



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

June 2022

Volume XXXIV No. 7

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

June

Sunday, June 12

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum open

Exhibit:

Historical Architectural Landscapes

EP High School Art Exhibit

1:30 pm

Hikes at Hunts
Meet at the Gazebo

1:30 pm

Rumford Junction Band
Playing at Gazebo

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Family Games

July

Friday, July 1

Squantum Club Tours

Members only

Reservation required

See page 7 for info

Sunday, July 10

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum open

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 and Jeff Faria, Co-Presidents

Hello and welcome to the start of summer!

John Hunt House Museum

We had a wonderful Open House on Sunday, May 8. It was a beautiful day and we had seedlings to give away to Mom's and others from the community. We again had over 200 visitors to the property. It was too windy for many games, but people came to visit the Museum, walk the property, look at the Fish Ladder, work in the Community Gardens and listen to the music of the Rumford Junction Band.



Many people came to see the wonderful artwork done by students in the East Providence High School Art Department. Called 'Historical Architectural Landscapes,' the exhibit featured many beautiful paintings of local buildings. There was an Art Reception from 1-3:30, during the Open House. We will feature these art pieces again during our June 12 Open House.



During the Open House we will have tours of the museum, guided by our knowledgeable docents and the library in the Education Center, staffed by historians Sandra Turgeon and Tom Warzeka, will be open. We will also have the monthly 1:30pm 'Hikes at Hunt's Mills', led by Ernie Germani and Alex Kemp, children's colonial games on the lawn in front of the Museum and, weather permitting, the Rumford Junction Band playing in the Gazebo.



Continued on page 3

The Gazette

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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

Welcome to Our New Members!

- Margaret & Stephen Lee
- Diane (Dede) Moubayed
- Dan & Vivian Weisman



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



A Notice regarding July Dues Payments

It's that time of year again! Bills will be sent out in early July to those
members whose dues expire July 31, 2022. We trust you will all want
to continue to receive the Gazette and take part in our activities.

Thank you in advance for renewing!

Miriam Kenney, Membership Co-Chair

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

Community Gardens



On Saturday, April 30, we had the Season Opening Event to welcome the gardeners to the 2022 growing season. We were honored to have Mayor Bob DaSilva join us in greeting the gardeners. 23 of the 26 garden groups from the 2021 season returned for another year of growing. Three new garden groups joined us from the 'Wait List' and we are once again completely sold out!



On Saturday, May 7, we gave seedlings to the gardening groups of the 26 raised bed gardeners. We were fortunate to have a team of URI Master Gardeners and community gardeners working to start seeds in the Garden Center again this year. The boarded up windows in the Garden Center have been opened up and it now has beautiful natural light.

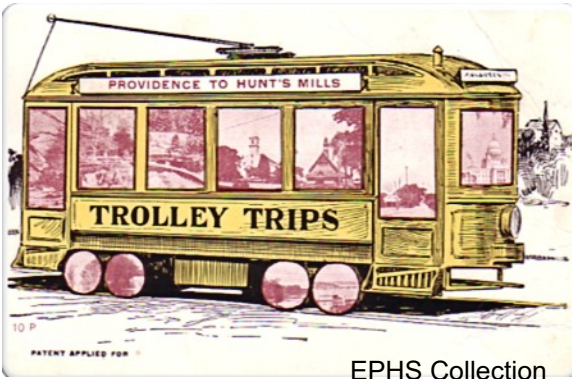


Heritage Gardens

We will be meeting on Tuesday, June 7th from 4-7pm for our monthly 'Wine & Weeding' gardening session. We garden from 4-6pm and then adjourn to the Gazebo for a potluck dinner. Anyone is welcome to join us!



The "Back Door" Trolley



EPHS Collection

Early this spring, Bruce Remick, author of two recent Riverside books, let us know that he had finally tracked down (pun intended) the route of the Hunt's Mills trolley which

traveled from Pleasant Street, down Hunt's Mills Lane, over the Elden Street trolley bridge to Taunton Avenue carrying visitors to the park from the main trolley lines. From the park's opening in July 1901, visitors could take a trolley from Pleasant Street into the park but after July 1911, there was a dedicated "back door" trolley line from Taunton Avenue which Bruce has documented and diagrammed. This research will be part of the summer exhibit "Ding, Ding, Ding Goes the Trolley" (see "Exhibits"). Bruce published "Riverside's Historic Shore Resorts and Hotels" in 2019 but felt he was neglecting a much loved amusement park developed by the Rumford Company, Glenlyon Bleachery and Sayles Finishing Company (the East Providence Water Company) at Hunt's Mills in 1901. So we are giving you a sneak preview of the addendum to that book.

This new resort became known as Hunt's Mills Amusement Park, 45 acres in Rumford available to the general public. It started in 1901 with a cafe and a merry-go-round thought to have been the small Looff "French Carousel" which had operated at the head of the pier at Crescent Park. As the popularity of the park increased with the addition of the dance hall in 1910 which attracted 7,000 people to its opening day, the East Providence Water Company asked that a trolley spur be run off Taunton Ave over Eldon Street relieving congestion in Rumford and East Providence centers. In 1911, discussions were formally underway, with the intent that the line would be in place by July 4th. A 1939 aerial view still shows the path of the trolley which thousands of visitors rode to enjoy themselves on a summer's day. The park burned on Dec 13, 1923, taking the dance hall and midway but sparing the carousel. Lore has it that it was sold to Misquamicut Park but Bruce reports that an oldtimer recalls riding a beautiful horse at Hunt's in 1926. Does anyone else have memories of the carousel in use after the fire?

ED note: our great thanks to Bruce for fleshing out what our archives and eyes tell us and for his new trolley research. He also provided all images for this article from his collection.

News Article
 Link: <https://providencejournal.newsbank.com/doc/page/2:14728889532D3B69@NGPA-RIPJ-162BBE2DD501462ABBC29410C368@10-162ABBC29410C368@>
 Date: 1922-06-01 Paper: Providence Journal Page: 11

The Hunt's Mills Extension.

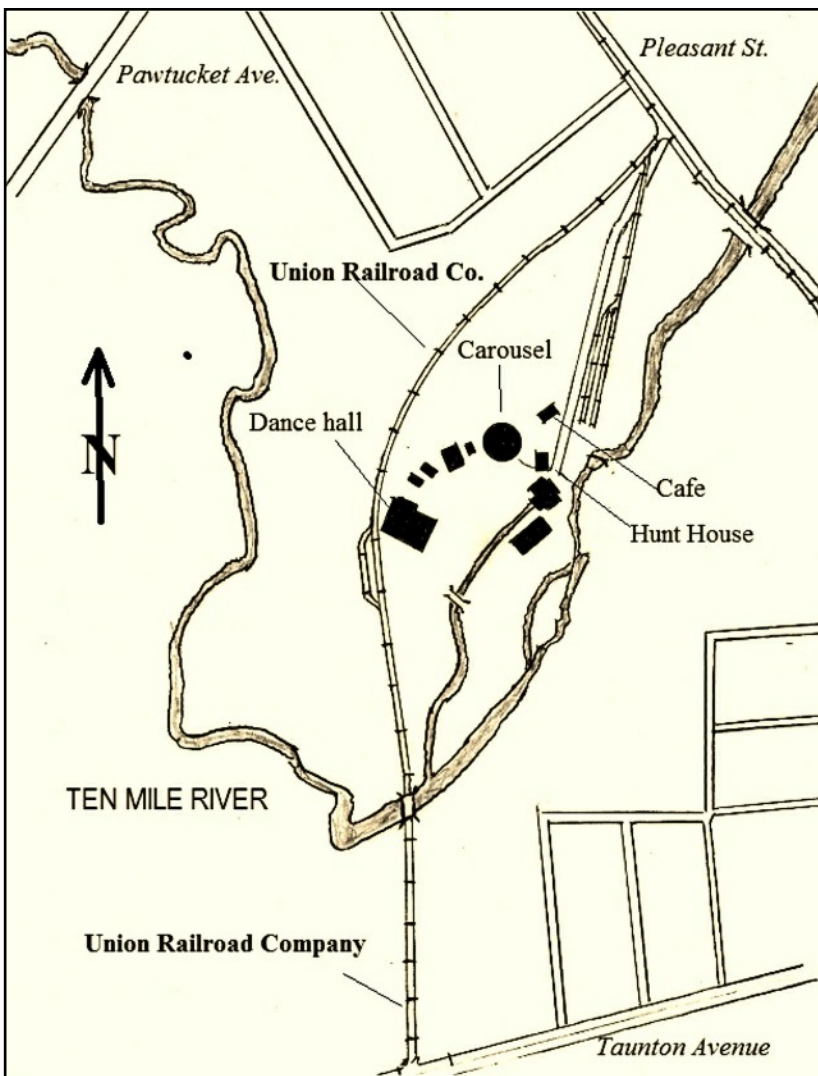
The running of cars to Hunt's Mills by way of an extension across the meadow land from Taunton avenue will be advantageous to the street railway company, the owners of the summer resort and the public. The town of East Providence has authorized the laying of rails across the highway; an agreement with the owner of the land for right of way has been made; and now the East Providence Water Company is asked for a location to the present terminus, in order that a loop may be provided. There should be no delay in authorizing the connection; a proposition fair to both parties should be closed without protracted negotiations. A prompt decision will enable the company to run cars over the new route by the Fourth of July; but if time is lost in discussion it is probable that the present inadequate service will be continued another year.

News Article
 Link: <https://providencejournal.newsbank.com/doc/page/2:14728889532D3B69@NGPA-RIPJ-162BBE2DD501462ABBC29410C368@10-162ABBC29410C368@>
 Date: 1911-06-04 Paper: Providence Journal Page: 11

Date: 1922-06-04

DOUBLE-TRACK WORK.

It is now understood that the work of double-tracking Taunton avenue from Broadway Six Corners into Hunt's Mills is being held up because the Rhode Island Company and the East Providence Water Company have not yet come to an agreement over the land which the former company needs to get into the Hunt's Mills grounds. If it is a fact, as reported, that the agreement with the Berry Farm owner for a right of way across the meadow from Taunton avenue to the Mills was made only recently, the Town Council must have been the first party to give the company right of way in the new arrangement. At the time that the council acted on the company's petition it was understood that all other parties were in accord. The petition was granted several weeks ago and no work has yet been done on the job. Decoration Day the service on the Rumford line was very bad, owing to the many "extras" that were run to take care of the traffic to Hunt's Mills. This difficulty will be greatly relieved when the new line is constructed, and it will also divert the traffic from Rumford and East Providence Centre, which already has been the cause of some complaint to the police. The new rails can be laid and the new route constructed in about 20 days, it is said. If work does not begin soon the line cannot be constructed in time to be of much use this year, as the Fourth of July, one of the best holidays for the amusement resorts, will soon be here.



An unidentified and undated schematic diagram of HM features overlaid over a recent aerial view. The image is rotated to match the map on the left. You can clearly see the horseshoe shaped dam on the right and the new white stones of 'Hunt Henge' in the center, the location of the former carousel. The trees have completely obliterated the former trolley line.

The clean sketch map by Bruce Remick clearly shows the layout of the amusement park in relation to the trolley line.

The following tidbit from the July 8, 1901 Providence Journal documents when the trolley first extended into Hunt's Mills.....

"A large crowd sought out Hunt's Mills, which has been opened recently as a summer resort for the best class of people. The Rumford cars take one there, and run into the grounds, which have been fitted with new buildings, making a very pretty resort."

An earlier comment from July 1...

"The cars on the Rumford line were crowded all day. The car line is being extended into the grounds, over the quarter-mile separating the pleasure resort from the former terminus. Yesterday, the rails reached to within a short distance of the grounds. By the glorious Fourth the line will have been completed. Hunt's Mills is intended as a place where women and children can enjoy themselves without fear of molestation. It is well lighted by electricity at night and the ride there is a half-hour of enjoyment."

Exhibit

If you have not been to Hunt House for the EP High School art show, you have only one more opportunity: June 12. 160 people viewed the show in May and were very impressed with the accomplishments of these students. One of them is a national award winner (see below). EP is very lucky to have the talented teaching skills of Jade Sisti, an EP grad herself!

If you have already viewed the student art show at Hunt House, you have seen the excellent work of Gayatri Buchta's Pump House picture. (on the cover of the May Reporter) She also has won 1st prize at the Congressional Art Competition and is headed to Washington. She is seen here with Congressman Cicilline.



One of the Reasons to Build The "Back Door" Trolley

"Auto-Ped" Machines at Hunt's Mills

By special arrangement with the Strand Roof Garden of New York the new "Autopods," the latest craze in the metropolis, will be shown at Hunt's Mills to-morrow evening. The original operators, Mr. Harry Sonkwright and Miss Mildred Dunno, will demonstrate these unusual devices. Speed records will be attempted, the latest modern dances of the New York smart set will be displayed and those patrons who desire to ride around the ballroom floor will be accommodated. The program will begin at 8 and the regular dancing numbers by Fays' Orchestra will be given.

Only the latest and best at Hunt's Mills October 1916



The 1916 Auto-Ped. The latest in New York society

Coming Attractions: "Ding, Ding, Ding Goes the Trolley"

Our high school artists will take their work home with them after the June Open House and a collaborative show opens which features the transportation collections of Jesse Albright and Reinhard Wohlgenuth and research on the Hunt's Mills trolley by Bruce Remick.

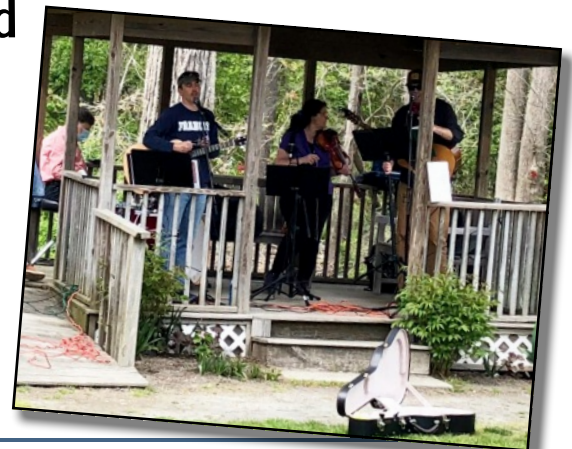
Bruce is a local transplanted to VA. Jesse and Reinhard came here from PA and Germany. All were intrigued with the trolley and early train system here but Jesse was really captivated and amassed a serious collection. We are proud to share this with the public. As always, if you have East Providence trolley information, bring it along, especially if you have a model trolley.



Rumford Junction Band

Our visitors have been treated to wonderful music these last two summers by a group of great local musicians. Tim Messitt was so taken with the idea of the dance hall burning and the tragic possibilities (not real) that a song was born. They will play it upon request and we all can join in on the chorus. Do we feel a Hunt's Mills theme song coming on? Thank you Rumford Junction! For the Band on You Tube with "The 10 Mile Waltz" go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jPUktpCE_M

Band members: Lisa Gallant/ John Popoli/ Tim Messitt/ Edward Synan



Sightseeing at Squantum!

We have an exciting opportunity for our members! The Squantum Association is celebrating its 150th anniversary by opening its doors to the EPHS for one day with 2 tours of the property. Paul Williams, who is a member of both groups, will lead a general outdoor tour and a slide presentation of the history of the club. He promises little-known stories! The tours will include the 1899 bakehouse and the Cottage and will end up in the 1900 Victorian clubhouse with a chance to see that magnificent view from the front porch. These tours will fill up early - our great thanks to the Squantum Association and Paul Williams!

Friday - July 1

11:00 - 12:30 and 1:30 to 3:00

Members only, as the tours are limited to 20 people each

For reservations: 473 -0677 or info@ephist.org



The view of Squantum made the cover of an early advertising folder for the Household Sewing Machine Company



The approach to the beautifully maintained historic clubhouse today. During the heyday of rail travel Squantum was important enough to have their own station



An early view of the preparation for the popular clambake right at the shore of the Bay. One of the dinner favorites for members and guests at the club

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- Seed packets labeled "bush, compact or patio", are great for raised beds or containers where space is limited. Monitor water needs, as drainage and dryness are different for plants in pots!
- Be cautious with mosquito and tick controls. Although they may be "natural", they keep all insects away. Beneficial insects need our flowers for food and many of our vegetables need insects for pollination!
- Watering your lawn should be deep and infrequent. Lawns need an average of 1 - 2 inches of water per week.

Plant Giveaway

We still have vegetable plants behind the John Hunt House Museum to giveaway! Please help yourself to SOME plants. We also appreciate donations at our Open House and are recycling used pots and plastic trays. Please bring your extra plant pots and trays and leave them in the barrel behind the education center.

- Celebrate Summer with a cool cucumber drink!

Ten Mile River Waltz

by The Rumford Junction Band
(lyrics/music by Tim Messitt)

Verse 1

After two long weeks of toilin' on the P&W line,
Gonna see my black haired beauty,
Tonight I'm gonna make her mine.
With a silver ring in my pocket for the hand of Mary Wright,
I paddle the Ten Mile River
Lookin' for those dance hall lights.

Chorus

Meet me below the weeping willow.
We'll swing and we'll dance with Providence.
Loved ones will come and loved ones will go
On the Ten Mile River tonight.

Verse 2

As I come to the bend of the river, oh I see a terrible sight.
Smoke and flames have pillaged
What will be this fateful night.
I tie my boat to the willow and I find her family beyond.
I can tell from their soot colored tear stains,
My sweet Mary is gone.

Chorus

Instrumental interlude

Chorus

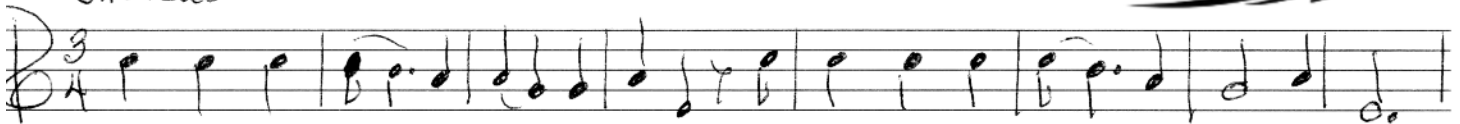
Verse 3

Some say on the banks of that river on a warm summer night,
Underneath that weeping willow,
You'll see my Mary in white.

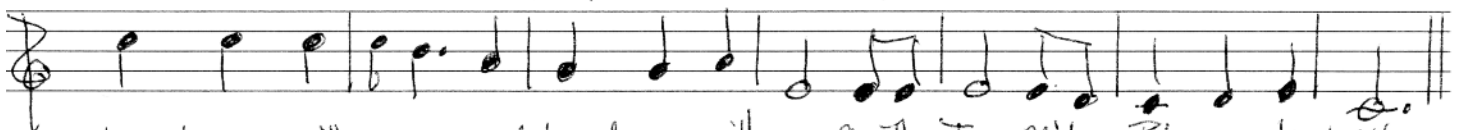
Chorus



CHORUS:



Meet me be-low the weep-ing wil-low, We'll swing and we'll dance with Prov-idence,



loved ones will come- and loved ones will go-On the Ten Mile-River to-night.

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

P.T. Barnum and Patricia A. Anthony	Laurie and Bill McWeeney
Cheryl and Jeff Faria	Dotty Thornley
Pat Paulson McGrail	James N. Viara
	Lois Williams

Crescent Park: \$500-\$999

Nancy Allen	Nancy and Dan Moore
Roy and Claire Anderson	Woods Heating Service
Jacqueline and Lee Ashcraft	

Vanity Fair Park: \$200-\$499

Richard R. Bushnell and Paula Perkins	Elizabeth Ingraham
David Czerwonka	Colin P. Kane
Carole DiFabio and William Litchman	Julie Lundgren
Virginia Neves Gonsalves	Pat Paulson McGrail
Darryl Hardern	Jack and Kathy Richer
	Washington Trust

Boyden Heights Park: \$100-\$199

Leroy and Karen Anderson	Michele Kazarian
Peter G. and Sandra M. Barilla	Dave and Eleanor Kelleher
Barbara Barnes and Beverly Pettine	Miriam Kenney
Patricia C. Birkes	Valarie J. Lawson
James Boyd	Ann Linde
K. Eric Crook and Joanne Perella-Crook	Tracy Moline
Romeo DaSilva	John and Elaine Puhacz
Bill Fazioli	Michael and Norma Reynolds
Wendy Edwards and Gerald Mischak	Ken and Barbara Rix
Frederick F. Harrop	Ed and Paula Serowick
Gordon R. and Wendy L. Wood-Hubbard	Bruce H. Tanner
	Charlene Underhill
	David Weed
	Margaret Wieboldt
	Kevin Zona

Friends: \$25-\$99

American Ring Company	Ngina Johnson
Helen Archibald	Thomas J. Lavin III
Sandra Barber	Ruth McCarthy
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council	K.A. McGovern
James Robert Boyd, Jr.	Jayne Poland
Ivan and Malinda Colon	Alicia and Tom Ramian
Jane Dennison	Mark Saunders
Helen Dooley	Bonney B. Sevellon
Christine Ellis	Barbara Simon
Gil Fletcher	Betty Stoner
Pam and Paul Goulet	Meredith Swan
Pat Henry	Jean and Gary Zunda

The Historian's Circle

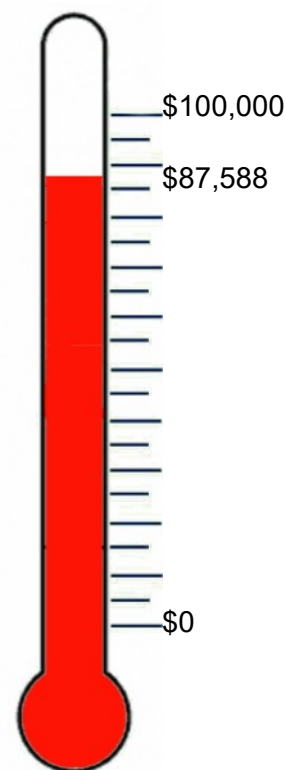
Thank you to those who donated to our Annual fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you are helping the Historical Society meet our annual, strategic and endowment goals for the 2022 calendar year.

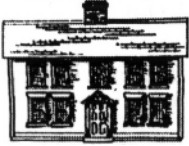
Thank You!!

If there are any errors or omissions in 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

EP Historical Society Endowment!!

We have set a goal to raise \$100,000 to establish an endowment for East Providence Historical Society. So far we have raised \$87,588 towards that goal.





John Hunt House

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East Providence, RI 02916

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