



John Hunt House

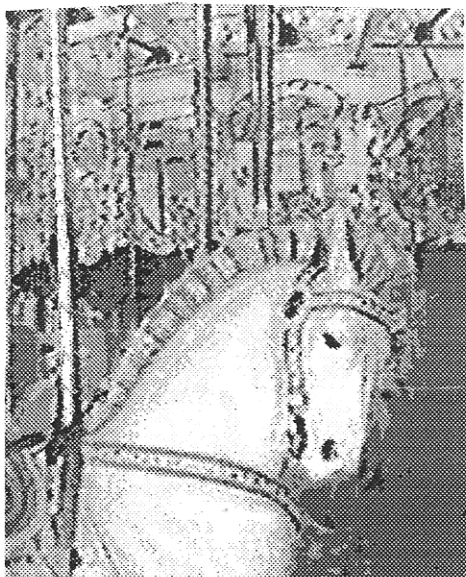
GAZETTE

VOL. VII NO.7

RIGHT ON.

FEBRUARY 1995

1995 TO MARK CAROUSEL CENTENNIAL



The historic Loeff Carousel, perhaps our city's best known icon, was completed in 1894 and began operation in 1895. Among the many events planned for the gala centennial celebration is a travelling exhibition of pictures and other memorabilia relating to the colorful history of the carousel. The exhibition will be at the John Hunt House, headquarters of the East Providence Historical Society, from September 10 through October 8. The Society is also planning a Carousel Centennial Celebration at the Carousel in the fall.

Henry Caparo was elected Chairman of the Carousel Commission at their meeting on January 21. The Commission is planning a year of events at the Carousel and at Carousel Park, in addition to the exhibition which will travel throughout the state.

Whether it was called the "Merry-Go-Round" or the "Dobby Horses", the Carousel was a major part of East Providence life. .and the rooth deserves a huge salute!

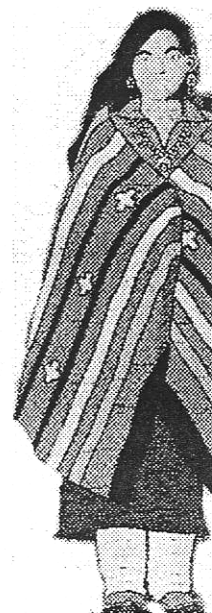


"FROM PILGRIMS TO POWWOWS"

A Look at Native American Life in Southern New England

Susan Esons, a Ph.D.. candidate in Anthropology at Brown University, will be the guest speaker at the February 27th meeting at Riverside Congregational Church in Riverside. Her program will include slides and artifacts from the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology in Bristol.

The Haffenreffer Museum, located on the shores of Mount Hope Bay, is surrounded by 370 acres of woodland. The family of Rudolph F. Haffenreffer donated both the museum and the lands to Brown University in 1955. The grounds were once the traditional lands of the Wampanoag, whose leaders in the 17th century included Massasoit and his son, Metacom, called King Philip by Europeans. In 1676 at a spring near the museum, Metacom was ambushed and killed during the final months of King Philip's War



What was life like before the Carousel, before Hunt's Mills, before RIPTA.....?

Join us on February 27 at 7:30, Riverside Congregational Church.....All are welcome.

There will be a short business meeting following the program.

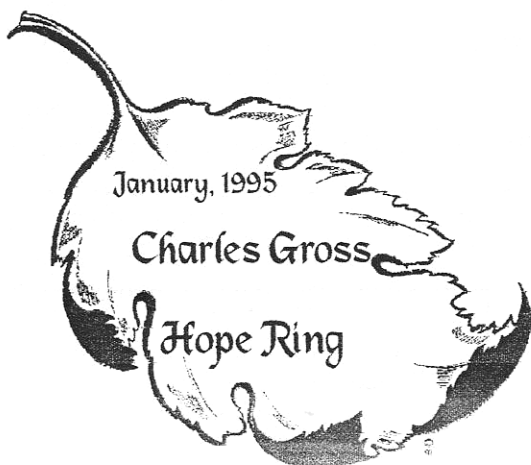
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to participate in the Carousel Centennial Planning Committee please call at the Carousel Commission, City Hall or telephone (401) 435-7518
The Carousel Commission is open Monday-Friday
9 a.m - 1 p.m.

President's Letter

Nancy Moore

If you are sick and tired of reading of how well the Society is doing, I would suggest you skip this letter and go on to less exuberant news. I do feel like a perennial Pollyanna lately, but the good news just keeps on coming, and "you ain't heard nothin' yet". Why, just this week Don Brothers was interrupted at his work at Hunt House by a news photographer for the Times who needed a filler photo and thought of us! Our pot luck meeting was another attendance record setter, and it was great to see new faces, as well as some whom we hadn't seen for a while. A marker was presented to the Love family at 1290 South Broadway (the Humphrey Mill) - look for it as you pass. Highlights of the coming year were announced at the supper and they are: the Haffenreffer Museum talk at the February meeting in Riverside (see details); a whaling "you are there" talk at the Weaver Library in March; a big band blowout in April plus the Feinstei fifth grade project and Earth Day celebration; members picnic in June; a gala September, with EPHS Day at the Carousel, a tour of the East Providence coastline in the Explorer, and an art opening of photographs of the carousel; our traditional Fall supper and Bazaar; a smashing exhibit in conjunction with the Smithsonian commemorating Cape Verdean history in our area for November; the ever popular Holiday Party in December. Please think about helping out with your favorite activity.



Sadly Missed... Fondly Remembered

the GAZETTE

is published monthly by the
EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY
Editor.....George Adams

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916-4774
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Museum	Virginia Berwick
Newsletter	George Adams
Preservation	Leslie Haworth
Publicity	Florence Adams

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, January 8
Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. Hunt House

Monday, February 27
Members Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Riverside Congregational Church
"From Pilgrims to Powwows"
Susan Esons, guest speaker

MARCH

Wednesday, March 8
Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Hunt House

Monday, March 27
Members Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Weaver Library

the GAZETTE

is printed
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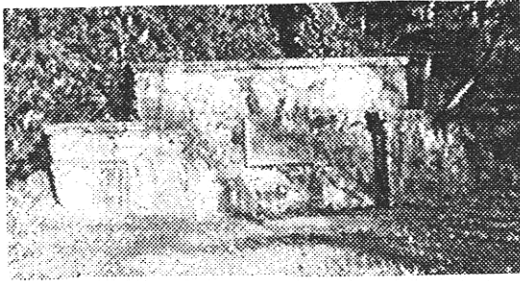


1062 Willett Avenue, Riverside

East Providence Scrapbook

Clint Sellew

Roger Williams Spring



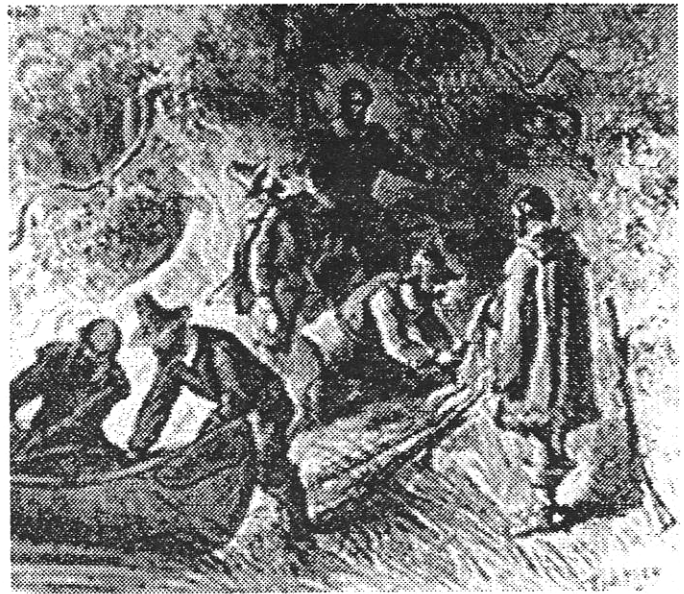
Located opposite 82 1/2 Roger Williams Avenue, Rumford, this was the site of the first attempted settlement of Roger Williams. A bronze plaque marks the location of his house 160 feet south of the spring on the opposite side of the street. The plaque is mounted on a tree and was placed there by the Roger Williams Society on April 27, 1904.

Roger Williams was given a piece of land by the great sachem, Massasoit. It ran along the east bank of the Seekonk River for a settlement and there we find him in the Spring of 1636, located on the eastern shore of what is now Omega Pond, planting and building, assisted by a group of people who had joined fortunes with him. This group included **Thomas Angell**, **William Smith**, a miller who had been banished from Dorchester, **Francis Wickes**, a young man and friend of Smith's, another described as "... a lad of Richard Waterman's", **Joshua Verin**, a roper of Salem and **William Harris**, a young man who had come over on the same ship with Roger Williams.

This settlement did not last long for reasons best described in Williams' own words:

"I first pitched and began to build and plant at Seekonk . . . but received a letter from my ancient friend, Mr. Winslow, then Governor of Plymouth, professing his own and others love and respect to me, yet lovingly advising me since I had fallen into the edge of their bounds and they were loathe to displease the Bay (Massachusetts Bay authorities) to remove but to the other side of the water and, he said, I had the country free before me and might be as free as themselves and we should be loving neighbors together. These were the joint understandings of these two eminently wise and Christian governors and others, in their day together with their counsel and advice as to the freedom and vacancy of the place."

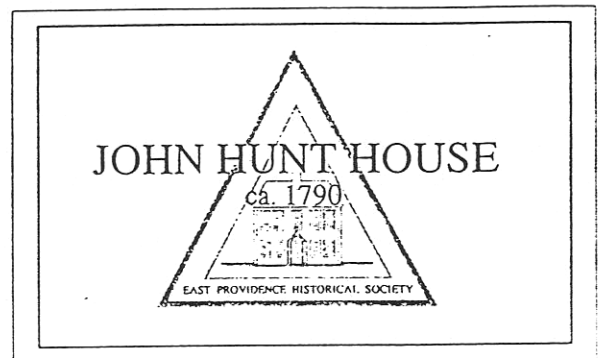
Roger Williams landed at the spring in Providence probably in June 1636, where a camp was pitched and "...from the freedom and vacancy of the place and many other providences of the Most Holy and only Wise..." Roger Williams named the place PROVIDENCE.



Roger Williams Landing at the Spring

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

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From the Attic

Edna Anness

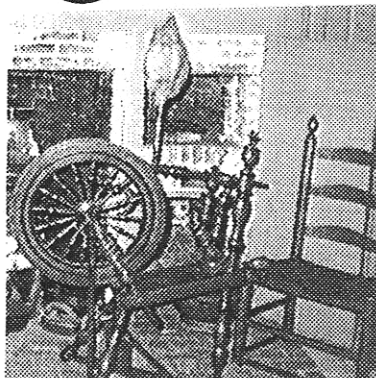
Museum Curator

MUSEUM REPORT

Virginia Berwick

Museum Chairman

One of the objectives of the Museum Committee is to furnish the Hunt House in a style which is appropriate to the period of the house. Furniture and utility pieces help us to interpret early life in the house for our visitors..



This beautiful *flax wheel* was given to the museum in January by Society member, **Caroline Bowen Hurdis**. Caroline is descended from the **Latham** family who came to the colonies in 1680 and settled in Greenville.

This spinning wheel was in their old homestead, and was brought to East Providence at the beginning of this century when Caroline's mother, **Carrie Latham Bowen** came to her new house on Burgess Avenue. Caroline remembers her grandmother spinning linen thread on this wheel. In fact the *distaff* which holds the raw flax is still filled with unspun flax. To complete the scene, Caroline also donated a ladder back chair of the same period. We have placed the wheel and chair in front of the fireplace in the "Keeping Room", where John Hunt's wife probably did her spinning.

A *flax wheel* is small, and may also be called a *Saxony* or *Brunswick* wheel. (A *walking wheel* is the very large wheel used for spinning wool. The housewife had to walk back and forth to operate the larger wheel, hence the name.) The housewife would sit in front of the flax wheel and push the treadle with her foot to operate the wheel which caused the spindle to turn. We know that John Hunt, Jr. left three wheels in his will of 1806. These were usually handed down from generation to generation.

WANTED: Historical information, memorabilia, etc., relating to the **United Congregational Church**, which was located on North Broadway. Please call Edna Anness at (401) 434-3347.

The Hunt House Restoration

Illustrated Presentation

by

VIRGINIA BERWICK

assisted by

EARL BERWICK

Hope Congregational Church

Sunday, March 19

(time to be announced)

MUSEUM GIFTS

Received in January

Virginia Ripley - Ivory sewing tools, 1953 calendar, pincushion, 1928 Rumford cookbook.

Olive Stringfellow - Loving cup from Naomi Patrol-Eastern Star 1928.

Caroline Hurdis - Early flaxwheel & ladderback chair, tin doughnut cutter, cookie cutter and scoop.

George Amaral - Schoolbooks from Mauran Ave., Potter Street and E.P. High schools, wood from inaugural platform of L.B.J. 1965, campaign buttons, evening purse, rug beater, advertising calendars from E.P. Fuel Co., scrapbook of Eugene Amaral's 1966 campaign for E.P. City Council seat, local school diplomas.

Bruce and Caroline Chick - "These Doors Open Wide"....a history of St. Michaels and Grace Church.

Bob and Barbara Tewksbury - Rumford wooden box in Swedish.

George and Beverly Chalko - Antique pie plate server.

Gertrude Landry - Antique door key found on land which was once the Cunningham Farm in Rumford.

Daniel and Barbara Wood - 3 class photos from Riverside Grammar School, copy of "News of the Old Home Town" WWII.

Newman Congregational Church - 3 panoramic photos of Rumford, near church.

Howard Mersereau - History of the Pawtucket River and its impact on East Providence.

Our Thanks to All!

VISITORS WELCOME!

We are very grateful for the gifts to our growing museum, and we are pleased that the value of these old articles is recognized and that they are now being shared with others.

We especially enjoy chatting and reminiscing with the folks who visit the Hunt House, whether bearing gifts or 'just looking'.

We had a delightful chat with **Caroline Hurdis** when she brought the old family flax wheel which is pictured and described above.

Having been a librarian in East Providence for *many* years, Caroline is a valuable source of information and anecdotes.

The Hunt house is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 12:00 a.m., or by special arrangement.. Please visit.....we enjoy your company, and we're sure that you will enjoy the Hunt House treasures.....and watching the award-winning Hunt House Restoration Team in action!

Help!!!...

Harold Howes.....who called to identify students in the 1923 Riverside Grammar School photo.... please call Debbie Macedo at (401) 437-1661. You did not leave your phone number and we cant find you!!

the
G A Z E T T E

Welcomes articles, reminiscences and recollections, commentary, poetry, photographs, drawings, etc. relating to East Providence and East Providence history, for publication in our newsletter.

Original material is preferred....**Re-prints** will be considered only if they are in the *public domain* or with the *written* consent of the copyright owner.

Those who submit text on a 3.5" "floppy disk" (ascii text, MS DOS, Mac, etc.) will win the affectionate regards of the editor....our typing staff is of humble competence!

Photos and art work may be in color or black and white (flat art 3 X 5 or larger preferred), negative or slide. VHS or normal 8mm videotape from which a still frame may be captured is acceptable also.

Please call the editor, George Adams, at (401) 437-1530 to discuss the material that you would like to submit, or take a chance and mail it..... 3632 Pawtucket Ave, Riverside, RI 02915-4215

DEADLINE FOR REPORTS and TIME VALUE INFORMATION IS THE FRIDAY FOLLOWING the MEMBERS MEETING (Friday following 4th Monday)

MEMBERSHIP

Madeline Vincent

Membership Chairman

We welcome our newest members:

- Marion K Craven
- Judith S. Gates
- The Indoor Tennis Court
- Geri Jacobs
- Raymond & MaryJo Pouliot
- Virginia Tucker
- Daniel & Barbara Wood

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the G A Z E T T E
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If you are not a member, we invite you to join now. Dues are \$10.00, individual or \$15.00, 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

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CITY

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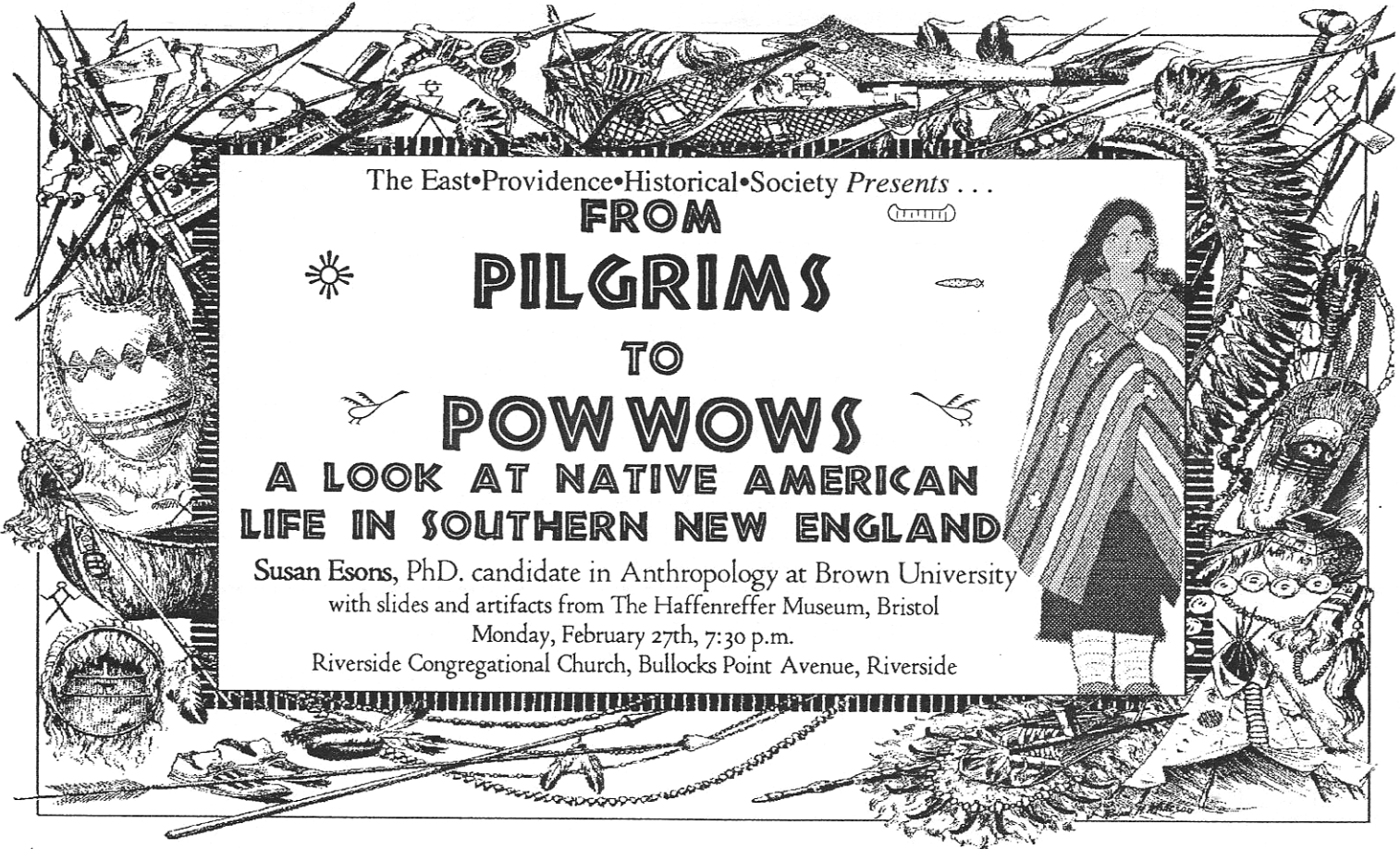
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**FROM
PILGRIMS**

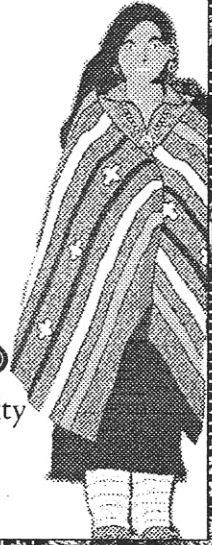


TO

POW WOWS

**A LOOK AT NATIVE AMERICAN
LIFE IN SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND**

Susan Esons, PhD. candidate in Anthropology at Brown University
with slides and artifacts from The Haffenreffer Museum, Bristol
Monday, February 27th, 7:30 p.m.
Riverside Congregational Church, Bullocks Point Avenue, Riverside



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