



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

March 2015

Volume XXVII No. 4

March

Monday, March 23

6:00 pm

Potluck Supper/Spring
Gathering

7:00 pm

Members' Meeting -
Public invited

Tracking Your Elusive Ancestors

Newman Church Hall
100 Newman Avenue,
Rumford, RI

April

Sunday, April 12

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum
open
Hunts Mills Road,
Rumford

Monday, April 27

Pawtucket Avenue tour
of the **Old Rumford
Library** (1905) and the
refurbished **1st Baptist
Church** (1879).

CONTACT US AT:

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

Spring Notes

By Nancy Moore, President

Perhaps you noticed quickly that the Gazette seems a bit different this March? Well, the copier which we use to print the Gazette took a direct hit with a roof leak and is now "toast," as they say. We chose to print anyway on a loaner copier and hopefully we will have color and better print for the April issue. Just one more casualty of this tough winter. We hope that you fared better.

The Society bid farewell to three valued members this winter: Billie Arden, Midge Welt and Nancy Wing. We will miss them and thank them for all their dedication to our group and projects. Some of you may know that Midge was the daughter of Jess Welt, the amateur photographer who documented East Providence in the early 20th century. Many of the photos in our publication "Images of East Providence" are Welt photos and Midge helped George Adams in the making of that book. And who can forget Billie, "the split the Pot" lady!

There are projects in the works for the spring. The building committee has been as busy as possible (with this weather) shoring up the basement summer beam, adding track lighting to the two main exhibit areas on the first floor, and readying estimates for a 1772 Foundation grant and a Champlin grant. We thank Brian Turgeon for taking the chair of this committee for a bit while Bob Tewksbury takes a break. And we welcome Jim Viera to the committee.

EPHS presented to the City Council in January, taking the first step for talks about the lease renewal. Hasn't 25 years flown by? Our thanks to Cheryl Faria for her professional, complete presentation.

POT LUCK SUPPER ALERT! Please remember that members **WILL NOT** be called for this event. If you plan to attend, you could do us the favor of calling Hunt House at 438-1750 to help us with a set-up count. Otherwise, simply show up with a main dish to share - we'll be looking forward to seeing you all!

The Gazette

Is published by the
East Providence
Historical Society

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OFFICERS

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Cheryl Faria *1st Vice President*
Deborah Ormerod *2nd Vice President*
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Miriam Kenney *Membership*
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Nancy Moore *Programs*
Nancy Moore *Publicity*
Becky Ellis *Website Manager*

March Members' Meeting

Pot Luck Supper/Spring Gathering – 6:00 pm

Coffee and Dessert – 6:45 pm

Tracking Your Elusive Ancestors – 7:00 pm

Newman Church Hall March 23

Please join us for the entire evening or for dessert and the general meeting. If you come to the pot luck, please bring a supper dish to share. Dessert will be provided.

Have you been following the PBS series “Genealogy Roadshow” or “Finding Your Roots”? Helen Smith, Vice President of the RI Genealogical Society and a former teacher and travel agent, presents a talk detailing how to research your ancestry. Helen has 20 years experience in genealogy work, and will get you started finding your roots. Internet access for your laptop: instructional packets provided. A great family activity!



- Kaleigh Bucket
- Ron Gomes
- Gregg's Restaurants
- Andrew Harper
- John Hope & Ann L. Lagarto
- William King
- Dean & Nancy Martineau
- Ben Pietruszka

**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

Spring "2nd Sunday" Open House April 12 – May 10 1:00 – 3:30 pm

April 12: Our April Open House generally coincides with the Ten Mile River group's fish count day. 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.

May 10: We love welcoming families on Mother's Day. The gardens have come alive and the Master Gardeners are available to answer questions. Per usual, there will be free plants for moms and free seeds for everyone through the MG program.

Genealogy Workshops: RI Genealogy Society volunteers will be leading two workshops on researching your family roots - April 12 and May 10 during our regular "2nd 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! PLEASE NOTE: At this time we are unsure whether the sessions will take place at Hunt House or at the conference room at Weaver Library. Our tech crew is investigating the use of "hot spots" at Hunt House as we have no internet service there. If you register for these workshops, please be sure to leave your phone number in case we need to notify you about the library site.

The Curious Curator

By Deb Ormerod

Curator

This item is called the Rumford Crate opener or occasionally the Rumford Box opener. As you know Rumford and Horsford products were shipped in small boxes made at the factory. We have many in our collection. They are labeled for example 2 dz. 1 pound cans or 4 dz. 1/4 pound cans. They shipped

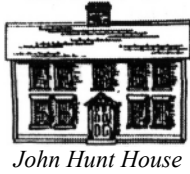
Rumford and Horsford baking powder, Rumford Yeast powder, Horsford Bread Preparation and Horsford Acid Phosphate in the small boxes. It is not known if they sold or gave these tools to the merchants to use to open the boxes. You can still buy a similar tool today. They can also sometimes be referred

Visit the new EPHS web site at www.ephist.org

The EPHS is a volunteer organization in its 47th year dedicated to the preservation of local history. We maintain the 18th century John Hunt House Museum/ genealogy library at 65 Hunts Mills Road in the Hunts Mills Historic District, participate in the URI Master Gardening program, and provide educational programs open to the public. Hunt House Museum is open to all on the "2nd Sunday" of every month from 1:00 - 3:30 pm and the reference room is open by appointment. For more information visit www.ephist.org or call 438-1750.



to as a Tomahawk because Calumet baking powder issued an almost identical tool labeled the "Calumet Tomahawk".



East Providence Historical Society
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Upcoming Events

April Members' Meeting:

Pawtucket Avenue tour of the Old Rumford Library (1905) and the refurbished 1st Baptist Church (1879). Watch for details.

May Members' Meeting:

Ed Serowik has much more to tell about the OTHER amusement parks in East Providence, including Hunts Mills.

