



OLDE NEWS

EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY
■ NEWSLETTER ■

THE MONTH'S NEWS

May's speaker will be Maxmillian Ferro, a fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a member of the Rhode Island Builders Association. Mr. Ferro teaches at Boston University in the Department of American and New England Studies, and also teaches at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. His topic will be History of Building Technology: the Evaluation of Existing Buildings. It should be interesting, and since the meeting will be at Hunt House, Mr. Ferro's lessons

MEETING



THE NEXT MEETING
OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
will be held May 18, 1992
from 7:15 pm
at Hunt House
Guest Speaker:
Maxmillian Ferro
on The History of building
Technology: Evaluation
of Existing Buildings.

should be immediately applicable.

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Bill Simpson wants us all to reserve Sunday, June 28th on our calendars, because that's the day of the Society's Historical July 4th, 4th Annual Picnic. (Yes, I know that it's not on the Fourth of July. I just report these things, not make up the names.) Whatever the name, be sure and come. Festivities will start at 2:30 pm, and will entail games, eating and schmoozing. The Society will provide soda, coffee, hot dogs and hamburgers (prepared by that incomparable Grillmaster Bill Simpson.) Salads and desserts will be provided by the members, so be aware that the June meeting will have a sign-up sheet. Members may attend free, guests: \$2.00. If you have any activity suggestions, want to help Bill or volunteer early for salad and/or dessert donations, call Mr. Simpson at 438-0623.



OLDE NEWS

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Providence Historical Society

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Printer's Devil Michael Charves

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, Rhode Island 02916
438-1750

OFFICERS

President	Scott Booth
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Second Vice-President	Patricia Millette
Secretary	Kris Rose
Corresponding Secretary	Lura Sellow
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Board Members-at-Large	Virginia Berwick Virginia Solitto Nancy Stevens

*The
East Providence
Historical Society meets every
month on the fourth Monday
except for holidays and the
months of July and August.*

*Meetings are free to all and
all are welcome.*

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

Close to 100 guests attended the Donor Recognition Tea held at the Hunt House on May 3rd. The weather obliged and the restoration progress was greatly appreciated by those who had visited the house last year. It was wonderful to have the donors able to see their gifts on display *and* to see the donors as well. For some of them, it was their first visit to the Museum and House. Several new donations were brought to the tea and the Museum Committee is grateful. The donations will be listed next month.

Many thanks to the Museum Committee and Docents who helped at the Tea, to Virginia Berwick who helped to put up display artifacts from 94 donors and the Vincents who assisted on Sunday. And we cannot forget the Restorers who cleaned up the house in preparation.

Gifts received in April-From:

Ed Adams: 1912 CRIMSON and two early school textbooks.

Marjorie Angell: Picture of

Lincoln School, Riverside.

Isabel Izzo: Her father's police handcuffs and whistle and a plat map of her family's farm- the Suttons of Sutton Ave.

Virginia Berwick: Several photos and news articles, BLUE STAR magazine and early membership lists of the E. P. Historical Society.

Francis Collins: "The Trigger", a rifle range magazine- 1918.

June Goff: Notes on the Clyde Mill, pictures of City Hall c. 1886 and Clyde Village School and 1928 E.P.H.S. Sport Schedule.

Parsons Richmond: Several deeds for the Richmond property on Pawtucket Avenue.

Lois Driscoll: several iron kitchen tools for the Keeping Room.

25th Anniversary Did You Know? Did you know that Pawtucket east of the Blackstone all the way to Attleboro was part of the original "Seeconk" settlement of 1645. After 1812 it be-

cont. on pg. 6

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Some preservation news that may be old news by the time you read this:

At the State level, a bill to provide funding for the RI Housing and Conservation Trust Fund will be decided this session. This bill will provide funding for projects such as Brigham Farm and renovation/restoration of existing housing for affordable housing such as the house on Willett Avenue. If you are interested in the progress of Senate bill 92-S-2203 and House bill 91-H-6426, check with your state representative or give us a call. The bills could use your support.

Also at the State level, a worrisome bill has been introduced which takes the teeth out of decisions made by historic district commissions and essentially negates their powers. This bill al-

lows for appeals of HDC decisions to a zoning board *de novo*; no evidence or testimony concerning the HDC decision would be allowed. This bill, H-9190 and S-2237, is disturbing and also deserves your attention.

On a cautiously optimistic note, on the homefront, the East Providence Land Conservation Trust, along with the Nature Conservancy and the City, has reopened negotiations with the bank concerning Bridgham Farm. We wish them luck on this next round of talks.

Nancy Moore

MEMBERSHIP

May we remind everyone that our dues are due in June.

Memberships will be accepted at our next regular meeting May 18 at the Hunt House or sent to Madeline Vincent, 45 Priscilla Ave., Rumford 02916 or to the East Providence Historical Soci-

ety, Box 4774, East Providence 02916. Thank you.

The Hospitality Committee will have a program set up for each month's meeting starting in September as the refreshments and etc. for the next two meetings have already been taken care of. Some plans for the Picnic program are being discussed for both the youngsters and the rest of us to enjoy. We're looking for a set of horseshoes that were borrowed last year and not used or returned. Please contact Nancy Moore if you know of their whereabouts. I'm sure the program will be fun for all, so try to make an effort to attend.

Madeline G. Vincent

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee held its first meeting to discuss potential candidates for elective office to serve the Society in '92-'93. The committee will announce its slate at the May 18th members meeting, at which time

further nominations will be accepted from the floor. The final list of candidates will be published in the June newsletter and elections will be held at the annual meeting in June.

Scott Booth, President, has asked that members give some thought to serving on a committee next year and let their choice be known to a member of the Nominating Committee: Florence Adams, Lew Allen, Jewel Drickamer, Bud Plummer, and Walter Vincent.

Florence Adams

Join the Historical Society today! Send this coupon (with money) to
E.P. Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI
02916

NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

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

ONE HOUSE IN RUMFORD

The Pickersgill Homestead is located on Curtis Lane, behind what is now the Redfern Grove Apartments. It is known by that name now but it was built in the 1860's by the Pickersgill family from England. It was built on land belonging to the Curtis family.

As built, it was a story and a half five room house. Later a shed was moved from a neighboring property and was made an ell containing a kitchen and a wood shed. Two Norway Maples, called husband and wife trees, the custom in those days, were either side of the front door. They were very prolific, their offspring covering the neighborhood.

My father bought the house from Henry Pickergill in 1910. He owned it until 1926 when he exchanged it for the down payment on a farm. At that time there eight of us kids. I don't know how we managed.

The new occupants were Stevan Burdick and wife. In 1945

or '46 my sister and her husband, Nancy and Frank Mitchell became the owners. They lived there until ten years ago. I lived with them two or three years until I moved into Redfern Grove. Now I can sit in my apartment and see the old house and dream of the old days.

Hiram Wood

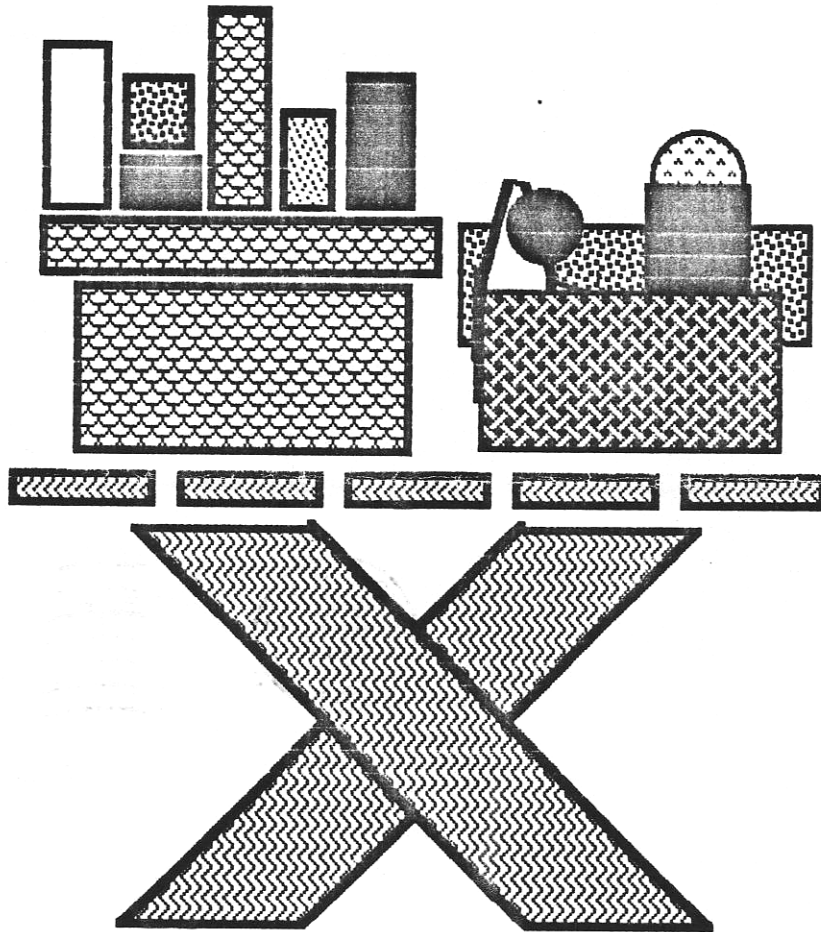
MUSEUM COMMITTEE cont.

came known as Pawtucket Village and did not join with the western side of the Blackstone until the break with Seekonk in 1862.

And did you know that the area around Roger Williams Ave. north of the brick railroad bridge was known as Clyde village BEFORE it became known as Phillipsdale? The meal site on Roger Williams Ave. was the original Clyde School built around 1886. (notes from June Goff)

Edna Anness

PICNIC ALERT!



SUNDAY, JUNE 28 AT 2:30 PM

MEMBERS MAY ATTEND FREE, GUESTS PAY \$2.00

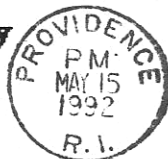
**WANT TO VOLUNTEER SALAD AND/OR DESSERT PLEASE
CALL THE GRILLMASTER EXTRAORDINAIRE BILL SIMPSON
AT 438-0623. SEE YOU THERE!!!**

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 12 **E.P. HISTORICAL SOCIETY** MAY
BOARD MEETING Hunt House 7:30 p.m.
- May 18 **E.P. HISTORICAL SOCIETY** MAY
MEETING Hunt House 7:30 p.m.
- June 20 **E.P. HISTORICAL SOCIETY** YARD
SALE Hunt House (dates and time tentative)
- June 22 **E.P. HISTORICAL SOCIETY** JUNE
MEETING Girl Scout House, Willet Ave. in
Riverside (tentativly) 7:30 p.m.
- June 28 **E.P. HISTORICAL SOCIETY** ANNUAL
PICNIC 2p.m. til dusk. See this issue of OLDE
NEWS for details.

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