

POT LUCK SUPPER

Members Meeting

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 6:00 p.m.
NEWMAN CHURCH, RUMFORD

“It’s Pot Luck Supper time. It’s Pot Luck Supper time...”

Starting at 6 p.m., the annual smorgasbord will insure a capacity crowd for the business meeting and program. The telephone committee will call the membership requesting salads, main dishes and desserts. Recipients of the society’s historic building markers have been invited to talk about life in a historic building and all that that entails. As we go to press, **Leslie O’Brien**, owner of the **Charles Pierce House**, 18 Fourth Street, has accepted and will share her experience with us. A business meeting will follow.



From the Attic

Edna Anness, Museum Curator

Our little fuzzy friend is back this month to introduce you to our 1998 exhibition which will open on **September 20th** at the **John Hunt House**. It will continue for three months and will include special programs during the three-month run. The title is **“CRESCENT PARK: THE CONEY ISLAND OF THE EAST”**. The first planning meeting was held in the fall. The enthusiastic participants were **Sophie Allen**, **Ginny Berwick**, **Bob Tewksbury**, **Rose Marie Sirenski**, and **Nancy Stevens**. Also, **Ronald Joyner**, **Rose Larisa**, **Joe Kdan** and **Cathy Bliss** from the Carousel, **George Page** and our student, **Amelia Cabral**, who has researched the Park

and the various owners. Missing, but very much a part of the planning, was **Ed Serowik**.

Fun programs are in the planning stages and will be finalized in February. Our fuzzy Indian friend was donated by **George Page** and was part of a “knock-down/ball toss” game on the midway at the Park. Limited Edition copies of the **Crescent Park poster**, a gift from **Richmond Day**, are being printed for sale at the time of the exhibition. We already have a few artifacts from the Park and will be looking for more on loan. Insurance coverage will be provided for loaned Park memorabilia. A list of desired items appears at the end of this article.

You will receive updates regularly on the progress of the planning. We hope that you will look through your memory boxes and see if you have some memories of the Park.

Please let us know if you can loan us such items in August. Call Ginny Berwick at 434-0998 or Edna at 434-3347 soon so we can plan the display.

Examples are:

Postcards - Photographs taken at the Park - Tickets - Signs - Prize toys - Commemorative cups - Ruby glass etched with the words “Crescent Park” and a date - Posters - Fans - Canes - Hats - Brass rings - Plain rings - McCusker taffy boxes - Hotdog holders - Paper cups - Marked spoons - Parts of sideshows or displays - Dance tickets - Alhambra mementos - Dangling celluloid toys that hung from sticks - Programs - Advertisements - Matchbook covers - Towels - Napkins - Glasses from the Alhambra - Bar drink stirrers - Shore dinner menus - Chowder buckets - Soup bowls - Chairs from the Shore dinner hall.



Limited Edition copies of the Crescent Park poster donated by Richmond Day will be available for sale at the 1998 CRESCENT PARK exhibition.

Board Briefs

Many thanks to the members who made sandwiches and baked goodies for the Christmas Party!

The John Hunt House will be closed during January and February. Special thanks to Andy Valerio who'll be checking the house during this time. A visit to the museum can be arranged by calling the society at 438-1750.

IMAGES: East Providence, the pictorial history book, can be purchased at **Atlantic Flag and Banner, 694 North Broadway, Rumford.**



ACCESSIONS - GIFTS

- Helen Smith** - photo of local Red Cross volunteers during World War I including her grandmother.
- Phyllis Meek** - Two matchbook covers from Crescent Park and coupons to ride in the Park.
- Florence Duell** - Framed photo of Rumford Chemical Co. field day and a book on Rumford's Calaphos.
- Claire Clegg** - East Providence High School memorabilia from the class of 1912.
- Richmond A. Day** - A can of Rumford Baking Powder.

BIG NEWS: The Museum has received a grant from the **Champlin Foundation** for \$825 to pay for public school transportation of fifth graders to the Hunt House during 1998-99. We are most grateful!

Thank you.

Your generosity is appreciated very much.

The GAZETTE

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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

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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

- Dr. George Brown
- Beverly Titus

Hats off to **Marilyn Brewer** who regularly updates her high school class from East Providence High.



The Nelson family in front of their home on Barney Street, Rumford in the late 1800's. The Nelsons emigrated to the United States from Sweden.

- photo courtesy of Joan Bang

The Nelson Family of Rumford

In the latter part of the 19th century, Peter and Elna Nelson emigrated to the United States from Sweden and settled in Rumford in the area that was known as "Swede Village". They built the house at left on Barney Street and farmed the surrounding area. Peter Nelson also worked at Rumford Chemical Company along with many other Swedish immigrants.

Elna and Peter had six children. Their names and dates of birth were:

Hannah - 1878, Nels - 1883, Hilda - 1886, Elien - 1889, George - 1892, and Martha - 1894.

This information was obtained from Phyllis Balducci, who is the daughter of Hilda Nelson, and Phyllis' daughters Joan Bang and Carol Slattery who has the Nelson family bible.



Boy Scout Troop 88 of Rumford did some digging around the John Hunt House as part of a survey for the eventual historically-appropriate landscaping being planned. (l-r) Adam Cresser, Scout Master Bert Choiniere, Chris Jamison, Matt Weesner.

Buildings and Grounds

Ray Anderson, Grounds Chairman

The Board has approved the first two stages of the John Hunt House landscape plan by Lierena "Lala" Searle, Landscape Architect. Lala presented slides of her designs for the John Brown House, Nightingale/Brown House, Providence, and Trinity Church, Newport, at the society's May members meeting.

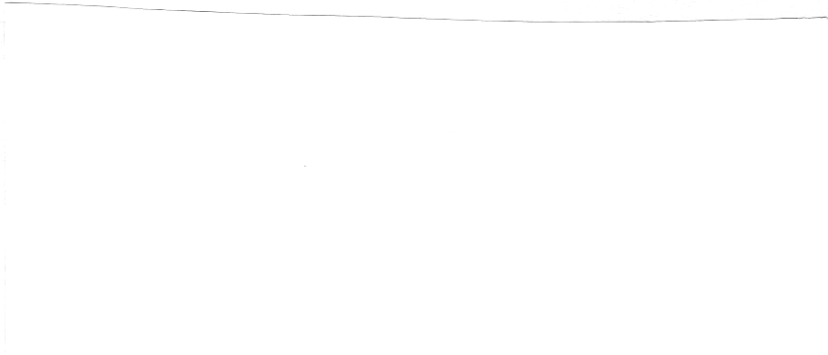
The city's Parks Department has agreed to do much of the work this fall if the detailed plans of step three are presented. By April we should see the overall concepts drawings.

Please contact Ray Anderson, 438-2464, if you would like more details.



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Events Calendar

JANUARY

Monday, January 26, 6:00 p.m.



Pot Luck Supper

Members Meeting
 Newman Church, Rumford
Program: Marker Recipients



FEBRUARY

Wednesday, February 4, 7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting
 John Hunt House
newsletter deadline

Thursday, February 5, 7:00 p.m.
East Providence Historic Properties Commission
 John Hunt House

Monday, February 23, 6:00 p.m.

Spaghetti Supper
 Newman Church, Rumford
Ray Anderson, Chef du Jour