

Battery Day 2009 is just a month away on Saturday, May 9. The Friends of the Conanicut Battery and the JHS have big plans for the day and hope you can join us.

The events at the Conanicut Battery Historic Park start at 1 p.m. with rousing patriotic music by the Jamestown Community Band. The Artillery Company of Newport will announce the beginning of the ceremonies with a cannon salute across the West Passage from the earthwork battlements.

Major Blodget, Aide-de-Camp for General Nathaniel Greene and traditional host for Battery Day, played by Paul Brunelle, will welcome everybody. Captain Tew's 1st Company of the 2nd Rhode Island Regiment of Foot, the Varnum Continentals, and Ye Olde Lebanon Towne Militia—all dressed in uniforms of the colonial militia and Washington's Continental Army—will join the Jamestown Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion to salute the colonials who built the Conanicut Battery in 1776. Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will be on hand to carry the flags of the United States armed services.

Members of His Majesty's 54th Regiment of Foot will commemorate the British and Hessian occupation from 1776 to 1779, while men of the Regiment Le Bourbonnais recall the French presence that followed.

Musket salutes from the military units and the Jamestown Band's renditions of national anthems of the three countries will

accompany the raising of their flags.

Captain Tew's Company is setting up an 18th century encampment in the park to show how the troops lived during the American Revolution. Everyone is invited to stay and learn something about the day-to-day life of the troops. At the last Battery Day, members of the company demonstrated how to make musket balls out of lead over an open fire. They drilled on the park grounds and taught the Scouts some of their parade maneuvers.

Parking at the Conanicut Battery Historic Park is limited. The JHS will have shuttles running between Mackerel Cove and the park to bring those who arrive too late to find parking close by.

Thresholds:

Step Inside History

May 9 is also the state-wide Thresholds: Step Inside History celebration. Twenty-six historic sites across the state—from the new Heritage Harbor Museum in Providence to the Westerly Armory—will welcome visitors free of charge from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jamestown's historic windmill and the Conanicut Friends Meetinghouse are two of the sites to visit. Make a whole day of it! Visit the Casey Farm or Smith's Castle in the morning, stop by the Jamestown windmill and the meetinghouse on your way back into town, and then head down Beavertail Road to Battery Lane to enjoy the pageantry of Battery Day.

It's a wonderful chance to tour Rhode Island's past.



Jamestown Historical Society News

By Rosemary Enright

Tennis Hall of Fame

Only two weeks later, Thursday, May 21, is our spring members-only party. That evening the International Tennis Hall of Fame and Museum in Newport will be the site of a private party for the members of the Jamestown Historical Society. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served in the United States Tennis Association room. The museum director will be there to welcome us with a short presentation about the museum and the 1880 building designed by McKim, Mead and White in which it is housed.

The May column will have more details about the event, how and where to purchase tick-

ets, and how to become a JHS member (if you're not already).

The Missing Keeper of Dutch Island Light

Several years ago Sue Maden began collecting information about the men who manned the lighthouse on Dutch Island in the West Passage. Dutch Island was included in the Conanicut Island purchase in 1657 and is still technically a part of Jamestown, although its ownership by state and national bodies since 1864 minimizes the town's impact on the area.

The stories of all the keepers – from William Dennis, who at 80 lit the first light in 1826 and kept it lit until the month before his death 16 years later, to Ernest Stacey, the last keeper of the light, who left the island in 1947—are engaging. One that the JHS researchers found particularly interesting was Stanley Gunderson, who tended the Dutch Island light from July 1934 to March 1935.

If you go to the Dutch Island Lighthouse Society website (www.lighthouse.cc/DILS), you

won't find Gunderson listed. For some reason, his name is omitted from the official records. His story, told through correspondence and reports in his Lighthouse Service personnel file, is evocative of many stories from the Great Depression: post-war bureaucracy, positions lost through automation and downsizing, unsuitable jobs taken and lost.

His World War I discharge papers were lost, delaying his appointment to his first post. The lighthouse at which he served was one of the earliest automated. He took other jobs in the Lighthouse Service, including one as a laborer at Woods Hole, before coming to Dutch Island. His resignation letter from the Dutch Island post reads, in part, "I have been in poor health since I came here, a condition brought on directly by the worry of those months I have served at Great Pt. Sta. [Nantucket] under the extremely disagreeable conditions existing there." He was 45 years old.

YES, COMPUTERS ARE COMPLICATED!
A phone call can simplify things.

- > installation and setup of your computer hardware and software.
- > degunking of your computer for better performance.
- > building or helping you build web pages and get them on the internet.
- > helping you learn how to use Microsoft® Windows and Windows programs.
- > providing scanning services and digital photography and show you how.
- > creating custom programs for Microsoft® Windows Environment.

WILLIAM A. LEONARD
 General Consulting for Individuals & Small Businesses
 (401) 423-2809 • WWW.WAL1.COM

ST. MICHAEL'S
 Country Day School

Open House
 Admission & Summer Camp
Saturday, April 4th
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

FIVE THINGS THAT MAKE A GREAT SCHOOL

- Academic excellence
- Small class size
- Successful secondary school placement
- Students learning on safe, secure campus
- School culture that promotes respect, trust, and values

VISIT. WE GUARANTEE YOU'LL WANT TO STAY.

Coeducational • Non-denominational • Independent
 Pre-School 3 - Grade 8
 180 Rhode Island Ave., Newport, RI
 www.stmichaelscountryday.org • 401-849-5970

Pick your DIRECTV package.

Lock in your price for one year.

\$34.99 For 12 Months* Per Month

The CHOICE Package Reg. Price \$55.99

THE TV PACKAGE THAT BEATS CABLE

- Over 150 Channels
- FREE Professional Installation
- Local Channels Included*

Includes: CBS, FOX, CNN, ESPN, MTV, Nickelodeon, CW, and more.

\$39.99 For 12 Months* Per Month

The CHOICE XTRA Package Reg. Price \$60.99

MORE CHANNELS, MOVIES AND SPORTS!

- Over 200 Channels
- FREE HD DVR Receiver Upgrade* \$199.00 value!
- FREE Professional Installation
- Local Channels Included*

Includes: CBS, FOX, CNN, ESPN, MTV, Nickelodeon, CW, and more.

\$44.99 For 12 Months* Per Month

The PLUS DVR Package Reg. Price \$65.99

WATCH WHAT YOU WANT. WHEN YOU WANT.

- Over 200 Channels
- DVR Service Included
- FREE HD DVR Receiver Upgrade* \$199.00 value!
- FREE Professional Installation
- Local Channels Included*

Includes: CBS, FOX, CNN, ESPN, MTV, Nickelodeon, CW, and more.

ONLY DIRECTV OFFERS YOU ALL THIS!

- Over 130 of the best channels in High-Def.*
- Higher customer satisfaction ratings than cable eight years in a row.*
- 100% digital picture & sound on every channel.
- DIGITAL READY NO TRANSITION REQUIRED
- DOLBY DIGITAL

NO equipment to buy! NO start-up costs!

SOUTH COUNTY SOUND AND VIDEO LLC
 540 Kingsdown Road
 Wakefield, RI

401-789-1700
Mention this promo code: Blu

Authorized DIRECTV Dealer

*Offers end 7/31/09. An approved credit, credit card required. New customers only (lease required). Must maintain programming, DVR and HD Access. Hardware available separately. Lease fee \$50.00/mo. for second and each additional receiver. \$19.95 Handling & Delivery fee may apply.

Credit card not required in MA & PA. Among the largest national cable & satellite TV providers. 2008 American Customer Satisfaction Index, University of Michigan Business School. *Slightly based on service address. Number of HD channels varies by package. HD Access fee \$10/mo. and HD equipment required. **Trademark of Dolby Laboratories. ***LIMIT ONE PROGRAMMING SERVICE PER ACCOUNT. *Standard package names and prices: CHOICE \$34.99/mo., CHOICE XTRA \$39.99/mo., PLUS \$44.99/mo. Open DIRECTV System activation, customer will receive redemption instructions included in customer's first DIRECTV bill, a separate mailing, or, in the state of New York, from retailer and must comply with the terms of the instructions. In order to receive full \$200 credit, customer must submit rebate form online, register account on directv.com and consent to results prior to rebate redemption. Online redemption requires valid email address. Rebate expires 3 months after receipt of service activation, or 31 weeks for mail redemption. Timing of promotional price depends on redemption date. Rebate must be in good standing, as determined by DIRECTV in its sole discretion, to remain eligible. DIRECTV not responsible for late, lost, illegible, misdirected, incomplete, undelivered or postage due mail. BY THE END OF PROMOTIONAL PERIOD CUSTOMER DOES NOT CONTACT DIRECTV TO CHANGE SERVICE THEN ALL SERVICES WILL AUTOMATICALLY CONTINUE AT THE THEN PREVAILING RATES INCLUDING THE \$5.00/MO. LEASE FEE FOR THE HD AND EACH ADDITIONAL RECEIVER. DIRECTV System has a feature which restricts access to channels. In certain markets, programming options may vary. **STANDARD RATE: Minimum equipment contract requires activation of the CHOICE XTRA package or above. CANCELLATION: 30 days advance notice. **SYSTEM LEASE: Purchase of 24 consecutive months of any DIRECTV base programming package \$29.99/mo. or above in qualifying international services (based on \$35.99/mo.). DVR service (\$4.99/mo.) and HD Access (\$10.00/mo.) required for HD DVR lease. CMT ONE ADVANCED EQUIPMENT LEASE: For DIRECTV ACCOUNT. **INSTALLATION: Standard professional installation only. Custom installation extra. **SYSTEM LEASE: Purchase of 24 consecutive months of any DIRECTV base programming package \$29.99/mo. or above in qualifying international services (based on \$35.99/mo.). LEASE TO ACTIVATE ALL DIRECTV SYSTEM EQUIPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EQUIPMENT LEASE AGREEMENT MAY RESULT IN A CHARGE OF \$150 PER RECEIVER NOT ACTIVATED. IF YOU FAIL TO MAINTAIN YOUR PROGRAMMING, DIRECTV MAY CHARGE A PRO-rated FEE OF \$40 PER RECEIVER ARE AT ALL TIMES PROPERTY OF DIRECTV AND MUST BE RETURNED UPON CANCELLATION OF SERVICE OR ABILITY TO APPLY. **SEE directv.com OR CALL 1-800-DIRECTV FOR DETAILS. Programming, pricing, terms and conditions subject to change at any time. Pricing representative. Based on standard. Receipt of DIRECTV programming report to DIRECTV Customer Agreement (see provided at directv.com) and in 60-day. ©2009 DIRECTV, Inc. DIRECTV and the System Design logo, CHOICE, CHOICE XTRA and PLUS are trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc. All other trademarks and service marks are the property of their respective owners.