



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

September 2021

Volume XXXIV No. 1

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

September

Sunday, September 12

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 the stone circle (Hunt Henge)

65 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford, RI

October

Sunday, October 10

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum open

CONTACT US AT:

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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

What a glorious Summer we have had! It has been so wonderful to see everyone in person again. We've had a busy season and look forward to the Fall. Here are some of the highlights.

John Hunt House Museum

Our Open Houses on the second Sunday of the month have been well attended and full of activities. The Museum has been open from

1-3:30 and we've continued the popular Hikes at Hunt's Mills that begin at 1:30 at the

Gazebo, led by Ernie Germani and Alex Kemp. As they did in the Spring, the Rumford Junction Band, an all acoustic group made up of guitars, percussion, accordion and fiddle, could be heard throughout the grounds.



This Summer, we started featuring 'Children's Day at the Museum' activities. Beverly Pettine leads interactive colonial activities in the Children's Room of the Museum from 1-2:30 and a Story Time under the big tree behind the Museum at 2:30pm. Jack Richer and Nancy Moore engage children in playing colonial games on the lawn in front of the museum.



Painting the Museum

We are grateful to have received a generous grant from the Champlin Foundation to paint the

Continued on page 6

The Gazette

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P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI
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Web Site: ephist.org

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

MEMBERSHIP

**C
O
R
N
E
R**

**In Memory Of
Twyler Boyce
Elizabeth "Bonnie"
Warren**



***Sadly missed...fondly
remembered***

**Welcome to
our newest
members!**

- Gilbert Fletcher
- Frederick F. Harrop

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

DID YOU FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES?

Bills were sent out in early July to those members affected. Please use the form on this page OR go to our website (ephist.org) and use PayPal. Any questions may be directed to miriamkenney@aol.com or 401-434-9462.

Thank you all for your continued support.
Miriam Kenney, Membership

**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

EP Veterans Honor Roll

Member Susan Cady sends us this last reminder for updates/ changes to names on the EP Vets Honor Roll. The Nov 6th dedication ceremony is approaching: save the date!

Over 160 Vietnam veteran names from a May 1969 EP Post tribute were added to the EP Military Service Honor Roll. It is posted on the EP Historical Society's website, ephist.org [ephist.org], under "City Wide Project", "here". The deadline (Aug. 30) for new names has passed. Please send only updates of "in honor of" or "in memory of", ranks, other corrections, or request a name be removed to epvme@hotmail.com.

This documentation of EP residents who served our country will be presented to the City of E. Prov. during the 60th anniversary celebration of the naming of the EP expressway as the E. Prov. Veterans' Memorial Expressway. Names may appear in the EP Post for Veterans' Day and in several visual tributes. The "EP WWII Tribute" is now available for viewing on-line. Read about volunteers and items needed (ex. provide rides for veterans to the Nov. 6th ceremony, loan of baseball caps with embroidered names of each war and for each military branch), and more at <https://sites.google.com/view/EPVMER2021> [sites.google.com]



East Providence Veterans' photos are submitted by Susan Cady

Warren Town Council Proclamation

We here in East Providence who are interested in the area's heritage which dates to 1643 for English settlers but far longer for the Pokanoket and Seaconke Wampanoag tribes were delighted to read the following "land acknowledgement" passed by the Warren Town Council in July.

Welcome to Sowams, the ancestral home of the Pokanoket people for ten thousand (10,000) years prior to settler colonization. We pay tribute to the tribal elders and people of this community who served and continue to serve as stewards of the lands and waterways of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. We recognize the unique and enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous People and their traditional territories. We acknowledge that our community was a part of the larger ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Nation. Let this acknowledgement serve as a reminder of our ongoing efforts to recognize, honor, reconcile and partner with the Pokanoket people for the benefit of the lands and water of Sowams.

In recognition of this statement, the town and the Pokanoket tribe held a celebration in conjunction with Worldwide Indigenous Peoples Day on August 8 at Burr's Hill Park. (For an account of that event, go to Sowams Heritage Group: Early August News.) The Pokanoket tribe has also held a ceremonial event in the EP Council Chambers. Perhaps the EP Council might consider a like proclamation, as it has jurisdiction in direct lineage from the first Old Rehoboth group of Samuel Newman and his settlers on the Ring of the Green which the Native Americans know as Sowams.

Passages

Elizabeth (Bonnie) Warren:

RI has lost a true preservation warrior. Bonnie Warren, a preservationist by trade, but truly 'a preservationist by spirit' died this past week at 92. Bonnie was a member of the EPHS and loved coming to Hunt's for the annual meeting. We benefited from her connections with preservationists all over the state and she gave advice freely. Bonnie worked on 37 Statewide Historic Preservation Reports including that of East Providence in 1976. Those of us in the trenches today still refer to her work 45 years later. Her last accomplishment as a preservation volunteer was the preservation of Nockum Hill in Barrington in 2019 - she was 90!



Jesse Albright Collection

The EPHS received an unexpected email message in June from the family of Jesse Albright, a longtime collector of EP memorabilia. Jesse, a native of PA, died some time ago but his wife Betty and family have just begun to deal with his treasures now that Betty has decided to move. So Reinhard Wohlgemuth, who knew Jesse from his collecting days, and Nancy Moore spent nearly three hours at Betty's kitchen table going through a trove of EP artifacts. It was immediately clear that Jesse LOVED trolley cars and trains! The only thing missing are 3-D models. He capped the trolley collection with a photo of a man taking a photo of the last tracks being pulled up outside the Rumford Baking Powder Co.

Jesse kept an eye out for the human side of history with letters, newspaper articles and scrapbooks about locals. After this extensive collection has been archived, we hope to have a retrospective of both Reinhard's and Jesse's collections, both of which are now gifts to the museum. Our great thanks to the Albright family for entrusting this collection to the Society.

Some Samples of His Trolley and Train Collection



No traffic congestion in downtown EP in this photo.
(U.E.R. #2026 on Broadway at Warren Avenue – 01/29/1937)

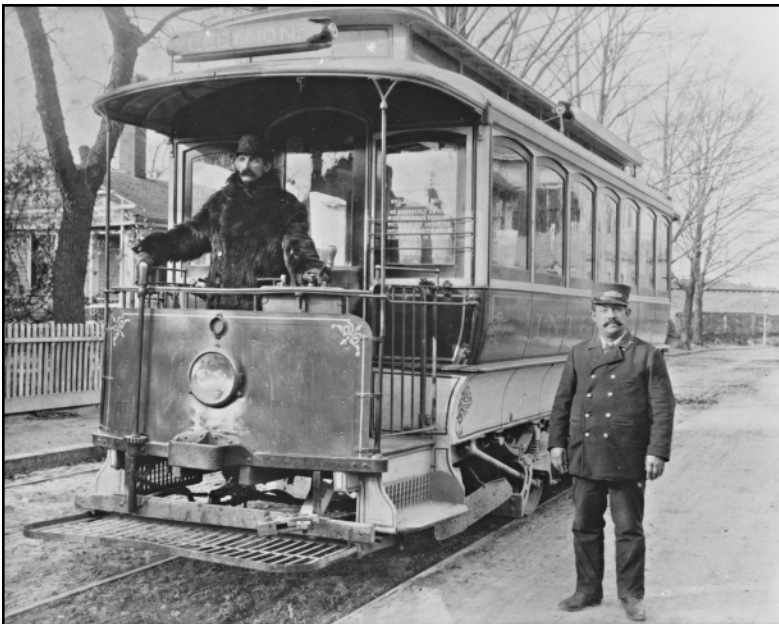


How is it that there always seems to be somebody with a camera around when things go wrong? And this was before cell phones.
(Seekonk/Pawtucket line at the Ten Mile River – 01/15/1921)



The East Bay Bike Path today runs on the old roadbed of the Consolidated line. Sadly all the quaint stations along the line have vanished together with the rails. At one time even the Squantum Club had their own station.

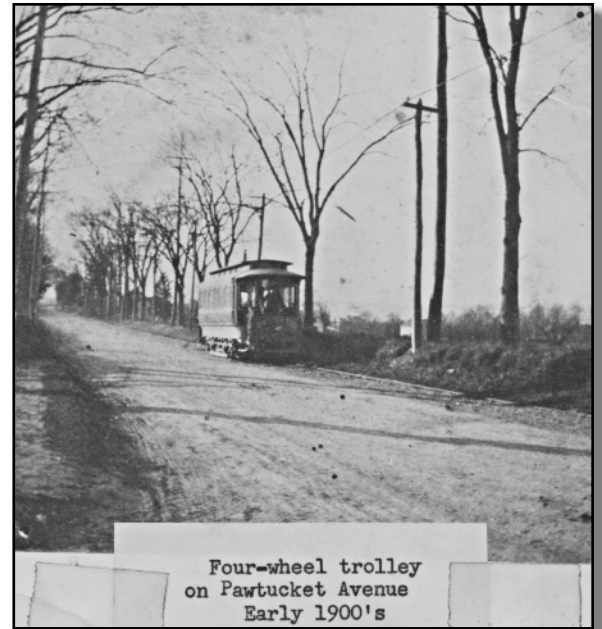
Riding in Style



Children and adults get excited today when they can ride one of these ornate trolleys in a museum. It was not so exciting when this was the normal mode of transportation and you were the motorman on the open platform during the colder weather – notice his fur coat. Destination board reads “Lebanon”, which was Lebanon Mills next to the Ten mile River on Central Avenue at the state line.



Life became a little more comfortable for the crew when the new trolleys came into service and the motorman was protected from the elements also. (U.E.R. #2091 en route to Crescent Park – 01/26/1935)



A rare view of Pawtucket Avenue before it was paved. Same type trolley as on the left, this time on the Crescent Park route near Silver Spring.

The Curious Curator

As Susan Cady continues her work on gathering names and information for the rededication of the Expressway for all East Providence veterans, some questions have come up. We thought we would ask our members for any information!

When was the black slab memorial for 4 wars placed outside the EP City Hall? It was before 2007. When was the dedication of this memorial? Does anyone have a program to share?

Who is Ernest Costa? Why is there a sign “Ernest Costa Memorial Island” on WWII veteran Nicholas Monteleone’s memorial park at Broadway and Center Street? Was he a veteran? What organization established this memorial? In what year?

The Riverside WWII memorial was dedicated in 1950. Is there a dedication program to share? Where was the original location of this monument before it was moved (in what year?) to its present location on the bicycle path in Riverside Square, near Turner Ave.

Please feel free to email Susan directly (epvme@hotmail.com) with any information. Thank you!

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- September is the best time to plant grass or re-seed your lawn as weed seeds will not germinate at this time of year. Fall is also the best time to fertilize your lawn.
- Extra tomatoes and peppers are easy to freeze for winter use. Just wash them, remove the pepper seeds and stem and allow to dry. Tomatoes can be frozen whole. Place on a baking tray in the freezer before putting them in freezer bags.
- Most berries are also easily frozen for later use. We enjoy berries and rhubarb added to our oatmeal.
- Harvest herbs such as basil and sage early in the morning. Dry or freeze and pesto also freezes well.
- Remember to bring the house plants back indoors before frost. Check them for bugs or other insects before doing so.

"2nd Sunday" Fall Open House

Sept. 12 @ 1pm - 3:30 pm

LEN IANNAZONE ART EXHIBIT

HIKES at HUNTS: 1:30 at the Gazebo

RUMFORD JUNCTION BAND: 1:30 at the Gazebo

STORY HOUR: 2:30 at the stone circle (Hunt Henge)

Welcome to Hunt's Mills and its historic buildings, water features, trails and exhibits. The area is one of nine 17th century sites in EP recognized by the Sowams Heritage Group as important to Native Americans and colonists. It is also the home of EP's first community garden with a 3 Sister's plot. Open House features activities for children of all ages: games on the front lawn, arts/crafts in the Hunt house, and story time under a big tree! This month features stories about going to school in the early days. Master Gardeners are always on hand to give free advice.

Presidents' Letter

From page 1

exterior of the Museum and replace some windows in the Education Center and the Museum. Earlier in the Summer we met with five painting contractors to secure bids. We have chosen Rocha Pro Painters to do the work and they plan to begin the job in September. Paul Barnum, our new Buildings Chair, is taking the lead on the project. Thank you, Paul!

The Len Iannacone Legacy Fund

Len Iannacone was an artist who loved to do pen and ink drawings and paintings of Rhode Island landscapes. One of his favorite



subjects was the Hunt's Mills property. The artworks became the property of the Historical Society after his death in January, 2020. Two very special works are a beautiful rendering of the John Hunt House and a drawing of the original 1643 grist mill which once occupied the property. We have a special exhibit in the Museum that features his art.

In addition to his works of art, the Historical Society received a very generous gift from Len's estate. We have used the gift to create the Len Iannacone Legacy Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation. This fund will give us an annual draw to help cover operational expenses and will ensure that Len's legacy will live on and on.

Hunt's Mills Community Gardens

The raised bed community gardens are absolutely flourishing! 26 gardening families and groups have been taking great care of their gardens. One challenge was that despite all of our fencing, a

woodchuck was able to get in, and did a bit of munching for a few weeks. Fortunately, Jeff was able to capture the culprit in his 'Have a Heart' Trap. The gardens are now providing a bountiful harvest for the gardeners.



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
 P.T. Barnum and Patricia A. Anthony
 Cheryl and Jeff Faria
 Laurie and Bill McWeeney
 Dotty Thornley

Mike and Norma Reynolds
 Jack and Kathy Richer
 Ken and Barbara Rix
 Ed and Paula 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

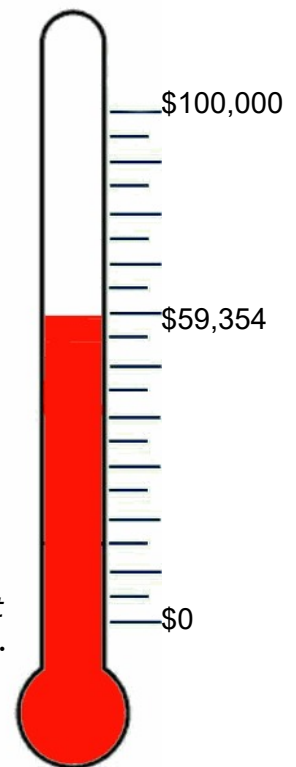
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 Anthony Valerio
 Tom and Missy Warzeka
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 Jean and Gary Zunda

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
 Patricia C. Birkes
 Twyler Boyce
 K. Eric Crook
 Romeo DaSilva
 Sharon H. Dubois
 Will Francis
 Ronald Gomes
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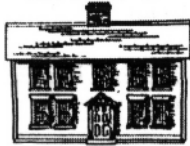


Thank You!!!

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 \$59,354 towards that goal.



John Hunt House

East Providence Historical Society
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East Providence, RI 02916

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