



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

February 2018

Volume XXX No. 4

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

March

Saturday, March 3
10:00am - 4:00pm
Celebrating Rehoboth
through Genealogy
Carpenter Museum
4 Locust Ave.
Rehoboth, MA

Sunday, March 11
1:00 - 3:30 pm
Hunt House Museum
open

Sunday, March 18
3:00pm
Newman Church
375th Anniversary

Monday, March 26
6:30pm
Snacks & tours of
Building #11
7:00pm
Members' Meeting -
Public invited
PBS film

New England Portraits:
Rumford Baking
Powder Company
Rumford Center Bld. #11
Meeting Room

CONTACT US AT:

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Historical Society
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East Providence, RI
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Web Site: ephist.org

President's Letter

By Nancy More

This Gazette showcases the highlights of December and the ongoing work at the Ed Center. The photos speak for themselves but the memory of that last hayride wagon filled only with children sticks in my mind. One of the Hunt descendants remarked that he had never seen so many families at a historical event before. Nice to hear that. We are very grateful to Councilman Britto's family, the EP Conservation Commission and the 10 Mile River Group for partnering with us for this event. People were generous with their contributions, both to the food pantry and to the Society.



PCD students in front of their respective projects



On Feb. 8th, Nancy Allen, Jeff Faria (as the Count of course), Dave Kelleher, Nancy Moore and Dot Thornley had a chance to view the finished projects from the PCD Middle School morning at Hunt House on Dec. 13th. Even without a finished Ed Center we are getting back into the "ed" mode.

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The Gazette

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East Providence
Historical Society

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OFFICERS

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Pat Henry *Corresponding Secretary*
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Deborah Ormerod *Curator*
Sandra Turgeon *Marker Program*
Reinhard Wohlgenuth *Newsletter*
Nancy Moore *Preservation*
Nancy Moore *Programs*
Nancy Moore *Publicity*
Becky Ellis *Website Manager*



**Membership
Update**

Welcome to our new
members

- James Boyd
- Kathleen Holahan
- Larry Kellam & Kurt M. Wollmann
- Valerie Lawson
- Lynn Luttage
- Holly Martin
- Esther Moore
- Bernard Mulligan
- Geoffrey O'Hara
- Clark & Meredith Westcott
- Ted Wheeler

We also have a new
LIFE MEMBER!

- Eric O. Underhill

**These Local
Businesses Support
EPHS!
Please Support
Them!**

- Architectural Design,
Stephen Greenleaf
- The Indoor Court
- Monroe Dairy
- Community/Teachers
Federal Credit Union
- Stanley Granite Co.
- Barrington Print and Copy
- Wood's Heating Service
- Gilmore's Flower Shop
- Nostalgia Antiques
- ReMax, River's Edge
Jean Clarke
- Bullocks Point Townhouses
- Atlantic Flag and Banner
- Eastgate Nursing

**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

Museum Exhibit:

“All Quiet on the Rappahannock Tonight: The Civil War service of Lt. Peter Hunt”

The descendants of the brothers of Lt. Peter Hunt have been so pleased with the response to this exhibit that they have agreed to lend his personal Civil War possessions for another season: his battle sword made in Providence, his bible and stamp/money holder, pieces of his battle uniform and original letters written by him and his family. Also on display are the family china and quilts made before the Civil War. Come and have a “Sunday visit” in the Hunt parlor and steep yourself in the family history.

Museum Exhibit:

“It’s Back! The Rumford Baking Powder Company Original Museum Collection”

Something that rarely happens in the museum world is happening right here at Hunt House - the early (1860-1900) manufacturing tools/machinery of the Rumford Chemical Company have come home to East Providence as an intact collection. In 1957, when the baking powder patent was sold to the Hulman Company of Terre Haute, IN, the museum pieces were taken there also.

They eventually ended up at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis where curator, Todd Stockwell, made the decision that they were “not Indiana” and looked for a new home. The EPHS popped up as a possibility as the group had been awarded an American Chemical Society award for stewardship of other Rumford artifacts. Two years and two truckloads later, the collection has returned home, sold to the Society for the sum of \$1.00. The collection will take some time to get settled in but the large pieces are on view in the new basement room.



Historical House Markers

If you have one of our older house markers, we currently have a donor who has offered to help fund the cost of a replacement marker for your

building. Instead of the current price of \$100, a replacement marker can be ordered at a cost to you of \$35. If you are interested, please visit our website ephist.org to fill out an application or contact us at ephsmarker@gmail.com.

**2nd Sunday
Spring Open
Houses**

March 11, April 8, May 13
(Mother’s Day)

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

“Hikes at Hunt’s”

1:30pm at the Gazebo -
March – December

March 26 Meeting

Tours of Building #11 at 6:30pm.

**Rumford recipe desserts:
6:30 – 7:00pm.**

Meeting at 7:00pm.

There are some exciting plans in the works to celebrate the return of the Rumford collection and the first is a return to the site where it all began with a tour and program in the brand new building #11. We have placed pieces there on permanent loan agreement and they tie the new with the old beautifully.

The program will be a re-airing of the 2008 RI PBS film, “New England Portraits: Rumford Baking Powder Company.” This filming coincided with the American Chemical Society’s award to the EPHS for stewardship of Rumford artifacts. The Rumford was one of America’s earliest business successes. Archival photos and former employees tell the history of the red and black tin which still sits in many kitchens across the country.

Newman Church 375th Anniversary. March 18th @ 3:00pm

Our good friend Dave Norton will kick off the celebrations with a talk on the history of the area: the early beginnings, the King Phillip's War, and Lt. Peter Hunt's Civil War service. EPHS will have a small exhibit of Peter Hunt's personal effects for view and books for sale.



President's Letter

Continued from page 1

Our Ed Center is on track to be finished this spring as the 2017 Champlin grant money takes care of the remaining work: the new handicapped lift, the interior systems and the finish work, shelving and cupboards. The heating system has met its goal with two more anonymous donations - our great thanks to them! Contractor Dean Martineau's crew can be found at the Center these days so stop by and have a look.

Our exhibit emphasis this year will be the return of the Rumford early tools/machinery collection to its permanent place in the Hunt House basement. The new room will house the large pieces (we have 14 planes - two 5-footers!) and the other rooms will have smaller items with the summer kitchen showing off kitchen items. It will take time to sort things out so please bear with us as we move things around. The addition of the Ed Center basement for Master Gardener storage will be a huge help. A number of the early collection items are on permanent loan to the Rumford Center group for show in their new building #11. A good time to see those will be at the March meeting when #11 will be open for tours before the meeting. The meeting space there at #11 is limited to 40 so you will need to come early to get a seat.

And please spread the word about two events which the Society will be at in March.

1. The Carpenter Museum's genealogy Saturday on March 3rd
2. The 375th anniversary of Newman Church with Dave Norton as speaker.

We will be at both with the Hunt family genealogy and our new book. Please see details in other pages. See you all this spring!

Volunteers Needed

We have a lot of exciting projects coming up in the near future and are looking for help. The Hunt House Museum is in need of some sprucing up and the new Education Center building will be in need of some final touches before opening. We are looking for volunteers for any of the following: moving heavy objects to clear out rooms, painting, scraping, minor ceiling repairs, and window repair. If you would like to donate your time, please contact us at eastprovhistoricalsociety@gmail.com .

CELEBRATING REHOBOTH *through* GENEALOGY

SATURDAY, MARCH 3 — CARPENTER MUSEUM

presented by the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society's Carpenter Museum and Genealogy Group

Featuring talks and displays on:

- Researching Your Ancestors
- Religion in Early New England
- Genealogy for Youth and Scouts
- Early Rehoboth's 'Ring of the Green'
- Historic Cemeteries & Schools
- Maps of Old Rehoboth
- Historic Homes in Rehoboth
- Archival Preservation
- DNA & Genealogy
- Genealogy 101
- and more!

10am - 11am

Rehoboth Genealogy
Phoebe S. Bean, MLS

11am - 1pm

Exhibits & short talks
Lunch provided by Rehoboth
Congregational Church
(donations welcome)

1:30pm - 2:30pm

Religion in Early New England
J. Stanley Lemons, PhD

3pm - 4pm

Dedication of E. Otis Dyer, Jr.,
Research Center
Light refreshments served.

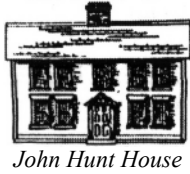
**FREE — JOIN US FOR ALL
OR PART OF THE DAY!**

FREE! TO REGISTER, CALL (508) 252-3031, OR VISIT
WWW.REHOBOTHANTIQUARIAN.ORG/GENEALOGY

CARPENTER MUSEUM — 4 LOCUST AVENUE — REHOBOTH, MA — 02769

GENEALOGICAL TREE.

TO TRACE AND PRESERVE A FAMILY HISTORY FOR FIVE OR MORE GENERATIONS



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

John Hunt House

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Providence, RI
Permit #2712

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

As the winter season winds down, and we look forward to spring, it is tempting to venture out into our gardens. This is generally not recommended until the soil has warmed more and dried out some. Too much activity now will compact soil.

Now is a great time to search through seed catalogs and dream about your selections for the upcoming growing season. I am trying some different varieties of collards, beets, squash and of course tomatoes! Many of these seeds can be started indoors and I use a plastic resealable quart bag with a piece of damp paper towel. I scatter the seeds on the paper towel and put them in the Ziploc bag and in a couple of days in a warm location; many of the seeds will germinate. Carefully use tweezers to transplant the emerging seedlings into your soil medium. There are a variety of ways to give them the light, warmth and moisture they will need to grow into sturdy young plants which will be

transplanted out into your garden. It is always exciting to try even though success is never guaranteed!

Now is a great time of year to reassess your house plants. On a warm winter day, bring them outside and get a good look at the leaves and stems. Be mindful and observant of any problems your house plants may have. Take steps to correct them now and also decide if repotting is a good decision. Some house plants may also benefit from being divided and fertilized. You then can share them with friends and family.

I like to sow seeds like peas, carrots, lettuce and other hardy greens in my garden early but I don't ever use up all of my seeds.

Keep a watchful eye on emerging seedlings that may have survived the winter. It's amazing how Mother Nature knows when to create the right environment for overwintered seeds to germinate on their own. As these plants develop, you can transplant them to more desirable locations.