



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XIX No. 7

May 2007

President's Letter

Nancy Moore, President

As I drive down the lane to the Hunt House Museum, I am struck by the fullness of the daffodils this year. They are a bit later, but the wait is worth it. We are indebted to Ray Anderson and the Girl Scouts for these plantings. After the Board meeting on Wednesday, May 2, Jeff Faria, Grounds Chairman, and I were out by the Ten Mile River popping dandelion heads into our mouths. It is an acquired taste but three or four flowers seemed to do the trick. Try it! Jeff tells me that maple buds are delicious also. This knowledge comes from a fellow named John Root who lectures on edible weeds and he may be our speaker come next April.

Some progress at the Brown/Williams cottage, Hunts Mills Road, Rumford. The 1920 kitchen ell has been taken down and the house is much more in its original footprint. The ell was badly rotted and causing problems with the connection to the main house. If you go to look around, remember it is a construction site and use caution. But, please, have a look.

On another street in town, Grove Avenue, an elegant place called the Weaver House has had yet more attention. This time in the landscaping department. Michael Moran, whose dad, Jim, works for the Planning Department, decided to make the house the focus of his Eagle Scout project and planned and executed a landscaping design complete with donated plantings. So, make a tour of Grove Avenue while you are out someday. Or better yet, save yourself all these visits and get on

the bus with Dave Kelleher, 433-2763, on Saturday, May 19th.

But, I have saved the best for last. Ranger Chuck Arning, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, has informed us that the historical society will receive the Star Award on Friday, May 18, 9 a.m. at the Blackstone Public Library, 86 Main Street, Blackstone MA. This award is given to a group who has shown

(Continued on page 3)

THE HEARTHSTONE HOUSE:

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, (4TH WEDNESDAY) 7 P.M.

HEARTHSTONE HOUSE, 15 FALL RIVER AVE. SEEKONK

Longtime residents of the area probably remember when the cousin house to the John Hunt House (Museum) was a restaurant. Most recently, it was the Hearthstone Antiques business. Now it is privately owned and has become a residence once again. Relatives, John and Alan Hunt, built both houses and you will see striking similarities.

PARKING: *We suggest that you car pool for this event if you can. There appears to be a good amount of parking at the house and you can try your luck there first. The owners will be on hand to direct traffic. If the lot at the house is full, the bus turn-around is also available. And for the walkers in the group, the lane at Hunts Mills will work also. Refreshments will be served.*

President's Letter *(continued from page 1)*

exemplary stewardship of an area in the corridor. The East Providence Historical Society will receive the Star Award for its stewardship of the Rumford Chemical Works Collection and its ongoing involvement in the transformation of the Rumford complex. To all of you who have seen fit to entrust Rumford Chemical Works memorabilia to our safekeeping; to all of you who helped defray the expenses for the Rumford Chemical Works award; to all of you who have served as docents at Rumford Chemical Works events; to all of you who have helped in any way with our efforts to preserve the Rumford Chemical Works heritage: THIS STAR'S FOR YOU! And a special thank you to the historical society's curator, Edna Anness and museum director, Virginia Berwick. We hope that both women will be able to accept the award on the 18th.

So, it is a wonderful way to end this season with a surprise award. I am looking forward to seeing you at the Hearthstone House and/or the Annual Picnic June 25. Tell a friend about the historical society and the great work it does. We have 30 new members this year thanks to your enthusiasm.

RHODE ISLAND CLAM BAKE

A benefit for the ongoing PomhamRocks Lighthouse restoration will take place on Saturday, June 23, at Francis Farm, Rehoboth. Chowder and clam cakes will be served at 11:30 a.m. followed by a clam bake at 3:00. Sports activities, games and entertainment will be part of the afternoon festivities. For further information and tickets, call Dave Kelleher, 433-2763 or e-mail him at lighthouse36@cox.net.



OAKLAND BEACH CAROUSEL FOUNDATION

Dear Friends (of the East Providence Historical Society)

Thank you for inviting us to speak at your March meeting and for being so gracious and welcoming to our volunteer, Al Martin. I hope that you enjoyed his presentation. I know that he always does a fine job and enjoys sharing the news of the carousel with friends around the state.

Thank you also for the thoughtful collection on our behalf. Your generosity increased our coffers by \$106.00. We are truly grateful for your kindness and extend an invitation to all to visit the carousel's work shop when you're in Warwick.

Best wishes to all.
Doreen Kosciusko



GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

George Chalko - leather bound price guide for items made by the Rumford Baking Company.

THE WHITE ROCK SPRING

by *George Kent*

I was born and lived at what was known as White Rock Farm in Kent Heights. The name 'White Rock' came from the outcropping of white quartz rocks that were located on a path south of the Bucklin lot in the pasture of this farm. There was a road past the white rock ledge and two springs with a gate at each end. A.J. Kent and his sons built this road with a bridge over a brook, past the springs and ending in what was called the "Rocky Mountain Lot". The gates were to keep the cows out of this area as there were several springs, one a bottomless spring in which great grandfather's yolk of oxen were drowned. The outcropping was about 30 feet high at the base of which there were two springs.

This road was built so that spring water could be obtained from the best of these springs to sell to the New York boats along with the delivery of milk. This spring was used because the flow was constant and never dried up. It was lined with white rocks with a 2-inch pipe under the road with the end high enough to get a 20-quart can under it. The flow of spring water would fill a can in about a minute. The road was also used so that large white rocks could be mined to use for markers. In the yard of the farm house there was a ring of these about 20 feet in diameter and 8 feet high. There was a large one placed at the beginning of each street when the roads were platted east from Pawtucket Avenue. I helped my father drag these out with a Fordson tractor and a stone boat. There are a few of them still at the beginning of some of the streets east of Pawtucket Avenue. Before the land was sold, I was able to save a few of them from the outcroppings near the spring.

On a hot day, a walk through this road was a delight. As soon as you climbed over the gate on a 95-degree day, the temperature dropped about 10 degrees. There was always a cup at this spring for an ice cold drink of this sweet clear water. In summer the violets grew with long stems and the big bottomless spring was covered with watercress. Cow slips grew along the brook. The brook was

loaded with brook trout and if you approached carefully you could feed them with earthworms and wish you had a hook. A.J.'s plan was to bottle this spring water and market it as "White Rock Spring Water." His dream was about 50 years too soon. While the spring water was well received on the two New York boats, no one was about to pay for water that you could get free.

After the end of WW 2, the land of White Rock farm was taxed to the point that farming was no longer a viable business. The remaining owners began to disband. For a time my Uncle Everett would have one of his boys take him to the spring to clean out the leaves and replace the white rocks surrounding it. The land was sold bit by bit until now there is no sign remaining, not only of this spring, but also any part of the farm. All is covered with commercial buildings and homes.

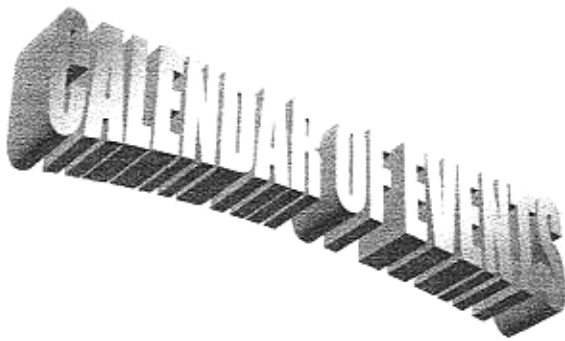
I often think of what a beautiful park this might have been with two ponds, brooks, streams and about 100 acres of woods and open fields. All in the center of East Providence.

The East Providence Historical Society welcomes articles of historic interest or "Members Memories". Send your articles to: East Providence Historical Society, P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774.

ARE YOUR DUES DO?

The anniversary month of initial membership is indicated on your Gazette address label along with the paid-up year. Example: 2705 reads, 27 (the year 2007), 05 (the 5th month). May 2007. 2802 reads, 28 (the year 2008), 02 (the second month). February 2008.

The society appreciates your ongoing support.



MAY

Sunday, May 13, 1 to 4 p.m.
 Hunt House Museum Open
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
 Admission Charges

Wednesday, May 23, 7 p.m.
 Hearthstone House
 15 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk

JUNE

Wednesday, June 6, 7 p.m.
 Board Meeting *Members Welcome*
 Hunt House Museum
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Sunday, June 10, 1 to 4 p.m.
 Hunt House Museum Open
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
 Admission Charges

Monday, June 25, 6 p.m.
 Annual Meeting/Elections/Picnic
 Hunts Mills, Rumford

**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**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Any eligible member wishing to seek
 office for the June 2007-'08 year should
 contact Karen Panzarella, 434-5116, or
 the society, 438-1750, or ephist.org.
**NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR
 WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE MAY
 MEETING ONLY.** Elections will be held
 at the Annual Meeting, June 25.

FIND YOUR FAMILY

Friends of the East Providence Public Library
 will sponsor a program at the Weaver Library
 on Monday, May 21 at 7 p.m. Anne Toll will
 discuss **Genealogy Resources on the Internet:** a
 ten step program for finding your family.





John Hunt House

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

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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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
AT

ephist.org