



# The East Providence Historical Society

# Gazette

April 2015

Volume XXVII No. 5

## April

Sunday, April 12

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum  
open

Genealogy Workshops  
Weaver Library

Monday, April 27

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Tour Rumford Library  
1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church

7:00 pm

Members' Meeting -  
*Public invited*

Church of the Epiphany  
Hall  
1336 Pawtucket Ave  
Rumford

## May

Sunday, May 10

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum  
open

Genealogy Workshops  
Weaver Library

### 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

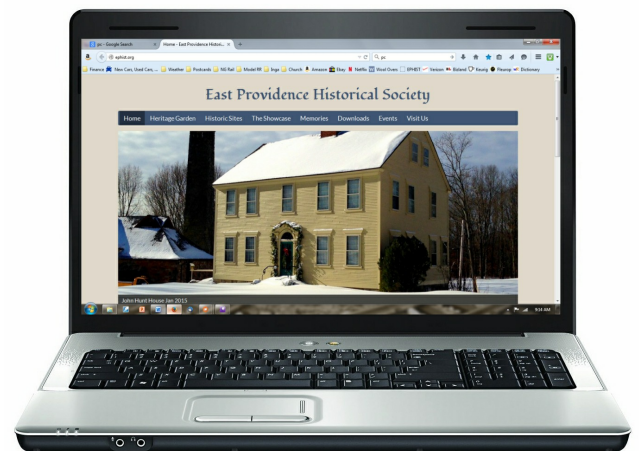
## Spring Notes

By Nancy More, President

As we go to press, we have our fingers crossed that the new printer will be available to resume color print Gazettes. You will know immediately if that printer arrived when you open up your mailing. Our thanks to Reinhard Wohlgemuth, our Gazette wizard, for his flexibility in this situation.

### New Education Center

At the April meeting, the EPHS Board unanimously voted to apply for a Champlin Grant for 2016 to refashion existing space into a dedicated Education Center area. The Building Committee and our 1st Vice President, Cheryl Faria, have been very busy putting the application together, getting the City on board and meeting with structural engineers from the City and the Peregrine Group to submit a reasonably detailed letter before the end of April. If the grant is awarded, the EPHS will begin work on the basement of Hunt House and the "Ticket Booth" to provide two large spaces which can handle groups of school children and adults for a variety of learning experiences. The ticket booth also would be ADA compliant with a handicapped bathroom and the Master Gardener program is looking forward to having a dedicated space in that basement. We have some fact finding and numbers to crunch yet but the Board is very excited by the prospect of reestablishing the fine educational programs run by Edna Anness, Ginny Berwick and Gladys Panzarella.



Visit the new EPHS website at  
[www.ephist.org](http://www.ephist.org)

### The Gazette

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East Providence  
Historical Society

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

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Cheryl Faria *1st Vice President*  
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Sandra Turgeon *Marker Program*  
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Nancy Moore *Preservation*  
Nancy Moore *Programs*  
Nancy Moore *Publicity*  
Becky Ellis *Website Manager*



### 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

## "2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday" Spring Open Houses April 12 and May 10 (Mother's Day)

Because of this hard winter, Hunt House could not be open in March so we eagerly await your visits in April and May.

### APRIL 12:

Our April Open House generally coincides with the Ten Mile River herring run. With the very cold winter, the herring may run later than normal but you will know if they have arrived by watching for the fish flag out at Pleasant Street. On view at Hunt House will be reference materials in the Keeping Room and new track lighting to help see these materials better. If you have been wanting to get up into our research room now is the chance to have it come downstairs to you.



The Master Gardener program resumes this month and free seeds are available for you early planters. Look at the Gardening Tips on our website and on page #5 of this newsletter for some advice by master gardener Jeff Faria.

### MAY 10:

Free plants for moms and free seeds for everyone through the MG program.

On both of these dates, we are also offering:

### Genealogy Workshops Weaver Library Conference Room 1:30-3:30 pm - Internet Service Available

RI Genealogy Society volunteers will be leading two workshops on researching your family roots - April 12 and May 10 during our regular "2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday" Open House hours - 1:30 - 3:30 pm. This is your chance to get professional advice and begin your own search. You must register for these workshops (438-1750 or 434-0071) and there is a \$5.00 charge for each session. FREE FOR MEMBERS!

The Friends of the Library group will be holding their spring book sale that afternoon also so be prepared to browse.

## A Warm Welcome to Our New Members This Month:

- Shirley Prisco
- Nancy Rose

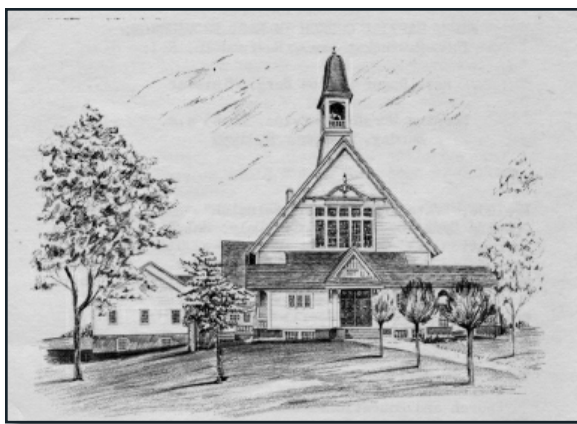
## 2015 Fish Story Update:

### A Herring of a Tale Part III

Please stop by City Hall foyer to see the amazing photo of the Paul Bettencourt fish ladder, awaiting the return of the herring at the Omega Pond dam. As this is written, the coffers are still in place above the dam but will be removed very soon so water can flood down the ladder. The 10 Mile River Group will NOT be scooping herring this year, the end of a long commitment to the area's wildlife by a dedicated group of volunteers. Well done folks! The Hunts Mills ladder is the next ladder up river and there will be a fish count there as usual but no special day is planned to celebrate the arrival of the herring. However, the 10 Mile group plans to be part of National Trails Day on Saturday, June 6, to show off the new walking trails at Hunts Mills. Watch for more details.



1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church – Then and now



Union Primary. After you tour, please join us for coffee at Epiphany and a presentation about both buildings and their place in East Providence history.

## April Members' Meeting

A Joint Presentation with the East Providence Library System

April 27, 2015

Tours – 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Coffee and Dessert – 6:30 - 7:00 pm

Meeting – 7:00 pm

Church of the Epiphany Hall  
1336 Pawtucket Avenue - Rumford

This meeting is one of our special tour evenings. Many of you may be itching to have a peek inside the old Rumford Library, now a private home. The owner, Rita Danielle Steele, is welcoming the public into her new home on April 27 from 6:00 -7:00 pm, and we think you will be pleased with and amazed at the transformation.

The 1st Baptist Church (1879) has also undergone an interior restoration and this historic sanctuary will be open for this tour. Parking is available at 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist, at Church of the Epiphany (St. Michael's) and behind

## May Members Meeting

Ed Serowik has much more to show and tell about the OTHER amusement parks in East Providence, including Hunts Mills. Please mark May 18 at East Bay Manor on your calendars.



## Civil War Buff Alert!

### Exhibit at the RI State Archives

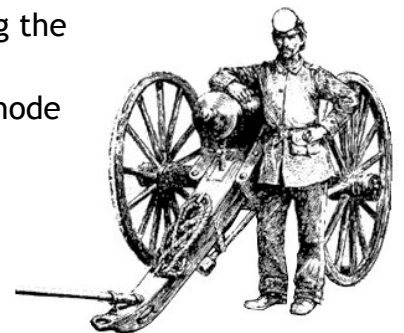
337 Westminster St - Providence

Now through April 30 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Validated Parking Right Next Door

“The Civil War Brought Home: RI during the Rebellion” commemorates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that war and the part Rhode Islanders played in it.

As we prepare to publish our own Lt. Peter Hunt letters, this exhibit may hold some extra poignant meaning for Society members. Areas covered are the 1863 draft, the US Army hospital at Portsmouth Grove, the Naval Academy at Newport and the formation of an African-American regiment.





## Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- Apply crabgrass preventer to lawns before forsythia flowers drop. Fertilizing and increasing mow height will help ward off crabgrass.
- Remove plant debris and leaves still in the garden before perennials and spring bulbs pop up. Spring frost will not harm them.
- This past winter may have caused plants to heave above their normal growing level. Gently push them back into the soil and also reset garden edging and lawn edges for a crisp look.
- Divide late summer blooming perennials such as mums, asters, and daisies now. This will give them time to fill out and look their best.
- Fertilize spring bulbs now by using a slow release fertilizer such as 10 - 10 - 10. Sprinkle around the base and lightly scratch into the soil, following label directions. Avoid applying fertilizer to the leaves of plants as this may burn them.
- Prune woody perennials like lavender and sage for shape once new growth has started.
- If your plants will require staking later in the season, try tomato cages or peony cages now before their growth makes this control more difficult.

## 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.*

Our plant of the month is **Thyme**.

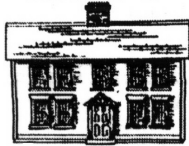
Thymus means courage. Roman soldiers took a bath with thyme. The oil has antiseptic and preservative qualities and the Egyptians used thyme for embalming. A sprig of thyme was carried to protect from disease and odor. It was considered a Holy Herb charm in the middle ages. Thyme is considered a nearly perfect herb, and in the 1600s it could “enable one to see the fairies”. It is used to flavor wine and cheese, to fill pillows thought to relieve melancholy or epilepsy and in the 15 to 17 century, it was used to combat the plagues that swept through Europe. In World War I, the essential oil was used as a battlefield antiseptic and it was also thought to have psychological effects on people. A soup of beer and thyme was a cure for shyness, nervous disorders and nightmares were often cured with thyme tea.



## 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



*John Hunt House*

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

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## Join the Master Gardeners This Spring

We gather monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday while the museum is open.

Our goals include:

- Engage and educate the Historical Society membership, Hunt House Museum visitors, EP High School students and the EP community about designing, planting, and maintaining heritage plants, with an emphasis on sustainable plants.
- Develop botanical signage for the gardens, the Hunt House and the historic mill site.
- Update and maintain the period gardens at the site of the Hunt House Museum.

