



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

October 2014

Volume XXVII No. 2

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

October

Sunday, October 12
1:00 - 3:30 pm
Hunt House Museum
open
Hunts Mills Road,
Rumford

Monday, October 27
7:00 pm
Members' Meeting -
Public invited

Gone Today - Here
Tomorrow

Tockwotton Home
500 Waterfront Dr,
East Providence, RI

November

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

CONTACT US AT:

East Providence
Historical Society
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East Providence, RI
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Watchemoket Square Day

By Nancy Moore

It was a gray day without a parade, but EPHS and the Farmers' Market still fared well. The rain held off until the last boatload of river tourists disembarked and came inside for Bill Fazioli's short PowerPoint presentation about the future of what they had just seen first hand. Dave Kelleher's walking tours were full as usual, with homeowners in the area adding facts about their own places. We always learn a lot from them! Remember that you can walk these 3 tours yourself by downloading them from our new website - <http://ephist.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/EPHS-Walking-Tours.pdf>. Tockwotton Home provided EPHS with wonderful exhibit space and we also had an outdoor informational booth for market goers - both were well received. And the informal roundtable of Watchemoket memories could have gone on forever. It took no time for our guests to establish those "6 Degrees of Separation."

Our thanks to George Amaral, Lillian Rafaelian Markarian, Adrith and Arnold Andrade and especially to George Donovan who happened to stop by. Each of their families have been here for over 100 years.



A captivated audience listens to people reminisce about growing up in EP. (Left-right)

Adrith Andrade, Arnold Andrade, Nancy Moore, Lillian Rafaelian Markarian, George Donovan

Becky Ellis Photo

The Gazette

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Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI
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Fall Dues Special

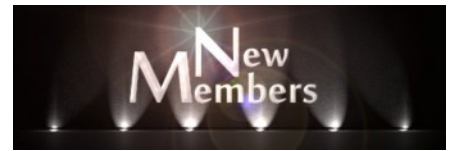
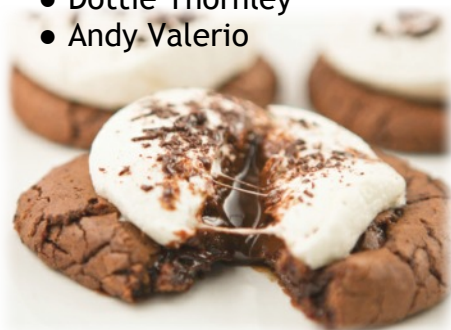
The Board has decided that new memberships from Sept - Dec. will be \$10 - single and \$20 - family. We have a number of special events in the fall and we hope to gain many new members.

Tell your friends!

Thank you

to our bakers who provided delicious treats at the Smithsonian event:

- Mona Breault
- Pat Henry
- Miriam Kenney
- Nancy Moore
- Deb Ormerod
- Dottie Thornley
- Andy Valerio



We welcome our newest members:

- Gary and Delia Castro Anderson
- Thomas F. Thornton, Jr.

A Reminder . . .

We miss you! If you did not pay your dues in July as we requested, please send them in asap to our post office box address. You will find the membership form to cut out below or on the website <http://ephist.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/membership.pdf>. Thank you so much for your continued participation. We hope to see you at our upcoming activities.

Miriam Kenney,
Membership Chair

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

Preservation News Flash!

Call for Interested Citizens

The City Planning Dept. is in the middle of revising the Comprehensive Plan which has an historical component. Citizens who would like to comment/look over that section of the Plan can contact Planning (Patrick Hanner) or form a committee with EPHS Board members. 437 citizens filled out a survey this summer about the Plan and 384 of them checked "Protection of Public and Private Historic Buildings from Alteration and Demolition" as very (201) /somewhat (183) important, a landslide vote.

Please call Nancy Moore at 438-1750 if you wish to learn more.

Union Primary School Pawtucket Avenue

In the recent budget proposed by City Manager Lamont, there is mention of moving the School Dept to Union primary. Makes sense to this Board! The school has been taken off the "For Sale" list which is very good news.



Odd Fellows Hall (1889) 65 Warren Avenue

At the Sept 16 Council Meeting, it was voted to spend \$7,500 to do a patch job on the Odd Fellows roof. Historic District Commission member, Nancy Moore, spoke on behalf of that group about the Odd Fellows building, which is one of the last significant architect designed structures in Watchemoket Square.



October Members' Meeting

Gone Today – Here Tomorrow

As an extension of the Oct 4 well attended Watchemoket Square EPHS activities, City Planner Jeanne Boyle and Waterfront Commission Chair William Fazioli will present a retrospective of the East Providence waterfront. Once a thriving port

and a trade route from the time of the Ring of the Green, this area is reinventing itself. Join us to find out what's gone, what's here, what's coming and what's in the "dream" stages.

Fall Notes

Picnic Thank You

We told you about the poll and showed you pictures but we failed to recognize the planners and workers for this event. Our great thanks go to chair Kris Rose and her crew: Dot Thornley, Pat Henry, Mona Breault, Mirian Kenney, Nancy Moore, and cooks -Jeff Faria, Jim Rose and Dan Moore. Thanks everyone!

September Recap: Smithsonian Night at Weaver

is always such an interesting experience with the presenters learning a lot, too. The two Ed Serowiks did a wonderful job warming up the crowd with background about Crescent Park, Jewelie, and the organ. Board member Deb Ormerod

Continued next page

*October members' Meeting
Monday, October 27, 2014 @ 7:00 pm
Tockwotton, 500 Waterfront Dr., East Providence, RI*

September Recap continued

presented the 1902 remaining wax head, Dot Thornley - the Sandwich Glass windows, Nancy Moore - the 1902 Exposition Hall which became the Alhambra Ballroom (Did you know President Teddy Roosevelt spoke here on August 23, 1902) and Reinhard Wohlgemuth - generic postcards which claimed to be Crescent Park AND several other sites! Our great thanks to librarian Joyce May for making this collaboration so easy. See ephist.org for photos.

***On Oct 5, the Providence Journal ran a piece on the Sandwich Glass Museum on 129 Main Street in Sandwich MA, a great day trip from East Providence. sandwichglassmuseum.org

Memorial Donations

In memory of:

**Walter & Madeline Vincent,
Sylvia Amaral, Edna Anness,
Ginny and Earl Berwick**

- By George Amaral

Edna Anness and Ginny Berwick

- By Elizabeth T. Albright

Ginny Berwick and Earl and Paulette Berwick

- By Karen V. Rousseau

Ginny Berwick

- By M.J. Nelson

Watchemoket Square Day

A Huge Thank You to Our Volunteers

BOAT TOURS:

- City Planner Jeanne Boyle
- Miriam Kenney
- Karen Panzarella
- Dot Thornley
- EP Yacht Club and the Perry brothers
- Providence River Boat Co.

WALKING TOURS:

- Dave Kelleher
- Nancy Moore
- Alan Gilmore
- Kathy Riker
- Bob Dufresne
- Margaret Rezendes
- Martha McVicker



WATERFRONT PRESENTATION:

- William Fazioli-chair of Waterfront Commission
- Nicole Sheusi - Tockwotton

CITY HALL DISPLAY:

- Adrith & Arnold Andrade
- Alan Gilmore
- Lillian Markarian
- Laura Mc Namara
- Nancy Moore
- Candi Weaver



PHOTOGRAPHY/WEBSITE:

- Becky Ellis

EXHIBITS

OUTSIDE AND IN:

- Becky Ellis
- Cheryl & Jeff Faria
- Pat Henry
- Nancy Moore
- Deb Ormerod
- Dot Thornley
- Sandra & Brian Turgeon
- Tom Warzeka

Special thanks to EP Planning

- Pat Hanner
- Jeanne Boyle
- Wayne Barnes
- City Clerk Kim Casci



Thanks to Dave Silva of Silva Advertising for designing our great t-shirts.

Queries

Can You Help with Answers?

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

Answer summary to the question about what used to be at the Gregg's location (May 2014 Gazette):

Some old East Providence City Directories and the one from 1963 shows that a Joseph M. Studer Jr. lived in a house at that address in 1963. He was a laborer at Raytheon Mfg. There were two other houses before that one, at 1916 and 1928 Pawtucket Avenue which were demolished to put a Sullivan's Steak House on that property. Sullivan's didn't last very long and then it became the Bag Piper Lounge and then Emerson's before becoming Greggs. One of the houses, a beautiful old gray house with white trim, was bought by someone who saw it and loved it and had it dismantled board by board and shipped down south where it was reassembled. There was an article about it in the newspaper at the time. Sullivan's Steak House had another Sullivan's on North Main Street in Providence that was popular, but the one in EP never was. Greggs is the only one that lasted out of the four. You might be able to get more information at the EP City Hall, where the property records are kept. Also, the Weaver Library has all the old city directories going back to the early 1900's.



Bill McWeeney (a member from Texas and EP graduate class of 66) is looking for photos and information about his father's Atlantic service station that was located on the corner of Pawtucket and Ferris Avenue on the side of Newman Church. He said in the late 1960s or early 1970s, the company that owned the land wanted to build a super station on the site but the city fought it for years and eventually won. He also said there was a store right behind the service station owned by someone named Pete.

Please contact him at billscorvette60@gmail.com



Hi,
Would you have any information on a mobile popcorn peddler operating in Rumford in the 1960s? I would appreciate any information that you have, but I am mostly interested in the name and when it was operating.

Thank you.

Larry

t.f467@yahoo.com



Hello:

My name is Tony McBride. I'm a wildlife biologist in NJ, but I grew up in Rehoboth, MA (my sister and her husband now live in Rumford).

Continued on back page

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.

Or plant the month is **Dill**.
Anethum graveolens.

In colonial times dill was called a "meeting" herb. Parishioners would nibble seeds during the long sermons to stay awake. Dill is believed to suppress hunger and tea made from the seeds was considered to suppress coughs and alleviate hiccups. Dill seed with chamomile flowers was a popular relief for nervous indigestion. Dill water dispelled flatulence and soothed stomach upsets and also crying babies. Soaking or infusing ½ cup of dill seeds in a quart of vinegar for four days and then straining it makes dill vinegar.



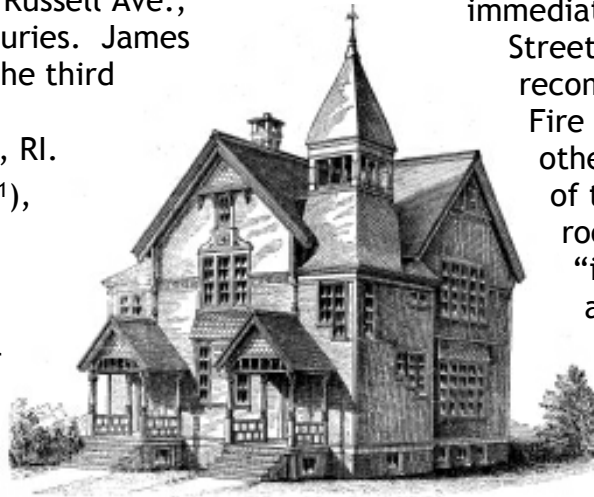
Editor's note: After Mrs. Lewis' walk to James Street school in the September Gazette Susan Cady provides us with a history of the school in this month's edition. Please contact her if you have any answers to her questions (digsephistory@hotmail.com).

James Street School in East Providence, RI

by Susan Cady

A two story, wooden building, located in the corner of James Street and Russell Ave., stood tall during three centuries. James Street Primary School was the third oldest school building still standing in East Providence, RI.

Union Primary School (1874¹), on Pawtucket Ave. in Rumford, is the second oldest standing school building. The Public School Building #6 (1869-70¹), now the Riverside Girl Scout House, on Willet Ave, in Riverside, is the oldest school building still standing. Both PSB #6 and James Street School buildings had two doors. (Why two doors?)



Built by architect Frank Sawtelle in 1882-1883
75 James Street - notes on photo #50 from the
Planning Department, EP City Hall. Drawing artist
unknown, May 1883

Dec. 1958⁴: The school committee immediately closed the James Street School after recommendations were made by Fire Chief Earl C. Griffith and other inspectors. Their survey of the building found the 4 room wooden building had “inadequate fire defenses” and was unsafe. School Superintendent Edward R. Martin would have the 132 students from James St. School attend the (new in 1958, present day building) Grove Ave. School. Double sessions were necessary “for the first, second, and third grades”. Morning sessions were 8:00 am to noon, with afternoon sessions from 12:15 pm to 4:15 pm. This survey also resulted in the closure of the Union Primary School and the Lincoln School.

1892: Principal Patience W. Goff, Assistant Hattie M. Anthony

1912: James St. School was “enlarged with 2 rooms”²

1924: A black and white photo³ shows 38 boys and girls from the fifth grade standing on the school's front steps.

1933, 1949: Principal M. Louise Byers

1949-1959: Listed as 83 James St. (Why did the street number change?)

1940s: Four classrooms, grades 1-3

1957: 83 James Street 4-1040

1959: 83 James Street vacant

1961, 1963: 75 James Street vacant

1965: 75 James Street occupied by RI DSW Div of Pub Assistance

1969: State Welfare Department 434-3311

1970: Building was “extensively altered” (How so? Was an elevator installed?) - notes on photo #50 from the Planning Department, EP City Hall.

1980, 1984: State Department Social and Rehabilitative Services, 438-7500

1990: State Department of Human Services, 438-7500

1996: State Welfare Department

1998: City of East Providence, Department of Human Services, 438-7500

2000: No city directory listing at #75 or #83 James Street

2004: The building was demolished.

in or before 2008: Two houses occupy 75 James St. and 8 Russell Ave.



Photo February 2004 by Mrs. Gloria Cady
View of entrance on James St.



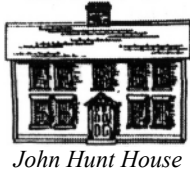
Photo February 2014 by
Susan Cady

Did you or a relative attend this school or work in the James Street School building? What was the layout of the 4 classrooms or offices? Where was the staircase located?

The area bounded by Taunton Ave. and Waterman Ave., from Valley St. to Pawtucket Ave., has been identified as a potential National Historic District. Please share your memories and photos of growing up in this area with the East Providence Historical Society. (Phone 438-1750 or email info@ephist.org)

References:

1. *Images of America, East Providence*, East Providence Historical Society, 1997, Arcadia Publishing, NH. p. 92.
 2. East Providence School Superintendent's Bulletin, 1912, p.6.
 3. *Images of America, East Providence*, East Providence Historical Society, 1997, Arcadia Publishing, NH. p. 33.
 4. The Providence Journal, December 25, 1958, p.1: The Providence Journal, December 27, 1958, p.1: The Evening Bulletin, December 27, 1958, p.14: The Evening Bulletin, December 29, 1958, p.17.
- East Providence City Directory



East Providence Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
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Questions continued

I had a question that has an important bearing on some moths I am studying... moths that were collected by Mrs. Bridgham in the late 1800s. The moths were said to have been collected in "Seekonk, RI" in 1868. Now, all accounts I have read state that in 1862, the western part of Seekonk, MA (where the Bridghams lived) became East Providence, RI.

My question is:
Is there a period of time when the town Seekonk, RI existed? ...or perhaps did residents of western Seekonk still refer to themselves as living in "Seekonk" after the border change even though they were now East Providence, RI residents?

Tony
tonymcbride@earthlink.net



Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

Continue to mow your lawn until a hard frost stops the growth. Mow around the base of fruit trees and shrubs to eliminate hiding places for rodents.

When planting spring flowering bulbs, plant them so their tops are at a depth equal to three times their height.

Do not prune spring flowering shrubs in the fall.

Now is a great time to plant garlic from a local farmers' market. Separate the cloves in the garlic bulb immediately prior to planting. Storing individual cloves before planting can reduce yield.

Insert plant labels next to perennials when cleaning up flower borders. This will mark locations of plants that emerge late in the spring.