



John Hunt House

OLD NEWS

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY • NEWSLETTER

VOL. VI NO. 6

JANUARY 1994

140 YEARS of BAKING POWDER HISTORY

The 1993 RUMFORD PROJECT was the Society's grass roots plan to observe the 140th Anniversary of the RUMFORD CHEMICAL CO. in 1994 by recognizing the importance of the RUMFORD and its social and economic impact on not only East Providence, but the U.S and the rest of the world.



Society Awarded Grant from R.I. Committee for the Humanities

The East Providence Historical Society has been awarded a grant for \$1000 from the R.I. Committee for the Humanities. The funds are for the support of the "140 Years of Baking Powder History" programs and exhibits.

The program is a result of the "Rumford Project" activity of last year, and will run from March through May. That R.I.C.H. recognizes the value of the Rumford history is a tribute to the efforts of all the people who were involved in the Rumford Project.



RUMFORD PROJECT co-directors, Virginia Berwick (l.) and Edna Anness prepare copies of Rumford Cookbook for sale.

.....And More Help....

The Rumford Company of Terre Haute, Indiana, Mr. Robert Hippleheuser, C.E.O., has given very generous support for the "140 Years of Baking Powder History" program.

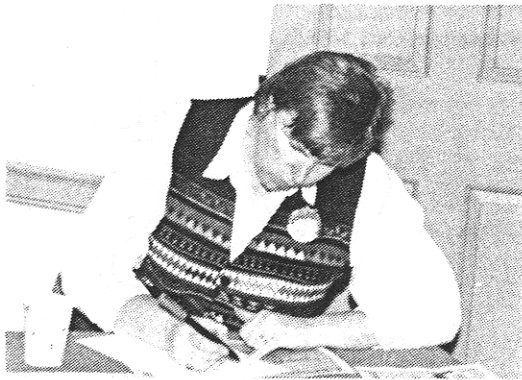
They not only provided the commemorative Rumford Baking Powder cans, but they also underwrote part of the cost of printing the Rumford "Receipt" cookbook replicas. (Cans and cookbooks are illustrated above)

These can be seen.....and purchased for a \$3.00 donationat Atlantic Flag and Banner, at the Rumford Building, off Greenwood Avenue, thanks to proprietor and Society member, Les Haworth.

Both the cans and cookbooks have been highly praised by all who have seen them. They are very colorful...the cookbook has a 4-color "Rumford Girl" cover which cannot be distinguished from the original....and make excellent gifts!

Watch these pages for more on the exciting 140 Years of Baking Powder History!

is 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



President's Letter

Nancy Moore

Happy New Year to the many members of the Society, both old and new. We begin the new year with a rapidly growing membership. You are all doing a great recruiting job and we can expect to have a greatly increased membership by the January pot-luck supper, to be sure.

Many thanks to all the helpers at "Christmas at the Hunt House". The proceeds were substantial, despite the weather. We received support from the community by way of food and paper goods donations, in addition to a prolific outpouring of crafts and baked goods from our membership. (One would suspect that some have joined the Society for the baked goods alone!) We missed **Bill Rix** and his beautiful greenery handiwork this year and trust that he will be out in his garden, come Spring. Thanks to **Mona Breault** and **Walter and Madeline Vincent** for stepping into the breach, beautifully decorating the house with greens from right outside the door.

We capped off the year and rewarded ourselves for a job well done with a Christmas Party at Hunt House. Our "Yankee Swap" has become a tradition and it's always a surprise to find out which gift is the big hit of the night. Who finally did get that pocketbook and that bottle of wine? Yours truly garnered a tin Of Reese's Pieces much coveted by **George Amaral**. The luck of the draw, George!

Thanks to **Les Haworth** who runs *Atlantic Flag and Banner* at the old Rumford site. Les has offered to sell the Rumford tins and Recipe Books in his shop and is already on his second round. Several members have taken the tins and books to their workplace and have sold them briskly. Please let **Edna Anness** know if you can do likewise or know of a store which would be a good outlet. This will be a very successful fundraiser for us if we sell, sell, sell!

We wish **Charlie Jackson** and **Hope Ring** better health in the New Year. And to all of you, I look forward to a great pot-luck on January 24. The Telephone Committee will be calling to solicit your specialty. Invite friends to the dinner and introduce them to the Society.

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Buildings/Grounds	Walter Vincent
Markers	Kris Rose
Membership	Madeline Vincent
Museum	Virginia Berwick
Newsletter	George Adams
Publicity	Florence Adams

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

Wednesday, January 12
Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Hunt House

Monday, January 24
Potluck Supper 6:00 p.m.
Newman Congregational Church

Wednesday, February 9
Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Hunt House

Monday, February 28
Member's Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Weaver Library
"Library Memories Roundtable"
Caroline Bowen Hurdis, guest speaker
 Another in our popular 'Memories Roundtable' series...Society member, **Caroline Hurdis**, who started at the WATCHEMOKET FREE LIBRARY in 1926 and served for 25 years as Assistant Librarian and Librarian at E.P Public Library, will guide our reminiscences.

ANNUAL POTLUCK SUPPER

Monday, January 24, 6:00 p.m.

NEWMAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MUSEUM REPORT

Edna Anness
Museum Curator

The Rumford Project

Sale of the replica Rumford "Receipt" Cookbook and the Baking Powder cans is going very well. These are items that will sell all year and long after the May display.

The cookbook and cans can be purchased at **ATLANTIC FLAG and BANNER** thanks to the proprietor, Society member, **Les Haworth**. All proceeds will benefit the Historical Society. The shop is located at the Rumford Factory complexenter from Greenwood Avenuego through the gate and turn left. Les has also volunteered to make a RUMFORD flag, which we hope will fly over the Rumford Plant during this anniversary year.

Louise Tetreault, a free-lance reporter for the **TIMES**, has offered to write our History Pamphlet which we will be mailing out in April and May, and handing out at the Museum display. **George Adams** has volunteered to make RUMFORD badges for the Museum open house and **Lura Sellew** has volunteered to make posters. Any OTHER ideas out there?....Give us a call.

We are also looking for volunteers to sit for two hours (once only) at the Hunt House during the Open House in May.... to watch the collections while the house is open.

MUSEUM GIFTS

Virginia Berwick
Museum Chairman

Gifts received in December:

- Melora Allen** - Crescent Park Carousel tickets and a Christmas ornament
- Bruce Britton** - EP High School newspaper.
- Ned Connors** - 1941 edition of EAST PROVIDENCE HERALD (our first !)
- Ethel Coyle** - Rumford tin, Rumford paperweight and a set of tickets, issued by Rumford, for Annual Family Day at Crescent Park.
- August Forss** - Framed photograph of houses in Central Village, bought by Rumford Co. at end of 19th century.
- John & Joan Hanlon** - Scrapbook of Rumford Co. advertisements from various newspapers around 1910. (Scrapbook was found in their attic)
- Caroline Hurdis** - E.P. High School 14k gold pin, Class of 1902.
- Mary McManus** - Uniform coat which she had worn at Rumford Co.
- Audrey Partridge** - Pictures of Vanity Fair and Watchemoket.
- Evelyn Martin Rhoads** - 1908 Rumford cookbook in like-new condition.
- Rose Marie Sirenski** - American Revolutionary style uniform from the 1890's.

SPECIAL NEEDS: We appreciate the many gifts of RUMFORD memorabilia....and could still use more for the 140th Anniversary Open House.

....NEWSPAPERS (**Ned** found the E.P. Herald at a yard sale and bought it for us!)....there were about fifteen newspapers published over the years in East Providence... we would love to have a sampling of them....how about the "Bay Spring News", for example.....old East Providence Posts from the 50's and 60's.....etc., etc.

.....E.P. "CRIMSON"....we still need 1914 and 1917 to complete the early part of our collection.

....Church HISTORIES...we have St. Brendans, Second Baptist, Haven Methodist, Newman Congregational, First Baptist and St. Margarets. We need St. Marks, Sacred Heart, Riverside Congregational, Hope Congregational, etc.

BUILDING RESTORATION

Walter Vincent
Chairman, Building Committee

I'd like to wish everyone a happy, healthy New Year....and certainly hope for a healthier 1994, especially for our volunteers!

Thanks to all who gave of their time and energies in the restoration work at the Hunt House this past year....it really has been a difficult one healthwise.

To maintain the restoration program, we are in great need of new volunteers to continue the work. Work that consists of scraping, sanding , painting, etc. Our work schedule is Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00 to 12:00 a.m., or if anyone prefers, any hours in between.

To volunteer, please call **Walter Vincent at 434-0481**.

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARKER PROGRAM

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.

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 _____

Historical Society Lecture Series

The Lecture Series is going very well. There are ten programs, prepared and presented by Museum Curator, **Edna Anness**. In September and December, well attended programs were presented at the Weaver Library.

On January 11, a sixth grade at Silver Spring School will view a program on "OLDE SCHOOLS in East Providence" and on January 18 at the same school, another sixth grade will see, "OLDE HOUSES in East Providence", varying styles of architecture.

On March 1st, "OLDE HOUSES in East Providence" will be presented at the Second Baptist Church.

The series, started in 1991, is constructed from a collection of over 500 slides, some of which fit into several programs.

When possible, the group sponsoring the program will make a donation to the Society Building Fund.

It is very rewarding because whenever the program is presented, new historical information is frequently provided by the audience! Many of our residents are veritable walking encyclopedias of information!

If anyone would like to share historical information with the Historical Society, please call and we will arrange to record your memories and place the tape in our museum archives. Call the Hunt House at 438-1750 and leave a message, or call **Virginia Berwick** at 434-0998 or **Edna Anness** at 434-3347. It's a pleasant way to spend a winter afternoon.....sharing history.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Madeline Vincent
Membership Chairman

Happy Holidays to All !It seems that recent meetings have been of great interest and have resulted in an increase in new member applications. (applications are available in the newsletter, at all functions and by request)

We welcome the following new members for December:

- Eleanor R. McElroy**
- Edward and Thelma Clark**
- Kenneth and Irene Roberts**
- Richard and Barbara Bushnell**
- Doreen Rieck**

The need for hostesses was not mentioned at our last meeting, so I'm asking for volunteers to host the February, March and April meetings.. Remember that you're only asked to host one meeting a year ! If you would like to volunteer, please call **Madeline Vincent at 434-0481** or sign up at the next meeting.

Do your friends and relatives belong to
the
East Providence Historical Society
?

If not, INVITE them to join.
Show them this newsletter
and the coupon below . .

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:

Madeline Vincent, membership
45 Priscilla Av.
Rumford, RI 02916

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ @ 10.00 individual, 15.00 family

Christmas at Hunt House



Carol Donahue, Bedroom Sitter.

Exhibits

Edna Anness

Many thanks to **Don Brothers, Lowell Annes, Carol Donahue, Nancy Stevens** and **Virginia Berwick** for sitting upstairs and watching the Bedroom display.

Also, special thanks to Virginia who worked so hard putting up the display, cleaning the rooms, going through the files looking for artifacts for the Rumford display, taking calls, picking up loaners, etc. Many are not aware of the the many hours she puts in as Museum Chairman. THANKS Ginny from all of us!

THANKS to **Nancy Stevens, Nancy Moore, Louise Healy, Virginia Berwick, Sophie Allen, Gladys Panzarella, Betty Anness, Anna Frances Apap, Martha Tourtellot** and **Lowell Anness** for loans of artifacts.....to **Walter Vincent, Charlie Jackson** and **Don Brothers** for all their help setting up the house, moving display cases, cartons, windows, etc., etc.

....And to **Fales Pierce** for the antique Rumford bottles that he gave for our sale.

Crafts

Lura Sellw

Sales went very well this year.....the BIG selling items were the Rumford commemorative Baking Powder cans and the beautifully reproduces cookbook with the pretty old-fashioned girl on the cover.

As usual, the homemade goodies made by our great cooks were a hit. We missed the swags and wreaths that **Bill Rix** usually supplies and we hope that by now he is feeling well again.

The craft items that were so nicey made by **Ginny Berwick, Mona Breault, Alice Hurd, Gladys**

Panzarella, Doreen Reick, Hope Ring, Lura Sellw and **Madeline Vincent**, with help from **Earl Berwick** and **Walter Vincent** were well received.

The candles, the swags at the windows, the mantle decorations and the lovely Christmas tree (later bid on and won by **Rose Marie Sirenski**) added to the festivities.

Holiday Cafe

Florence Adams

The Holiday Cafe wait staff, **Billie Arden, Armando Ladeira, Fales Pierce** and **Marjorie Welt**, served our patrons soup, chili, bread, and a variety of homemade cookies, including **Helen Smith's** Hermits.

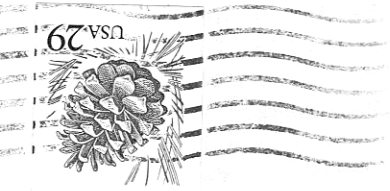
Dan Moore's Chili competed with **Marjorie Welt's** Friendship Soup (bean), **Bill Simpson's** Cream of Broccoli, **Ginny Berwick's** Venus deMilo (minestrone) and **Florence Adams'** Escarole Soup. **Gladys Panzarella** and grandchildren baked mini yeast breads, **Young China Restaurant** donated additional bread and **Thomsen Restaurant Supply** furnished paper goods.

The Telephone Committee, **Loise Healy, Lois Driscoll, Jewel Drickamer, Betty Davis** and **Florence Adams**, called the membership soliciting items for the Bake Sale. As usual, the response was outstanding. Thanks to all.

The Holiday Cafe will reopen next December.



Madeline and Walter Vincent, industrious elves.



O L D E N E W S
 East Providence Historical Society
 P.O. Box 4774
 East Providence, RI 02916



Jess Welt Photo

Watchemoket Square, Winter 1922

"You call *This* Snow?!...Back in the 20's We had
 Real Snow...6 Or 7 feet High!".....(sure)