



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

April 2014

Volume XXVI No. 5

April

Monday, April 28
7:00 pm

Members' Meeting -
Public invited

**Chip Bishop: The
Panama Canal**

Weaver Memorial
Library
41 Grove Avenue,
East Providence, RI

May

Sunday, May 11
1:00 - 3:30pm

Hunt House Open

Monday, May 19
7:00 pm

Members' Meeting -
Public invited

**Ed Serowik: Loof
Carousel/Crescent
Park**

East Bay Manor
1440 Wampanoag Trail
East Providence, RI

CONTACT US AT:

East Providence
Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI
02916-4774
Tel. (401) 438-1750
Email: info@ephist.org
Web Site: ephist.org

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

Edna Anness: EPHS Forever in Her Debt

By Nancy Moore

How can we count all the hours of work that Edna spent curating at Hunt House? How can we count the hours she and Ginny Berwick and their crew spent putting up exhibits and, just as importantly, taking them down? How many friends did Edna make for the Society with her willingness to talk with anyone who had a piece of EP history to share? Those of us who have tried to take over small parts of those jobs know well that her contribution to this Society was enormous.

Edna and Lowell rarely missed an open house if they were in town (we all know how they loved to travel). And there were people who checked to see if she would be there because they had questions only she seemed to know the answers to or where to find the answer. Edna and Ginny put together a loyal and competent group of docents and we all learned from them how a house museum was supposed to operate. It was the farsightedness of that early group of volunteers that brought the Hunt House museum into being and Edna continued to keep abreast of new techniques, insisting that we enter the digital age.



Historical Society Collection
Edna and Les Haworth with his donated flag.

The Gazette

Is published monthly by the
East Providence
Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI
02916-4774
Tel. (401) 438-1750
Web Site: ephist.org

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*
- Miriam Kenney *Membership*
- Virginia Berwick/Karen Panzarella *Museum*
- Deborah Ormerod *Curator*
- Reinhard Wohlgenuth *Newsletter*
- Nancy Moore *Preservation*
- Nancy Moore *Programs*
- Nancy Moore *Publicity*
- Reinhard Wohlgenuth *Webmaster*

Edna Anness

On a personal note, I was able to step up to help Edna with exhibits when she needed an extra hand. We visited other Societies to see how curation was done - Edna was always good for a field trip. One day I received a frantic call from Edna. She was at the Hunt House and was distraught: she couldn't find the Lt. John Hunt Civil War letters to his mother, back home at Hunts Mills. We combed the house several times but never found the sheaf of white folders. Eventually we stopped looking as it was painful for Edna to think about it. For Edna, the letters were our

reason for being and her dream was that they be published. Well, at this March open house, there were people with research needs requiring a search for large photos. We opened the big closet in the research room and right at eye level were a bunch of archival folders, marked - you guessed it - Lt. John Hunt letters! Needless to say we had looked in that cabinet at least three times. Those of you who know about Edna's encounter with the Hunt House ghost may wish to ponder this matter but we can say to you Edna: fret no more - the letters are safe and we will take up the matter of publishing at the next Board meeting.

Prints Available for Sale

We now have prints of the "bird's eye" view of Riverside for sale. Price: \$8 or 2 for \$15. They will be available at open houses and members' meetings. Or email Nancy Moore at nancykmmoore@gmail.com
Also available at the same price: 1799 map of Providence /East Providence and Crescent Park Poster.

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

Bylaws Change Proposed

Current:

Article III , Section 2 “.....the month of initial membership shall be considered the anniversary due date.”

Proposed:

Dues will be collected once a year. Payment of dues will be on or before July 1.

Help wanted!

- We are seeking a society member to chair the Markers Committee. This is a Standing Committee of the Historical Society. The Chairperson shall be responsible for the eligibility, research and awarding of Markers to structures and/or properties of historic and/or architectural significance according to criteria developed by the committee and approved by the Board of Directors.
- We are seeking a society member to chair the Telephone Committee. This is an Ad Hoc Committee of the Society. This committee is responsible for notifying the members, at the request of the President, Board of Directors and/or Committee Chairpersons, of matters in need of personal or immediate attention.

If anyone is interested in either open position, please see any board member at the May meeting.

Don't
forget to
LIKE us on
Facebook



Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

April is the month to apply fertilizers, pre-emergent weed control and sweetening our generally acidic soil.



In general, a lawn will do better with the application of lime; at a rate of 50 pounds per 1000 ft.² than it will do with too much of a general fertilizer. I prefer the pelletized or granular lime in that it dissolves more slowly over time.

Carefully apply pre-emergent weed control and other fertilizers and do not overuse these products.

Carefully fertilize your spring flowering bulbs such as tulips and daffodils. Try not to apply too much fertilizer to the foliage as it may burn the plant.

You will boost your yield from many fruit trees and berry bushes by applying a balanced fertilizer, (10-10-10), either organic or man-made, at the rate of 6 - 12 ounces per tree for apple, peach, pear and cherry. Apply 4 - 8 ounces of fertilizer to mature grapes and brambles in early spring before growth starts. Strawberries will benefit from 1 lb fertilizer per 20 plants applied in early June.

Blueberries prefer more acidic soil and applying 4-5 ounces of ammonium sulfate per plant each year in the spring will help you achieve stronger plants.

Divide summer and fall blooming perennials if needed.

If you haven't pruned fruit trees or roses, do so now.

Most cool season vegetables can be planted this month and I will have seeds at the April member meeting!!

A Surprise Visit

On Saturday April 5, Museum Chairs Ginny Berwick and Karen Panzarella and Nancy Moore spent the day with Nancy and Nick DeShetler who drove from Toledo, OH to view the 160th Rumford exhibit before it closes in June. Nancy and Nick have visited Hunt House twice before, in 1994 and for the American Chemical Award in 2006. They are avid Rumford collectors themselves and brought examples of their rare finds and photo albums of the displays in their home. Their collection rivals our own and it was fun to compare artifacts. They were amazed and delighted to see the changes at the Rumford complex and had a brief visit with the Count at Seven Stars and in person back at Hunt House on their way home. (Cheryl and Jeff Faria were conducting their own tour for relatives from PA) It was a wonderful visit and we look forward to Nancy and Nick sharing some of their vast knowledge with us in Gazette articles.



Historical Society Collection
The DeShetlers during their 1994 visit.

-Long time EPHS member George Donovan made the Reporter main story this month. George has been working with 1st responders: still the man behind the camera all these years. Good work George!-

Attention All Fish Counters (You Know Who You Are!)

It has been a year since the herring were at Hunts Mills and a number of our members helped with the fish counting last year. For those in the dark about this, a group of people is trained in watching for fish as they enter or exit the ladder. Water temperature is taken and the counter's findings are noted in a log. Basically, a bit of patience for 10-15 minutes is all that is required. Again this year, the counter training by the Ten Mile River Group and EPHS April Open House coincide on April 13. No one knows exactly when the fish will arrive but they may join us that day also. Come on down! And check out the 10 Mile Group/EPHS display at City Hall too.

(It is possible that the Gazette will not be out by April 13. If you would like to be a counter please contact Ben Cote at info@tenmileriver.net

Curating News The Curator Is Looking for Help!!

Deb is looking for anyone who would like to be a "researcher". The person(s) would research and investigate our collection items and respond to some of the inquires that come into the Historical Society from people who are looking for specific items (ie pictures of places or items, information on ancestors, maps, etc). Time commitment would be whatever you want it to be, minimally 2-3 hours a month.

Please email the Historical Society or call the office (438-1750) if you would like to help out.



Summer "2nd Sunday" Open House June 8 – July 13 – August 10 1:00 – 3:30pm



Ed Serowik/EPHS collection showcasing Crescent Park/Loof Carousel

April Members' Meeting Weaver Library

The EPHS and East Providence Library present a joint evening with Chip Bishop, author of "The Lion and the Journalist" (at the top of the NY Times e book list) and descendant of Joseph Bucklin Bishop, confidante of Teddy Roosevelt and in charge of building the Panama Canal. Chip grew up in Woonsocket and has a passion for the Roosevelt/Great War era. His new book "Quentin and Flora" will be introduced at this talk. Chip has come to EPHS twice before and has just returned from Panama for the 100th anniversary celebration of the Canal. Please join us for the last in this series about a famous EP son. Copies of both books will be available for sale (\$20 each) and signing by the author.

The meeting will be on April 28 at 7:00pm.

May Members' Meeting East Bay Manor

Ed "Mr. Carousel" Serowik will present a comprehensive history of Crescent Park told as a personal narrative from his early days as a carousel worker. Ed also is loaning his extensive Crescent Park collection to the EPHS for a new summer exhibit.

The meeting will take place at the East Bay Manor on May 19 at 7:00pm.

Welcome to Our New Members

- Nancy & Nick DeShetler
- Robert O'Dell, III
- Tom Warzeka

Queries – Can You Help with Answers?

I have a great grandmother that supposedly was born in Providence Rhode Island. The census does say birth Rhode Island, but nothing more than that. Her name was Harriett M. Wheeler. I do not know her middle name, but some say it may have been Manton. She may have married my great grandfather there also, since their first child was born there. My great grandfather was Elbridge Stimpson b. about 1836 in Mass. Harriett appears to have been born a year earlier in Providence.

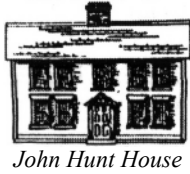
My grandfather came to Texas as a young boy, so our family knows very little about his family. I am hoping to get Harriet's birth certificate, possibly her marriage certificate,

if you could give me the address of the Providence records. I will be happy to join your organization and have printed the file to send to you with my \$15.00 check if you can full fill my request or give me the phone or addresses of the people with whom I should speak.

I would be so appreciative if you could give us more data on Harriet. I do know that her first born was Fredrick Stimpson born Feb.3, 1857. I did not find public records offices listed in your web-site. Please respond if you can help me reclaim our ancestor's past.

Most Sincerely, Joy Roberts

Continued on back page



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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Providence, RI
Permit #2712

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Queries - Can You Help with Answers?

After Deb responded to Joy asking to be included in the newsletter, Joy responded with this:

I am a DAR member here in Texas and have had wonderful cooperation from many historical societies across the nation. We know so little about my Grandfather's family that I don't know for sure if she is from EAST PROVIDENCE....but, I must have read some data that pushed me in that direction. Harriett Wheeler Stimson (or Stimpson) was my grandfather's mother. She was married to Elbridge Stimson(or Stimpson). We feel that Elbridge was born in New York in 1837, but it could have been Massachusetts?

I must admit that I cannot attest to any of this data. However, if you could include me in your April newsletter, I would be so

appreciative. Since I am a senior, most of my relatives are gone now and their knowledge gone with them. I have successfully researched and completed my DAR for three of my lines. This one seems to elude me at every turn, and I would so like to solve the mystery about these ancestors, so if I need to send you any money for my inclusion in the April issue, please let me know.

Beside my email which you have....I can be reached by phone at 817-738-5163. Since I live in Texas, I will not be able to visit your facility, but thank you for your invitation. I have seen the name Wheeler mentioned many times in the New England censuses....so maybe I'll get lucky.

With all my thanks, Joy Roberts