



# OLDE NEWS

EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY  
■ NEWSLETTER ■

## PRESERVATION UPDATE

*Nancy Moore*  
Chairman, Preservation Committee

**RECENT SUCCESSES:** The Earth Day walk, held in conjunction with the Land Trust, the Shoreline Improvement Association and the City Planning Department was a wonderful day for all concerned! The weather held, the path dried up a bit and the Hunt House looked very impressive. Over 100 walkers toured, hiked and cleaned, coming from such diverse places as Narragansett and the Attleboros. The one remark that was repeated...."I didn't even know such a lovely place existed in East Providence." (Our best kept secret?) Thanks to the many volunteers who led walks, waxed enthusiastically about the restoration, baked and gave moral support. We've already had a request for a repeat performance.

ONE WOULD HAVE TO CALL the recent RIDOT informational workshop on Roger Williams Avenue a success for our residents. (Our thanks to Society members who were able to attend.) This meeting was a marked change from our dealings with DOT in the past, and promises to bring in a project everyone will be comfortable with. The State has already acknowledged that the roadway may not be widened and the railroad bridge may not be altered. The granite curbing now in place will be restored and new provided if necessary. The grass strips between the roadbed and the sidewalk will remain, if possible, and all stone walls lining the road will be restored. (There is a separate consultant for this project who specializes in historic walls.) All historic buildings along the avenue have been identified.

The Society has asked that these points be considered: **1.** All lighting fixtures erected be of the period; **2.** Historical signs be posted where appropriate; **3.** Any work to be done around Roger Williams Spring be specifically referred to the Society; **4.** The second arch of the railroad bridge be considered as a pedestrian arch and be treated accordingly; **5.** Copies of working plans be sent to the Society well before the next workshop. As the project has quite a broad scope and a time frame of several years, we will need a committee of area residents and interested members. Please contact this committee if you are interested.

OUR THANKS to Bill Simpson for lining up that great talk on the Ten Mile by Clyde Sprague and Don Doucette! They had some wonderful shots of the East Providence part of the river and equally good photos of the upper part of the river. Sounds like a field trip!

UPCOMING EVENTS: The society has been offered free space at *Heritage Days* once again. It is important that the Society remain visible whenever possible and we can continue to do this if our excellent volunteer pool pitches in. So mark your calendars to give us a couple of hours on July 24 or 25 (3 - 7 p.m.) New Ideas are always welcome!

QUESTIONS??? The owners of East Providence's historic single indoor tennis court on Blanding Avenue are interested in its chances for inclusion in the National Register. They believe that the building dates from 1913, but records have been destroyed. If proof can be found of an earlier date, this building will beat out a Virginia Facility as the oldest in the country. Anyone?

DOES ANYONE KNOW the connection of Capt. Thomas Willett to the Attleboros and why there would be a school named after him, with a ships weathervane on it?

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)

# BUILDING RESTORATION

*Walter Vincent*  
Chairman, Building Committee

We have not reported on the restoration for quite some time. For those who have not seen the Hunt House, we would like you to know of the many compliments we have had on the finished upstairs bedroom with the beautiful wallpaper, shaker pegs, natural woodwork and furnishings.

The Museum has been moved downstairs to enable "the boys", Don Brothers, Lew Allen, Charlie Jackson, Larry Arden, a new volunteer, Austin Butterworth, and of course Martha Tourtellot and Ginny Berwick....to start the restoration work on another bedroom.

The new replacement windows have been delivered and Charlie Jackson and I, with the help of Earl Berwick, are doing our very best to get them installed.

A contract has been signed to restore all seven fireplaces and the cellar chimney. This work should start on Monday, May 16th.

**NOTE:** The Hunt House is open to all every Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

# OLDE NEWS

published monthly by  
The East Providence Historical Society

Editor.....George Adams  
EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 4774  
East Providence, RI 02916  
(401) 438-1750

## OFFICERS

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Markers	Kit Rodman
Membership	Madeline Vincent
Museum	Ginny Berwick
Curator	Edna Anness
Newsletter	George Adams
Mailing	Florence Adams
Preservation	Nancy Moore
Program	Bill Simpson
Publicity	Florence Adams

## MEETINGS

**May 24, 7:30 p.m.**  
Monthly Meeting, Newman Church

**June 9, 7:30 p.m.**  
Board Meeting, Hunt House

**June 27, 2:00 p.m.**  
Annual Picnic, Hunts Mills

**June 28, 7:30 p.m.**  
Annual Meeting, Newman Church

*Virginia Berwick*  
Museum Chairman

On the 22nd of April we had some very distinguished visitors to the Hunt House, David King and two others from the Champlin Foundation. They toured the house with Walt as their guide, explaining what has been done and what is being done, as well as plans for the future. David wrote a letter of recommendation, which he brought to my house that afternoon, to be sent with the looseleaf book that Edna and I had prepared to the American Association of Local and State Historical Societies competition. The competition is for restoration done by volunteers and we think that our crew is the best, therefore it was sent!

At 11 a.m., I brought Mrs. Antoinette Downing for a tour of Hunt House. She was very impressed with what had been done and how well the workers got along together. Edna and I took her to lunch afterwards and she kept remarking on what a good job the volunteers had done and said that she would report to the Historic Commission. She is a gracious lady and we were glad that she could visit.

On May 2nd there was a display of Fire, Police and E.P. District Nursing articles in the keeping room, for the Donor's Tea. Some of the articles were donated and some are on loan for the month of May. Tea, punch

cookies and squares were served in the borning room. It is so nice to have the stove to heat water. It is much appreciated. Norman Gladding, a former fireman, was there to answer questions. He is considered a historian for the Fire Department.. Many of the donors attended.

We have received numerous articles for the Museum this month. It is interesting to see what people have saved.....and we're glad they did! Our collection is growing all the time. I am still learning from Edna.

## MUSEUM GIFTS

**Alice Benson-** Blizzard Special Edition and 2 demits from the Grange.

**Lew Allen-** Handsaw and 2 E.P. Posts.

**Doris Miner-** "The Works", a Rumford Co. magazine.

**Edna Anness-** 1916 edition of Crimson Yearbook

**Virginia Berwick-** Williams Funeral Home matchbox and 2 amusement park tickets.

**June Goff-** a cowbell

**Bill Rix-** Miss Toe's handbell, used at Union School.

**Parsons Richmond-** Tercentennial pin, 1936.

**Louise Healy-** Fire Department photograph.

**Lowell Anness-** Fram yardstick.

**George Amaral-** Milk bottle from Amaral's Dairy.

**August Forss-** Two photographs, one of Graduation class from Wilson School.

**Dorothy Midgely-** Typewriter and dictionary from office at Rumford Chemical Works, Sears Catalog.

**Second Baptist Church-** Coca Cola cooler.

**Austin Butterworth-** Two Coke bottles, Coke rack, ash removal tool, photo of dedication of Masonic Temple and photo of Temple, police photo, fire dept news article, brass scale, 3 enamelled cups, a cigar box, brick from Bliss School.

**Rolland Grant-** Mug and police call box.

**Gardiner Jameson-** Frying pan, Bon Ami bar, Fels Naptha bar, coffee measure and soap diffuser.

**Louise Healy-** Two bed coverlets.

## FROM the CURATOR . .

*Edna Anness*  
Museum Curator

May 2nd was a beautiful day for our Open House. About 60 guests went through the display. Norman Gladding, a retired fireman, stayed to explain the fire display.

Thanks to Helen Smith, Nancy Stevens, Lowell Anness, Martha Tourtellot, Lew and Sophie Allen, Fire Chief Marcotrigiano and Mayor Rolland Grant for the loan of artifacts used in the display.

Thanks to Virginia Berwick, Lura Sellow, Rose Marie Sirenski, Kit Rodman, Carolyn Donahue, Don Brothers and Madeline and Walter Vincent for hosting the afternoon. Thanks to Don also for making the stanchions to protect the fireplace and upstairs bedroom. Thanks to George Adams for taking photos for the papers and Florence Adams for the great publicity. And finally, thanks to those who provided the cookies.

## MEMBERSHIP

*Madeline H. Vincent*  
Chairman, Membership Committee

I am happy to report that the dues notices sent in last month's newsletter have helped to remind our members that dues are *due*. It's nice to compliment people for what is being done rather than complaining about what is not being done. I hope your mail continues to come in. If you have a friend or neighbor who is interested in the Society and the work being done, I'll be more than glad to send them an application. The dues help pay the operating expenses..

Thanks to all volunteers who helped by hostessing for the meetings from October to June. It certainly was a great help. We hope to have the same program for the coming year.

## GRAVESTONE

*Lura Sellow*

Governor, Rhode Island Mayflower Society

Take a few minutes to stop at City Hall and look at the display case featuring gravestones. The **Lt. John Hunt** stone of ornately carved black slate is featured. Two of the best ancient cemeteries in the State are in East Providence. Newman, directly across from Newman Congregational Church in Rumford and Little Neck Cemetery at the head of Bullock's Cove in Riverside have fine examples of very early stones. Both cemeteries have stones with older dates than those on Burial Hill in Plymouth. The Pilgrims were careful not to mark their graves because they didn't want the Indians to know how their numbers were depleted.

The East Providence Historic Properties Commission, with funds from a matching grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has hired Fannin-Lehrer Preservations Consultants of Concord, MA., to conduct a workshop in gravestone preservation from June 3 - 5. The hands-on training session is limited to 20 people. In addition to a \$10 registration fee, a commitment to spend 36 hours during the next two years documenting and cleaning gravestones in East Providence's historical cemeteries is required. Contact Marijoan Bull, East Providence Planning Department, 434-3311, ext. 277.

## MARKERS

Katherine Rodman

Chairman, Markers Committee

Help to preserve our city's architectural heritage. There are many homes and other buildings in East Providence that deserve markers. If there is a possibility that your home is one of these, please fill out the enclosed flyer and send it to the Historical Society or to Katherine Rodman, 51 Bond Rd., Riverside, RI 02915. The sooner you and your neighbors reserve markers, the sooner we can have them made up and thus stimulate interest in the marker program.

## RECORDING SECRETARY NEEDED!

*Gladys Panzarella*

Chairman, Nominating Committee

I would like to thank the Nominating Committee, Gloria Tomasso, Nancy Wolfe, Hope Ring and David Kelleher for their time and effort to find qualified members to be considered for office.

We are in need of a RECORDING SECRETARY.....Nominations from the floor will be taken *only at the May 24th meeting!*

Plan to attend and support your East Providence Historical Society.

# EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## MARKER PROGRAM



(example)

**Your home may be eligible for a marker.**

**Any building in the City of East Providence which contributes to the historical development or architectural character of the City is eligible to be considered for a historical marker.**

**Help promote an appreciation of the heritage of East Providence.  
Send the following form to:**

**The Marker Program  
East Providence Historical Society  
PO Box 4774  
East Providence, RI 02916-4774**

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I am interested in receiving information about the East Providence  
Marker Program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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The East Providence Historical Society  
joins the community in celebrating

the 350th Anniversary of  
**Newman Congregational Church, U.C.C.**

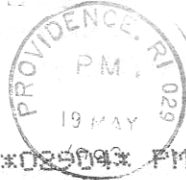
of

Seekonk and East Providence

*A Vital, Growing and Caring Church*

1643 - 1993

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