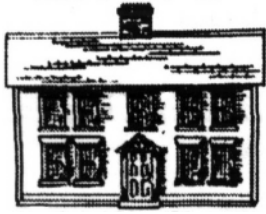


THE EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XXIV No. 7

June 2012

President's letter

Nancy Moore, President



Hello Everyone,

It is with the greatest pleasure that we can report that our search for a president from the rank and file

has been successful! Maggie Dooley, a previous Board member, has decided that she would like to top our slate. The executive committee met with Maggie this week and we all agreed that this slate is very strong and committed to EPHS goals.

The following slate will be presented for vote at the annual meeting June 25:

President: Margaret Dooley – Maggie has worked in development for nearly 20 years and was born and raised in Phillipsdale, the new Local Historic District. She has been active in state preservation and is deeply committed to community activism.

1ST Vice President: Rosemarie Sirenski – Rosemarie is a former Board treasurer who has retired and found time to rejoin the

Board. She has executive assistant expertise and has been the president of Friends of Weaver Library.

2nd Vice President: Deborah Ormerod – Deb and her dog walk the Hunt Mills area daily, a habit she got into as a child and introduced to her children. Deb is a teacher in the EP schools and is also learning the ropes as curator from Edna Anness.

Secretary: Cheryl Faria – Cheryl comes to us from Seekonk but many generations back when the land was Rehoboth, her grandfather, 7 times removed, owned the land now known as the Hunts Mills Historic District. Cheryl wears many hats – Master Gardener – artist – pianist/teacher – development director – chair of Seekonk Library group.

Treasurer: Dorothy Thornley – Dottie was raised in and now owns her family home on Westwood Avenue and her backyard abuts Hunts Mills. She is retired from a teaching career at the Gordon School and at retirement, decided that she would join the Master Gardener

group at Hunt House. Three years later, she has proved herself indispensable in that group and on the Building Committee. This year she volunteered to step in as acting treasurer. She now would like to be elected to that office.

In voting in this new slate, we will say goodbye to several important people who have helped lead the group for a number of years. Kris Rose will stand down from the executive committee, but we will have her presence in the Marker Program and she will continue to organize the picnic. Also, after many years, Edna Anness will leave her position as 1ST VP (she will be sorely missed!). Edna will help Deb Ormerod settle in as new curator but it is impossible to replace the encyclopedic knowledge of this area which Edna has. We have been so fortunate to have these two on the executive committee and they've been wonderful to work with.

Continued on page #2



The Gazette

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Web Site: ephist.org

OFFICERS

Nancy Moore *President*
Kris Rose *1st Vice President*
Edna Anness *2nd Vice President*
Cheryl Faria *Recording Secretary*
Pat Henry *Corresponding Secretary*
Dot Thornley *Treasurer*
Kris Rose *Immediate Past President*

**COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSONS**

Bob Tewksbury *Buildings*
Jeffrey Faria *Grounds*
Kris Rose *Markers*
Mona Breault *Membership*
Virginia Berwick –
Karen Panzarella *Museum*
Edna Anness *Acting Curator*
Reinhard Wohlgemuth –
Mona Breault *Newsletter*
Nancy Moore *Preservation*
Maggie Dooley *Program*
Maggie Dooley *Publicity*
Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Webmaster*

**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

And now I will sit back as immediate past president and take a breather. This has been a challenging three years and I am ready to do just program work and explore a few ideas in the education area. I don't think there is a harder working, more committed Board in this City and I have been so proud to be a part of it. Thank you for your loyal support of our programs and for volunteering whenever we put out the call. EPHS continues to be a vital voice for preservation because we are ready to stand and be counted.

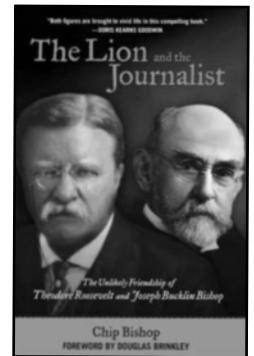
**What's in Your Reading Pile for This Summer?
A History Book?**

This summer we are beginning a new Gazette item which was spawned both from the close association EPHS has with the Weaver Library staff / Friends of the Library and the programs which Chip Bishop did for us detailing his research for "The Lion and the Journalist" – the story of the relationship between Teddy Roosevelt and Joseph Bucklin Bishop (a Ring of the Green boy). We recommended that Joyce May, program director at the library, consider having Chip speak at one of her author evenings and she reported that he was an excellent addition to that group.

In return, Joyce has sent us a few listings of new books available through the library which might be of interest to those of you with an interest in history – fact and fiction.

We include some of those here as space permits. Do you know that you can reserve books online from your home computer? Works wonderfully well!

"THE LION AND THE JOURNALIST" by Chip Bishop
(raised in Woonsocket with relatives still here in Rumford.)



Membership Form

New

Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

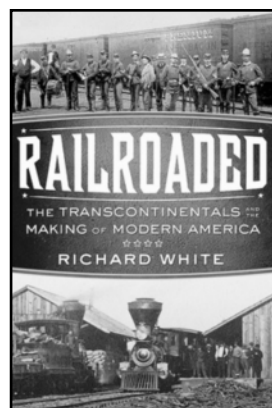
\$15 Individual

\$25 Family/Business

\$150 Life

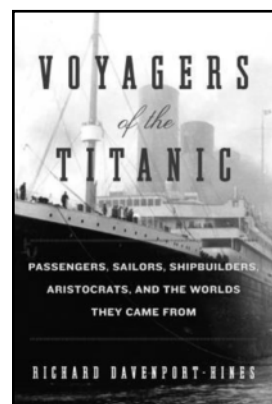
As a teenager, Chip was turned on to the intrigues of this relationship between TR and JBB by his uncle who knew the family lore and had known the elder Bishop. With the Panama Canal anniversary coming up, Chip, now in retirement, began to dig further into the details. The building of the Canal was a pivotal world development in the early 20th century and in the relationship between the two men. If you are a TR fan or want to get current with the Canal celebrations before the event, this book is for you. And you can stroll by the Bishop farm on Pleasant Street at your leisure.

NOTE: EPHS has a copy and it can be borrowed by calling Nancy Moore (438-4299)



“RAILROADED: THE TRANSCONTINENTALS AND THE MAKING OF MODERN AMERICA.” By Richard White

The Panama Canal project went smoothly and came in on time. “Not so” says White in this witty astute account of how the continent was finally banded by a railroad line. Experienced railway men weren’t interested in investing in the project so six Sacramento businessmen, mostly ignorant of railroading (in the literal sense) and spectacularly dishonest, took matters into their own hands. Well researched with maps/charts. 2011



“VOYAGERS OF THE TITANIC: PASSENGERS, SAILORS, SHIPBUILDERS, ARISTOCRATS AND THE WORLDS THEY CAME FROM” By Richard Davenport – Hines

Had the Titanic not sunk, would it have made a fabled journey through the Panama Canal? Well, the Canal was 3 years old when the ship went down with its microcosm of Edwardian society. This is a meticulous, engrossing recreation of the disaster and the social realities that shaped it. Photos. 2012

Other Thoughts

Our great thanks to Jeff Howe for his splendid program about the southern area of town. His research was painstaking and just the deciphering of the writing on deeds/maps/estate lists must have taken many hours. We are indeed fortunate to have members who have great research ability and a love of their subject. It was good to welcome members who live in that area – their comments were very appreciative.

And thank you to East Bay Manor once again for the warm welcome EPHS received from the staff and residents. Sue Spiro makes everything so easy for our refreshment committee and we will continue to take our May meeting there. Sue has also said that a bus can be available to bring residents to other meetings around the City so we hope that we will see many of our friends during the year.

Calendar Of Events

June

Sunday, June 10, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hunt House Museum open
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Monday, June 25, 6:00 pm
Members’ Meeting - *Public Invited*
Hunts Mills Park (Newman Church if raining)
Annual Picnic/Elections
(See the slate of officers elsewhere in the newsletter)

July

Sunday, July 8, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hunt House Museum open
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

August

Sunday, August 12, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hunt House Museum open
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford



Please remember that there will be no members’ meetings/events during the summer months. The next event will be another ‘Show & Tell’ in September and take place at Weaver Library.

Anyone Home?

By Dot Thornley

Saturday, May 26, John Austin and crew arrived at the Hunt House to see if we had any spirits living with us. John has investigated the paranormal for 12 years in the New England area. After laying miles of extension cords, setting up 4 cameras, and finally testing all the equipment we were ready to listen and watch. Were our "spirits" going to be friendly? What we saw and what John heard has to be evaluated to see if they were real or dust and an old house settling. Come to the June picnic to hear the results or wait for the next bulletin.

Tip Of The Baker's Hat . . .

. . . to the following members who baked for the May members' meeting:



- Andy Valerio
- Linda Agresti
- Mona Breault
- Kris Rose
- Dottie Thornley.

Meet Our New Members

Individual membership:

- Anne Linde
- Suzanne Pezzuli

Welcome to our group.

Memorial Fund

The Society's Memorial Fund was established in 1993, in memory of past members, for "the betterment of the Society and with no specific purpose".

The Memorial Fund is a qualified endowment administered by the Executive Committee. Members and friends wishing to contribute may make checks payable to the East Providence Historical Society and mail to:

East Providence Historical Society
Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916-4774

Slate of Candidates for the Year 2012/2013

- President ----- Margaret Dooley
- 1st Vice President ----- Rosemarie Sirenski
- 2nd Vice President ----- Deborah Ormerod
- Secretary ----- Cheryl Faria
- Treasurer ----- Dorothy Thornley

Historical Marker Program

Your home may be eligible for a marker. Any building in the City of East Providence which contributes to the historical development or architectural character of the City is eligible to be considered for a Historical Marker.

Request information by sending your name, address and phone number to the

Marker Program

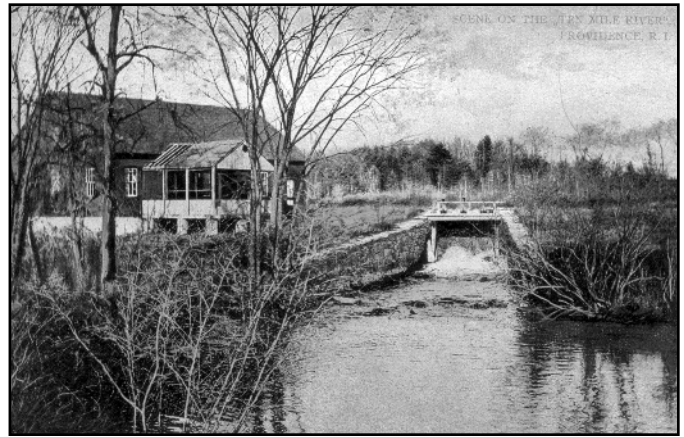
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‘Wet Archeology’

By Reinhard Wohlgemuth

During the construction of the fish ladder at the Turner Reservoir dam in 2011, the water level in the reservoir was lowered several times. This made it possible to catch a rare glimpse of the lay-of-the-land before the area was flooded in 1935 to form the reservoir.

If you ever wondered what the wheels were that are visible in the water today, they were used to regulate the flow of the Ten Mile River and control the level of the mill pond for the Central Mill. The mill was a cotton mill owned by Rumford Chemical when it burned down. It was never rebuilt.

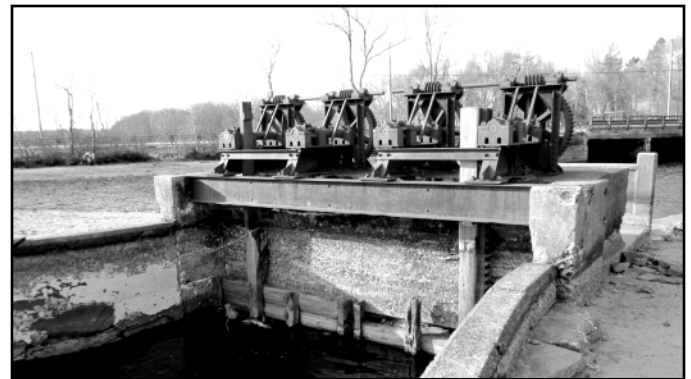


Postcard view of Central Mills and the Ten Mile River gate in the dam.



The same area today after the reservoir was partly drained. At normal water level the old mill dam is completely covered.

The left section of the dam was adjustable. The large opening had a stone abutment on each side with a slot built into it. It is a beautiful example of stone work done many years ago, too bad it is covered by water most of the time and cannot be appreciated.



Looking from the mill pond direction the wooden gates that once blocked the flow of the river are still visible. Only one of the four gear racks remains; they would move the gates up and down as the cranks above were turned.

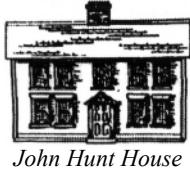


The little brick structure was once part of the mill building and probably was the control gate for the mill machinery. It still contains a large hand wheel connected to a vertical shaft that disappears into a well that is open to the mill pond.



Large timbers were set into the slots and are backfilled with sand on the mill pond side (right). To create a stronger wooden wall each layer of timbers actually consisted of multiple beams connected together by iron straps.

All photos by the author.



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Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- * Cut off flowering stalks of rhubarb to prolong better harvest and side dress rhubarb and asparagus plants with a balanced (10-10-10) fertilizer when harvest is done for the season.
- * Fertilize roses after the first flush of blooms begin to fade.
- * Watering early in the day and irrigating the soil, not the plant leaves, will help prevent many leaf diseases. Try drip line hose irrigation with tiny side lines and small spray heads.
- * Old newspapers and salt marsh hay make the best mulch. Grass and straw work well, are plentiful, but may contain weed seeds or

herbicides. Mulching keeps soil cooler and moist long after watering.

- * Apply slow release (granular) fertilizer to annual plants and container plants to keep them lush and beautiful all season long. Pick young veggies to encourage more, and deadhead to get more blooms!
- * Sow a second plot of broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, carrots and beans for late season, tasty veggies!!
- * Place a comfortable chair somewhere in the garden so you can sit back, take a break and admire all of your handiwork!! I'll put a recliner in mine for a great nap, too!

