



*You are cordially invited to attend the following
annual events at the Joy Homestead*

General Pulaski Day

October 11, 2009 at 2 p.m.

Our annual Joy Christmas

December 5, 2009 1 p.m. to 4 p.m

Peter Francisco Day

Celebrating a Contributor to the Cause of Freedom

March 13, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

Rhode Island Independence Day

May 1, 2010 at 2 p.m

Celebrating the W3R Trail

Rochambeau Strawberry Biscuit Tea.

June 18th, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

\$5.00 donation

Joy Homestead celebrates the Franco-American Alliance with
celebration of the birthday of the Marquis de Lafayette

September 5th, 2010 at 2 p.m.

These events are kid friendly.

Please join the festivities.

Everyone is invited.

Joy Homestead is the property of the Cranston Historical Society
1351 Cranston Street Cranston Rhode Island 02920
401-944-9226

A 501 (c) (3) non-profit educational organization

Joy Homestead



156 Scituate Avenue (RI Route 12)

Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

www.cranstonhistoricalsociety.org

email: joyhomesteader@verizon.net



This sign in nine states from Rhode Island to Virginia marks the 600
mile Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route,
A National Parks Historic Landmark Trail.

The Joy Homestead Circa 1774

Welcome to the Cranston Historical Society's first historical property, the Joy Homestead. The original portion of the homestead, the fireplace room on the southwest side of the house, was the Job Joy Homestead. Job and Rachel Westcott raised ten children in this little room with an upstairs for the sleeping quarters. This “great room” was the workspace of the family. Here they would prepare food, spin and weave wool for the family's clothing and gather around to share the news of colonial America with travelers who might pass by on the Scituate Road on the way to Providence or be heading north to Scituate.

Life was hard in colonial times. Almost every possession the Joy Family had they had to make or barter for by trading something they had made or grown. Job Joy was a cordwainer, a person who makes shoes and other items from leather.

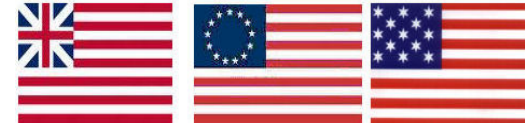
Rich in history, this gambrel roof farmhouse now serves a different purpose. It is the setting for teaching elementary school children life as it was in the 1770's, when Cranston was a newly incorporated town. Volunteers from the Cranston Historical Society and children participate in various domestic arts from the period. These crafts include spinning wool, weaving and braiding, cooking and games of the period.

For over twenty years the Society has used the Homestead as a backdrop for addressing central themes and issues of local and American History important to the children of Cranston.

Built in the middle 1700's the house remained in the Joy Family until 1901 when the home and acres of surrounding land were sold to Henry Knight. Knight sold the property to dairyman and future Mayor Albertus Colvin in 1921. Colvin divided the acres and sold them off. The Historical Society was delighted to acquire the homestead which still has many distinctive features historians find fascinating. People building or living in early American houses enjoy visits to the Joy Homestead to view original woodworking and carpentry. We hope you will return to visit the homestead on our patriotic open house event days and for our Joy Christmas, which is the first Saturday in December.

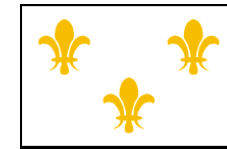


Through the years the Joy Homestead has flown many flags. These flags date from the years of the American Revolutionary War:



1. The Grand Union 1775
2. The Betsy Ross 1777
3. Stars and Stripes 1795

In June 1781 the forces of the French Army under the command of Comte de Rochambeau marched from Providence on their way to the major victory of the War of Independence in Yorktown, Virginia. It took four days for the 5,000 French troops to pass through Cranston and by the Joy Homestead.



Fleur de lis
Flag of France



- Flags of the French Regiments that marched by in June 1781:
1. Bourbonnais
 2. Sassonnais
 3. Duex Ponts
 4. St Onge

