



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

November 2014

Volume XXVII No. 3

November

Monday, November 24

7:00 pm

Members' Meeting -
Public invited

"A Case History:
A Grave Matter"

Newman Church Hall
100 Newman Ave.

December

Sunday, December 14

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum
open
Hunts Mills Road,
Rumford

Monday, December 15

6:30 pm

Members' Meeting -
Public invited

"Cakes and Concerts"

6:30 pm Cakes

7:15 pm Concerts

Newman Church Hall
100 Newman Ave.

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

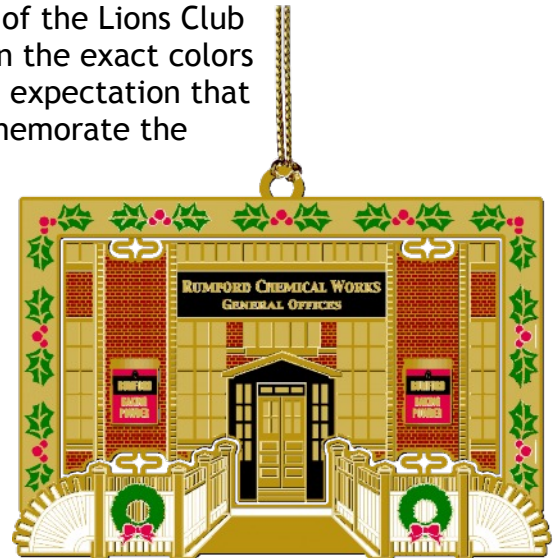
Dedicated to Preserving the Heritage and Enjoying the
History of Our City

SPECIAL DELIVERY!

Lions Club Ornament Rumford Building 38!

Sometime this Fall Bill Weber of the Lions Club visited Hunt House to check on the exact colors of the Rumford cans, with the expectation that the group would vote to commemorate the Rumford this year. As of

Thanksgiving weekend, these Building 38 ornaments will be available: \$17.00 each (\$2 postage). We hope our members and Rumford collectors will support this fundraising effort. We will have them available for sale at our Open House and at "Cakes and Concerts."



Please contact: rumfordlions@cox.net to buy directly from the Lions Club.



Please note:

This will be the last issue of the Gazette for 2014 and contains information for November and December. The next issue will be published in March 2015.

Our December General meeting will be the 3rd Monday, Dec 15.

We are on hiatus for January and February. Our meetings and activities resume in March 2015

The Gazette

Is published by the
East Providence
Historical Society

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

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Cheryl Faria *1st Vice President*
Deborah Ormerod *2nd Vice President*
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Nancy Moore *Preservation*
Nancy Moore *Programs*
Nancy Moore *Publicity*
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Attention All EPHS Gardeners!

The EPHS Master Gardener program has grown literally and figuratively in the last 10 years. Our very own MG team of Cheryl and Jeff Faria have built a committed team of EPHS members and MGs from the URI program who give 50 hours of community garden service a year. These gardeners share their vast knowledge and pitch in regularly. (And then there are the "Wine and Weeding" sessions in which recipes are shared.) The Hunt House gardens have been featured in two MG tours already and will be part of the June 2015 tour. Our great thanks and the golden cobra go to this group! Think about joining this group in the spring - we can use your help getting ready for the tour.



Becky Ellis Photo

Some of the dedicated members of the gardening team hard at work: Pat Henry, Miriam Kenney and Dot 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

November Members' Meeting A Case History: A Grave Matter

Newman Church Hall November 24 @ 7:00pm

If you are a long time EP resident, you may remember when the Case Cemetery on Newport Avenue was a going concern, with stone pillars and iron gate. The cemetery proper stretched along the western edge of Newport Ave. from Uncle Tony's north to the next road. St. Mary's Orphanage in Watchemoket had four lots on its western edge, which turned out to be the only lots sold on that side. Over the years, with intense commercial development on the Avenue, the cemetery fell out of favor and the land was acquired by the Butler family. In 1961, all the recorded graves were disinterred and the remains transferred to other City cemeteries. In 2013, the Plymouth Archeological Rediscovery Project under the direction of Craig Chartier, combed the cemetery again using state of the art techniques. What they unearthed will astound you. Please join us for Chartier's presentation.



December Members' Meeting "Cakes and Concerts"

A benefit for the Newman Food Pantry

Newman Church Hall December 16
Cakes @ 6:30pm Concert @ 7:15pm

Change can be a great thing and there will be such a change this year for the Dec. meeting. The talented cooks who have catered the Holiday dinner for so many years are hanging up their basting tools and potato mashers. While we regroup for the future, the Board has decided to celebrate the season with fancy desserts before our concert. Membership will not be called for donations or a head count but we would be very pleased if you would call 438-1750 to let us know if you will be joining us for dessert.



Becky Ellis Photo

(Desserts for all diets - even dieters - will be offered.) We will be asking for a monetary donation for the Food Pantry if you join us for dessert and a food item for the Pantry if you come just for the concert. Please join us!

"NOTEWORTHY" To Perform at "Cakes and Concerts"

The East Providence Historical Society welcomes the Seekonk based group "NoteWorthy" to the Newman Church Hall for a concert of seasonal and popular songs. Directed by Phil Campbell, this 12 member group performs locally in December and June.

Coming up December 14: Last of the Fall 2nd Sundays

Well, it is sadly finally here - the last "Serowik Collection - Crescent Park on the Ten Mile" Open House.



Ed and his family have been with us since his kickoff presentation in May, making many new friends for our beloved Looft carousel and East Providence preservation. Please join us as we thank Ed and Ed Jr. for their tremendous contribution to our work here in the City.

Hunt House will be decorated for the holidays and special refreshments will be served.

Fall Notes

October Recap: Tockwotton on the Waterfront

Our Chief City Planner Jeanne Boyle and Waterfront Commission Chair Bill Fazioli presented an excellent program on the history of the EP waterfront from Kettle Point to the Pawtucket line, the exciting changes already visible, those in the permitting process and those in the “dream” stage. There are 300 acres available with the potential for 2 million sq ft of commercial and 2500 residential units potentially producing 3-4000 new jobs. Thus far 700 jobs, \$200m in development and \$8m in state and federal grants have been totaled.

Completed since 2004:
Ross Commons, Aspen Aerogels, Tockwotton Home, Eaton Corp, Sky Zone and improvements to Squantum Woods, Waterfront Drive

In Permitting Process:
Kettle Point (\$78m) Village on the Waterfront (\$200m)

In the “Dream” stage:
Watchemoket Square, Odd Fellows Hall, improved foot traffic pattern between the Square and the waterfront, Valley Street area, Phillipsdale Landing, Geo Nova site, Almacs Warehouse

We will revisit this revitalization with Bill and Jeanne in the coming years. Many thanks!

We Want You!

Hello Everyone: Your president is on her soapbox here so if you don't like this sort of thing, find another column quick!

The fall has brought some wonderful new members, both private and corporate. At the October Open House, a prospective new member (he joined) asked what he got for his money. We were quick to point out the Gazette but really were at a loss for other perks. But his question has stayed with me since then. What does one get for joining the EPHS?

One gets:

- 👉 Terrific free programming
- 👉 Engaging Gazettes
- 👉 Free seeds, plants and tips from master gardeners
- 👉 Great food and camaraderie
- 👉 The opportunity to work in preservation with other like minded folks
- 👉 The satisfaction of contributing to a thread of historic preservation that will span 50 years in 2017
- 👉 A chance to share your knowledge or learn about East Providence by helping to keep its history alive

And what does the EPHS gain from your membership? We gain:

- 👉 New talent, ideas and strengths
- 👉 A stronger base to apply for grant monies to match the donations we live on
- 👉 A stronger base to present to city and state governments when we collaborate with them on preservation issues
- 👉 A stronger base for working with city groups in projects such as Watchemoket Square Day
- 👉 A continued strong force for preservation at Hunts Mills as that area develops its potential

So if you are reading this and are not a member, think about joining EPHS during our fall sale. THANKS FOR READING!

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. We will have special gift cards available at the Nov./Dec. meeting for those of you who wish to give the gift of membership.

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 researching a former East Providence Civil War soldier who was a resident after the war. His name was George N. Bliss, and he was a captain in the 1st R. I. Calvary. He lived many years at 490 Taunton Ave. In several wartime letters he mentions a place he called "the Centre." For instance, in a letter dated May 1, 1862, he wrote, "Shall at anytime be pleased to hear from our lady friends at the Centre, I have been told that Kate Ide is teaching school but you say nothing about[it]." Then on May 7, 1862, he wrote, "I should like to visit the Centre

tonight but thi[nk] I will postpone it." His last reference was on June 20, 1862, when he wrote, "Give my respects to your *pater mater avunculus* and friends at the centre."

The East Providence City website mentions the following:

"Rumford: Located north of the Ten Mile River and established as a neighborhood from 1643 onward, this is the site of the original East Providence (Rehoboth) settlement. It has also been known as Seekonk Centre and East Providence Centre. The area

was predominantly agricultural until the 1930's with one exception: the Rumford Chemical Works began here in 1857. Today, this East Providence neighborhood is considered a suburb of Providence."

This explanation for the "Centre", unfortunately, does not seem to fit. Bliss seemed to be referring to a community center, a meeting place, or some other gathering place, rather than an agricultural community.

Is there anyone you know who might have insight regarding "the Centre?"

Thanks for any help you may be able to offer.

Thanks,
Bill Emerson

wemerson@rochester.rr.com



Heaps of Praise from Our Visitors

November Open House was the best yet! Was it the "Neighborhood" article in the ProJo, our dynamic presence at WSD or our members stepping up to boast about what we are all about? Don't know. But we had a steady stream of very interested and interesting visitors from age 7 - 81 come through our doors, including Rumford Company royalty, a descendant of George Wilson himself. Emily Wilson Rye and her husband Jesse were overwhelmed by our collection and will return.

Our great thanks go to docents: Jesse and Elizabeth Albright, Virginia Gonsalves, Pat Henry, Miriam Kenney, Ann Linde, Nancy Moore, Deb Ormerod, Dot Thornley, Sandra and Brian Turgeon, Andy Valerio, and Tom Warzeka. Every one of you did such a wonderful job of making our guests feel at home. And special thanks to Sandra and Tom in the trenches of the genealogy/research library - they are making headway!



Jan. 2014 Susan Cady Photo

A warm welcome to our new members . . .

- Susan Dunnington & Michael Wright
- Peter & Susan Esherich
- Gilmore's Flower Shop
- Patrick Giordano
- Wendy & Gordon Hubbard
- Claudette Moniz
- Walter & Nancy Shears
- David & Leslie Tente
- Tockwotton on the Waterfront
- Donna J. Walsh
- Wood's Heating Service

. . . we are honored you joined us!



Becky Ellis Photo



Becky Ellis Photo

East Providence's Early History up for Sale!



Becky Ellis Photo

The Daggett House

Very seldom do our oldest homes come up for sale but this fall, two gems are ready for new owners who will treasure and steward them into the future. Our past president, Maggie Dooley has

relocated to Arizona and her beloved Daggett House is on the market. This may be the most famous house in Phillipsdale, known as "the house that never moved," with a date for the earliest part of the house estimated before 1708. As with most of our old places, additions came as the families grew or became more affluent. The original portion of the Nathaniel Daggett was nearest the street, one room down and one up, with a chimney mass on the street side. Daggett, son of John

Daggett who built the Daggett House at Slater Park in Pawtucket, ran a shipping business from this property as the farms on the Ring of the Green were already producing for the area market. A matching portion was added within 50 years with an interior fireplace. Incredibly, the Daggett remained in one family for nearly 200 years! In the 1890's, the Daggett House was threatened with demolition but Washburn Wire/American Locomotive rescued the building, added a kitchen/bathroom ell and used it for worker housing. Since then, a garage/connector room has been added to the kitchen.

The Daggett is on the National Register and is in the Guinness Book of Records as "the House that never moved" referring to its location in Rehoboth, Seekonk and East Providence. (which pertains to all of our old places doesn't it?) Its siting on Omega Pond provides lovely sunsets. The nooks and crannies of this house are really charming. For more photos, please visit our website ephist.org.

The local realtor is Jean Clarke
(401) 374-5039 or jeanclarke@remax.net

The Jacobs House

The Jacobs House at 1419 South Broadway is breathtaking, in that one steps back in time nearly 300 years as one enters the foyer. This house has somehow escaped new flooring, wallboard and general periodic updates (there are new double paned windows). It has two newer porches wrapping the south side and back of the house but the interior is mainly unspoiled. With a brand new kitchen and a bathroom on each of the 3 levels, the house is also very liveable. Just the view from the top floor dormer window overlooking the cove will sell you on this place.



Becky Ellis Photo

land of George Martin, then easterly with said Martin to said Kettle Point Road, then southerly with said road to first mentioned corner.”

1850 back through 1753: The Walling Map of Seekonk confirms Laperia Jacobs as owner, widow of David **1828** : David Jacobs from Zelinda Bishop Jacobs, widow of John.

1779: John Jacobs from Walter Perry-a dwelling is mentioned, an assumed inheritance from William Perry

1765: William Perry from David Whipple

1753: David Whipple from Thomas Reed.

There is no mention of a house on the land in most of the deeds but the above interior details would indicate there was at least the early portion in 1753. For more detailed data on the deeds please contact EPHS. For more photos, please visit ephist.org

The local realtor is C.C. Wall (401) 965-2005 ccwall@residentialproperties.com

**** Thanks go to Sandra/Brian Turgeon for their research. Publications: 1976 Statewide Historic Preservation Report ; “Historic East Providence” 2002 EP Hist Prop. Comm; E. Providence City records and staff



Becky Ellis Photo

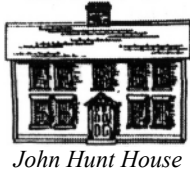
We had very little to hang a date on but our new marker chair, Sandra Turgeon, has dated the land to 1753 thus far. A careful inspection of the place leads us to believe that the main house, the middle portion with the beehive oven INSIDE

the massive fireplaces in the keeping room and the summer kitchen indicates a date before 1750. (By 1750, the oven had been moved to the side as at Hunt House, which saved many cooks' lives) The newer portion to the north has a primitive oven to the side and a corner fireplace in the opposite room. The Jacobs family moved the entrance to the front and the old side entrance has been closed up. The following is deed data back to 1753:

1870: MA Land Records contains a deed from Laperia Kent Jacobs to Lewis Wilcox. Bounds are stated as “bounded beginning opposite the corner of Keach’s land and running westerly to the north side of an old wharf on Watchemoket Cove, the northerly by said Cove to



Becky Ellis Photo



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

In late November, to avoid early rodent nesting, hill up soil or add compost mulch around the stem base of roses. This will help prevent heaving during the winter on sunny days.

Continue to plant spring flowering bulbs until the ground freezes. Naturalize a garden area by tossing the bulbs into the garden and planting wherever they "naturally" land. Clusters of bulbs are more natural in the landscape.

Hang on to potted mums for next year by storing them in your garage, watering twice in the winter, and cutting back in the spring.

Fill window boxes and deck planters with cut evergreens. Add Holly and berries and pinecones for an attractive winter display.



**HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO
ALL OUR MEMBERS AND
FRIENDS AND A HAPPY
2015.**

Susan Cady took the photo of the decorated Hunt House entrance last January.