

Johnston Historical Society

Historical Notes

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Christopher Martin, Editor
www.JohnstonHistorical.org

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The Mathewson Farm

by Sarah Zurier;
framing text by Steve Merolla

This past summer, one of the iconic old farm properties in Johnston was put up for sale, that being the Mathewson Farm, located at the end of Atwood Avenue, where it meets Greenville Avenue. The farm, with its old farm house, magnificent barn, silos, and open fields has been a landmark in the Belknap section of town for over 250 years. During that time the property was owned by the Mathewson family, and only in this past summer of 2020 did it finally change hands. It is hoped that the new owner will be able to maintain the historic integrity of the farm and all of its buildings, knowing full well that it will in fact require a significant effort.



The Mathewson farm in the 1890s, looking west along Greenville Avenue. The cooperage can be seen here just to the right of the house, and to the right of that is a drive-through shed. To the left of the house is a blacksmith shop. On the north side of the street is a large store that had a hall on the second floor where dances and shows were held. Photo courtesy of Elaine Pereira.

This may be the proper opportunity to recount the story of the Mathewson family and their ties to the farm. In the year 2000, the property was nominated to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The report on the nomination was authored by Ms. Sarah Zurier of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission. Among the many sources utilized by Ms. Zurier were publications and newsletters of the Johnston Historical Society, along with interviews with family members Peg Mathewson, Elaine Mathewson Pereira, and former JHS president Louis McGowan. The Nomination report is excellent in every way and it is deserving of being reproduced here in our newsletter as a fitting tribute to the family and the farm. The report is very detailed and of some length, thus it will be presented here in an edited and abridged form:

Several branches of the Mathewson family had settled in Johnston by the end of the eighteenth century. The first Mathewson to arrive in Rhode Island was James Mathewson, who had emigrated from England to Plymouth, Massachusetts. He relocated to Providence by the year 1658. A great grandson of James, William Mathewson (d. 1796) bought several Johnston properties, beginning in 1769. His purchases included a property on the north side of the Killingly Road (present-day Greenville Avenue) with the one-story farmhouse still standing today at 595 Greenville Avenue. One of William's last acquisitions was made in 1793, a farm located on the south side of the Killingly Road, the subject farm of the story, at 544 Greenville Avenue, just diagonally across the road from the first purchased house. For the sum of £120 paid to Rufus Sprague, William received "a certain lot of land with a Dwelling House thereon standing, also a Small barn containing about 16 acres."



The Mathewson farmhouse. Photo by Christopher Martin, August 13, 2020.

A Cooper by trade, William Mathewson erected a cooperage and store on the south side of Greenville Avenue by 1795. North of the road stood the one-story gambrel roofed house (where he lived) and a school building, which was erected on the property between 1790 and 1794. In his 1795 will, William directed his estate to be divided among his immediate family. His second wife and nine of his children were awarded the property north of the road, the cooperage, store, furniture, and other items. His eldest son Philip was given title to the property south of the road, with the dwelling house bought from Sprague, this of course being the subject Mathewson farm as we know it today.

Philip Mathewson (1772-1853) married Mary Winsor, and they had four children. Philip purchased the remainder of his father's estate between the 1810s and 1830s. Insurance policies indicate that by 1829, a barn and store had been either moved or built on the north side of the road, along with two large sheds. In 1845, Philip sold the farm to his only surviving son, Paris Mathewson. The property consisted of "...the homestead estate where I now live and containing about 14 acres on the south side of Killingly Road as well as land I own on the north side of the Killingly Road with the store, sheds, barns and other buildings... nearly opposite the above... containing about nine acres..." Philip continued to reside at the subject farmhouse until his death in 1853.

Paris Mathewson (1804-1875) married Phebe Tripp Olney in 1822, and they had twelve children. Though he moved away after his wedding, he returned after his father's death. Paris farmed the land and maintained the general store, selling farm products such as corn, hay, and Indian meal along with wares such as shovels, boots, denim, candy, snuff, scythes, and rakes. In addition to farming and teamstering, Paris was also involved in other ventures. He imported horses from Canada and Vermont to sell in Johnston. As a contractor, Paris built several houses, a cotton mill, bridges, railroads, depots, and the first telegraph line into Providence. Prominent in town affairs, he was a Dorrite during the Dorr Rebellion (1840-'42) and served as president of the town council, member of the General Assembly, tax collector, and justice of the peace.

In 1855, Paris sold several Johnston properties to his eldest son William Henry Mathewson. These included the family farm, with its parcels on both sides of present-day Greenville Avenue, including about fifty acres of land. The 1865 and 1875 state census records indicate that there was a female Irish servant and several male boarders. Though many families took in boarders to work on the farm, the Mathewsons were also operating a "hotel" or "roadhouse" out of the farmhouse, as indicated in an 1870 atlas; perhaps this is the reason that the attic of the house is fully finished as a living area.

roofed farmhouse on the north side of the road, across from our subject property. Unlike his versatile father, William Henry I was first and foremost a farmer. However, he continued to operate the country store, the cooperage, and a cider mill on the property. William Henry I and his wife Mary had only one child, who inherited the farm.

This only child was William Henry Mathewson II (1867-1939), and he married Nellie Viola Burchard in 1888; they had two children. Early on after their marriage they lived in the more cosmopolitan community of Manton, where William Henry II operated a hack, livery, and boarding stable at 39 Manton Avenue. After the couple moved to the farmhouse in the late 1890s, Nellie oversaw substantial improvements to the house. In addition to adding on the front porch, she was probably also responsible for interior alterations on the first and second floors. A photograph from the 1890s depicts at least seven wood frame structures on the property, on both the north and south sides of Greenville Avenue. According to family tradition, William Henry II erected the present large gambrel-roofed barn in 1913; it is depicted, along with the complete west wing in the 1917 Richards Atlas.



The gambrel-roofed barn. Photo by Christopher Martin, August 14, 2020.

In the first decades of the twentieth century new regulations, technology, and distribution systems transformed the milk industry. Dairying became New England's primary agricultural enterprise, and the Mathewson farm kept pace. The new barn was equipped with rooms for storing milk containers and ice. Around the turn of the century, William Henry II hired workers to deliver milk to local homes. In 1917, the farm began to supply milk to the Hood Company in Providence, and this arrangement persisted into the 1940s. Over the course of three decades, three feed silos, and the dairy barn extension, built to house forty-four cows, arose on the property. William Henry II was not only appointed to the board of the Local Dairyman's Cooperative, but he was also a school bus driver, tax assessor, and dealt in real estate.

William II and Nellie's only son began working full-time at the farm in 1931. William Henry Mathewson III (1900-1987) married Ruth Muriel Sisson in 1931; they had one child, Elaine Mathewson Pereira. William III erected a house on Carpenter



The cider house was used for cider making in the early twentieth century. Located just to the east of the large store, it is now gone. Photo courtesy of Elaine Pereira.

William Henry Mathewson I (1823-1887) married Mary Foster Westcott in 1867, and they lived in the one story gambrel-

Drive across from the old farmhouse. In addition to dairy farming, William III raised vegetables, mostly corn and tomatoes, and transported them into Providence to sell at the Weybosset Pure Food Markets in the 1930s and 1940s. A small garden produced peas, beans, currants, and other fruits and vegetables. When wartime austerity raised the price of Midwestern beef, William Henry III visited beef farms in Indiana and brought back a small herd of cattle to his Johnston farm.



William H. Mathewson III astride his tractor in 1957. Dairying and farming activities, other than haying, had ceased by this time. Photo courtesy of Elaine Pereira.

[Note: To see more photos of the Mathewson Farm, see the photo album of the same name on our Facebook page. -- ed.]



Milking stalls in the barn, remnants of dairying days. Photo by Christopher Martin, August 13, 2020.

By the late 1940s, dairying operations had altogether ceased, although the farm continued to produce a yearly crop of hay. William Henry III then focused his attention on the Mathewson Farm Equipment store, which opened at 429 George Waterman Road in the mid- to late 1940s. The store sold tractors and other farm equipment manufactured by Ford, Dearborn, Wayside, and other companies. In the early 1950s, the business moved to a new building north of the intersection of Atwood Avenue and Greenville Avenue, diagonally across the street from the old farmhouse. Gibson Mathewson, son of William III and his second wife Ethel (Peg), operated the store until the year 2000."

At this point, we shall conclude Ms. Zurier's Nomination Report. The full report can be accessed at the RIHPC website (www.preservation.ri.gov; click on "National Register" and then "R.I. Properties on the National Register"). As noted earlier, what is presented here is just a portion of the full report, which is both interesting and enlightening.

Elaine Mathewson Pereira had an abiding interest in the history of the Mathewson family and farm; she was one of the driving forces in having the property put on the National Register. After her passing, her children Christopher, Jennifer, and Melissa continued to faithfully provide upkeep of the property and buildings for many years, always appreciative of the importance of their efforts. Again, we extend to the new owner our best wishes in stewardship of this important piece of Johnston's history.

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### **Johnston Politics** by Louis McGowan

Johnston became a town before our country became a nation. Breaking off from Providence, the new town immediately required a means to take care of business, that is to say, organizing and regulating all those things that are necessary to provide for the needs of its citizens.

As with other area towns, Johnston's important matters of business were taken care of at town meetings, where decisions were made by the qualified voters (freemen) of the town. In between town meetings, an elected town council along with other officials or officers handled everyday business. On March 15, 1759, Colonel Christopher Harris was authorized by the State General Assembly (then called the Assembly of Deputies) to issue a warrant to call the freemen of the town to appoint officers for "managing and conducting affairs of the town." This date, then, is considered to be the start date for the new town of Johnston. The first town meeting was held on April 18, 1759 at Benjamin Belknap's house. Town officials were elected at this meeting, starting with Thomas Owens, who was selected to be the Town Moderator. Owens and Captain John Waterman were chosen to represent the town at the next General Assembly meeting.

At the June 4, 1759 town meeting, John Waterman was chosen as Town Moderator. Others elected on that date included: Thomas Owens, Town Clerk; Abraham Belknap, Town Sergeant; Richard Fenner, Charles Waterman, John Waterman, Daniel Eddy, John Waterman, Jr., and Dean Kimball all chosen as Town Councilmen; Josiah Thornton, Town Treasurer; Charles Waterman, Benjamin Belknap, and Samuel Smith, Overseers of the Poor. There were many more offices that were filled that day, such as jurors, fence-viewers, and tax assessors.

The first vote to raise money by direct taxation was made at a special town meeting held on the 13th of June, 1761; (before that

time money was raised by decree from the General Assembly). At that June meeting, it was decided that a tax of 1000 pounds would be levied and collected for the town treasury to be paid by rate from the town's citizens. The money was needed to pay the town's debts.

Providing adequate roads was vital for commerce and personal travel. Colonial roads often followed Indian paths, but to make roads passable by wagons, additional work was required to improve and maintain them. In June of 1765, the first surveyors of highways were elected. By 1772 there were thirteen road districts in the town. The people in each district were responsible for the maintenance of their roads, first through their individual labor and later through taxes. In 1772, two other vital matters were also addressed at town meetings. The first matter was the licensing of taverns, which were very important in the colonists' lives. The second matter involved smallpox, which killed many of our early ancestors. By vote at the September town meeting, inoculation for smallpox was introduced.



*The original Johnstone Town House, built around 1843. It was used for only about thirty years before town offices were moved to Olneyville.  
Photo by Walter Nebiker, RIHP&HC, 1975.*

Until 1843, Johnston had no permanent town house or town hall. Before that time, town meetings and council meetings were held in private homes or in public halls. In August of 1842, taxpayers finally voted to build a town house, where meetings could be held and records could be stored. In 1843 the property for the new town house was secured from Abram W. Waterman, and the building was built with money raised by lottery on or near the present Johnston Memorial Park property on Hartford Avenue. At some point it was moved across Hartford Avenue, where it remained until it was torn down about 1990. Use of the town house did not last all that long, however. The town's population was steadily increasing in the mid-nineteenth century, and bigger quarters were soon needed. A vote was taken at a town meeting in November 1868 to sell the building. Space for town business offices was rented in the early 1870s in Olneyville, while town meetings were held in various buildings, including: Odd Fellows Hall, Wood's Hall, Iron's Hall, and the trolley car barn on Hartford Avenue. In 1898, the town annexed the western Olneyville area to Providence, and the town offices were moved to rented quarters in Thornton at 1343 Plainfield Street. They remained there until 1933, when the present town hall opened for business (although the building was not completed until about 1940). The town had decided to move there because the Plainfield Street location of the town hall was too small.

Additionally, a more central location was needed. Works Progress Administration money funded the project.

In 1873 or 1874, it was proposed that a portion of Johnston should be annexed to Providence. Cranston, Lincoln, and North Providence had all annexed pieces of their towns around this time. Although Cranston and North Providence had both annexed sections to Providence, Johnston voters, however, rejected the attempt. In May, 1897, the voters of Johnston turned down a proposal to incorporate the town as a city. In May of the following year, by legislative act though, a portion of Johnston that included the populous western section of Olneyville was annexed to Providence.

A tax revolt was held in 1929 when angry taxpayers demanded that the books of the tax collector and the Town Treasurer be audited back to the time each assumed office. The tax collector, William H. Mathewson, said that his books were not audited in the first seventeen years that he was in office, but they had been audited for the last three years. The angry taxpayers complained of lavish expenditures by the administration and unequal assessment of taxes. The 1929 evaluations showed widespread increases in taxes levied on town residents. Complaints were heard from all over the town. 110 citizens of the Graniteville district threatened to withhold payment of taxes until a new revaluation of property was done on a fair basis. The Johnston Taxpayers' Improvement Association, which was composed of people from around the town, was formed with John Votolato as its head. He petitioned the court, seeking to have the 1929 assessments declared illegal. The town council and the association reached an agreement in March of 1930. The agreement stipulated that taxpayers would pay their 1929 taxes based on the 1928 valuations. They would then go before the financial town meeting to ask for an abatement of the difference between valuations. Resentment against the powers that be was high, and much of what was going on seemed to be resentment against the Republican Party which had controlled the town for many years. This seemed to set the stage for the 1934 power shift.

A November 5th, 1932 newspaper article stated that the Republican Party in Johnston controlled the votes of the majority of Italians in town through strong community, social, and athletic clubs.

In 1934, Democrats took over the Johnston Town Council for the first time since the Civil War. Hiram Kimball, chief of police (an appointed position) for forty years was ousted and replaced by Chester B. Colwell. Judge James E. Dooley, town solicitor and Republican leader in town, was replaced by Arthur N. Votolato. Francis A. Manzi, a practicing attorney and later judge, became democratic town leader in 1934. He was the party chairman and was also town solicitor, two posts that gave him wide authority over town politics for most of the next thirty years. His obituary stated that he was labeled a "one-man government." His control over town politics came to an end in 1961, when he resigned as party chairman.

Mario R. Russillo (later aRussillo and aaRussillo) was the town's first elected full-time administrator in 1964. Ralph R. aRusso succeeded him, being elected to the post of Town Administrator

in 1970. He stayed in that position for six years. His title was then changed to Mayor and he served in that role continuously for another eighteen years until he was defeated in the Democratic primary in 1994 by Louis Perrotta.

There have been four Johnston men who have been elected to the major state political positions in Rhode Island. The positions and men elected were: Samuel Ward King as Governor (1839-1843); Thomas DiLuglio as Lieutenant-Governor (1977-1985), James F. Simmons as U.S. Senator (1841-1847 and 1857-1862); and William A. Pirce as U.S. Representative (1885-1887).

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### Society Doings

It was well worth our time to have an open house on June 2, Presidential Primary Day. With the nearby Graniteville School acting as a polling place, a number of folks -- including the Mayor and our new Police Chief -- wandered into the Museum Barn to see what we were up to. A pair of visitors who are graphic artists, Mark DaPonte and Lynnette Allaire, were impressed enough that they offered to help us design banners for the front fence, as well as new brochures. Both these things should help bring more awareness of our organization to the community.

Mark and Lynnette are also scout leaders and would like to bring dens of cub scouts to visit our Museum.

We have a new member/volunteer, Frank Perrin, who is a high school history educator. He has agreed to be our "Education coordinator." We hope to put him to work coordinating with teachers, school kids, and scouting programs.



*Paris Mathewson's deerskin trunk.  
Photo by Christopher Martin, August 28, 2020.*

The August estate sale at the Mathewson Farm (see lead article) took us somewhat by surprise, but we were able to marshal our forces and snap up a few items before they were sold to out-of-town dealers. Thanks go especially to Steve Merolla and Doug Stevens for arriving early and securing low numbers to be among the first inside. Some of the items purchased include a deerskin

trunk that belonged to Paris Mathewson (1804-1875), and several ledgers that belonged to William H. Mathewson containing tax records, dry goods/groceries account records, and teams/equipment/livery service account records, from the 1850s to '90s.

We're told, by the way, that someone from the Mathewson family did try to contact us ahead of the sale, but unfortunately, for whatever reason, we never got the message.

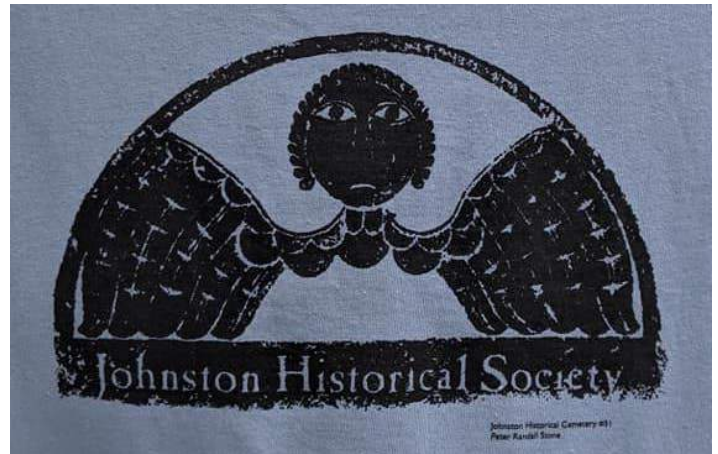
In August we partnered with the Rhode Island Historical Society in their Summer Scavenger Hunt. Online clues directed participants to our headquarters where they were greeted by a human-sized wooden cutout of RIHS's mascot, Misha the Squirrel, and challenged to find a number of objects around the property and answer a few Johnston-related trivia questions.

For the last fifteen years or so we've been fortunate to receive a \$500 yearly mini-grant from the Harvard Pilgrim Foundation, to be used for education or community outreach. We've used these funds to buy computer equipment, archival supplies, digital picture frames, and a portable public address system, among other things. This year's grant will be used to create a four-foot square display piece featuring a pair of hand-drawn Matteson maps from 1948, showing all the buildings and features of the town from that time. We think kids (and adults) will enjoy poring over these maps, seeing which buildings are still around, which have gone, and what has been built since. Most of the time the display will reside in our museum barn, but we'll also be able to take it to festivals and other public events. A big thank you to Christopher Martin for facilitating this grant this year and previous years.

The October 10th yard sale netted us about \$600, and we made another \$700 selling old doors and shutters to a restoration supply company.

We had another open house on November 3, Election Day.

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.



## 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. If you'd like to help out, please approach a board member at the next meeting.

## Our Properties

In September Anthony Ursillo undertook the project of scraping, priming, and painting the north wall of the Elijah Angell House. After having spent a month-and-a-half earlier in the season painting his own house, the formidable 8,300 square foot Shang Bailey Road House, it was a relatively quick job, taking only about two-and-a-half days. The work was paid for through a \$1,000 State grant from the Rhode Island House of Representatives.

Elise Carlson sprayed the deck on the Elijah Angell house with "Wet and Forget" to combat mold growth.

In preparation for our October 10th yard sale, we performed a big cleanout of all our storage areas -- the Museum Barn's basement, and the attic and basement of the Elijah Angell House, and the shed. Some of these spaces had never been cleared of junk and trash in anyone's memory; now they're nice and tidy. Saleable items went into the yard sale.

Thanks to a \$5,700 Champlin Foundations Grant we'll soon be upgrading our headquarters grounds with improved lighting for safety and increased roadside visibility. New England Landscape Lighting has been engaged to do that work as weather permits.

Some additional future maintenance/improvement projects include:

- Some of the window sills on the barn still need to be repaired and/or painted.
- In one corner of our yard, a couple of maple trees are gradually overtaking a spruce. We're looking into having the maples trimmed.
- An improved front walkway leading to the Museum Barn, made of processed stone and flagstones.
- A sign on the back gate at the bottom of the handicap ramp, advising drivers to refrain from blocking the gate with their vehicles.
- Organizing and purging (where feasible) decades of old JHS receipts, bank statements, and tax returns.
- Finishing the basement floor of the Elijah Angell House with crushed stone, to help with moisture issues.
- Reconfiguring the bathroom and office on the first floor of the Angell House to repurpose as display space.
- Cleaning all the display cases in the Museum Barn.

Thank you Phil Lemoi for decorating the front of Elijah Angell House with greenery for the holidays. It looks great! And a huge thank you goes out to Joe Jamroz, as well, for clearing snow at our headquarters after December 17th's big nor-easter.

Here's a reminder that the Elijah Angell House and Museum Barn are open by appointment. A JHS member will open the doors and allow visitors to look over the displays alone, yet be on hand to answer questions if needed. This would be a good activity for those looking to get out of the house while avoiding crowds. Call or email to set up an appointment.

**NEW HOURS:** Our museum barn is open Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm; and Thursdays, 9am-12pm, 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

Due to the ongoing pandemic general meetings continue to be on hold, so there have been no speakers.

## Acquisitions

- The Mathewson family donated an antique sewing machine; it's now part of the furnishings of Angell House.

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
- A gas-powered leaf blower
- Fire extinguishers

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## Cemetery Committee Report

by Steve Merolla

With the easing of the Covid-19 restrictions in the Summer and early Fall, the Cemetery Committee got back to a more normal work schedule. Our main task for the season was the clean-up and restoration of Cemetery #12, the Gideon Brown Cemetery. If one travels down Brown Avenue and then past Dame Farm towards Greenville Avenue, there is a sharp ninety-degree bend in the road, right in front of a colonial-era house. The cemetery is located northwest of that house, about 200 yards away, and at the edge of a large, open field. The burial lot itself is in the middle of an area mixed with pine, cedar, oak, and birch trees. It is an eclectic graveyard, with burials dating from the early 1800s up into the twentieth century. These more modern burials are marked with granite stones and are all basically members of the Brown family. Gideon Brown owned a very large amount of land

in the area and obviously was an important personage in this part of town in the early nineteenth century.

Work on this lot commenced on August 22 and finished on October 21, the Committee making a total of seven work trips here. During the course of our efforts, we repaired two marble headstones and re-set in the ground or mortared into their bases six headstones (including the two repaired stones). We also re-set five footstones. One of our members, Nick Sprague (who lives in Warwick), made a great find, discovering both the headstone and footstone of Ira Simmons; these two slate stones are beautifully carved. Former members of the Committee had visited this burial ground about twenty years ago and could not find these stones, so again, it was a great find.

Of course, during this same time period we also took on the more mundane task of cleaning up previously restored cemeteries. Clean-ups were carried out in #7, 12, 19, 23, 32, and 70 from about the middle of July to the middle of November. In addition, a volunteer by the name of Mat Hopkins did some brush cutting and tree cutting in one of our largest cemeteries, that being #24, also known as Woodlawn. It is located in the very western part of town, off Pine Hill Road, which runs off Bishop Hill Road, and only a short distance from the Scituate line.

Doug has continued his work of erecting new cemetery signs throughout town. Since July, he has installed new ones in lots #12, 31, 32, and 70.

On account of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Citizens Bank group has not been able to continue their stewardship of Cemetery #7, the very large lot at the end of George Waterman Road near where it meets Route 44. Hopefully when the pandemic is ended, they will return.

A note of thanks to the Deputy Director of the town Public Works Department, Mr. Don Delsignore. With all the many wind events this year, we had a number of big trees come down in some of the cemeteries; these trees were too large for us to handle, especially in lots #7 and #18. Don and his crew did a great job clearing up the mess left behind and saved us from dealing with some major headaches. We are very appreciative for all his help.

Once again, thanks to all the people who have helped out either as a part of the Committee itself or as volunteers, especially those who have adopted and maintained several of the cemeteries in town.

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### Upcoming Events

Meetings continue to be suspended, due to the ongoing pandemic.

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](mailto:johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com) or leave a message at (401) 231-3380.

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### Historical Advertising

Here's another old ad from the Historical Advertising photo album on our Facebook page. This one is from *The Evening Bulletin*, May 1, 1948. In 1949 and '50 it was called the C-Note. Today the address is listed on realty sites as "industrial space for lease."

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**TONY FOSTER'S MUSIC**

### 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: March 15, 2021.**



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# Hegeman & Co.



361 South Main St. Providence, RI 02903  
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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, Marie Thierfelder,  
and Anthony Ursillo.

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](http://www.JohnstonHistorical.org)  
Email: [johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com](mailto:johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical](http://www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical)

**Annual Dues**

Have you paid your 2020 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 2020 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**