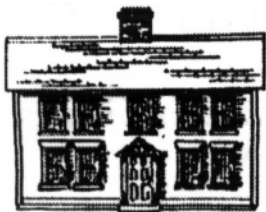


# THE EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



John Hunt House

# Gazette

Vol. XXV No. 3

November/December 2012

## Calendar Of Events

### November

Monday, Nov. 26, 7:00 pm  
Members' Meeting – *Public invited*  
Weaver Memorial Library  
41 Grove Avenue,  
East Providence, RI  
Ray Rickman: Rare Books

### December

Sunday, Dec. 09, 1:00 - 3:30 pm  
Hunt House Museum open  
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford  
Fresh Greenery, Fresh Butter  
and Fresh Bisquits.

Monday, Dec. 17, 6:00 pm  
Holiday Party – *Public invited*  
Newman Congregational Church  
100 Newman Avenue,  
Rumford, RI  
More information on page #5



There will be no members' meetings during January and February; we are looking forward so seeing all of you again for our March 2013 potluck.

## Watchemoket Square Day 2012

By Nancy Moore

If there was any doubt that the founders of Watchemoket Square Day should be holding a second annual celebration, that doubt was quickly dispelled by the waving, smiling crowds at the parade and throughout the day. People who had grown up in the area, those who still live there, and curiosity seekers mixed in the streets and at the venues open from the St. Mary's Church bazaar down to the EP Yacht Club. Restaurants featured specials, Hot Rides sponsored a car show and the East Providence Historical Society ran tours of the "Big Dig" 195 area. Dave Kelleher took crowds of 20-25 people on each tour and the compliments were many about how interesting that area was and how little one thinks about what happened when the highway barreled through in the heydays of highway construction in the 1950's.

EPHS in general, hung out in the sanctuary in St. Mary's where a display of all the dairies in East



Gordon Hubbard photo

Providence in the early 1900's were featured. Did you know that Watchemoket alone had 20 dairies? Now, not all of these were full fledged businesses like Munroe Dairy, but you could walk around the corner to Mercer or Vincent Avenues and buy a .06 cent quart of milk. With the wonderful contribution from Munroe Dairy of a mechanical udder, toy milk truck and advertising displays, our attraction was completed by first hand memories recounted by members Andy Valerio, Ginny Berwick (White Rock Farm /Kents) George Amaral (John Amaral Dairy) and an amazing video shot in the 30's by Adrith Andrade's relative of the Melo

Continued on page #4

### The Gazette

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Historical Society

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#### OFFICERS

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Deborah Ormerod *2nd Vice President*  
Cheryl Faria *Recording Secretary*  
Pat Henry *Corresponding Secretary*  
Dot Thornley *Treasurer*  
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Jeffrey Faria *Grounds*  
Kris Rose *Markers*  
Mona Breault *Membership*  
Virginia Berwick/Karen Panzarella  
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Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Newsletter*  
Nancy Moore *Preservation*  
Nancy Moore *Programs*  
Nancy Moore *Publicity*  
Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Webmaster*

## November Members' Meeting

### The Antiques Roadshow – Books



Once again, the East Providence Historical Society is teaming up with the Weaver Library to present a very entertaining evening: "The Antiques Roadshow – Books."

Ray Rickman, well known in RI for his love of history and former host of "Bestsellers" on RI PBS, will talk specifically about historical RI books. But the fun part will come when the audience gets to have a free appraisal of old books they have brought from home. Audience members will be allowed to bring up to three books for

Mr. Rickman's expert perusal. Will this be a night when someone finds he/she owns a rare, valuable volume? Join us with or without your own books and find out. Refreshments and conversation follow the meeting.

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

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

- Dottie Thornley
- Andy Valero
- Mona Breault
- Billy Arden
- Miriam Kenny



## Meet Our New Members

Individual membership:

- Marilyn Cronin
- Ned Connors

### 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 #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\$15 Individual

\$25 Family/Business

\$150 Life

## Notes from the President's Desk . . .

By Maggie Dooley, President

Hello friends!

I enjoyed meeting many of you at the Watchemoket Square Day and East Providence's "Big Dig" presentations. November's open house was busy including a visit with a Boy Scout troop and several residents dropping off documents and photographs for the Museum Committee's review. Some of these items may find a new home in the Society's collections. As guests toured the Hunt House, I heard repeatedly, "I remember..." These two small words begin some of the most delightful discussions and captivating conversations. There's always a story or two that follows which includes family and friends, or people and places of East Providence, awakening our memories, and a sharing of more stories. And age doesn't matter! Some of our youngest guests see a spinning wheel, a muff, a crib, or a sword and have much to say about the object! Many of these stories become the basis for further research and ultimately an exhibit.

If you have recently visited the Hunt House you will see that we are moving ahead with exterior maintenance of the house which includes painting, restoration, and repairs as needed. The project will be finished in the spring. The Society is responsible to keep the premises in good repair as outlined in our lease with the City. This is only one of many activities that our operating budget supports.

Please keep this Gazette handy as it covers our events for November and December. The Hunt House will be closed during the months of January and February, but you can always contact us by phone or email, should you have a question or desire to drop off materials to be considered for inclusion in our collections.

We will be very busy during the winter months as our directors and chairpersons will be attending several planning sessions in addition to our monthly board meetings. We will be reviewing our by-laws, standing rules and procedures and making recommendations for updating these documents. We will also begin to draft a strategic plan, creating a roadmap for the Society, which will include goals and objectives for fundraising and special events, governance, educational program, museum and collections, membership, volunteer recruitment, communication and community outreach. We expect there may be a few more topics, too.

Key to our planning is a review and discussion of the current document, "December 1989, The Five Year Plan and Beyond" which highlights a twenty-five year long range plan to organize the Society's efforts in restoring the Hunt House. While our mission is clear, preserving our heritage and enjoying the history of the city, it is time to

open discussion for the vision for the Society. The Society, founded in 1966, will be 50 years young in 2016. We need to pave the way for the next 50 years!

We have many great resources, including a committed and enthusiastic membership, volunteers, directors, and a very supportive partnership with the City, already in place. Some of our other wonderful partnerships will be featured in the March Gazette. Our intention is to build upon the nearly fifty years of the East Providence Historical Society's good works.

As we go through this process, we will be inviting you and other individuals from our community, to participate in round table discussions, interviews and surveys. If you would like to share your thoughts or comments on this endeavor, please contact us. The March Gazette will include more information and a report of our progress.

I hope to see you at the November and December members' meeting. I'll be bringing a few books for Mr. Ray Rickman to evaluate (they look "valuable" to me!) and I'll be sure to cook something special for our turkey dinner in December.





Gordon Hubbard photo

the Washington Bridge Commission (1920's) and detailed papers for the taking of properties to be moved or demolished along the route. Some of those, Horton's dairy barn for one, were removed and others such as the

Andrade home on Freeborn were moved. Much more digging will be necessary to determine whether all those buildings ended up as landfill or are still here in disguised form - 55 and 85 School Street?

But there is even more residue from the WSD events as EPHS decided to freshen up the dairy exhibit and bring it back to Hunt House with a gala open house

identify the locations of all the dairies in town by adding your knowledge to our dairy map. And as if this were not enough - the March pot luck supper will feature the closing of the dairy exhibit with a roundtable discussion of the dairy industry in town. Now, that's what we call getting mileage out of 195!

### Sneak Peek for WSD 2013

Thus far, we've looked at the businesses, the architecture and the highway construction down at Watchemoket Square. This next year we'd like to spotlight the families who put their energies into making the square a dynamic business center. We'll be looking for photos/family histories of workers, families, businesses they ran or worked at and we'll be looking to trace the immigration patterns here in EP over the last 150 years. If your family has longtime ties to Watchemoket, please help us build this exhibit.

### Where Did All That Dirt Go?

One of the questions that didn't get answered at our October talk about 195 was the above. But perhaps some of you have answers - you just weren't at the talk. As I was driving the stretch from the bridge to the Seekonk line, I was struck by how high above the city roadways I was at the Warren Avenue exit.: a good 8-10 feet. Could that be part of the answer, that the tunneling produced the fill for elevating the road? It still seems that the prodigious amount of dirt was too much even for that.

WSD 2012 - From page #1  
bottling end of the Amaral business.

Sometimes, events get rolling so well that they seem to push themselves along and that's what happened when the City Clerk, Kim Casci, offered display space at City Hall for WSD activities. The eye-catching display remained up through October and spurred interest in the EPHS guided tours and the culminating talk at St. Mary's by Ned Connors, industrial historian and chair of the EP Historic District Commission. Ned's focus was on what led to the building of the highway with great visuals of the 39<sup>th</sup> World's Fair and its simulated "highway ride" and the infectious attitude that highways would open the whole area to greater prosperity and trade after WWII. Who wouldn't want a highway through town! While investigating the "Big Dig" at State Archives and the RIDOT, Ned found superb photos from



Gordon Hubbard photo

Sunday, Dec. 9 from 1:00-3:30 pm. In further collaboration with Munroe Dairy, you can make fresh butter to go on fresh Rumford Baking Powder biscuits and muffins and those members who lived in dairy families will be on hand to take you back to those days. You can also help us

## Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

There is still time for planting spring flowering bulbs and the prices are coming down. Make them an offer! Get them in before the ground freezes.

Cut and destroy branches of plums and cherries that have black crusty swellings caused by black knot disease.

Mulch garlic, strawberries and roses after the ground begins to freeze. This will help prevent rodent harborage over winter and keep your plants from thawing on a sunny winter day. Once they freeze, they should stay that way throughout the winter for their safety.

Secure loose canes of climbing roses to keep them from being whipped by winter winds.

Use leftover bright paints or spray-paint to paint the handles

of your garden tools. This will help identify them when misplaced in your yard. It also helps you recognize them quickly when helping others on a garden project!

After cleaning up perennial beds, top dress the area with an inch or two of compost. This will slowly nourish the root zone over winter for a boost next spring. Also add lime to your garden beds and lawns at a rate of about 50 lbs. per 1000 square feet. Our N E area soil tends to be slightly acidic. A 10 x 10 area is 100 s.f., so adjust accordingly. A ph range of 6 to 7 is ideal for lawns and most perennials.

Take time this winter to dream about next season's flowers and plants you would like to try! Nestle in with a good gardening book!

## Fresh Greenery, Fresh Butter and Fresh Bisquits!

The John Hunt House at 65 Hunts Mills Road in the Rumford section of East Providence is open to all visitors on Dec 9 between 1:00 and 3:30 pm. Come visit the Hunt House all decked out for the holidays and explore the dairy exhibit which was on display at St. Mary's on Watchemoket Square Day. Talk with folks who grew up in dairy families or who walked to the dairy around the corner for the family's milk (6 cents a quart!) Make your own butter and put it on freshly made muffins and Rumford baking powder biscuits. Admission is free, donations gratefully accepted.



## Holiday Party

The East Providence Historical Society will host its holiday turkey dinner at the Newman Church on Monday, Dec 17 at 6:00 pm. A full turkey dinner, prepared by the fine cooks of the Society, will be served at 6:00 pm. Entertainment will follow at 7:00pm. The public is warmly welcomed but reservations are necessary. Tickets are \$10.00 for members and \$12.00 for guests. Please call 438-1750 for details.

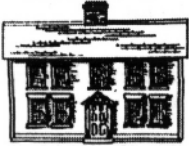
## Historical Marker Program

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

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



*John Hunt House*

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*Best wishes for a  
happy Holiday  
Season to all our  
members and friends*