



OLDE NEWS

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY
• NEWSLETTER •

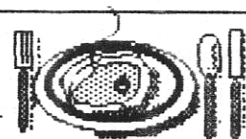
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

At its November 9th meeting the Board reviewed the costs of printing and postage for OLDE NEWS and found it to cost four times more than the postcard it replaced.

However as the response to the newsletter has been overwhelmingly positive, the Board voted to continue it. To defray the cost of printing OLDE NEWS, we will try to solicit a monthly newsletter sponsor.

I'm happy to announce that the Handy Bake Shoppe in Rumford (one of my favorite places!) is our first sponsor. If you know of any civic-minded local businesses who might be interested in this new program please check with a Board member for details.

Claudette Field



IT'S BAAACK!

For years the Rumford Grange has served tasty dinners before the East Providence Historical Society meetings. This month the dinner will be held as usual.

Date of meeting: **November 28**
Time of dinner: **6:30PM**
Entree this month: **Meatloaf**
Price: **\$4.00**
For reservations call: Martha
Wade at **433-2237**
or Ellen O'Hare at **434-7134**
before November 23!

Reminder: Those reserving a dinner are responsible for the cost even if they cannot attend.

OCTOBER MEETING

Attendance at the October meeting was disappointing, particularly in view of the guest speaker and the important vote on the Society's By-Laws. Dr. Kevin Jordan gave an illustrated history of Linden Place and made a plea for support of the Preservation bond issue which was on the ballot. The bond issue which passed will help fund the restoration of this beautiful home with the rich and interesting past. (One interesting fact: this will be the first time since it was built that the house has not been owned by some descendant of the original DeWolf family.)

Some cynics at last month's meeting suggested that the reason for the lower than usual turnout was that we did not have the usual meal prepared by the Grange to tempt people out of their homes. This will not be the case for this November's meeting, so there should be no excuse for a small turnout. This month's meeting will also feature a talk and a question

and answer session with Clifford Renshaw, the restoration architect who prepared the preliminary survey of the Hunt House for the Society.

We have sent invitations to the City Council and the City Manager so that they can come and learn more about this important city-owned building.

BY-LAWS CHANGED

The changes to the existing E.P.H.S. By-Laws as recommended by the By-Laws Committee, were passed by the October general meeting, there having been a quorum present. The proposed changes were detailed to the membership in the October issue of OLDE NEWS, as required by the By-Laws.

The following recommendations are still open for discussion at some future meetings.

ARTICLE IV: Section 1- Change month for Annual Meeting from September to May or June.

ARTICLE V: Section 1- The President should

serve no more than two consecutive terms. Section 4- The chairman of each committee shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors

ARTICLE VI: Section 1- The membership shall be polled by newsletter for nominees for office three (3) months prior to the Annual Meeting. The results shall be forwarded to the Nominating Committee.

The following committees shall be listed in the By-Laws:
 Section 4- The Ways and Means Committee
 Section 5- The Preservation Committee
 Section 6- The Hunt House Committee

WEAVER HOUSE UPDATE



A meeting was held on November 4 at the office of attorney William Dennis with the heirs of the Weaver House, the Library Director, the Chairman of the Library Board, Antoinette Downing, and Ted Sanderson of the RI Historic Preservation Commission. The meeting was encouraging but the restoration of the Weaver House as part of its inclusion in the new library complex is still only a promise and not legally binding.

Preservation Report

During the past month, the Historical Society's Preservation Committee has been busy providing a focus to our continuing involvement with the Weaver House. On November 8th the citizens of East Providence voted to fund the new library complex, hopefully securing the house for future generations.

The committee will now turn its attention to the formation of general guidelines for the preservation of other endangered properties. Certainly the lessons learned this past year will become invaluable!

Nancy Moore

DECEMBER

4

19

General Meeting: Dec. 19
 Board Meeting: Dec. 4,
 7:00 pm, 21 Trinidad St.,
 Providence (near P.C.)

A MONTH OF THANK- YOUS

There are so many people who deserve to be thanked this month that they get a column!

For the October 24th meeting:

Thank you Kevin Jordan for the excellent presentation on Linden Place.

Thank you to Billie Arden, Ann Bannister, Ginny Berwick, Nancy Stevens and Mildred Unkuski, who baked the desserts.

Thank you Excellent Coffee Company for donating the coffee.

For answering the ad in last month's OLDE NEWS:

Thank you Florence Adams for volunteering at the October meeting to become our new Publicity person.

On behalf of preservationists everywhere:

Thank you to Nancy Moore and the Preservation Committee for the time and effort they invested on the library bond issue this past month.

For OLDE NEWS:

Thank you to Lura Sellew, Fran Gross, Agnes Thompson, Billie Arden and Helen Smith for helping to get the October newsletter in the mail.

Thank you to Ginny Berwick for selling our first OLDE NEWS ad.

To the Ways and Means Committee et al for the Harvest Supper:

Thank you is an inadequate expression for all those who sold tick-

ets, set up, decorated, shopped, peeled, chopped, cooked, baked, and helped clean up afterwards, but they're the only words we know. THANKS! You made it almost, well - fun!

Claudette Field

TREASURER'S REPORT

AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 1988.

General Fund	836.19
Savings	7,427.63
C.D.	2711.30
Credit Union	5.00
Total	10,980.12

Harvest Supper Report

Profit	338.00
Other income	87.00
T-shirt Sale (since 10/ /8)	56.00

OLDE NEWS TEASER:

Do the words Reed Street mean anything to you? They should!
(Answer in this issue)



HUNT HOUSE UPDATE



HUNT HOUSE REPAIRS

The Historical Society asked a chimney repair firm to prepare a written estimate for repairing the central chimney in the Hunt House. An area of some concern exists in the basement, where there is a large crack and evidence of settling of the entire chimney.

This is caused by a large unsupported hole in one of the chimney walls in the basement and has resulted over the years in bulging walls upstairs. The chimney expert, Donald McQueen, also pointed out that the flues from the furnaces were not properly sealed where they entered the chimney stack, and recommended completely closing up the entry from the unused furnace. Yet another opening was found on the front wall of the chimney, apparently from an old stove.

Mr. McQueen suggested that bricking in the hole and then cementing over the entire wall, a common enough practice during the period the house was built, would suffice to keep the damage from becoming any worse. He did not recommend jacking the supporting beams back up to their original position as this could well cause other, more unpredictable, damage.

In addition to this, the flashing on the roof has deteriorated enough to cause visible gaps around the chimney in the attic, although there is little evidence of water damage as yet. The chimney

above the roof line was rebuilt recently, Mr. McQueen said, (although with modern "common brick" and not the more authentic "ballast brick" of the period) and only needs minor repointing.

The day of the inspection tour was a cold, damp and rainy one, and a bad leak in the roof joint between the main house and the brick ell added by the city was discovered. A thin stream of water was running down between the wall of the house and the ell. Obviously if this is allowed to continue it will rot a part of the rear wall of the house. Lack of heat in the house is also causing dampness which in turn damages more and more of the ceiling paint, and creates more deterioration of brickwork in the cellar. The estimate for the masonry repairs, which includes replacing the worn flashing and cleaning the smokepipe and furnace flue is \$975. (No repairs to the roofing between the ell and the main house is included in this estimate. The Reishaw Report recommended that the ell be razed.)

VANDALISM

The entire Hunt's Mills complex has been fortunate in being relatively free from the vandalism that usually plagues unused buildings, but this happy state of affairs has changed. Some person or persons unknown

HUNT HOUSE Cont.

attempted to break into the Hunt House on Halloween Eve.. Fortunately the burglar alarm alerted the police who arrived in time to frighten off the intruders but not before they managed to destroy one of the windows leading off the side porch and cut one of the wires to the burglar alarm. While the damage can be repaired, the threat to the Hunt House is a very real one, and one that will be difficult to counter in the future.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The very poor attendance at our last meeting October 24th sure had the Ways and Means Committee on edge as we were depending on most of you for the sale of tickets to our Harvest Supper. Again for those of you who put in an extra effort into making phone calls and contacts, we came through successfully with about 120 people at our tables. Another little fund raiser "Split the Pot" was an added attraction for the evening and our "congratulations" to Nancy Wing who had the winning ticket.

A big round of applause to Susan Lee and Lura Sellow for the very lovely table arrangements and decorations. We'd like to thank the Rumford Junior Women for donating all the delicious pastry, Joseph's Restaurant for the butter and Nancy Moore, who donated

the table coverings.

Our thanks of course to all our volunteer servers and clean-up squad who did a great job of pitching right in. And thanks also to Ellen O'Here for the publicity on our Supper.

Many thanks to All!

Yes, we even sold a few more T-shirts. Keep up the good work.

Madeline Vincent

GEORGE REED



George F. Reed, born in 1838, was on board the U.S.S.

Kearsarge when she destroyed the Confederate raider C.S.N. *Alabama* off Cherbourg France on June 19, 1864. Acting as first loader of the #2 gun during this bitter engagement, Reed exhibited marked coolness and good conduct. He was highly recommended for his gallantry under fire by his divisional officer.

The Congressional Medal of Honor was presented to Reed on December 31, 1864.

He lived on Reed Street in Riverside R.I., and is buried in Little Neck Cemetery.

Research by Clint Sellow

HARVEST SUPPER

The Society's Harvest Supper on November 5th was both an artistic and financial success. (See the Treasurer's report elsewhere in this issue) The Ways and Means Committee, functioned like a smoothly practiced team to put together a classic combination of ham, baked beans, coleslaw and potato salad with all the trimmings, and the capacity crowd in the Newman Congregational Church's Memorial Hall loved it.

The appearance of homemade desserts by the Rumford Juniors and others created near pandemonium and potentially ugly confrontations ("You already took a slice of that pie!"). They were averted only by the agile cutting and serving of more and more desserts by the hard-pressed kitchen crew.

Tickets for a "Split-the-Pot" drawing, wherein the winner would split the proceeds with the Society were sold and tension throughout the meal was so thick it could be cut with a knife until the drawing. ("If I win that money I'm going on a vacation to someplace exotic, like, well... Cranston!") Nancy Wing held the magic ticket, which was drawn by a child picked at random from the audience.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Remembrance

Dixwell Goff, a Roger Williams descendant, was the second president of the EPHS. He maintained his interest in the Historical Society until his death last summer. He was particularly interested in the Ring of the Green in Rumford. He grew up on the East Side of Providence but his grandparents lived in the house that is now the Headmaster's residence at Providence Country Day School.

He went to Brown University, and worked at Brown and Sharpe and also at James C. Goff Builder's Suppliers, which was run by his father and grandfather. (Their office was where The New Leaf is at Davol Square.)

He had a life long interest in sailing and travelling; he and his wife, June, travelled far and wide. One avocation, which became a vocation later, was bookbinding, a craft which he learned from Dan Knowlton of Bristol who taught at Brown. Dick produced many special editions and bound many fine books in leather with inlaid designs inspired by the title or contents of the book. He was also a member of the Providence Art Club.

We miss Dick and his dry wit and we are pleased that June continues her interest in our association.

The Handy Bake Shoppe

119 Bishop Avenue
Rumford, RI
02916

Breads, Cakes, Pies, Squares, Cookies
Come try us and treat yourself
to homemade goodness!

Donna and Claude Duckworth 438-2946

OLDE NEWS

East Providence Historical Society
30 Gurney Street
East Providence, RI 02914

