoming Events

September 28, 2022

General Meeting

7pm

Our speaker will be Adriana Hazelton, Advocacy Manager at The Providence Preservation Society. The subject will be Preservation Challenges of Olneyville Mills.

October 8-9, 2022

Huge Antique and Yard Sale

8am-3pm

Shang Bailey Roadhouse, 2737 Hartford Avenue, Johnston. Come buy stuff! Interested in selling stuff? A \$25 donation to the JHS rents a six-foot spot for two days! Plenty of parking; this is the weekend of the Scituate Art Festival, so tons of traffic goes

right by Shang Bailey's. Rain date, October 10. Contact Anthony Ursillo at (401) 764-5901 or aursillo401@gmail.com.

October 13, 2022

Spooky Story Night

7-9pm

Come see the Elijah Angell House, tour the museum, hear spooky stories, tell spooky stories. \$10. RSVP; limited seating. Call (401) 231-3380.

October 26, 2022

General Meeting

7pm

Our speaker will be author and historian Marty Podskoch, who will talk about his new travel book, *The Rhode Island 39 Club*, that encourages people to visit all thirty-nine towns and villages in Rhode Island.

November 30, 2022

General Meeting

7pm

Speaker TBD

December 9, 2022

SAVE THE DATE: Member Christmas Bash

6-9

Shang Bailey Roadhouse, 2737 Hartford Avenue, Johnston. Pot luck. Please contact Anthony at (401) 764-5901 or aursillo401@gmail.com prior to making a decision on what to bring.

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, 2022.



As of this month our Facebook and Instagram pages have 1,375 and 264 followers, respectively! Have you 'liked' us yet? To find us type these addresses into your computer browser:



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Our Executive Board

President: Elise Carlson
Vice-President: Steve Merolla
Treasurer: Joe Jamroz
Recording Secretary: Carl Johnson
Corresponding Secretary: Christopher Martin
Trustees: Dan Brown, Doug Stephens, Anthony Ursillo,
and one vacant position.

Our Executive Board meets at 6:30pm 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 2022 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 2022 dues. Send us a check today!

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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
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