



# Gazette

April 2021

Volume XXXIII No. 6

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

## April

Sunday, April 11  
1:00 - 3:30 pm  
Hunt House Museum  
open  
1:30 pm  
Hikes at Hunts  
Meet at the Gazebo  
65 Hunts Mills Road,  
Rumford, RI

## May

Sunday, May 9  
1:00 - 3:30 pm  
Hunt House Museum  
open  
1:30 pm  
Hikes at Hunts  
Meet at the Gazebo  
65 Hunts Mills Road,  
Rumford, RI

### 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

## Presidents' Letter

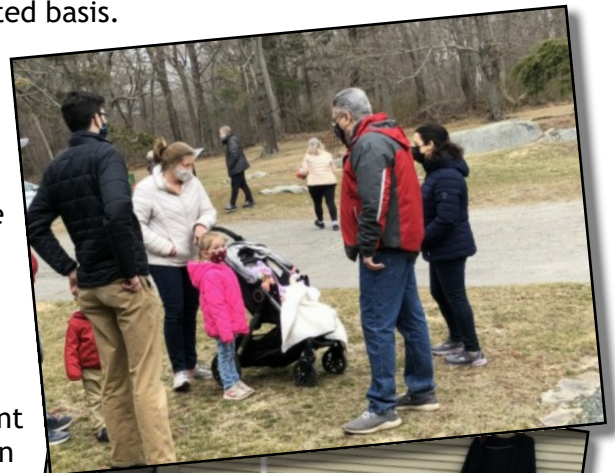
by Cheryl Faria and Jeff Faria, Co-Presidents

Last March, as we all know, the World Health Organization declared that we were in the midst of a pandemic. And now, a little over a year later, we are beginning to see signs of optimistic relief. Many of us have had our 1<sup>st</sup> and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccines, the days are getting longer, birds are singing and things are starting to open up again on a limited basis.

### John Hunt House Museum

We had our first Open House of the year on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> and it was wonderful to see so many of our friends in person again. Many people came to take a tour of the museum and to take the Hike at Hunt's Mills. We had seeds and plant kits to give away and on the lawn in front of the museum, Nancy Moore and Eric Underhill showed children how to play some colonial games.

Our next Open House will be on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:30pm. We will once again have the Hike at Hunt's Mills, seeds and plant kits to give away and colonial games on the front lawn. In addition we will have a musical performance by the Rumford River Band, an all acoustic group made up of guitars, percussion, accordion and fiddle.



Continued on page 3

### The Gazette

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

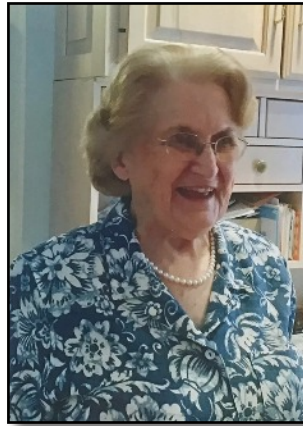
P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI  
02916-4774  
Tel. (401) 473-0677  
Web Site: ephist.org

#### 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

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*



## Happy Birthday, Nancy

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, our good friend and member Nancy Stevens will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. We send her our very best wishes and thanks for supporting this group for many of those years. Among her many accomplishments: the first woman in Rotary and our 1<sup>st</sup> woman council person, and the driving force behind the creation of what is now the Historic District Commission. Happy Birthday Nancy!

## Covid Redoux

Oh how naive we were last May when we asked members to submit Covid stories! Little did we know how deeply we would go into this pandemic. But we have now been through a significant slice of history and it needs to be documented in small ways by us. If you have an ingenious (or not) way of passing the hours, a way of communicating with loved ones, stories of special kindnesses, or any kind of memory you think others would like to read about, please send them on. Photos also. Email to [info@ephist.org](mailto:info@ephist.org)



Thank you, Nancy, for your gift of safety railings for the Hunt House

### 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



## Presidents' Letter

From page 1

### The Great Rumford Bake-Off

Leslie Tente, our Events Chair, reports that while plans for the second Great Rumford Bake Off continue to be on hold until we can safely gather, The Great Rumford Bake Off Group Page on Facebook has provided a fun virtual place for bakers to showcase their latest creations. Members are sharing beautiful photos, recipes, baking tips and support to their fellow bakers. We have also had some exciting giveaways as well! If you are on Facebook and are looking for a warm and supportive forum to discuss all things baking, we encourage you to join in on the fun!



### Hunt's Mills Community Gardens

The Community Garden volunteers have been busy preparing the new Garden Center and the 26 raised bed gardens for a season of growing beginning this month. Thank you, thank you!! to Jeff Faria, Ken Rix and Rod Annis for all of your time and dedication in bringing the gardens to life. And we now have ten URI Master Gardeners volunteering their time to help start seeds that will be provided to the gardeners and to the community. The gardens are now completely sold out for family groups from the community who want to grow their own food.



## Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- Bring houseplants outdoors on a warm day and hose or gently wash off winter's dust. Refresh and re-pot into a slightly larger pot if needed. A liquid fertilizer might help stimulate growth and begin watering more as daylight grows longer. Test for dryness and water thoroughly as needed.
- Older packages of seeds usually maintain a 90% germination rate. We will have some free seeds at our open houses this spring.
- A method to test for germination of seeds is to place a few seeds on a paper towel, wet the paper towel and seal it in a Ziploc bag. Keep the seeds warm for a few days and observe them. Once sprouted, transplant with tweezers into small pots filled with potting soil and give adequate light and water as needed. Young seedlings are very susceptible to environment conditions. They can easily die if they become too wet or too dry. Read the seed packet to learn when it is safe to transplant them outdoors.
- Many varieties of leafy greens can now be directly planted into your garden. Read each package!
- I would caution gardeners who are starting seeds indoors at home to keep their seedlings in a sunny window, rotate the plants for strong stem growth, and maintain an even watering. This way, they will be ready to transplant in May after the last chance of frost.



## Pomham Rocks Celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup>

By Dennis Tardiff, Chairman

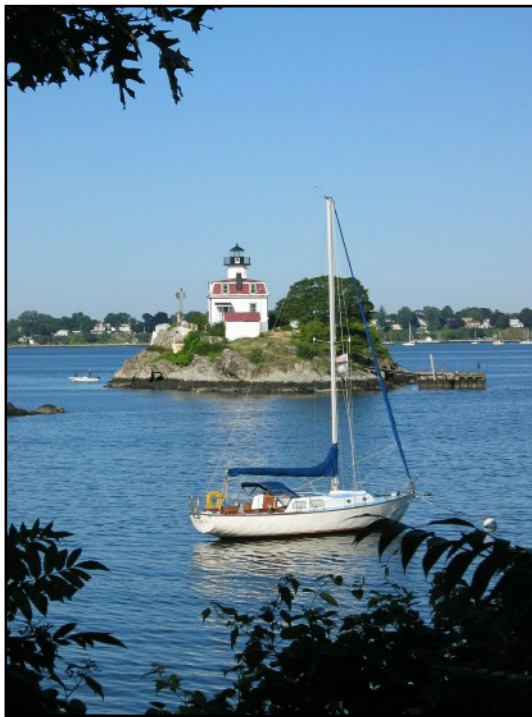
2021 is certainly an exciting and remarkable year for

Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. 150 years ago, on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1871, Pomham Rocks Lighthouse began its mission of guiding shipping along the Providence River with its steadfast red beacon. In 150 years, the Lighthouse has seen its share of changing technology in the ships and boats that pass by and rely on the Lighthouse's beacon. From wooden sailing ships and steam powered paddle wheelers to reciprocating steam engine powered ships to the diesel, steam turbine or gas turbine powered ships of today. The Lighthouse has seen the World War Two liberty ships built in Providence and Cranston sailing by to join the war effort. More recently, the Lighthouse has seen the I-way bridge span being brought up to Providence by barge and later, the wind turbines on their way to build the only offshore wind farm in the United States.

The Lighthouse itself has seen a vast difference in technology starting with lard oil to light the beacon transitioning to kerosene and later incandescent lamps when electricity was finally brought to the island in the mid-1950s. Today, the Lighthouse has the latest lighting technology by way of the LED beacon powered by solar panels. The heating of the Lighthouse has gone from coal stoves to kerosene stoves to

an oil-fired furnace for hot water radiators to the electric heat that it has today.

From 1871-1939, Pomham was manned by U. S. Lighthouse Service lightkeepers and their families, some serving for nearly 30 years. In 1939, U. S. Coast Guard personnel took the reins to finish out the "manned" years until the Lighthouse's automation and decommissioning in 1974. Civilian caretakers lived in the building until 1980, when the Lighthouse was finally abandoned. In 2004, Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse was formed and began the long, arduous, and expensive process of restoring the very dilapidated lighthouse back to its former glory and beauty.



All our past and present members and supporters should be immensely proud of the part they have played and continue to play with the restoration and the ongoing care and maintenance of this beautifully restored lighthouse. Without your continued efforts and support, we would not be celebrating this momentous milestone - the 150<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse! I also recognize the remarkable dedication and efforts of our Board of Directors and past Chairmen. They all worked tirelessly to restore Pomham to its original condition.

In this very special 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, I cannot help but look back on my own personal involvement with Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. In 1971, the year of the Lighthouse's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I reported to Pomham as a young Coast

Guardsman to start my over three-year tour there. I met my future wife there in Riverside and raised a family of three wonderful children. I eventually returned to Pomham in 2016 to resume my experiences there in time to have the privilege of being involved with the electrical and interior restorations. Today, as Chairman of the Board of Directors, I feel very honored to once again be charged with the care of the Lighthouse. To say the least, my years with Pomham Rocks has been a life-changing experience and it is a great privilege to continue caring for this historic landmark.

Please join us this year as we celebrate the remarkable history of the last surviving lighthouse on the Providence River. As described in this newsletter, we have several events planned to honor the Jubilee year of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. It is our sincerest wish that you come and celebrate with us.



We are proud to support the Friends of Pomham Lighthouse this month: 150 years! Their Chairman, Dennis Tardiff, has written a thoughtful letter to the membership and we thought you would like to read it (previous page). We've also included their events calendar for the year and contact information. Please consider supporting the "Friends" group this year.

## Pomham Anniversary Events

**April 24, 2021**

### 5K/10K Road Race

Run/Walk times runs from 8:00 am – 10:00 am

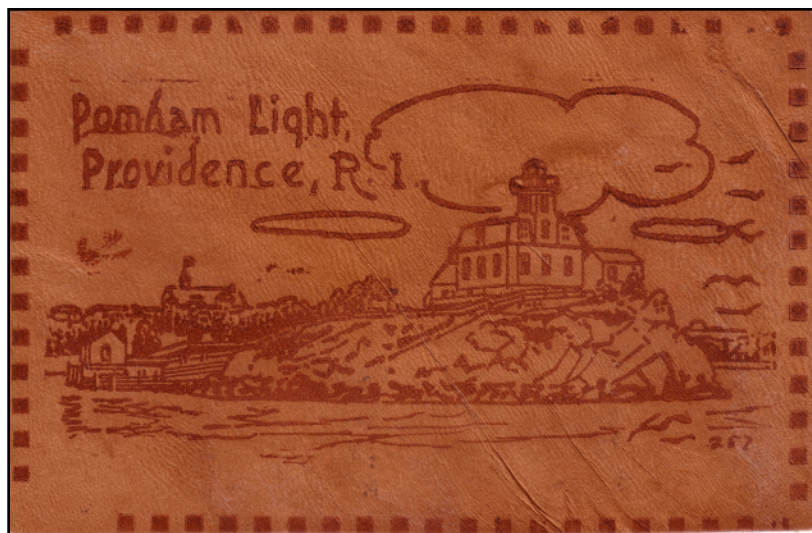
**August 8, 2021**

### Pomham Rocks Lighthouse Day

At Squantum Association from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
(COVID-19 Permitting)

**December 1, 2021**

### 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The First Lighting of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse



Leather postcard showing Pomham Rocks Light. Notice that many old postcards list Providence as the location rather than East Providence

## Follow the Lighthouse @

www.pomhamrockslighthouse.org  
 Facebook: Pomham Rocks Lighthouse  
 YouTube: Pomham Rocks Lighthouse  
 Instagram: @pomham\_rocks\_lighthouse

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Dates to Remember This Spring at the Hunt House

JOHN HUNT MUSEUM  
 65 HUNTS MILLS ROAD  
 Rumford, RI 02916

**April 11, 2021**

**Museum Open** 1:00 – 3:30 pm  
**Hikes at Hunts** 1:30 pm  
 Meet at the Gazebo

**May 9, 2021**

**Museum Open** 1:00 – 3:30 pm  
**Hikes at Hunts** 1:30 pm  
 Meet at the Gazebo

April is a great month to drop by Hunt's Mills. The Blue Herring have usually returned by this time and are pooling at Herring Rock on their way to the fish ladder. The Great Blue heron are also waiting for them! Last fall, the Nature Conservancy reconfigured that river area with huge pillows to open up troughs through the small falls. This is the time to see if their ideas worked.



The John Hunt House is open again for tours with masking/small group protocols now in place. There is a new school exhibit open and you gardeners will want to pick up seeds and planting boxes. Weather permitting, we will have games for children and families. And for you Rumford Bake-off enthusiasts please visit the "The Great Rumford Bake-off" site on Facebook.

# Metacomet Demolition

## The End of an Era in East Providence

It took only 2 weeks to tear down 100 years of history at Metacomet Golf Course this month. Marshall Contractors obtained a demolition permit from the City and got right to work. The William Walker and Sons (local architects) design hidden under many changes is no more. Thanks to member Susan Cady for sending on photos of the demolition.



## Come Back to the Future The 35<sup>th</sup> RIHPC Preservation Conference

Wednesday April 21 – Friday April 23, 2021

A virtual look at Modernism in RI from the comfort of your armchair.

Registration: \$25

Details and agendas at <https://preservationconferenceri.com/>



RI Historical Preservation  
& Heritage Commission



## The Historian's Circle

Thank you to those who donated to our Annual Fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you are helping the Historical Society meet our annual, strategic and endowment goals for the 2021 calendar year.

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

Nancy Allen  
Cheryl and Jeff Faria  
Laurie and Bill McWeeney  
Dotty Thornley

Ken and Barbara Rix  
Ed Serowick  
Rickard Smith, LLC  
Marianne Walsh  
Margaret Wieboldt

### Crescent Park: \$500-\$999

Roy and Claire Anderson  
Rod Annis  
BayCoast Bank  
Nancy and Dan Moore  
Navigant Credit Union  
Nancy Stevens  
Woods Heating Service

### Friends - \$25-\$99

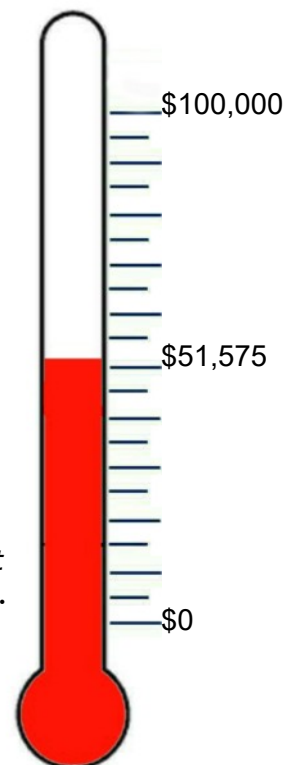
Helen Archibald  
Delores C. August  
Sandra Barber  
Meredith A. Bowden  
Angel Cabral  
William J. Conley, Jr.  
Jane Dennison  
George Donovan  
Peter H. Gross  
Pat Henry  
Elizabeth H. Ingraham  
Nancy Isabel  
Michele Kazarian  
Julia Lundgren  
Ruth McCarthy  
Jenette Moravec  
Mark Saunders  
Rose Marie Sirenski  
Meredith Swan  
Anthony Valerio  
Tom and Missy Warzeka  
David Weed  
Patricia Wilds  
Jean and Gary Zunda

### Vanity Fair Park: \$200-\$499

Richard R. Bushnell and Paula Perkins  
David Czerwonka  
Carole DiFabio and William Litchman  
Maggie Dooley  
Darryl Hardern  
Munroe Dairy  
Ray and Mary Jo Pouliot  
Washington Trust

### Boyden Heights Park: \$100-\$199

Roy and Claire Anderson  
Barbara Barnes and Beverly Pettine  
Twyler Boyce  
K. Eric Crook  
Romeo DaSilva  
Sharon H. Dubois  
Will Francis  
Ronald Gomes  
Virginia Neves Gonsalves  
Paul and Pam Goulet  
Mary and Richard Harrall  
The Indoor Tennis Club  
Dave and Eleanor Kelleher  
Gordon and Wendy Hubbard  
Miriam Kenney  
Valerie Lawson  
Ann Linde  
Pat Paulson McGrail  
John and Elaine Puhacz  
Mike and Norma Reynolds  
Jack and Kathy Richer

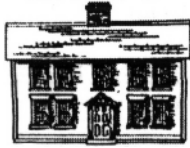


### Thank You!!!

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

## EP Historical Society Endowment!!

We have set a goal to raise \$100,000 to establish an endowment for the East Providence Historical Society. So far we have raised \$51,575 towards that goal.



*John Hunt House*

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**

## Thank You to Our Sponsors!



Thank you for supporting the  
East Providence Historical  
Society.



**William Francis**  
Financial Advisor

1275 Wampanoag Trl Ste 12  
Riverside, RI 02915-1217  
401-699-41237

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING  
edwardjones.com

Member SIPC

MKT-5894K-A

