



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

October 2019

Volume XXXII No. 2

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

October

Saturday, October 5
10:00am - 2:00pm
Watchemocket Square
Day
Tockwotton
500 Waterfront Dr.

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

Monday, October 28
7:00pm
Public Meeting

“Roger Williams Revisited”

By US Park Ranger
John McNiff

Tockwotton
500 Waterfront Dr.

November

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

CONTACT US AT:

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Historical Society
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East Providence, RI
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Public Meeting

Monday, Oct. 28 @ 7:00pm

Tockwotton on the Waterfront - 500 Waterfront Dr.

Roger Williams Revisited

by US Park Ranger John McNiff

You won't want to miss John McNiff as he completely becomes the character of Roger Williams, telling the story of his banishment from the Boston/Salem Colony and his arrival in our neck of the woods in 1636. Williams was given land by Sachem Massasoit at the Back Cove (now Phillipsdale) and started a homestead near the spring on Roger Williams Ave. When he discovered he was still under the jurisdiction of the Colony, he and his followers/family moved across the Seekonk to begin their lives in what he named Providence Plantations. They landed at Fox Point, not far from the well-traveled fording area used for centuries by the Sowams Indians, and across the river from our Tockwotton meeting place. Please join us for the complete story!



John McNiff was raised in Warwick and received his BA in History from RIC. He later studied archeology in England and eventually got an MA in Anthropology/Archeology from SUNY NY. In 1996, John joined the National Park Service and was stationed at the Roger Williams National Memorial on N.Main Street in Providence where his love of history, archeology and acting merged in the persona of Roger Williams.



The Gazette

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P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI
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**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

Thomas Willett/Viall Homestead

Perhaps you are a
person who is waiting
for a special old early
house to come on the
market here in East
Providence? If so, you
are in luck! The Viall
house (1720) at 787
Willett Ave. is up for
sale and it not only is a
gem in good shape but
it has the spectacular
bonus of a copper
beech which surely must be on the State Tree inventory. The
gambrel style house has a 1/4 acre corner lot and is one of only a
half dozen homes in the City of that great age.



John Chapski of Coldwell Banker has the listing.



**Don't forget to check for
electronic news and photos about
EPHIST at ephist.org and on
Facebook.**

**A Warm Welcome to
Our Newest Member!**

- Patricia Trodson



Membership Form

New
 Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

\$25 Individual

\$35 Family/Business

\$250 Life

Another Wonderful Gift to EPHS



Nancy and Nick Deshetler of OH have been Rumford collectors and fans/ members of the EPHS for many years, falling in love with Ginny Berwick at first sight back in the early 2000's. Several years ago, they let us know that they would be

gifting their extensive collection to us when they needed to downsize. That moment arrived in July! On July 11, they drove from OH with their car loaded with 3/4 of their collection, all packed in early Rumford boxes made right here at the factory of course. It was indeed "Christmas in July" as Nancy Allen, Jeff Faria, Nancy Moore and Deb Ormerod lifted out these treasures. Nancy and Nick took a tour of the Hunt House basement where their collection will be housed and were really pleased with the tool room which houses the early artifacts which they had also traveled to IN to see. It was especially interesting to see what other collectors choose to specialize in: there is an emphasis on photos of Rumford products being sold across the country in tiny rural stores and a great selection of the "Rumford girls" artifacts. This collection is large and will need to be shown in segments: work will begin in the basement area this fall.

Our gratitude is deep to the Deshetlers!

A 40 Year Mystery Solved!

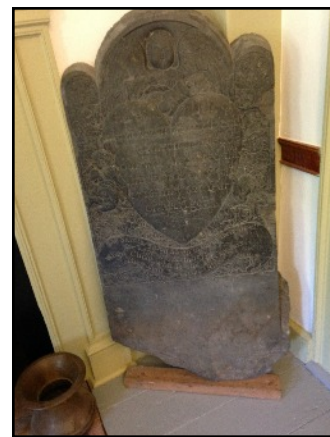
By Nancy Moore

There wasn't space for this piece last month- hope you enjoy the story

Patience appears to be the name of the game sometimes. On April 14, a man stepped into the parlor at Hunt House and told us the beginning of a story we had wondered about for years. But let us back up many weeks to a magnificent effort by the City DPW to get EP ready for the RI Pres. Conference, April 6, 2018. In appreciation, I took dozens of cookies (thanks Pat Henry) to Commercial Way and left them with the secretary Donna McMahon for distribution. I also invited her to come and see the work for herself on April 14, which she did. The McMahons arrived and Richard stood in front of Everett Aubin's gravestone rubbing



of the Lt. John Hunt stone with a puzzled look on his face. "That looks like the stone I picked up in the Newman Cemetery 40 years ago." I was thunderstruck since after all this time it seemed unlikely we'd ever know who had carried it to safety at City Hall where it was discovered in the basement 20 years later. Richard found it broken off from its base and covered with debris, in danger of people stepping on it or stealing it. The stone is a very valuable George Allen 1684 stone and perhaps the best of his work in our area. So our great thanks to Richard and his quick thinking to get it to safety. He was delighted to see it resting in the corner of the Hunt family parlor and amazed at the clarity of Everett's teenage rubbing.



With the re-establishment of a Newman Cemetery Committee under the aegis of the Historic District Commission, the Friends of Newman Cemetery group has started to remove overgrowth on the grounds and to clean headstones. The group has also facilitated the repair of the Joseph Bucklen stone (1718 - carved by John Stevens 1) which was in pieces on the ground. With the



financial backing of Brian Magee, a Bucklin descendant and the Bucklin Society, Betty and Carlo Mencucci of Burrillville were hired to repair and reset the stone. Perhaps someday the Lt. John Hunt stone can be reunited with its base and returned to the Hunt plot. For information about what the committee has planned, go to the EPHS or HDC Facebook pages. For questions or to volunteer, email them at friendsofnewmancemetery@gmail.com

Newsflash! 2019 RI Preservation Awards

East Providence people and places have garnered a number of these awards but this year our friends, Betty and Carlo Mencucci of the Burrillville Historical and Preservation Society have been awarded the Antoinette Downing award for their work with gravestones and their education/outreach in this area. Congratulations to them both! (see article on previous page)



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The Historian's Circle

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.

Hunt's Mills Park: \$500+

- Nancy Allen
- Cheryl and Jeff Faria
- Laurie and William McWeeny
- Nancy and Dan Moore
- Nancy Stevens
- Dotty Thornley

Crescent Park: \$250-\$499

Vanity Fair Park: \$100-\$249

- Ann Linde
- Richard R. Bushnell and Paula Perkins
- 10 Mile River
- Gail Ransom
- Cindy Sloan

Boyden Heights Park: \$50-\$99

- Pamela and Paul Gaudet
- Miriam Kenney
- Jena and Mike McNulty
- Ed Serowick
- Andy Valerio
- Tom Warzeka
- Gary Zunda

Friends - \$1-\$49

- Karen and Mike Antonowicz
- J. Stephen Bentz
- James Robert Boyd, Jr.
- Carolyn DiFabio
- Hillary Fournier
- Dave Kelleher
- Bill King
- Carol Lavin
- Loretta Monahan
- Deb Ormerod
- Jack Richer
- Marianne Walsh

Thank You!!!

Dates to Remember This Fall

Saturday, Oct 5 at 10:00am - 2:00pm

Watchemoket Square Day

Tockwotton - 500 Waterfront Dr.

Sunday, Oct 13 from 1:00-3:30pm

Open house at Hunt House Museum

“Hikes at Hunt’s” - 1:30pm at the Gazebo

“Master Gardeners in the Gardens” - 2:00pm in the gardens

2:30 Talk - Different ways to Preserve Your Excess Fall Produce

Monday, Oct 28 at 7:00pm

Public meeting at Tockwotton Home

US Park Ranger John McNiff as Roger Williams

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

Open house at Hunt House Museum

“Hikes at Hunt’s” - 1:30pm at the Gazebo

Monday, Nov 25 at 6:30pm

Public meeting at Riverside Library

475 Bullocks Point Ave, Riverside, RI 02915

“The 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps in RI and beyond”

By Leo Caisse

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

Holiday Open house at Hunt House Museum

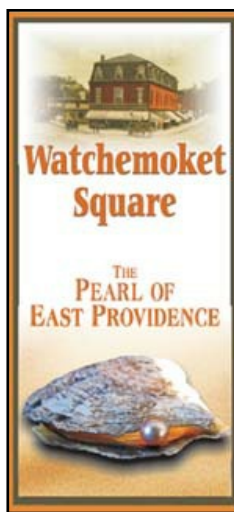
Hayrides - Watch for details

Watchemoket Square Day

Saturday, October 5 at 10:00am – 2:00pm

The 9th annual celebration of the Watchemoket area takes place this year at Tockwotton on the Waterfront, 500 Waterfront Dr. from 10:00am-2:00pm. In place of the mini- talks, there will be two presentations: James McMahon of EP Planning with updates on the new exciting changes coming to the waterfront area and David Weed speaking about the Sowams Heritage 17th Century Project, its relationship to this area, and upcoming events. The EPHS will present an exhibit of the history of the Square 1862 - 1930, in the Tockwotton Cafe. T-shirts, bags and the new Riverside books will be on sale. For details:

www.watchemoketsquareday.com



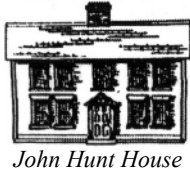
EPHS Endowment!!

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 \$15,975 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





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

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- Most spring flowering bulbs should be planted by early November. Select bulbs that are firm, unblemished and feel heavy. Most bulbs will not survive being stored over winter so be sure to plant them before the ground freezes.
- Tulips are best planted 8" deep or more, and the deeper, the better. You can amend the hole with compost and other additives like bone meal, bulb fertilizer or super phosphate mixed with peat moss. Be careful, because squirrels like to dig up the bone meal and eat the bulbs and I have had voles eat my bulbs in



some places. Planting deeper, like 12" to 18", will help protect your bulbs from rodents.

- Some native fall flowers such as golden rod, (salidago), native asters or salvias, attract pollinators like honeybees, butterflies and other insects for their late season nutrition. It is a myth that goldenrod causes hay fever!
- Iris borer eggs over-winter in old Bearded Iris foliage, so cut down this foliage and destroy it before the season ends.
- Take time before frost to record both your successes and failures, and your aspirations for next season.