



John Hunt House

Gazette

VOL. XII No 4

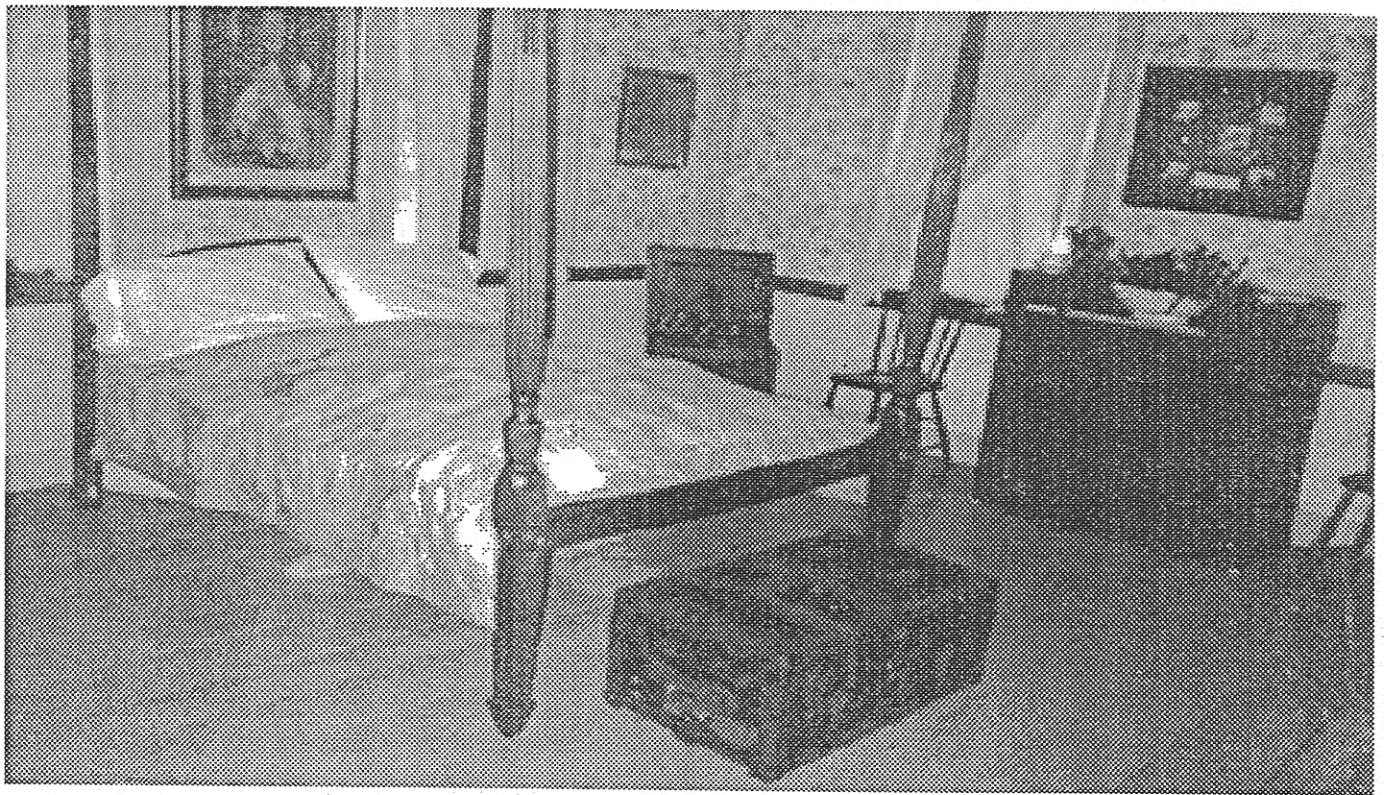
JANUARY 2001

Eighteenth Century Revisited From the Attic

Edna Anness, *Museum Curator*

The December 17th *Holiday Open House* was a success despite the weather. The attendance on the following days was disappointing. We did not open on the house December 31st because of bad walking conditions.

The house looked beautiful. We have **Virginia Berwick, Arline Butterworth, Gladys Panzarella, Pat Henry and Mona Breault** to thank for the decorations. Pat and Mona tied for first place in the decorations contest. We also contacted several local East Providence florists for floral donations. We thank **Gilmore's Florist, The Carousel of Flowers, Consider the Lillies Flower Shop and Stop and Shop** for the beautiful arrangements placed throughout the house. *(continued on page 3) >*



The "Philip Walker" Bedroom *(another view on back page)*

photos by Edna Anness

POT LUCK SUPPER/ "RING of the GREEN"

Monday, January 22, 6 PM

Newman Church, 100 Newman Avenue, Rumford

The weather in January and February can be like . . . *Winter* so we've scheduled a couple of pot-luck suppers and in-house programs. If there is snow and ice that prevents us from travelling, we'll just call the whole thing off. However, we'll remain optimistic. The telephone committee will call the membership to request a main dish, salad or dessert. Beverages will be provided. Help will be needed to set up tables and chairs.

Edna Anness, Museum Curator, will present "Ring of the Green" a slide/lecture program. The 'Ring' is in Rumford, once the Town of Seekonk and the first settlement of Rehoboth in 1645. Find out if you are living in the Ring . . . Meet some of the descendants of the *original 58 settlers*. Maybe YOU are a descendant!!

Supper at 6 PM followed by a business meeting and the program.

The Johnt Hunt House Museum

will be
CLOSED

through January and February except *by appointment*.
telephone the Society at (401) 438-1750
or Virginia Berwick, *Museum Chairman*,
at (401) 434-0998
to make arrangements.

NEW MEMBERS

Warm Welcome to Our New
Members!

Brenda Hare
Joseph & Cathleen Rosa

The Gazette
is published monthly by the

EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 4774, EAST PROVIDENCE, RI 02916-4774
(401) 438-1750

OFFICERS

Robert Tewksbury	<i>President</i>
David Kelleher	<i>1st Vice President</i>
Nancy Moore	<i>2nd Vice President</i>
Jo Marchi	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Gladys Panzarella	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
Peter Allen	<i>Treasurer</i>

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Earl Berwick	<i>Buildings</i>
Ray Anderson	<i>Grounds</i>
Kris Rose	<i>Markers</i>
Mona Breault	<i>Membership</i>
Virginia Berwick	<i>Museum</i>
Edna Anness	<i>Museum Curator</i>
Doreen Bonney	<i>Newsletter</i>
Les Haworth	<i>Preservation</i>
Ray Anderson/David Kelleher	<i>Program</i>
Florence Adams	<i>Publicity</i>

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

and mail with form below to:

Mona Breault
34 Josephine Avenue
Rumford, RI 02916

New Renewal

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

From the Attic *(continued from page 1)*

The desserts, which were donated by, members created an extravagant array of foods for the visitors. It was a real tea party. Many thanks to the telephone committee and the cooks. **Florence Adams** provided the music, **Mona Breault** and **Pat Henry** hosted, **Earl** and **Virginia Berwick**, **Ray Anderson**, **Nancy Stevens** and other Board members manned the rooms.

AND the "new" Walker bedroom (furniture from the Philip Walker House) was introduced. What a difference to the House!! More Walker House mementos will be displayed when the room is dedicated in June.

March, 1989 marked the beginning of the John Hunt House Museum restoration project. It has come a long way with more improvements in the works including the cellar 'summer kitchen' and the gardens



Reminiscences and Reflections

Ned Clark

Was there an arsonist among us?

During the period from about 1931 into the 1940's there were many major fires in Riverside, always at night.

The **Cheaney Hotel** on Narragansett Avenue, burned in the early morning hours about 1931. The fire was so intense it lighted up the dark sky as if it was nearly daylight and could be seen half a mile away.

Bowen's Ice House on Willett Avenue, where Schroder's Deli is now located, burned to the ground.

The interior of **St. Mark's Episcopal Church** was gutted on a very cold winter night. The outside walls of the building were made of stone so they remained standing.

St. Brendan's Catholic Church on Turner Avenue was gutted, with the loss of a firefighter, Mr. MacPherson.

A large barn, used for storing hay, located on part of the land now *Gate of Heaven Cemetery*, burned to the ground.

On Dorr Avenue, at about midnight..around 1933 A small house blew up with the roof lifting off and all four sides falling over to the ground. My parents, who lived across a field from this, saw it happen and saw a man running away from the explosion. It was determined later that balloons, filled with Benzene, had been ignited and this caused the explosion.

Never heard who might have set those fires.

In Memory of
Donations were made to the Society's Memorial Fund
in memory of:

Louis Ferreira
Ron Peirce

Sadly Missed . . . Fondly Remembered

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 02916-4774

The Gazette ...

.. welcomes "letters to the editor".

mail to:

Doreen Bonney, c/o E.P.. Historical Society,
PO Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916

... articles of historic interest,

mail to:

Ray Anderson, 32 Algonquin Road,
East Providence, RI 02916



EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL
P.O. Box 4774
EAST PROVIDENCE, RI 02916

RY

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Providence, RI
Permit # 2712

RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED

02911+2302



Back to the 18th... see front page



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Monday, January 22, 6 PM
POT LUCK/ "RING of the GREEN"
Newman Church, Rumford
(.. details on page 2)

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, February 7, 7:30 PM
Board Meeting (members welcome)
John Hunt House, Rumford

Monday, February 26, 6 PM
POT LUCK/ Open Discussion
Newman Church, Rumford

MARCH

Monday, March 26, 7:30 PM
BRUCE SUNDLUN
"What's On Our Minds"
Weaver Library, 41 Grove Avenue