

John Hunt House

Gazette

“Lifestyles of the Narragansett People”

Ella Sekatau, DHL, Guest Speaker

Monday, November 26, 7:30 PM, Newman Church, Rumford

How did the Narragansett people live before their first contact with Europeans and how did their lifestyles change in subsequent centuries? This slide presentation illustrates traditional ways of making shelters, clothing, food, and medicine from nearby natural resources. Learn about how families honored Mother Earth by moving between low-impact seasonal habitations and about the ecological values of Narragansetts today. Hands-on exhibit of items from daily life and participation in a traditional dance of unity and peace make this presentation fun for people of all ages.

Dr. Ella Sekatau, DHL (Doctor of Humane Letters) is the Narragansett Tribal Ethno-historian and Medicine Woman. Having learned about her people's history and customs from elders and through practical participation all her life, she shares her knowledge with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. For five years she directed the Native American program at Plymouth Plantation, which is on a site previously called Pawtuxet, where Narragansetts summered for the past twenty eight years. Dr. Sekatau has given educational presentations for preschool to PhD level audiences in school systems and colleges throughout Southern New England.

Friends of Pomham Rocks

. **Donald and Nancy Doucette**, members of our Society, have formed a chapter of the *American Lighthouse Foundation* in hopes of restoring and relighting the Pomham Rocks Light Station. The light station is on the Providence River off Riverside. They are looking for people interested in joining them for this exciting venture. They have already collected materials about the light station and the lighthouse keepers.

The light station is currently owned by Mobil Corporation. Contact has been made with Mobil to inform them of the interest of the group in restoring the light station. The Doucettes hope that a partnership can be formed between Mobil and the Friends of Pomham Rocks.

If you would like to join The Friends of Pomham Rocks or have any questions, you may contact the Doucettes

at 1-(508)-226-1185, e-mail: donan@tp.net,
or Dave Kelleher at (401) 433-2763, e-mail: evdave@msn.com.



Pomham Rocks Light

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	<i>President</i>
Nancy Moore	<i>1st Vice President</i>
Raymond Anderson	<i>2nd Vice President</i>
Jo Marchi	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Gladys Panzarella	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
Peter Allen	<i>Treasurer</i>
Robert Tewksbury	<i>Immediate Past President</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>
George Adams	<i>Newsletter</i>
Les Haworth	<i>Preservation</i>
Ray Anderson	<i>Program</i>
Florence Adams	<i>Publicity</i>

**The John Hunt House Museum
is Open**

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 - 4 PM
or by appointment.

For appointment, Telephone (401) 438-1750
or E-mail: ephist@home.com

SPECIAL THANKS

To **Florence Adams, Mona Breault, Eva Lorenc-Hedge** and **Helen Smith** for furnishing refreshments at the October 27 meeting.

To **Clint Sellew** for donation of 2 dehumidifiers for the John Hunt House Museum.

To **Billie Arden** and **Nancy Wolfe**, co-chairmen of the annual

Holiday Party

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:

Kathryn Blessing
Racheal Saunders

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members,

October has proved to be a fruitful month for our Society

At the October Meeting of the City Council, as Chairman of the East Providence Historic Properties Commission, I received permission to investigate the possibility of having some students and professors from the **University of Rhode Island** design a master plan for the Hunts Mills Area.

Because of the many projects proposed for the Hunts Mills area, the Commission members felt very strongly that the city needs a plan that would oversee the future development of this important piece of city property.

I met with **Jean Boyle**, Director of the East Providence Planning Department, to coordinate the efforts of the Planning Department and the Commission.

As the project proceeds, the public will be informed of the progress of the project and have input for the final design.

All of the this is subject to approval of the City Council since the Commission only has the power to advise the Council in such matters.

A new sink was installed in the summer kitchen area of the John Hunt House as well as plumbing for the installation of two dehumidifiers that are greatly needed to protect all the historic documents stored in the house.

Clint Sellow, a Society member is donating two dehumidifiers, a great savings for us. Thank you.

I had a meeting with City Manager

Paul Lemont concerning a contract to maintain our heating system. **Ray Anderson**, chairman of the Grounds Committee, in review of our lease with the City, found that the City was responsible for the maintenance contract. Mr. Lemont agreed, and is now in the process of getting a maintenance contract for us.

Everything is in place to begin some outside work on the Meter House. Transportation to and from the high school for the participating students and teachers is being firmed up.

I participated in the conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation recently held in Providence. It was a very enjoyable and interesting conference. I was like a kid in a candy store!

The conference is being noted as one of the best and most successful conferences ever held by the Trust.

Members from all over the country thoroughly enjoyed Providence and nearby Massachusetts

The beauty of the new Capital Center, Waterplace Park, Waterfire, The Providence Performing Arts Center, and the hundreds of historic buildings really impressed our guests.

Hearing David McCullough, author of *John Adams*, and my sail on the schooner Ernestina from Providence to Newport, were my favorite events.

We will be having an important board meeting this month at which we will be discussing our financial status. We will report our findings to you at our November General Meeting.

I'm looking forward to hearing **Dr. Ella Sekatau** at the November 26th meeting. See you there.

Sincerely,

Dave

FROM THE ATTIC

Edna Anness, *Museum Curator*

As we celebrate Veterans Day this November we enter a new phase in our country's history of being at war again. And it brings back memories and talk of wars past. We have some poignant memories in our collection of Memorabilia of Wars Past which some students of history might be interested in reading or viewing:

A collection of the **Lt. Peter Hunt** letters written to his mother and brother as he fought in the Civil War, was wounded, lay in a hospital bed and died. There are also the letters to his mother written by his commanding officer after his death. For students of the Civil War this is a first hand account such as one rarely sees.

The Lt. **Edward MacDougald** (a WWII pilot) collection of letters to his mother. Edward was lost at sea on a flight from Australia.

The **Amaral Brothers** scrapbook with pictures of several brothers from one family who served in WWII. .

A scrapbook put together by **John Agren** which records the many East Providence High School graduates who served and died during WWII.

The front pages of the **Providence Journal Bulletin** announcing Pearl Harbor, VE Day and VJ Day.

The "Pictorial **History of the Korean War**".

Going farther back we have the Gravestone Records of **Revolutionary War** patriots who served from East Providence (then Rehoboth) and two booklets "We Were Soldiers Once" and "Mighty Liberty Men".

There is also a tangible collection of artifacts such as booklets entitled "**News of the Old Home Town**" sent by the Riverside Business Men's Association to the boys serving in WWII; dogtags and medals of **Robert Legg**; **Russell Coit's** waterproof map; letters to **Charlie Tebbetts** who was a Prisoner of War in Poland; **Edgar Agren's** mother's Gold Star pin and his Certificate of Merit (he was killed during WWII); **Capt. Hudson's** Civil War sword and separation papers signed by Governor Burnside; **Harold Ray's** Civil War enlistment papers; parts of Civil War; World War I and World War II uniforms, - even a defused hand grenade; Civil Air Patrol helmets; ration books; Air Raid Shelter signs and shelter bins with the food still sealed in them; Red Cross Ladies' uniform and picture, etc. etc. and the letter written by **Alice Waddington** to the servicemen during World War II.

It is sad to think that we are about to start a new collection from a new conflict.

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Marilyn Brewer - Egg scale

Muriel Meservey -Two Hunt's Mills postcards

Riverside Congregational Church - Written histories of the Church and Riverside; 1932 documents about the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birthday with program directions as to how to celebrate the event.

Estate of Virginia Ray Whitcomb - five black rodback stencilled windsor chairs, made at the RI State Prison c. 1870., from the top floor auditorium of the old Ray Building,

Bob Wood -10 East Providence High School *Crimson* Yearbooks, 1932, '35, '41, '44, '45,'56, '57,'59,'60 and '78.

MUSEUM NEEDS

Metal file drawer to hold 4X6 cards

SPEAKING OF GIFTS

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

from the John Hunt House Museum **STORE**:

We have many inexpensive items for sale

John Hunt House pencils75 ¢

Replica Postcards75 ¢

Small American Flag \$1-

Large American Flag\$4-

Rumford "Receipt" Book replica\$5-

Rumford Baking Powder large container ..\$5-

18th Century Child's Top replica\$4-

18th Century Child's Bonnet replica.....\$10

Historical Society T- Shirts sm.& med.....\$10-

"Count Rumford, Physicist Extraordinary"

original edition\$8-

"Images of America, East Providence".....\$16.99

1886 Crescent Park Poster print.....\$20-

.....plus.

Hunt House potholders

Magnets

Penny candy

..... and much more!

The John Hunt House Museum

is open Tuesday s and Thursdays

from 1 to 4 PM

an opportunity to visit the Museum

and do your

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

at the

MUSEUM STORE

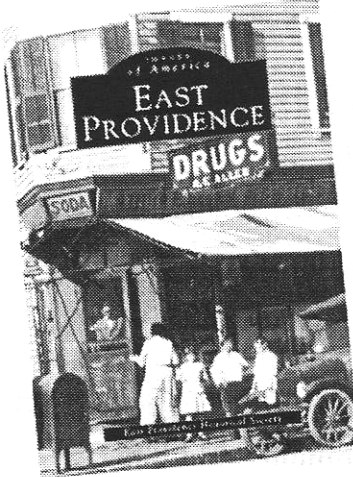
The John Hunt House is Open

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 - 4 PM
or by appointment.

For appointment, Telephone (401) 438-1750 or E-mail: ephist@home.com

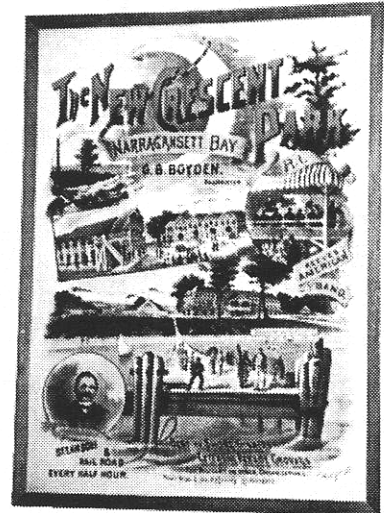
While you're there, be sure to visit the
MUSEUM STORE

IMAGES OF AMERICA EAST PROVIDENCE



"... a meander through these pages can mean recollection and reminiscence for older people and revelation for the young..."

First published in 1997, *Images of America ... East Providence* contains over 200 vintage photographs from the first 100 years of the "Town" An excellent gift for YOU .. or for your East Providence family and friends\$16.99



Print of 1886 Crescent Park Poster.

50 PRASIFSI \$20-

Annual Holiday Party

Monday, December 10, 6:15 PM

Newman Church, Rumford

Family Style Buffet by:

Emery's Catering

Members: \$10-, Non-members: \$12-

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Must be made by December 3

(will not be accepted later)

for reservations telephone

(401) 438 -1750 or (401) 437-1530

(Telephone Committee will call

members for their reservations)

Payment for reservations will be

accepted at the door

Menu
Tossed Salad
Potato - Vegetable
Roast Beef, Baked Ham
Rolls and Butter
Tea, Coffee - Ice Cream

Seasonal Music by
Louise Carter

Special Gifts for the Needy and Homeless:

Traveler's Aid has issued an appeal for *personal toilet articles* . . . toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, combs and related products. We will collect your generous gifts at the party.



EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY

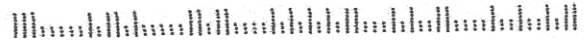
P.O. Box 4774

EAST PROVIDENCE, RI 02916

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

**RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED**

02916+2589 03



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

Monday, November 12 "Veteran's Day"

John Hunt House Museum open 1 - 3 PM

John Hunt House, Hunt's Mills Road, Rumford.

Monday, November 26, 7:30 PM Members Meeting

Newman Church, Rumford. *Public Invited*

Program: **Ella Sekatau, DHL**

"Lifestyles of the Narragansett People"

CHANGE of ADDRESS

The Society has a **"Return Service Requested"** arrangement with the Post Office.

There is a CHARGE every time we retrieve an undeliverable mailing Please advise the Society of all changes, temporary or permanent. Thank you for helping us save money.

December

Wednesday, December 5, 7:00 PM

Board Meeting *members welcome*

John Hunt House, Hunt's Mills Road, Rumford.

Monday, December 10, 6:15 PM

Newman Church, Rumford.

HOLIDAY PARTY

January

Wednesday, January 2, 7:00 PM

Board Meeting *members welcome*

John Hunt House, Hunt's Mills Road, Rumford.

Monday, January 28, 7:30 PM Members Meeting

Newman Church, Rumford. *Public Invited*

Program: **Everett A. Chapman**

"Take the Trolley to the Shore"