



50 EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1966-2016

September 2017

Volume XXX No. 1

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

— September —

Saturday, September 23
11:00am - 3:00pm
SMITHSONIAN
"FREE MUSEUM" DAY
Hunt House Museum
open

Monday, September 25
6:30pm Refreshments
7:00pm Program
The Hunts of Hunt's
Mills Send a Son to
War - 1861-1864

Weaver Library
Grove Avenue
East Providence, RI

— October —

Sunday, October 8
1:00pm - 3:30pm
Hunt House Museum
open
1:30pm at the Gazebo
"Hikes at Hunt's"
2:30pm in the Garden
"Talks and Walks"
Putting the Garden to
Bed

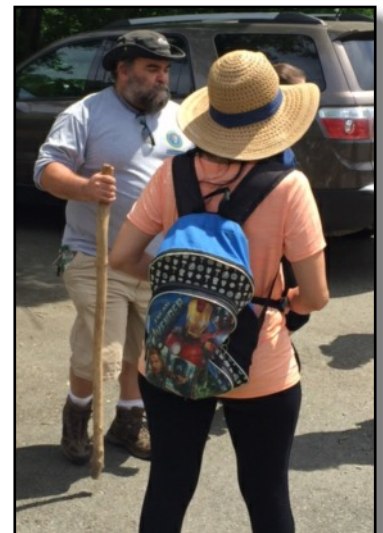
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President's Letter

By Nancy More

It is such a pleasure to be writing this as co-president with Cheryl Faria. Her ability to make sense of the myriad financial/grant details has made everyone's life much easier. And I still get to do the Gazette work with Reinhard which is one of my favorite things to do. As we sat at the first Board meeting of our 51st year, we looked back on our remarkable golden anniversary year. We were all so impressed by the public's energetic and positive responses to new programs: Ernie Germani's "Hikes at Hunt's" have been consistently popular and the fledgling MG "Walk and Talks" have been capturing the hikers and gardeners both. All of them have enjoyed visiting the house. You will see some of the highlights of the year in this issue and I hope you will spot yourselves in the photos. Did you bring a quilt to share at the library, come for the magical hayride afternoon, arrive as a hiker or gardener, or for the truly amazing picnic evening? In June, we hosted Montesorri School families who took to Hunt's like it was their own and 15 Bank of America volunteers worked hard for EPHS and the 10 Mile River group, hauling and clearing.



Ernie listens to visitors and answers questions before heading out into the woods

And then there was the heartwarming afternoon at the Hunt House, when Walker descendants Mary Beth Forte and her family from NJ, Carol Gibson from Jamestown and her sister Anne from Sudbury, MA sat down with Sandra Turgeon and myself in the Hunt parlor and began telling the tale of how they found out about the Walker House and came to our doorstep. It truly was a serendipitous visit and perhaps a family reunion can happen as they begin to discover more about their

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The Gazette

Is published by the
East Providence
Historical Society

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4 part Cable TV series based in part on “All Quiet on the Rappahannock Tonight: the Civil War Letters of Lt. Peter Hunt”

Seekonk based historian and excellent friend to the Society, David Norton, has produced a 4 part series using our book and Peter Hunt’s descriptions of being at the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. These 1/2 hour programs air on COX 13/VERIZON 32 on Tuesday evening at 7:30. Part 1 has already aired and part 2 is in progress. The programs usually air for 2 weeks in a row and will most likely be repeated. Hope you can catch them.

Membership Update

New Members
Welcome to our new members

- Barbara Jenkins
- Phyllis McHale
- Ed and Deb Serowik
- Liz and Tom Viall

Lifetime Upgrade
Thank you for your commitment

- Julie Lundgren
- David, Leslie & Holly Tente
- Patricia Wilds

Dues Notice

Did you forget to pay your dues?? For those who owed dues this past July, the bills were mailed to you. If you have not yet paid, please use the form on page 2 and mail your check to the post office address indicated. Any questions may be directed to me at 401-434-9462 or miriamkenney@aol.com

Thank you in advance for your continued support of our organization!

Miriam Kenney
Membership Chair

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Well, yours truly really meant to have you all fill out volunteer sheets at the picnic but the evening just didn't seem to go that way - much more fun things to do! So if you see us coming at you with a pink slip in hand, please be patient and fill it out for us. We're needing to make the big push for the completion of the Ed Center and the "Rumford basement." And if the State Preservation Conference ends up in EP in 2018, we'll be coming looking for you!

Wonderful Special News about the Ed Center Heating System

The Society has many good friends but Woods Heating Service goes the extra mile. When the building committee decided to look at the cost of the heating system of the new Ed Center separately, Woods was able to work with us and fix a firm, rock bottom price of \$3800 for the new split system which will supply heat and AC. Then this week, Woods stepped up with a jumpstart gift of \$400 to get our fundraising off and running. We have been holding Jesse Albright's memorial gift of \$675 for such a moment and, as if she was reading our minds, past president Maggie Dooley sent a check this week. So we begin our heating system fund with nearly 1/3 of the money in hand! If you would like to add to this fund please send your donation to EPHS at the address on our letterhead. You can also pledge an amount to be paid at a later date. And who knows, maybe someone will step up to do a matching donation situation as happened when we first went into this venture nearly 3 years ago. Our great thanks in advance!

Our New Ed Center Update

Nothing goes so slowly and pays such low sight dividends as infrastructure. Yet, that's where we are right now. If you go by the building you think, "Is anything happening here?" But the electrical service and new water line are in, the building is plumbed, the septic system is brand new, the foundation has been repointed, there are new basement doors, the foundation for the lift and the ADA compliant access is in place, the new entries are done, and the interior partitions and ADA doors are in. The Ed Center is progressing! If you like to scrape and paint, we could use your help. See the volunteer number.



President's Letter

Continued from page 1

beginnings here in EP. In another note about the Walker house, Kurt Bagley, who has been the delightful young caretaker there (notice the old cars? - another story) has accepted the plum position of manager of Historic New England's 16 properties and will be leaving Preserve RI as of Oct 1. We wish him the very best.

Longtime member Ed Serowik was inducted into the EP Hall of Fame this summer. We know Ed as "Mr. Carousel" and are very thankful for his work in preservation here in the City. New member Jeremy Spurr was also in the news as he spearheads beautification projects around Riverside. We were wondering who was getting to those neglected flower beds - thank you!

Our season begins with Smithsonian "Free Museum" Day on Sept 23, the Weaver Library collaboration public meeting on Sept 25, and Watchemoket Square Day on Sept 30. Please see the separate articles for each event. We are always in need of docents for

Smithsonian and WSD.

Please call 438-4299 or email

nancykmmoore@gmail.com

if you'd like to help out for a few hours. Looks like another banner year for EPHS! Our sincere thanks for all your help and support in so many ways.

General Meeting

September 25
Weaver Library

**"The Hunts of Hunt's
Mills Send a Son to War
1861-1864"**

**6:30pm Refreshments
7:00pm Program**

Our inspiring collaboration with the library system has special meaning this year. We have a BOOK to contribute to the stacks! For many years, EPHS has wanted to publish the Civil War letters of Lt. Peter Hunt and at long last, a grant from the SNE Antique Dealers Assn. in honor of Edna Anness and the personnel to edit the letters coincided. "All Quiet on the Rappahannock Tonight: the Civil War Letters of Lt. Peter Hunt" was published this spring and has had very favorable reviews. Hunt family members still in this area will join us for a discussion/reading of some of the letters and the background leading up to the publishing of the book. Peter's Civil War personal effects and family pieces will be on display.

Smithsonian National "Free Museum" Day

**Saturday, September 23
11:00am - 3:00pm**

The Hunt House will be open for this special Saturday tour as part of a national celebration of historic museums. If you can only visit the Hunt House on a Saturday, this is your day!

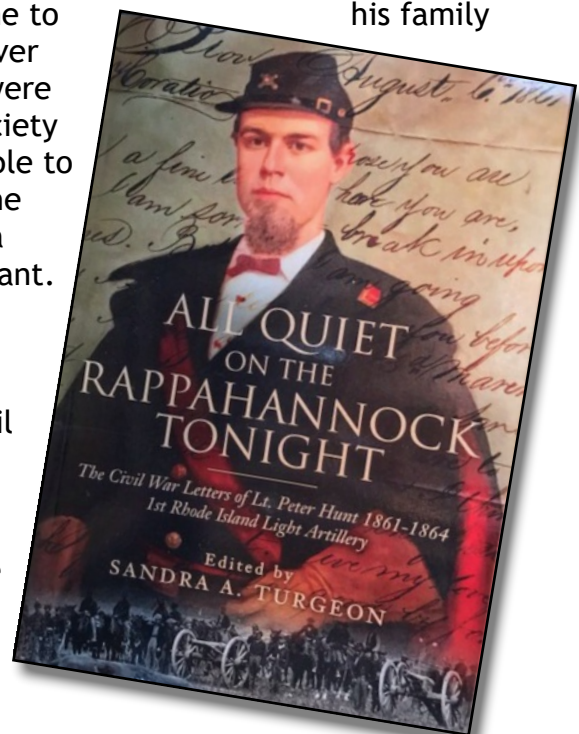
Exhibit

"All Quiet on the Rappahannock Tonight: the Civil War Letters of Peter Hunt"

Step into the Hunt parlor at the John Hunt house and you will learn about the Civil War service of John's great grandson, Peter Hunt. Peter grew up in and out of that house, running back and forth across the 10 Mile over a wooden footbridge which connected Hunt House with his own house across the water on what is now Fall River Avenue. His father, Daniel, and Uncle Allin ran the mill complex together. But both men met untimely ends, leaving their wives with the responsibility of running the mills. When Peter was 5 years old, his mother, Nancy Waterman Windsor Hunt, sold her share to Allin's family and moved to Warren and then Providence. At age 18, Peter insisted upon serving in the RI Artillery division, Batteries C and then A. He went off to war in August of 1861 and was returned home in June of 1864. His funeral was held at Central Congregational in his family

every Sunday evening whenever possible and his 171 letters were saved and treasured. The Society is very proud to have been able to complete this project with the help of the Hunt family and a SNE Antique Dealers Assn. Grant.

The Hunt families which still reside in Rumford and Wakefield have loaned Peter's Civil War personal effects for this exhibit. Other family pieces will also be on display. The book, newly published by the Society, will be for sale and can be autographed by the editor, Sandra Turgeon.

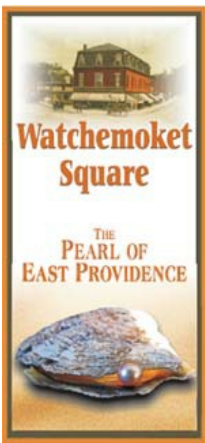


In Memory Of

**Joseph Andrews
Gustave (Gus) Mills**



***Sadly missed...fondly
remembered***



7th Annual WSD

Saturday , September 30 - 11:00am - 4:00pm

If you've seen your September Reporter and Post you know there is a more ambitious schedule happening. We'd like you to especially note the Friday evening presentation of "Reflections" by de Perla Theater at 7:00pm at St. Mary's church at 81 Warren Ave. And also note that a winter clothing drive will take place with drop-off points at major event spots.

EPHS will again be at Tockwotton on the Waterfront cafe and theater from 11:00am- 4:00pm. Our exhibit will center on the Rumford Baking Powder Company's use of the waterfront during the Civil War and our own Lt. Peter Hunt's letters home to his family from the front lines in VA from 1861-1864. Our new book "All Quiet on the Rappahannock Tonight" will be available for sale.

11:00am and 1:00pm

Walking Tours- "4th, 5th, 6th Streets: It's All in the Details"

Meet at St. Mary's Church front gate -81 Warren Avenue

We are so pleased to have Mr. Preservation himself back! Dave Kelleher (winner of the 2017 Downing Award for volunteer preservation in RI) will reprise our very first walk of 7 years ago. You can also pick up a tour sheet at our exhibit and take yourself around another day.

11:00am and 12:00pm

Tockwotton Theater and Bold Point - Green Jacket Shoal

Research professor at URI Graduate School of Oceanography, Dave Robinson, will talk about the historically significant (1850 - 1920) find of a ship's graveyard at Green Jacket Shoal, just off Bold Pt. At 11:30 and 12:30 a shuttle will take people out to Bold Pt. for a site visit and return them to Tockwotton.

1:00pm and 2:00pm

Tockwotton Theater - "MINI - SERIES"

Bill Fazioli of the Waterfront Commission will be joined by Melissa Martin of the new Bold Pt. concert series, RI Waterfront Productions. If you've wanted to know more about the Points (Kettle and Bold) and what's happening in between, this is the best way to find out.

1:30pm and 2:30pm Tockwotton Theater

"All Quiet" editor Sandra Turgeon and Nancy Moore will lead a background discussion about getting the book published.

2nd Sunday Fall Open Houses

Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10

The John Hunt House
1:00pm - 3:30pm

"Hikes at Hunt's"

1:30 at the Gazebo -
October through December

"Walks and Talks"

2:30 in the gardens -
Master Gardener
presentations - always
free seeds and free advice

October: the last MG
program for the season:
"Putting the Garden to
Bed"

Looking at

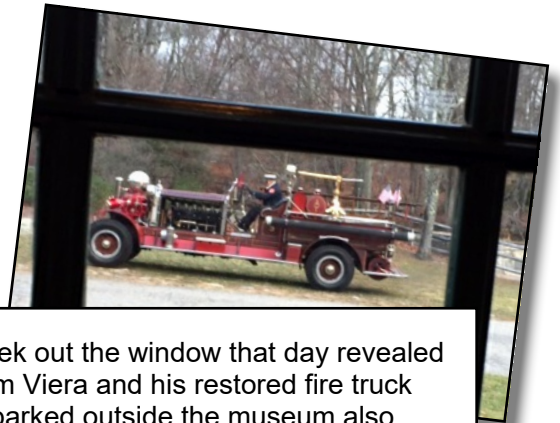


Last summer the museum exhibited several old quilts. A 1914 example by Clara Almy Sutton, Dot Thornley's grandmother, is seen on the left.

This was followed by a collection of artifacts from the EP Fire Department, thanks to Joe Donato



For the December open house councilman Bob Britto offered the community hay rides at Hunt's Mills including live entertainment



A peek out the window that day revealed Jim Viera and his restored fire truck parked outside the museum also



The June open house saw a volunteer speaker from the Blackstone Heritage Corridor Kids' Program and of course Ernie Germani taking visitors on a hike



Our Last Season



Dave Kelleher hiding behind his Rhody Award for volunteer services



At the June picnic



Phyllis McHale received the marker for the McManus House



Dan Moore, cook, hard at work

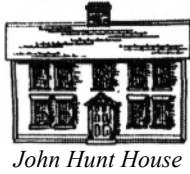


Sandra Turgeon talking about and selling the Lt. Peter Hunt book she edited



Valerie Begin giving a Master Gardener talk on heritage plants during Sunday's open house at the John Hunt House in August.

And Hoping You Didn't Miss Anything



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- Sow seeds of cool weather plants such as spinach, lettuce and pansies.
- Now is a good time to plant spring flowering bulbs, such as daffodils, hyacinths and tulips.
- Dig up crowded hostas, irises and other perennials, and pull them apart to separate the roots for sharing or transplanting individually.
- September is the best time of year to reseed your lawn. Scratch the surface of bare spots



Jeff giving one of his talks at the Hunt House

and apply lawn seed, keeping it well watered until completely germinated.

- Continue to keep up with weeding. Many weeds are setting their seeds and some plants can have thousands of seeds. It is best not to compost too many seeds. You may notice crabgrass exploding in your yard. Those are also noxious weeds that tend to invade our gardens, late in the summer.
- Make time to use flowering ornamentals, and even some wild plants to make interesting bouquets. Pumpkins, squashes and gourds also make pretty, welcoming additions to your front steps and doorway! Maximize their explosive colors and textures!