



OLDE NEWS

EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY
■ NEWSLETTER ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This year the theme for National Preservation Week is *Celebrate Your Heritage*. From May 12-18 events will take place throughout the country to focus attention on the preservation of our heritage. Locally, the East Providence Historical Properties Designation and Study Commission, in cooperation with the East Providence High School Social Studies Department, is sponsoring an event entitled *Honoring the Past*, on Friday, May 17 at City Hall from 7^{pm} to 8^{pm}. It will be a "program of reflections" from soldiers who served their country from the Civil War to the

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IMPORTANT MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

will be held May 20, 1991
from 7:15 pm
at the **Pump House**, Hunts
Mills Road (next to Hunt
House)
Nominations for next year's
Officers will be accepted.

present, dramatized by students from East Providence High School. A reception will follow in the City Council Chambers, refreshments will be served.

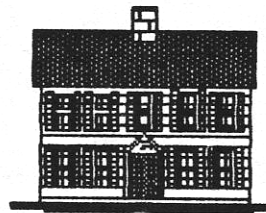
The reflections will include the words of Lieutenant Peter Hunt, who served in Battery C, R.I. Artillery during the Civil War. As most members know, over one hundred and seventy five of Lt. Hunt's letters are now in the collection of the Society.

A companion exhibit with material culled from the Historical Society, the local VFW, and private collectors, will remain on display outside the Council chambers at City Hall until May 24. This exhibit of soldiers' memorabilia from the Civil War to Operation Desert Storm includes pictures and artifacts to bring the students' presentation to life.

I hope many of you will join us in *Honoring the Past* on Friday night.

Come *Celebrate your Heritage!*

Claudette Field



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Editor

George Field, IV

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, Rhode Island 02916

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

All recorded historical data can be subject to change depending on any new data which might be found. In various articles the City has dated the John Hunt House anywhere from 1750 to 1770. Various experts in restoration have examined the house this past year. Some state unequivocally the house was built around 1750 because of the door frames and woodwork. Others are as strongly convinced that after "reading" the same woodwork that the house is from 1790. Examining the nails has taken us nowhere. Walter and his restorers have uncovered beautiful walnut window sills, stair railings, risers and treads. The chair rail upstairs in the museum room is walnut. Some of the downstairs parlor chair rail is "faux bois" or pine stained to look like walnut. Natalie Shivers in her book "Walls and Moldings" published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation explains faux bois was common during the entire eighteenth century *and* into the nine-

teenth.

Following the rumour that Hunt House and Hearthstone were supposedly built within ten years of one another I spent many hours this past month in the Taunton Offices of Probate Records and Deeds, trying to find out when and if John's son Peter did in fact own Hearthstone at one time, and if so, when.

Peter Hunt was married in 1783 and when he died in 1838 he left what we know as Hearthstone House to his widow and children. Ultimately Peter's son Daniel, who ran the mills with his cousin Allin, inherited the house and left it to his wife Nancy, the mother of our Civil War hero Lt. Peter Hunt. Nancy sold the homestead and shares in the mills in 1850 and who bought those shares is another interesting story. If Peter built his house when he was married in 1783 then it would put the two houses within possibly ten years of one another. It was disappointing after many hours in the Taunton

cont.next pg.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE (cont.)

vaults to not come up with anything more definite what we already knew. But who knows what tomorrow will bring? Hope springs eternal in the research department.

Another find: Ellen O'Hare's children and Anne Reynolds in their walks around the grist mill site have found carved dates and letters in what might have been the front doorstep of the mill. More on this mystery next month.

Another mystery: What is meant by GRAND OR FRATERNITY COMMANDERY, NO. 333, UOGC, E. PROV, R.I. ?? We have received two badges with this lettering and we do not know what they mean???????

Edna Anness

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Nancy Moore keeps telling Yr. Obd. Editor that she has "nothing to report this month" and then always proceeds to drop several blockbusters. But this month I am sworn to secrecy about a very exciting development on the pres-

ervation scene. I can only say, "Do the words 'Bridgham Farm' mean anything to you?" If your curiosity is piqued, then you should heigh yourself to The E.P. Land Trust meeting at City Hall, Room 306 at 8:00, on Wednesday, May 29, and you may find out something to your interest. Ms. Nancy coyly refuses to say more.

The alert reader will remember from last month's issue that the Zoning Board changed the zoning of the Burlingame property to allow the construction of single family homes rather than the apartment complex previously planned there, and further stipulated that the developers consult with the Historical Society on the design. The Preservation Committee has accordingly forwarded several sets of house plans to the Quadra Corporation for their perusal, in the hopes that they will be sufficiently inspired to put up housing that is sympathetic in nature to the fine mill houses in the neighborhood.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Saturday, May 11 **League of RI Historical Societies:**
Annual Meeting 9am Christ United Methodist
Church, 2241 Kingston Rd.- Rte 108, Kingston
RI
- Sunday, May 12 **Mother's Day**
- Monday, May 20 **E.P. Historical Society:** May Meeting.
7:15 pm at Newman Congregational Church.
(NOTE: moved up from May 27, Memorial
Day.) **NOMINATIONS FOR 1991-1992
OFFICERS**
- Monday, May 27 **Memorial Day**
- Friday, June 14 **Flag Day**
- Sunday, June 16 **Father's Day**

DON'T FORGET: *Workdays at the Hunt House every
Tuesday & Thursday from 8am to 12 noon.
Christmas Bazaar Workshops are 10 am 'til 1 pm at the
Hunt House every Wednesday from May to December
(except July and August.)*

N O M I N A T I O N S

The Nominating Committee will recommend the following slate to the membership at the May general meeting for election at the Annual Meeting in June. The May meeting is particularly important, because it will be the only time nominations can be accepted from the floor for next year's officers. In accordance with the provisional nomination procedure established by the By-Laws Committee, no nominations will be accepted during the elections at the June Annual Meeting.

The slate adopted by the Nominating Committee is as follows:

President : **Scott Booth**
 1st Vice-President: **Nancy Moore**
 2nd Vice-President: **Pat Millette**
 Rec. Secretary: **Kris Rose**
 Corr. Secretary: **Luna Sellew**
 Treasurer: **Rose Marie Sirenski**
 Board Members-at-Large :
Virginia Sollitto (2 yrs.)
Virginia Berwick (3 yrs.)

*There's always room for more! You
 are cordially invited to join the
 E.P. Historical Society.*

*Send this coupon (with money in a
 tasteful envelope addressed in blue-
 black ink, please) to:*

E.P. Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, RI 02916


RSPV

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Single (\$10) Family (\$15)

Letters and CommentsOLDE NEWS

April 10

Joseph MacDougal's memories of Union School brought to my mind memories of my early days at Miss Pagonie's School, more formally known as the Armington Corners School.

It was in 1914 or '15 when I started my education at Miss Pagonie's (I'm not sure of the spelling after all of these years.) Her school was a one room building located on Pawtucket Avenue at Vincent. It was later raised up and converted into a fire station for the Bay View Fire Company, but that is another story.

It was customary for students to spend two years there but we put in an extra year because of crowding at Brightridge School. I am sure that all of us could read and write and knew our arithmetic by the time we got out of there. The teacher had a ruler on her

desk which she would administer to our palms if we got out of line. There was a tall coal stove in one corner of the school room. The teacher would make anyone who took milk for lunch to put it on the stove ledge because she didn't think cold milk was good for us.

There may be a few people in distant Rumford who didn't know where Miss Pagonie's school was but I'm sure all the south end of town was aware of its location.

Sincerely,

Hiram L. Wood
2936 Pawtucket Ave. #110
E. Providence, RI 02915

Okay, out there, does anybody else remember the Armington Corners School, Miss Pagonie or Paganie, proprietor? Was it a private or public institution? Did it outlive Miss Pagonie or Paganie? Was she right about cold milk being bad for you? And come on now, Hiram, what is the story behind the Bay View Fire Company? Enquiring minds want to know. Yr. Obd. Ed.



Don't let this beautiful Spring weather fool you! Christmas is right around the corner. The corner off of Pleasant Street and onto Hunts Mills Road that is.

Because the elves at the Christmas craft workshops are busy at work at Hunt House every Wednesday from 10am to 1 pm. from now until December. (Except for July and August. Even elves want to get to the beach sometime!) They'd love to see you there, too.

Plan to stay awhile. Bring a bag lunch, drinks will be provided.

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