



Gazette

Vol. XVIII No. 6

April 2006

President's Letter

Nancy Moore, President

How good it was to see nearly sixty of you at the pot-luck supper meeting on March 27th. We were a lively group and the menu was varied and tasty, from the grilled venison to our splendid dessert table. But the highlight of the evening was the toe-tapping troupe called the *Bayside Tap Company*, a group led by **Beverly Parsons**. They were polished and poised, making the best of a slippery dance floor and limited space. We all loved their energy and clever routines, especially the number (from Will Rogers Follies) performed when they were sitting in chairs. Many members said, "Let's invite them back again!" So lets, Dave (Kelleher).

I have 'thank you's' to say to many of you this month. At last month's board meeting I passed out a "wish list" of housekeeping/spruce-up chores that needed to be done at the Hunt House Museum before the Rumford Chemical Works exhibit opens on June 12th. That list was printed in the Gazette. To date, we have bookshelves anchored (thanks **Bob Tewsbury**), a new spigot (thanks **Jeff Faria**), an offer of new countertops for the kitchen (thanks **Dean Martineau**), and promise of plantings in Rumford Baking Powder can colors (red, white in black pots), (thanks **Kris Rose** and **Jeff and Cheryl Faria**).

Also, the general response to our call for members to add their names to a congratulatory list for the *Rumford Chemical Works June 12th program/ad book* was excellent. Thirteen members/couples signed up at the March meeting. I'm sure that many more of you will want to add your names. Please read the article elsewhere in this newsletter and call us soon. Thank you for your support of this exciting event.

"STATE OF MINE": ARMCHAIR ADVENTURE INTO MASSACHUSETTS

Members Meeting
Monday, April 24, 7 p.m.
Newman Church, Rumford

Since late summer of 2002, **Don and Nancy Doucette**, society members from Attleboro, Massachusetts have been attempting to visit all 351 chartered communities of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. They have six remaining municipalities to visit. This "State of Mine" interest has allowed them to traverse their Commonwealth and more fully appreciate its diverse communities and beauty. The Doucettes locate the place of government in each community and photograph themselves as validation of their visit. Through this armchair adventure, Don and Nancy will present a narrative of some of their experiences, display their photo albums and also present an invitation for Rhode Island citizens to discover their own "Little Rhody" in similar fashion.

Refreshments and business meeting will follow.

The Gazette

Is published monthly by the
EAST●PROVIDENCE●HISTORICAL●SOCIETY
P. O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774
Tel: (401) 438-1750 Web Site: ephist.org

OFFICERS

Nancy Moore	<i>President</i>
Kris Rose	<i>1st Vice President</i>
Edna Anness	<i>2nd Vice President</i>
Cheryl Faria	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Arline Butterworth	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
Peter Allen	<i>Treasurer</i>
Kris Rose	<i>Immediate Past President</i>

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bob Tewksbury	<i>Buildings</i>
Jeffrey Faria	<i>Grounds</i>
Kris Rose	<i>Markers</i>
Mona Breault	<i>Membership</i>
Virginia Berwick	<i>Museum</i>
Edna Anness	<i>Acting Curator</i>
Doreen Bonney/Florence Adams	<i>Newsletter</i>
David Kelleher	<i>Preservation</i>
	<i>Program</i>
Florence Adams	<i>Publicity</i>
Reinhard Wohlgemuth	<i>Webmaster</i>

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The Society has a "Return Service Requested" arrangement with the Post Office. *There is a CHARGE every time we retrieve an undeliverable mailing.....* Please advise the Society of all changes, temporary or permanent. Thank you for helping us save money.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Karen Panzarella, Chairman, and her committee will present a slate of candidates at the May 22nd members meeting to be considered for office from June 2006 to June 2007. However, there could be opposition to their choices. Any member wishing to seek office may contact the society, 438-1750, and get in the running. **NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE MAY MEETING ONLY.** Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting, June 26.

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 \$15 individual, \$25 family, or a Life Membership for \$150.

Please make check payable to:

East Providence Historical Society
and mail with form below to:

**Mona Breault, 34 Josephine Avenue,
Rumford, RI 02916-3018**

The Hunt House Museum, Hunts Mills Road, Rumford, will be open on Sunday, May 14, 1 to 4 p.m. Admission \$3. \$1 East Providence residents. Free, society members.

*Warm Welcome to
our New Members:*

Bristol County DAR
Dean Martineau Family
Beverly Parsons

Membership Form New Renewal /Change

Name(s) _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone # _____

Amount Enclosed:

\$25 Family **\$15 Individual** **\$150 Life**

CAPE VERDEAN MUSEUM

There is a wonderful new museum in East Providence. The Cape Verdean Museum is located at 1005 Waterman Avenue in its new quarters. The exhibit is very well done and worth the trip. It is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 12 – 4 p.m.

WISH LIST FOR 2006: Short Term

Kitchen Repairs:

- 1) light switch
- 2) floor (linoleum?)
- done 3) formica counter tops
- 4) cleaning

Office:

- 1) repair typewriter
- 2) sort through files & drawers

Library:

- done 1) secure shelves
- 2) replace books
- 3) more 18" shelving needed?

Outside:

- done 1) new faucet gear
- done 2) summer plantings in Rumford Baking Powder Co. colors (red & white)
- 3) remove stones from under the back porch

Gazebo:

Determine whether E.P. High School students can finish construction by June 12 (American Chemical Society award day). If not, gather volunteers to get it done. Install benches.

WISH LIST FOR 2006: Long Term

- 1) roof chimney solution
- 2) heating/AC problem
- 3) use of 1st floor of 1905 Amusement Park Office Building (next to Hunt House Museum)

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

David Kelleher, Chairman

A lot of good news in preservation this month here in East Providence.

THE WEAVER HOUSE: Much progress has been made to this historic house. The side of the house facing the Weaver Library is returning to its former beauty with the repairs to the porch area that has been covered up with plywood for many years. The railings and columns are being repaired or reproduced to bring the veranda back to its glorious past.

Work inside continues to unveil magnificent moldings and rounded archways, especially in the rounded room on the veranda side of the house. The exterior painting should be started soon.

THE 1905 AMUSEMENT PARK OFFICE BUILDING (next to the Hunt House Museum): The foundation of the building has been repaired and redesigned for use as a storage area for garden materials. The door and windows still need to be installed. The historical society is working on financing for that part of the project. New roof shingles are now being installed and minor repairs are being done to some of the siding. The shingles and other materials were supplied by the city. The work by **Dean Martineau** (Chairman of the East Providence Historic Properties Study Commission) and his crew is being paid from a Rhode Island Preservation Commission grant. However, Dean Martineau is doing much more to the building than his original contract stipulates. He took down the stairway that was in very bad condition and will *install a new stairway, labor free*, if we can come up with the materials.

Dean Martineau also plans to paint the building, *free of charge*, with the city supplying the paint and materials.

LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT: The East Providence Historic Properties Study Commission is currently working on having the Hunts Mill area declared a local historic district. **Patrick Hanner**, East Providence Planning Department, is working with the historic study commission on this important project. Getting a local historic district in the city is important for future grants to protect our historic properties.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
ephist.org

RUMFORD CHEMICAL WORKS AWARD: CONGRATULATORY PAGE

The historical society will be printing a commemorative booklet detailing the history of the Rumford Chemical Works and its impact on the Rumford area. This publication will include information on the families employed there, the day to day details of the business and the historical society's involvement in preserving its archives. The cost of printing will be underwritten by paid ads taken by businesses, historical society members and others who wish to congratulate the Rumford Chemical Works for receiving this prestigious award from the American Chemical Society.

You can participate by: 1) \$10 – adding your name/names to the members congratulatory list. 2) \$25/\$50/\$100 – taking an ad for your business/family in a separate space.

For further details, call Nancy Moore, historical society president, 438-4299, or the historical society, 438-1750. Thanks in advance for your support.

RUMFORD CHEMICAL WORKS PLAQUE

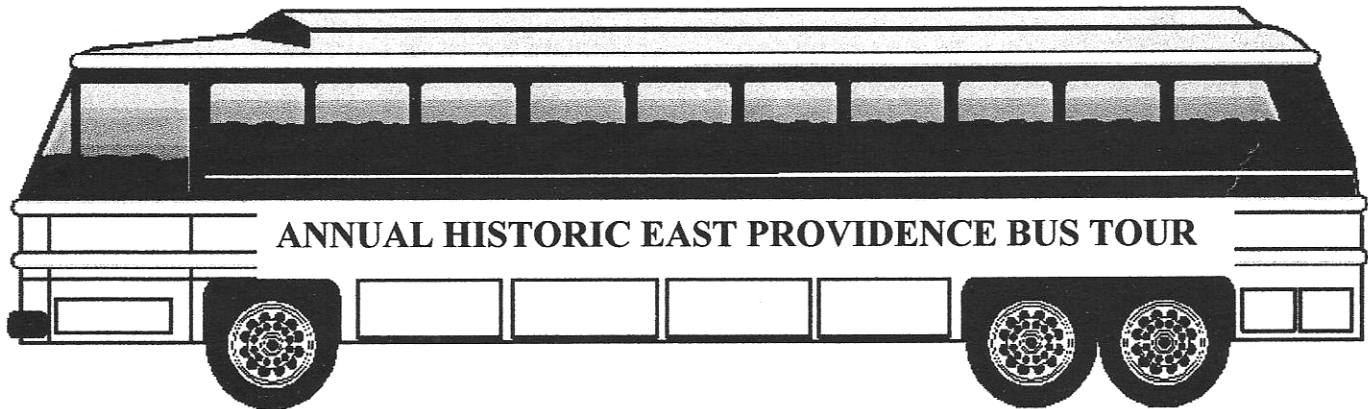
Edna Anness, Acting Curator

Plans are moving ahead for the presentation of the **Historic Landmark plaque**. The presentation will be made on **June 12, 11 a.m.**, under a tent with chairs provided, next to the original Rumford Chemical Works building. It will be, symbolically, in the same location that the 80th anniversary was held, only there was a lawn there then. It will be, coincidentally, the 150th anniversary of the invention of baking powder by *Eben Horsford*.

Afterwards, a luncheon will be held back at Hunts Mills (Hunt House Museum) under a tent on the lawn for those who sign up. **THE RESERVATION DEADLINE WILL BE POSTED IN THE MAY GAZETTE.**

The museum will also be open for a more complete presentation of the Rumford collection. We will feature group photos of events at the former chemical works plant so that visitors can find their ancestors who worked there. The public is welcome, but you **MUST** reserve for the luncheon if you stay. More later.

Reinhard Wohlgemuth, the society's web master, is designing a program/ad book which Nancy Moore, society president, has explained elsewhere on this page.



The East Providence Historical Society and the East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce are pleased to announce that the annual bus tour of historic East Providence will be held Saturday, May 20th, starting at 10 a.m. from the Hunt House Museum, Hunts Mills Road, off Pleasant Street, in Rumford.

The tour will include the Ring of the Green area, Phillipsdale, the former Rumford Chemical Company, Watchemoket and Riverside. The tour will end back at the Hunt House Museum around 12 p.m.

This year we will be using an air-conditioned coach from Archway Bus Transportation, Inc. Cost: \$12.00, members of the historical society or chamber and \$15.00 for non-members.

This is a fund-raiser for both organizations. Seating is limited. RESERVATIONS BY APRIL 28TH WOULD BE APPRECIATED. Call the Chamber of Commerce, 438-1212.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

Monday, April 24, 7 p.m.
Members Meeting *Public Invited*
Newman Church, Rumford
Program: *Armchair Adventure into MA*

Thursday, April 28
DEADLINE FOR BUS TOUR RESERVATIONS
Chamber of Commerce: 438-1212

MAY

Wednesday, May 3, 7 p.m.
Board Meeting *Members Welcome*
Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Sunday, May 14, 1 to 4 p.m.
Hunt House Museum Open
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
Admission Charges

Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m.
Historic Bus Tour of E.P.
Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Monday, May 22, 7 p.m.
Members Meeting *Public Invited*
Newman Church, Rumford
Program: *To Be Announced*

JUNE

Wednesday, June 7, 7 p.m.
Board Meeting *Members Welcome*
Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Monday, June 12, 11 a.m.
Chemical Landmark Award Ceremony
Former Rumford Chemical Works
Buffet, Hunt House Museum

Monday, June 26, 6 p.m.
Annual Meeting/Elections/Picnic
Hunts Mills, Rumford



John Hunt House

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P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916

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**East • Providence • Historical • Society
Historical Marker Program**

Your home may be eligible for a Marker.
Any building in the City of East Providence
which contributes to the historical develop-
ment or architectural character of the City is
eligible to be considered for a

Historical Marker.

*Request information by sending your name, address
and phone number to the*

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



The Society's *Memorial Fund* was established in
1993, in memory of past members, for "the
betterment of the Society and with no specific
purpose".

The *Memorial Fund* is a qualified endowment
administered by the Executive Committee.
Members and friends wishing to contribute may
make checks payable to the
East Providence Historical Society
And mail to the Society at
Box 4774,
East Providence, RI 02916-4774