



John Hunt House

Gazette

VOL. XIV No.7

MARCH 2002

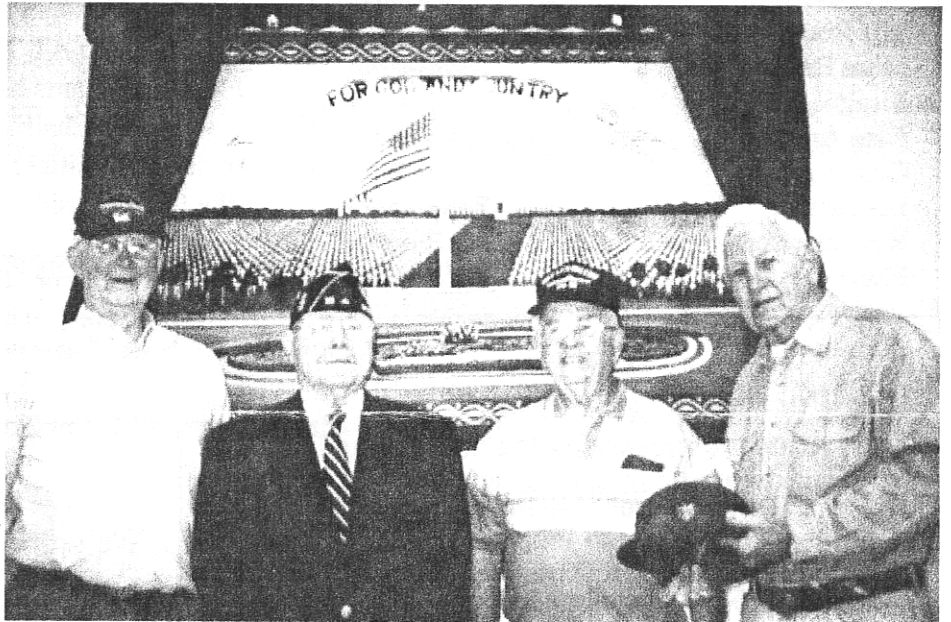
“WWII MEMORIES ROUNDTABLE” “Structured Discussion”

Monday, March 25, 7:30 PM Newman Church, Rumford

The “Memories Roundtable”,

a technique that has been frequently used by the East Providence Historical Society with great success, begins with a structured discussion in which the participants are each asked a series of different questions ... the discussion then “radiates” to the observers who may have been reminded of their own memories.

In this program, 5 World WarII veterans will provide the “structure” The audience is expected provide their own memories.



Four of the Participants in the WWII Memories Roundtable
(l - r: Lionel Howkins, Ken Prior, Bob Wertz, Joe Crevier)

EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY
Annual

Ballroom Memories

Swing Dance and Concert
Featuring the
Strictly Sentimental Swing Band
Monday April 22, 7:30 p.m.
For the joint benefit of
The East Providence Historical Society
and
the Legion's Gilbert/Kremp/ Scholarship Fund
Post 10 American Legion
830 Willett Avenue, Riverside
Donation, \$10.00 per person
Tickets on sale at Post 10
or telephone the East Providence Historical Society for reservations
(401) 438-1750 or (401) 437-1530
Tickets will be held at the door
TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE
BEGINNING MARCH 29

Speaking of Memories .. Lest we Forget
..... *Ballroom Memories*
Tickets go on sale March 29 !!



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>
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
 1:00 - 4:00 pm
 and *by appointment*
 telephone the East Providence Historical Society
 at (401) 438-1750
 to make arrangements.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

According to the society's Rules and Procedures, a call for qualified candidates, to be nominated in May with elections in June, is to be placed in the March newsletter. A qualified candidate is one who is at least 18 years of age and in good standing with the society. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates for office at the May meeting. **NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTED AT THE MAY MEETING.**

Florence Adams has been appointed to serve as Nominating Committee Chairman. A minimum of 3 members will serve on the committee. Call the society, 438-1750, if you would like to be considered for elective office.

For your "address BookThe e-mail for the society has been changed to: ephist@cox.net

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, \$150 life membership

Please make check payable to:

East Providence Historical Society

and mail with form below to:

Mona Breault

34 Josephine Avenue

Rumford, RI 02916-3018



Welcome to Our Recent New Members

Lewis Quattmucci & Carol Abood

Mary-Ellem Stanis

Sonia Zell

New Renewal/ Change
 EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Name(s) _____

Street _____

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

Amount Enclosed: \$25.00 Family \$15.00 Individual \$150.00 Life

The Philip Walker House

Edna Anness

According to Richard LeBaron Bowen's book "Early Rehoboth-Volume III", Philip Walker was a farmer, weaver, sawmill proprietor, deacon at the Newman Meeting House and incidentally the second richest man in Rehoboth. He was also a "poet and writer of no mean ability". A copy of one of his poems hangs in the Philip Walker Room at the John Hunt House Museum.

Little is known of Philip Walker's early life. He was the son of the Widow Walker who was one of the early proprietors of the settlement of Rehoboth. The widow was purportedly a sister or sister-in-law of the purchaser of the settlement, John Brown. The original site of the present Walker House was where the widow built her home. Her land extended from what is now North Broadway to the Seekonk River and North to the Ten Mile River. After the Wampanoag Indians under King Philip had burned all houses in and around the settlement, Philip Walker had to rebuild his mother's home. Only the north end of the house is Philip's original building on its original foundation dating from 1679 thus making the house the oldest in East Providence and the second oldest in the State. The house was handed down from generation to generation ending with Faith Shedd and her husband and cousin, Dexter Potter, being the final residents. At Faith's death in 1986 the house was willed to the Heritage Trust, a local preservation group devoted to preserving historic buildings.

In 1989-90 the exterior of the house was restored in anticipation of the Heritage Trust receiving \$200,000. from the proceeds of a pending State of Rhode Island Preservation Bond issue. The Bond issue was approved by the voters, but the State of Rhode Island Legislature annulled the vote claiming that the wording of the Bond Issue was flawed. There never was any more money voted to replace the cost or to continue the interior of the home's restoration.

Antoinette Downing

1906 - 2001
a Classic

Among the many tributes made to Antoinette Downing were statements such as: "... she loved old houses" ". . she fought City Hall" "She made a difference"

She certainly did . . . we celebrate her life



In April 1993, Antoinette Downing (l) toured the John Hunt House with Edna Anness and praised the work of the Restoration Group

The Heritage Trust was dissolved in 1999 and reorganized as Preserve Rhode Island. It was then decided to sell the contents of the Walker House to raise money for preservation. The East Providence Historical Society was very concerned that "our history" was being sold and would leave East Providence forever. We asked Preserve Rhode Island if they would save us a few pieces of furniture. We also attended the auction and were able to purchase a few inexpensive artifacts. We received from Preserve Rhode Island an eighteenth century bed and walking wheel and a nineteenth century desk and bureau. We also have a piece of wool cloth woven with wool spun on the walking wheel. We were allowed to take anything that was left around the house after the auction.

The future of the Walker House is now being considered, but one thing is for sure. The spirit of the Philip Walker House will continue in the Philip Walker Room of the John Hunt House Museum which will be dedicated on June 3rd, 2001 with many of Philip's descendents in attendance. You may also tour the old Philip Walker House from 12:30 to 2 PM on the same day.

Gifts and Accessions

Marie Brand- Almacs milk carton and two Almacs herb containers.

Marilyn Brewer- Orlo Hobbs memorabilia

Robert F. Doughty- Book "The Ice Cream Supreme-the Scoop on the Doughty Ice Cream Co."

Louise Healy- two feather pillows and a Block Grant Report

Bruce Humphreys- 1947 East Providence High School sports scrapbook

Dorothy Marshall- Lawnmower, 2 cultivators, 2 brass hose nozzles, brass sprinkler, pail, curtain stretcher, clothesline stick, wooden folding rack, ice chest, wedding dress and wedding photo of her mother, baby jacket, dressing wrap and bonnet, advertising cards and ink blotters, Munroe Dairy advertising, mini cowbell.

Clarissa Penny Porter- Scrapbook of letters between George Wilson, cofounder of the Rumford Co, and his son George, and between son George and his brother Ellery Wilson and finally son George and his nephew Ellery Wilson. (History happening!)

Clint Sellev- Metal sign used by the Rumford Garden Club at Wilson Ave. Garden.

Margaret Shedd Wieboldt- Walker Family photo album, set of Walker writing paper from former Walker Family Association.

GARDEN TOOLS NEEDED

The Garden and Yard Volunteers need gardening tools for Hunt House projects. So that they don't have to bring tools from home it would be convenient to have them on hand. Please check your basement and garage for usable but unused rakes, cultivators, manual hedge shears ... you know ...*gardening tools* !

When you find them please telephone
Ray Anderson (401) 438-2464

Old Fashioned Annual Meeting & **FAMILY PICNIC**

Monday, June 18, 6:00 PM

Hunt's Mills, Rumford

Election of New Officers

Featuring . . .

Brief, but inspiring ORATORY
by persons *noted* for flawless rhetoric

QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY

The Grand Gourmet Picnic

(hamburgers & hot dogs)

& the famous

HUNT HOUSE STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

made with Real Whipped Cream

&

GENUINE Horsford Formula

RUMFORD BAKING POWDER BISCUITS

Bring Friends and Folding Chairs

Donation: Members \$3- Guests \$6 -

for reservations

telephone the Society at (401) 438-1750

or E-Mail: ephist@home.com

Tickets will be held at the front gate
front gate will open at 5 PM

HEY MAC !!

Here are a few memory joggers to see how well we remember WWII

Fill in the blank space:

At last my heart is filled with joy . . . I got here before _____.

If it moves salute it; if it doesn't move pick it up: if you can't pick it up _____.

(Here's one that Irving Berlin didn't write): The chicken that they feed us they say it is the best. We get _____, the officers get the rest

A generic inspirational poem

Take the Blue Star From the Window, Dear Mother,
In its Place Put a New One of Gold.
Your Son is a (whatever),
He'll Die when He's Nineteen Years Old.



Write *YOUR MEMORIES* Here and bring them to the
"WWII MEMORIES ROUNDTABLE"
On March 25



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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

Monday, March 25, 7:30 PM, Members Meeting
Newman Church, Rumford. *Public Invited*
Program: **“World War II Memories Roundtable”**
Ray Anderson, with Joe Crevier, Lionel Howkins,
Ken Prior and Bob Wertz.

April

Wednesday, April 3, 7:00 PM
Board Meeting *members welcome*
John Hunt House Museum, Hunt’s Mills Road, Rumford.

Monday, April 22
7:30 PM *Ballroom Memories*
Swing Dance and Concert
Post 10 American Legion, Riverside *Public Invited*

May

Wednesday, May 1, 7:00 PM
Board Meeting *members welcome*
John Hunt House Museum, Hunt’s Mills Road,
Rumford.

Monday, May 27, 7:30 PM, Members Meeting
Newman Church, Rumford. *Public Invited*
Program: **“Etched in Stone”**. *Karin Sprague,*
stonecarver,

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.