



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

October 2015

Volume XXVIII No. 2

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

October

Monday, October 26

7:00 pm

Members' Meeting -
Public invited

David Robinson:
What Lies Beneath

Tockwotton Theater
500 Waterfront Dr.
East Providence

November

Sunday, November 8

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum
open

Monday, November 23

6:30 pm

Members' Meeting -
Public invited

Inside a
Postcard Souvenir
Folder of Riverside

Riverside Library
475 Bullocks Point Ave.
Riverside

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

Weather Wreaks Havoc with Watchemoket Square Day

The nor'easter wouldn't quit on October 3rd. Although it didn't rain, the wind was gusting to 45 mph and the Hurricane Barrier was closed at noon, shutting down our boat tours. The Marketplace vendors toughed it out until noon and packed up. The parade/car show at Hot Rides didn't run but the Munroe Dairy Marching Milkman Band played on the island across from St. Mary's and then marched a small but enthusiastic crowd into the sanctuary for a concert. Another small crowd of children and adults grinned all through "The Carrot Salesman" puppet shows and sang along with Chris Monti for a while.

Kara Evans, our new walking tour guide, had ONE intrepid walker and he gave her first effort for EPHS a double thumbs up. Many more folks

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Laura McNamara - Photo
Members of the Munroe Dairy Marching Band taking a breather at
the refreshment table, one place not affected by the weather.

The Gazette

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East Providence
Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI
02916-4774
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Cheryl Faria *1st Vice President*
Deborah Ormerod *2nd Vice President*
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Pat Henry *Corresponding Secretary*
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Jeffrey Faria *Grounds*
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Deborah Ormerod *Curator*
Sandra Turgeon *Marker Program*
Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Newsletter*
Nancy Moore *Preservation*
Nancy Moore *Programs*
Nancy Moore *Publicity*
Becky Ellis *Website Manager*

October Members' Meeting What Lies Beneath?

“At Bold Point where the Seekonk River enters the Providence River there is a graveyard of sunken and half sunken hulks, mostly barges, that piled up during the 1938 and 1954 hurricanes and other storms and have been left to the elements. An aerial photograph, which Mr. Savick (acting EP City manager) has, shows some submerged. The remains of several piers abandoned many years ago are intermingled with the gray wood of the rotting hulks.” (Providence Journal - circa summer 1970, L. Boyd article)

These “hulks”, 24 of them, and the floating dry dock off Bold Point have been explored fully this year by David Robinson, of the URI Graduate Studies Program in Oceanography. David received a RI Sea Grant to map these wrecks and make a presentation to the public in October which is RI Archeology Month. We are the lucky recipients of that talk and Dave gave us a preview of his subject in 3 mini-presentations in the Tockwotton Theater on WSD. He’d like to have us think of these underwater treasures as just that: ways for us to explore and investigate the past as we do with any graveyard. What lies at Green Jacket Shoal and should we regard it as an asset rather than debris to be removed?

This meeting will take place at the Tockwotton Theater on Monday, October 26, at 7:00 pm. Tockwotton is located at 500 Waterfront Drive in East Providence.

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

Weather Wreaks Havoc . . .

continued from page 1

were interested in her virtual tour which she had set up in the warmth of the sanctuary. In Tockwotton's theater, Dave Robinson and Bill Fazioli had steady streams of people for their 1/2 hour mini-presentations and those people also visited the cafe for the WSD/Dairy exhibits - we were busy from 10:00 am - 3:30 pm. So our efforts got great reviews from those who braved the day. We need to make sure people know that indoor activities still go on!

The WSD Committee wishes to thank the sponsors of this event, especially new sponsor, Aspen Aerogel on Dexter Road for underwriting the new family music band concert with Munroe. Other continuing angels for the event were: EP Chamber of Commerce, Munroe Dairy, Tockwotton, St. Mary's, the Village on the Waterfront, the Waterfront Commission, Woods Heating Company, EP Yacht Club and an anonymous donor (he knows who he is).



Bill Fazioli speaking about the waterfront development.

Any questions?? You could get the answers at the WSD Information Booth staffed by (l-r) Judy de Perla (Come and Play Productions) and Laura McNamara (executive director, East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce).

Both photos by Laura McNamara



WSD Thank You

The EPHS Board and Members

- Nancy Allen
- Kara Evans
- Cheryl Faria
- Jeff Faria
- Pat Henry
- Gordon Hubbard
- Miriam Kenney
- Nancy Moore
- Claudia Pimental
- Dot Thornley
- Tom Warzeka
- Wendy Woods
- The Andrade and Viera Families

The WSD Committe

- Ken Andrade
- Carrie Amaral
- Dave DaSilva
- Laura McNamera
- Nancy Moore
- Claudia Pimental
- Paul Pliakis
- John and Sandy Schaefer
- Wendy Woods – Chair

- Jeanne Boyle – City Planner
- Bill Fazioli – Waterfront Com.

- URI – Dave Robinson
- Tockwotton – Carrie Amaral, Curtis Love

Volunteer Work Donations Wanted!

The East Providence Historical Society is looking for volunteers to help renovate the newly acquired building adjacent to the John Hunt House. This building is the former ticket booth for the Hunt's Mills Amusement Park that was located on the grounds in the early 1900's. The 500 sq. ft. building will house our new education center. Our goal with this project is to make the building available to the East Providence community and to expand the educational programs that we offer. We are looking for licensed electricians, plumbers, carpenters, and painters who would be interested in donating a couple of hours at their convenience. Anyone interested can contact Brian at bkturg@yahoo.com.

Brian Turgeon
Buildings Committee Chair

RI SCF Grant Update

I don't think we can adequately thank Cheryl Faria for the hours she spent amassing and submitting our grant application. It entailed a narrative, financial/membership/program/outreach/collaboration numbers, building specs, letters of support and many minute details which she kept track of. Meetings with the City were held. Assisting in this major effort were Nancy Moore, Dot Thornley, Brian Turgeon and the Board in general. The Education and Building Committees weighed in also. Our special thanks go to Rep. Katherine Kazarian who loves the site and obtained a pledge of \$5,000 from the legislature, also contingent upon our receiving the Grant. Letters of support came from Katherine, City Planner Jeanne Boyle, and Superintendent of Schools Kim Mercer. Our great thanks for their votes of confidence in this new EPHS effort.

And, because of the potential of more money available from the community for the project, our application matching numbers rose from \$16,000 (\$12,000 from our treasury and \$4000 in volunteer hours) to \$28,000 (\$12,000 from our funds +\$5,000 from Leg. Grant + \$4,000 at least in pledges + \$7,000 in volunteer hours) for a total of \$58,000 working capital. In the short space of two weeks, the dream of a dedicated ADA compliant Education Center became an exciting prospect for a great number of people. Please think about joining this effort. Our thanks in advance!



The proposed Education Center.

Postcard view of the original location as office in the Hunt's Mills amusement park.

Now located next to the Hunt House Museum and used for storage. It was used to store water meters while the city's water department occupied the house, hence the name "Meter House".



A Challenge for You All!

At the short general September meeting at Weaver Library, the Count and Countess of Rumford remarked that they had always been passionate about education (the Count had been a schoolmaster in Woburn MA and NH) He also pointed out that he had endowed the Rumford Chair in Chemistry at Harvard and that Eben Horsford , the inventor of Rumford Baking Powder had held that chair. In that vein, the Count/Countess announced that they would match 2 for 1 any pledges to the proposed Education Center made that evening, up to \$1,000. The response was immediate among both members and non-members! Now, although we are close to the \$1,000 number, we are opening the challenge to the general membership (through the month of October only) as another angel has come forward to match any pledges over \$1,000 - \$2,000.

2016. (1966 was the first convening of the EPHS so that would be a wonderful 50th birthday present.) If the group doesn't get the grant, all pledges are null and void and you will be notified of this. Those of you who make a pledge will receive a confirming letter and further details.

So: the pledge card is printed below – please fill it out and return to

Cheryl Faria
8 Read Street
Seekonk, MA 02771

or mail it to the

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

These pledges are contingent on EPHS receiving the RI State Cultural Facilities Grant in January



CULTURAL FACILITIES GRANT

2 FOR 1 Matching Gift Offer from Count and Countess Rumford

I pledge \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 other _____

I understand that my tax-deductible contribution for the Grant to transform the “Meter House” into an Education Center at the Hunt House Museum will be tripled in a 2 for 1 match from Cheryl and Jeff Faria, Count and Countess Rumford! The match limit is for the first \$1,000.00 in new donations for this wonderful Grant application. The amount will be tripled by the Farias and will also be doubled again by the Grant award!!!

Example: a \$100.00 gift becomes \$600.00 with the match and Grant!!

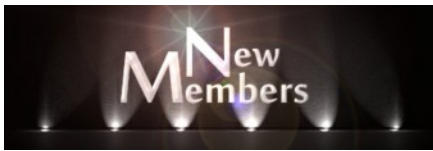
Please fill this out today!!!

Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____ Phone #: _____

I further understand that this tax-deductible gift is subject to the EPHS receiving the award of the grant and will be due by January 1, 2016.



We welcome our newest members:

- Joseph Andrews
- Betty Anness
- Elaine Brissette (MINIFOLD)
- Kara Evans

A Reminder

There are a few members who, at certain times of the year, go away for several months. Because of this, Gazettes are often returned to us with postage due. If you are going away, please let me know your temporary address. Your Gazette can follow you directly!

Thank you.

miriamkenney@aol.com or (401) 434-9462

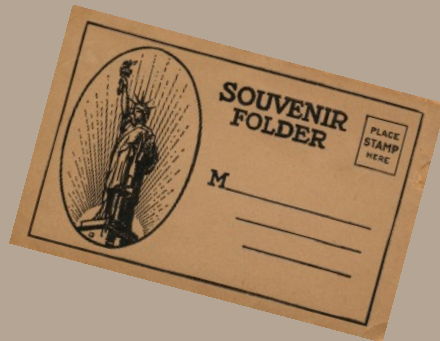
Miriam Kenney
Membership Chair



November members' Meeting

Monday, November 23, 2015, 6:30 pm

INSIDE A
POSTCARD SOUVENIR
FOLDER OF RIVERSIDE



Riverside Library
475 Bullocks Point Ave.
East Providence

Thank you

to our bakers who provided delicious treats at the Weaver Library last month:

- Mona Breault
- Pat Henry
- Miriam Kenney
- Joyce May
- Nancy Moore
- Deb Ormerod
- Dotty Thornley
- Anthony Valerio



Queries

Can You Help with Answers?

All of our members are encouraged to answer these requests for help by contacting the people directly.

Can anyone tell me if there is an old East Providence fire station, at the corner of Taunton Ave and Grosvenor Ave? Looks like it must have been. Was it headquarters? What years was it active? What apparatus were housed there?

Please feel free to email the answer directly to:
bob_lincoln@waters.com



We would like to nail down dates for both Caleb Williams cottage (1740?) and the John Hunt house (1750), both located at Hunts Mills in East Providence. The Hearthstone house on 114A, sister house of Hunt House, and owned by a cousin/co-owner of the mills should be of the same era as Hunt House. Is there any of you who have info to share?

Please respond to info@ephist.org



Schools of the Last Century

Excerpts from an article written by our late museum curator Edna Anness for the February 2000 Gazette.

During the first ten years of the past century no new schools were constructed until 1912 when there was a building flurry as our town was expanding and a high school education was expected of all students. The first new building was the **high school on Taunton Avenue**, now the senior housing apartments. Two floors were needed and before ten years had passed a third floor was added.

FALL "2nd SUNDAY" Open House

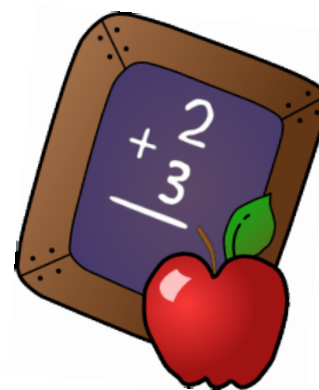
November 8, December 13

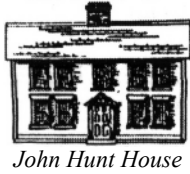
Open House Exhibit: Early School Days in East Providence

Did you know that a hot debate raged about going to school year round in 1975? If you played football in the 40s-50s, we have many of those beautiful old programs. The museum crew has culled a surprising amount of school memorabilia for this exhibit, which has some wonderful photos and mementoes you all saved for us, along with school books and administrative pieces. And of course, those Crimsons which stretch back into the early 1900s will all be at your fingertips. Send a yearbook photo to a friend. Come reminisce with our docents about your EP school experience and bring along mementos to share with us. Don't miss the collection of excuses for absence kept by Mr. Sanderson at Riverside Jr. High! If you are/were a teacher or school department employee, please come and choose a thank you gift from us for your service. Refreshments will feature, what else: apples!



In that same year, 1912, a large new brick grammar school was built in Riverside. It contained four rooms and was the start of a building which was to be later enlarged to become **Riverside Junior High School** on Bullocks Point and Pawtucket Avenues. We do not usually think of that school as ever having only four rooms.





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

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Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

Now is the time to plant spring flowering bulbs such as crocus, tulip and daffodil. Prepare the hole as directed on the package, usually two times as deep as the length of the bulb. Plant with the pointy side up and apply compost and organic fertilizer lightly into the hole, mixing well before planting.

Dig and pot up herbs for continued use during the winter. If there is no threat of frost, leave the pot in the same location for a few days, keeping it well watered. This will reduce the stress of moving the herbs indoors.

Continue to water trees and shrubs that have been stressed by the lack of regular rainfall this summer. Root development continues until the ground begins to freeze.

Wait until the ground begins to freeze before mulching the beds. Early mulch provides food

and nesting places for rodents such as voles and mice that can damage plants by chewing on the roots and bark. Never mulch against the trunk of a woody plant.

Continue to mow lawns until the grass stops growing. Don't worry about crabgrass and annual weeds in the lawn now. Make note of especially problematic areas and treat with the pre-emergent herbicide, which can be applied in the spring.

Plant garlic in mid-October. Separate each clove and plant it about 2 inches deep, with the pointy side up. Set rows 6 inches apart and mulch heavily with about 12 inches of leaves, straw or shredded paper. This will compact down over the winter. The bulbs will grow through and get good root development before winter dormancy. They will resprout in the spring.