



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

May 2014

Volume XXV No. 6

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

May

Monday, May 19
7:00 pm
Members' Meeting -
Public invited

Ed Serowik: Crescent
Park - Fun in the Sun

East Bay Manor
1440 Wampanoag Trail
East Providence, RI

June

Sunday, June 8
1:00 - 3:30pm
Hunt House Open

Monday, June 23
6:00 pm
Members' Meeting -
Public invited

Annual Meeting
Picnic

Hunt's Mills Park

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

Herring of a Tale – Part III

By Nancy Moore

Well, the herring did arrive at Omega Dam on April 13th, our Open House/ Fish Count date - very accommodating of them. They arrived last year on that weekend also, bless their hearts. Over 4,000 herring were lifted this year (7,000 last year) but none were sighted at Hunts Mills, unlike last year when they milled about at Herring Rock. The turbulence of the water at the Hunts Mills dam was very strong and the water was running so high after a flood watch that it is believed the herring were prevented from reaching the ladder there and spawned in the lower river as they have for many years. And then there is that one observer who thinks that all the fish made it up both ladders under cover of darkness and are spawning in the Turner. He's a wise old fisherman and perhaps he's right. Anyway, he's sticking to that story. You can form your own opinion.

Nominating Committee Report

Proposed Slate of Officers

The committee, comprised of Mona Breault, Katherine Rodman and Jean Henderson, recommend the following slate of officers:

Nancy Moore	President
Cheryl Faria	1 st Vice President
Deborah Ormerod	2 nd Vice President
Stephanie Poole	Recording Secretary
Pat Henry	Corresponding Secretary
Dot Thornley	Treasurer

The committee is grateful that these Board members have agreed to serve. Any other nominations from the floor may be made at the May members' meeting. The annual election will be held as part of the June meeting.

The Gazette

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East Providence
Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI
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OFFICERS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bob Tewksbury	<i>Buildings</i>
Jeffrey Faria	<i>Grounds</i>
Miriam Kenney	<i>Membership</i>
Karen Panzarella	<i>Museum</i>
Deborah Ormerod	<i>Curator</i>
Edna Anness	<i>Curator Emeritus</i>
Reinhard Wohlgemuth	<i>Newsletter</i>
Nancy Moore	<i>Preservation</i>
Nancy Moore	<i>Programs</i>
Nancy Moore	<i>Publicity</i>
Reinhard Wohlgemuth	<i>Webmaster</i>

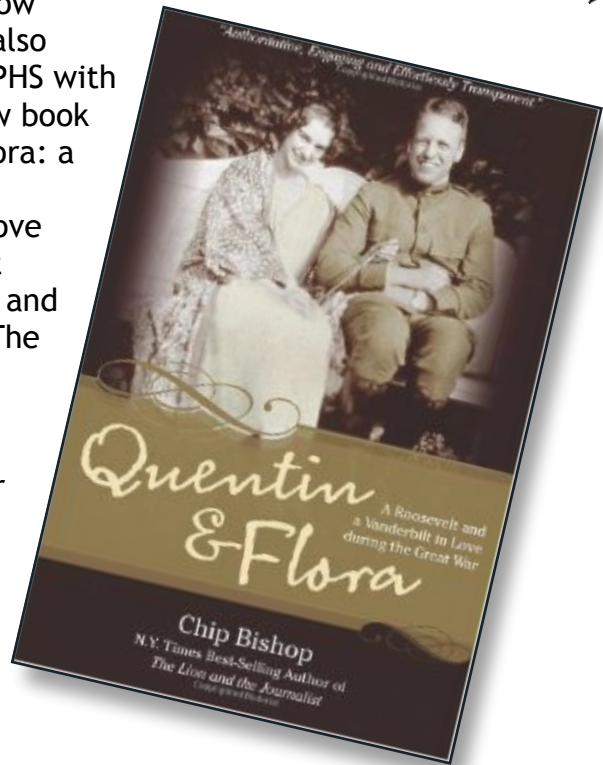
April Speaker Recap

The Weaver Library public room was packed for Chip Bishop's third presentation about local boy Joseph Bucklin Bishop and his work on the Panama Canal. Chip showed slides of his Canal trip this winter and was full of information about the building of the Canal and the expansion it is now undergoing. He also presented the EPHS with a copy of his new book "Quentin and Flora: a Roosevelt and a Vanderbilt in Love During the Great War". Our copy, and his first book, "The Lion and the Journalist" are available to be signed out of our historical book collection. Please call 438-1750 to reserve a book.

Tip Of The Baker's Hat . . .

. . . to the following members who baked for the April 28 members' meeting:

- Linda Agresti
- Mona Breault
- Pat Henry
- Nancy Moore
- Dotty Thornley



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

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

New Exhibit : Crescent Park on the Ten Mile

Once upon a time at the beginning of the 20th century, the Ten Mile had its very own carousel and a very special Loof at that! When you come to Hunts Mills, you can see the stone circle marking the circumference of the ride, with pictures and history inside the Hunt House. But this summer, the ghost of that carousel will share the space with memorabilia of the still functioning carousel at Crescent Park, a ride which was the demo model for the Loof business, and the pride of East Providence. Ed Serowik, our own "carnie man," will be on hand for "2nd Sundays" during the summer. You won't want to miss the fun.

Welcome to our new members:

- Darryl L. Hardern
- Janet & Gus Mills

We hope you enjoy our fellowship and the opportunities to preserve local history and learn about it.

Did our members read the excellent article in the April Reporter about fellow member George Donovan and his work with First Responders in the area?
Great work George!

Thank You, Pat Henry!

Pat Henry wears so many hats on the EPHS Board. As a part of the MG group, she organizes and often hosts the Wine and Weeding potlucks. She is corresponding secretary and feeds us treats at members meetings. Because of increasing home care for Mary McMahan, Pat has stepped down as supper organizer, strawberry shortcake maker, and most importantly, head of the telephone committee. We will greatly miss her hand in all those jobs. With no one from the membership answering the Board's call to take the telephone committee responsibility, the Board has decided to disband the group and let things fall as they may for now.

(If there are people out there who would rather have the telephone committee still up and running, please speak up - you can be the ones to keep it going - Ginny would be so proud of you!)

You will receive no call for the picnic reservations or for side salads/ biscuits this year. The picnic organizers will buy everything and we will raise the price to \$5 members/\$8 non-members. You must call 438 – 1750 to let us know that you are coming so we can plan on how much food to buy.

Help Wanted!

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 the open position, please see any board member at the May or June meeting.

Remembering Five Valued Members and Friends

This spring, we mourn the loss but celebrate the contributions of the following members: Edna Anness, Virginia Berwick, Burton Chace, Gloria Peterson and Irene Roberts. Some were founding members and others arrived later but all supported the EPHS in their own way. We are deeply thankful for the gifts of their time, talents and energies. And we are very appreciative of the gifts made in their memory.



Photo: EPHS Collection
Edna and Ginny at a quilt show at the Martin House, Rt. 6, Swansea, MA (June 1994)



Photo: EPHS Collection

Good take!
Ginny counting money for the day after an open house at the Hunt House museum. (May 1994)

Virginia Berwick: One in a Million

By Nancy Moore

How does a community group absorb the loss of a dear friend, mentor, organizer, and founding member? By picking up and going on with her example ingrained in our minds, of course. Virginia Berwick was the center of the Hunt House museum universe here at the EPHS and we all valued her opinion and sought her companionship right up to her last days. Her sudden death was a shock to everyone since she was the kind of person one thinks in terms of, "Oh Ginny will be here forever." And 96 is nearly forever isn't it? How blessed we were to have her for all that time.

Ginny and Earl Berwick were among that first group of people who knew that having a preservation society here in the City would be an asset and they and others like them were willing to guide this group as long as they were needed. That group had diverse trade skills along with common sense and management capability which kept the EPHS alive and well

over the years. But Ginny had something more: she was a people person. Her well-deserved award for volunteerism from RI State Preservation flew in the face of other groups in the state who were foundering because of lack of volunteers. No one ever said "no" to Ginny when she asked for their time and talents because working with her was invigorating and a worthwhile use of one's time. Ginny worked alongside her volunteers and set the example. The success of the EPHS over nearly 50 years has had much to do with her setting the tone for involving and valuing volunteers.

We can't yet grasp all the ways in which Ginny will be missed but May open house will be the first gaping hole to fill: Ginny remembering the milk for tea/coffee (with a few homemade cookies or sandwiches), Ginny getting the guest book ready, Ginny asking if the flag is out, Ginny greeting everyone with a smile, and Ginny taking a true interest in every conversation. One in a million, wasn't she?



Photo: Dot Thornley

New members but old friends, Nancy and Nick DeShetler of Toledo, OH, have honored Ginny Berwick with the gift of a complete, original Rumford salesman's case.

Memorial Fund

The Society's Memorial Fund was established in 1993, in memory of past members, for "the betterment of the Society and with no specific purpose".

The Memorial Fund is a qualified endowment administered by the Executive Committee. Members and friends wishing to contribute may make checks payable to the East Providence Historical Society and mail to:

East Providence Historical Society
Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916-4774

Don't
forget to
LIKE us on
Facebook



Memorial Donations

In Memory of Edna Anness:

- Margaret S. Wieboldt
- Mona Breault
- Nelson Family Trust
- Virginia E. Berwick
- Nancy Stevens
- Charlene I. Underhill
- Elizabeth F. Socha
- Michael J. Deasy
- Bruce B Chick
- Richard R. Bushnell
- Rose M. Sirenski
- Ann M. McLaughlin
- Nancy Moore

In Memory of Edna Anness and Virginia Berwick:

- Eunice A. Tuckerman

In Memory of Virginia Berwick:

- Alice C. Arden
- Debbi-Jo Horton
- Elsie Ann Linde
- Pamela N. Marchand
- John L. Kochanski
- Skip and Carolyn Pendegraph
- Nancy S. Wolfe
- Douglas S. Levine
- Elizabeth M. Oneil
- Beth E. Agren
- Richard R. Bushnell
- Nancy Moore
- Dorothy J. Thornley

In Memory of Burton Chace:

- Margaret S. Wieboldt
- Jean E. Shedd

Native Plant Highlight

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

This is a column where Jeff introduces us to some of the heritage plants used by the early settlers. Many of them can also be found around the Hunt House today.

Rosa rugosa 'Linda Campbell'

As with all roses, Rosa rugosa 'Linda Campbell' will do best in full sun with well-drained soil. This hybrid rose offers increased disease resistance along with beauty. 'Linda Campbell' produces a 3 inch wide, brighter red semi-double flower rather than the traditional Rosa rugosa that you see along beaches. With the height and width of 4 to 8 feet, this rose bush looks like a wall of red roses! It blooms



heavily for several weeks in June into July, repeating bloom later in the summer into the fall. The foliage is a deep, semi-glossy, medium green and is resistant to black spot. This spectacular rose grows well in our area and is hardy to zone 5.

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.

May Members' Meeting

Crescent Park: Fun in the Sun

With Ed Serowik

Ed Serowik, “Mr. Carousel”, began working at Crescent Park in 1947 as a pony boy walking ponies around the track. At 15, he began his carousel career as a “ring boy”, working for Helen, the daughter of Charles I.D. Loeff, the carousel’s world-famous builder. He worked on the carousel until 1972, supervising 65 employees, at which time the Park was sold and the future of the carousel uncertain. Through the determined efforts of local carousel lovers, the City regained control of the carousel in 1984 and Ed went back to his job, getting the carousel ready to revolve once again for other generations of RI youngsters and the young at heart. He’s still at it! Ed figures this gives him some amazing longevity at this job. Come join us as he shares his first hand experiences.



This month’s meeting will be at **East Bay Manor, 1440 Wampanoag Trail, East Providence, RI.**

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

Queries

Can You Help with Answers?

All of our members are encouraged to answer these requests for help by contacting the people directly.

Hello,

I am trying to find the meaning of the following quoted items:

1. 1923 East Providence City Directory “rem to Rehoboth MA”
2. 1927 East Providence City Directory “Rehoboth MA VI ass”
3. 1929 East Providence City Directory “Rehoboth MA VldiS6”

The person I am researching is Joseph Russell Dix. Address in 1921 was 36 Ruth Avenue in East Providence. I know East Providence was once part of Rehoboth and wondered if they actually moved or if this was part of some type of redistricting.

Any help you can give me will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Barbara Dix Burgener
southcarolina1944@gmail.com
 900 Heath Ln # 10
 Spartanburg SC 29301
 864-574-2724



I am presently employed with Brown University and received a query concerning what had been on the property, located at 1940 Pawtucket Ave., East Providence before Greggs Restaurant built their business on this site.

I would appreciate any help on this matter.
 Sincerely yours,

Gayle D. Lynch
gayle_lynch@brown.edu
 University Archives



Good Afternoon. My name is Krista and I am the Manager at *The Riverside Animal Hospital* on Willett Ave. We are going to be getting a renovation soon and I thought it might be interesting to find out some history to this building/business and wasn't sure where to start. I was wondering if you had any insight as to how old this place is, I was told it was a house with a chicken coop at the beginning that “transformed” into an animal hospital and then the house was torn down in the front yard. If so, that is fascinating but I thought I would verify this info before I share it with others. Can you help or point me in the right direction as to who may be able to assist me?

Thank you!

Riverside Animal Hospital
clientcare@riversideanimalhospitalri.com



Hello:

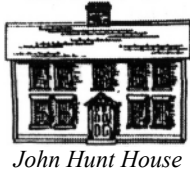
I grew up on Burnside Avenue in Riverside. I lived in Riverside until I joined the USAF in 1970. My parents lived in Riverside from 1959 to 2002, when age and an inability to care for themselves ended their stay in their own home.

I have a question. There is a rumor floating around on Facebook on the *Grew Up In Riverside* page about Hospital Road. The same Hospital Road that Kendbrin Swim Club is on.

It seems that something happened on Hospital Rd., perhaps something that gave it its name. Could you shed any light on what the historical significance of the name Hospital Road might be? Is there something about Hospital Road that is historically significant? Lastly, is there something which happened on Hospital Road that the people on *Grew Up In Riverside* would find especially interesting?

Your help with this is greatly appreciated.
 Rick Fournier
fournier.rick@gmail.com
 Charlotte, NC





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

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Providence, RI
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- Soak the soil the day before transplanting bedding plants.
- Watch for aphids on your greens such as spinach, broccoli and cabbage. Use insecticidal soap to combat heavy infestation. Watch for ladybugs and ladybug larva and leave the job to them if they are present.
- Scout your gardens and landscape regularly to find pests before they get out of hand.
Check Asiatic and Oriental



lilies for lily leaf beetles. Handpick these bright red adults on the leaves and orange red egg masses, which are under the leaves, if populations are small.

- Remove suckers sprouting from the base of crabapples and many other ornamental and fruit trees.
- Remember to mow your lawn at the highest setting to give grass more disease and drought tolerance and to suppress sunlight reaching weed seeds.