



*Newman Hunt
Cemetery
Restoration
Project*

Daniel O'Connell

Monday
February 22, 7:30 pm
Newman Church
Rumford

CEMETERY RESTORATION FOCUS OF FEBRUARY MEMBERS MEETING

At the February Members Meeting, Mr. Daniel O'Connell will speak to the Historical Society about his effort to begin restoring the Newman Hunt Cemetery in Rumford. He recently made a presentation to the East Providence City Council and the Historic Properties Commission.

Mr. O'Connell will explain how he became involved in this project and will show pictures of some of the restoration work that he has completed. His goal is to gather a group of volunteers to completely repair and inventory the grave sites. The documentation will be made into a book to be kept at the Rhode Island Historical Society, local libraries and perhaps school libraries in the city.

During his research Mr. O'Connell has discovered that the Newman Hunt Cemetery has graves older than those found in Boston or Plymouth cemeteries!

Please join us on February 22 at 7:30 p.m. for what is anticipated to be a very interesting program.

FROM THE ATTIC

by Edna Anness, Museum Curator

"THE STREETS OF THE CITY"

Did you ever wonder about how many streets we have in East Providence and how some of them got their names? This idea crossed my mind this week as I lay in bed trying to recover from a bad cold. In my feverish haze I managed to count 819. *Can you imagine - 819!!!!* Many evoke our Indian history, famous families, farms, governors, presidents, historic sites and terrain. Some are common sense and practical, like First and Second Street, etc. There is no "Last"! But now in a more serious vein!

The Indian influence is strong, starting of course with Massasoit Ave., King Philip Rd., Wannamoisett Rd., Wannissett and Wamsutta Avenues, Sachem St., Agawam and Algonquin Roads, Seekonk Ave. and of course, the Wampanoag Trail. Let us not forget Narragansett and Metacom Avenues, Mohawk Avenue and Drive, and Pokanoket Ave. The Wampanoag Trail was originally known as the "Old Warren Road". Actually the Barrington Parkway was the start of the Wampanoag Trail used by the Indians to travel from Watchemoket to Newport for fishing.

Many are named for the direction in which they led us in olden times - Pawtucket, Newport, Taunton and Warren Avenues and Barrington Parkway. After World War II

(continued on page 3)

Notice

The Hunt House will be closed during February. For information about the society or to gain access to the house, call 438-1750. The telephone is monitored daily. Virginia Berwick, Museum Chairman, will also accept calls: 434-0998.

The GAZETTE

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3 Crescent View Avenue, Riverside

Memorial Plant Opportunity

It has been a tradition in churches and other organizations to remember someone who was special in your life by dedicating an item in their memory. Our planned

Cottage/Rock Garden

presents an opportunity to memorialize someone with a donation for plants to be planted in the Fall of 1999.

Questions should be addressed to

Ray Anderson, 438-2464

Checks should be payable to the

East Providence Historical Society

and mailed to the Society at

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

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 with coupon below to:

Mona Breault

34 Josephine Avenue

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New Members

Warm Welcome to Our New Members

Paul & Helen Nelson



Roger Williams, who lived from 1603 to 1683, defied the united powers of church and state in his day and demanded for all people the right to freedom of conscience. After banishment by Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635, he escaped in midwinter just ahead of Massachusetts soldiers sent to arrest and deport him to England. As Williams set out across the frozen wilderness toward the Seekonk River, he was aided by members of the Wampanoag Indian tribe. He and a few followers settled first at Seekonk Cove in 1636, but his friend Gov. Winslow of Plymouth requested he move the settlement across the river to be outside

the jurisdiction of Plymouth and the Bay Colonies. Williams complied, and the little band moved to a nearby area that they called **Providence** - meaning "gift of God". The land was given as a gift to Williams by his friends, the two Narragansett chiefs Canonicus and Miantunomi. Williams was a sensitive, articulate observer of native cultures. In a time when most New World colonizers piously announced their intentions of "christianizing" the Indians and then proceeded either to ignore or repress the object of their zeal, Roger Williams chose to live an exemplary Christian life among them and to respect them as fellow human beings. It was one of his greatest achievements.

From the Attic *by Edna Amness* (continued from page 1)

the Barrington Parkway was dedicated to war veterans and renamed the **Veteran's Memorial Parkway**. **Waterman Ave.** is simply an extension of Waterman St. in Providence.

Then we have those streets memorializing our early settlers - **Newman** and **Willett Avenues**, **Sabin St.**, for the early millwright, **Bullocks Point Ave.**, **Bishop** and **Hoyt Avenues**, **Bowen St.**, **Bridgham St.** and **Bridgham Farm Road**. **Greenwood** and **Ferris Avenues** and **Ellis St.**, **Barney St.** and **Hill Court** are named for ministers at Newman Church. **Mauran** and **Burgess Avenues** are named for important developers of Watchemoket in the 19th century.

Many remind us of the family farms which were later platted as the town grew: **White**, **Sutton**, **Kent**, **Rice**, **Ide**, **Medbury**, **Armington**, **Amaral**, **Ingraham**, **Bourne**, **Campbell**, **Martin**, **Lyon**, **Drowne**, **Horton**, **Chaffee**, **Miller**, **Fletcher**, **Fuller**, **Hoyt**, **Hammond**, and **Judkins**.

The Rumford Company, the Washburn Wire Company and the Phillips family left us with **Wilson Ave.**, named in honor of George Wilson, **Horsford Ave.**, after Eben Horsford, and **Washburn Ave.** **Ruth Ave.** and **Muriel Street** were named for two Phillips daughters. **Don Ave.** is named for Don Singsen and **Catlin Ave.** for Catlin, both chemists at the Rumford Company. **Wynne Drive** and **McGartland Rd.** are named for two employees of the Rumford Company. **Hope St.** was named for Hope Werle, who still lives in the city. **Westwood Ave.** derives from the West Family.

Moving on to Riverside - the "Maze" streets are named for American presidents: **Jackson**, **Grant**, **Jefferson**, **Madison**, **Monroe**, **Adams**, **Washington** and **Lincoln Avenues**. Nearby are the "tree" streets in the grid: **Pine**, **Ash**, **Linden**, **Willow** and **Cypress Streets**, crossed by **Oak**, **Cedar**, **Holly** and **Maple Avenues**. Across Pawtucket Ave. we have the R.I. governors: **Padelford**, **Sprague**, **Burnside**, **Dyer**, **Hoppin**, **Dorr**, **Fenner** and **Francis**. **Legion Way** abuts the American Legion Hall, and other streets describe their area such as **Shore Rd.**, **Bluff St.**, **Crescent** and **Crescent View Avenues**, **Sea View** and **Terrace Avenues**. The Kent Farm family's Plymouth connection shows in the Pilgrim names in the Kent Heights plat: **Holland Ave.**, **Plymouth Rd.**, **Mayflower St.** and **Bradford Ave.**

Some streets have their own unique source: **Orlo Ave.** was named for Orlo Hobbs, a one-time Town Treasurer. **Holsmith Court** is a combination of Helen Smith's maiden name, Holter, and married name, Smith. Jessie Wilson named **Elm St.** and **Elm Court** was the driveway to Jessie's carriage house. **Reservoir Ave.** is fairly obvious. **Fort St.** leads to Fort Hill where cannons were situated during the American Revolution. And let us not forget **Roger Williams Avenue**, named for our original settler in 1636.

Now if you have a story about your street to add to the mix, do drop me a line and we'll add it to the archival records of street names in our city.

Grounds Committee

by Ray Anderson, Chairman

The fall **Hunt House landscaping Phase I** was estimated at \$2,470. Actual figures are \$1,472, about \$1,000 less than anticipated. This does not include an estimated \$2,600 labor donation by the **East Providence Parks Department**. That is the City's contribution.

Phase II, the Cottage/Rock Garden to the left of Hunt House, is estimated to cost \$2,005 from the Society. Of that sum, plant materials are estimated at \$630. Memorial donations are invited. Two memorials to **Lew Allen** and **Fred M. Bushnell, Jr.** have been received.

Newman Church cited for historical significance *by David Kelleher*

Newman Congregational Church in Rumford is of great historical and architectural significance. It is the home of the oldest Congregational society in present Rhode Island, first gathered in 1643. The congregation was founded at the same time as the Puritan settlement at Rehoboth and served as the chief center of local religious and social life through the 17th and 18th centuries.

For a number of years the administration of civil affairs was closely tied to ecclesiastical matters, and the church was thus an important political center as well. Earlier meeting houses located on the site near the center of the ring of the green, the Rehoboth town common, were used for town meetings, and the First Continental Congress of the American colonies was held here in 1709.

The present structure, dating from 1818, the fourth edifice erected by the congregation, stands several hundred feet northeast of the sites of the first, second and third meeting houses. The present church building follows the standard rectangular meeting house plan with projecting central steeple to the front. The body of the building is a two-story, gable-roofed mass and the tower is five stories tall, topped by a belfry with Greek Revival corner pilasters and corner and central pinnacles.

In 1890 the church was raised and the present high brick basement was constructed, as were the projecting vestibule and gable-roofed columned portico at the base of the tower. The walls, originally clapboard, are now covered with aluminum siding, but its application has been handled with some sensitivity and the windows arranged in two registers along the front and sides, still retain their splayed lintel caps.

The interior of the meeting house is a two-story space with a shallow vaulted ceiling and a chancel opening off the auditorium. The horseshoe-shaped gallery with paneled front, dentil courses, and acorn pendants, is suspended from the ceiling on iron rods.

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Events Calendar

FEBRUARY

Monday, February 22, 7:30 p.m.
 Members Meeting
 Newman Hunt Cemetery Restoration
 Speaker: Daniel O'Connell
 Newman Church, Rumford

*APRIL 10. 11
 9-11 AM*

MARCH

Wednesday, March 3, 7:30 p.m.
 BOARD MEETING (Members Welcome)
 John Hunt House, Hunts Mills Rd.

Thursday, March 4, 7:30 p.m.
 E. P. Historic Properties Study Commission
 St. Mary's Church
 Corner Warren Ave. and Fourth St.
 Public Invited

Monday, March 22, 7:30 p.m.
 Members Meeting
 Program to be Announced

APRIL

Saturday, April 10
 14th Annual R.I. Statewide Historic
 Preservation Conference-Newport
 Further information: 222-4142

Saturday, April 17
 E. Providence Historical Society
 Indoor Yard Sale
 Linda Young, Chairman
 Newman Church, Rumford
 more information next month

Monday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.
 Strictly Sentimental Swing Band
 Post 10, American Legion
 Riverside

