



John Hunt House

Gazette

VOL. XII No. 10

JULY/AUGUST 2001

New Officers Installed - Historical Markers Awarded at Annual Meeting / Family Picnic

David J. Kelleher Installed as President for 2001-2002

Under sunny skies and a nice breeze, more than a hundred members and guests attended the Annual Meeting/Family Picnic on June 18.

Kris Rose and her committee: **Ray Anderson, Les Haworth, Dave Kelleher, Jim Rose** and **Bob Tewksbury** did an outstanding job serving hot dogs and hamburgers. Members brought a variety of salads.

Florence Adams and her shortcake crew: **Dorothy Duane, Barbara Flynn, Sophie Fredrick, Pat Henry, Jo Marchi** and **Helen Smith** constructed the Famous Hunt House Strawberry Shortcakes.

Billie Arden and **Lois Driscoll** sold tickets, **Mona Breault** tended the membership table, and **Andy Valerio** parked cars.

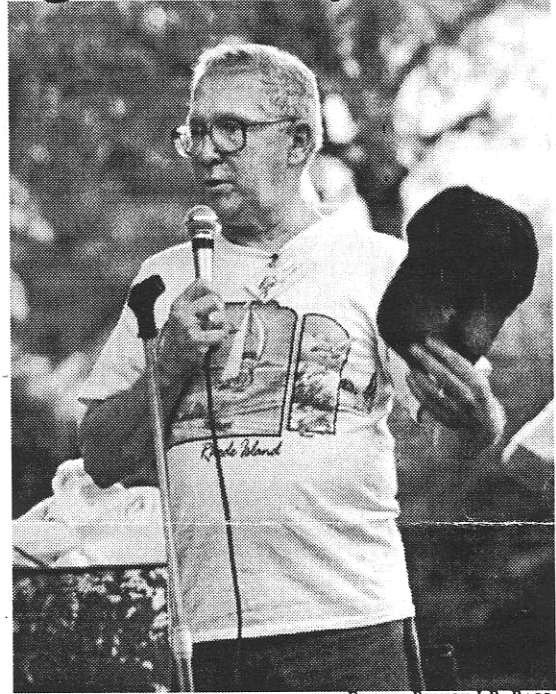


PHOTO: DENISE J.R. BASS

Dave Kelleher's Inaugural Address

President Dave Kelleher greeted the guests and introduced the other officers.

Three Historical Markers were awarded.
(story and photo on page 4)



PHOTO: DENISE J.R. BASS

Family Picnickers Assemble at the Grand Gourmet Table (Hamburgers and Hot Dogs)

The Gazette

is published monthly by the

EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY

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

Tel: (401) 438-1750 E-Mail: ephist@home.com

OFFICERS

- David Kelleher *President*
- Nancy Moore *1st Vice President*
- Raymond Anderson *2nd Vice President*
- Jo Marchi *Recording Secretary*
- Gladys Panzarella *Corresponding Secretary*
- Peter Allen *Treasurer*
- Robert Tewksbury *Immediate Past President*

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

- Earl Berwick *Buildings*
- Ray Anderson *Grounds*
- Kris Rose *Markers*
- Mona Breault *Membership*
- Virginia Berwick *Museum*
- Edna Anness *Museum Curator*
- George Adams *Newsletter*
- Les Haworth *Preservation*
- Ray Anderson *Program*
- Florence Adams *Publicity*

The John Hunt House Museum will be *closed* during July and August except by appointment.

For an appointment, telephone the Society at (401) 438-1750

Beginning in the September Gazette:

President's Letter

Dave will keep us up to date on all the behind-the-scenes Board action, historical/preservation activity, local disputes and controversy and, of course .. all the Good News

DUES DUE?

Dues are payable on the anniversary date of membership please check your address label. First 2 digits of the number at the top indicate the year. 21= 2001, 22=2002, etc. the 3rd and 4th indicate the month. Ex: "2107" = JULY, 2001.

Please use form below to renew, if due.

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, \$15 family or a Life membership for \$150.

Please make check payable to:

East Providence Historical Society

and mail with form below to:

Mona Breault

34 Josephine Avenue

Rumford, RI 02916-3018

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our recent new members:

Stephan & Caroline Allen

Marie Brand

Helen Dorr

Michele Kazarian

Nancy Lundgren

Robert & Patrick Penta

John Rebello & Family

John & Katherine Savage

Karen Southern

New

Renewal/ Change

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip (+4) _____ Phone _____

Amount Enclosed: \$15.00 Family \$10.00 Individual \$150.00 Life

From The Attic

Edna Anness, *Museum Curator*

The Walker Reunion

June 3rd was a day to remember for a long time to come. What a turnout! The weather was beautiful. Our colonial flag fluttered in the breeze. The Hunt House sign on Pleasant Street was repaired and up again. The eighteenth century garden was in full bloom. The borneing room was set with lace table cloth and laden with sandwiches and chips and fresh fruit and finger desserts. And a cooling punch bowl was ready. Fresh flowers were throughout the house. If I am waxing poetic, it was because it was a poetic day filled with reminiscences, making new acquaintances and picture taking.

The day started at half past noon when Walker Family descendents arrived at the Philip Walker House for a walk through. Other curious joined them. Two representatives from *Preserve Rhode Island* greeted the visitors. At two o'clock the same visitors arrived at the Hunt House and there was a family reunion in the parlor. Some had met before and others met for the first time.

Walkers had come from Florida, Chicago, New Jersey, Ohio, Marblehead and Canada. Unfortunately about a dozen could not make the trip at the last minute due to ill health.

At three o'clock we moved up to the Walker Room where **Bob Tewksbury**, **Dave Kelleher** and I made some welcoming comments and some family members



Walker descendents gather for family photo.

also said a few words. Photos of Walkers which we had found at the Walker House were identified and we learned that the four poster tester bed had actually been in the master bedroom at the Walker House and was the bed in which Faith Shedd Potter had slept. Guests stopped in the library to view reference material about the family which had been sent to us by **Margaret Wieboldt** and **Thelma Eros** (one of the Canadian family members who could not come).

Lunch followed and some ate on the side porch of the Hunt House or out on the picnic tables in front of the house. Group pictures were taken. And then the family left as a group to visit Philip Walker's resting place in the Carpenter/Hunt Cemetery.

The afternoon passed too quickly and some of the family members were flying or driving out immediately. We have their addresses and we will keep them up to date on developments at the Walker House.

We were pleased that so many of our members attended, helped with the refreshments and helped out greeting visitors at the House. It was one of those days at the Hunt House not to be forgotten.

Gifts and Accessions

- Anonymous donor** - Antique wooden butter churn.
- Arline Butterworth** - Photo of the First Baptist Church.
- George Chalko** - Electric log fire, antique crock made in Somerset, MA.
- Deborah Garner** - Hiram Wood's picture of Class of 1923 from Riverside Grammar School
- Louise Healy** - Antique water pitcher and soup toureen with cover.
- Myron Francis School**, via Dave Kelleher - 1920s typewriter used in Union Primary School.
- Clint Sellew** - Plat books of Rumford Chemical Co. land holdings with recorded sales and buyers' names and addresses and prices paid— 1920-1940. (Very interesting reading) plus an expense ledger from the Rumford Co. 1916-1920.
- Henry Stadt** - Recording of 1963 E.P. High School Band Concert
- Madeline Vincent** - Bonnets worn at the Hunt House Mystery dinners, (was that 1990?)
- Nancy Wolfe** - Book containing some of the Original 58 settlers' genealogies

Gardens With A View

The weather was beautiful, the flowers were in bloom, the views were spectacular, as 80 patrons came to the first annual garden tour, "*Gardens with a View*", a tour of Narragansett Terrace gardens, all with views of Bullocks Cove, Providence River and Narragansett Bay. The event was sponsored by the *East Providence Historical Society*, and *Friends of East Providence Public Library*.

The committee, chaired by **Ray Anderson**, wishes to thank the property owners: **Mr. and Mrs. William DeCoste, Mr. and Mrs. Lad Meyer, Mr. Paul Gionfriddo, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dawson, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Mandrick and Mr. and Mrs. David Kelleher** for opening up their gardens for the tour.



Harry Dawson (facing) shows his garden and view to visitors.

The people who went on the tour not only enjoyed the gardens and the views but they also viewed the Terrace's Monk Parrots, rode the Carousel and had chowder and clamcakes at a discount price .

Three Historical Markers Awarded

At the Annual Meeting/Family Picnic on June 18 Historical Markers identifying buildings which "*contribute to the historical development or architectural character of East Providence*" were awarded to:

John and Jeanne Davis for "*Remington Farms*"
61 Centre Street.

Michele Kazarian for "*A.F. Moore House*"
380 Pleasant Street.

Christopher Morra for "*Rev. J. Cairns House*"
21 Morra Way. (Bridgham Farm)



PHOTO: DENISE J.R. BASS

(l-r) John Davis, Jeanne Davis, Michele Kazarian

EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY Historical 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*

For information, send the coupon below to:

The Marker Program
East Providence Historical Society
PO Box 4774
East Providence R02916-4774 .

I am interested in receiving information about the **East Providence Marker Program**

Name _____

Address _____

In Memory of

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

Audrey Partridge

Myrtle Veno

Madeline Vincent

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

"MISSING PERSON"

She was there. She took 'admission'.
Her name not Gazette..ed
Due to omission.
DIANA MCLEAN, whose name was lanced,
Is thanked for her duties
At the April Swing Dance.

Florence Adams

The Gazette ...

**Welcomes "Members Memories"
and articles of historic interest.**

mail to:

Ray Anderson,
32 Algonquin Road,
East Providence, RI 02916-3502

..... and Another Thing

the Editor

"Historical" is our middle name .. and History & Preservation are going to be our emphasis in upcoming events. .. beginning with the general meeting on **Monday September 24, 7:30 PM at Newman Church** every schoolchild knows that East Providence was incorporated as a township in 1862 ... but how did we become East Providence in 1862 from Seekonk in 1812? .. **David G. Erhardt, PhD** will tell us how, including the exciting boundary disputes! More details in the September *Gazette*, as well as information about **Lighthouse Preservation** and **Lives of Narragansett Indians** ... planned for the following months ... Those who joined the Society for the History and Preservation will be nourished and informed those who joined for the Strawberry Shortcake will be nourished also, but must wait until the Family Picnic in June!

Speaking of shortcake .. RUMFORD BAKING POWDER is the *only* baking powder that is now marketed by **Health Food** outlets ... because it is the only baking powder that does *not* contain **aluminum**, which is thought to be harmful and *might* contribute to Alzheimers Disease. Rumford is now manufactured in Terre Haute with the old Horsford Formula !!

We are not superstitious ... however this issue of the Gazette is no. 10 of Volume XII (12) but the September issue will **not** be no. 1 of Volume XIII (13) because the first newsletter, called "Olde News" was published in September 1988 ... Volume I No. 1 . A bit of arithmetic will indicate that September 2001 *should* be Volume XIV ... somewhere we got out of sync. To restore the historical integrity we jump to 14 (sorry to disappoint the satanists who may be seeking an omen.)

Thanks and a tip of the editor's green eyeshade to Society member **Denise J.R. Bass** for generously providing the fine photos of the Family Picnic events (pgs.. 1 and 4)Denise is a professional photojournalist who is on staff at the *Providence Journal*, and designs the newsletter for the *American Diner Museum*. Some of her recent work is the *Collection Corner* feature on the front page of the Home Section of the Sunday Journal for which she does text and photos. Readers may have seen her piece about a collection of WWII posters on July 1, and another about "Breweriana" in June.



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CHANGE of ADDRESS

The Society has a “Return Service Requested” arrangement with the Post Office. You’ll see the information block on this page .. There is a *charge every time we retrieve an undeliverable mailing*. Please advise the Society of all changes, whether temporary or permanent. Thank you for helping us save money

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, September 5, 7:00 PM
 Board Meeting (members welcome)
 John Hunt House Museum
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Monday, September 24, 7:30 PM
 Members’ Meeting (open to the public)
 Newman Church, Rumford
 Program: **John G. Erhardt, PhD**
 “East Providence 1812 - 1862”

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