



# GAZETTE

John Hunt House

VOL. VII NO.6

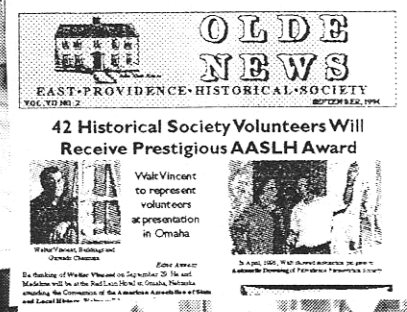
RIGHT ON.

JANUARY, 1995

## 1994 HAS PASSED INTO HISTORY

Here is One More Peek at Some of The Images of a Great Year ...

### 140 Years of Baking Powder History Exhibition



**& GENUINE  
STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE**

# President's Letter

Nancy Moore

Happy New Year! This is the first time I have had to use the new date and it seems as strange as it does every new year. I hope your holidays went well. Those fifty of us who were able to attend the party at Hunt House certainly celebrated the spirit of the season with many gifts to the house itself. Thank you for your generosity. We needed three rooms to hold all of us for our infamous Yankee Swap, and, in addition to the ever popular mixed nut trio and the bottles of wine, a carved wooden duck brush was the surprise hit of the night. The other great idea for a gift was a lottery ticket and we certainly found out who the risk takers were in the group. The Society has not received any \$100,000 gift, so it is probably safe to assume that this ticket was not the big winner. Ah well. The fun certainly was in the playing of the swap and this year's was a great time. Thank you to all who helped with the party.

You know, sometimes we don't even know what we own. As we have moved from place to place, we have depended on the various halls to provide us with sound systems, all of them being different and of varying effectiveness. At times, we have had to go without, which has made hearing difficult for some members. At the last Board meeting, discussion was held concerning the purchase of a system to carry with us. Whereupon, Walter Vincent announced that the Society already owns a system and we should be using that one. In fact, we did use that system for the Swap and it worked very well. Our apologies to all of you who have put up with our fumbling this year. We now have our act together.

Please make sure to mark your calendars for the January Pot Luck Supper. This is a great way to socialize with new members, and the very best way for old members to come back and visit. If you haven't attended a meeting in a while, step out on January 23 for an easy, delicious supper with friends. The telephone crew will be calling to solicit you for a food contribution and the number in your party. See you there!

## 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  
(401) 438-1750

### OFFICERS

President	Nancy Moore
1st Vice President	Kristine Rose
2nd Vice President	Edna Anness
Recording Secretary	Elizabeth Soderlund
Corresponding Secretary	Lura Selley
Treasurer	Rose Marie Sirenski

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Buildings/Grounds	Walter Vincent
Markers	Kristine Rose
Membership	Madeline Vincent
Museum	Virginia Berwick
Newsletter	George Adams
Preservation	Leslie Haworth
Publicity	Florence Adams

### COMING EVENTS

#### JANUARY

Wednesday, January 11  
Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. Hunt House

Monday, January 23  
Potluck Supper 6:00 p.m.  
Newman Congregational Church

#### FEBRUARY

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

## the GAZETTE

is printed  
at

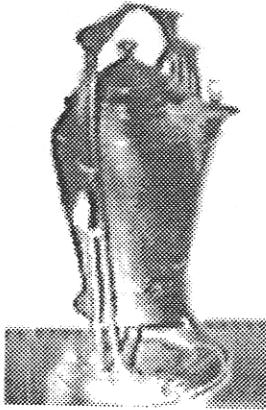


1062 Willett Avenue, Riverside

# From the Attic

Edna Anness

Museum Curator



This large ornate teapot holds an important place in East Providence Center history. It originally belonged to Emma Judkins who lived at 1474 Pawtucket Avenue in the Judkins House now owned by the Fields. This house is included on the new poster published by the Historic Properties Commission. Emma was the organist at First Congregational Church (Newman Church) for a number of years. When Emma retired as organist in 1875, the

choir presented her with this teapot. The teapot is *en stande* and is described as Britannia Ware. It was made by the Meriden B. Company. The pot is removable and is lined with white china. The front is engraved:

*Presented to  
Emma E. Judkins  
June 2d By the 1st Congregational Choir 1875  
of E. Providence, R.I.*

Emma Judkins was the great grandmother of the late Dr. Fred Ripley, a long time member of the East Providence Historical Society, who presented the teapot to the Society in October 1990. The Judkins family was well known for their showcase factory which was located at approximately where Barbara Circle is located in Rumford, behind the Judkins House. We recently learned that the Judkins family also built steam launches and that their company was called the "Judkins Boat Works, Hunts Mills, Rumford."

## MUSEUM REPORT

Virginia Berwick

Museum Chairman

Christmas was a wonderful time at the Hunt House....the Plummer Collection....and the Christmas Party that was attended by 47 members. They had a merry time with the "Yankee Swap", as Nancy Moore described the gifts as they were opened. Lots of fun with coffee, cider and goodies provided by the members. If you missed it, make plans to be there **next** Christmas!

The **Children's Christmas** was a great success, with many visitors attending throughout December.

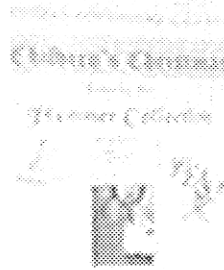
**Nancy Plummer Batty** and **Merideth Medeiros** set up the Doll House. Each room had been dismantled, packed in boxes and brought to Hunt House to be reassembled. As Nancy remarked.... "It was a labor of love."

The Doll House is on permanent display, but most of the other articles were on loan and had to be returned.

**Nancy Batty**, the daughter of **Bud** and **Wendy** was very pleased at the interest in the **Plummer Collection**, which was a tribute to her parents.

About twenty young people from the Boys and Girls Club of East Providence visited the exhibition. They were very interested in the displays...especially the Doll House and the model cars made by Bu

Thanks to **Nancy Stevens** for the loan of a toy piano, wicker carriage and small wooden chair, and to **Ted Adams** for 2 model rooms that he had built..... all of which enhanced the exhibit and helped to make it a memorable event.



**Nancy Plummer Batty** at opening of "Children's Christmas"

## MUSEUM GIFTS

Received in December

- Evelyn Martin Rhodes** - Rumford metal spatulas.
- Virginia Tucker** - Rumford cookbook
- R.I. Federation of Women's Clubs, Mary Irons, Pres..** - Collection of Riverside Junior Women's Club scrapbooks and awards.
- Jane Civins** - Book on the life of Count Rumford.
- Ralph Bradley** - Three slides, current photo of First Baptist Church and another when Pawtucket Ave. was a dirt road and photo of 200 year old house which stood at present location of Yan & Yan Restaurant.
- Isabel Rich** - 1936 Tercentennial scrapbook which she had put together while a student at Grove Avenue School.
- Anna Gibbons** - Iron flatiron and trivet.
- Dan Shea** - Framed copy of new East Providence Historical Commissions poster.

SPECIAL THANKS to all who brought Christmas gifts for the Hunt House to the annual Christmas Party.

### HELP!

If anyone thinks that they might be able to identify faces in a photo of RIVERSIDE GRAMMAR SCHOOL GRADUATION-1923 please call Debbie Macedo at (401) 437-1661

# East Providence Scrapbook

Clint Sellew

## Washington Bridge

At the place where Washington Bridge now crosses the Seekonk River, merged the trails of the Watchemoket and Montaup tribes. Their canoes were used to cross the river here. Later, in Colonial days, settlers kept boats used for crossing at this location as this was the narrow point, but not as short a distance as at "Narrow Passage", where Red Bridge was later located, but narrow enough.

The first ferry was privately operated, and in 1739 Josiah Fuller and Elisha Tillinghast sought permission to establish a public ferry. After some time, permission was granted, and for many years they ran the service at this point, known as "Fuller's Ferry", or "lower ferry". Rates were 6 pence for a horse and load, 3 pence per person and 2 shillings for each horse and chaise or chair.

In 1773, 1800 pounds was unsuccessfully sought to build a bridge.

### The First Bridge

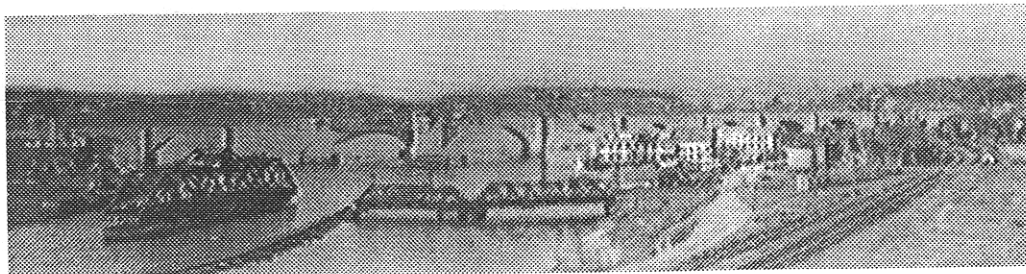
In 1792, John Brown decided to erect a bridge at this location. He was a very wealthy person having extensive property and business holdings. He formed the Providence and Washington Bridge Society and proceeded to have the bridge built by a construction company that he also formed, named the Providence South Bridge Company. He had a statue of George Washington, his idol, placed on the Providence end which, of course, gave the bridge its name. The first team to use the bridge crossed on April 12, 1793. Tolls were charged for some time, about the same rates as at Fuller's Ferry. This span was used for 14 years.

### The Second Bridge

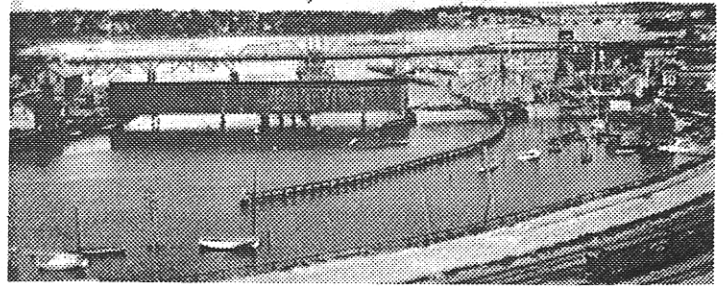
In the spring of 1807, the first bridge was carried away by a freshet. It was promptly rebuilt at a cost of \$6,698.48 and opened in September of the same year. This span was used until the Great Gale of 1815, when the bridge was washed away again. It had been in use for 8 years.

### The Third Bridge

In time it was rebuilt stronger than ever at a cost of \$5,568.36. It was a long wooden bridge and three quarters of its length was covered by a house. Again, in 1820, the woodwork was rebuilt under the supervision of James C. Bucklin, architect. Once more in 1875 piers and superstructure were thoroughly repaired, and it was hoped that it would last until a new bridge could be constructed. This bridge was used for 70 years.



The "Fifth Bridge" View from Fort Hill 1943



The "Fourth Bridge" View from Fort Hill ca. 1920

### The Fourth Bridge

An iron girder, modern type bridge was constructed and put in use on Memorial Day of 1885 and was used until it was replaced by the fifth bridge in 1930.

### The Fifth Bridge

This, the original single span of the present bridge, is best described by the bronze plaque on the East Providence end on the south side:

#### *State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations WASHINGTON BRIDGE*

*This bridge opened for traffic in 1930 and known as the Washington Bridge, occupies the site of a bridge first opened to traffic on April 12th, 1793 and which carried the following inscription on an abutment, "Washington Bridge Built by John Brown, Esq. 1793.*

*This Monument is erected by the Founder and Proprietor of India Point as a tetimony of his high respect for the Great and Illustrious Washington". John Brown, who built the original Washington Bridge was one of the famous Brown brothers of Providence, a staunch federalist, a resourceful patriot and a member of Congress under the Articles of Confederation.*

Merritt, Chapman and Scott were the contractors.

This bridge is now accompanied by a parallel span just a few feet from the north side, necessitated by the greatly increased traffic load on Route 195.

the  
GAZETTE

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

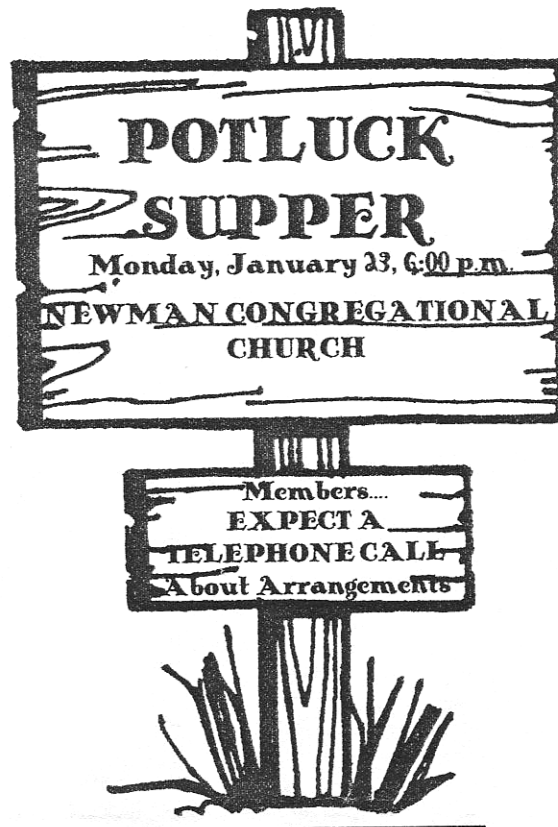
Original material is preferred....Re-prints will be considered only if they are in the *public domain* or with the *written* consent of the copyright owner.

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)



Do Your Friends and Relatives  
Belong to the  
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**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 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  
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GAZETTE

CERTIFICATE OF  
*Commendation*

*Presented by the American Association for State and Local History*

*The East Providence*  
to *Historical Society*  
*for the restoration of the Hunt House*



*[Signature]*  
President

*[Signature]*  
Chair, AASLH Awards Committee

*September 29, 1994*  
Date

Happy New Year . . . From the Award Winning Hunt House Volunteers