



# The East Providence Historical Society

# Gazette

March 2016

Volume XXVIII No. 4

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

## March

Sunday, March 13  
1:00 - 3:30pm  
Hunt House Museum  
open

## 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

### 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

## Ginny Berwick Keeping Room

The accompanying photo is so apropos of this group: Earl Berwick Jr. painting a ceiling that Earl Berwick Sr. painted 25 years ago in the room named for his mother, Ginny.



Brian Turgeon Photo

Over the month of February, a crew of volunteers emptied out the keeping room so the room could be refurbished - after 25 years! Under the watchful eye of our building committee chairman Brian Turgeon, members Earl Berwick Jr., Miriam Kenney, Nancy Moore, Sandra Turgeon and Dot Thornley repaired and painted the walls and woodwork. More track lighting was installed as the new smaller system has been such an improvement. The hardest part was matching the colors for the woodwork and floor. When the trim color went on, everyone said "Oh that's a blue with more gray in it but it's very nice." When the trim was done, Dot and Nancy held the old paint can up to the new trim color- it was exact. The trim had faded greatly in 25 years! By March Open House, the floor will be painted, the reglazed/painted windows back in (Dan Moore and Bob Tewksbury), and the new quilt exhibit mounted. Our Keeping Room gets heavy use - great thanks to everyone who has worked on that space.



Brian Turgeon Photo

**The Gazette**  
 Is published 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*  
 Cheryl Faria *1st Vice President*  
 Deborah Ormerod *2nd Vice President*  
 Stephanie Poole *Recording Secretary*  
 Pat Henry *Corresponding Secretary*  
 Dorothy Thornley *Treasurer*

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Brian Turgeon *Buildings*  
 Jeffrey Faria *Grounds*  
 Miriam Kenney *Membership*  
 Karen Panzarella *Museum*  
 Deborah Ormerod *Curator*  
 Sandra Turgeon *Marker Program*  
 Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Newsletter*  
 Nancy Moore *Preservation*  
 Nancy Moore *Programs*  
 Nancy Moore *Publicity*  
 Becky Ellis *Website Manager*



We welcome our newest members:

- Leo Caisse
- Bernard E. Larrivee, Jr.
- Carole B. Place
- Lori Vallat

**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

- Gwendolynne Johnston
- Diana McLean
- Daniel Wood

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.

Continued next page

**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

# EP Historical Society Spring Open Houses and Special Events

John Hunt House, 65 Hunt's Mills Road, Rumford, RI 02916  
1:00pm - 3:30pm

## March 13

- Hunt House Museum Open.
- The opening of a very special quilt exhibit.
- Newly groomed and marked hiking trails, complements of the 10 Mile River Watershed Alliance.

## April 10

- Hunt House Museum Open.
- The fish return! Learn more about this amazing effort to bring back the herring.
- "RING OF THE GREEN" Coach Bus Tours.

## May 8

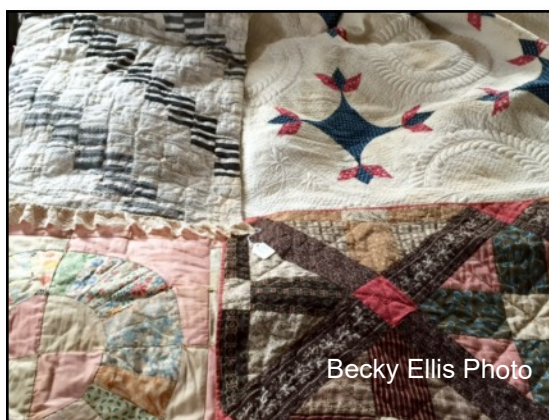
- Hunt House Museum Open.
- Master Gardener Mother's Day.
  - Free plants for moms
  - Free seeds and soil testing

## "Keep Me Warm One Night"

### An Exhibit of Antique and New Quilts at Hunt House

The receipt of an unusual quilt made in 1909 by Walter Cunningham, who was born and lived his life at the Bishop Farm on Pleasant Street prompted a check of the EPHS archival quilts available for an exhibit: 9 was the tally. Also available were the Blackstone Valley National Corridor quilt with an East

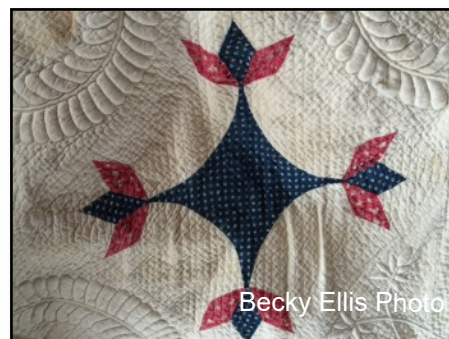
Providence square done by member Rose Sirenski and the Crescent Park commemorative quilt made by Beverly Simmons, daughter of the park owner. These, and other member family quilts, will be on view for this new exhibit which will run March through August. We are very excited to be partnering with Piecemakers, a quilting group based at Newman Church. This



## Education Center

Continued from Page 2

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.



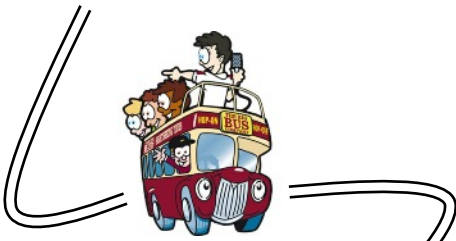
group will help docent the exhibit, show pieces of their own fine work, present a program at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting at Newman Church and answer questions about getting started at the art of quilting. As usual, there will be an interactive quilting activity for everyone to try.

**Note:** this exhibit can be open for small groups with a donation to the EPHS.



# “Ring of the Green” Coach Bus Tours

April 10, 2016



John Hunt House



Roger Williams Spring



Daggett House

The Carpenter Museum and the EP Historical Society proudly present a narrated coach tour of the original center of Rehoboth, Seekonk Centre and the Rumford section of East Providence. Lest you think that’s too much territory to cover in 3 hours, there’s a secret - they are the same acreage 1643 - 2016. Some folks in Rehoboth have a hard time thinking that their town center actually pulled back from the Seekonk River to its present site south of the Taunton Road. All the reasons for that will be revealed as the bus covers its route through what is now known as Rumford. The tour covers ten specific sites including the Daggett House and the Roger Williams Spring. The 1690 Daggett House will be open for this special tour, thanks to owner Margaret Dooley who believes in sharing this amazing home which survived the wrecking ball in 1898 .The tour ends up at Hunt’s Mills, home of the first industrial park in this area, a mill having been established there by 1645, and a group of mills by 1671. The Hunt House will feature a quilt exhibit and tours of the grounds, the URI Master Gardeners will give out free seeds and be available to answer gardening questions, and the 10 Mile River Watershed Alliance will lead tours of the hiking trails and make a presentation about the new fish ladders on the river (We have let the blue herring know the date - there’s a great chance that they will be in the ladders.)

### 9:00am/12:00pm Tours

Leaving from Carpenter Museum-139 Bay State Rd, Rehoboth MA 02769: TICKETS - \$12 (member of either Society) and \$17 (non-member with \$5 applicable to a new membership to either group)

### 3:00pm Tour

Leaving from John Hunt House - 65 Hunt’s Mills Road- East Providence, RI 02916: TICKETS - \$10 (member of either Society) and \$15 (non-member with \$5 applicable to a new membership to either group)

Note: 3:00pm tour people can arrive early at Hunts Mills for that part of the tour.

Reservations /Tickets must be made / paid for in advance.

Tickets are available on line through TicketPeak / Pay Pal < <https://ticketpeak.com/res/carpentermuseum> >

For questions/tickets

9:00am/12:00pm tours 508- 252-3031

<carpentermuseum@gmail.com>

3:00pm tour

401- 434-9462

## Financial Update

By Dot Thornly, Treasurer

Dot is happy to report the following:

- \$12,553.00  
Donations and grants for the Ed Center
- \$24,716.93  
All other accounts

## 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. Note that we are actually meeting in early April since the hall was not available for our regular fourth Monday in March (We will also meet again at Riverside Library in April on our regular Monday - April 25<sup>th</sup>.) 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.

## 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.*

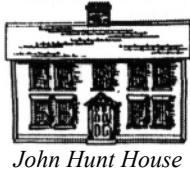
Plant of the month is:

**Chives.**

**(Allium Schoenoprasum)**



Chives grow wild in North America, near the Great Lakes and from Siberia to Sweden. Chives arrived in European gardens in the 16<sup>th</sup> century in them in America before 1800. Medicinally, chives were used as an antidote and remedy for bleeding. Mostly chives are added to foods for flavoring. Chives were thought to have magical powers and could drive away diseases and evil influences.



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**

---

## Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- March is a good time to prune grapes, raspberries, blueberries and fruit trees
- Remove winter mulch from rosebushes soon after snow melts.
- Apply dormant oil to woody plants when forecasted temperatures remain above freezing for 48 hours. This will help smother eggs of insects as they emerge in spring.
- Remove branch tips of young Spruce and firs to promote bushier growth.
- When reusing seed starter containers, sterilize with a 10% bleach solution first.
- By the end of March, start tomato and pepper seeds indoors. Be sure to come to our member meeting on

March 28<sup>th</sup> and get your free seeds from the Master Gardener's and URI!!

- Cut back ornamental grasses, used for winter interest, before new growth appears.
- Lime can be added at a rate of 50 pounds per 1000 ft.<sup>2</sup> in the spring to lawns, beds and gardens.
- Peas, beets and many lettuce and green plant seeds can be sown directly into the soil by the end of March. If you take a chance and seed early, do not use all your seed in case of a late hard frost. ♪

I'm getting motivated to start my garden!

