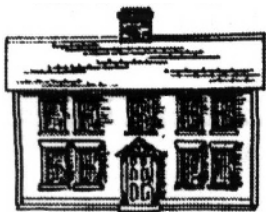


THE EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XXIV No. 6

May 2012

President's letter

Nancy Moore, President

Hello Everyone,



Well, let me be "up front and personal" with all of you this month. Your excellent, hardworking, incredibly devoted Board finds

itself with a full slate for all the elected offices except President. Each Board member has been polled for the slot and each one has very valid reasons for not assuming those duties right now. At the May Board meeting discussion of the matter, it was suggested that the office be offered to the membership at large. Now, in my memory (since 1984), there has never been a president "off the street" so to speak but as we talked further, it was mentioned that many of our members come to us in retirement, fresh from jobs of great responsibility or with very good organizational skills. Was it really necessary that a president come up through the ranks, with a Board so willing to assume its share of work? Might not a fresh

face be just what is needed at this point?

So the Board is asking for one of you to consider giving the Society a year of your time and energy, to lead one of the most conscientious, well disciplined, welcoming Boards in the City. With the fish ladder done, the 501C3 matter resolved, and the Hunt House contracting awarded, this could be a year of renewal, setting new goals, and taking a long breath. Please call

Nancy Moore (438-4299) if you think you'd like to explore this exciting possibility.

Fish Ladder update:

Keith Gonsalves of the Ten Mile River Group reports that 25 people showed up to enjoy the river on April 21st. They cleared paths to the water, took stock of the area in general and looked for the fish which had been lifted over the Omega Dam the week before. Keith reports that the preliminary work for the Omega

Continued on page #2



The old pump at Omega Dam.

The Gazette

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Historical Society

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Kris Rose *1st Vice President*
Edna Anness *2nd Vice President*
Cheryl Faria *Recording Secretary*
Pat Henry *Corresponding Secretary*
Dot Thornley *Treasurer*
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Karen Panzarella *Museum*
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Mona Breault *Newsletter*
Nancy Moore *Preservation*
Maggie Dooley *Program*
Maggie Dooley *Publicity*
Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Webmaster*

President's Letter – From page #1
fish run has begun with the
removal of the old pump below
the dam. (see photo on page #1)

When asked about the
whereabouts of those 1500
herring which had been lifted
over Omega Dam, Keith said that
the fish were spotted in the river
at Hunts Mills on April 21st but
that the water level was too low
for them to find the ladder
opening. He surmised that the
herring went into the ladder as
the levels rose with the big rains
of the following week and are
safely into the area below the
Reservoir Dam. Next year should
see them completing the first
continuous run up all three
ladders.

When asked about what might
be done to keep the water level
at a safe passage level in April,
and what the purpose of the
gate at the top of the ladder was,
Keith had this to say:
*The gate at the top of the ladder
is for maintenance work on the
ladder, like if they need to work
on the wooden baffles or other
problems, the water flow can be*

*stopped to make it easier to
work. The reason fish could not
go up the ladder was due to low
water levels in the river, the fish
could not find passage to the
ladder. The fish specialists from
the DEM, Army Corps and US
fish and wildlife were looking at
the stream bed and water flow
last week trying to determine if a
rock here and there could be
moved to help the fish get
to the ladder.*

Thanks to Keith and his group
for their energy and hours of
commitment to this project.

**Tip Of The Baker's
Hat . . .**

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



- Billie Arden
- Mona Breault
- Miriam Kenney
- Nancy Moore
- Dorothy Thornley
- Anthony Valerio
- Kathy Wohlgemuth

**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**



Membership Form

New
 Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

\$15 Individual

\$25 Family/Business

\$150 Life

Calendar Of Events

May

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
Wannamoisett by Jeffrey Howe

June

Wednesday, June 6, 7:00 pm
Board Meeting - Members welcome
John Hunt House
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

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

Museum News

By Edna Anness, Acting Curator

Gifts to the Museum

Clarissa Penny Porter - a direct descendant of George Wilson, founder of Rumford Baking Powder.

- Four programs for plays put on by the Seniors at EPHS.
- A 1919 program from Bourne Ave. Grammar School.
- Five programs (1917, 1918, 1919, 1921, 1928) for Wilson School graduations.
- A 1921 invitation from EPHS. It is fun to read all the old Rumford Family names. The Penny family lived in Rumford.
- An article about Chemical Manufacturers with a great picture of the old Rumford Company. Actually the gift came with the stipulation that it can be sold to help the society financially.

Museum Committee Meeting

We are again going to try to have a Museum Committee meeting on June 9 at 10:00 am at the Hunt House. It will be the final meeting for me. Please let me know if you cannot attend. My cell phone is 401-261-2947

Some First Settlers of Wannamoisett

By Jeffrey Howe

Member Jeffrey Howe of Riverside will be presenting a slide show/talk on his book "Some First Settlers of Wannamoisett". It will cover the shoreline from Kettle Point on down to Bullocks Point, over to West Barrington and down to Nayatt Point.



The presentation will be part of the regular members' meeting on May 21 at 7:00 pm. Please note that this meeting will be at East Bay Manor in Riverside.

This early view of the oyster operations on Sabins Point is part of Jeffrey's extensive collection. It serves as an interesting preview of what we can expect to see at the meeting. This will be a treat for anybody interested in our local history.



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- Use mulch to keep weeds from sprouting and retain moisture in your soil to help your plants thrive.
- Even or regular watering of your gardens will build stronger, deeper root systems. Most plants require 1 to 2 inches per week. Using a rain gauge or empty tuna cans as guides will conserve your water and allow you to monitor the amount of water your plants get each week.
- Fertilize your roses before their big June flush of blooms. Sprinkle the fertilizer around the base of the plant, out to the drip line of each plant.
- Support peonies and pinch off side buds for larger main blooms. Maintain good air circulation to reduce fungus diseases.
- Tomatoes and peppers thrive only when the ground temps are above 50 degrees. Usually this is not until late May. Reserve young transplants until the soil has warmed.
- When planting beans, plant one row each week for a prolonged harvest. This works well for many other crops such as lettuce, beets, radishes, spinach, etc.
- Save some seeds for later in the season to plant for fall harvesting.

