



CHARLESTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*P.O. Box 100
Charlestown, Rhode Island 02813*

June 20, 2009

Greetings to All,

With the summer upon us and so much going on, we are sending along an update so that you can mark your calendars with some special dates. We will be mailing you (the old fashioned way) our Annual Newsletter with photos, further along in the summer. For now, if you have a printer handy, you may want to print this letter for easy reference.

The Collections Committee has recently finished a photo display at the Cross' Mills Library in the front, lower room, which was the original building dating back to 1913. The display is entitled, "In the Good Old Summertime", and portrays Charlestown summertime during the early 1900's. As part of the exhibit, they have displayed an antique wool Jantzen bathing suit, which was donated to the Society by member Carla Ricci. Please stop by the library and enjoy the display – you won't be disappointed!

Our May presentation at the Carpenter/Perry Gristmill was a great success and well attended. Thank you to all who participated. Our next presentation will be a lecture on the Stanton Family by Mr. Thomas Howard. The program is entitled, "Thomas Stanton and His Times and Character as Gleaned from 17th Century Records and Between the Lines". Mr. Howard will discuss the life and times of Thomas Stanton who lived between 1619 and 1676, much of that time in Connecticut. He will explore documentary evidence as well as different approaches to old sources to reveal new perspectives on the man who played a large part in early colonial New England and was the scion of one of the Stanton clans in America.

Mr. Howard is a retired high school teacher, local historian and professional genealogist. He is a direct descendant of the Stantons on his mother's side, Maude Stanton of Norwich, CT. The presentation is scheduled for July 23rd, at the Quonnie Grange. Anne Doyle, President of the Quonnie H.S., has been preparing this presentation. Presently, we are working together with the QHS to merge our efforts as one for Charlestown. Voluntary donations for this presentation are appreciated.

This past week the new Cross' Mills sign was raised on the Cross Hall property. It stands to welcome all who visit the village with a brief history of the Cross Family and its 300-year history. It also commemorates the 300th anniversary of the purchase of the mill by Joseph Cross from Joseph Davill. We are working with the local papers to notify the community and especially to thank all of the businesses and community members who contributed and volunteered to make this sign possible. Also, the new Cross Hall Gallery will be opening up next weekend (June 27th), so please stop by and visit.

Once again, the Farmers Market is now in progress every Friday morning through September 11th. Our schoolhouse will be open for touring, along with a great collection of vendors offering fresh produce, eggs, meats, flowers, Jonnycakes and special weekly presenters - please come out to support the community. CHS will be selling its History of Charlestown books, as well as t-shirts, including a new t-shirt for the ladies (upon popular request). There is parking at the Cross Mills Baptist Church, the State Garage parking lot, and some across the street in the entry of Arnold East. Please drive slowly – it gets a bit crowded at times. We have partnered with the South County Conservancy in this endeavor and hope to continue in the future.

Finally, CHS has been the recipient of two small grants through the RI Foundation this past spring. The first was a \$300.00 grant to cover our costs for document preservation of the thirty letters and deeds we uncovered in our archives last summer, dating back to the 1700's. The second grant, for approximately \$1500.00, will enable us to purchase PastPerfect Museum Software, which encompasses every aspect of collection management, along with a media package for digital imaging. The program also coordinates every-day activities, exhibits, reports, etc., and is already used by many societies and museums across the country.

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER:

July 5th: **4th Annual Perryville Day** (10AM-4PM) - Antique Autos at the South Kingstown Land Trust Barn, 17 Matunuck Beach Rd. The barn is on Rt. 1 North and can be seen as you turn onto the exit. History, music, chowder, Jonnycakes, vintage clothing, crafts, etc. are all in the program.
Free!

July 10th: **Quonnie Trolley Tour** (9:30-12PM) - This is an amazing tour of Quonnie's history and people. Call Anne Doyle at 322-7373 for reservations
Fee: \$25.00 to cover trolley rental

July 23rd: **Stanton Presentation** (7PM) – Quonnie Grange. Voluntary donations accepted.

Aug. 14th: **Quonnie History Evening** (6PM-9PM) - St. Andrews Lutheran Church, East Beach Rd.
Voluntary donations accepted

Fall 2009: **Walking Tour of Historic Shannock**, presented by Mr. Sanford Neuschatz. This tour will follow up Mr. Neuschatz's presentation last fall at the Meadowbrook Inn. The village has been undergoing wonderful renovations and has become a source of historical pride for Charlestown. It will be a great fall outing.

Thank you for your continued support - we're looking forward to seeing you soon!

Best Regards,

Pamela Lyons
President

Jean Pellam
Vice President

Paul Kelley
Treasurer

Sandra Puchalski
Secretary