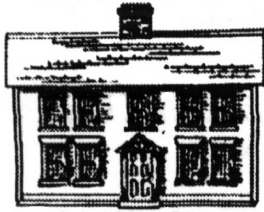


# THE EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



John Hunt House

# Gazette

Vol. XXIII No. 3

November/December 2010

## President's letter

Nancy Moore, President



Hello Everyone:

At our October meeting we were treated to a tour of diners around the area, some still with us but many long since scrapped. Richard Gutman has a passion for his subject and we could well imagine him putting miles on his cars looking for yet another diner which was somewhere near Worcester, or Providence, or Boston. Please take time to visit the Johnson and Wales Diner Museum in Providence as soon as you can. And many thanks to the bakers who brought scrumptious pies, a diner staple.

The road behind Hunt House down to the fire training area is finished but not open to the public. You can walk down through and see what has been done. And the digging and moving of rock has begun at the dam. You know, it looks approximately like someone is having their floors sanded: nothing in its place and dust all over everything for awhile, then a shining floor and all to rights again, hopefully by spring.

The Society has received word from Gorham/Gorham Attorneys that one of our founding members, Clint Sellev, has bequeathed the group \$2000.00. Clint had a fine collection of Rumford memorabilia which will be coming to the Museum also and the Board will begin discussion about how to showcase Clint's collection and what the needs of the Museum collection are in general.

We hope to see you at our November meeting when John Mc Niff, Head Ranger at Roger Williams National Park and speaker extraordinaire, will talk about his work there and the plans for the new park. We will also put out a donations basket for money to be donated to the food pantry at Newman. And don't forget to mark December 13<sup>th</sup> for the Holiday Party / turkey dinner catered in house by talented cooks in the group.

Yum –  
more pie.



## Calendar Of Events

### NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 14

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Hunt House Museum open  
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Monday, November 22, 7:00 p.m.

Members' Meeting – *Public Invited*

Newman Church, Rumford

Speaker: Ranger John McNiff,  
Roger Williams - The Man and  
RI's National Memorial

### DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 1, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting – *Members Welcome*

Hunt House Museum

Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Sunday, December 12

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Hunt House Museum open

Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Monday, December 13, 6:00 p.m.

Holiday Party

Newman Church,

100 Newman Ave.

Rumford

A REMINDER: EPHS does not hold meetings or open houses in January or February and the Gazette will be printed only in February.

### 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

- Nancy Moore *President*
- Kris Rose *1st Vice President*
- Edna Anness *2nd Vice President*
- Cheryl Faria *Recording Secretary*
- Pat Henry *Corresponding Secretary*
- Peter Allen *Treasurer*
- Kris Rose *Immediate Past President*

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

- Bob Tewksbury *Buildings*
- Jeffrey Faria *Grounds*
- Kris Rose *Markers*
- Mona Breault *Membership*
- Virginia Berwick –
- Karen Panzarella *Museum*
- Edna Anness *Acting Curator*
- Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Newsletter*
- Nancy Moore *Preservation*
- Maggie Dooley *Program*
- Maggie Dooley *Publicity*
- Florence Adams *Telephone*
- Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Webmaster*

## Members' Meeting

### Roger Williams - The Man and RI's National Memorial

Monday, November 22, 7:00 p.m.  
Newman Church  
100 Newman Ave.  
Rumford, RI

National Park Service Ranger  
John McNiff, noted anthropologist,  
historian and actor, will lead a  
lively discussion on Roger Williams'  
travels, including a brief stay in  
East Providence, before heading  
across the

Seekonk River to settle in Providence.  
We'll learn more about the life of  
Williams who is known as a champion  
for religious freedom and why a 4.5  
acre tract of land along North Main  
St. in Providence was chosen as the  
site of the Roger Williams National  
Memorial. If you haven't been to the  
Memorial you'll be surprised to learn  
about the "happenings" and new plans  
for this beautiful park-like destination.  
Mark your calendar!



### 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

## Member Spotlight

### Mary McManus



Mary McManus was born at home on May 23, 1916 to James and Margaret at 78 North Broadway. Their home was one of the Rumford Mill duplex houses that are still on North Broadway today. The area was called "Corky Hill" because many of the residents were Irish.

Mary's dad drove a horse and wagon for Rumford Chemical. On his way back from Providence he would stop by the house where Mary would be sitting on the front porch waiting for him. Mary would join her dad on the wagon and ride with him to the factory. Once there, she would hop down and run through the fields back home. Those fields are now covered with the Rumford Fire Station and businesses.

At the age of ten Mary's father died. Her mother went to work at Rumford Chemical so they could stay in the house. Margaret's job was to sew the bags that held

the baking powder.

Mary attended Union Primary School and graduated East Providence Central High School. Shortly after that, Mary was asked to help out at Rumford Chemical because they were short on help. She never left!

Mary's job was in quality control where she made biscuits. In 1953 she discovered a batch of off colored baking powder and notified her supervisor. J.W. MacDonald sent her a letter commending her for her close follow-up and expressed his appreciation for a 'job well done'!

Mary would go home every day for lunch and when the whistle blew she knew she had 5 minutes to return to work. Mary says Rumford was "a happy place to work" and was very family oriented. The company hosted Christmas parties, bake offs, and clam bakes. The clam bakes were the most fun with lobster raffles, baseball games, horse rides for the children, and music.

In addition to festivities, the Rumford provided plots of land near what is now St. Margaret's Church, for their employees to plant gardens. The company had a General Store for the employees and the company 'horse man'



would repair your shoes, too!

Mary worked at Rumford Chemical till it closed and then went to work at the Better Bake Shop where she took two buses to and from work because she never learned to drive. She retired at age 75.

These days Mary is very contented spending time with her friends and cat, Emily. She has never been in a hospital and takes one aspirin daily. She never has a cross word for anyone and when asked she says, "I have had a good life!"



Mary in her 'test kitchen' at Rumford Chemical

## 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



OUR WEB SITE:  
[EPHIST.ORG](http://EPHIST.ORG)

## November Gardening Tips

Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- Protect your perennials and evergreens from drying winter winds. Water well, mulch, wrap or cut back to protect during their dormant winter period.
- Cut back most perennials to 2 - 4 inches above the crown and mulch with straw or leaves. Secure all climbing and vining plants to their supports to prevent wind damage.
- Dig tender perennials like dahlia, cannas and gladiolus and store them in a cool dry place. Too warm and they will shrivel. Too cold and they will freeze and rot. Use crates or cardboard lined with newspaper. Not plastic bags! Layer with sawdust or straw to allow circulation., Check tubers once per month and mist if dry or discard if damaged or decayed.
- Do a final mowing and keep grass blades at 2 inches high. Adding lime at about 50 lbs. per 1000 square feet is the general rule. You may mulch leaves if not too heavy, adding nutrients back into the soil.



## 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 the Society at Box 4774 East Providence, RI 02916-4774

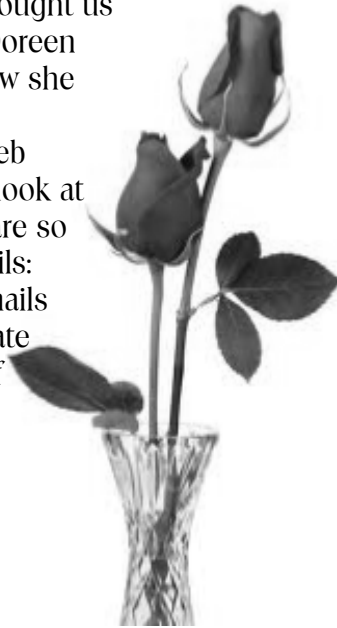


Best wishes for the coming Holidays  
to all our members and friends



## Florence Adams – Resignation

Valued, long time Board member, Florence Adams has submitted her resignation this month and the Board has regretfully accepted it. Florence has been the mainstay of the way EPHS has communicated with the community for many years. When her husband George died (the first editor of the Gazette), Florence thought she could manage to keep the Gazette going and with the help of Doreen Bonney, she brought us monthly news without fail. Even when Doreen moved to Florida, Florence rolled on. Now she has passed the Gazette to Reinhard Wohlgemuth who also serves as our Web Master. But as the Board has begun to look at how many hats Florence has worn, we are so appreciative of her attention to the details: publicity to the media every month, e-mails and phone calls passed to the appropriate Board member, assembly and mailing of the Gazette, dealing with the US Post office and Staples, chairing the Telephone and Newsletter committees, head of the strawberry shortcake ladies. And we all remember her formidable knowledge of our by-laws.



Florence has agreed to stay on the Telephone and Newsletter committees and will still be serving up shortcake at picnics. Please join the Board in saying a heartfelt thank you to Florence for her many years of devotion to EPHS.

## Meet Our New Members

- Stephan Greenleaf
- Corporate Member  
Sterling Landy  
Restoration Craftsman

A warm welcome to you!



## Tip Of The Baker's Hat . . .

. . . to the following members who baked for the October members' meeting:

- Linda Agresti
- Dotty Thornley
- Ginny Berwick
- Nancy Moore
- Edna Anness
- Pat Henry.



## Holiday Party

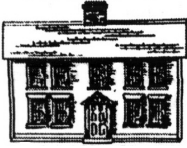
The EPHS Holiday Party, a traditional turkey dinner catered by talented cooks in the society will be held Monday, December 13 at 6:00 pm at Newman Church, Rumford. Reservations will be taken by phone at 438-1750, at the November meeting, or when the telephone committee calls to solicit side dishes and pies.

Cost: \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members which includes dinner and entertainment.

## Hunt House Decorating

Are you itching to get going on holiday decorations but can't start at your house yet? Volunteer to dress up a mantle or door at Hunt House on Saturday, November 28 or at your convenience.

Our next Open House is on December 12.



*John Hunt House*

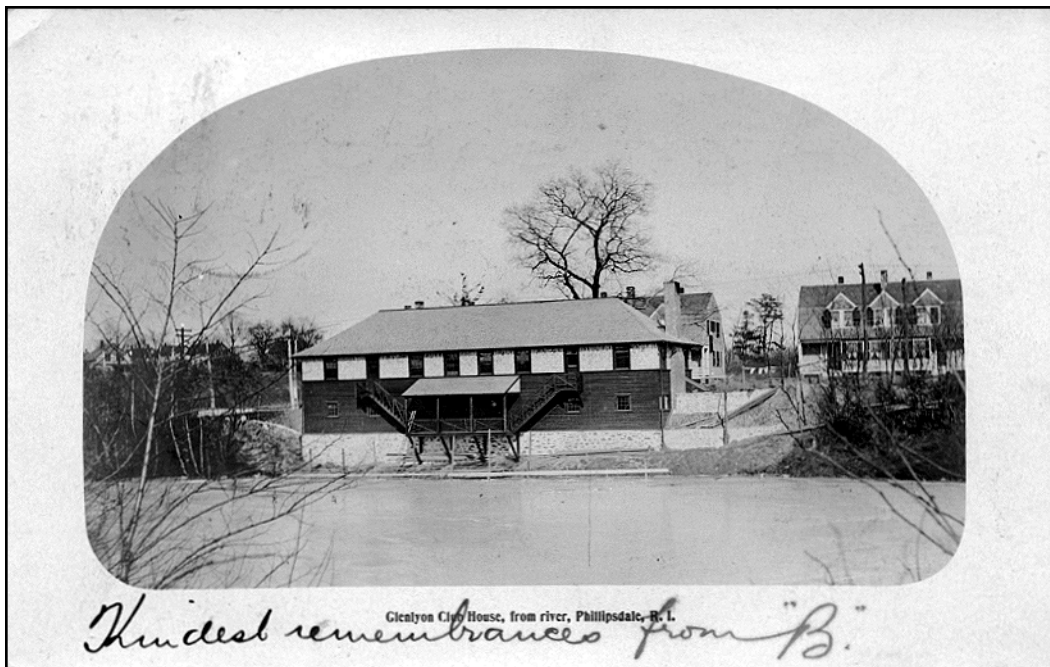
East Providence Historical Society  
P.O. Box 4774  
East Providence, RI 02916

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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Remember when . . .



The Glenlyon Club building has disappeared, but you can still find the houses with the three dormers when you travel down Roger Williams Ave.

**. . . you booked your Holiday party at the Glenlyon Club?**