

John Hunt House

# OLD NEWS

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY

VOL. VII NO. 4

NOVEMBER, 1994



## Fashioning the Past

USING COSTUME AS AN INTERPRETIVE TOOL

Dan Romani, Educator, Rhode Island Historical Society, Guest Speaker

Monday, November 28 7:30 p.m.

Riverside Congregational Church, Oak and Bullocks Point Ave.



Dan Romani, of the Rhode Island Historical Society will present a discussion of the use of authentic period costumes in public displays of our restorations and historic artifacts.

We have received awards for our reconstructed rooms and museum collections, but perhaps the person who is showing visitors around may be wearing a Disney World sweatshirt!

Mr. Romani will tell us how to add to the verisimilitude of our exhibitions by clothing our guides as carefully as we prepare our exhibits.

## Christmas Exhibition Will Feature Plummer Doll House

The CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS Exhibition will feature a fully furnished doll house created and furnished by the late **Bud** and **Wendy Plumber**.

The Plummer House, as well as old toys and games will be on display beginning on Sunday, December 4, through December. Every Sunday from 1 - 4 p.m. (except Christmas Day) and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 - 12 a.m.

Admission is free.



Bathroom of Plummer Doll House

The East•Providence•Historical•Society

*Cordially Invites All*

*to the opening Tea and Reception*

*The Children's Christmas*

*John Hunt House*

*Sunday, December 4, 1 - 4 p.m.*

# President's Letter

Nancy Moore

At our house, we're still cleaning the bean juice off our clothes while we marvel at the great crowd that attended the ham and bean supper last Saturday night. As with many of our recent activities, this one proved to be a record setter and one of the tastiest. Our thanks to the crews and the Board member chairpeople who ran the supper like pros, and to our artist members who made the hall so festive.

Thanks also go to Sophie Allen who literally kept two boatloads of Blackstone River sightseers in some semblance of order. We couldn't have ordered better weather and the trip was so popular that we have decided to tour another part of the Blackstone next season.

Sadly, as I write this I have just received a message that Hope Jackson has died. She and Charlie have shared their many talents with this Society and our thoughts and prayers go to the Jackson family.

Don't forget that the November meeting is being held at the Riverside Congregational Church. The Church has been very welcoming and our meetings have been very well attended. See you there!

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## Walt and Madeline Vincent Bring Home the Prize

On September 29, **Walter and Madeline Vincent** attended the Convention of the **American Association of State and Local History** to receive OUR award for "*A restoration performed by a small, volunteer historical society*" (see September O L D E N E W S for list of volunteers who helped to earn the award)



Patricia Michaels (c.), Awards Director congratulates Walt and Madeline

# OLDE NEWS

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Editor.....George Adams

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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### OFFICERS

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2nd Vice President	Edna Anness
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Corresponding Secretary	Lura Sellew
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Buildings/Grounds	Walter Vincent
Markers	Kristine Rose
Membership	Madeline Vincent
Museum	Virginia Berwick
Newsletter	George Adams
Preservation	Leslie Haworth
Publicity	Florence Adams

### COMING EVENTS

#### NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 12  
"Holiday Gifts and Treasures"  
at the Hunt House 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Holiday Café 11 - 3

Monday, November 28  
Members Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Riverside Congregational Church  
"Fashioning the Past"  
Dan Romani, R.I. Historical Society

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

#### DECEMBER

Sunday, December 4, 1 - 4 p.m.  
"Childrens Christmas" Tea & Reception  
Hunt House

Monday, December 19  
Hunt House Christmas Party

# OLDE NEWS

is printed at



1062 Willett Avenue, Riverside

# THE FEINSTEIN GRANT

Edna Anness

Close to three hundred fifth grade students from the Grove Avenue, Orlo, Waddington, Kent Heights and Watters Schools walked the Bridgham Farm Trail and toured the Hunts Mills site and the John Hunt House. Included in the house tour was a class in eighteenth century games.

Preceding the tours each school was visited by members of the Society and shown slides of the school trip and examples of eighteenth century household tools. At the end of the tour the children had an opportunity to buy penny candy in the *Olde Rumford Store*.

We have several volunteers to thank.....**Virginia Berwick** and **don Brothers** for giving tours, and **Gladys Panzarella** for teaching the games.....also **Nancy Stevens, Billie Arden, Virginia Ripley, Florence Adams** and **Trudy Lima**. Trudy made old fashioned vests for the boys and Gladys made aprons for the girls. **Steve Panzarella** made the wooden toys used for the games and Virginia Berwick kept the candy stocked. Everyone who volunteered had a good time! **Dave Kelleher** and **Nancy Moore** coordinated the Bridgham Farm walk and I gave house tours and visited the schools. In the spring the rest of the local fifth grades will have their turn.

On October 27, the Historical Society sponsored a bus tour of historic sites in East Providence for 60 fourth grade students from Orlo Ave. School. They had their lunch on the Hunts Mills grounds.

One doesn't realize appreciate the history of our city until one takes a comprehensive tour. We should do that more often!

East•Providence•Historical•Society

Presents:

**John Hunt**

and

**the History of Hunt's Mills**

Slide Lecture by **Edna Anness**

WEAVER LIBRARY

December 17, 7:30 p.m.

# East Providence Scrapbook

Clint Sellew

## Red Bridge

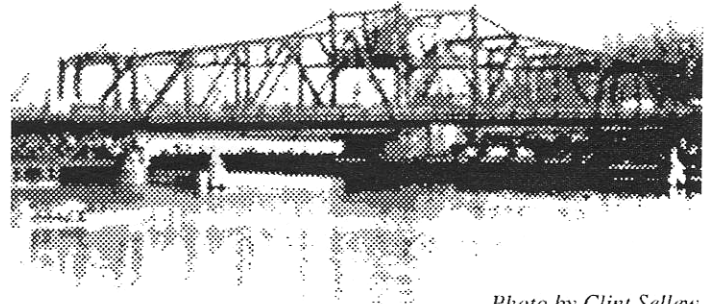


Photo by Clint Sellew

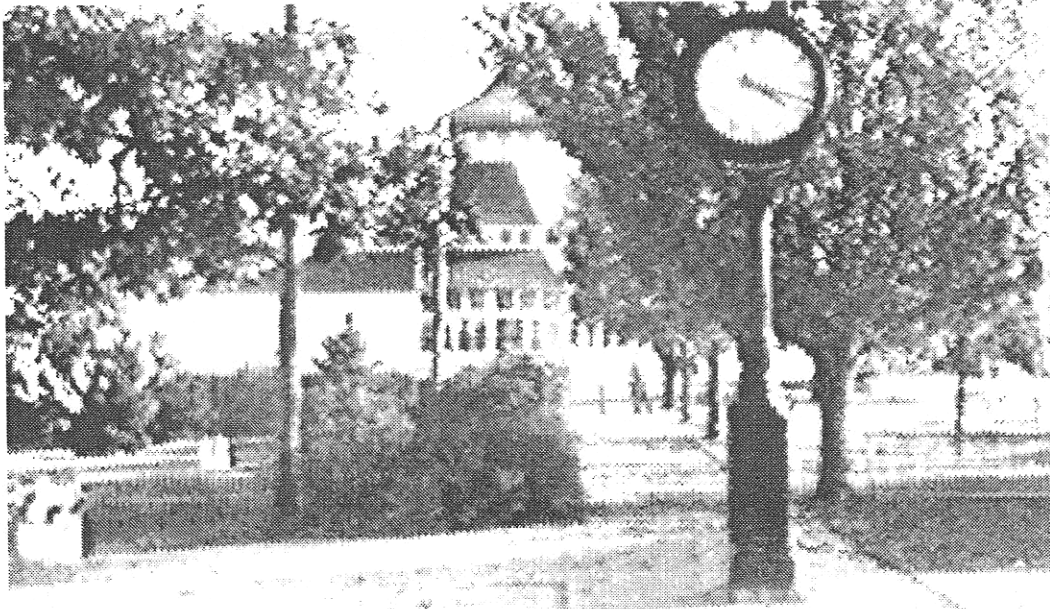
The first place of crossing between East Providence (then Rehoboth) and Providence on the Seekonk River was at a location called "Narrow Passage", where the Wampanoag trail crossed. Indians forded here by canoe which they kept at this point for travelers. In 1679 the first ferry was used. In 1695, the ferry was operated by Andrew Edmonds, who was only fourteen years old at the time, and William Daggett, who ran it in 1770, was the same age. From 1679 to 1743 Edmonds Ferry was the only connection between Providence and Rehoboth. Then another one was established about a mile below.

Until 1793 the Seekonk was crossed by ferries at the site of the Red Bridge. The first bridge at this location was the Central Bridge, erected in 1793 by Moses Brown and others at *Narrow Passage* or *Upper Ferry*. Although the official name was Central Bridge, it was popularly called Red Bridge because of its color. In 1807 this bridge was carried away by a flood. Rebuilt, it was damaged by the September Gail of 1815 and repaired. The old Central Bridge remained a toll bridge until 1869, when it became impassable because of collisions by vessels passing through its inconvenient drawbridge. The next Red Bridge (non toll) was opened for travel on July 16, 1872. The last Red Bridge (pictured above) was opened in 1895.

The last of the bridges at this historic place of crossing has been dismantled and was replaced by the George H. Henderson Memorial span located a few hundred feet north of our old Red Bridge.

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# The Historic East Providence Clock III

Still Ticking . . . at the Carousel Parking Lot.

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