

*Measuring  
March - Sept  
. 96*



G A Z E T T E



John Hunt House

Vol. VIII No. 10

RIGHT ON.

December 1996

**The Civil War Memorial at the East Providence City Hall**

*By Clint Sellew*

On the sweltering July 4, 1919 at eleven A.M., the new eight-foot-six-inch high Civil War bronze soldier atop a forty-six ton boulder was dedicated. A bronze tablet on the front of the boulder lists 276 soldiers and sailors of Bucklin Post #20 of East Providence both deceased and living at the time.

The well attended ceremonies included several dignitaries, the ladies of the Bucklin Point Relief Corps and the general public. There were 26 of the 37 living members of the post at that time who were able to attend. A parade preceded the ceremonies which began at the Post headquarters in the Ray Block at Watchemoket Square and proceeded up Taunton Avenue to the Town Hall lawn area. A band played several patriotic pieces during the parade and ceremonies.

Bucklin Post #20 had financed this memorial which had cost over \$3,500. The boulder had been moved from somewhere in the Kent Heights area. The sculptor of the bronze figure was Theo Alice (Ruggles) Kitson and was cast by the Gorham Company of Providence, R.I. Later, a smaller plaque was placed on the north side of the boulder revealing who had given the memorial and that it was dedicated July 4, 1919.

Since the erection of this memorial it was moved several times in the course of the construction of the new City Hall and for repair work due to vandalism.



It seems that these patriotic veterans would be proud that this memorial has been cared for and occupies such a prominent location for all to see and remind us of what they gave that we may have this fine country of ours to live in.

**Preservation News**

We're sure Society members recall the purchase of the Providence Country Day School property last spring. Included in that purchase was the **Ide House**, the 1780 building fronting on Pawtucket Avenue. Although the house had been altered for various uses by PCD (now Administration and Admissions) the historical integrity of the building had been preserved. During the fall, largely through the efforts of **City Manager Lemont** and city departments, the exterior of Ide House has been repaired, painted, and generally spruced up. The building is a knock-out, and we should be very proud of the community effort to secure that property. Thanks to the **Parks Department** and to **Fanja Painting Contractors** for a wonderful job.

**SPECIAL NOTICE**

The Board has decided to close the Hunt House during January and February in the interest of the conservation of energy and money. If we have a winter like last year we won't have the worry of constant shoveling, sanding and tracking of salt into the first floor rooms of the House. The House will be constantly monitored and museum work will continue, but on a less rigid schedule. You can reach Virginia Berwick at 434-0998 and Edna Anness at 434-3347. If you wish to visit, call for an appointment. Donations of artifacts will still be accepted by appointment. The president, Les Haworth, can be reached at 434-1430. The Building Committee chairman, Earl Berwick, can be reached at 434-0998. Messages can be left on the answering machine at Hunt House, 438-1750. The machine is monitored every day.

# Board Briefs

Those of us who attended the November meeting in Riverside were certainly impressed with Edna Anness's presentation on caring for heirloom textiles. She showed many examples of "before" and "after" projects, but the most striking was her restoration of a christening gown. Amazing, Edna. Those of us who have glibly thrown our pieces into hot water and bleach will certainly think twice from now on. And the many valuable tips Edna gave us for storing and displaying our treasures were very helpful. Did you know that Ivory Liquid is every bit as

effective for cleaning old fabrics as the costly liquids touted as specially mixed for that purpose? Several members brought fabric pieces to share with the group and to seek expert advice on. We're sure Edna will help you with a question about your heirlooms. Give her a call!

**Christmas at the Hunt House** continues through December 29<sup>th</sup>. Treat yourself to a visit during the month to see the house decorated for the holidays. Get some ideas, too. Several people have contributed their time and talent to dress up the house. Times are Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to noon, Sundays 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

We had a very successful Christmas Sale at the Hunt House. This is a list of the winners of the raffle:

Christmas banner	Sylvia Amaral
Book rest	Louise Moussally
Kitty apron	Barbara Tizon
Bottle of wine	Hope Melfi
Slate	Edith Larned
Snowman	Lois Carlson
Apron set	Ruth Peirce



## CONTEST WINNERS

The Museum Committee sponsored a contest for members and friends of the Historical Society asking that a site be chosen in the Hunt House and seasonally decorated for the month of December. The following participants received ribbon awards for their inspired designs:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Prize

Pat Henry, parlor mantle

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

Lura Sellew, centerpiece for tea table

### Honorable Mention

Virginia Berwick, parlor table

Mona Breault, front staircase

David Kelleher, borning room mantle

Karen Fillion, member Rumford Junior Women's Club, and Margaret John, retired East Providence art teacher served as impartial judges. Our thanks to all who helped deck the halls of the Hunt House.

## The GAZETTE

is published monthly by the

**EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774  
(401) 438-1750

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1062 Willett Avenue, Riverside

## MEMORIAL FUND

The Society's Memorial Fund was established in 1993 in memory of past members for "the betterment of the Society and with no specific purpose." The Memorial Fund is a qualified endowment administered by the executive committee. Members and friends wishing to contribute may make checks payable to the  
**East Providence Historical Society**  
and mail to the Society at:

Box 4774  
East Providence, RI 02916

## New Members

**Warm Welcome to Our New Members**  
Donald & Meribeth Bowden

This month Virginia and Edna have been scrambling around in the attic going through photos and reference materials. George Adams is digitalizing the photos for the *IMAGES OF AMERICA EAST PROVIDENCE BOOK*. Joe and Ruth MacDougald, Ed Serowik, Earl and Virginia Berwick, Clint and Lura Sellew, Midge Welt and Edna wrote captions. Ginny, Lura and Edna joined Dave Kelleher, Les Haworth and Nancy Moore to do the layout of the book. Nancy also offered to computerize the captions. So the book is rolling along the bumpy journalistic road to publication.

We have just received, as we go to print, a two-hundred-year-old gift which has found its way back to Rehoboth so to speak, - at least that part which is now East Providence. It left town in about 1865 and took 131 years to get back. Next month we will feature the artifact in this column...or you can visit the Hunt House any Sunday afternoon in December or Tuesday or Thursday mornings to get an early peek.

## ACCESSIONS - GIFTS

**Marian Craven** - Seven CRIMSON yearbooks; shoe stretcher; E.P.High School diplomas and certificates from the estate of Muriel Bourne.

**Edward Serowik** - Eleven postcards of Crescent Park; card advertising Crescent Park.

**Eleanor Peterson Saunders** - Two dresses, a blouse, an apron, and lace, all c.1880-90. A poem written by the donor for her father, Russell Peterson on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The family once owned the Peterson Farm on Pleasant Street.

**Celia Becket** - A photo of Union Primary class with names.

**George & Edith Murphy** - A Rumford cookbook.

**Elsie Williams** - We will tell you next month!!!!!!!

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, individual or \$15, family.

Please make check payable to:

**East Providence Historical Society**

Mail to: Mona Breault  
34 Josephine Avenue  
Rumford, RI 02916

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Dear Editor,

I refer to the article in the October 1996 issue of the *Gazette*, "The Three Railroads of East Providence", the first two paragraphs.

In the first paragraph Mr. Porter writes that the cars passing over the trestle bridge over Bullocks Cove were not trolleys. To refute this I must quote from the small booklet put out by the Providence Journal (4<sup>th</sup> Edition 1901) called "Trolley Trips From Providence Out", Price ten cents, page 83: "One of the finest trolley rides out of Providence may be had upon the line of the Rhode Island Suburban Railway to Bristol, RI. This line, constructed in 1900, is an extension of the Riverside and Crescent Park route. It begins at Crescent Park, passes thru the grounds of that pleasure resort; thence easterly through the private right of way about three-quarters of a mile long to Willett's Ave. in East Providence. Upon this private right of way the line passes over a bridge at Bullock's Cove, which is about 500 feet long and 35 feet above the water, and from which are obtained pleasant views of Narragansett Bay."

Also, I have been given a picture of the trestle bridge which clearly shows the tall poles on either side that supported the trolley wires. My memories, in 1928, are of the walkway on the north side.

Concerning the Consolidated Railroad, to my knowledge and experience riding them from the Riverside Station to Providence in about 10 minutes, these were strictly electrically, later diesel or diesel/electrically driven. (They were) usually just two long passenger cars in length, and I don't believe they carried any freight as the Providence, Warren & Bristol steam locomotives and box cars used the same rails to Providence from points south and east. There was no interconnection between the rails over the trestle and those of the Providence, Warren & Bristol tracks coming up on what is now the East Bay Bike Trail. After crossing the trestle from Crescent Park, the trolley line proceeded along the side of Willet Ave. to Washington Rd. into the town of Barrington through the village of Drownville. There it turned east in Lincoln Ave. and meandered past St. Andrew's School for Boys to the White Church; then along the water, south past the Town Hall, crossed the Providence, Warren & Bristol Railroad at Barrington Center, thence to the Barrington River. (There it) crossed an iron bridge into the village of Hampton Meadows and over another iron bridge at the Warren River into Warren, etc. So the trolley line was very separate from the freight line between Providence and Bristol.

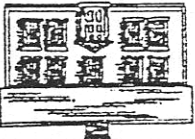
*Kenneth Roberts*  
*Bullocks Point, E.Providence*

Correspondence may be addressed to the *Gazette* and mailed to:

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**P.O. Box 4774**  
**East Providence, RI 02916-4774**

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# JANUARY

## Events

Monday, January 6, 7:30 p.m.  
Board Meeting, Hunt House

Monday, January 27, 6:00 p.m.  
Pot Luck/Members Meeting, Newman Church

# FEBRUARY

## Events

Wednesday, February 5, 7:30 p.m.  
Board Meeting, Hunt House

Monday, February 24, 7:30 p.m.  
Members Meeting, Riverside Cong'l Church  
Mark Zelonis,  
Exec. Director Heritage Trust of R.I.  
Subject: *Philip Walker House*  
No. *Broadway/Massasoit Ave.*  
East Providence, R.I.



## EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY MARKER PROGRAM

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