



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

November/December 2021

Volume XXXIV No. 3

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

November

**EP Veterans Memorial
Expressway
Re-dedication
Saturday, November 6
1:00 - 3:00 pm
Pierce Memorial Stadium**

**Sunday, November 7
12:45 - 1:00 pm
Dedication of Andrews
Brothers Memorial Exit**

**Sunday, November 14
1:00 - 3:30 pm
Hunt House Museum open
1:30 pm
Hikes at Hunts
Meet at the Gazebo
1:30 pm
Rumford Junction Band
2:30 pm
Story Hour at Hunt Henge**

December

**Sunday, December 12
1:00 - 3:30 pm
Hunt House Museum open**



CONTACT US AT:

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Historical Society
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East Providence, RI
02916-4774
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Email: info@ephist.org
Web Site: ephist.org

President's Letter

by Cheryl Faria and Jeff Faria, Co-Presidents

Welcome to the Fall and Winter! This is the last 2021 installment of the Gazette and it covers both November and December, so we will be with you again in March, 2022. Here are some of the highlights of things that have happened and are happening at the East Providence Historical Society.

John Hunt House Museum

We've continued to hold our monthly open houses on the 2nd Sunday of the month from 1-3:30. In addition to the tours of the museum, guided by our wonderful docents, we've had the 1:30 Hikes at Hunt's Mills, led by Ernie Germani and Alex Kemp. They meet at the Gazebo at 1:30 and walk the trails through the 44-acre property, describing many of the historical sites. For many of the summer months, we had the Rumford Junction Band playing in the Gazebo, making it feel like an old-fashioned Sunday afternoon.



Children's Day at the Museum

We've also continued to feature 'Children's Day at the Museum' activities during our 2nd Sunday of the month Open Houses. Beverly Pettine leads interactive colonial activities in the Children's Room of the Museum from 1-2:30 and a Story Time at 2:30pm. Jack Richer and Nancy Moore engage children playing colonial games on the lawn in front of the museum.



Continued on page 5

The Gazette

Is published by the
East Providence
Historical Society
eight times a year

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OFFICERS

Cheryl Faria/Jeff Faria *Co-Presidents*
Deborah Ormerod *1st Vice President*
Eric Underhill *Recording Secretary*
Dorothy Thornley *Treasurer*
Pat Henry/Sandi Barber *Corresponding Secretary*

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Deborah Ormerod *Curator*
Open *Education*
Leslie Tente *Events*
Cheryl Faria *Finance*
Jeffrey Faria *Grounds*
Sandra Turgeon *Marker Program*
Miriam Kenney/Carole DiFabio *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 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

**BEST WISHES
FOR THE
HOLIDAYS**



**Merry
Christmas**

**TO OUR
MEMBERS AND
FRIENDS**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2022**

Membership Form

New

Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

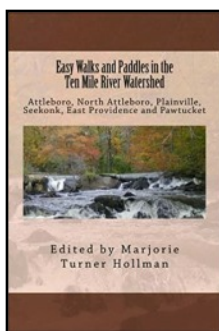
Email: _____

\$25 Individual

\$35 Family/Business

\$250 Life

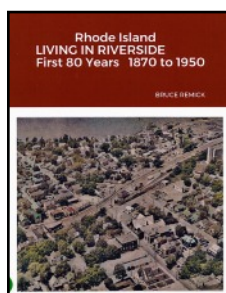
Holiday Shopping Ideas . . .



“EASY WALKS AND PADDLES IN THE TEN MILE RIVER WATERSHED”

Marjorie Turner Hollman – \$20

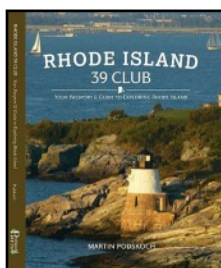
A large portion of this book covers the waters of East Providence, fresh and otherwise. A practical guide to family outings. All the basics with local lore woven in.



“RHODE ISLAND: LIVING IN RIVERSIDE - FIRST 80 YEARS 1870-1950”

Bruce Remick – \$20

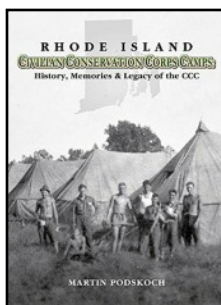
Bruce’s 1st book on the Riverside hotels has become a favorite gift for EP transplants. This book has even more photos and information. Ride around town with this book on the seat next to you!



“RHODE ISLAND 39 CLUB: YOUR PASSPORT AND GUIDE TO EXPLORING RI”

Martin Podskoch and Friends – \$20

With the help of local experts, Marty has put together an armchair traveler’s visit to all 39 communities in the state, a great help when one is actually driving to these places.



“RHODE ISLAND CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS CAMPS - A HISTORY, MEMORY AND LEGACY”

Martin Podskoch – \$20

If you caught Leo Caisse’s poignant tribute to his dad and his days in the CCC in the 30s you will want to explore the full story of this WPA project. Fabulous photos

Email Orders: info@ephist.org
 Attend/pick up at 2 remaining Second Sunday open houses 1-3:30pm:
 Nov. 14 or Dec 12
 To use Pay Pal: please use the QR code 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.



Scan. Pay. Go.

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- Divide spring blooming perennials like iris, lady’s mantle, Brunnera, phlox and astilbe now for vigorous spring growth.
- Mowing over leaves before putting them in your compost will help them to break down faster.
- Do not prune evergreen shrubs in the fall. We prune at holiday time to have fresh greens for decorating. Prune evergreens in the spring so that new growth will be hardened off by next winter.
- For the holidays, stuff and bake sugar pumpkins for a festive meal. A friend shared Ghapama, an Armenian dish which is easy to make.
- Toast the seeds from your Halloween pumpkins! Look up Google, whats4eats, for the recipe.
- Now back to holiday greens and berries. Be creative and decorate your windows with baskets and decorate your mantels for a season long refreshing look!



A Wine-and-Weeding Casualty Nurse Pat and Dr. Ken are attending Jeff’s bleeding leg. An investigation will reveal if this injury was sustained because of the wine or the weeding 😊. Who would have thought yard work could be so hazardous.

Little Neck Cemetery War Memorials

by Gordon Hubbard

If anyone is interested in colonial history forward this is the place! Little Neck Riverside, RI had its first burial in 1655!!!

Today, we are highlighting two war memorials at this cemetery.

The first is an engraved granite stone which measures 30" across X 43" high X 2.5" thick. This monument was given by The East Providence Bi-Centennial Committee in 1976 in grateful memory of 15 Patriots named below and those unknown interred in the Little Neck Cemetery who gave their lives to our country in the American Revolution.

The 2nd memorial is placed next to the first.

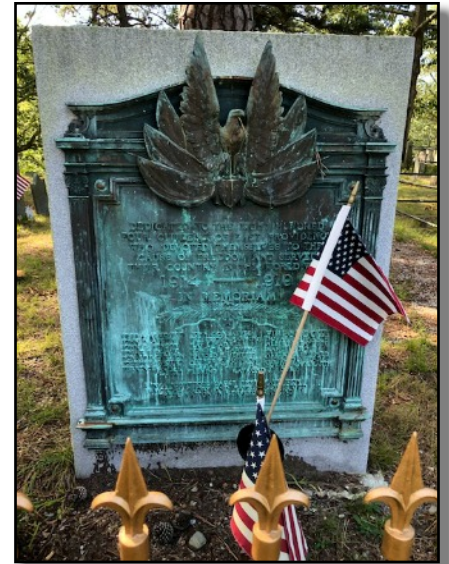
The Granite Stone measures 41" across X 54" high X 2.75" thick. The bronze plaque measures 36" across X 50" high. There is a very prominent decorative motif casting of an Eagle perched upon a shield. It is a version of an American shield of that period. If one uses their imagination the red and white stripes would be in the lower 2/3 of the shield while the upper 1/3 would have white stars placed on a blue background.

This memorial honors the 804 citizens of EP who served our country in the First World War. The bottom half memorializes the 23 souls from EP that were lost in battle.

The 3rd photo is the two stones together.

Take a good look at all the information displayed in the signs in the 4th photo.

GRH



East Providence Honors Her Veterans

November 1 - 12

Veterans' Day Display in the City Hall display case sponsored by the HS and the EPVME committee.

Saturday, Nov. 6 - 1:00-3:00 pm

Antique Car Parade.
Dedication at Pierce Field of the new Memorial Expressway signs.
Presentation of the EP Military Service Honor Roll to the City.

Sunday, Nov. 7 - 12:45-1:00 pm

Dedication of Andrews Brothers Memorial Exit - Broadway/ 195 / Freeborn Avenue.

On the same day we were also visited by Seekonk residents hosted by the Seekonk Library. This



group took a full tour of the Museum with docents in every room explaining the rich history. Thank you to Nancy Allen, Dotty Thornley, Pat Henry, Beverly Pettine and Eric Underhill for making the day such a success. And a big thank you to Nancy Moore for coordinating both tours!

President's Letter

Continued from page 1

New Grant for Museum Self-Guidance!

We recently received a grant from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities for a RI Culture, Humanities and Arts Recovery Grant (RI CHARG). We plan to use the funds to help us develop self-guidance features including QR codes to access information about Museum and Education Center items, object content labels with mounts, and exterior signage with QR codes. This is a new endeavor for us and we would welcome anyone with technical experience to help advise us!

Hunt's Mills Community Gardens

On Saturday, October 23 we had a 'Winterizing Your Garden' session for the 26 raised bed gardening groups and families. Danny Penengo provided gardening advice and many gardeners added wheel barrels of compost to their raised bed gardens. Even though it was October, most gardens continue to be providing a bountiful harvest!



East Providence and Seekonk Library Tours



On Saturday, October 23rd we were visited by East Providence residents hosted by the Weaver Library as part of their cemetery bus tour. While at Hunt's Mills, Nancy Moore entertained the group by providing stories about the tombstone in the parlor and Keith Gonsalves gave tours of the grounds.

And the Winners Are!!!!

This has been an exciting year for the EPHS! We ask you to join with the Board to pat yourselves on the back for belonging to such an amazing group.

1) Len Iannacone Legacy Fund

We are thrilled to report that the East Providence Historical Society recently received \$100,000 from the estate of Len Iannacone. Len



was a long-time East Providence resident who passed away in January 2020, after a long illness. Len, a U.S. Army Veteran and career interior designer, was a prolific artist who created drawings and paintings of many historical sites in East Providence and throughout the state. One of his favorite subjects was the Hunt's Mills property and many of his creations are on display at the John Hunt House Museum.



Dave O’Connell, executor of the Iannacone estate who facilitated the gift, said his dear friend wished to leave a gift for the National Parks Service and that the site of the John Hunt House Museum forms the southernmost point of interest of the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor, part of the National Parks Service.

The funds, which are unrestricted, have been used to create an endowment in Len’s name through the Rhode Island Foundation called the Len Iannacone Legacy Fund. The plan is to use some of the funds to purchase a new sign at the park’s entrance to better attract visitors to the rich history the Hunt’s Mills Heritage Park has to offer. We are extremely thankful for Len’s gift. Through the Len Iannacone Legacy Fund, Len’s gift will keep on giving for years to come.

3) Community Garden Certificate



2) NPS Hartzog Award

“When a VIP agrees to share his talents, skills and interests with the National Park Service, he is paying us one of the highest compliments possible by offering a most valued possession - his time.”



George Hartzog

(We share George’s opinion - the time of ALL our volunteers is highly valued)

The George and Helen Hartzog award for volunteer service to the National Park Service is given annually to individuals and groups all over the nation who do “exemplary service” in a park. As Hunt’s Mills anchors the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor, our volunteers are eligible to be nominated. The year for the NPS goes Nov-Oct., thus we could get some great hours logged with the Community Garden project and the EP Veterans Memorial Expressway/ Military Service Honor Roll projects. We amassed an outstanding number - 2,157 - of volunteer hours! Congratulations and thanks to all who worked toward this coveted honor!

Nancy Moore receives Hartzog award from Suzanne Buchanon, Volunteer Coordinator



Hartzog award recipients (left to right) Pat Henry, Miriam Kenney, Sandra Turgeon, Dot Thornley, Nancy Allen, Jeff Faria, Cheryl Faria, Nancy Moore Missing: Deb Ormerod, Reinhard Wohlgenmuth

4) Dave Kelleher Portrait



The portrait of Dave Kelleher, long time EP preservation cheerleader, past president of the Historical Society, the Historic Properties Commission, the Friends of Pomham Lighthouse and recipient of the Antoinette Downing Award will be unveiled at the new EPHS auditorium on Thursday Nov 18, at 6:00pm. As part of the "Portraits of a City" project, Dave is one of four citizens chosen by popular vote to be honored for their commitment to making EP a better place to live. Congratulations to Mr. Preservation!

The public is encouraged to attend to show its appreciation for Dave's commitment. At 85 years young, he's still leading tours of his favorite EP historic sites.

BRAVO!



A huge thank you goes to the *Rumford Junction Band* for their music this season. Their songs have added a wonderful dimension to our open houses - the haunting melody of the "Ten Mile River Waltz" has stuck in our heads! So to Ed, Jay, Lisa, John and Tim: our great appreciation for sharing your talents with us all season. See you in the spring!

One Day Only



Artist Ruth Major's traveling library exhibit of her two paintings depicting Ousamequin and his winter quarters (1620s) will have a special showing in the Hunt House exhibit area for December Open House only. If you missed these works at Weaver, come and spend time with Sowams Heritage Group leader David Weed as he talks about the first meetings between the Plymouth colonists and the Pokanoket tribe.

December Open House "A Childrens' Holiday at Hunt's"

It is not possible to have our hay rides around the property this December but we will make merry in other ways. The house and grounds will have its usual festive trimmings with our popular "Dress up Hunt's for the Holidays" again. Anyone who wishes to add to the festive look is welcome to do so - last year's ornaments were such fun to come upon along the trails and in the trees. Some of you were very inventive. Thank you.



Gordon and Baxter will greet families at the start of the Teddy Bear Trail again and visitors are welcome to add their own bears (just remember to claim them). The fairy garden may hold some surprises also. We will also offer ornament making with "found" objects from the grounds.



Ousamequin's Winter Quarters
By artist Ruth Major

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



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

CC# _____

EXP _____ SEC CODE _____

Signature: _____

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

General Operating Support

Thank you to those who gave to our annual Fund last year. Your generous gifts were used to help meet our goals in the 2021 calendar year. Thank you to those who are considering a donation this year! **See the list of what your gift will support in calendar year 2022.**

- 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.

The 2021 Historian's Circle

Thank you to those who donated to our 2020 Annual Fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you helped the Historical Society meet our goals for the 2021 calendar year. Gifts given in 2021 will go towards our 2022 annual, strategic and endowment goals. Thank you to those who have already made a gift!

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

P.T. Barnum and Patricia I. Anthony
Cheryl and Jeff Faria
Dotty Thornley

Crescent Park: \$500-\$999

Nancy Allen
BayCoast Bank
Nancy and Dan Moore
Woods Heating Service

Vanity Fair Park: \$200-\$499

David Czerwonka
Carole DiFabio and William Litchman
Darryl Hardern
Colin Kane
Pat Paulson McGrail
Jack and Kathy Richer

Boyden Heights Park: \$100-\$199

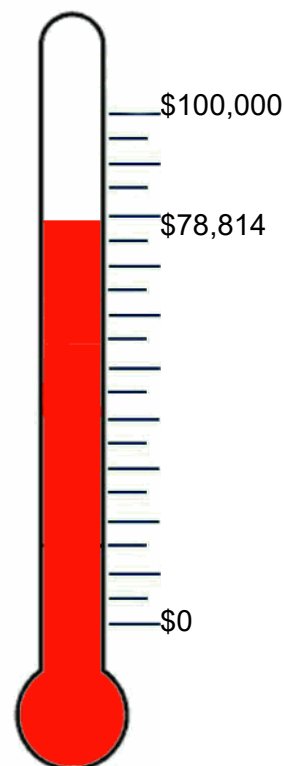
Peter G. and Sandra M. Barilla
Barbara Barnes and Beverly Pettine
Patricia C. Birkes
Romeo DaSilva
Frederick F. Harrop
Dave and Eleanor Kelleher
Valarie Lawson
Ann Linde
John and Elaine Puhacz
Ken and Barbara Rix
Ed and Paula Serowick
Washington Trust
Margaret Wieboldt

Friends: \$25-\$99

Helen Archibald	Jayne Poland
Sandra Barber	Mark Saunders
James Robert Boyd, Jr.	Bonney B. Sevellon
Helen Dooley	Barbara Simon
Christine Ellis	Meredith Swan
Pat Henry	Jean and Gary Zunda
Ngina Johnson	

EP Historical Society Endowment!!

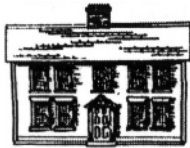
We have set a goal to raise \$100,000 to establish an endowment for the East Providence Historical Society. So far we have raised \$78,814 towards that goal.



Thank You!!

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





John Hunt House

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

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