Editor’s Note

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Editor’s Note

This issue of Newport History is devoted to Conanicut Island, often called Jamestown after the name of its central village. At nine miles long and one mile wide, Conanicut is the second largest island in Narragansett Bay. The island became popular in the late nineteenth century among those disinclined to the Newport social whirl. They included Philadelphians, who built mansions in the Ocean Highlands and The Dumplings, and a group from St. Louis, who founded their own private enclave, Shoreby Hill.

Co-authoring the lead article are Sue Maden and Rosemary Enright, who previously worked together in the Spring 2008 issue of Newport History to document the history and demolition of the Jamestown Bridge. In their latest article, Maden and Enright recount the story of William Lincoln Bates and the sanitarium that he founded at Providence in 1893 and relocated to Jamestown in 1900.

After attending Carleton College for two years (1952-1954), Sue Maden received her B.S. in Nursing in 1957 from Cornell University’s New York Hospital School of Nursing. She went on to earn an M.S. in Public Health Nursing from Hunter College in New York City, and a Masters in Library Science from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn in 1974. Her career included nursing positions in New York Hospital, the New York City Health Department, the Greenwich Village Counseling Center, and the American Nurse Foundation. She also worked as the Health Sciences Librarian at Columbia University in New York City. After her retirement in 1982, she moved to Jamestown and has since been involved with significant local history projects.

Rosemary Enright holds a B.A. (1962) in English from Rosary Hill College in Buffalo and an M.A. (1963) in English from New York University in New York City. She also did extensive graduate work in American Civilization at New York University. Her professional career has included editorial work, college-level teaching of English, technical editing for a data processing firm, free-lance writing, and work as a Process Engineer and Computer Systems Requirement Analysis for Northrop Grumman Corporation. She has held several posts at the Jamestown Historical Society, including Director (2003-2005), Vice-President (2005-2006), and President (2006-present).

The second article in this issue is by James C. Buttrick, who has spent summers on Conanicut all of his life. His family began summering at Jamestown during the 1870s. Later, his maternal and paternal grandparents had summer residences respectively at Shoreby Hill and The Dumplings. For the last two years, he has worked to establish historic districts in Jamestown, starting with Shoreby Hill.

Mr. Buttrick holds a B.S. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania (1967) and an M.B.A. from Cornell University (1970). He has worked as a bank investment officer and is presently a partner in Yankee Realty in Boston. His interest in Bevins stemmed from attending the Victorian Society in America’s summer schools in Newport and London in 1996 and 1997. He has previously written on Bevins in So Who Was Charles Bevins?, an occasional paper published in 2002 by the Jamestown Historical Society. He also is the author of Jamestown, a book of vintage photographs published in 2003 by the Arcadia Press.