

TBF



John Hunt House

OLD NEWS

EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY•NEWSLETTER

VOL. VI NO. 8

MARCH 1994

140 YEARS OF BAKING POWDER HISTORY

The Rise of Baking Powder

“The Rumford Baking Powder Process”

Monday, March 28, 7:30 p.m.

Newman Congregational Church

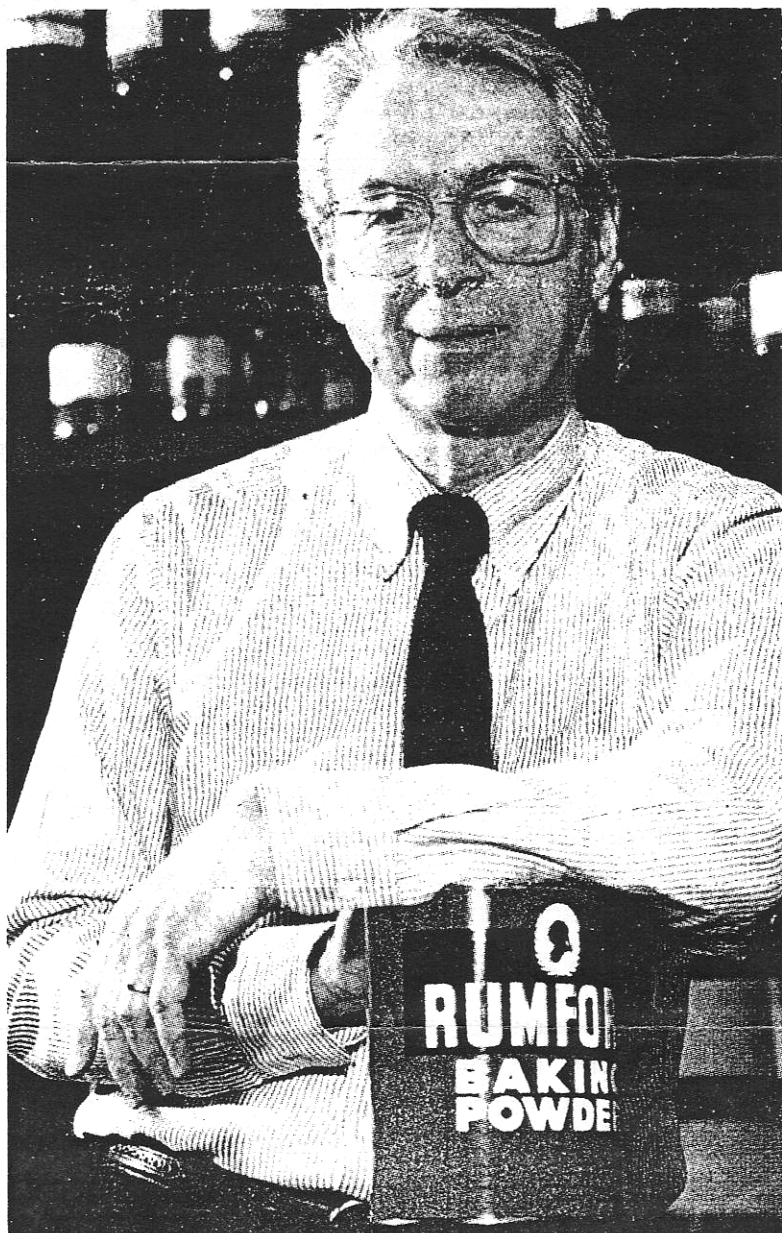
Paul R. Jones, PhD, Guest Speaker

This is the first in a series of events to be presented by the East Providence Historical Society in observation of the 140th anniversary of the founding of the Rumford Chemical Company.

Paul Jones is Professor of Chemistry and Chairman of the Chemistry Department at the University of New Hampshire. Trained as an organic chemist at the University of Illinois, he has more recently become interested in the German roots in the history of English and American chemistry.

In his discussion of the genealogy of Rumford Baking Powder, he will take us back to the American Revolution and the expatriate American scientist, Benjamin Thompson (“Count Rumford”) and the 19th century adventures of Eben Horsford who developed baking powder and the many other useful compounds that made the Rumford Chemical Company known world wide.

Even those who never heard of RUMFORD CHEMICAL, if such persons exist, will find this an interesting discussion, and Paul Jones an entertaining and well informed lecturer.

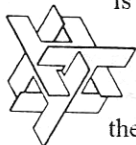


Paul R. Jones, Baking Powder Researcher

140 YEARS of BAKING POWDER HISTORY

is made possible in part by a grant from the
RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE
for the HUMANITIES

... an affiliate of
the National Endowment for the Humanities



President's Letter

Nancy Moore

This month I'd like to use this space to discuss an issue that the City Council has taken up and that you might have read about in the newspapers.

It appears that the last remaining parcel of beachfront property in East Providence is potentially up for sale to the City of East Providence by developers Kelly and Picerne. This seven acres of land, the site of the old What Cheer Hotel, lies just north of the Terrace in Riverside and diagonally across the road from our precious Loeff Carousel. At present, it is vacant land zoned for 48 condominiums.

To date, the Council has voted not to consider the purchase of this land. However, the Council has now agreed to open the issue for public discussion at the March 7th Council meeting.

During this last week, the Society was called by a local resident wishing to know the Society's views on this issue. As the Board has not held any recent discussion on the topic, the Board was polled for its opinion. A unanimous Board now holds the opinion that this land is of great importance as an historical site and as protection for the Carousel and its park. It is possible that within twenty years...or the 100th anniversary of the heyday of Crescent Park...Crescent Beach will once again be the jewel it once was, with clean water and the best sand in the state. The purchase of this parcel would ensure public access all along the beach and would allow the City to wisely use the land for the recreational benefit of all of its citizens.

WHAT CAN SOCIETY MEMBERS DO?...Any Society member who wishes to show support for our Board's position can; 1) Call your councilman and make your opinion known...2) Attend the March 7th Council meeting and make your opinion known to the city at large.

OLDE NEWS

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

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	Kristine Rose
Membership	Madeline Vincent
Museum	Virginia Berwick
Newsletter	George Adams
Publicity	Florence Adams

COMING EVENTS

MARCH

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

Saturday, March 12
Pasta Supper 6:00 p.m.
Newman Congregational Church

Monday, March 28
Members Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Newman Congregational Church
"The Rumford Baking Powder Process"
Prof. Paul Jones

APRIL

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

Monday, April 25
Members Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Newman Congregational Church
"The Socio/Economic History of the Rumford Co."
Kevin Plunkett

OLDE NEWS

is printed at

PRONTO PRINT

1062 Willett Ave., East Providence

MUSEUM REPORT

Virginia Berwick

Museum Chairman

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.....

Your opportunity to participate in some of the Society's activities may have arrived! The Society has the following opportunities:

GIFTS RECEIVED in FEBRUARY

- Barbara Erickson** - Second Baptist Church History.
- Marjorie Chase** - Small "90 Recipes" Rumford cookbook.
- Runford Grange, Ruth Lawson** - Grange Bicentennial Cookbook.
- Edna Anness** - 1926 Spelling Book from Central Junior High School, 1932 Munroe Dairy uniform insignia.
- Mildred Legg** - Rumford cookbook.
- Harold and Dorothy Kent** - History of Count Rumford's invention of the stove.
- Frances Collins** - Antique Mah Jong game.
- Supt. Edward Martin (ret.)** - East Providence school artifacts, pictures, programs, etc.
- Riverside Congregational Church** - History of the Church.

1. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** - **Virginia Berwick** has been appointed chairman of the Nominating Committee for the 1994/95 election in June. It will require attending several meetings in March and April. (note: persons who serve on the Nominating Committee can NOT be nominated for office....is THAT an enticement?!) Please call Ginny at 434-0998.

2. **HOUSEKEEPING COMMITTEE** - **Walter Vincent** tells us that the Hunt House is finally in need of regular housecleaning, and the work crew promises to confine its mess to small areas. He suggests a committee of small groups on rotating duties to dust, mop floors, clean windows and generally spruce up once a month and for special events. Again, this is a responsibility which, when shared, means that no one feels a slave to a dustmop...And its a real milestone to have Hunt House at this stage. Call Walter Vincent at 434-0481, or Nancy Moore at 438-4299

(NOTE; the Museum is in desperate need of a file cabinet...2 or 4 drawer.....ANYONE ?)

MEMORIAL FUND

The Society's Memorial Fund has received donations from the following:

- Eleanor Blackwell**, in memory of her husband, *Milton*.
- Nancy Moore**, in memory of *Lew Allen, Wendy and Bud Plummer*.
- Lura Sellew**, general donation.
- George and Florence Adams**, general donation.

The Memorial Fund is a qualified endowment and is administered by the Executive Committee.

Members and friends wishing to contribute may make checks payable to: the East Providence Historical Society Memorial fund, and mail to the Society at Box 4774, East Providence, RI. 02916.

PASTA SUPPER

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

6:00 p.m.

Newman Congregational Church

Pasta, Meatballs, Salad, Dessert

Donation: \$6.00 adult, \$3.00 child

call Kris Rose at 434-5581 for tickets

(also available at door)

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. Dues from January to June are \$5.00, individual or \$7.50, family. Please make your check payable to East Providence Historical Society, and mail with coupon below to:

Madeline Vincent, membership
45 Priscilla Avenue
Rumford, RI 02916

NAME (s) _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ Amount Encosed \$ _____ @ 5.00 individual 7.50 family

Rumford Chemical Co.
Souvenirs:

Replica of Century Old
"Rumford Receipts"
Cookbook

&

1 pound Baking Powder cans

available at

Atlantic Flag and Banner
Rumford Building, Greenwood Av.

and at all Society Events



The MAP on the facing page (5) displays boundaries and sites relating to the history of RUMFORD and especially indicates the location of property owned by the RUMFORD CHEMICAL CO. around 1895.

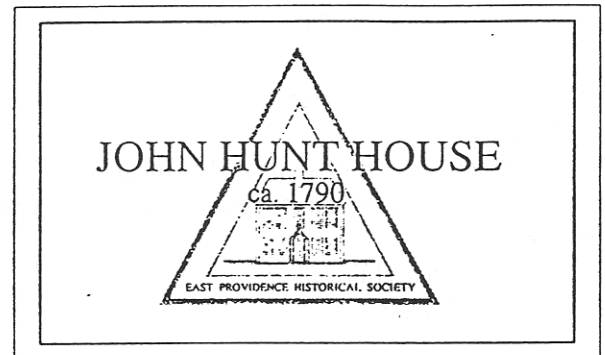
Society members now living in Rumford were curious as to whether *their* property might have once belonged to the Company.

Refer to "THE RUMFORD STORY...The Lay of the Land" in February O L D E N E W S. Story and map research by Edna Anness

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 _____



HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE.

(Liquid.)

For Dyspepsia, Mental and Physical Exhaustion, Nervousness, Diminished Vitality, Urinary Difficulties, Etc.

PREPARED ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTIONS OF

Prof. E. N. HORSFORD, of Cambridge, Mass.

There seems to be no difference of opinion in high medical authority, of the value of the Phosphates, and no preparation has ever been offered to the public which seems to so happily meet the general want as this.

It is not nauseous, but agreeable to the taste. No danger can attend its use. Its action will harmonize with such stimulants as are necessary to take. It makes a delicious drink with water and sugar only.

It is a pleasant and nutritious Substitute for Lemons or Lime Juice in the preparation of "Lemonade" or other acidulated drinks, with or without alcoholic stimulants.

DR. M. H. HENRY, the widely known and eminent family physician of N. Y., says:

"Horsford's Acid Phosphate possesses claims as a beverage, beyond anything I know of in the form of medicine, and in nervous diseases I know of no preparation to equal it."

DR. C. O. FILES, of Portland, Me., says:

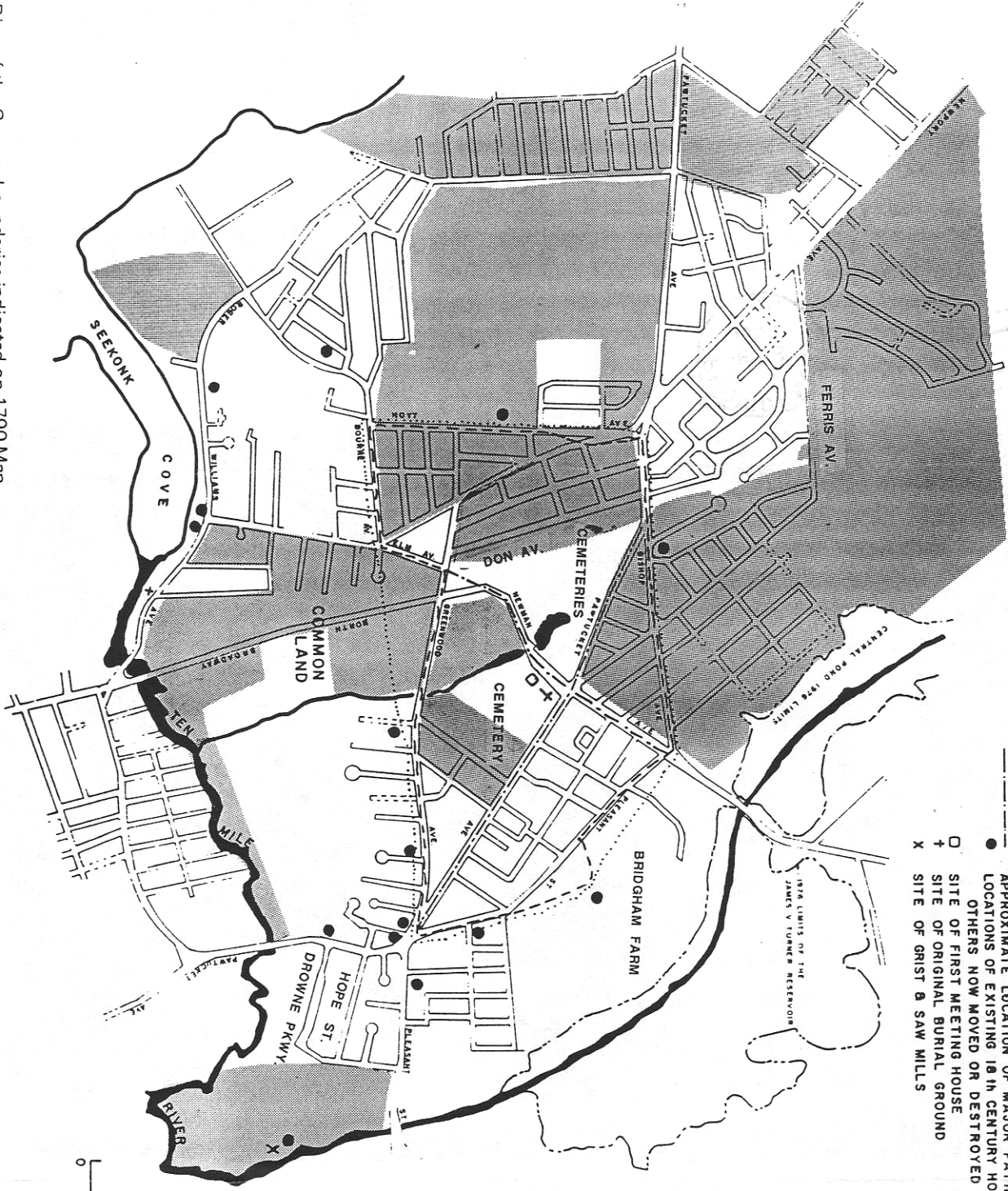
"Through the summer I find that Horsford's Acid Phosphate affords the most refreshing drink I have ever used. After perspiring freely, when cold water has utterly failed to satisfy my thirst, it has accomplished the purpose with the most perfect success."

Prices Reasonable. Pamphlet giving further particulars mailed free on application to manufacturers. Manufactured by the

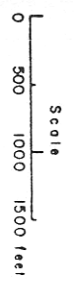
RUMFORD CHEMICAL WORKS,
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Ring of the Greene, boundaries indicated on 1790 Map
and possible original configuration.

SHADED AREAS OWNED BY RUMFORD CO. IN 1895

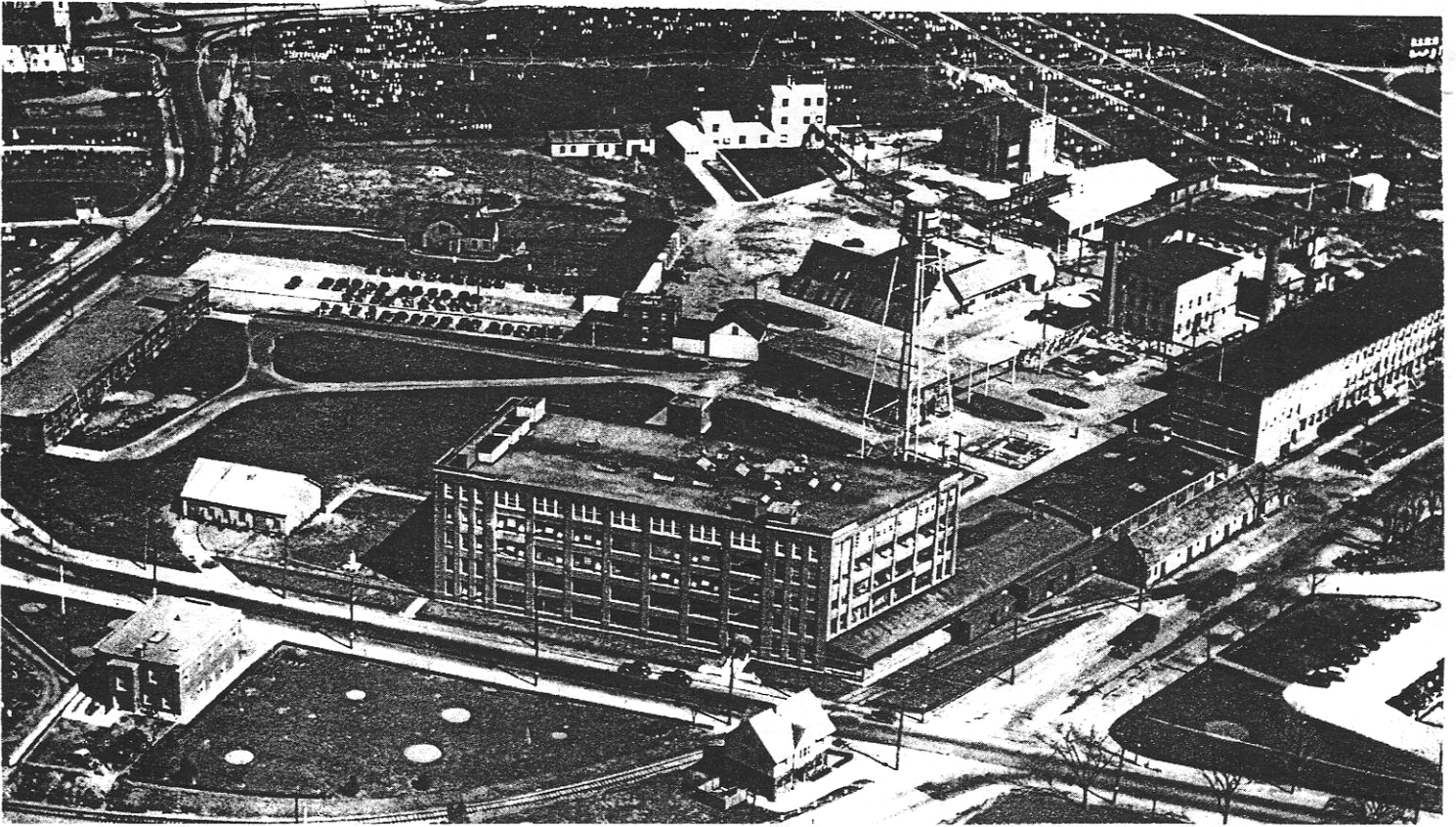


- LEGEND:**
- APPROXIMATE BOUNDARY OF RING ON 1790 MAP
 - POSSIBLE INITIAL BOUNDARY OF RING
 - POSSIBLE INITIAL BOUNDARY OF RING
 - APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF MAJOR PATHS ACROSS RING
 - LOCATIONS OF EXISTING 18th CENTURY HOUSES & KNOWN SITES OF OTHERS NOW MOVED OR DESTROYED
 - SITE OF FIRST MEETING HOUSE
 - † SITE OF ORIGINAL BURIAL GROUND
 - X SITE OF GRIST & SAW MILLS





OLDE NEWS
East Providence Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916



RUMFORD CHEMICAL WORKS - 1942