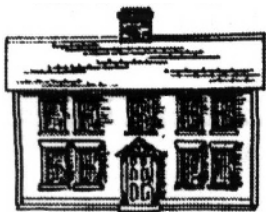


THE EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XXIV No. 5

April 2012

President's Letter

Nancy Moore, President



What a beautiful day! I took Jeff Faria's advice and put some seeds in the ground earlier than I normally would. He's so optimistic this spring and it is catching. I hope many of you took advantage of the free seeds available at the March dinner meeting. There will be some interesting veggies in the Moore garden this summer. Jeff will have seeds at the April meeting, so you "late" planters will not miss out.

There have been a number of complimentary comments about the speakers for the March meeting. The unveiling of the Vanity Fair manager's scrapbook, complete with charred edges, was the star of the show of course. But Reinhard Wohlgemuth's introduction on the building and short life of Vanity Fair was fascinating, and, coupled with Lou Rhyner's enthusiasm for his scrapbook subject, made for an excellent, informative talk. Our thanks to both men for such a fine evening. As an interesting aside, Lou Rhyner said that he had

made it clear to the new owner of the scrapbook that should he ever wish to sell it, EPHS should have first refusal. It really is an important East Providence artifact and would be a fine addition to our amusement park collection. And let's not forget to thank Pat, Dotty and the crew/ telephone committee for putting the potluck together.

This past weekend, we celebrated the life of Sophie Allen with her family at her beloved Newman Church. Good stories and fond memories abounded and Sophie will surely be missed by us all. She and Lou were backbones of EPHS also and I remember ripping up the floor in the middle room with him and working bazaars with her. We have buried four other loyal members this winter also: Anna Britton, Helen Dorr, Dorothy Midgeley and Tom Stringfellow. They each contributed to EPHS in their own way and will be very much missed also. Life being what it is, there was a young couple, new members, at the March meeting who are expecting. So life continues in our group.

Volunteer Opportunity

Have you been a fan of the carousel since you were a child? Did you make it a point to introduce your children/grandchildren to its delights? Perhaps you are just the person to serve as a representative to the Carousel Commission on behalf of the Historical Society. Nancy Stevens has served as our rep for many years (thank you Nancy) and is stepping down this year. The Planning Department has asked if we would like to fill her spot with another member. If this appeals to you, please call Nancy Moore at 438-4299.

A Few News Items

1. The by-laws committee went to the Secretary of State's office on Tuesday morning, March 27, and filed the articles which were voted upon by the general membership the night before. All papers have been filed with the IRS for the 501C3 and we should regain our tax exempt status quickly.
2. We have engaged John Austin and his paranormal

Continued on page #2

The Gazette

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East Providence
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Jeffrey Faria	<i>Grounds</i>
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Mona Breault	<i>Membership</i>
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Karen Panzarella	<i>Museum</i>
Edna Anness	<i>Acting Curator</i>
Reinhard Wohlgemuth –	
Mona Breault	<i>Newsletter</i>
Nancy Moore	<i>Preservation</i>
Maggie Dooley	<i>Program</i>
Maggie Dooley	<i>Publicity</i>
Reinhard Wohlgemuth	<i>Webmaster</i>

The East Providence Historical Society

is dedicated to preserving the heritage
and enjoying the history of our city.

**If you are not a member we invite
you to join now.**

Annual dues are \$15 individual, \$25
family or business, or a Life
Membership for \$150.

Please make check payable to:

East Providence Historical Society

and mail membership form to

**Mona Breault, 23 Case Street,
Rumford, RI 02916**

President's Letter – From page #1

ghost busting crew (a valid
group which explores
historical sites) to chart the
comings and goings at Hunt
House on Saturday night,
May 29. Who knows what
kind of activity they will map
for us?

3. Mona Breault has done a
wonderful job stepping into
the big Gazette spot vacated
by Florence Adams. Mona
reports that working with
editor Reinhard Wohlgemuth
is a great pleasure and that
her committee completed its
first Gazette mailing without
a hitch. If you have
questions about your Gazette
arrival, please call Mona at
431-2945.

Museum Open House

Visit Hunt House and the newly
refurbished grounds on May 13,
Mother's Day. All mothers will
receive a plant to take home.
Hunt House may be in the midst
of exterior work but you can see
how the process goes and
admire/critique the work of the
Peterson brothers, our painting
contractors.

Calendar Of Events

April

Wednesday, April 4, 7:00 pm
Board Meeting – Members welcome
John Hunt House
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Monday, April 23, 7:00 pm
Members' Meeting - *Public Invited*
Newman Congregation Church
100 Newman Ave., Rumford, RI
General von Steuben – The Ship
(See next page for additional
information.)

May

Wednesday, May 2, 7:00 pm
Board Meeting – Members welcome
John Hunt House
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Sunday, May 13, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hunt House Museum open
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Monday, May 21, 7:00 pm
Members' Meeting - *Public Invited*
East Bay Manor
1440 Wampanoag Trail
Riverside, RI
Some First Settlers of
Wannamoissett by Jeffrey Howe



Membership Form

New

Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

\$15 Individual

\$25 Family/Business

\$150 Life

Museum News

By Edna Anness

Gifts to the Museum

The Principal of East Providence High School

All year books that we were missing since 1916. Her gift was so generous.

Bob Flint

A postcard of Hunt Mills around 1908.

Bob is the son of Harold Flint after whom the library in the Hunt House is named.

Bill Socha

A beautiful picture of the Ide House once located next to St. Martha's Church. The picture was taken by Bill in December 1979. What a beautiful house it was.

Second Baptist Church on Taunton Ave.

Bags of papers including a register of the church.

A wonderful communion set with all the glasses for the wine.

Museum Committee Meeting

There will be a Museum Committee meeting after spring vacation Saturday morning April 21. If you cannot make it please call Edna's cell phone: 261-2947

General von Steuben – The Ship

Gibraltar, Tenerife, Madeira, Malta – don't these names conjure up visions of a Mediterranean cruise aboard a luxury liner? You are correct; in the 1930s these were some of the places the *General von Steuben* would visit on a regular basis.

The *General von Steuben* was one of the ocean liners owned by the North German Lloyd that were built after WWI. During her 20 years of service her name was changed 3 times for various reasons. When she was new she saw much use in regular service between Bremen and New York. As newer ships became faster and faster she was taken off the regular runs and became a popular cruise ship until her career ended in one of the greatest maritime disasters in 1945.

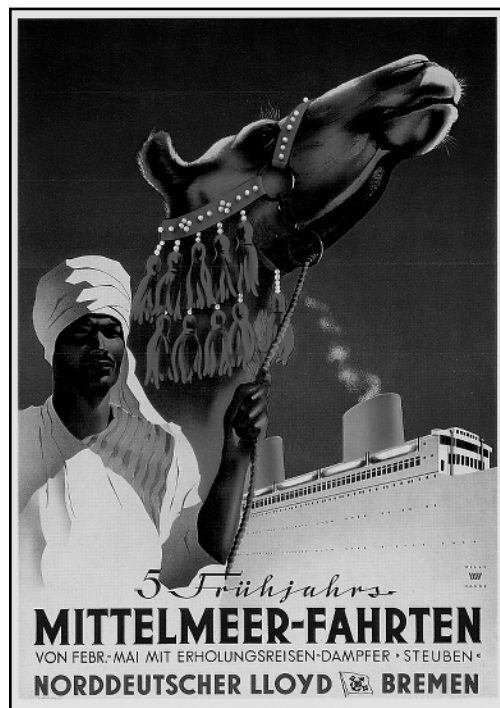
Society member Reinhard Wohlgemuth will give a PowerPoint presentation and talk about the ship's interesting history using postcards and ephemera from his collection as an illustrated guide. Reinhard's talk will take place on April 23, 2012 at 7:00 pm as part of the members' meeting.

In Memory Of:

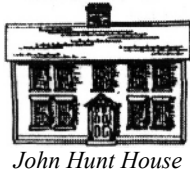
**Sophie Allen
Anne Britton
Helen Dorr**



***Sadly missed...fondly
remembered***



Postcard based on an advertisement poster for the *Steuben* in 1938



East Providence Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916

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Providence, RI
Permit #2712

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

Spring growth is early this year, so get out there on these beautiful days and evenings and tackle weeds early. Ten minutes of weeding in April will save an hour in June. Get the weeds that are beginning to flower and remove them before the next generation germinates!! Add them to your compost bin.

Divide mature perennials this month and share them with friends or create a new garden. Do not be afraid to use your spade and slice right through the root ball after digging them up. They will thank you later with renewed growth and vigor.

If your rhubarb is as old as mine, dig the emerging clump of crowded growth and chunk it into smaller clumps to replant. Amend the soil where it had been growing with compost before replanting.

Keep an eye on rainfall. Even watering of annuals as well as perennials will ensure strong growth through the season.

For a healthy treat, add dandelion flowers, violets and wild onions growing in the lawn to salads, sandwiches, soups or on top of your evening roast! You will get delicious nutrition for free from your yard.

Lawns need attention this month. Early growth is evident after the mild winter. Grub control and crabgrass pre-emergent may be needed now. Try to only cut 1/3 of the grass length each mowing to reduce shock to the plant. Wait a few days and cut a bit more. Rake bare patches and dead grass clumps before re-seeding this month to reduce weeds from emerging from bare open spots.

Add 50 lbs of lime to each 1000 square feet of lawn. This will raise your lawn ph so that the grass will be able to absorb the nutrients it needs.

Bring a soil sample from a few areas of your yard and/or garden for a free soil test at the next member meeting on the 23rd, or come to Cheryl and my talk about the Seekonk Meadows at the Seekonk Library on the 18th of April.