



John Hunt House

# Gazette

VOL. XII No. 9

JUNE 2001

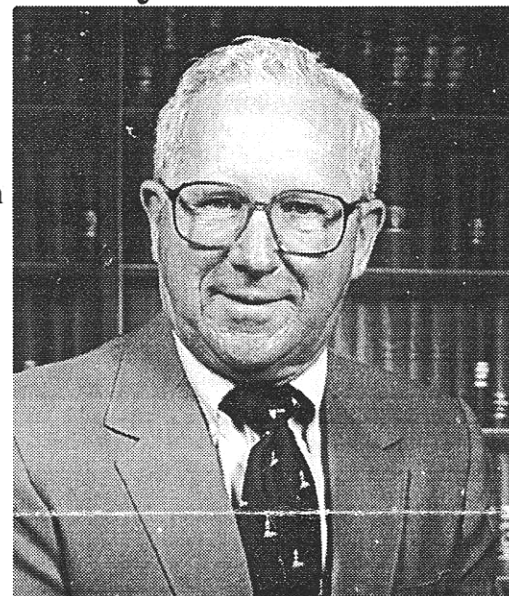
## Dave Kelleher To Be Installed as President of East Providence Historical Society at Annual Meeting/Family Picnic June 19

David Kelleher is a retired elementary school principal. Dave taught for six years in Attleboro, then came to East Providence where he taught for two years and served as principal of six different schools until he retired in 1996. Since then he has served as a substitute teacher or principal in the East Providence School System, and as an interim principal in North Attleboro at the Allen Avenue School. He also has worked as a part time operator of the historic Looff Carousel.

Dave is presently Chairman of the East Providence Historic Properties Study Commission, a board member of the East Providence Land Conservation Trust, a board member of the Riverside Revitalization Partnership and a board member of the East Bay Tourism Council.

This year, Dave has served the Society as First Vice President and co/program chairman (with Ray Anderson).

(see "Letter from President-Elect" page 5)



David J. Kelleher, incoming President

## Walker Descendants Will Meet on June 3 to Help Dedicate the Historic Philip Walker Room . . . Public Invited (Story on page 3)



Philip Walker House as it looked in 1900 - 1910 photo courtesy of Margaret Shedd Wiebolt

# 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

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

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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

### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our recent new members:

- Richard & Joan Cook\**
- John & Jeanne Davis*
- Maude Fulton*
- Amy Goerwitz*
- James Hall*
- Joan Hanlon*
- Bonnie Myrtle*
- Joan Reed Hetu*
- Constance Reed Jedrey*

(\*Reported incorrectly in May Gazette . . . we apologize for the error)

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Florence Adams, *Chairman*

The Nominating Committee, including Billie Arden and Mona Breault, met in April and the following members were contacted and agreed to serve the society in the coming year: **Dave Kelleher**, *President*; **Nancy Moore**, *1st Vice President*; **Ray Anderson**, *2nd Vice President*; **Jo Marchi**, *Recording Secretary*; **Gladys Panzarella**, *Corresponding Secretary*; **Peter Allen**, *Treasurer*. There were no nominations from the floor at the May 21 members meeting . Therefore, the Recording Secretary will cast one vote for the Nominating Committee's slate.at the Annual Meeting , Monday, June 18.

### 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 coupon 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

Renewal/ Change

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Zip (+4) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

# President's Letter

David Kelleher

Dear Members,

I hope everyone is well and ready for spring. The weather has been ideal this winter for our programs and both the January and February meetings were successful as to the food served and the interesting programs. **David Goldberg**, who gave the talk on Resource Recovery stimulated so many questions that **Ray Anderson** had to limit the discussion because it was getting late.

The board is continuing to deal with a contract for the furnace in the Hunt House. There has been some disagreement with the city manager over access to the house. We will be working to come to some kind of compromise. **Edna Anness** and I will be setting up a meeting with the city manager to discuss the lease.

**Ray Anderson** reported that a final draft letter to be sent to potential corporate sponsors of the society has been reviewed.

**Earl Berwick** reported that Babcock Masonry recommended cement be placed around the opening of the Keeping Room fireplace. He also reported that the necessary plumbing is in place to accommodate the installation of two dehumidifiers.

**Ray Anderson** and his committee are really moving ahead for the upcoming garden tour. He believes that there are now 14 house gardens scheduled.

**Edna Anness** and the Museum Committee are looking into the possibility of participating in a state wide display at the R.I. Convention Center in the fall.

I would like to thank the members of the board for the fruit basket that was sent to me and for all the cards from the members of the society sent due to my recent surgery.

March is a month full of special days, so Happy St. Patrick's Day, Happy St. Joseph's Day, Blessed Easter, and Happy Spring.

I Hope to see you at our next meeting on the 25th, "World War II Memories Roundtable".

Sincerely,

Dave

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

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

# FROM THE ATTIC

Edna Anness, *Museum Curator*

We have just received two gifts to the museum which include a large number of Rumford Company artifacts never before seen. They are from Clint Sellew and Ruth Pierce widow of Fales Pierce, Former Rumford Company employee. They arrived just in time to join the other artifacts in our Rumford Collection for display at our next open house, the date to be announced next month.

While going through the items, I came across a wonderful article written by Clint Sellew in 1975 by special request. It is about the wonderful green octagon shaped bottle pictured here. We have received inquiries about this bottle from across the country over the years, some referred to us by the Rumford Company. in Terre Haute, Indiana. I include excerpts from this article as follows:

## THE HORSFORD ACID PHOSPHATE BOTTLE

The embossed inscription on this bottle reads "RUMFORD CHEMICAL WORKS" on one of the eight side panels with a "W" which stands for Wilson. George F.. Wilson eventually became the owner of the company.

George F. Wilson and Eben Horsford, professor of chemistry at Harvard, first met in 1854. By 1856 they had organized the Rumford Chemical Works which was then in Seekonk, Mass and now (in 1975) in East Providence, Rhode Island...

This tonic concentrate was patented on March 10, 1868 and was produced as late as about 1940. The last bottle type used was of an indiscriminate round type with no inscription embossed on the glass.....

The tonic was taken to restore energy, for the relief of mental and nervous exhaustion as well as a cure for other ailments. A teaspoonful added to a glass of cold water, with sugar, made a delicious and wholesome beverage. The flavor was somewhat similar to a lime or lemon and lime drink. This product was very popular in this country and was exported to many other countries where it gained in popularity also.

The early bottles were clear glass but when it was discovered that recalcification occurred while the product was stored on the shelves of the apothecary shops where it was sold, color was therefore added to the glass to cover up or disguise this occurrence.

Horsford's Acid Phosphate was bottled in eight and eighteen ounce bottles and a smaller sample size. They were made in teal, blue, aqua, green and clear glass at different times. The early bottles had the patent date on the base with high necks similar to medicine bottles. Later the date was not used and the neck shortened....."



# GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

**Virginia Berwick** - a graniteware skimmer.

**Ruth Peirce** - Collection of scrapbooks, programs, etc. pertaining to the 1939 Eightieth Anniversary and Founding of the Rumford chemical Works along with Rumford labels and the like.

**Clinton Sellew** - Large collection of Rumford Chemical Works artifacts, crates, papers, bottles and cans. Gettysburg Reunion photo, iron shoe form, a wonderful cardex file of Rumford registration of patents and trademarks, twenty milk bottles and hundreds of pogs, blueprints and maps of Rumford Co. properties, two dehumidifiers - the list could fill this page.

**Judy Sharpe** - an antique mahogany Empire Period wall mirror, wooden utility box, iron candle holder, antique parasol, antique wooden potato masher, two pairs of antique eye glasses, Rumford cookie cutter, graniteware strainer, food press, coffee jar and tin ginger jar.

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## FOR SALE . . . .

We have available for sale four small floor model 2 drawer file cabinets donated by a member to help us raise money. The price is ten dollars per cabinet. They are in good condition. Call 438-1750 to arrange pick up.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need some volunteers to help us clean the John Hunt House - no wall washing, just windows, sweeping and dusting. Volunteer by calling the society at 438-1750, and when we see how many volunteer, we can set a Saturday morning date.

## The Gazette ...

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

mail to:

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



## A Letter From the President-Elect

Dear Society Members;

On Monday, June 18th, I will be taking over as the new President of our Society. I am honored with this position and I will try to fulfill all of the obligations of this office.

I look forward to working with the members of the board, and with all active members. It is my intention to help to continue the work of the society in restoring the Hunt House and its grounds, the restoration of the Meter House, and the rebuilding of the grist mill.

I also intend to have the Society involve itself with a master plan for the Hunts Mill area, the restoration of the Weaver House, and the Walker House Project.

We all need to involve ourselves with these projects and any project that involves historical properties or concerns in our city.

I wish to thank Bob Tewksbury for his fine service over the last two years as our President and I hope that I can be as successful as he has been for our Society.

Sincerely,  
*Dave Kelleher*

### The Gazette ...

*Welcomes*

“Members Memories” and articles of historic interest.

mail to:

Ray Anderson,

32 Algonquin Road,

East Providence, RI 02916-3502



Gardens  
With a  
View

6

Narragansett Terrace Gardens

with VIEWS of

• Bullocks Cove

• Providence River

• Narragansett Bay

Saturday, June 9, 12 - 4 PM

(rain date: Sunday, June 10)

Admission \$7, on day of tour

Carousel Parking Lot

Bullocks Point Avenue, Riverside

Sponsored BY: East Providence Historical Society

(401) 438-2464

Friends of East Providence Public Library

(401) 438-3517

## BALLROOM MEMORIES

*Florence Adams*

The **Strictly Sentimental Swing Band** of Riverside played all the good-old-good-ones recapturing the days of the Alhambra Ballroom, Crescent Park, when swing dancing, a la Fred and Ginger, was in full swing.

Many thanks to those who supported the affair at the American Legion Post 10, Riverside. As a result, we were able to contribute to the Legion's Gilbert/Kremp Scholarship Fund and also add to our own treasury. Special thanks to **Mona Breault** and **Ken and Irene Roberts**, although unable to attend, they made a financial contribution to the Society. Also, **Dorothy Duane, Barbara Flynn** and **Sophie Fredrick** who helped with refreshments, **Dave Kelleher**, who served as Master of Ceremonies and all the bakers who provided such yummy desserts which accompanied **Kris Rose's** 'Rainbow Punch'. Talk about yummy!!!

- 5 - See you next year?



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JUNE

#### **Sunday, June 3, 2 - 5 PM**

Dedication of the *Philip Walker Room* and Open House  
John Hunt House Museum, Rumford

#### **Wednesday, June 5, 7:30 PM**

Board Meeting (members welcome)  
John Hunt House Museum,  
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford.

#### **Saturday, June 9, 12 - 4 PM**

(rain date Sunday, June 10)

*“Gardens With a View”*

Admission \$7

Carousel Parking Lot, Bullocks Point Ave.

#### **Monday, June 18 6:00 PM**

Family Picnic/ Election of officers

Hunt's Mills

Members \$3- Guests \$6-

#### **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