



Gazette

May 2013

Volume XXV No. 6

Dedicated to Preserving the Heritage and Enjoying the History of Our City

May

Monday, May 20
7:00 pm
Members' Meeting -
Public invited

Don Doucette
Rolling on U.S. Route 6

East Bay Manor
1440 Wampanoag Trail,
Riverside, RI

June

Sunday, June 9
1:00 - 3:30 pm
Hunt House Museum
open
Hunts Mills Road,
Rumford

Monday, June 24
6:00 pm
Members' Meeting -
Public invited

Picnic/Elections
Hunts Mills Park

CONTACT US AT:

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Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI
02916-4774
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A Cemetery at Uncle Tony's?

By Nancy Moore

An observant member called EPHS to report that digging is underway at the parking area adjacent to Uncle Tony's on Newport Avenue. Inquiry was made to the City and Ned Connors of the Historic District Commission and the following response has come from Ned. (His remarks have been paraphrased)

It seems there was a cemetery at that site before 1924. The plots numbered 600 but only 30 or so were sold by 1924 and the company folded. In 1961, with development of the area booming, a concerted effort was made to relocate all those graves. It was thought that all the graves were disinterred. The present owner, now wishing to develop that parcel, has decided to do an archeological type dig. As of this report, four more graves have been found, in sites which were cleared previously. It seems that more than one coffin shared a plot, on top of the other! No headstones have been found back in the woods. We hope this report from Ned puts this mystery to rest.

Nominating Committee Report

Proposed Slate of Officers

On April 14, the nominating committee comprised of Nancy Moore, chair, Pat Henry and Andy Valerio met to recommend the following slate:

Margaret Dooley	President
Rose Marie Sirenski	1 st Vice President
Deborah Ormerod	2 nd Vice President
Cheryl Faria	Recording Secretary
Dot Thornley	Treasurer

The committee is grateful that these Board members have agreed to serve for another term. Any other nominations from the floor may be made at the May members' meeting.

The Gazette

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East Providence
Historical Society

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OFFICERS

- Margaret Dooley *President*
- Rose Marie Sirenski *1st Vice President*
- Deborah Ormerod *2nd Vice President*
- Cheryl Faria *Recording Secretary*
- Pat Henry *Corresponding Secretary*
- Dot Thornley *Treasurer*
- Nancy Moore *Immediate Past President*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Bob Tewksbury *Buildings*
- Jeffrey Faria *Grounds*
- Kris Rose *Markers*
- Mona Breault *Membership*
- Virginia Berwick/Karen Panzarella *Museum*
- Deborah Ormerod *Acting Curator*
- Edna Anness *Curator Emeritus*
- Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Newsletter*
- Nancy Moore *Preservation*
- Nancy Moore *Programs*
- Nancy Moore *Publicity*
- Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Webmaster*

**May Open House
May 12**

Mother's Day Open House at Hunt House has become a tradition. The grounds at Hunts Mills are a very pleasant place to have a family picnic that day, with walking trails, historical tours and a trip down memory lane - Hunts Mills Lane to be exact.

If you missed our excellent presentation on the Edaville Railroad in April, come and view the many Edaville artifacts on exhibit.

The Master Gardeners will be on hand from 2 - 4:00pm to answer questions and test soil samples. And don't forget that all moms will receive a plant or seeds for planting.



**June Open House
June 9**

Just to let you know that "Edible Rhody", a well regarded RI food magazine dedicated to

furthering local agriculture, has done a piece on Rumford Baking Powder and the Hunt House. We will be featured in their June issue! So we'll be sprucing up the Rumford collection and spotlighting the Clint Sellew Rumford collection which is a new acquisition. Please join us for this celebration.

Thank you...

...to our cookie bakers for the April meeting:



- Linda Agresti
- Mona Breault
- Nancy Moore
- Dotty Thornley
- Andy Valerio

**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

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



Membership Form

New
 Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

\$15 Individual

\$25 Family/Business

\$150 Life

Rolling on U. S. Route 6

May Members' Meeting

May 20 at 7:00pm

East Bay Manor

Did you know that there is a well-established group called the US Route 6 Tourist Association which travels and studies US Route 6 all across this nation? Have you seen the 2008 PBS video about the road? Obviously, if you live in the East Providence/Seekonk area, there is no avoiding the retail stretch which many of us frequent and many of you may have taken the road all the way to its end on the Cape. EPHS member, Don Doucette, serves as "Ambassador at Large" for the MA chapter of this group, and will take us on a special tour of our own piece of Route 6 from Providence east to Provincetown. The East Bay Manor is a retirement community located at 1440 Wampanoag Trail which yearly welcomes the general public for our May meeting. Please join us for this road trip.



Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener



- ✿ May is your planting month. You can plant trees shrubs and perennials but wait for late May to set up tender annuals.
- ✿ Even though Mother's Day weekend is tempting to set out your tomato plants, be cautious if the temperature dips below 40°, or we have a wet period. Tomatoes do best when the nighttime temperatures do not go below 50°. Buy tomato plants no taller than 8 inches and plant them 2 inches deeper than they were growing in their tray. If your tomato seedlings are taller than 8 inches plant them even deeper or make a trough with only 4 to 6 inches of leaves and stem showing. All of the buried stem will become a stronger root structure for the plant.
- ✿ Get weeds before they bloom so that you will reduce the chore in the future. Mulch your garden with straw, grass, paper or wood chips to prevent weeds from germinating once you have weeded the garden.
- ✿ Sprinkle fertilizer around the base of early spring bulbs. Deadhead daffodils, tulips, etc., but do not cut the foliage until it turns completely yellow. The green leaves will store food for next year's flowers.
- ✿ When shopping for annual flowers and vegetable plants, choose plants that have not fully bloomed and have not completely filled out their planting container with their roots. Always turn the pot upside down and pull a plant out of its growing container to see the root structure. If the plant is root bound you can score the roots around the perimeter of the plant before planting it in your garden.
- ✿ During the last week of May and June, cut asters and chrysanthemums back by a third to make them shorter and bushier.
- ✿ I will be at the May member meeting and will provide pH soil testing for members who attend. I will also try to bring some plants that URI has started in their greenhouses for our Hunt House garden project.
- ✿ Don't forget to add fresh mint to your tea and lemonade that you enjoy this month after toiling in your garden!

A Herring of a Tale: Part II

By Nancy Moore

Perhaps you are wondering how the tale of the herring played out? Well, on the weekend of April 13-14, Hunts Mills was abuzz with humans and fish, the humans milling about, watching eagerly for any herring above the dam and the herring milling about, not willing to leap the small falls above Herring Rock. The DEM people were on site evaluating the situation on Saturday so note was taken that the fish were not moving upstream. In fact, they never moved upstream all weekend, despite the large numbers gathered at the rock. So, what to do? Well, several of the onlookers had ideas: net the fish to the ladder to see what happened, build small natural pools at increasingly higher levels at the small falls, leave the fish to their own devices, etc. It appears that studies will be made of other like ladders and sites and the Feds and the state DEM will make recommendations about improving the passage for the herring. We will keep you posted.

But on a very positive note, EPHS received a record number of visitors on those two days. Docents were kept on their toes answering all sorts of questions. Our tried and true squad was certainly up to their task and we received many favorable comments about the museum and our friendly, knowledgeable docents. Thanks to all of you.

Gone Fishing

By John Agren

These memories were reprinted from the September 2006 Gazette

Kenny Livingstone came over to my house one morning and stood at the back door and started to call, "Hey Jo-hn-nie-ee!" Ma called, "John, Kenny is out back calling for you." I went to the door and said "Hey, Ken, what's the matter?" Ken said, "Why don't we go fishing. Let's dig some worms and go down under the dam."

I said, "OK, Kenny, lets go out in the hen yard and dig worms. My father showed me where the big ones are. Get a shovel out of the shed and grab an empty can for the worms. Come on in the chicken yard, Ken, the worms are in the hen yard. Don't let the chickens out when you open the gate or we'll have to chase them all over the back yard!"

We dug for a little while, shooing chickens away when they wanted to scratch in the newly turned soil and eat our worms. When our worm can was full we got our fish poles together and headed for the Ten Mile River Dam.

We each wore our knee boots where there was a small pocket about three inches long on the right side of the right boot where the manufacturer had inserted a pocket knife. The pocket had a flap with a snap. The snap permitted a boy to button the knife flap to the boot. Because of this, the knife would always be



dry. You couldn't fish unless you had the boots and the knife!

Our fish poles were nothing more than long sticks of bamboo with a few yards of string attached. We made daubers out of cork from the top of

an empty bottle, carefully running a narrow slit to half the depth of the full length of the cork. This cork made a good, easily adjustable dauber. We each had a few extra hooks just in case a line got caught on a rock or something on the river bottom.

A path ran north and south on the Rumford side of the Ten Mile River at varying distances from the river. We got on the path in back of Jodat's house that ran along in back of Carpenters and then Gustafson's house. Near here was the Tyler Ice House, another place where we had many great adventures. A little south and west of the ice house, behind the "Rumford High House" was the "Sand Pit", another popular play ground. Beyond the sand pit was the dam with clear water spilling over it all the time. When we got near to the sand pit we could hear the roar of water spilling over the falls. At the waterfalls site one had to yell to make himself heard because the rushing and falling water made so much noise. At the dam, there was a small

declivity down which one would crawl to get below the dam. At the fishing site below the dam there were many places from which to launch a line. Often there were other fisherman and on this day Joe Aikens and George Charlton were already fishing. They each had a string of perch and hornpout.

Below the dam, there were all kinds of fish and a pleasant odor of Ten Mile River water. There was mist and foam below the dam as the water sped on its path south through the "Arcade Woods" and down to the rapids at Hunts Mills. Water splashed down over the dam and into the pool at the bottom where we intended to fish.

When Kenny and I got to our fishing site I took a big wiggly worm out of the can and held it up to show Kenny. "Hey, Ken", I shouted over the roar of the water, "How about this beauty?" Kenny replied, "Yea, that one looks like a winner!" I held the squirming worm tightly between the thumb and forefinger off my left hand and carefully threaded it on the hook; just like Pa had taught me. I brought my pole back over my right shoulder and let the hook, worm and dauber fly out into the rapidly moving water. Our cork dauber with fish hook and worm attached would tend to drift south, down stream with the current. The dam was a great place for a couple of youngsters to enjoy the out of doors and get next to nature and be introduced to the exciting sport of fishing.

The minute my dauber, hook and worm hit the water there was a

bobbing of the dauber, indicating that a fish was interested in the morsel at the end of my line. I let the fish have some fun and then brought up a small perch.

By this time, Kenny was ready to get his line into the water and, following the usual pole over the shoulder system, got his line out into the stream. My perch was let back into the river, not big enough to keep. Kenny now had a strike. The dauber was pulled under water and ran south for a minute. He pulled in a good sized pickerel. Ken took the jack knife out of its pocket in his shoe and cut a forked stick out of a nearby wild cherry tree. The pickerel was strung on the cherry fork stick. One branch of the wild cherry wood was passed through the fish's gills and out the mouth.. The fish couldn't go anywhere with the stick through his breathing apparatus. Now the pickerel could be placed back in the water and kept fresh until we were ready to go home. We had a great time under the dam and before long we each had a string of fish and were ready to leave.

We walked home by going up the Newman Avenue hill, past the Rumford Chemical Company mill houses and the Rumford Chemical Company high house. Fishing under the dam with a childhood friend was a great way for two youngsters to spend a beautiful summer's day. There isn't much that is better than a can of worms, a fishing pole, a good friend and an interesting place to fish when the fish are biting!

Note: Kenny was a "snipe" on the USS Heavy Cruiser Astoria. He

was killed in August 1942 when his ship was sunk by the Japanese during the war in the Pacific.

Wanted: New Webmaster

Time flies if you are having fun... Whoever said that was right. I just checked the dates of some of the old files on the website and they go back to 2002! It seems time to retire and get some fresh ideas for our website and some other hands to put it together. Any takers?

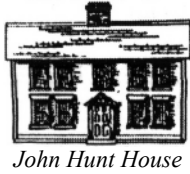
This is a position you can fill from home and does not take too much time to keep up-to-date after the site is running. Email me with questions at reinhardkathy@verizon.net if you are interested to serve the society in this capacity.

In Memory Of:

George Chalko
Helen Smith
Virginia Williams



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



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

...to our dear friend, a committed and caring volunteer...
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Mona Breault Steps Down as Membership Chair

A few years ago, 18 years to be exact, Mona Breault joined the Society. Within a month or two, she volunteered as Membership Chair and as time progressed she also offered to take over the duties of coordinating the Gazette mailing.

Thanks to Mona the Gazette has made it to your home and business in a timely manner. Thanks to Mona for reminding us when it is time to send our membership dues and keeping great records (from files in a cigar box to a computer!)

And of course, Mona has contributed her time, talent and treasures in many other ways – a gardener, baker, event caller, hostess - whenever and wherever assistance is needed, Mona is there.

We have no doubt Mona's "retirement" will be filled with other activities and we are very happy to know that she plans to visit us regularly.

Best wishes, Mona, you are a dear friend and we send you our heartfelt gratitude for your contributions to the Society.

