



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

November/December 2019

Volume XXXII No. 3

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

November

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

Monday, November 25
7:00 pm
Members' Meeting -
Public invited

**"The Civilian
Conservation Corps;
A Guide to their
Works in Rhode
Island"**
By Leo Caisse

Riverside Library
475 Bullocks Point Ave
Riverside, RI 02915

December

Sunday, December 8
1:00 - 3:30 pm
Hunt House Museum
open

Hayride Sunday

CONTACT US AT:

East Providence
Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI
02916-4774
Tel. (401) 473-0677
Email: info@ephist.org
Web Site: ephist.org

President's Letter

by Cheryl Faria, Co-President

Welcome to the Fall and Winter! This is the last 2019 installment of the Gazette and covers both November and December, so we will be with you again in March 2020. Here is an overview of some of the things that have happened and are happening at the East Providence Historical Society.

Strategic Plan Update

We have recently completed the first year of our Strategic Plan which focused on five priorities which are:

- 1.) Expand internal organizational capacity;
- 2.) Increase funding base;
- 3.) Expand partnerships;
- 4.) Expand education programming;
- 5.) Maximize use of technology.

In our October Board Meeting we reported in about the strong progress we have made towards almost all of our goals. Some of the highlights include:

- Overhaul, renovations and "sprucing up" of the John Hunt House Museum and the new Education Center.
- Updating exhibits and adding descriptive signage; Installation of new exhibits and development of rotating exhibit spaces in the Museum.
- Hosting the April 2019 RI Preservation Conference.
- Holding The Great Rumford Bake Off, the Old Fashioned Family Fun Day and dedicating the new Education Center on May 12, 2019.
- Piloting the May 21 Education Center program for 3rd and 4th graders.
- Hosting a series of free monthly educational programs.

A Day in the Life of a Child in 1751

The Education Committee has developed an educational program for children in grades three and four which we piloted in May, 2019 with 26 children from St. Margaret's School. We divided the children into three groups and the three groups rotated through three 45 minute programs –

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The Gazette

Is published by the
East Providence
Historical Society
six times a year;
March, April, May, September,
October, November

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Web Site: ephist.org

OFFICERS

Cheryl Faria/Jeff Faria
Co-Presidents
Deborah Ormerod *1st Vice President*
Nancy Allen *Secretary*
Dorothy Thornley *Treasurer*
Pat Henry *Rec. Secretary*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Open *Buildings*
Deborah Ormerod *Curator*
Beverly Pettine *Education*
Leslie Tente *Events*
Cheryl Faria *Finance*
Jeffrey Faria *Grounds*
Sandra Turgeon *Marker Program*
Miriam Kenney *Membership*
Nancy Allen *Museum*
Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Newsletter*
Nancy Moore *Preservation*
Nancy Moore *Programs*
Nancy Moore *Publicity*
Deborah Ormerod *Website Manager*

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 \$25 individual, \$35
family or business, or a Life
Membership for \$250.

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

Urgent Dues Notice

LAST CALL! If you are not current with dues, this Nov./Dec. issue of the GAZETTE will be your last. We appreciate what you have done in the past to help us and hope you will want to continue membership. We value your time, talent and support of our organization. Just use the form on this page OR go to our website (ephist.org) and use PayPal.

Thank you,

Miriam Kenney Membership Chair

401-434-9462 for questions or miriamkenney@aol.com 

Historic House Marker

Are you looking for a gift for someone who is hard to buy for? If that person owns a historic home or building in the city, consider getting them a marker to display that will highlight that building's history.

The cost is \$100 and it includes a one year individual membership to the East Providence Historical Society. Please visit our website ephist.org for information on criteria and eligibility. You may also email us at ephsmarker@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Membership Form

New

Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

\$25 Individual

\$35 Family/Business

\$250 Life

President's Letter

Continued from page 1

- 1.) Museum Tour to learn about Colonial Life;
- 2.) Educational Activities in the new Education Center;
- 3.) Walking Tour of the grounds to discuss the history of the grounds and play colonial games.



Count Rumford (Jeff Faria) did not miss the opportunity to personally help instruct the pupils of St. Margaret's School on their visit in May.

Over the summer and fall the Committee has been refining the program which is now called 'A Day in the Life of a Child in 1751', which is the year the John Hunt House Museum was built. The goal is to have local 3rd and 4th graders experience the way life might have been for a child in 1751. We are in the process of contacting teachers so that they will know about the program and perhaps be willing to book a date to bring a class in the spring of 2020.



Some more scenes from the new educational program 'A Day in the Life of a Child in 1751' at the Hunt House museum.

Pump House Viewing on November 10!!

Thank you to Mayor Bob DaSilva for supporting our interest in having the Pump House open during the November Open House. And thank you to Dave Maxwell for opening it up for a preview this month. We're very excited to report that the Pump House will be open for viewing from 1-3:30pm and at 2:30pm Ned Connors, historical expert on mill structures, will give a brief history of the Pump House and describe how the building was used.



Walker Descendant Visits

We were thrilled to have visits from two Walker descendant groups this Fall. On October 13 Pat Wilds, her sister Barbara Smith and parents Bill and Mary Ann Stroupe came from PA to visit the Walker Room at the John Hunt House Museum and on October 15 they were given a tour of the Walker House by Paul Trudeau, Property Manager at Preserve RI. We were honored to have Mayor Bob DaSilva join us! On October 22 Rebecca Dobbs and her sister also received a tour of the John Hunt Museum and the Walker House.





➤ Richard Smith

Volunteer Corner



Would you like to be more involved with the East Providence Historical Society?

We certainly would welcome your help!! Your help can be on an as needed basis for specific projects or as an active member of one our committees, or somewhere in between!

Please visit our website at ephist.org and review the many opportunities listed in the Volunteer Opportunities link. Or contact Cheryl Faria at cherylafaria@verizon.net; 401-419-8682

We look forward to hearing from you!



Thank You to Our Open House Sponsors

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WASHINGTON TRUST



Dates to Remember This Fall

Sunday, November 10 from 1:00-3:30pm

Open house at Hunt House Museum – Pump House open
“Hikes at Hunt’s” - 1:30pm at the Gazebo
“History at the Pump House with Jabba the Generator” - 2:30pm Ned Connor talks at the Pump House

Monday, November 25 at 6:30pm

Public meeting at Riverside Library
475 Bullocks Point Ave, Riverside, RI 02915
“The Civilian Conservation Corps; A Guide to their Works in Rhode Island”
By Leo Caisse

Sunday, December 8 from 1:00-3:30pm

Holiday Open house at Hunt House Museum
Hayride Sunday

Hayride Sunday!

Sunday, December 8 at 1:00 – 1:30pm

We are so excited to be bringing back the totally popular hayride afternoon this year! Rebello Farms will have their team ready to go at 1:00pm in front of Hunt House thanks to Councilman Britto and his family. The Hunt House will be decorated and hot chocolate/ cider/ baked goods served in the gazebo. This is a great photo op for your family and a chance to pick up those books/items in the gift shop for holiday giving. There will be plenty of Bruce Remick’s new “Riverside” books on hand.

As always, your admission to this event is a contribution of non-perishable food for the area foodbank based at Newman Church. You have been very generous and we look forward to seeing you on the hay wagon Dec 8th.



Special Visitors to the Hunt House!

Recently we had a great weekend spending time with George F. Wilson's great-great grandson, Earl Wilson! George Wilson was one of the founders of the Rumford Chemical Works!

Earl had come from CA to visit RI for a Navy reunion and took the opportunity to look over some of the tools in our basement tool room that still bear his great-great grandfather's name.



Earlier in the year Tom Warzeka, member and docent at the museum, was able to get a photo of 4 generations of the Agren family! After being greeted by Count Rumford himself they spent time with the EP High School yearbooks available at the new Education Center.



General Meeting

Monday, Nov 25 @ 7:00pm
6:30pm Refreshments

Riverside Library
475 Bullocks Point Avenue
Riverside, RI 02915

"The Civilian Conservation Corps; A Guide to their Works in Rhode Island"

by Leo Caisse

In the depths of the Great Depression, with unemployment at 25%, the US government unveiled a new program, the Civilian



Conservation Corps. It was aimed at young men, 18 years or older, who had no prospect of jobs. When the age limit was lowered to 17, a young man from Warren grabbed at the chance to help his family and have the adventure of a lifetime. He was sent to Oregon!

Our speaker, Leo Caisse, heard all about this adventure as a boy, reliving with his dad those years in the Corps. Leo is an independent historian/researcher and member of EPHS. He also sits on the EP Historic District Commission and has presented a public program about the Rumford Rifle Range. Leo has a BA/MA in history from Providence College and has had articles published in area newspapers, the "America in WW II" magazine, and the on-line sites, "Small State, Big History" and "NE Historical Society" (his full article on the Civilian Corps)



EP Historical Society Annual Fund

We have recently completed the first year of our three-year Strategic Plan and are proud to report that we have accomplished many of the goals we identified a year ago. We couldn't have accomplished this without the generous donations of our sponsors and donors. Thank you to those who gave to our annual Fund last year and thank you to those who are considering a donation this year! Your generous gift will support the following:

General Operating Support

- Operating expenses of the John Hunt House Museum.
- Maintain and host monthly Open Houses at the John Hunt House Museum and Education Center.
- Provide monthly educational programs for adults and children.

Endowment

- Raise \$100,000 over three years.
- Annual draw to offset costs and hire a part-time employee.
- Endowment gifts matched 2:1 for the first \$2,000.

Historian's Circle Giving Levels Please apply my gift to:

- _____ Hunt's Mills Park: \$1,000+
- _____ Crescent Park: \$500
- _____ Vanity Fair Park: \$200
- _____ Boyden Heights Park: \$100
- _____ Other _____

- _____ Annual Fund
- _____ Endowment
- _____ Split between the two

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 E-mail _____
 Phone _____

_____ Gift Enclosed _____
 _____ VISA _____ MasterCard _____ Amex
 CC # _____ EXP _____
 Signature _____

_____ Please place your phone camera over this PayPal bar code for payment.



Please make your checks payable to the East Providence Historical Society.

The East Providence Historical Society is a 501©(3) and all donations are fully tax deductible.



The Historian's Circle

Hunt's Mills Park: \$1,000+

Cheryl and Jeff Faria
Laurie and William McWeeney
Nancy Stevens
Dotty Thornley

Crescent Park: \$500-\$999

Nancy Allen
Nancy and Dan Moore

Vanity Fair Park: \$200-\$499

Richard R. Bushnell and Paula Perkins
David E. Czerwonka
Woods Heating Service

Boyden Heights Park: \$100-\$199

Carole DiFabio
Wendy and Gordon Hubbard
David and Eleanor Kelleher
Katherine Kazarian
Ann Linde
Jerry Mischak and Wendy Edwards
10 Mile River
Gail Ransom
Miriam Kenney
John Puhacz
Ed Serowick
Cindy Sloan

Friends - \$1-\$99

Karen and Mike Antonowicz
J. Stephen Bentz
James Robert Boyd, Jr.
Norma and William Conley, Jr.
Carolyn DiFabio
Hillary Fournier
Pamela and Paul Gaudet
Pat Henry
Elizabeth Ingraham
Bill King
Carol Lavin
Jena and Mike McNulty
Ruth McCarthy and William Mitchell
Loretta Monahan
Deb Ormerod
Joanne Perella and Eric Crook
Jack Richer
Andy Valerio
Marianne Walsh
Tom Warzeka
Gary Zunda

Thank you to those who have donated to our Annual Fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you are helping to make a profound difference in the achievement of the Society's annual, strategic vision and endowment goals.

EPHS Endowment!!

We have set a goal to raise \$100,000 over three years to establish an endowment for the East Providence Historical Society. We have already raised \$18,685 towards that goal. Jeff and Cheryl Faria have agreed to match 2:1 up to \$2,000 - meaning that if you contribute \$10, your gift gets tripled to \$30; if you contribute \$50, your gift gets tripled to \$150! If you can help contribute to this goal, please make your check payable to the East Providence Historical Society with a note saying Endowment in the memo line. Remember, no amount is too small!

Thank you for considering this!!

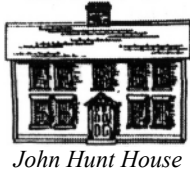


Endowment Fund Progress



Thank You!!!





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

- Continue to mow your lawn. Shorter grass will help prevent snow mold.
- There is still time to plant spring flowering bulbs such as tulips and daffodils. The planting hole should be at least three times deeper than the bulb is tall. A fun task would be to put one tulip and one daffodil in the same hole. Cover with a mixture of soil, bone meal and compost. Top this off with a crocus bulb closer to the surface and see what appears next spring!
- You can also plant early, mid and late spring blooming bulbs to create a longer period of flowering beauty.
- Some herbs, such as rosemary, thyme, and lemon verbena could be potted up and brought inside to continue to be picked and survive the winter. Also potting up mint and parsley will allow you to enjoy fresh herbs well into the winter.
- Curly parsley is full of nutritive vitamins and minerals and also helps lower blood pressure!

