



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

November/December 2022

Volume XXXV No. 3

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

November

Monday, November 7
6:30 pm
"A True Riverside Soap Opera!"
by Jeff Howe

Weaver Memorial Library
41 Grove Avenue,
East Providence, RI

Sunday, November 13
1:00 - 3:30 pm
Hunt House Museum open
Hunts Mills Road,
Rumford

December

Sunday, December 11
1:00 - 3:30 pm
Hunt House Museum open
Hunts Mills Road,
Rumford



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 Fall and Winter! This is the last installment of the Gazette for 2022 and it covers both November and December. We will be with you again in March, 2023. Here is an overview of recent happenings.

John Hunt House Museum

We continued our monthly Open Houses on the 2nd Sunday of the month. In October, many people came for guided tours of the museum, to take the monthly hike led by Ernie Germani and visit the research center in the Education Center.

Our next Open House will be on Sunday, November 13th. Our researchers, Sandra Turgeon and Tom Warzeka, will again be using Ancestry, Family Search and Find a Grave to help our visitors with genealogical research.



MET High School Visit



On October 6 a group of students from the MET High School visited Hunt's Mills. The purpose of the visit was to learn about history and the value and rewards of volunteering. They went on a scavenger hunt on the property, led by Principal Arthur Baraf, and took a tour of the first floor of the John Hunt House Museum, led by Count Rumford and Dotty Thornley.

Continued on page 4

The Gazette

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- Cheryl Faria/Jeff Faria
Co-Presidents
- Deborah Ormerod *1st Vice President*
- Eric Underhill *Recording Secretary*
- Dorothy Thornley/Meredith Walsh
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- 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*

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 Co-Chair

401-434-9462 for questions or miriamkenney@aol.com

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- Your lawn will thank you if you mulch most of the fallen leaves. Many mowers have a mulching feature.
- Many perennials and ornamental grasses provide seeds and shelter for overwintering local birds. They also look great with a light white blanket of snow! Cut them back next spring before new growth appears.
- Your Christmas cactus needs 12 to 14 hours of total darkness to form flower buds. Start NOW!!
- Remember to dig dahlias, gladiolus and other tender perennials just after our first killing frost! Also, mulch your roses after the ground begins to freeze to keep the roots cold and stable, and have less rodent damage.
- Allow your gardens to prepare for their long Winters nap!



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 #: _____

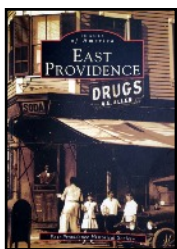
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\$35 Family/Business

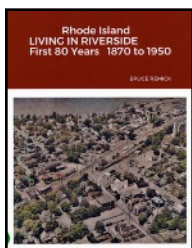
\$250 Life

Holiday Shopping Ideas . . .



“Images of America - East Providence”

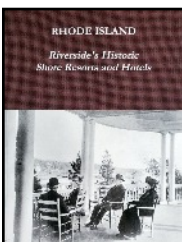
Our local historical bible, every household from Rumford to Riverside should keep one handy and no transplant should leave home without it! – \$20



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

Bruce Remick – \$20

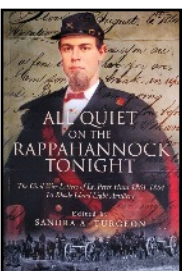
Bruce’s 1st book on the Riverside hotels has become a favorite gift for EP transplants. This book has even more photos and information. Ride around town with this book on the seat next to you!



“Riverside’s Historic Shore Resorts and Hotels”

Bruce Remick – \$20

A new book, this comprehensive look at the resort heyday of our East Providence shoreline has photos you may have never seen before. Each area/building has a corresponding map so one can do a driving tour of 1890 Riverside in 2020.



“ALL QUIET ON THE RAPPAHANOCK TONIGHT”

Edited by Sandra A. Turgeon – \$15

Lt. Peter Hunt, born 1834 at Hunt’s Mills, joined the Union Army in August, 1861. For 3 years he and his mother wrote every Sunday night. His letters are a fascinating first-hand look at the Civil War in the VA area. A must for every Civil War enthusiast.

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 Attend/pick up at 2 remaining Second
 Sunday open houses 1-3:30pm:
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 over \$30 receive a free tote bag. We will
 deliver within the general area and will
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Bruce Remick Visit

Two of our members had the great fortune to meet with Bruce Remick, his wife Betsy and his brother Bob at the Education Center on October 22. Bruce was “up home” from VA this week and had some updates of his seriously popular Riverside books to show Dot Thornley and Jeff Howe. Bruce is EP ‘59, spent 3 years at RISD and settled in VA in 1978 after a stint in the military. He always sparks a lively conversation - it was a special visit!



Bruce and his family enjoyed their visit so much that Dot says “It was very hard to get the men to look at me to take the picture. They had their noses in all the books and maps at the Education Center.”

Presidents' Letter

From page 1

State Preservation Grant

Earlier this year we received the good news that our grant proposal to the RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission was approved for \$26,865. The grant funds are being used to reglaze and paint windows in the John Hunt House Museum and to paint the Education Center. Over the summer, under the leadership of Paul Barnum, Buildings Chair, we have been sending out Requests for Proposals (RFP's) and receiving bids from companies to perform the work.

Strategic Plan

In 2018 we developed our first three-year Strategic Plan. We developed it based on three focus groups with the community, and several meetings of the full board led by David Karoff. This fall we reviewed progress we've made against the goals and strategies that we had identified in five priority areas. The priority areas were

- 1. Expand internal organizational capacity;
- 2. Increase funding base;
- 3. Increase partnerships with other organizations;
- 4. Expand education programming;
- 5. Maximize use of technology

We are proud to report that despite the many setbacks from COVID-19, we were able to accomplish most of our goals. This fall, the board has been meeting to develop an updated three-year Strategic Plan which will take us from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025.



"A True Riverside Soap Opera!"

A Jeff Howe Presentation

Monday, November 7, 6:30PM

Weaver Library

Chattel: belongings and possessions, sometimes used in a derogatory way.

What would this term mean if it was a child's middle name, a child of 3 with no belongings, who came to a family in Riverside under mysterious circumstances? Jeffrey Howe, a longtime favorite presenter of East Providence history, brings a very personal tale from Riverside Square to Weaver Library on Nov 7th. Today's hi-tech search engines coupled with Jeff's research instincts and doggedness enabled him to follow the trail backward to 1890 and Freetown, MA. He had a sentence from long ago: "When Mrs. _____ is dead and gone, then I will tell you who your parents were."

We cannot reveal that name here but we do promise that "all will be revealed" on Nov. 7th!



December Open House

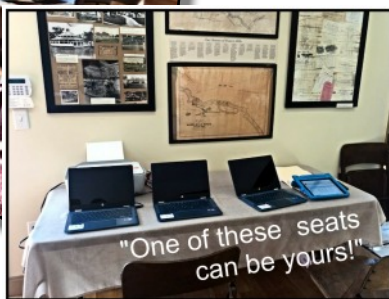
Gordon and Baxter Bear are ready to greet you on the Teddy Bear Trail and this year a friend has donated her collection of bears to the trail walk. We all enjoyed your additions to the decorations around the grounds and we invite you to do that again. Perhaps some elves will decorate the Fairy Garden? Join us for games, goodies, and crafts.



“Finding Your Roots” at the EPHS Education Center

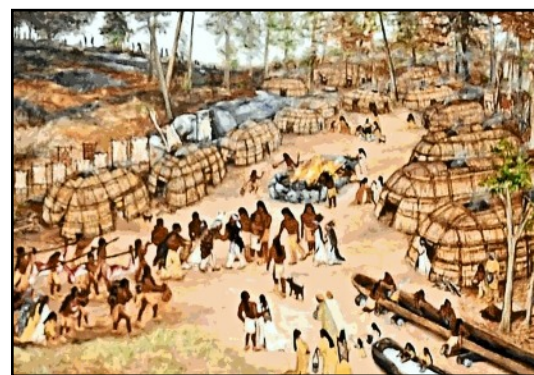
Jeff Howe’s presentation dovetails nicely with the beginnings of our own new Ancestry Program. At Open House on October 9, the research team of Sandra Turgeon and Tom Warzeka welcomed families and potential research volunteers. We are repeating Sandra’s own words here: “Attention amateur genealogists: free research help is now available in the Ed Center at Open Houses. We have access to Ancestry, Family Search and

Find a Grave. Let us help you discover your family history.” Get inspired by Jeff’s talk on Nov. 7 and come for help on Nov. 13.



Newman Church Service/Sowams 17th Century Marker: A Blessed Event

In the last issue, you were treated to a picture of the Sowams Heritage Area marker which was dedicated on Sunday, Oct. 2 at the Newman Cemetery entrance on Newman Avenue. For those who were able to attend, it was an inspiring and transcendent moment, both as a service and as we gathered outside at the marker. The Pokanoket Tribe and the Newman choir provided music for the morning and both felt just right for the occasion. Newman Church places great emphasis on its racial justice efforts and wishes to acknowledge the truth of its history with the Pokanoket Tribe and, moving forward, to help them preserve their culture in the land their ancestors called Sowams.



A Legacy Well Placed

As of Oct. 7th, Len Iannacone’s body of art works has been spread throughout the area, into Seekonk and Rehoboth. Most pieces were sold at the Hunt House/Weaver sales but thirty pieces have gone to museums, libraries, preservation groups, and 2 local sports venues. We could not have done this sale/dispersal without the help of Ryan MacAuley of the Library staff and the Friends of the Library. Help from Luke McInnis at “Frames of Mind” was invaluable. If you use his shop, please convey your thanks. Our own group of volunteers did double duty as Open House docents and salespeople - some even worked the Looff teaser and the Weaver event! Thank you, all! Dual members of the Library Friends and the EPHS, Rose Marie Sirenski and Sharon DuBois were point people for the Library Sale. Dot Thornley kept those pictures safe at her house for two years and handled the financial end of the sale. She reports that we took in \$2,227.86 which will be shared by the HS, the Library and the Arts Council which gave us prime space at the Looff Festival. But the number of friends we have made over the Fall as we met people who wanted to know more about Len and how this sale came about is the real bonus. Now many of us have an Iannacone original to remind us of this very rare event.

PS: We still have prints available. Ask about them at Open House.

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
TO OUR
MEMBERS AND
FRIENDS**

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: _____

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

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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 2021 Annual Fund. Your generous gifts were used to help meet our goals in the 2022 calendar year. Thank you to those who are considering a donation this year! **On the right is a list of what your gift will support in calendar year 2023.**

- 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
- Annual draw to offset costs and hire a part-time employee.

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

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

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

Boyden Heights Park: \$100-\$199

Leroy and Karen Anderson	Gordon R. and Wendy L. Wood-Hubbard
Peter G. and Sandra M. Barilla	Michele Kazarian
Barbara Barnes and Beverly Pettine	Dave and Eleanor Kelleher
Patricia C. Birkes	Miriam Kenney
James Boyd	Valarie J. Lawson
K. Eric Crook and Joanne Perella-Crook	Ann Linde
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Bill Fazioli	Michael and Norma Reynolds
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Friends: \$25-\$99

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Blackstone Valley Tourism Council	K.A. McGovern
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Ivan and Malinda Colon	Jayne Poland
Jane Dennison	Alicia and Tom Ramian
Helen Dooley	Mark Saunders
Christine Ellis	Jack & Kathi Savage
Gil Fletcher	Bonney B. Sevellon
Pam and Paul Goulet	Barbara Simon
Pat Henry	Betty Stoner
Ngina Johnson	Meredith Swan
	Jean and Gary Zunda

The Historian's Circle

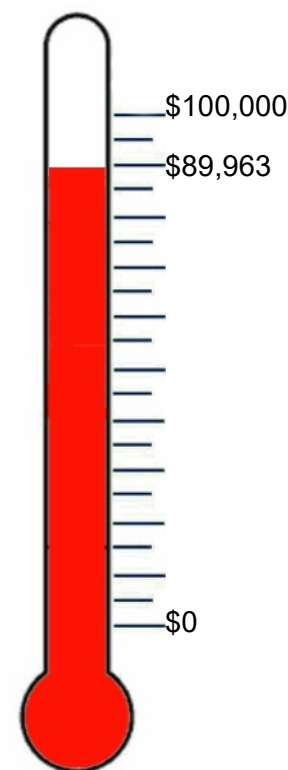
Thank you to those who donated to our Annual Fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you are helping the Historical Society meet our annual, strategic and endowment goals for the 2023 calendar year.

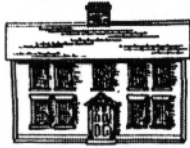
Thank You!!

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 \$89,963 towards that goal.





John Hunt House

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

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