



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

November/December 2020

Volume XXXIII No. 3

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

November

Sunday, November 8
1:00 - 3:30 pm
Museum open
Hunts Mills Road,
Rumford

December

Sunday, December 13
1:00 - 3:30 pm
Museum open
Hunts Mills Road,
Rumford

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
TO ALL**

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! While we still can't hold our monthly member meetings, it's been wonderful seeing you at our monthly Open Houses. This is the last 2020 installment of the Gazette and covers both November and December, so we will be with you again in March 2021. Here is an overview of some of the things that have happened and are happening at the East Providence Historical Society.

John Hunt House Museum

The John Hunt House Museum was open on Sunday, October 11, the 2nd Sunday of the month, from 1-3:30pm. It was a beautiful day and it was wonderful to see our friends again. We wore masks, practiced social distancing, had limited numbers of visitors in the museum at a time and had a one-way traffic flow through the Museum. Thank you to our faithful docents for making it happen including Nancy Allen, Carole DiFabio, Sandi Barber, Dotty Thornley, Pat Henry, Deb Ormerod, Eric Underhill, Sandra Turgeon and Tom Warzeka.



Gordon and Baxter Bear welcomed visitors. Gordon loves reading "The Lion and the Journalist," the friendship of "Teddy Bear" Roosevelt and Joseph Bucklin Bishop who was raised at 232 Pleasant Street.

Continued on page 3

Thank You to Our Open House Sponsors



**WASHINGTON
TRUST**

Thank you for supporting the East Providence Historical Society.



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

OFFICERS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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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*

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 your 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

Membership Updates!

Welcome to our newest members!

- Angelsea Cabral
- Marc W. Kohler

Come and enjoy the fun, fellowship, and educational opportunities the Historical Society offers.

In Memory Of

Leo Caisse



Sadly missed...fondly remembered

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

Membership Form

New

Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

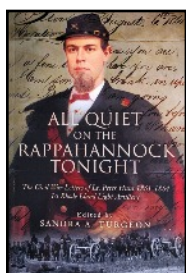
Email: _____

\$25 Individual

\$35 Family/Business

\$250 Life

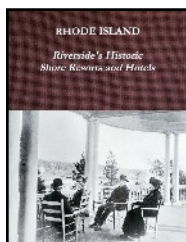
Holiday Shopping Ideas . . .



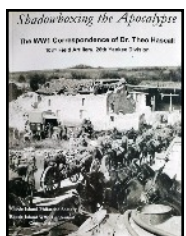
“ALL QUIET ON THE RAPPAHANOCK TONIGHT”
Lt. Peter Hunt, born 1834 at Hunt’s Mills, joined the Union Army in August, 1861. For 3 years he and his mother wrote every Sunday night. His letters are a fascinating first-hand look at the Civil War in the VA area. A must for every Civil War enthusiast. – \$15



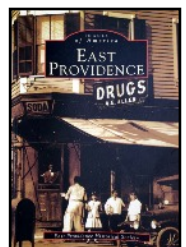
“Made It!”
As a child, Marie Cooper Mulligan shouted “Made it!” when she conquered a new skill. But the WW2 war bride couldn’t shout “Made it!” when polio claimed her strength. Her Phillipsdale “family” helped with care and collecting 13,000 Green Stamps to make her dream come true. Written by son Bernie, this is a look at another pandemic and how a local family “made it” through. – \$15



“Riverside’s Historic Shore Resorts and Hotels”
A new book, this comprehensive look at the resort heyday of our East Providence shoreline has photos you may have never seen before. Each area/building has a corresponding map so one can do a driving tour of 1890 Riverside in 2020. – \$15



“Shadowboxing the Apocalypse”
WW1 buffs: In mid-1917, Dr. Theo Hascall of Riverside was assigned to the 26th Yankee Division and was assured he would stay stateside. These are his letters to his wife from France! A heartwarming story - the documentation is truly exceptional. – \$20



“Images of America - East Providence”
Our local historical bible, every household from Rumford to Riverside should keep one handy and no transplant should leave home without it! – \$20



Tote Bag
Extra-large sturdy beige tote. – \$5

In this unusual time, we at the Historical Society are missing the events we normally sponsor and, likewise the revenue. We offer these specials for your reading pleasure and gift giving.
Phone orders: 401-473-0677 Email Orders: info@ephist.org
Attend/pick up at 2 remaining Second Sunday open houses 1-3:30pm:
Nov. 8 or Dec 13

To use Pay Pal: please use the coded square on this page.

Mail order: Please add \$5 postage for 1 book/ \$8 for 2 or more books. All orders over \$30 receive a free tote bag. We will deliver within the general area and will mail anywhere.

President’s Letter
Continued from page 1

Hunt's Mills Community Gardens

The Hunt’s Mills Community Gardens are beginning to come to life. Since mid-June, a group of volunteers has been meeting on Tuesdays beginning at 9:00am to install 26 raised bed community gardens behind the museum. Four of the garden beds are handicap accessible. The fence, repurposed from the high school ball fields, and the garden beds are now fully installed and filled with compost from the City of East Providence. They are also surrounded by wood chips from the City. Thank you to Mayor Bob DaSilva and Billy Abbood and his wonderful staff from the East Providence Parks Division for all the support! And also a big thank you to our garden volunteers including Jeff and Cheryl Faria, Ken Rix, Eric Underhill, Rod Annis, Angel Cabral, Nancy Moore, and Danny Penengo.

We are now in the process of accepting applications and they are coming in fast! So if you are interested in having a garden next year, please fill out the application form on the Community Garden



pull-down button at the top of our website at ephist.org or stop by some Tuesday morning or during a Sunday open house to pick one up.

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Scan. Pay. Go.

This story comes to us through the incredible work that member Susan Cady has done on revising/ updating the EP Veteran's Honor Roll. As her call went out for names, photos and stories poured in also. Mary Lu's account of her brother's war time service was especially poignant. We honor all our service men and women in this issue and will keep you posted on the Nov. 2021 plans for dedicating this new Honor Roll. You can access the Honor Roll at ephist.org

1st Lt Thomas J Tubman

by Mary Lu Tubman McNulty

This year, 2020, marks the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII.

It also marks a personal anniversary for my family, the 75th anniversary of my uncle, 1st Lt Thomas J Tubman's death.

Thomas was born in Providence, RI, January 28, 1921 to Irish immigrants Thomas and Mary (Nearby) Tubman. The family moved to Riverside shortly after his birth to be closer to Standard Oil where my grandfather worked. They welcomed Edward (Ned) in 1923 and Robert (Bob) in 1924. Tragedy struck the family in 1930 when Thomas, Sr died from a massive heart attack.

At the young age of 7, Thomas, Jr found himself the 'man of the family'; a roll he would take seriously until his death.

He attended East Providence High School as part of the class of 1939. But life had other plans. He left EPHS to work at Quonset Naval Air Station to help support his mother and 2 younger brothers. It is believed that at some point he joined the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC). He enlisted in the Army Air Corp in 1942 and was commissioned at Stuttgart Army Airfield Arkansas in April 1944. Upon completion of his training as a B-17 pilot he was sent to Celone Army Air Base, Foggia, Italy in December, 1944 where he was part of the 773rd Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 463rd Bomb Group, 5th Bombardment Wing (Heavy), 15th USAAF. Thomas quickly rose to the rank of 1st Lieutenant and from co-pilot to pilot.

On March 24, 1945, 28 bombers were dispatched from Celone Air Base with 3 extras to cover should any of the originally dispatched bombers have to turn back because of mechanical problems. Lt Tubman piloted the B-17 Heavy, 44-6283, 'Betty Lou' as an extra but was moved to the Baker 5 position. The specific target was the Daimler-Benz tank assembly plant, which produced armored vehicles in Berlin.

The March 24, 1945 mission to Berlin was important historically for several reasons. It was the first Fifteenth Air Force mission to the German capital and the longest Fifteenth Air Force mission of the war. It was a mission in which Fifteenth Air Force fighters shot down more German jet ME-262 airplanes than any other day. Although the mission occurred in the closing months of the war, destruction of facilities at the Daimler-Benz tank works contributed to the Allied advance, depriving the Germans of some of the tanks they needed to defend the capital.

During that mission, Lt Tubman's plane was hit by 4 ME-262's over Brux, Germany. According to an eyewitness, "Just previous to leaving the flak area at Brux, Baker 5, ship 283 dropped out of formation. It lost altitude steadily but seemed under control." According to the last crew member to exit the plane, "Lt Tubman gave the order to bail out after the plane had been severely damaged and set afire. He then remained at his post to keep the plane level while crewmen gave first aid to the bombardier who had been wounded. The crew then began leaving the plane. Immediately after I bailed out the plane exploded. Lt Tubman didn't have time to get out."

On March 26, 1945, the crew of the B-17, Betty Lou were listed as MIA. Later the status of 8 of the 10 crew members was updated as POW's. According to Army Air Corp records, the wreckage of the aircraft was later found in Germany with the two MIA crew members. At the wish of his mother, 1st Lt Tubman was buried in the American Battle Monument Cemetery in Ardennes, Belgium. The bombardier, Staff Sgt June Herman's remains were returned to his family in NY.

1st Lt Tubman was awarded posthumously the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, the Medal of Valor, the US Aviator Badge, WWII Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Army Presidential Unit Citation, Army Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign, and the Distinguished Service Cross.

Lt Tubman's Medal of Valor citation reads:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to First Lieutenant (Air Corps) Thomas John Tubman (ASN: 0-827994), United States Army Air Forces were interned at the, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving as Pilot of a B-17 Heavy Bomber in the 773d Bombardment Squadron, 463d Bombardment Group (H), FIFTEENTH Air Force, while participating



in a bombing mission on 24 March 1945, against enemy targets in the European Theater of Operations. On that date, during a combat mission to Berlin, Germany, Lieutenant Tubman skillfully maneuvered his burning aircraft in level flight in order that his crew might escape. In delaying his departure from the flaming airplane until first aid had been given to a wounded crew member, Lieutenant Tubman sacrificed his own chance for safety and was killed when the aircraft exploded. The technical skill, superior leadership, and heroic conduct displayed by Lieutenant Tubman on this occasion, at the cost of his life, have upheld the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 15th Air Force, and the United States Army Air Forces.

My Grandmother, Mary Tubman Beals, an Irish immigrant who gave her first born to her adopted country, was a proud and active member of the Gold Star Mothers of Riverside.



At a meeting of Gold Star Mothers, Thomas' mother, Mary Tubman Beals, is 6th from left

Although, Covid-19 canceled our trip to Brussels to pay our respect on the 75th anniversary of our Uncle Tom's death, my two brothers, my sister and I, along with our spouses were able to visit his grave in April, 2018. The superintendent of the cemetery conducted a graveside

service for us, one my Grandmother was never able to have. It was by far one of the most moving moments I have experienced. He rubbed sand from Normandy beach (used because many of those buried in this cemetery had entered Europe via the shores of Normandy) on the headstone which made the lettering stand out. He presented a small flag to my oldest brother Thomas (named in memory of our uncle) in appreciation for Thomas' "honorable and faithful service".



Thomas Tubman, Robert Tubman, Mary Lu Tubman McNulty, Kathleen Tubman Cabral

If you are ever able to visit one of these American Battle Monument Cemeteries the extent of the loss of young American lives is overwhelming and extremely moving.

President's Letter

Continued from page 3

"Touchless a Truck Day"

The East Providence Chamber of Commerce held its annual Touch a Truck event on Saturday, September 26, from 9:30am-2:30pm. This year, instead of having all the trucks at one location, the trucks were located at different sites around the City and it was called 'Touchless a Truck' Day. We were honored to be invited to be one of the sites. We had the first floor of the museum open and invited people to come back for a full tour on the 2nd Sunday of the month from 1-3:30pm. Chamber members had exhibits and provided photo opportunities on the grounds and Nancy Moore had many children playing games with colonial toys.



Education and



Entertainment

'Touchless a Truck Day'

Historian's Circle Giving Levels

- Hunt's Mills Park: \$1,000+
- Crescent Park: \$500+
- Vanity Fair Park: \$200+
- Boyden Heights Park: \$100+
- Friends: \$25+

Please apply my gift to:

- Annual Fund
- Endowment
- Split between the two

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Gift enclosed: _____

PayPal

Visa MasterCard Amex

CC# _____

EXP _____ SEC CODE _____

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(c)(3) and all donations are fully tax deductible.

EP Historical Society Annual Fund

Thank you to those who gave to our annual Fund last year. Your generous gifts were used to help meet our goals in the 2020 calendar year. Thank you to those who are considering a donation this year! **Below is a list of what your gift will support in calendar year 2021.**

Thanks to a generous bequest of \$5,000 from Len Iannacone's estate the first \$5,000 in endowment donations will be matched 1:1! So your gift of \$50 becomes \$100, \$100 becomes \$200 etc.

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 Goals

- Raise \$100,000 over three years.
- Annual draw to offset costs and hire a part-time employee.
- Endowment gifts matched 1:1 for the first \$5,000.

The Historian's Circle 2020

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

Nancy Allen
Cheryl and Jeff Faria
Dotty Thornley

Crescent Park: \$500-\$999

Nancy and Dan Moore
Navigant Credit Union
Woods Heating Service

Vanity Fair Park: \$200-\$499

Carole DiFabio and William Litchman
Sharon H. Dubois
Valerie Lawson
Richard R. Bushnell and Paula Perkins
Barbara Barnes and Beverly Pettine
Munroe Dairy
Kathy and Jack Richer
Washington Trust

Boyden Heights Park: \$100-\$199

Roy and Claire Anderson
Barbara Barnes and Beverly Pettine
Twyler Boyce
Romeo DaSilva
Sharon H. Dubois
Will Francis
Ronald Gomes
Gordon and Wendy Hubbard
Miriam Kenney
Valerie Lawson
Pat Paulson McGrail
John and Elaine Puhacz
Mike and Norma Reynolds
Jack and Kathy Richer
Ken and Barbara Rix
Ed Serowick

Friends - \$25-\$99

Delores C. August
Sandra Barber
Angel Cabral
Peter H. Gross
Pat Henry
Nancy Isabel
Ruth McCarthy
Jenette Moravec
Rose Marie Sirenski
Meredith Swan
Tom and Missy Warzeka
David Weed

Thank You!!!

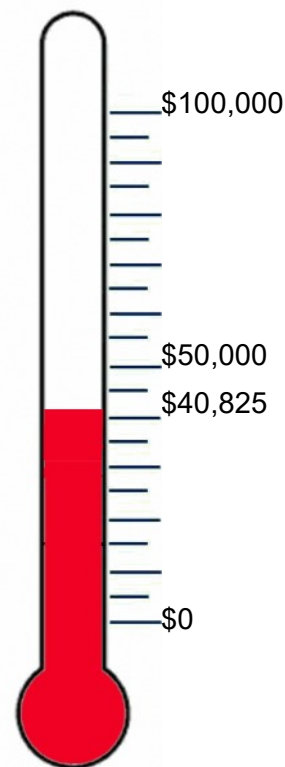
If there are any errors or omissions in this list, we apologize and ask you to please let Cheryl Faria know so we can correct it for the next issue of The Gazette. 401-419-8682 cherylfaria@verizon.net

Thank you to those who donated to our 2019 Annual Fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you helped the Historical Society meet our goals for the 2020 calendar year. Gifts given in 2020 will go towards our 2021 annual, strategic and endowment goals. Thank you to those who have already made a gift!

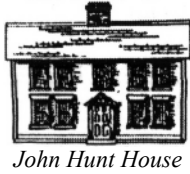
EP Historical Society Endowment!!

We have set a goal to raise \$100,000 to establish an endowment for the East Providence Historical Society. Once established, we plan to use the annual draw to offset costs and hire a part-time employee. So far we have raised \$40,825 towards that goal.

Endowment Fund Progress



TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS!



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

Fall Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- Look around your property and others you admire your fall flowering and colorful foliage, especially on grasses and maples. Garden centers mark down inventory at this time of year, and you can plant all through November. Continue watering until the ground freezes. At 50% off, you may want to buy extras! Check the roots, if possible, by removing the plant from its pot and be sure the plant is not completely root bound! Ask for a one-year guarantee, which most stores will offer.
- If possible, leave some areas of your yard covered with leaves and debris for overwintering pollinators.
- Fall is a good time to apply lime to your lawn. Generally the rate is 50 pounds per 1000 ft.²
- Onions and garlic store best in a mesh bag for good air circulation.
- Clip Holly and other evergreens for free holiday decorations!
- Garden ground cover crops such as peas, oats or annual rye grass help reduce weeds, add nitrogen to the soil and give barren garden beds a beautiful fresh look. Check out the 26 garden beds behind the Hunt House!! Visit EPHIST.org, your if you are interested in having a garden plot at the Hunt's Mills Community Gardens!

Volunteer Corner

We are starting to look for people who might want to be involved at the Board level of the East Providence Historical Society. We are currently talking to people who may have an interest in serving in the future as Recording Secretary, Membership Chair, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

If interested, please contact Cheryl Faria at cherylafaria@verizon.net; 401-419-8682.

We look forward to hearing from you!

