



Gazette

Tour of Rehoboth's Carpenter Museum slated for October 25th Members' Meeting

The **Carpenter Museum** in Rehoboth is akin to being our sister as we both collect history from the same area and period - 1643 to 1812, the point where our town became Seekonk.

They have a very beautiful museum. The meeting room is on the basement floor where we enter at the rear of the building. The **Museum House** can be seen by using two flights of stairs. **Mr. Frank DeMattos**, the curator, will speak about the Museum and then give us a tour. Refreshments will be served.

Anyone desiring a ride should call the Hunt House (438-1750) and leave your name and phone number. We will meet in the parking lot of Newman Church. You must be there by 7:10 p.m.

The Museum is next to the Rehoboth Congregational Church in Rehoboth Village. There is a directional sign on Rte. 44 pointing the way. Park at the rear of the Museum. The area is floodlit.



THE "58 PROPRIETORS"



The original settlers of our city were called the "**58 Proprietors**". They included such well known names as **Carpenter, Hunt, Bowen, Peck and Newman**. Not surprisingly, many of their ancestors still live in this area. Most of these descendants have or will be researching their family trees. Many of these families intermarried.

It has been suggested that we form a **sub-group to the Society** consisting of these descendants. They could use the Hunt House to meet informally to pool their research and/or just discuss what they know of their families. These oral histories would be taped and put in our archives and perhaps the descendants would also provide copies of their genealogical research to our Library (now that we have a Xerox machine).

This group would form after the holidays. Let **Edna Anness** at the Hunt House know if you would like to join the group. This would not be a separate organization, just a subcommittee of the Historical Society. Let us see how many of you there are some 357 years after the original "58" arrived.



Board Briefs

October 9th Auction

*Linda Young, into yard sales and such,
Created an auction house at Newman Chu..ch.*

*Bob Fricker, the auctioneer, cleared out the hall
In less than three hours. He knows how to call.*

*Kelleher, Adams, Cabral and Sirenski
Worked with the above but didn't butt-in-ski.*

*They registered buyers and sellers in dollars
To know which was "theirs" and which to call
"ours".*

*A lot of hard work made the night coalesce.
And we made some new friends. All in all, a
success.*

**The John Hunt House is open Tuesdays
& Thursdays from 9:00 AM until Noon**

The GAZETTE

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

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GAZETTE**
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3 Crescent View Avenue, Riverside



*Memorialize a Loved One
in the Hunt House
Cottage Rock Garden*

*Please make checks payable to
East Providence Historical Society*

and mail to the society at

*P. O. Box 4774
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Attn: Ray Anderson

*For additional information, call the
Society at (401) 438-1750*

Your donations are greatly appreciated

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,
Rhode Island 02916-4774**



Riverside shoreline after the great Hurricane of 1938

- photo by Jess Welt, gift of Marjorie Welt

From the Attic

by Edna Anness, Museum Curator

Our first *RECOLLECTION* in this new series about events occurring in this Century (now passing into history) is the great natural disasters which befell our town and later city.

Of course everyone who lived through the first hurricane of the century still has vivid memories of where one was when the “**greatest hurricane in the history of Rhode Island**” hit on September 21, 1938. The damage to the shoreline was catastrophic and extended from the **Terrace in Riverside** up the Seekonk River to **Phillipsdale**. Inland, trees fell and electric poles and garages collapsed. Roads were impassable. Electric and phone lines were down for days.

The weather that day was beautiful, sunny and warm at noontime. All that was to change after 2 p.m. The tidal wave came up **Narragansett Bay** and wiped most of the Terrace off the map. Houses left along the shore in Riverside looked like piled up matchsticks.

The damage in **Watchemoket** was unforgettable with barges washed ashore and the river front virtually wiped out. The remains of boats and buildings littered the shoreline and even the railroad tracks along the shore were ripped up. In 1944 a second hurricane returned to the same area, but the damage was not as extensive...until 1954 and **CAROL**.

By 1954 the hurricanes had girls' names because the storms were “unpredictable”. The Providence Journal reported that “**Carol was a pretty name for a monster**”. The storm actually lingered off our coastline for days and finally ripped ashore on August 31st. Our waterfront was

From the Attic

(continued from previous page)

slammed again, and the damage from fallen trees inland was enormous. And- a short time later **EDNA** whirled through while we were still recovering from Carol.

Now we were beginning to *prepare* for hurricanes, but they also were diminishing in size. There was **DONNA** on September 12, 1960, then **GLORIA**. **BOB** arrived in August, 1991. By now, with "Women's Lib" in vogue, **men's names were also used for hurricanes!!!**

For variety we had our share of severe *snowstorms*. The **Valentines Day Blizzard** of 1962 comes to mind, and the **Easter Storm** in the mid-seventies. But the grand-daddy of them all was the **Blizzard of '78**, the storm that closed the city and state down for a week. No one will ever forget "*the week that was*".

Everyone has a story to tell about their experiences and the stories are oral histories of great events. We encourage anyone to send us their story and we will put it in the newsletter and/or display it in the **Year 2000 Exhibition** in May 2000 at the Hunt House. Here is a sample story from **Marjorie Welt**:

Jess Welt, her father, was getting a haircut in an Armington's Corners barber shop on September 21, 1938 when he sensed that the weather was deteriorating that afternoon. He set off to drive home to Second Street via the Barrington Parkway, now the Veteran's Parkway. At the bridge below the Metacomet Golf Club he passed two State Troopers standing by their cars on either side of the bridge. He stopped and suggested that they had better move along because a **strange storm** was coming. They replied that they could not leave for they had been assigned to guard the bridge in case the water rose over it. Jess drove home and learned the next day that both Troopers had drowned on duty when the tidal wave swept up the Bay inland and swept them away.

Pictures of these storms will be on display in the Museum now through May, 2000.

Next month:

Fires that changed our landscape.

References: "Hurricane Carol Lashes Rhode Island", "The Great Hurricane and Tidal Wave: Rhode Island, September 21, 1938", "Blizzard: The Week the State Stood Still, February 13, 1978", all published by the **Providence Journal** and in our library.

Gifts to the Museum

Lowell Anness - Set of Mortgage Certificates from the Narragansett Race Track, dated 1939.

Michael Tierney - Program from Kent Corners Congregational Church.



Applause! Applause!

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 form below to:

Mona Breault

**34 Josephine Avenue
Rumford, RI 02916**

New Renewal

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____



New Members

Warm Welcome to Our New Members

John Erhart

David and Ann Linde



**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 Historical Society Marker Program.

Name _____

Address _____



Can you sew or knit?



Can you bake,



make jellies or food



for the Food Table?

Do you



have some nice "white elephants"?

Plants?



Please see or call:

Helen Smith (434-5270), Gladys Panzarella (434-5116), Mona Breault (431-2945), or Ginny Berwick (434-0998). We are looking for articles for the sale in November!!!

Christmas at the Hunt House



November 6, 10 AM to 3 PM



There will be a Craft Table, Food Table, White Elephant Table and of course the Café.

People are needed on Wednesday, November 3rd to help with decorating the House and to put candles in the windows.

Crafts and White Elephant articles can be left at the Hunt House on Tuesday or Thursday from 9 AM until 12 noon.

Donations for the Food Table can be brought on Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning.

Menu for the Café

Soup - Bread

Dessert - squares, cookies or cake

Coffee, tea or soda

Call Helen Smith (434-5270), Gladys Panzarella (434-5116), Mona Breault (431-2945), Ginny Berwick (434-0998) or the Hunt House (438-1790).

To volunteer, or donate to the Café, call Florence Adams (437-1530).

COMING EVENTS

October

Monday, October 25, 7:30 p.m.

Members Meeting

Carpenter Museum Tour

Rehoboth, MA

November

Wednesday, November 3, 7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting (members welcome)

John Hunt House, Rumford

Saturday, November 6, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Christmas at the Hunt House

Holiday Café 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

John Hunt House, Rumford

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

Members Meeting

Riverside Congregational Church

(Program to be Announced)



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Christmas at the Hunt House

Annual Gifts & Treasures Sale

Saturday, November 6th

10 AM - 3 PM

John Hunt House.

Hunts Mills Rd., Rumford

Handmade items ❄️ Unique Gifts

Plants ❄️ Crafts ❄️ Baked Goods

❄️ White Elephant Table ❄️



Holiday Café

11 AM - 2 PM

Menu

Homemade Soups, Bread, Desserts
 Coffee, Tea & Soda