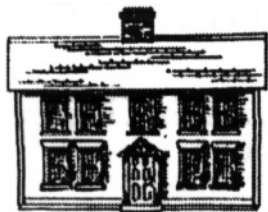


THE EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XXV No. 2

October 2012

Calendar Of Events

October

Saturday, Oct. 13, 10:00 - 3:00 pm
Watchemoket Square Day
St. Mary's Church
81 Warren Ave.
East Providence, RI
Walking tours at 11:00 am and
1:00 pm. Self-guided tour sheets
are available.

Sunday, Oct. 14, 1:00 - 3:30 pm
Hunt House Museum open
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Monday, October 22, 7:00 pm
Members' Meeting – *Public invited*
St. Mary's Church
81 Warren Ave.
East Providence, RI
East Providence's "Big Dig"

November

Sunday, Nov. 11, 1:00 - 3:30 pm
Hunt House Museum open
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

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

East Providence's "Big Dig"

What happens when a highway cuts through your neighborhood ...

By Nancy Moore

As you drive east in East Providence, along the stretch of 195 from the Washington Bridge up to the crest of the hill at the Pawtucket Avenue overpass, do you ever wonder what became of all the houses and businesses in the way of that highway? And whatever did they do with all that dirt? This year, in celebration of Watchemoket Square Day, the East Providence Historical Society is trying to answer some of those questions by giving tours in the neighborhood of Freeborn, Potter and School streets where the highway barreled through and with a presentation on Monday, October 22, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, a stone's throw from the highway. Ned Connors, industrial historian and chair of the EP Historic District Commission, will explain how it was determined that the highway would run where it did and show DOT movies of the demolition and birth of the highway. Ned is always an entertaining speaker and you will be fascinated by what he has uncovered.



Postcard – R. Wohlgenuth collection

The A. P. Hoyt Grammar School, one of the victims of I-195.

Dave Kelleher will lead the neighborhood tours on WSD at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. He and Nancy Moore have been playing detective with some of the houses which obviously are not on their original

Continued on page #2

The Gazette

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:Big Dig" – From page #1

foundations. So far they definitively know that the Andrade home at the corner of Taunton and Freeborn now sits at 170 Summit Avenue. It is a large building to have made such a long move. And they suspect that the houses that sit at 49 and 85 School Street were moved from inner School or Freeborn but have no prior addresses nailed down. They have worked from plat maps as early as 1862 up through 1956 in their investigations and the City's engineering, planning and assessor departments have been a tremendous help, as has Ned Connors. The Potter School was also in the highway's path as was a carriage/horse rental establishment. From the 1895 plat maps it would seem that there were a half dozen imposing homes at the midway point of the crest with smaller homes clustered closer to the Square. The open land from Purchase Street up the hill would appear to have been Horton's pastureland, one of the

many dairies in the Watchemoket area.

If you are a long time East Providence resident and can shed more light on the research for this area, please drop by the EPHS dairy exhibit on WSD, Saturday October 13 or attend our October 22 meeting. We're looking forward to hearing from people who lived through that massive undertaking. (And where did that dirt go anyway!)

As we go to press, it appears that some of you may receive this Gazette after the October 13 tours. If you would like to take a self-guided tour of the Potter/School/Freeborn area you can go to the website www.ephist.org and print it off, come to our October 22 meeting at St. Mary's, or visit Weaver Library or Dee's Restaurant. Copies will be available at all three locations. It's an informative 30 minute walk and perhaps you will have questions which Ned Connors can answer at the presentation at St. Mary's.

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

Hello Friends!

It's another fall season at Hunt's Mill and the East Providence Historical Society and our activities are well underway as we reopen the Hunt House for tours, plan our programs, prepare the gardens for winter, and oversee the interests of the Society. I am grateful, and excited, to have the opportunity to serve as your President. Please join me in a warm welcome to this year's volunteers for the board of directors and committee chairs. It is truly a pleasure working in partnership with our committed and enthusiastic friends.

Thank you for your interest, dedication and participation as members. Your support is the foundation of the Society. When I became a member, not too long ago, I was moved and inspired by the history of so many members' involvement. It's a wonderful spirit of volunteerism; generous gifts of time, talent and energies. Let's continue to grow this spirit!

We value your insights and ideas and we look forward to hearing from you. During this year, I hope to meet you and that you will share your stories and adventures as a member. Perhaps I will see you at the October meeting. Please stop by and say "hello".

An Invitation

Have fun; learn something new about East Providence, you and maybe even your family.

Many East Providence Historical Society members and friends gather throughout the year to preserve the heritage and enjoy the history of our city. The Society offers many volunteer experiences and we invite you to join us!

If your interest is in

...creating and developing educational and entertaining experiences, then we hope you'll register your interest with our Program committee members. Our programs include a variety of topics and venues – and we are always looking for suggestions!

...knowing more about our collections, cataloging, preservation, research, museum exhibits, and East Providence history, we invite you to partner with members of the Museum committee. Hands-on experiences guaranteed.

... learning about and designing period gardens with heritage plants alongside Master Gardeners and gardeners who are history enthusiasts, the Heritage Garden project at Hunt House is sure to inspire you.

RSVP to our invitation by calling 401-438-1750 or contact us by email, info@ephist.org.



We thank the following bakers for supplying us with refreshments after our September meeting at the Weaver Library:

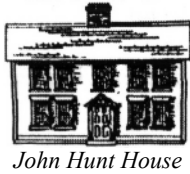
- Dottie Thornley
- Pat Henry
- Nancy Moore
- Kris Rose
- Ginny Berwick
- Mona Breault

November Members' Meeting

Ray Rickman: Rare Books

Do you have a copy of a book you would like to know more about: specifically, its worth? Our November speaker, Ray Rickman can tell you that and more. More details later, but he will evaluate up to three books per person so start poring through your personal library (or that of Aunt Mildred).





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

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Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- Keep up with raking leaves to allow sunlight to reach the blades of grass. Fall fertilizers will encourage root growth of grass plants. Grass will continue to grow until a hard frost.
- Now is the perfect time to divide, transplant or plant perennials in your garden. Amend the soil by adding compost and mixing it into the existing soil.
- Plant flowering bulbs such as crocus, daffodil and tulip in an area that you will be likely to observe in the springtime. These flowers will bring a smile to your face after a cold winter.
- Cut back ornamental grasses in the spring, leaving them to allow visual interest during the winter months.
- Now is a good time to prune trees that bleed sap. Shaping dogwoods, birches and maples will make your yard and landscape more attractive next year.
- Harvest crops like carrots, chard and turnip, but leave some to sweeten after temperatures drop in late fall. Clean up plant debris and only compost healthy material. Wipe and store cages and plant supports in a dry location.

