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# OLDE NEWS

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EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY  
■ NEWSLETTER ■

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope everyone enjoyed what few good days we had this summer. Let's hope the fall is one of those great New England falls we all remember having.

Many thanks to Walter, Madeline and everyone who helped at the yard sale and to Bill Simpson and Dan Moore for the cookout. Both events were held in June, with a little bit of rain. (Maybe our rainy cookout was a sign of the summer to come. We'll have to see next year.)

Also, many thanks to Nancy Moore, Rosemarie, the Vincents, Billy Arden, the bakers for the

## MEETING



THE NEXT MEETING  
OF THE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
will be held SEPT. 28, 1992  
from 7:15 pm  
at Newman Congregational  
Church.

cookies and all those that helped with the Heritage Days booth.

A special thanks needs to be made to the E.P. Water Department and Ken Booth (no relation) for the relocating our water service. I know how hard, literally and figuratively, the work was. We appreciate your efforts, thank you.

The Hunt House now has new plumbing and underground electric service with work that was completed over the summer. We can finally have the masonry work done to the chimneys and the summer kitchen all at once. Work should now have started on the exterior wood repair, painting and new windows.

The Board of Directors and I look forward to a productive and enjoyable year. We hope to increase the level of participation with some new activities, programs and lectures. We will be expecting your help to encourage Historic Preservation throughout E.P. and Rhode Island.

**Scott Booth**



### OLDE NEWS

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

#### OFFICERS

President	Scott Booth
First Vice-President	Nancy Moore
Second Vice-President	"Bud" Plummer
Secretary	Kris Rose
Corresponding Secretary	Lura Sellev
Treasurer	Rose Marie Sirenski

*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.*

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## MUSEUM COMMITTEE

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New gifts received for the Museum are two CRIMSON year-books from Mrs. Howard Bradley and a Hunt's Mills postcard from Paul and Helen Nelson.

The East Providence Historical Society Story and the Hunt House Restoration slide program will be presented at the Sept. 15 meeting of the Cranston Historical Society at the Sprague Mansion. Their Society is making a donation to ours in appreciation of the program.

Fall housecleaning time is here and many important historically related items will be put out in the rubbish to lost to posterity forever in the Johnston Landfill. So LISTEN UP! our museum is looking for old advertising to create a meaningful representation of businesses that have existed in our "town" from present-day back over the last two centuries.

"What do we mean by advertising items?" Anything bearing the mane of a local business that existed at any time in East Providence.

"Such as what?" - How about menus, napkins, matchbooks, pencils, pens, paintstirers, calendars, wall thermometers, yardsticks, rulers, old prescription bottles, milk bottles and/or caps, can openers, fans, tickets, tin. commemorative glassware, shipping boxes, just boxes, billheads/business envelopes, old receipts, election paraphernalia, etc., etc., etc. If you cannot make a gift of the articles please let us know if we can borrow them for a display this winter in the museum. Call after Labor Day 438-1750, 434-3347 or 434-0998.

No matter how unimportant an item may be to you, it may be important to history. Let the Museum have a look at it.

Our Anniversary question this month is a little different. Did you know that YOU may have an important piece of history hiding in your kitchen catch-all drawer? Doesn't every one have one?

**Edna Anness**

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## PRESERVATION

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Kris Rose and I kept our preservation focus while touring Wiscasset and Boothbay Harbor on the Maine coast. This committee has a few updates for you.

In November, a \$10 million dollar bond issue to be used for conservation and affordable housing goes to the voters. You may remember that this committee was involved in this issue because of the possibility of funding for Bridgham Farm and Willet Ave. Please consider this issue positively. Seventy statewide groups have worked very hard to get this bill to the Governor's office.

This committee was notified that the Historic Properties Commission has accepted a grant from the National Trust's Preservation Services Fund. The money will be used to run a cemetery work shop during National Preservation Week next Spring. There are a number of you out there very interested in our historic cemeteries. Make sure you

sign up for this!

Speaking of bond issues, the Preservation bond issue in limbo (which was to furnish us with funds) appears slated for voters in November also. There are questions as to how the new round will be parceled out but let's hope that voters are still committed to preservation of their past.

Heritage Days was again a success. Thanks to everyone, Walt, Madeleine, Ginny, Billy, Scott, for help. East Providence Planning and Marijoan Bull and her crew put together a well received walking tour guide of the City. The Hunt House album was a big hit as was we talked to people who didn't know of our work and may end up becoming valuable members.

And, as always, we have room for new preservation committee members. Please speak to Kris Rose, Nancy Moore, or Bill Simpson if you wish to join us. Feel free to alert us to issues that concern preservation.

***Nancy Moore***

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## BY-LAWS

At the September 9th board meeting, the directors voted to recommend to the membership that a program Chairman be established. This position was discussed but left unresolved in the spring when the membership ratified the bylaws and rules and procedures document.

According to Article VII, Section 3, of the bylaws, A vote of 2/3rds of the members in good standing, present and voting at a regular meeting, shall be required for passage of any amendment, provided that a notice of such amendment shall have been mailed first class, postage prepaid, to each member at least 2 weeks before the meeting when such amendment is to be acted upon."

The recommendation will be voted on at the October 26th meeting.

**Florence Adams**

## HOSPITALITY

Madeline Vincent, Kris Rose and Nancy Moore met on Sept 18 to organize the "hospitality committee". We are in the process of asking various members to help with the coffee and pastry set up at the monthly membership meetings. If anyone is interested in helping out, please call Madeline Vincent 434-0481.

**Kris Rose**

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

NAME (S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## BUILDING COMMITTEE

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The change is remarkable.

If you haven't been to the Hunt House lately, don't wait for the Christmas Open House, go over when the volunteers are working and you will be astonished.

The deep blue room upstairs is being transformed into a gem. The blue paint and the five layers of wallpaper it covered are gone and the room suddenly looks twice as big. The restoration plan will return this room to the way it looked in its heyday when it was a rich man's bedroom decorated with paint and imported wallpaper. The volunteers are concentrating on this room so that the museum display can be moved into it in time for the December Open House.

Meanwhile the outside of the house will be getting some much needed attention. Wooden multi-paned windows in the correct

munтин style and proportion are being custom built. Workman will also be repairing the eaves of the house and replacing rotted clapboards in preparation for the outside painting which will follow.

This more than anything will bring home how much the Society has accomplished at Hunts Mills with a few grants and a lot of volunteer labor. People who have visited the house each December have seen the fruits of that labor. But casual visitors to Hunts Mills must have wondered just what kind of restoration was going on since the outside remained in deplorable condition. They won't have to wonder anymore.

We've come a long way since that night after a Society Board meeting when Walter Vincent and I began chipping away at the plaster wall blocking the keeping room fireplaces with our fingers. And we still have a long way to go.

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But check out the improvements, they might inspire you to become involved. If we could get our elected officials out to Hunt Mills even they would be impressed!

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## EVENTS

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### BEYOND WARREN

**THRESHOLDS:** The Massasoit Historical Association presents a tour of selected historic buildings in Warren's waterfront historic district. The event takes place Saturday October 17, 1992, 9am - 4pm rain or shine. The tour costs \$10.00. A buffet luncheon at Nathaniel Porter Inn will take place 11am - 1pm. The cost is \$12.50 per person. For brochure or tickets write: Building Tour; PO Bow 203, Warren, R.I. 02885 or call (401) 245-7652 or (401) 253-6069.

**Among the buildings on the tour:**

\***John Davol House** - 41 State street -1752

\***D.K. Bowen House** - 49 Church Street - 1795

\***Captain Haile Collins House**- 252 Water Street-1773

\***Narragansett Steam Fire Company #3** - Baker Street - 1846

\***Freemasons Hall** -Baker Street - 1799

\***Thomas Cole House** - 81 Union Street - 1850

\***Maxwell House** - 59 Church Street - 1755

**Nathaniel Porter Inn** - 125 Water Street - 1795

**THE CIVIL WAR: A Second Look.** Greenville Public Library and the League of R.I. Historical Societies present this series of viewings, readings, and discussions based on the acclaimed PBS television series, **The Civil War.**

The dates of the programs are:

**Sept.** 22, 29

**Oct.** 6, 13, 20, 27

**Nov.** 10,17, 24

The location is the **Greenville Public Library**, 573 Putnam Pike, Greenville, R.I. . For more information call **(401) 949-3630**.

# DUES ARE DUE !

Many members owe  
dues at this time.  
If you receive a pink  
slip in your next copy  
its time to renew.

To renew your membership  
please contact  
Madeline Vincent.

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