



Gazette

Vol. XX No. 2

October 2007

President's Letter

Kris Rose, President

Dear Members,

The East Providence Historical Society is off to a good start Reinhard Wohlgemuth's presentation at the September meeting about the battleship Rhode Island was very interesting and enjoyed by all who were there. Thank you, Reinhard.

On Monday, October 1st, the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor sponsored "Footsteps in History" program had a great sendoff from the Hunt House Museum, Hunts Mills, Rumford. At 10:00 a.m., a horse drawn carriage arrived by flatbed truck to begin a trip to Worcester, MA. The carriage was to follow the original route from Providence to Worcester which took 3 days. I certainly hope they made it!!

Edna Anness, Ginny Berwick, Pat Henry and Gladys Panzarella were all on hand in period costume to meet and greet the carriage as well as Mayor Izzi Ramos. Nancy Moore, society member, stopped by and she, Ginny and Pat took a ride down Pleasant Street to Pawtucket Avenue with a stop at St. Margaret's School to give the students a taste of living history. A good time was had by all.

The historical society is in the process of applying for a grant from the Ocean State Charities Trust. Part of the process is having an audit of the society's books. WE NEED A CURRENTLY EMPLOYED CPA TO DO THE AUDIT. We are hoping there is a member who could do this for us. If anyone knows of a CPA who would do this audit "pro bono", please call me, 434-5581, or Nancy Moore, 438-4299.

Good news about the Ide House, Pawtucket Avenue. There may be a buyer!! We will keep you posted.

I hope to see many of you at the October meeting. It will be held on Monday, October 29 at the Indoor Tennis Court, 8 Blanding Avenue. This is an historic building in East Providence. One of the owners, Tom Brun, will give a talk on the history of the first indoor tennis court in Rhode Island.

THE INDOOR TENNIS COURT, EAST PROVIDENCE

Members Meeting

**Monday, October 29 (5th Monday) 7 p.m.
Indoor Tennis Court, 8 Blanding Avenue**

"On 9/12/1913, a deed was recorded at the office of the city clerk in the city of East Providence, R.I. That deed indicates that **Miss Lyra Brown Nickerson** purchased the land where the **Indoor Tennis Court** stands today from R. Clinton Fuller in the amount of \$100. Construction began shortly after and the foundation was "nearly completed" by 11/9/1913. Eleven months later on 10/31/1914, Miss Nickerson held a "Tennis Ball" to celebrate the official opening of the court.....Less than two years later, on 8/30/1916, Miss Nickerson would succumb to influenza."

The above information was provided by **Tom Brun**, owner of the Indoor Tennis Court where our October members meeting will be held. There is much more for Tom to tell about this oldest tennis facility in New England and the famous who played there.

Refreshments and business meeting will follow.

Please see detailed directions to the Tennis Court on page 2.

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

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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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>
Nancy Moore	<i>Preservation</i>
	<i>Program</i>
Florence Adams	<i>Publicity</i>
Reinhard Wohlgemuth	<i>Webmaster</i>

**The Hunt House Museum,
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford,
 will be open on
 Sunday, November 11, 1 to 4 p.m.
 Admission \$3. \$1 East Providence Residents.
 Free, Society Members**

**RECOGNITION
 DEPARTMENT**

Lowell and Edna Anness, Earl and Virginia Berwick, Pat Henry, Gladys Panzarella, Sophie Fredrick and Andy Valerio shared the Hunt House Museum docent duties on Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 7.

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, 23 Case Street,
 Rumford, RI 02916**

**DIRECTIONS TO INDOOR
 TENNIS COURT**

FOR EXIT 5 (WARREN AVE.)

At end of exit, turn left onto Warren Ave. Take next left onto Potter St. At stop sign (Exxon station on left) turn right onto Taunton Ave. After the traffic light, take first left onto Ivy St. At first stop sign, go straight, crossing over Waterman Ave. Take next left onto Blanding Ave. Tennis Court is first building on right.

FOR EXIT 6 (BROADWAY)

At end of exit ramp, turn right onto Warren Ave. Proceed straight passing through 2 traffic lights. At third light (Crosswalk), turn right onto Purchase St. At end of Purchase St., take a right at traffic light and turn onto Taunton Ave. Take next left onto Ivy St. At first stop sign, go straight, crossing over Waterman Ave. Take next left onto Blanding Ave. Tennis Court is first building on right.

Membership Form New Renewal /Change

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Amount Enclosed:

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



OCTOBER

Monday, October 29 (5th Monday) 7 p.m.
Members Meeting Public Invited
Indoor Tennis Court, 8 Blanding Ave.
Program: Tom Brun, History of Tennis Court

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 11, 1 - 4 p.m.
Hunt House Museum Open
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
Admission \$3. \$1 E.P. Residents

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

Monday, November 26, 7 p.m.
Members Meeting Public Invited
Weaver House, Grove Avenue
Program: David Bachrach, E.P. Planning Dept.



A SHORT STORY ABOUT GERTRUDE FISKE

Thanks to **Irwin Zonis**, we now know what became of the three famous portraits of **Count Rumford**, **George Wilson** and **Eben Horsford**. We have a print of each painting in the Hunt House Museum. We also have a picture showing the three paintings hanging on the boardroom wall of the Rumford Chemical Company. The artist was **Gertrude Fiske** who was the granddaughter of Eben Horsford. Her father was a chemist at the company. Fiske Street, between Catlin

and Wilson Avenues, Rumford, is named for him. She became world famous as an artist. She never lived in Rumford.

Irwin Zonis was a vice president of Essex Chemical when the factory closed and had the responsibility for placing the three paintings. He has sent us all the correspondence entailed in the placement of the paintings. Count Rumford was donated to the **Chemists' Club in New York**. Eben Horsford was donated to **Wellesley College** of which he was very fond. George Wilson had funded the Wilson Biological Sciences building at Brown University. His painting went to the **Rockefeller Library** along with an honorary degree he had received from Brown and a commemorative plaque.

Hence, the mystery of where the paintings are is solved.



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

Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor



Horse drawn Blackstone Valley Stagecoach.

Eunice Tuckerman, Edna Anness, Gladys Panzarella and Pat Henry, in 18th century attire, in the doorway of the Hunt House Museum.

(Photos by Lowell Anness)

(Pictures can be seen in color at the Hunt House Museum.)



"Footprints in History" Celebration



Museum ladies posing with the stagecoach.



Edna Anness and St. Martha's school students awaiting the stagecoach.



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

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GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Jess Albright - Seven laminated photos of well known E.P. locations.

Ryan Randolph Hunt - set of photos of Peter Hunt and two of Henry Hunt.

Gwen Johnston - Wannamoisett Country Club Fiftieth Anniversary commemorative book.

Beverly Simmons - "History in a Shoe Box". Crescent Park history written on paper.

Lois Crane Williams - book "Abell Ancestors of New England", a geneology.

Judy Wood - reunion programs and three photos of the E.P. High School class of 1931 at reunions.

Irwin Zonis - Booklet about Gertrude Fiske, world famous artist, and letters pertaining to the placement of the three paintings of Count Rumford, George Wilson and Eben Horsford.