



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XVIII No. 8

June 2006

ANNUAL MEETING/PICNIC

**Monday, June 26, 6 p.m.
Hunts Mills, Rumford**

At the May 22 members meeting, the Nominating Committee, **Karen Panzarella**, Chairman, announced the following slate of candidates to serve 2006 - 2007:

Nancy Moore, President; Kris Rose, 1st Vice President; Edna Anness, 2nd Vice President; Arline Butterworth, Corresponding Secretary; Cheryl Faria, Recording Secretary; Peter Allen, Treasurer.

Since there were no nominations from the floor, the Secretary will cast the vote of acceptance for the Nominating Committee's slate. Following this business, we will chow down with hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, beverages AND strawberry shortcake. (Cream donated by **Munroe Dairy**.)

The Telephone Committee will call the membership for salads and 'Rumford Baking Powder' biscuits.

TICKETS: \$3 members; \$6 non-members to be paid at the door. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Reservation deadline: Saturday, June 24. The public is invited. Call the society, 438-1750 or 437-1540 or ephist.org.

Peter Allen, Treasurer, will be accepting reservation fees.

Mona Breault, Membership Chairman, will be available to accept annual dues. The anniversary month of initial membership is indicated on your Gazette address label along with the current year. Example: 2606 reads, 2006 (the year) 06 (the month. 2610 reads, October 2006.

All are welcome to Hunts Mills at 5 p.m. to take care of these obligations, enjoy the grounds and view the nearly completed gazebo.

FOOD WILL BE SERVED AT 6 P.M.

President's Letter

Nancy Moore, President

Hello Everyone:

If smiling faces are any indication of a successful event, then the **American Chemical Society's** award ceremony was near to perfection. The Chemical Society was greatly pleased with all the historical landmarks the day covered: the 150th anniversary of the invention of baking powder; the positioning of the tent at the former **Rumford Chemical Works** on the same site as the 80th anniversary celebration right next to the original building; the ability to tour the buildings; the breath-taking beauty of the Hunts Mills site with the river roaring, and an exhibit of artifacts in the Hunt House Museum which is truly astonishing. Add the first perfect day of the month to all that, and we had a winner!

It was wonderful to welcome so many descendants of the original Rumford family, the **Horsfords** and the **Wilsons**, a number of former workers, the **Peregrine Group**, chemists from local colleges and around the country, representatives from City government, the **Blackstone Valley rangers**, city and state historic commission members, the **COOKS** (collectors of old kitchen stuff - specifically Rumford stuff), and many of our own group who wanted to share this important event.

We were especially pleased to have **Tom Payne** with us from Terre Haute, IN, whose company now holds the patent and still manufactures the product. He reports that

(Continued on page 3)

The Gazette

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

OFFICERS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

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.

Warm Welcome to our New Members:

Margaret Dooley
Handy Bake Shoppe
Edward & Carol Huff
Dean Martineau, Painting/Contracting
The Peregrine Group
Beverly Parson
Barbara Primiano
Shectman Halprin Savage, LLP
Barbara Vincent

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Austin & Arline Butterworth - sled

John Lyons - 1940 East Providence High School scrapbook

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 business, 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**

**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 development 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

Membership Form **New** **Renewal /Change**

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone # _____

Amount Enclosed:

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

President's Letter

(Continued from page 1)

the Rumford brand has just gained the number two spot in the nation, perhaps owing to some publicity from Martha Stewart and the fact that Rumford contains no aluminum.

The ceremony itself was enlightening. Our own **Edna Anness**, Museum Curator, gave an excellent short history of the complex and its beginnings, pointing to buildings as she spoke and including anecdotes about the Rumford family. **Dr. Paul Jones**, editor of the Chemical Society Journal and an expert on the work of Eben Horsford, gave us a vivid description of Eben's life prior to his arrival in Providence, helping us understand the background leading up to the invention. He pointed out that actually the Germans had invented the substance in the mid 1800's but being quite volatile, the baking powder kept exploding in the cans. Horsford added starch to quiet down the contents.

Leading up to the presentation, the president of ACS, **Ann Nalley**, explained the motivation behind the awarding of a plaque. The invention has to have at least twenty five years history and "be good to do good". In other words, an award worthy invention has to have had a significant impact on people's lives for the better. After eating the many goodies our bakers have produced over the years, we know this to be the truth!

And now we must point out and express gratitude for the many people who helped put the day together. First, we must thank **Colin Kane** and **Ethan Sluter** of the **PEREGRINE GROUP**, which now owns the Rumford complex. "Rising above the ordinary" has become their slogan and they were incredibly supportive of this event, providing the ceremony site and all that entailed plus further financial backing for the entire event.

MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY: **Martin Saltzman** of the Providence College chemistry department who provided research materials and great support to Edna through the grant process, and **Judah Ginsberg** who steered the event for his group from Washington, DC.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD: **Edna Anness** piloted us through the entire year's preparation with wonderful good humor and attention to detail. It is very easy to see why she deserved the Preserve RI state award for volunteerism in education. **Reinhard**

Wohlgemuth produced a brochure we are so proud of. **Kris Rose** handled the luncheon arrangements. **Ginny Berwick** assembled docents for the exhibit opening and so many of you volunteered. **Jeff and Cheryl Faria** schlepped and drilled and hauled way beyond any reasonable amount. **Mona Breault** and **Peter Allen** kept tally on new member/corporate sponsors and the finances. **Bob Tewksbury** made sure the research room was ready to open. **Florence Adams** and **Doreen Bonney** kept the newspapers and the membership apprised of the preparations. **Arline Butterworth** and **Dave Kelleher** filled in around the edges and kept our spirits high. Folks, you have an amazing group of people leading you!

We now head into summer with such a feeling of accomplishment. The picnic is nearly upon us and we hope that you will all use that opportunity to view the collection. The museum will be open Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., plus our regular second Sunday of the month. Please let your friends know about the new hours and urge them to come see us. We still have spots for docenting during the summer. Join us!

POMHAM ROCKS LIGHTHOUSE: RE-LIGHTING

The Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse are pleased to announce that the historic lighthouse will have its light returned to the tower on the evening of Sunday, July 30th as part of Bay Day activities. At 7:30 p.m. Governor Carcieri will turn on the red light in the lantern room of the lighthouse for the first time since the 1970's.

The exterior of the lighthouse has been completely restored to its 1871 glory and is now ready to once again guide ships in and out of Providence Harbor with its light back in the tower.

The best places to observe this event is from the East Bay Bike Path or from Sabin Point Park.

FOR THE BIKE PATH: park in Riverside Square behind the Dairy Queen and walk north (or bike.) It takes about 10 or 15 minutes to walk.

SABIN POINT PARK: turn right on Shore Road (Riverside Fire Station) off Bullocks Point Avenue and follow to the end.

RECOGNITION DEPARTMENT

Ruth McCarthy was not recognized last month for her contribution to the refreshment table at the April 24th meeting. We do so now.

George Page, in a Providence Journal interview regarding the restoration of the Weaver House, Grove Avenue, was photographed mounting the stairs in the house. He also is responsible for promoting the installation of additional mail boxes away from local post offices.

Ed Serowik recently received the Rumford Grange 52 annual Community Citizen Award in honor of his lifelong dedication to East Providence's historical traditions. For 30 years he has been the caretaker of the Crescent Park Carousel and has one of the largest collections of local memorabilia, Crescent Park in particular.

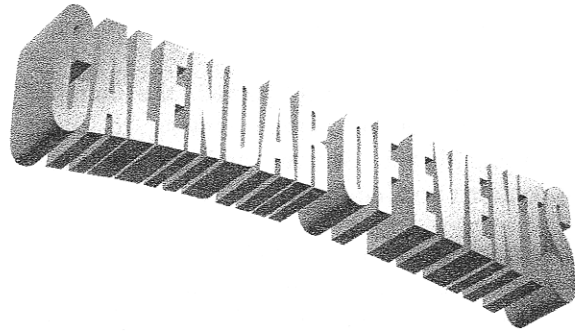
Virginia Berwick, Mona Breault and Arline Butterworth provided the treats for the May 22 members meeting.

Lowell & Edna Anness, Earl & Virginia Berwick, Jeff & Cheryl Faria served as Hunt House Museum docents on Sunday, June 11.

Clockwork Deli, personified by **Wayne Hawksley**, deserves our thanks for a delicious and beautifully presented luncheon for those who attended the Monday, June 12th American Chemical Society landmark award ceremony in honor of Eben Horsford and baking powder. Wayne used his own Rumford collection to make the set-up especially attractive.

R & R Farms, Route 152. Seekonk, donated hanging flower baskets to dress up the gazebo on the grounds of the Hunt House Museum for the celebration on June 12th. Our sincere thank you.

Our thanks and appreciation to the **decision makers at Newman Congregational Church**, Rumford, for the loan of tables and chairs and an alternative space in case it rained on Monday, June 12th.



JUNE

Thursdays, June 22 & 29, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Hunt House Museum
(Rumford Baking Powder Exhibit)
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
Admission \$3. \$1 E.P. Residents

Monday, June 26, 6 p.m.
 (rain date Tuesday, 27th,)
ANNUAL MEETING/ ELECTION OF OFFICERS/PICNIC
Hunts Mills Recreation Area
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

JULY

Sunday, July 9, 1 - 4 p.m.
Hunt House Museum
(Rumford Baking Powder Exhibit)
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
Admission \$3. \$1 E.P. Residents.

Thursdays, July 6 & 13, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Hunt House Museum
(Rumford Baking Powder Exhibit)
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
Admission \$3. \$1 E.P. Residents.

Wednesday, July 12, 7 p.m.
Board Meeting Members Welcome
Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE JUNE 12TH AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY AWARD

WARM GREETINGS from Clarissa Penny Porter and her brother, George Wilson Penny III, great-great-grandchildren of George F. Wilson who with Eben Horsford founded the (Rumford Chemical) Works.

We have happy memories of the plant and of Christmas parties; of going through the Gatehouse into what seemed like a magical kingdom; of riding the elevator to our father's fifth floor office and below to the test kitchens and store rooms piled high with distinctive red and black containers destined for the train's loading platform and then to all corners of the country.

THANK YOU for the privilege of being part of the 'Works' family!

THANK YOU for preserving the site at the Newman and Greenwood crossroads.



CONGRATULATIONS

on becoming a **NATIONAL CHEMICAL HISTORIC LANDMARK.**

Richard Marshall, son of Albert Marshall, the last president of the Rumford Chemical Works.



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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

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AT**

ephist.org