



John Hunt House

# Gazette

Vol. XIV No. 9

May 2002

## RECREATING 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

### SLATE GRAVESTONES

Members Meeting

Monday, May 20, 2002 7:00 PM

Newman Church & Cemetery

Rumford, RI

Gravestone carver **Karin Sprague** has been written up in the *Providence Journal*, the *Springfield Union News*, and *Life*. We will gather at 7:00 PM in the parking lot across from **Newman Church** for a short trip to see and hear of some varied carved headstones. Then we will go into the church for the completion of the program. **Come, see, and hear** enthusiastic Karin Sprague, who recently was featured for her unique craft at the Shaker Village near Pittsfield, Massachusetts.



### THE PLEASANT GARDENS OF RUMFORD



The **East Providence Historical Society** and the friends of the **East Providence Library** are having their second annual self-guided **Garden Tour in Rumford** on Saturday, June 8 from 10 AM to 3 PM. Fourteen landscaped yards in the vicinity of Pleasant Street await your arrival. The Tour begins with a ticket purchase (\$15) at the Hunt House Museum on Hunts Mills Road off Pleasant Street. As this is our only fundraiser of the year, please show your support by taking in the Tour, making a donation to offset expenses, or volunteering to "yard sit". (Volunteers will see the gardens for free.) Call **438-2464** if interested or need more information.

### From the Attic

**Edna Anness, Museum Curator**

This section of the newsletter will be short for a while to aid Doreen who is **filling in for George**.

Our two submissions to the **Providence Tourist Bureau's** exhibition at the Convention Center were accepted. **Dave, Ginny and I** attended an organizational meeting last week. It is not exactly what we expected--space is limited. *We will be sending pictures and artifacts for two aspects of East*

*Providence*. One display will feature East Providence **Amusement Parks: Crescent Park, Boyden Heights, Vanity Fair and Hunts Mills**. We will be sending the large framed poster-1886 from our collection along with several photographs. The other feature will be the **Rumford Chemical Works**: at one time the largest chemical plant in the US. We are sending a framed polychrome picture of the plant and a small display of Rumford artifacts featuring the baking powder product.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

**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>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i>
Raymond Anderson	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> 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>
George 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:*


**George Gilbert  
Frank & Laura Harnedy**

**The John Hunt House Museum is Open**  
 Tuesdays and Thursdays from  
 1:00 to 4:00 pm  
 and *By Appointment.*  
 Telephone the East Providence Historical  
 Society  
 At (401) 438-1750  
 To make arrangements.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**  
 Florence Adams, Chairman

Standing Rules and Procedures, Section V; Duties of Ad-Hoc Committees: Nominating Committee: The committee shall be responsible for presenting a slate of candidates for elected office at the May members meeting for the ensuing year.....  
**NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR SHALL BE ACCEPTED AT THE MAY MEETING ONLY.**

The Nominating Committee, Florence Adams, Billie Arden and Rose Marie Sirenski, will report at the May 20th member's meeting. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting, Monday, June 24th.



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**

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:**

<b>\$25 Family</b>	<b>\$15 Individual</b>	<b>\$150 Life</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## President's Letter

David Kelleher

Dear Members,

Our annual **Spring Swing Dance** was a great success. The music was wonderful and for those who danced the floor was wide open. We raised **\$300** for the Society and also gave **\$150** to the scholarship fund at the Legion.

Plans are now in place for our next two meetings, **May 20th**, an evening with **Karen Sprague**, and our **annual picnic on June 24th**.

**Doreen Bonney** is doing our Gazette since our good friend **George Adams** has been ill. We certainly appreciate this service to the Society. However, Doreen will not be able to do the Gazette for the long term. **The Society is in need of someone** to take over this very important job. Are you able to help us? The job entails putting all the submitted articles and pictures on to a computer. If you can help us, or know of anyone who can, please contact me or **Florence Adams**.

Progress is being made on repairing the **Meter House**. Students from the High School will be starting the job in the next week or so.

**Ray Anderson** reports that all is in place for the upcoming **garden tour** in Rumford. The date is **June 8th**. This will be our biggest fund-raiser. We hope that many of you will support this project that has been in the planning since the Fall.

**Earl Berwick** reported that the **woodwork** is being done in the **summer kitchen** and that the painting of the room will follow.

**Edna Anness** stated that the **displays** of the Rumford Chemical Company and the city's amusement parks were accepted for use at the Rhode Island display to be held in September at the **Rhode Island Convention Center**.

**Ed Serowik, George Page, and I** attended the **Rhode Island Preservation Conference** in Westerly on April 6th. All three of us found the conference of great interest and were impressed with the town of Westerly.

I have been meeting with members of the planning department to continue our study of a possible **master plan for the Hunts' Mills Area**. We hope to firm up a plan with students from the **University of Rhode Island**.

**Mrs. Anness** and I will be meeting with a group of officials who are planning to put **fish ladders** in the **Ten Mile River**, including one at Hunts' Mills. We intend to have input into the design of the ladder at Hunts' Mills.

Sincerely,

Dave

## From the Attic

(Continued from Page 1)

As you can imagine with the addition of the **Mahogany lowboy**, our parlor is *beautiful*. The blanket chest in the west bedroom gives 18th century homelife more meaning. Do visit us to see our new gifts.

Many thanks to **Earl Berwick, Jr.** and **Walter Anness** for picking up the furniture and placing it in the Hunt House.

The Hunt House will be open for **Garden Tour tickets** on June 8th, first floor only.

**Still no volunteers** to help clean the House. **Ginny and I** will have *housemaid knees and backs* soon.

### GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM:

**John Agren:** Six photos of the rotary and area at Newman Church in the forties. (One of our longtime wishes)

**Marilyn Brewer:** Rumford cookbook, Rumford Home Management booklet, and Common Sense Cookbook, E. P. Planning booklet

**Virginia Berwick:** News articles on New City Hall and E. P. High book cover

**East Providence High School:** three recent yearbooks

**Nancy Stevens:** seed sower

**Judith Sharpe:** Mahogany Chippendale lowboy, 18th century blanket chest, Iron flatiron, porcelain Jar, Chelsea bowl and ironstone vegetable dish, three pair antique eyeglasses, her father's two E. P. High golf pins from the 20s, three classical style (mythological) molded wall plaques, mahogany Empire Period wall mirror, tin ginger jar, antique kitchen accessories, Rumford cookie cutter, antique pine utility box, parasol, iron candle holder.

**Lowell Anness:** showcase for the museum.

### 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**. *Request information by sending your name, address and phone number to the*

#### Marker Program

East Providence Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, RI 02916-4774



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MAY

Monday, May 20, 7:00 pm  
**Members Meeting.** *Public Invited*  
 Newman Church, Rumford  
 Program: 'Etched in Stone' Karin Sprague,  
 stone carver.

### JUNE

Wednesday, June 5, 7:00 pm  
**Board meeting.** *Members welcome.*  
 John Hunt House Museum  
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford.

Saturday, June 8, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  
**'Pleasant' Gardens of Rumford tour**  
 Start, John Hunt House Museum. Fee: \$15.

Monday, June 24, 6:00 pm  
**Annual Meeting/Election of Officers/  
 Family Picnic**  
 Hunts Mills. Members \$3 - Guests \$6

### 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.