



John Hunt House

OLDE NEWS

TBF

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY • NEWSLETTER

VOL. VI NO. 3

OCTOBER 1993

"RUMFORD MEMORIES ROUNDTABLE" LAUNCHES RUMFORD PROJECT



Soberly reflecting on the past events at "The Rumford", some of the panelists at the Roundtable on September 27 who got the Rumford Project off to a spectacular start.....

From **Lillian (Granate) Crumby** who started in 1919, pasting the famous black and red labels on the cans ("Everyone was young back then!") to the final demolition of the tower and the disposition of the metal ball from the top....**Fales Peirce** knows where it is.....and in between, stories of the 'Diabolical Noontime Smoke-Bomb Conspiracy', 'The Short Cut to the Restrooms by Stepladders Outside the Window', 'The Heavy Step on the Stairs to Warn The Cardplayers'....and many other delightful recollections with supplementary statistical information provided by **Kevin Plunkett**, whose extensive research on the Rumford Chemical Co. will produce a Socio/Economic history of the Company, to be published early in 1994, concurrent with the 140th Anniversary.

If you missed it, **YOU MISSED IT !**

An Evening with Joe MacDougald Monday, October 25 7:30 p.m. Newman Congregational Church

Joe MacDougald, Raconteur....Avid Historian... Militant Historic Preservationist...Photographer. Peachstone CarverAND President of the **Wrentham Historic Commission**, is well known to OLDE NEWS readers. In last month's issue, we flew over six corners in a small plane, while Joe hung by his toes to take pictures !

Joe will tell us about the function of the Massachusetts Historic Commission, his chronicling of the significant events and statistics of Wrentham and his actions in the preservation of Wampanoag burial grounds in the Wrentham State Forest He will also share with us some of his East Providence memories. He came here in 1923 and stayed until 1942. He is married to the former **Ruth Marsden**, who grew up in East Providence and attended Grove Avenue School. (SHE will be here, also, to greet old friends.)



Joe MacDougald, V.I.P.

Come to the October 25th meeting and meet this **V.I.P. !**
(Very Interesting Person)

President's Letter

Nancy Moore

WOW! What a crowd for the Society's opening meeting! Thanks to much planning and hard work on the part of **Edna Anness** and **Ginny Berwick**, the *Rumford Roundtable* was as full and hearty as a baking powder biscuit. Thanks to all the bakers, too, for their goodies made from old "Rumford Receipts". It was wonderful to start the year with so many former members present, and especially good to meet new ones.

I know you will all want to congratulate **Lura Sellew** on her induction into the East Providence High School Hall of Fame on September 17. We all know Lura as a charter member of the Historical Society and our resident artist.

And....a word of appreciation goes to **Edna Anness** for her slide presentation at the Weaver Library, entitled "The Early History of East Providence". When I peked in on my way to another meeting, it was "standing room only". Thanks, Edna.

While we await the designation of a Preservation Chairperson, I'd like to use this spot to bring you up to date on some items of interest to our mebership:

1) The DOT has been very quiet on the subject of Roger Williams Avenue, so those who volunteered to sit on that committee can rest a while longer. The silence only means that their timetable is already off-schedule.

2) With the Council vote of "AYE" on the rezoning application of Bridgham Farm from R-5 to Open Space, Bridgham Farm inches (literally) toward completion. Thank you to any Society members who were able to show support for the rezoning at the Council meeting.

3) A Providence based agency known as Family Services, Inc., with the backing of DCYF has purchased the old Brand home at 1609 Pawtucket Avenue for use as a group residence for eight boys within the ages of six to eleven whose lives are in crisis. Beginning in mid October, these children will have a three month stay at the home while evaluation and intervention on their behalf takes place. The Historical Society was contacted by neighbors concerned about changes to the house and barn. Family Services Director, Carolyn Benedict-Drew (who is restoring an 1820 home herself), has indicated that no changes to the outside of either structure are planned, except for the change of a sliding glass door to French doors, and the addition of fencing at the front door. Photos of fencing typical within a half mile of the house were sent to Family Services, and a cover letter suggesting placement and preference of fencing accompanied the photos. It was also suggested that, as the house qualified for a Marker, Family services consider joining the Society's Marker Program and an application was enclosed. A letter was also sent to DCYF Director Linda D'Amario Rossi, introducing the Society and expressing our concerns for the property.

Again, this promises to be a great year! Thanks for all your support!



Rumford Memories Roundtable Travels to 1919 with Lillian Crumby

OLDE NEWS

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

OFFICERS

President	Nancy Moore
1st Vice President	Kristine Rose
2nd Vice President	Edna Anness
Recording Secretary	Don Brothers
Corresponding Secretary	Lura Sellew
Treasurer	Rose Marie Sirenski

COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 13
Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Hunt House

Monday October 25
Member's Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Newman Congregational Church
"An Evening With Joe MacDougald"

Saturday October 30
Autumn Supper 6:00 p.m.
Newman Congregational Church

NOVEMBER

Wednesday November 10
Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. Hunt House

Monday November 22
Member's Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Riverside Congregational Church
"Crescent Park Remembered"
Ed Serowik, guest speaker

The Bus signs still say "Crescent Park"
The Park is gone, but the Carousel
and **Ed Serowik** are still there!
Ed, who now maintains the Carousel, will
share his 40 years of memories with us.

OLDE NEWS

is printed at

PRONTO PRINT

1062 Willett Ave., East Providence

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AUTUMN SUPPER

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Featuring Exotic Foods Calculated to
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6:00 p.m.

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For Reservations Call:
KRISTINE ROSE
(401) 434-5581

Tickets will be available at
October 25th Meeting

MUSEUM UPDATE

Edna Anness
Museum Curator

About the Museum

The **Museum Collection** process has been in place since March, 1989. There is a five member Museum Committee of which **Virginia Berwick** is chairman. The committee is guided by a Museum Collection Policy. The policy took eight months to write and was approved by the Society membership in November, 1989. Our *purpose* is noted in Article II, Sect. 1 of the Bylaws:

"The object or purpose of this society is to collect facts and material objects relative to the history of East Providence and such portions of the adjacent towns as have at any time become or were a part of East Providence."

The purpose of the Museum Committee is the conservation and preservation of the artifacts and historic research pertaining to East Providence, the Hunt House and the artifacts.

Each gift donated to the Museum goes through a lengthy process. First a temporary receipt is issued to the donor. The Museum Committee, which meets every six weeks, will decide if the gift is pertinent to the Society's goals and to accept the gift. Acceptance is almost certain because donors always ask, "Can you use.....,etc?," so when a gift is received it is always accepted.

The Committee is polled ahead of time to get their approval on questionable items. We have referred some items to historical societies in other areas because the donated artifact may be more significant to them, but it is rare that the gifts are not accepted for our use. This is why we always say, "Please ASK FIRST before you throw anything out!"

After the Museum Committee accepts the gift....a single item or several together, a *Gift Agreement* form is sent to the donor. This form can be used to support a tax deduction on the Federal Income Tax. It also transfers ownership of the gift to the Historical Society.

Each gift is described on an *Accession Sheet*, noting the donor's name and address, the condition and past history of the artifact, its measurements, material of which it is constructed, distinguishing features and colors, name of manufacturer, name of the user plus any other information furnished by the donor. Each item is assigned a number which is noted on the item and on any package which may contain the item.

Everything is stored safely, in an acid-free storage box, or wrapped in mylar or acid-free tissue. Larger items, such as furniture are covered in clean sheeting. ▶

- Storage boxes are numbered and the contents noted on external labels.

In the cataloguing process several cross references are prepared. Donor file card, Accession file card, Nomenclature card (type of material, book, cooking utensil, etc.), AGF file which tells the item's association...business, city agency, etc. and an APF file which gives the *name* of the agency or person with which the item is associated. Thus any item may be located by knowing the donor, classification, geographic origin etc., and quickly accessed for examination.

Some are concerned that we may run out of room. Not in our lifetime! The Hunt House has 13 rooms plus 2 unfinished rooms in the basement. So far, furniture gifts are furnishing a bedroom on the second floor. Large artifacts are occupying one third of a finished attic room. Small artifacts, pictures, papers and books occupy a little more than one half of a second floor room and a free standing closet. We have "scads" of room to grow!

We **need** antique furniture for the Keeping Room, a second bedroom, summer kitchen and parlor. Museum Chairman, **Virginia Berwick**, has listed some other needs in her report in this newsletter.

We have 1340 artifacts catalogued as of September 24, with about 40 yet to be catalogued. We could use **some help** in cataloguing the collection any Tuesday or Thursday at Hunt House.

If you have any questions about the Museum or would like to donate or loan an artifact....please call Hunt House at (401) 438-1750.

BUILDING RESTORATION

Walter Vincent
Chairman, Building Committee

Getting back to our volunteer work will be a bit difficult in the absence of two of our workers, **Lew Allen** and **Bud Plummer**, who will be sadly missed but never forgotten.

Our two main projects at this time are: installing the new windows and re-building the patio. Of course, at the start of the day we have the raising of the flag, which to **Don Brothers** and the rest of us is a great pleasure.

The Historical Society is most fortunate in not only having volunteer *workers* like **Charlie Jackson**, **Earl Berwick**, **Austin Butterworth** and **Don**, but they also volunteer their *tools* each day. And, of course, **Martha Tourtellot** and **Ginny Berwick** who not only volunteer work but also provide supplies and refreshments for the boys. Martha and Ginny are also doing a great job on one of the most boring projects.....cleaning and scraping the new windows.

I will be calling a meeting of the Building Committee shortly to discuss our needs and other restoration projects.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Madeline Vincent
Membership Chaitman

I'd like to mention the names of new members since June, and welcome them into the society:

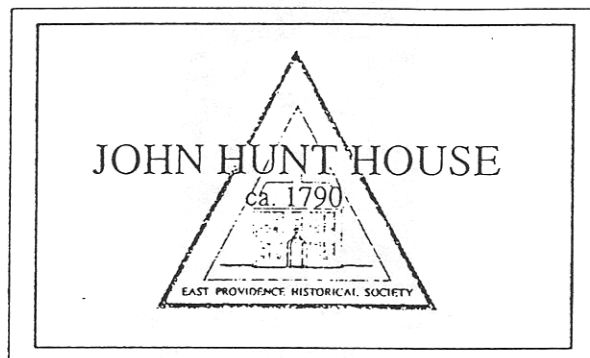
Alice Benson *Life Member*
Robert & Debra Cusack
Louis & Eleanor Ferreira
Jean Kesner
Edith Larned
Robert & Hope Melfi
Dorothy R. Midgely
Sidney Paine *Life Member*
Wallace & Joan Perry
Charles Tebbetts

Membership applications are available at all functions, in the newsletter and by request.

Ginny Berwick and **Edna Anness** were hostesses for the September meeting. Please consider signing up to be a volunteer hostess for at least one monthly meeting.

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARKER PROGRAM

Your home may be eligible for a MARKER.



(example)

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.

Send the coupon below to:

The Marker Program
East Providence Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916-4774

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

Name _____

Address _____

MUSEUM GIFTS

Virginia Berwick
Museum Chairman

We have received many more gifts over the summer.
Below is a list of the latest donations:

- Helen Smith** - Rumford scrapbook and numerous articles about Rumford people.
- Florence Murray** - Original oil painting "Rumford Girl on Fence", used on cookbook cover.
- June Goff** - Beaded textile belonging to her mother, Mabel Luther.
- Bruce Britton** - 1941 East Providence High School ashtray and matchbook from a reunion, photos of 1912 Rumford Depot and "new" high school, First Baptist Church pamphlet.
- Dick Deasy** - St. Brendans pamphlet.
- Arnold Collison** - 5 wooden Rumford boxes.
- Dorothy Midgely** - Book, "Count Rumford, Physicist Extraordinary", Articles from Brown office, Envelopes mailed to Rumford, 1957 "Rumford Review", 1939 Rumford full page ad.
- Claude and Donna Duckworth** - Showcase from Handy Bake Shop, printer from Kent Farm (White Rock Farm).
- Lowell Anness** - Bourne Avenue Grammar School book, Lynch paint stirrer.
- Al Hutchinson** - Pictures of Oleo Factory.

It is very gratifying to see that people are thinking of the Historical Society when they have articles relating to East Providence.

SPECIAL NEEDS: We have a collection of Crimson yearbooks from East Providence High School but are missing those from 1914, 1917, 1985, 1986, 1989, 1990 and 1991.

We are also looking for copies of the **East Providence Post** for the years before 1968 and after 1981.

(Ed. note: the **East Providence Post** is not archived by the **Post** or any other agency. The Historical Society plans to microfilm all copies that are available. PLEASE HELP!)

We are interested in history pamphlets about local churches. Actually we are interested in anything and everything to do with East Providence!

We are now concentrating on the **Rumford Project** for 1994, which will take many hours of planning. We hope that members will help by giving or loaning Rumford Chemical-related articles for our display.

Museum Curator **Edna Anness** is working hard to make this project an outstanding contribution to the history of East Providence. I am helping but Edna is doing the basics. We LOVE our "work", which we find exciting and interesting.

The East Providence Historical Society

is dedicated to preserving the heritage and enjoying the history of our city.

If you are not a member, we invite you to join now.

Annual dues are: \$10 per year, individual or \$15 per year, family.

Please make your check payable to **East Providence Historical Society** and mail with coupon below to:

East Providence Historical Society
c/o Madeline Vincent
45 Priscilla Av.
Rumford, RI 02916

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

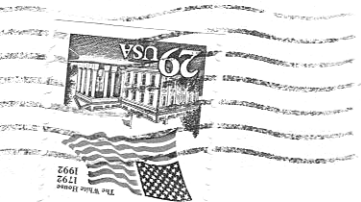
Name(s) _____

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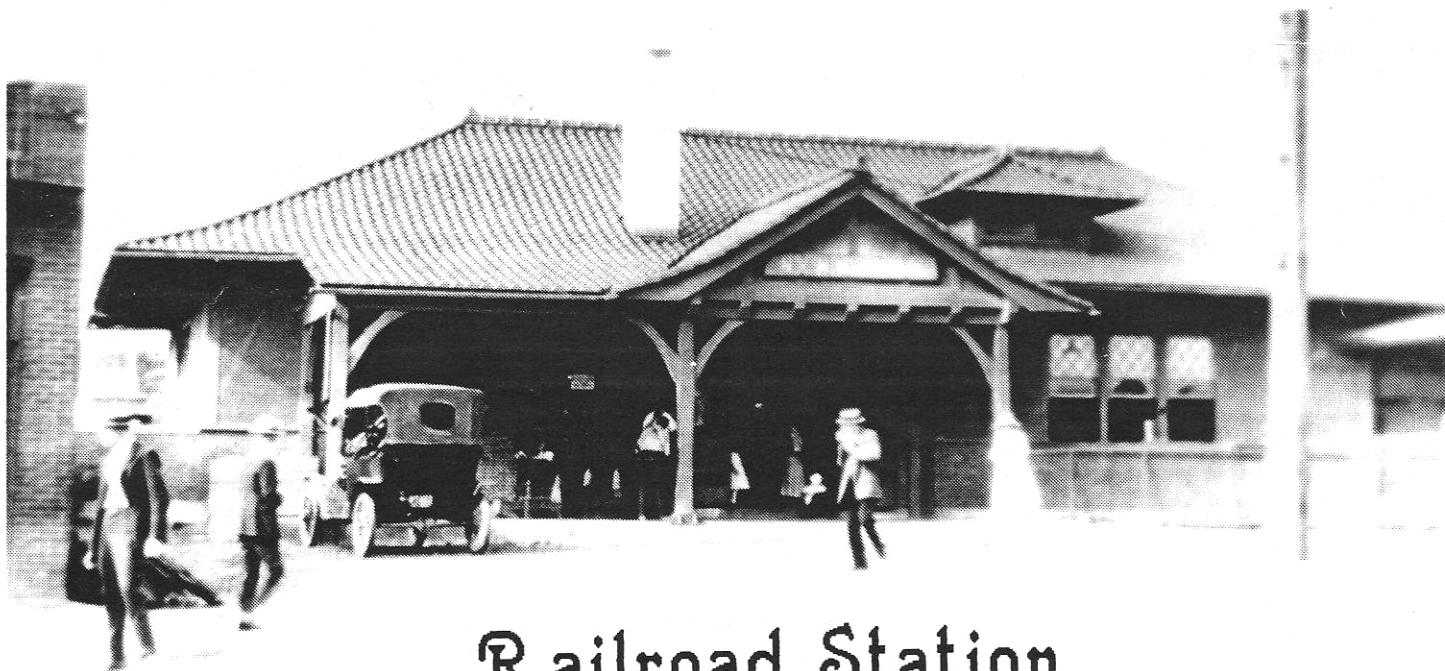
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Telephone _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ @ 10.00 individual, 15.00 family



East Providence Historical Society
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East Providence, RI 02916
O L D E N E W S



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at Watchemoket Square-1928**
After the Railroad Service Stopped.....East Providence Boys Club