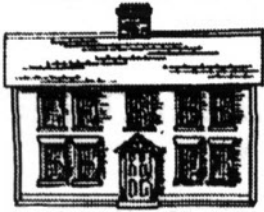


THE EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XXII No. 4

February 2010

President's letter

Nancy Moore, President



No it was not a mistake that you did not receive either a December or January Gazette. It was a Board decision to incorporate

December-February into one Gazette and get it out in early February. Next year, November-December will have all the pertinent seasonal information and January-February will be filled with some of the items we don't usually have room for: photos, stories and the like. We already combine July-August so we are saving a bit on expenses and giving our editors and Gazette staff a bit of a breather also.

If you visit the Hunt House Museum and look upward, you will see a new roof with some details which we did not previously have. The roof was leaking badly and was stripped to the original boards which were re-nailed. (Many nails had popped up and were coming through the tar paper.) Then a leveling layer of ply wood was laid to help bridge and stiffen the span of 42" on center which

was standard rafter positioning in those days (1700's). New paper, ice membrane, black drip edge and chimney flashing followed with a finished roof of 30 year architectural shingles in an appropriate color to replicate a weathered shingle roof. You will note that there are still no gutters and the Building Committee determined them to be inappropriate. Historical Society Curator, Edna Anness, is very pleased with the look and thrilled that the leaks will no longer threaten the collections. Our great thanks to Bob Tewksbury and the Building Committee for overseeing this project. Now—on to the painting and structural projects!

When you come down the road to the Hunt House Museum, you will notice that the trees have been pruned back considerably. This is to allow the heavy equipment to pass on its way to the staging area for the three fish ladders to be built in the next 2 years on the Ten Mile River. Hunts Mills area, as we use it today, will be unavailable to us for that time. As of April, the East Providence Historical Society will only have parking

on the museum side of the road and we will have limited access beyond 'Lura's Garden'. The area beyond the Meter House/Pump House will be parking for trucks involved with the projects. Our picnic will have to be held at Newman Church and our exhibits may have to be curtailed because of parking limitations. This may prove challenging as we expect the fish ladder project at Hunts Mills to bring lots of sidewalk superintendents and we will want to provide exhibits for those onlookers. Our present "one Sunday a month" may have to be changed also, depending on how much interest there is. What seems like a terrible inconvenience may have a silver lining!

My last thoughts are about stewardship and the ongoing needs of the Hunt House Museum. We are a society totally dedicated to our mission and over the last 40 years, sufficient people have stepped forward to carry that mission on with steadfast purpose. There is no reason to think that this will change: indeed, in the past few years, old and new members have willingly stepped up to fill huge shoes. It was the great foresight of John Agren, past

Continued on page 2

The Gazette

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- Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Newsletter*
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- Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Webmaster*

President's Letter from page 1

society member, which has enabled us to do the roof repairs and to begin to tackle other building needs. And it has been 20 years since many areas of the house have been touched. Perhaps in this hiatus, which the fish ladders present, we should begin a dialogue about the further care of this wonderful house and how we can perpetually manage the financial responsibilities. Are there any grant writers among you out there?

I look forward to the challenges spring will bring. Thank you for your continued support of this group. See you at the March pot luck when we will get the rest of member Reinhard Wohlgemuth's childhood saga and perhaps another taste of that fabulous cheesecake.

P.S. As the Gazette goes to press, we are all very interested in the news that the City intends to sell beloved Union Primary School, Pawtucket Avenue, Rumford. The East Providence Historical Society Board met on Wednesday, February 5 to

discuss the issue and asked David Kelleher, East Providence Historic Properties Commission, to attend to jog our memories about the last time this situation arose (late 80's). At that point, the building became a meal site with federal money becoming available for restoration of the exterior, the first grade rooms and the kitchen. The Board will be in touch with the council members and the City preservation commissions to form a consensus of opinion and action. Please feel free to make your own opinions known to your council representative.



- o Chip Bishop
- o Richard Walker

A warm welcome to our new members.

**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

**Mona Breault, 23 Case Street,
Rumford, RI 02916**



Membership Form

- New
- Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

\$15 Individual

\$25 Family/Business

\$150 Life

From the Museum

Edna Anness, Museum Curator

The decorations for Christmas were absolutely beautiful. We have Jeff Faria, Pat Henry, Nancy Moore and Kris Rose to thank. Kris' husband fitted a dandy piece of Plexiglas over the china display in the homeing room.

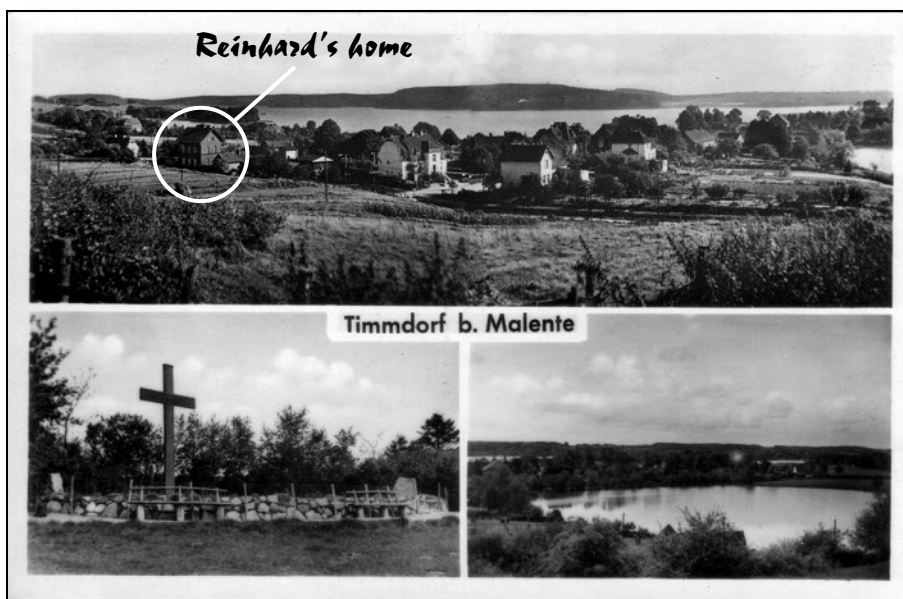
Gift Agreements were sent to museum gift-givers and when they are all returned, Margaret Dooley and Debbie Ormerod will train to be curators with Edna and start accessioning the new gifts when the house warms up – probably March.

As you know, our front yard and parking areas will be compromised by the heavy equipment being brought in to start building the fish ladders around April. The inconvenience will continue for 500 days! At the end, we will have to start planning a new exhibition. We are open for any and all suggestions as to what the exhibition should be about.

Growing Up In The Lesser Known Germany – Part II

If you enjoyed part I you will have even more fun listening to member Reinhard Wohlgemuth this time. After all, funny things do happen in school and this part covers his school years. The bulk of the postcards and pictures will be of the small village of Timmdorf, although there will be a little visit to the town of Eutin, where the regional middle school was located.

But even if you missed the first part of the presentation you are welcome to join us and learn a little about his home in Germany.



Calendar Of Events

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 14, 1:00-4:00
Hunt House Museum Open
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

MARCH

Wednesday, March 3, 7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting – *Members Welcome*
Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Sunday, March 14, 1:00-4:00
Hunt House Museum Open
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Monday, March 22, 6:00 p.m.
Members Meeting – *Public Invited*
Newman Church Chapel
Rumford

POT LUCK SUPPER

Program: *Growing Up In The Lesser Known Germany – Part II*
Member, Reinhard Wohlgemuth

Thank You

November Meeting Bakers:

- o Mona Breault
- o Pat Henry
- o Kris Rose
- o Eunice Tuckerman

Colonial Christmas Volunteers and Decorators:

- o Lowell and Edna Anness
- o Billie Arden
- o Ginney Berwick
- o Jeff and Cheryl Faria
- o Pat Henry
- o Nancy Moore
- o Kris Rose
- o Dorothy Thornley



John Hunt House

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Center Rumford, R.I.

Postcard from the collection of Reinhard Wohlgenuth

Beautiful Rumford center after a storm. You can't dispute the beauty, but do we really want to negotiate roads like this today?