



### Eva Poirier's Quilting Party

Monday, September 22, 7:30 p.m.

Newman Church, Rumford

"I was first introduced to quilting by my grandmother, Eva Marie Jette Bessette. Whenever we visited "Meme", she would be making a quilt and often didn't stop working while we visited. Through the years I began many quilts that were left incomplete until my friend, Cindy Peters, encouraged me to do a log cabin quilt with her. She promised that I would complete it. I did! I then made log cabin quilts for the next five weddings I attended and have been quilting ever since. My quilts are becoming more intricate all the time. I don't believe I'll ever stop quilting."

- Eva Poirier

Eva will show her quilts, talk about quilts and answer questions about quilting at the September meeting. Refreshments and business meeting will follow.



### HAM & BEAN SUPPER

Saturday, October 4, 6:00 p.m.

NEWMAN CHURCH, RUMFORD

*Come Join Us For A Delicious And Interesting Evening*

#### **FEATURING**

**Ham, Beans, Cole Slaw, Beverages, Home-made Brown Bread & Pies**

**Tickets: Adults - \$6, Children 3 to 12 - \$3, Under 3 - free**

*Please call the Hunt House, 438-1750, to reserve your tickets no later than Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>*

**Tickets may also be purchased at the Hunt House Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9 until noon... and at Atlantic Flag & Banner, 694 No. Broadway, Monday thru Friday from 10 to 4**

*Virginia Berwick and Florence Adams are co-chairpersons of the event. The membership will be contacted to donate pies and brown bread and to reserve seating.*

# Board Briefs

Ray Anderson has volunteered to serve as Chairman of the newly created Historical Garden Committee, a sub-committee of Buildings and Grounds. Ray will have a "flowery" report in the October Gazette.



And speaking of volunteering, consider the following as we begin the '97/'98 year of Society activities. It's about Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that. Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have. - Author Unknown

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## The GAZETTE

is published monthly by the  
EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774  
(401) 438-1750

### OFFICERS

President	Les Haworth
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### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Buildings/Grounds	Earl Berwick
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Museum	Virginia Berwick
Newsletter	Doreen Bonney
Preservation	Les Haworth
Publicity	Florence Adams
Museum Curator	Edna Anness

The  
GAZETTE  
is printed at



1062 Willett Avenue, Riverside

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

New  Renewal  Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## IN MEMORIUM

A donation was made to the Society's Memorial Fund in memory of

Lewis Meservy and Reginald Whitcomb.  
Sadly Missed... Fondly Remembered

## From the Attic

by Edna Anness, Museum Curator

*Story related by Caroline Hurdis, former librarian for Weaver Library, who visited Hunt House on June 24th*

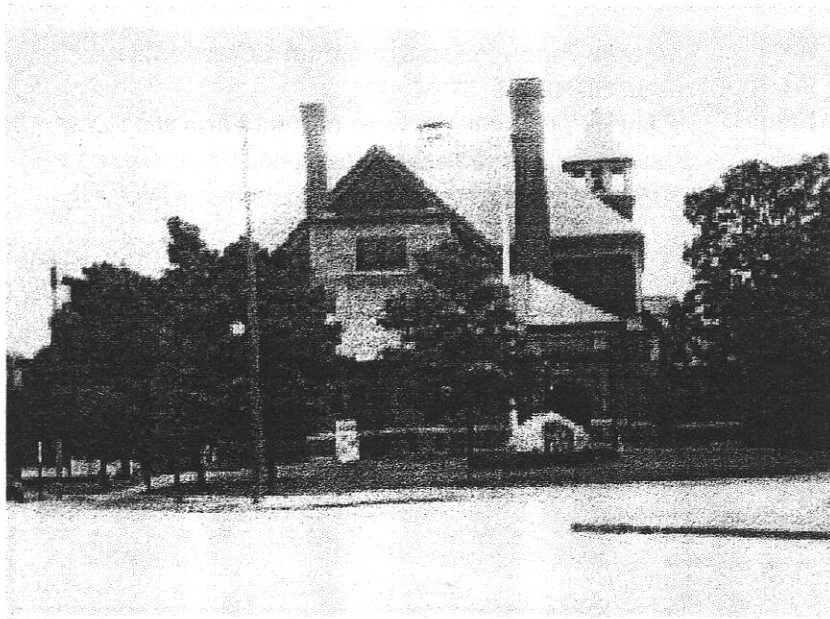
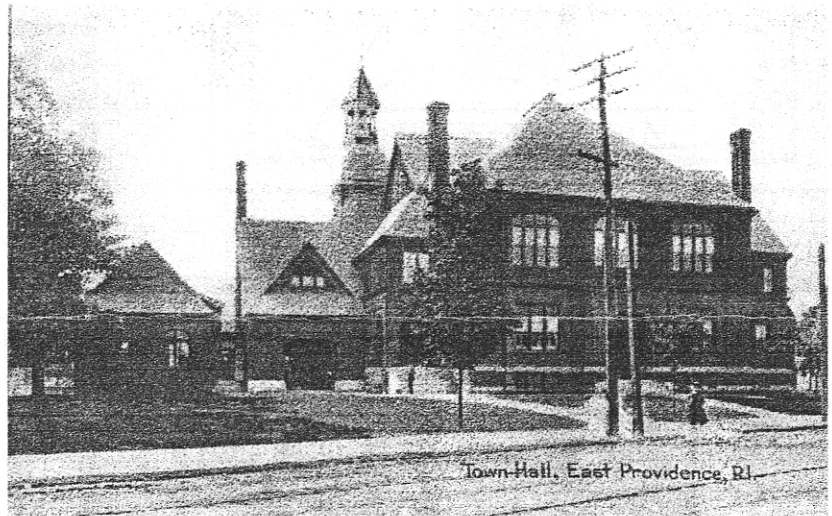
The event which brought "the roof in" at the old Town/City Hall on Taunton Avenue occurred in March, 1920. Have you ever noticed that early photos of the 1889 Town Hall had a different bell tower and roof-line than a photo of the same building after 1920?

In her youth, **Caroline Hurdis** lived in the last house on lower Burgess Ave. with her side yard abutting Veterans Memorial Parkway. In those days when the trains traveled the coastline below the parkway, coal embers sometimes floated from the engine's smokestack over to Caroline's back yard. One day a few embers ignited a grass fire in her parents', the Bowens, back yard. Mrs. Bowen called the fire department which drove up from the fire station located on the first floor of the Town Hall. The fire was put out using brooms. Now, it was a Saturday afternoon and a great movie was playing in the second floor assembly hall at the Town Hall. The firemen returned to the fire house and in their rush to get to the movie they did not, as was the usual custom, wet their brooms in water buckets before putting them in the closet which was directly two floors below the tower.

Later that evening, when the firemen had gone to bed on the second floor of the building, a few embers in the brooms were smoldering away. At about midnight the brooms flared up and the fire ignited the closet and traveled up the partitions to the tower and roof. Alas, the poor firemen! The first inkling that they were "on fire" was when the tower fell into the roof over their heads.

**Old postcard depicting the East Providence Town Hall with its original tower. A fire in 1920 destroyed the tower.**

*- Postcard donated by Virginia Berwick and Ted & Barbara Adams*



**A view of the East Providence Town Hall and its replacement tower with the roof line some six feet lower than the original.**

*- photo gift of Donald Bowden*

# Markers

by Kris Rose, Chairman

Do you have an old **Historical Society marker** that has faded over the years? You may be interested in replacing it with a new one. In 1993 the Society started a campaign to recognize houses and buildings of historic interest in East Providence. The current marker was designed by **Lura Sellew** and is available for \$50, a discounted price for replacement markers. Contact **Kris Rose** at 434-5581 for more information.



## Special Announcement

On September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the *John Hunt House* there will be a planning meeting for our next exhibition:

*“CRESENT PARK, THE CONEY ISLAND OF THE EAST”*

Tentatively, the exhibition is planned for September through December of 1998. We welcome the Board, Museum Committee, the Carousel Commission, general membership and the general public who would be helping by offering ideas for programs and exhibits. What would you like to see included?

Looking for that perfect inexpensive gift for a friend or family member? Consider giving the Historical Society’s book *“Images of America: East Providence”*



## MORE QUILTS

Eva Poirier’s **Quilting Party** will continue on Saturday, October 18, with an exhibition and demonstration from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the **John Hunt House**. Eva will bring along three other quilters, **Jeanne Casiano, Janet Coutu** and **Diane Nelson**, who will show their work. We invite you and friends to view these functional *works-of-art* ...and learn more about the process.



## ACCESSIONS - GIFTS

- Elizabeth Smith** - A china plate depicting an early view of St. Michael’s Church
- Everett Chapman** - Three additional trolley photos
- Ken Roberts** - Photo of Union Chapel, formerly located on Narragansett Terrace
- Hugo Esposte** - Ford wrench, Mayflower Store rubber stamp, FINAST paper bag
- Don Paulhus** - Three photos: the Bucklin Mansion which stood on Hoyt Ave.; a very early front view of St. Margaret Church, c.1890; a photo of Seth Padelford, one of the founders of Wannamoisett Country Club
- Eleanor Saunders** - Receipt for a pew in the First Baptist Church (name correction from last issue)
- Ed Serowik** - Expenses of photographing the Crescent Park poster by a professional photographer
- Isabel Rich** - 1899 Bicycle Road Map of R.I.; Columbian Exposition advertising which belonged to her father
- George Page** - Indian figure from a Crescent Park game booth
- Charles Tebbetts** - Pictures of Kent Farm and store, and Armington Farm, photographed by his father in 1925... and first developed this summer (WOW!)

*Thank you.*

*Your generosity is greatly appreciated!*

## New Members

**Warm Welcome to Our New Members**  
 Everett & Lois Chapman, Chester & Trudy Lima  
 Anne Mitchell, Ronald Pierce, Gail Garcio  
 and Rita Murray



*Events Calendar*

**SEPTEMBER**

**Monday, September 22, 7:30 p.m.**  
Business Meeting

**Newman Church, Rumford**

**Program: Eva Poirer's Quilting Party**



**OCTOBER**

**Saturday, October 4, 6:00 p.m.**

**HAM & BEAN SUPPER**

**Newman Church, Rumford**



**Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Quilting Exhibition & Demonstration**

**John Hunt House**

**Monday, October 27, 7:30 p.m.**

Business Meeting

*Program:*

*Girl Scout Troop 117*

*Flag Presentation & History*

*George Paige: History of Girl Scout House*

**Girl Scout House, Willett Ave., Riverside**

**NOVEMBER**

**Saturday, November 15, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Holiday Bazaar/Open House/Cafe**

**John Hunt House**



**Monday, November 24, 7:30 p.m.**

Business Meeting

*Program:*

**Rhode Island Flint Corn/Johnny Cakes**

**Newman Church, Rumford**



*Community*

*Programs*

**Friday, September 19**

**Waddington School**

**Slide Program for Fifth Grades**

**Tuesday, September 23**

**Waddington School (first half of fifth grades)**

**Walking Tour of Conservation Trust,**

**Hunt House and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Games**

**Friday, September 26**

**Waddington School (second half of fifth grades)**

**Walking Tour of Conservation Trust,**

**Hunt House and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Games**

**Thursday, October 2**

**St. Margaret School**

**Slide Program for Fifth Grade**

**Thursday, October 9**

**St. Margaret School**

**Walking Tour of Conservation District,**

**Hunt House and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Games**

**\* 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

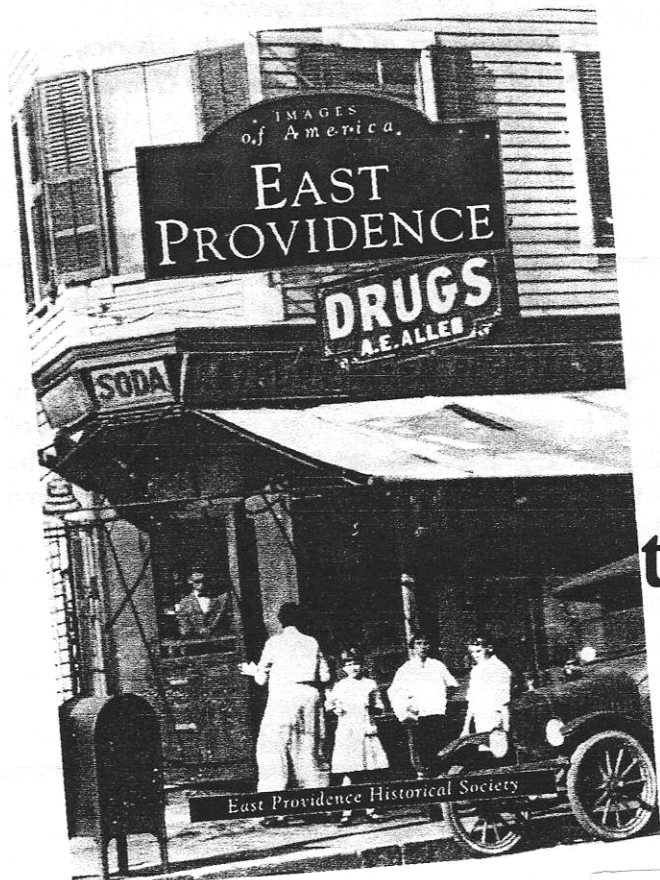
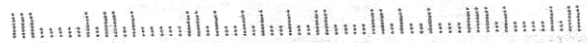


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**THE BOOK**  
 is for sale  
 at  
 the **HUNT HOUSE**

Tuesdays and Thursdays  
 from 9:00 AM until noon  
 (10% discount to Society members)