



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XV No. 2

October 2002

Coca Cola Company From A Collector's Viewpoint

OCTOBER MEMBERS MEETING
Monday, October 28, 7 PM
Newman Church, Rumford

Did you know that **Bobby Jones** and **Ty Cobb** have a strong connection to the early days of *Coca Cola*? And that "*Coke*" was a fountain drink until a capping process allowed it to be bottled?

Harry Iannotti, MD, will present the history of the soft drink known around the world and display some items from his extensive *Coca Cola* collection.

Refreshments and business meeting will follow

BOND ISSUE

The Rhode Island General Assembly authorized a \$14 million historic preservation bond issue for the November ballot. Passage would mean that the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission will be able to operate a grant program to help organizations that are "museums" or "cultural art centers" that are located in "historic structures" and that can use funds for "renovation projects".

The John Hunt House Museum meets the qualifications. The museum will be open Sunday, October 27, 1 to 4 pm, as part of a statewide, public awareness Open House.

The BOARD of DIRECTORS of the EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY URGE VOTER SUPPORT FOR THE BOND ISSUE ON NOVEMBER 5TH.



The Historical Society extends a "Thank You" to Ann & Hope Garden Outlet, 140 Taunton Ave., Seekonk, MA, for their donation of 'mums and mulch for the sign-planting on the corner of Hunts Mills Road and Pleasant Street, Rumford.

President's Letter **David Kelleher**

September turned out to be a very active month for the historical society. The September 24th members meeting at the **Squantum Club** proved to be very popular with over 90 members and friends attending. **Keith O'Malley**, Squantum Association General Manager, gave an interesting history of the association in the clamhall building and then a tour of the Club House followed by a very nice collation back in the clamhall. **Paul Lemont**, City Manager, spoke to the group about a number of current issues concerning the city's future.

The September 29th '**Summer Kitchen**' Open House to celebrate the completion of the John Hunt House restoration was well attended. Certificates of appreciation were passed out to the many volunteers who contributed their time and talent over the last 14 years in restoring the house.

The gravestone of **Lt. John Hunt**, on loan from the city, was placed in the 'Summer Kitchen'. This stone was sculptured by **George Allen** around 1730. It is considered his best work and is known internationally as a great example of early American folk art. It will remain in the John Hunt House Museum for a few months. Please drop by and see this very important part of our history.

On Sunday, October 27th, the John Hunt House Museum will be open from 1 to 4 pm as part of a **state wide celebration of historic museums** to make the public aware of the important **preservation bond issue** on the November 5th ballot. It is Question #2. Please **VOTE YES** on this question. If approved, it will provide \$3 million in preservation grants for arts and cultural organizations such as the John Hunt House Museum.

A **spring tour of historic city sites** is in the planning stage. I will be working with the East Providence Chamber of Commerce to secure a double decker bus for the tour. More details later.

Edna Anness, Museum Curator, submitted her resignation to the society's Board of Directors. It was accepted with regret and thanks for her many years of service. It was her goal to have a museum for East Providence. She has been the Museum Curator since the 1980's. With the completion of the John Hunt House restoration, her goal has been reached. Edna will remain active as overseer of the collection but cannot continue as curator with its many duties. Her term as curator will end in March.

We must now look for a replacement, which will be a difficult task. Due to the large number of gifts given to the society over the last year, the

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

*Warm Welcome to our
 New Members:
 Carol Lauren Sunderland
 Reinhard & Kathy
 Wohlgemuth*

The John Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
(off Pleasant Street),
is open Tuesdays & Thursdays,
1 to 4 pm, or by appointment,
438-1750.

<u>Upcoming Programs</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker/Location</u>	<u>Program</u>
10/28	Dr. Harry Iannotti Newman Church 7pm	History of Coca Cola
11/25	Chris Rose Newman Church 7pm	Plaque Houses
12/9	Newman Church 6pm	Christmas 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 \$15 individual, \$25 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

Kris Rose, Markers Chairman, would like to hear from anyone who knows of a house/property that might qualify for a Historic Marker.
Please see information below.

Membership Form New Renewal /Change

Name(s) _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone # _____
 Amount Enclosed:
 \$25 Family \$15 Individual \$150 Life

**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

President's Letter *(Continued from page 1)*

accessioning and cataloguing are backed up. It takes many hours to do these procedures. Hence, we need some time to catch up. PLEASE hold on to any artifacts you may wish to give to the society so that we can properly record the ones we have.

The East Providence Historic Properties Designation and Study Commission has produced a *booklet* about some of the historic properties of East Providence. It is *free* and can be obtained at city hall or any of the public libraries.

The society's programs for the 2002-2003 season continue this month with an interesting program about *Coca Cola*. I hope to see all of you there. Don't forget the **Open House** on Sunday, October 27th.

David Kelleher

From the Attic

Edna Anness, Museum Curator

Some very nice coincidences occur frequently at the Hunt House Museum. One day recently a family group visited the House: **Jessie (Dawson) Wilson**, her husband and two brothers, **Gordon & Richard Dawson**. The Dawson family had lived in the Hunt House on the second and third floors from about 1930 to the mid '40s while their father, Frank, worked at the Water Department. The two brothers were born in 1933 and 1938 on the second floor in the back northeast bedroom, which we use for storage. Our library was their dining room, the east bedroom was their parlor, the west bedroom their kitchen. The children slept upstairs. They played in the summer kitchen, putting on plays for their father. And, they put on shows on the side porch in summer for Water Dept. office workers for 5 cents admission. They described the office on the first floor as having three desks for Mrs. Kanes, Miss Kennon and Mrs. McCaffrey. James Turner, the Superintendent, used the morning room for his office. The water workers were Ray Wilkerson, Dawson and Malcolm Gould. Jessie left us a photo of her with her doll carriage taken at the fence by the dam. She shared with us what fun it was to live in such an open country setting.

Later that day, **Elizabeth daSilva** came by the museum to drop off her wicker doll carriage as a gift - a carriage identical to the carriage in Jessie's photo. On Open House day, **Dorothy Marshall** came to sit in the upstairs bedroom beside the carriage that held Dorothy's doll, which she had given earlier to the Museum. The carriage was identical to one Dorothy had had as a child.

News from the Museum: When I volunteered to get the Museum off the ground in 1989 I did not realize that 14 years later I would still be there. It has been a labor of love working with **GINNY BERWICK** and the **Museum Committee** and the **Board**. Thanks to so many donors of wonderful artifacts, the House has really become a LIVING HOUSE MUSEUM as the restoration is drawing to a close. During these last few years the work on the collection has begun to crowd over into my personal life, taking more and more time with so few volunteers to help. And so I resigned last month

as Curator effective Mar. 1, 2003, fourteen years to the date I began. I am not RETIRING and will still be active in the Conservation Field. AND - will still volunteer at the Museum but not as the Curator. Effective this October, until further notice, we will not be accepting any artifacts into the Museum until we are able

to accession the artifacts already accepted and waiting to be accessioned. There are several hundred items that are waiting thanks to the generosity of our donors.

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Arline Butterworth - Letters pertaining to Second Baptist Church

Elizabeth Miller Gibson - 5 photos of N. Broadway ice house

Marilyn Brewer - Planning Dept. booklet

GINNY BERWICK - Article on City Hall and EP High book cover

John Agren - Six photos of former Rotary at Newman and Pawtucket Ave.

Elizabeth DaCosta - 1930 style wicker doll carriage and baby scale, mixing bottle and antique pie dish lifter.

Judy Sharpe - mahogany lowboy, blanket chest, collection of china, ironstone and wall plaques, her dad's EP Golf Pins., a display bookcase, antique empire mirror, antique ladder back chair, spatterware pitcher and ironstone, her mother's silver thimble, china and flow blue decorative pieces, fruit bowl and basket, tea strainer and Gorham silver-plated flatware, coin silver and Several assorted small items

Ray & Pat Pierce - One large and three small Rumford signs

Patricia Thacker - Large collection of Rumford artifacts, glass, metal cooking utensils, ads, cans, etc.

Nancy Stevens - Iron fireplace cooking pot

Jessie Dawson Wilson - her photo as a child in Hunt's Mills

Louise Healey - feather pillow

Dr. John Erhardt - "History. Of East Providence 1862-1900 Appendix", "History of Seekonk 1852-1900"

Edna Anness - two sets of antique iron firedogs already on loan to the Museum



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



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

Sunday, October 27, 1 to 4 pm
John Hunt House Museum Open House
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
**Public Awareness in Support of Historic
 Preservation Bond Issue**

Monday, October 28, 7 pm
Members Meeting Public Invited
 Newman Church, Rumford
Program: History of Coca Cola
 Harry Iannotti, MD

Wednesday, November 6, 7 pm
Board meeting Members welcome
 John Hunt House Museum
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford.

Monday, November 25, 7 pm
Members Meeting Public Invited
 Newman Church, Rumford
Program: East Providence Plaque Houses
 Kris Rose, Markers Chairman
 East Providence Historical Society

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The Society has an "Address 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.