



## The East Providence Historical Society

# Gazette

April 2016

Volume XXVIII No. 5

### April

Monday, April 4  
6:00pm Potluck  
7:00pm Presentation

Quilting: the Art  
Which Never Fails to  
Warm our Hearts  
Newman Church Hall

Sunday, April 10  
1:00 - 3:30pm  
Hunt House open

#### Bus Tours

Monday, April 25  
6:30pm  
Pomham Rocks  
Lighthouse: "We Got  
the Grant - Now  
What?"  
Riverside Library

### May

Sunday, April 10  
1:00 - 3:30pm  
Hunt House open

#### CONTACT US AT:

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Historical Society  
P.O. Box 4774  
East Providence, RI  
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Dedicated to Preserving the Heritage and Enjoying the  
History of Our City

## "Keep Me Warm One Night" An Exhibit of Antique and New Quilts

The EPHS Spring 2nd Sunday season opened on March 13, showcasing an exciting array of quilts from as early as 1845. The Blackstone Valley quilt was an instant hit and the Crescent Park quilt evoked many fond memories. Perhaps some of the children who worked on the side panels will come view their work. The April Open House will feature quilts by the Piecemaker quilt group and their members will be on tap to talk with visitors about their work. We have just received an exciting new addition to the collection which spans the years 1888 - 1938 and this quilt will go on view as soon as the accessioning process is completed. If you are a quilt fan, you may want to read "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd. This book weaves a Charleston slave's story quilt into its pages, Kidd's inspiration being the story quilts of Harriet Powers, a slave held in Georgia. And if you read carefully, you will catch the reference to "the stove, an ornery old Rumford that coughed up clouds of smut" in a small kitchen in Philadelphia.

We can accommodate groups for special visits to this exhibit. If you know of a quilt group or other interested group please contact Nancy Moore at 438-4299.

We'd like to let you know about another quilt exhibit in town: a juried exhibit of contemporary quilts by nationally known quilters at 250 Taunton Avenue, home of the EOSS Gallery located in the American Trophy building across from Taunton Plaza. Enter - up one flight. It is worth a look!

There through April 10 - details at  
[www.galleryeoss.com](http://www.galleryeoss.com)



Dot Thornley Photo

1914 quilt by Clara Almy  
Sutton, Dot Thornley's  
grandmother.

### The Gazette

Is published by the  
East Providence  
Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI  
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Dot Thornley Photo

The modern quilt on exhibit:  
Crescent Park Quilt created in 1995

### 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

# Historic Homes

# Bus Tour



## “Ring of the Green”

**Sun. April 10**  
**9am, 12pm, 3pm**

*East Providence Historical Society and  
Carpenter Museum present a narrated coach  
bus tour of “Old Rehoboth,” now Rumford RI,  
with stops for walking tours of the  
John Hunt House and Daggett House.*

**9am-12pm & 12-3pm**

*Leaves Carpenter Museum*

\$12 (member), \$17 (non-member)

**3-5pm** *Leaves John Hunt House*

\$10 (member), \$15 (non-member)

**Reservations required!**

**[ticketpeak.com/carpentermuseum](http://ticketpeak.com/carpentermuseum)**

More info: 508-252-3031, 401-434-9462

[carpentermuseum@gmail.com](mailto:carpentermuseum@gmail.com)



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RE/MAX River's Edge and Rehoboth Cultural  
Council, a local agency supported by the

# Historic Homes Bus Tour Ring of the Green

The first settlement in colonial Rehoboth was near the Ten Mile River, in what is today part of East Providence. Both town and state borders have changed quite a bit since Rehoboth's founding in 1643. Early Rehoboth not only encompassed the present town, but also extended into what are now several other towns in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The houses featured go back to Rehoboth's early days and are located in what was originally called the "Ring of the Green" in the vicinity of Newman Congregational Church in Rumford.

"We are going back to the origins of Rehoboth, to the beginning of the town," says Lende McMullen, who will be one of the tour leaders.

## Rev. Samuel Newman Establishes a New Town

In 1641 John Brown and Edward Winslow got permission from Plymouth Colony to purchase 64 square miles of land from Massasoit, chief of the Wampanoags. Rev. Samuel Newman brought 48 settlers from Weymouth to the area, with William Sabin and Richard Wright surveying the new Seekonk (Seacuncke) Plantation. The new town was established in 1643 and given the Biblical name of Rehoboth: ... "so he named it Rehoboth, for he said, 'At last the Lord has made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land.'" (Gen. 26:22)

This new settlement had a circular layout, sometimes also referred to as the "Ring of the Town", with plots of farm land for settlers and five gates for entrance and a center area

for grazing animals. There was also a meeting house, a cemetery, and five garrisons throughout for security. However, as relations with the Native Americans deteriorated over the decades, early Rehoboth was one of the many towns burned to the ground during King Philip's War on 1676. For this reason, no houses from this early period exist in Rumford, though several were later built upon the foundations of these houses.

## Houses on the Tour

-  Daggett House
-  John Hunt House
-  Hyde-Bridgham House
-  Widow Hill House
-  Bishop-Leonard House
-  Phaniel Bishop House
-  Hoyd-Hammond House
-  Caleb Abell House
-  Abell House

While most of the historic Rumford houses on these tours will be viewed from the comfort of a bus, visitors will have the opportunity to stop and go inside the John Hunt House and the Daggett House for a tour inside these historic properties.

Providing commentary on each house during the tours will be Lende McMullen, Kara Evans, and Barbara Spencer.



## March General Meeting

April 4, 2016

6:00pm – 7:00pm Pot Luck Supper

7:00pm Presentation

Newman Church Hall

100 Newman Avenue, Rumford, RI 02916

The EPHS opens its spring season with its traditional potluck supper. No reservations are required for the supper but all attendees are asked to contribute a supper dish to share. Dessert and coffee will be provided by the Society. We hope to see many of you!

## Quilting: the Art Which Never Fails to Warm our Hearts

This April 4<sup>th</sup> general meeting/presentation marks the official opening of the quilt exhibit “Keep Me Warm One Night” at the John Hunt House - 65 Hunt Mills Road in the Rumford section of East Providence. The Piecemaker Quilting Group has been meeting at Newman Church since 2000 “to promote the appreciation, enjoyment and knowledge of quilting as an art and craft form.” Jean L. Kesner will present the history of quilting with a specific emphasis on American Feedsack quilts. Award winning quilter, Brenda Devine will share her Baltimore Album quilts as well as a quilt named “Dear Jane” which contains 225

patterns from the historic 1863 Jane Stickle quilt on view at the Bennington Museum in VT. The public is encouraged to bring their own quilts to share after the presentation.



The Walter Cunningham Quilt at the Hunt House (1909)



## April General Meeting

April 25, 2016

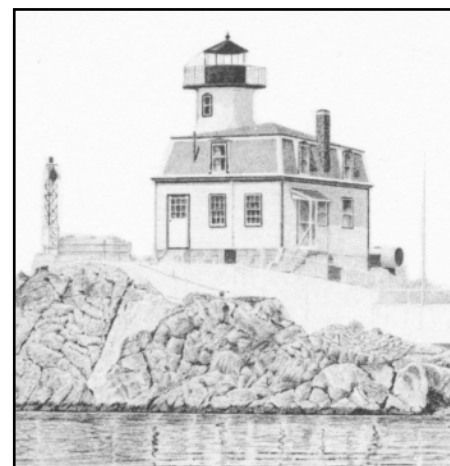
6:30pm Presentation

Riverside Library

475 Bullocks Point Avenue, Riverside, RI 02915

## Pomham Rocks Lighthouse “We Got the Grant - Now What?”

If you have been following the progress of the meticulous exterior restoration of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse over the past 10 years, you will not want to miss this presentation!



With the tremendous news this January that the Friends of Pomham Rock have received a \$150,000 matching grant from the RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission, it’s time to get caught up on the next phase of work on the lighthouse. On April 25<sup>th</sup>, East Providence’s own “Mr. Preservation,” Dave Kelleher, will bring us up to date on the present status of Pomham and take us into the plans for the interior restoration and the laying of the electrical service from the mainland. This looks like the final push for this amazing East Providence treasure!

Remember that you can help with their matching grant fundraising by taking the Save the Bay or Providence River Boat lighthouse tours this summer. David Kelleher narrates those tours and the group receives a percentage of the tour fees. You can follow the progress of this new phase and make a donation at [www.pomhamrockslighthouse.org](http://www.pomhamrockslighthouse.org)



## Education Center Coming to Life!!!

We are excited to report that the Society has received a \$28,000 State Cultural Facilities Grant from Rhode Island State Council on the Arts for the Education Center. This is a matching grant, so we need to come up with \$21,000 in matching cash and \$7,000 in in-kind donations. Last Fall the Count/Countess of Rumford challenged you all to a 2 for 1 match for the 1<sup>st</sup> \$1,000 of pledges. That challenge was met and another donor came forward with another \$1,000 matching challenge which so far has been matched with \$560. We have now received \$7,643 in pledges and donations from our membership and \$5,000 from a state legislative grant secured by Rep. Katy Kazarian. If you've been meaning to take up this challenge, please forward a check payable to the East Providence Historical Society with a memo line indicating the Education Center and mail to

EP Historical Society  
Box 4774  
East Providence, RI 02916



## Education Center Update

By now, many of you know that the EPHS did receive the RI Cultural Facilities matching grant for \$28,000 (RISCA) We are well on our way to matching that amount but, of course, if you've been meaning to make a donation we'd love to have it!. The building committee has been busy since the grant notice: we have hired architect Stephen Greenleaf (a grant requirement), the City has agreed to remove all plumbing and heating elements, the City will also remove water department records from the attic to the basement of City Hall where they can be assessed, plans have been drawn for the new handicapped accessible entry, and the permitting process has been begun. Our thanks to Building Chair Brian Turgeon and his crew, Earl Berwick Jr, Dot Thornley, Sandra Turgeon and James Viara. Come warm weather, stop by any time to watch the progress or email Brian at <bkturg@yahoo.com> to put your name on the volunteer call list.



## EP Historical Society 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Spring Open Houses and Special Events

**April 10<sup>th</sup> The fish return!**  
1:00pm – 3:30pm John Hunt House Museum open.  
Learn more about this amazing effort to bring back the herring.  
“RING OF THE GREEN” Coach bus tours.

**May 8<sup>th</sup> Master Gardener Mother's Day**  
1:00pm – 3:30pm John Hunt House Museum open.  
Free plants for moms - free seeds - soil testing.

**June 26<sup>th</sup> The Arts at Hunt's**  
11:00am – 4:00pm behind the Hunt House.  
The EPHS, the EP Arts Council, and the Lions Club will present a family arts day at Hunt's Mills, beginning with the Gorham Road Race and continuing with music and arts on the old Amusement Park site behind Hunt House Museum. Check [www.eastprovidencearts.org](http://www.eastprovidencearts.org) for more early details.





We have a new life member! Welcome.

Terrence Abbott

## 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.*

## More Quilts Currently on Display at the Hunt House Museum



The Red Baskets Quilt was bought by Nancy Moore and is about 100 years old.

Dot Thornley Photo



The plant of the month is:  
**Lamb's ear**  
*Stachys byzantina*, or *lanata*

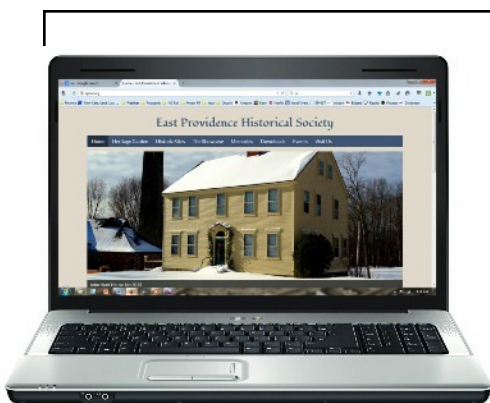
This quilt is called a Churn Dash or Monkey design.



Dot Thornley Photo

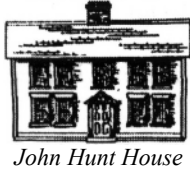
The soft furry, silvery leaves are really as soft as a lamb's ear. Lamb's ears flower from late spring through summer. Avoid watering from above, because it produces brown spots on the leaves and they die back. The plants do better in poor to average soil, in full sun to part shade. Cut off spent flower heads to keep from self-sewing. Lamb's ear was also referred to as woolly woundwart and was used as a rapid antiseptic. The soft woolly leaves are a natural choice as a bandage.

You could use chives to stop the bleeding and the lamb's ear to bandage the wound!



Don't forget to check for electronic news and photos about EPHIST at [ephist.org](http://ephist.org) and on Facebook.





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

*John Hunt House*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Non-Profit Organization  
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## Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

Gypsy moths are a serious problem in our area and their eggs are laid in a cluster on the underside of branches and trunks of oaks, maples and a wide variety of trees. To help reduce their future damage to emerging buds causing the leaves to look like Swiss cheese, scrape or brush off these clumps now (they look like tan chewing gum) on the underside of branches and along the lower trunk. I recommend catching them in a tray or small bucket and drowning them. They tend to scatter in the breeze, so work cautiously. Their bud and leaf damage can defoliate an entire tree.

Winter moths eggs are in the folds of the bark on the trunk of the tree and can be treated with horticultural oil to smother the emerging caterpillars. Both winter moths and gypsy moths are a big problem for us.

As hard as it is to thin transplants or overcrowded seedlings, using scissors to snip them is better than

pulling them out. There is less disturbance to the choice seedlings you want to save. Remember: Gardeners must be ruthless!

Grass planted in the spring will have many more weeds emerging before the grass. It is better to wait until fall, if you can. Try planting some annual flowers or veggies in that location instead!

Rake the lawn lightly with a metal leaf rake to promote recovery and remove snow mold and vole damage. Spread crabgrass pre-emergent control when forsythia are in full bloom.

Now is a great time to start seeds. Come to the next member meeting for a great selection. Start tomatoes and peppers now.