



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

March 2022

Volume XXXIV No. 4

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

March

Sunday, March 13

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum open

New Exhibit:

**“Ding, Ding, Ding
Went the Trolley”**

Jesse Albright Collection

1:30 pm

Hikes at Hunts

Meet at the Gazebo

1:30 pm

Rumford Junction Band

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Children’s Crafts and Games

April

Sunday, April 10

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum open

May

Sunday, May 8

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

Welcome to the end of winter! It feels good to get back into our routines and begin to think about spring! Here are some of the highlights of things that have been going on since our last Gazette was published.

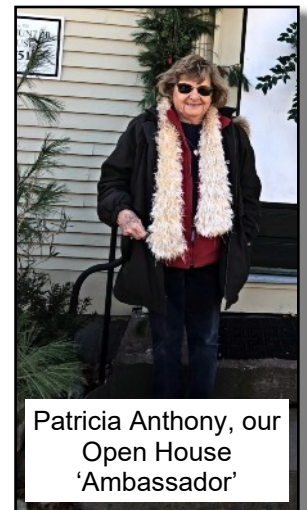
John Hunt House Museum

The last Open House of the year was on Sunday December 12th and the first Open House of the year will be on Sunday, March 13th from 1-3:30pm. In addition to the tours of the museum, guided by our knowledgeable docents, we will have the monthly 1:30pm Hikes at Hunt’s Mills, led by Ernie Germani and Alex Kemp. Weather permitting; we will also have the Rumford Junction Band playing in the Gazebo.

Over the winter, Nancy Allen and Sandra Turgeon have been meeting to accession Jesse Albright’s collection, some of which will be on display at the March Open House.

Champlin Grant

Last year we received a generous grant from the Champlin Foundation to repaint the John Hunt House Museum, replace doors in the Museum and rebuild windows in the Garden Center. The museum is now beautifully repainted and we are in the process of completing the rest of the project. Thank you to Paul Barnum for your leadership and guidance with this and other projects!!



Patricia Anthony, our Open House 'Ambassador'



The newly painted Hunt House

09/15/2021 13:34

The Gazette

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

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*
- Eric Underhill *Recording Secretary*
- Dorothy Thornley *Treasurer*
- Pat Henry/Sandi Barber *Corresponding Secretary*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Paul T. Barnum *Buildings*
- 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

Membership Updates

Dr. Ken Rix

By Jeff Faria



Two short years ago, Dr. Ken Rix came into my life and all of our lives at the East Providence


Historical society. He was just completing his core training in the URI Master Gardener program. He was an intern! An intern!!! Interns need to volunteer for 50 hours to earn their "blue pin", and become a Master Gardener! Who would ever have thought that this unassuming man was such a wonderful plantsman and became such a huge part in the success of our community gardens! Ken grew up across the street from the John Hunt House Museum, and was looking for a volunteer opportunity. When he saw the location he thought this would be a good fit. Ken arrived early in the planning and building of the community gardens and quickly joined me every Tuesday

morning. We set an attainable goal and I kept creating new ones! We continued Tuesdays for almost 2 years, working 9 to noon, before enjoying lunch together with the other volunteers! We built the Hunt's Mills Community Gardens, the path and benches approaching the gardens, the compost bin and the grow lights and growing center in the garden center building. All attainable goals that he motivated and inspired! We had more goals for this season.

Unfortunately for us, these were the last two years of his life. He

In Memory Of

**Dr. Kenneth Rix
Cornelia Sturgis**



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

Membership Form

- New
- Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

\$25 Individual

\$35 Family/Business

\$250 Life



Jeff and his right hand man, Ken Rix

was also present at our wine and weeding sessions on the first Tuesday of each month, often returning to Hunt's, twice in one day!! We have to be grateful that he dedicated his last two years of his life to us and our project. He selflessly embraced and helped make the first community gardens in East Providence!

Ken was a retired veterinarian who nurtured animals for 45 years and I am so thankful that

he nurtured the community gardens and motivated me for the last two years of his life. He was like my right hand man! Always eager to build or repair and create growing conditions for the 4000 seedlings we started last year! I am forever grateful for his help and we will be dedicating the first bench along the path to the gardens in his memory! We also have many cuttings and seedlings that he has started at his home to share with members of our society and visitors to the Hunt House Museum, this spring.

He will speak to you through his plants and flowers and his spirit will stay with us all!

Presidents' Letter

From page 1

RICHARG Grant

Last year we also received a grant from the RI Council for the Humanities for a RI Culture, Humanities and Arts Recovery grant (RICHARG). Our new Technology Committee has been working on plans to use the funds to develop QR codes to access information about Museum and Education Center items and exterior signage with QR codes.

New State Preservation Grant!

Early this year we received the exciting news that we have been approved for a generous grant from the RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission for a State Preservation Grant. We plan to use these funds to repaint the Education Center, replace two doors to be historically correct and upgrade the storm windows on the Hunt House to protect against the elements.

Home School Group

On Friday, December 3rd, a group of Home Schooled children, under the leadership of Kara Evans,



Nancy at the Keebler tree

came to Hunt's Mills. They hiked the trails which were festive with holiday decorations, used magnifying glasses to explore carvings on rocks, climbed in the Keebler tree and engaged in craft projects in the Education Center. They have plans to return in April to learn about the Fish Ladder.



Kara showing visitors her craft projects

Community Gardens

We will be starting seeds in the Garden Center again this year. Jeff has plans to install some new shelving and grow lights and we have a team of URI Master Gardeners and community gardeners eager to start growing! Seedlings will be grown to give to the Hunt's Mills Community Gardeners, other gardening projects and to the East Providence community.



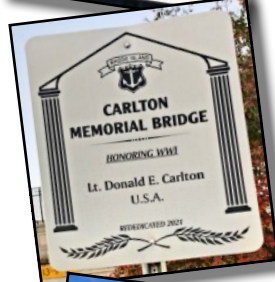
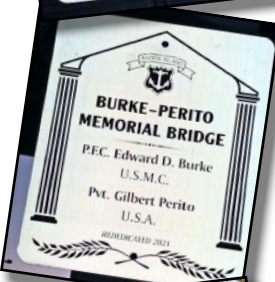
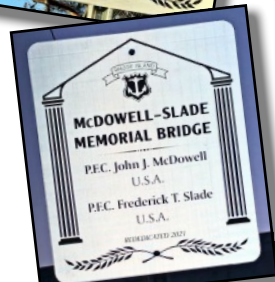
Exploring a new world using a magnifying glass

EPVME Wrap-up

by Nancy Moore

November 6, 2021 was a clear, unusually warm day at Pierce Field for the 60th rededication of the distinctive white and black commemorative signs for the East Providence Memorial Expressway bridges. We now call this highway simply I95 as it leaves the Washington Bridge and crosses into Seekonk, MA but in 1956 this Eisenhower Highway Project bisected the City with seven bridges tying the north/south parts together. The original dedication in 1961 was held on one of those bridges with traffic blocked off from access. This year, Director of Veterans Affairs for RI, Kasim Yarn and Mayor Robert DaSilva greeted the crowd. Local youth were flag bearers and placed wreaths at the flagpoles. Sixty years ago, on Nov 11, Governor DeSesto dedicated these 14 signs, each commemorating 2 fallen heroes from WWII or the Korean War. Originally, each family had written a letter to the City asking that their son's name be considered for a sign and many of those families were able to participate in the 2021 ceremony. In addition to these 14 signs, two other signs were dedicated: under the Washington Bridge at Valley Street (WWI) and at the South Broadway overpass at Freeborn Ave.

How was it noticed that these signs were missing or in poor shape? Nearly 5 years ago, as the State began redoing these bridges, Susan Cady, an avid local historian, noted that the some of the signs had disappeared or were in very poor condition. In addition, two families, Reid and Fontes, had been privately looking to replace their missing signs. It took some digging on her part at the RIDOT offices to find out the history of these signs, who was in charge of these signs and when EP could expect to see them returned. Finally a fitting date of Nov. 6, 2021 was decided upon as



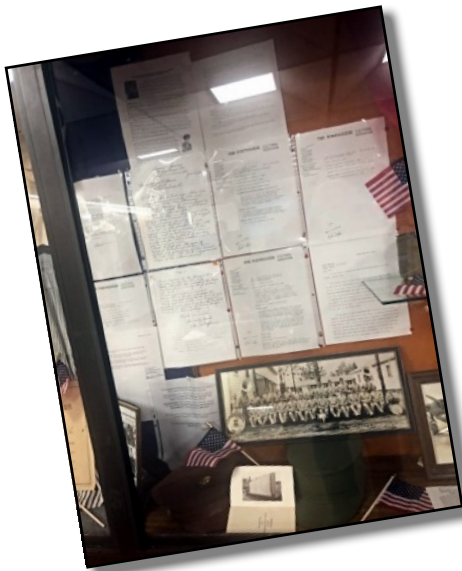
comfortable for the DOT to refashion the signs and get them back to the bridges. In the meantime, research was done by Susan and her team to make sure all the signs were accounted for with correct information. The EPHS wrote letters of support for the project to the City and to RIDOT over the course of nearly 3 years. In addition, a display of the original letters and artifacts from the HS collection went into the City Hall case for the event.

It seemed only natural to Susan that, as the research went on, she looked at the EP Military Honor Roll as well. It became clear it was in need of bringing up to date and that her team was up for the job. Queries went out through the papers and the Historical Society sites asking for new entries or updating of personnel who had somehow been missed on the original roll. She was flooded with responses - obviously a big need there! Along with service records, she received photos, bio sketches, family genealogies - enough to fill a book and fodder for several Gazette articles. The Honor Roll went onto our web site but soon grew much too large for that space. So we have made it easy for all to access the Roll: go to ephist.org/downloads. The cutoff date for inclusion in this version of the Roll was September 2021 but of course there will be further up-dating. The EP Board wishes to congratulate Susan Cady and her team on finishing the herculean task of bringing every piece of both projects to a fitting conclusion at Pierce Field. Our great thanks also to the Mayor's Office for facilitating the details of using Pierce Field and to all who took part in the ceremony.

The public can access all 9 reports by Susan Cady by accessing the Reporter website. To access Susan's report/photos of the event go to ephist.org/downloads and scroll down through the honor roll to the link at the very end of the download. It was a proud day for EP.



Scenes from City Hall Display Honoring East Providence Veterans



All images for this article honoring our EP veterans provided by Gordon Hubbard. Thank you for your help.

Preservation Updates

Historic District Commission

If you are interested in preserving the past as the future rolls on, the HDC needs you Here's a place to make a difference in how that future gets played out. To learn more, contact Patrick Hanner at the Planning Dept.
PHanner@eastprovidenceri.gov

Barrington Parkway

Did you know that the 1910 Barrington Parkway aka Veteran's Memorial Parkway was accepted for nomination to the National Historic register in 1991 but was never moved through the process? Is it time to redo the nomination and see it through? Let us know your thoughts.

Phillipsdale/Oceanstate Steel

Now that Baccari Developers has finished up at Kettle Point, they are into the permitting phase of their next EP project - residences at the old Oceanstate Steel property. Included in the plans to date: a small park and access to Omega Pond for the public as has been done at Kettle Point.



Fish Count Reminder

If you want to volunteer for the fish counting this spring, contact the 10 Mile River Group KTGgroup@aol.com (or speak with a member at the March open house)

New Exhibit

"Ding, Ding, Ding Went the Trolley"

Jesse Albright's East Providence Collection

You may remember that the HS received a special gift from the Albright family last spring: Jesse's carefully curated East Providence collection. Jesse loved trolleys and trains and a large part of his collection is very early photos of how residents made their way around town. We're very pleased to present the first selections from the collection, now through the summer. For a sneak preview, visit ephist.org and look at the Sept 21 Gazette.



Sharing Pawtucket Avenue with the trolley



Crossing the Ten Mile River

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 Roy and Claire Anderson	Nancy and Dan Moore Woods Heating Service
--	--

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	Thomas J. Lavin III
Helen Archibald	Ruth McCarthy
Sandra Barber	K.A. McGovern
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council	Jayne Poland
James Robert Boyd, Jr.	Alicia and Tom Ramian
Helen Dooley	Mark Saunders
Christine Ellis	Bonney B. Sevellon
Gil Fletcher	Barbara Simon
Pat Henry	Meredith Swan
Ngina Johnson	Jean and Gary Zunda

The Historian's Circle

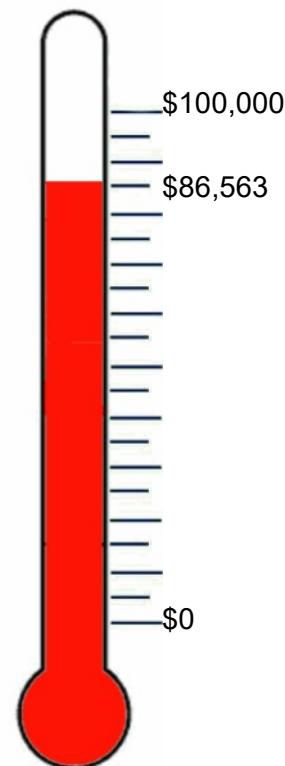
Thank you to those who donated to our Annual fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you are helping the Historical Society meet our annual, strategic and endowment goals for the 2022 calendar year.

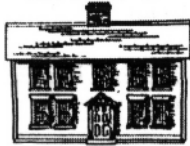
Thank You!!

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 the East Providence Historical Society. So far we have raised \$86,563 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
401-694-1237

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
edwardjones.com

Member SIPC

MKT-5894K-A

