



John Hunt House

# Gazette

Vol. XXI No. 3

November 2008

## President's Letter

*Kris Rose, President*

Dear Members,

I hope you all are enjoying this unseasonably good weather! We were lucky to have similar weather when we toured the Farnum House, 787 Willett Avenue, Riverside, in October. We had a great turnout and once again I would like to thank David and Susan Nichols for opening their wonderful home to us.

Believe it or not Christmas is just around the corner and it is never too early to begin planning. Our annual Christmas get together is planned for Monday, December 15, at Newman Church. The Board has decided to try something different this year. The entertainment will be provided by The Wheeler School Bell Ringers. The dinner will be provided by our members! Four of us have volunteered to roast turkeys and make stuffing and mashed potatoes. We are asking the rest of you to make your family's favorite side dish and/or bake a pie to compliment the turkey. We also would appreciate help with set up and clean up that evening. When the telephone committee calls in early December, please be generous. The prices for the dinner will be \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members.

Also, we are looking for volunteers to decorate the Hunt House Museum for the Open Houses in December. There are 7 mantles; if you are feeling creative, please let me know! (434-5581).

If you have been to Hunts Mill lately you may have noticed that work on the Caleb Williams cottage has begun!! Yeah!!

Jeff Faria reports that the last "wine and weed" session was held last week. Thanks to all who participated. The gardens are ready to be put to sleep for the winter!

The November meeting will be held in the chapel at Newman Church on Monday the 24th. Hope to see you all there!

## RI Public Broadcasting System presents "THE RUMFORD"

**MEMBERS MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 7 P.M.**

Several years ago, the Rumford Chemical Plant and its history captured the attention of RIPBS, and a documentary of that history and the Rumford's new use was shown this summer. Perhaps some of you attended the Weaver Library special preview. We were all impressed with the professional quality of the 30 minute movie. The historical society has received a copy for our own use.

Please join us for our presentation at **NEWMAN CHAPEL**, Monday, November 24th, 7 p.m. If you grew up with the "Rumford", you may see friends, relatives, or even yourself in this movie. Stars of the show include historical society members Mary McManus, Pat Henry and Edna Anness who will be present to answer questions after the showing. And, most likely there will be many more "Rumford" people there to talk with. Please join us for popcorn and a movie.

Refreshments and business meeting will follow.

*The Gazette*

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**EAST●PROVIDENCE●HISTORICAL●SOCIETY**  
 P. O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774  
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**OFFICERS**

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

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

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



*Warm welcome to our*  
**NEW MEMBERS:**

**George and Julie Breault**  
**Patty Hutchinson**

**PRESERVATION NEWS "FLASHING"**

As of last week (November 1) the **Caleb Williams house** (circa 1750) at Hunts Mills has a new front roof with sheathing, flashing and trim all redone. The back roof is in much worse shape and the dormer area will have to be taken back to the rafters to see what shape they are in. But the house will be buttoned up for the winter and a new roof means a strong commitment to the preservation of this property.

And have you driven into the back of the **Rumford complex** lately? (former **Rumford Chemical Company**) The museum building is having a resurrection with new shingling, windows and a new roof. **ENORMOUS THANKS** go to the developers for carrying through with their promise to save the structure. Perhaps we will be able to have a meeting there in the near future.

**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**

**RECOGNITION DEPARTMENT**

**Alyce (Billie) Arden**, historical society member, was presented the **Ms. Congeniality** award by the Providence Warwick Visitor Information Center in October. She was granted the award for "continuing to always be our liquid sunshine" and for "always putting a smile on our faces." Billie is one of the volunteers at the Providence Convention Center helping visitors with information about the area.

**Membership Form**     New     Renewal /Change

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed:

\$15 Individual	\$25 Family/Business	\$150 Life
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*Visit our website at*  
**ephist.org**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

**Monday, November 24, 7 p.m.**  
**Members Meeting** *Guests Welcome*  
 Newman Church, Newman Avenue, Rumford  
**PROGRAM: RIPBS film: Rumford Baking Powder Company**  
 Shown in Newman Chapel

### DECEMBER

**Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
**Hunt House Museum**  
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford  
**Christmas Tour in conjunction with RI Historic Sites Coalition**  
**Admission: non-perishable food item**

**Sunday, December 14, 1 - 4 p.m.**  
**Hunt House Museum Open**  
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford  
**Admission Charges**

**Monday, December 15, 7 p.m.**  
**Members Meeting**  
 Newman Church, Newman Avenue, Rumford  
**Christmas Party**  
**NO SCHEDULED MEETINGS IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY**

### OPEN HOUSE AT THE HUNT HOUSE MUSEUM

The Hunt House Museum will be open two days for Christmas Tours. The first will be on **Saturday, December 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** in conjunction with the R.I. Historic Sites Coalition program. We are requested to use 18th century style decorations which allows for plenty of greens and fruit, real or artificial, swags and rope greens. We have seven fireplaces in the house plus the parlor table which will be set for dinner. Admission is a non-perishable food item.

The second day is **Sunday, December 14 from 1-4pm.** Admission; \$3. \$1 East Providence residents.

WE REALLY NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP DECORATE THE HOUSE. PLEASE HELP. Contact Edna Anness, 434-3347 or Ginny Berwick, 434-0998. We will let you into the house the week before December 6 at your convenience.

## GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

**Jesse Albright** - engraving of the Squantum club  
**Lowell Anness** - his WWII U.S. Army overcoat  
**Anna F. Apap** - her father's boy scout membership card and two merit badge cards - Howard Bradley, 1917  
**Cecilia Beckett** - very large Rumford Baking Powder shipping crate  
**Lisa Hunt** - DVD about the Hunt family  
**Dianne Ide** - "Memoirs of George Ide - 1815"  
**Elsie John** - advertising card table  
**Susan Nichols**, mother of Ella B. Farnum - antique wooden base frame for a flax wheel from the Viall house  
**Gale O'Malley** - 1908 Rumford cookbook  
**Ruth Peirce** - photos of Rumford workers, licenses for former Supt. of E.P. schools J.R.D. Oldham to be a preacher 1916-17, clipping about UNRRA and the Rumford Baking Company, Rumford Co. stationery  
**Frank Sousa** - Rumford cookbook - 1918  
**Stanley Ulbrych** - two St. Mark's Church 125th anniversary posters  
**Grace Wilson** - two Rumford cookbooks

*Thank you for your generosity*

### **Monday, December 15** **Dinner Meeting**

**An old-fashioned turkey dinner with pies for dessert is the menu for our annual December dinner meeting. We're very pleased to be able to present the Wheeler School Concert Handbell Ringers for the program. This group of touring musicians, under the direction of Dan Moore, will join us for dinner and present their holiday concert at 7 PM. Details to follow.**





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

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**MASTER GARDENERS**  
*Jeff and Cheryl Faria*

Fall cleanup of perennial gardens should include pruning back tender perennials such as hosta, sedum and fox glove to about 4" above the ground after the frost has killed their foliage. Woody perennials such as Russian sage, hydrangia and grasses can be left for winter interest. They will need to be pruned for shape in the spring once their foliage has sprouted.

Mulch rose bushes with compost to cover their crown after the ground has begun to freeze. This will discourage mice and the like from harboring in the cozy mound. Mulch will help the rose plant slowly go dormant and stay frozen on warm winter days. Clip back canes only if they may become damaged by winter winds. Wait until St. Patrick's Day to prune roses.

Wipe your garden tools with an oily cloth to help prevent rust.

Cut greens for holiday decorations. Add winterberry, holly, fruit and dried flowers for an interesting display!