



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XIV No. 10

June 2002



ANNUAL MEETING/ELECTION of OFFICERS/PICNIC

MONDAY, JUNE 24, HUNTS MILLS, RUMFORD

Join us for the election of officers, hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, beverages
AND strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream donated by Munroe Dairy.

TICKETS: \$3.00 members; \$6:00 non-members. Bring a lawn chair.

**The telephone committee will contact members for reservations, salads, and
baking powder biscuits.**

**You are welcome to come to Hunts Mills at 5:00 pm to pay for your
reservation, view the John Hunt House Museum garden and play bocci or
croquet. Food will be served at 6:00 pm.**



From the Attic Edna Anness, Museum Curator

I've been cleaning out drawers and boxes and came across an interesting glimpse of Rumford in the 1860s. It was in a news article written for May 19, 1931 when my great aunt Hannah Carroll was retiring from 50 years working in the acid phosphate lab as a lab technician at the Rumford Company. (No newspaper name was recorded). In it she reminisces about life when her father, my great grandfather first came to Rumford in 1862:

"Rumford was a large farm when in 1862 Charles Carroll moved his small family there from

Providence to become the boss blacksmith for the farm which was owned by the Rumford Co. Several companies of the Union troops that had been returning from the south ever since Appomattox were encamped at that time on what was known as the plains, the level ground that is now What Cheer Airport (later the old Narragansett racetrack). Hannah was born a few years after the family's arrival in Rumford and says that over and over her mother would tell the children the story of the soldiers and of how they filed by Linden Avenue on the road (Wilson Avenue) when they were at length disbanded. Providence was far away and life was self-contained in the village.

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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@cox.net

OFFICERS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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/Florence Adams	<i>Newsletter</i>
Les Haworth	<i>Preservation</i>
Ray Anderson	<i>Program</i>
Florence Adams	<i>Publicity</i>

*Warm Welcome to our
New Members:*

Michael Clancy
Jeff & Theresa Scorza

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

Call the society, 438-1750.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees are due the anniversary month of initial membership. Check the address label on your newsletter for that date. The first 2 digits indicate the year. The 3rd and 4th digits indicate the month.

Example: 2207 translates to July, 2002.

Your prompt payment will reduce the cost and labor involved in mailing reminders. Mona Breault, Membership Chairman, thanks you.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
 Florence Adams, Chairman

The Nominating Committee, including Billie Arden and Rose Marie Sirenski, reported to the May 20th members meeting that the following members agreed to serve the society in the coming year: David 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. Therefore, the Recording Secretary will cast one vote for the election of the Nominating Committee's slate at the Annual Meeting on Monday, June 24.

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 \$15 individual, \$25 family, or a Life Membership for \$150.

Please make check payable to:
East Providence Historical Society
 and mail with form to:
Mona Breault, 34 Josephine Avenue, Rumford, RI 02916-3018

Membership Form New Renewal /Change

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Amount Enclosed:

\$25 Family \$15 Individual \$150 Life

President's Letter

David Kelleher

Dear Members,

It is hard to believe that my first year as your president is coming to an end. I believe that we have had a successful year. Our financial situation has improved. We saved money on our insurance policy and on our furnace maintenance. Progress has been made in the summer kitchen, new dehumidifiers installed, and the gardens and rear grounds of the house improved.

Thanks to **Ray Anderson**, a number of interesting and informative programs were presented to our members. Ray has already scheduled more great programs for next season.

Thanks to **Edna Anness**, our artifacts are ready for display at the **Rhode Island Notables Program** at the Rhode Island Convention Center in September.

Good news, I have finally located the **John Hunt gravestone** that has been missing for a number of years. Thanks to **Paul Lemont**, City Manager, and the staff at city hall, the stone was found buried under cases of records in the basement of city hall. We will request having the stone at the Hunt House for the opening of the summer kitchen in the fall. Mr. Lemont also wants the stone to be displayed in other parts of the city throughout the year.

The **Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse** are continuing to have negotiations with **Mobil Corporation** about the possibility of a partnership to restore the lighthouse.

A group of citizens has formed to restore some of the **veteran monuments** throughout the city, especially the monuments in front of city hall and the old high school on Taunton Avenue. We wish them the best.

I am sad to report that we may be losing one of our historic houses of the city. The **Ide Farm House** on North Broadway, built in 1812 and a rare brick house for that period, may be leveled to prepare that large piece of property for a developer. I have sent a letter of concern to **Peter Poland**, Chairman of the East Providence Planning Board, and so has the State Preservation Commission. If you have any concern for this house, please contact the planning board members.

Good news, the proposal for the **Monopole** that was to be installed in Riverside has been withdrawn.

Hope to see you all at the **Annual Meeting/Picnic** on the 24th. Have a pleasant and enjoyable summer.

David Kelleher

From the Attic

(Continued from Page 1)

Morning and evening the children would carry the family cans over to the farm dairy for milk. Butter they bought at the farm at 19 cents a pound and peat for the fires from the peat bog in Rumford (off Ferris Avenue).

There was one school in the village for all ages. When Hannah entered at 5, the oldest pupils were 13 and 14. Sometimes in the snow she and her small sister would be carried on the back of neighbor girls.

When they wanted to go to Providence they waited for the mail wagon that would take a passenger or two in the back. This wagon was similar to Black Marias used to convey prisoners and drawn by a pair of horses.

Wilson Avenue was the old road that used to run through the country down which the teams of oxen traveled slowly on their way to the fields. The road that carries the motor traffic past the eastern side of the Agawam Hunt to the White Church was not even thought of then. (North Broadway-It was put through in 1912.)

People in those days usually depended on shanks mare to reach their destination. (Walking !) The Carroll children walked to Pawtucket to church on Sunday. One of the boys walked to LaSalle in Providence every day and one sister walked to the old Normal School (later RIC) every day or to the Red Bridge where the cable cars ran into town.

It was easier to get to Boston than Providence because a train came directly through the little station on the track (where the railroad bridge on Greenwood is today). One brother took the train from the old Depot to Boston every day for four years to attend Harvard Medical School. This train stopped many years ago." (It did run from Providence to the racetrack during the 30s and 40s).

I encourage you to search YOUR family papers for stories like this. They give us more insight into life out here in the country before 1900.



GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM:

- Arline Butterworth**- hand quilted bed quilt
- Charles Hall**- Indian hatchett head found at the Mayor Willett property (now the Willett Arms Apartments site), and an ox bow.
- A. Gilbert Helgerson**- Wooden framed metal sign from Helgerson's Handy Shoppe, formerly on Bishop Ave.
- Clint Sellew**- collection of papers.



East • Providence • Historical • Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

Monday, June 24, 6:00 pm
Annual Meeting/Election of Officers/Picnic
Hunts Mills, Rumford
Ticket Purchase – 5 pm
Food Served – 6 pm

JULY

Wednesday, July 10, 7:00 pm
Board meeting. (Members welcome)
John Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford.

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.

SPECIAL NOTICE:

We need three pairs of tab curtains for the windows in the basement summer kitchen. Is there anyone who could stitch up the curtains for us if we provide the materials? Please call the Hunt House or Virginia Berwick at 434-0998 if willing to do so.