

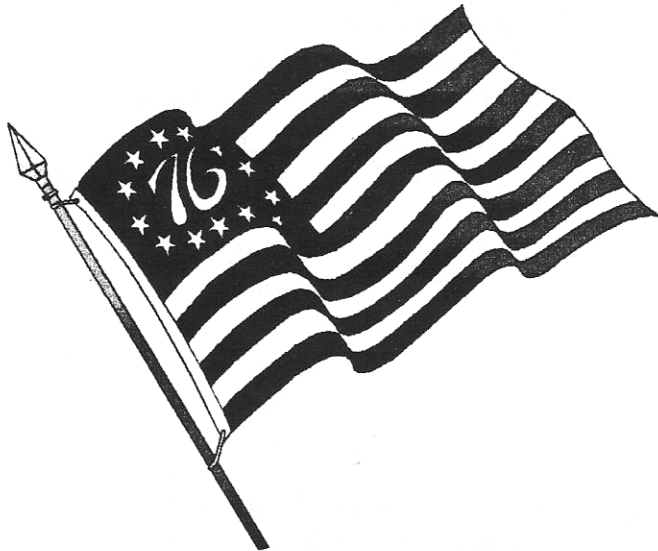


John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XV No. 5

February 2003



FEBRUARY MEMBERS MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 6 PM
NEWMAN CHURCH, RUMFORD

Society member, **Les Haworth**, will make a presentation on flag facts: the flags of the United States and the important role they have played in the nation's history. Les is the proprietor of **Atlantic Flag & Banner**, North Broadway, which was voted "best flag company in Rhode Island" by *Rhode Island Monthly* magazine. A business meeting will follow.

The program will be preceded by a pot luck supper at 6 pm. The telephone committee will call the members for main dishes and salads. Ice cream with a variety of toppings is the board members choice for dessert.



President's Letter

David Kelleher

Dear Members,

The interior first floor of the John Hunt House has been repainted and really looks great. The walls, floors, and ceilings have been done in the sitting, the keeping and the borneing rooms. The exterior of the house will be done in the spring.

I will be meeting with Ron Johnson of **Precise Painting** at the John Hunt House on Saturday, February 15th at 1:00 pm, to look at the damaged desk from the Philip Walker estate. At the same time, Rick from **Griggs and Browne** will join us to discuss what needs to be done to prevent the bees from returning.

Ed Serowik gave a wonderful slide presentation of the history of Crescent Park at the January pot luck supper meeting. It brought back a lot of fond memories to many of the members present. I thought that the variety and excellence of the dishes prepared for the supper were the best I have seen since I became a member of the society. The cake prepared by the **cake lady of Rumford** was so well done (a design of the John Hunt House) that we really didn't want to cut into it.

A number of exciting events are now being planned beginning with the **Antique Appraisal Day** on February 22nd. Hopefully you have some things that you would like to have appraised.

(Continued on Page 5)

The Gazette

is published monthly by the

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY

P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774

Tel: (401) 438-1750

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APPRAISAL DAY UPDATE

Great thanks to all who have volunteered to work on February 22nd. We are fully staffed and covered for both shifts. Wonderful! Our fliers seem to be of great interest and have been well displayed. This is going to be an enjoyable day for everyone. Note: If you volunteered and did not receive a confirmation letter from me, please call.

Nancy Moore : 438-4299

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

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

Membership Form

New Renewal /Change

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Amount Enclosed:

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

The John Hunt House Museum, Hunts Mills Road, Rumford, (off Pleasant Street) will reopen on Tuesday, March 4, 1 to 4 pm.

From the Attic

Edna Anness, Museum Curator

Here we are with the final "From the Attic" written by me as curator. We started in the spring of 1994 with monthly stories about the Rumford Chemical Company as the Rumford Exhibition was going on. Finally, George Adams, then setting up the newsletter, conceived the idea of having a monthly column about interesting gifts to the museum, or historic vignettes. The first article so entitled appeared in December, 1994.

It has been fun and a constant learning exercise. Some readers tell me they have saved them as a research resource. I'm sure some copies cushioned the bottom of bird cages. At any rate, I hope I have enlightened you to some aspects of our early history.

And now it's back to the *attic to finish accessioning before Mar 1st when I step down as curator. I will still be available for inquiries on local history, or questions on where to find resources for researchers, or historic information in general. And I will continue to give tours along with the new docent volunteers. Incidentally, they will be having classes on Thursday, February 20th and Friday, February 28th at the John Hunt House at 10 am. Visitors are also welcome to sit in. I am disappointed that no gentlemen volunteered. Don Brothers has been one of our best docents.

And speaking of the *attic, do you know that we have received 981 individual gifts over the past fourteen years, some numbering over one hundred individual pieces. Do visit the museum, reopening on Tuesday, March 4th, and see what a wonderful display all these gifts have made AND many thanks to all the donors. Without your generosity East Providence's "attic" would be empty.

*The Smithsonian Museum calls itself "Our Country's Attic". Hence we are East Providence's Attic. Tsk, tsk!

*Warm Welcome to our
New Members:*

Skip and Debra Fisher

DOCENT CLASSES

Classes will be held on Thursday,
February 20th and Friday, February
28th, 10 am, at the John Hunt House.
Visitors are also welcome to sit in.

Does anyone have postcards or memorabilia about Roger Williams? Laura Samit of the Roger Williams Memorial is looking for articles for an exhibit. She is specifically interested in postcards and contacting any post card collecting group. Her number is:
(401) 532-7266



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

Antique Appraisal Day

SPONSORED BY THE

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2003

10 AM TO 4 PM

NEWMAN CHURCH

CORNER OF NEWMAN & PAWTUCKET AVENUES, RUMFORD, RHODE ISLAND

BRING YOUR ANTIQUE TOYS, DOLLS, GLASS, CHINA, CERAMICS, PORCELAIN, ART WORK, PAINTINGS, SMALL FURNITURE, EARLY COUNTRY ITEMS, AND GENERAL ITEMS. *(SORRY, no coins, stamps or fire arms.)*

Appraisers:

Seven well-respected antique dealers. Members of the **Southeastern New England Antique Dealers Association.**
Verbal appraisals only.

Prices:

FIRST ITEM-\$7; ADDITIONAL ITEMS-\$5 EACH
(LIMIT - 4 ITEMS PER PERSON)

FREE REFRESHMENTS WHILE YOU WAIT.

For more information please contact:

Nancy Moore (401) 438-4299
Or the society (401) 438-1750

Proceeds to benefit the
EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*P.O. Box 4774
Hunts Mills Road
East Providence, RI 02916-4774
Phone: (401) 438-1750*

President's Letter

(continued from Page 1)

A **tour of the historic sites** in the city is planned for Saturday, May 3rd at 10:00 am. More details will be forth coming as the day approaches.

Reinhard Wohlgemuth has developed a *web site* for the society. He is about to put it on a purchased site. In the mean time, if you would like to check out his work it can be found at <http://home.att.net/~reinhard-kathy>. I will inform you of the new site in the next *Gazette*.

I will attend the meeting of the **East Providence Planning Board** on Monday, February 10th, to express our disappointment regarding the demolition of the **Idle Farm House** on North Broadway. I talked to one of the new owners about viewing the house for anything we might want to salvage. He said that the owners are not out of the property yet, and he will contact me when we can go in. He said we could have the whole house if we wanted it. Too bad we do not have the resources to do it. I will also express to the planning board that it is time that we begin the process of establishing some historic districts in the city.

Hopefully you will plan to view the **Rhode Island Treasures Exhibit**, which will be opening at the Rhode Island Convention Center on May 10th. There will be a number of artifacts and pictures of East Providence in the exhibit. As the time approaches, we will try to organize groups who wish to attend at a reduced price. More details will be forth coming in a future *Gazette*.

The next members' meeting will be on February 24th. **Les Haworth**, society member and owner of **Atlantic Flag & Banner**, will be presenting a program about *historic American flags*. Atlantic Flag & Banner was voted "**best flag company in R.I.**" in the *Rhode Island Monthly* magazine. Hope that you will be able to attend.

Dave Kelleher

PROGRAMS FOR 2003

7:30, Monday, April 28
American Legion, Riverside.
Alhambra Cabaret/Dancing

7 pm, Monday, May 19,
Newman Church.
Evolution of Men's Trouser's
Susan Hay, RISD Museum

Monday, June 23
Hunts Mills.
Annual Picnic

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.

CURATOR NEEDED

We need a volunteer to serve as curator as **Edna Anness** did. (Edna's resignation takes effect March 2003) Basically, the job entails accepting gifts to the museum, having the museum committee pass on them about three times a year and accessioning them: recording their acceptance, describing them, placing them on display or in storage and filing their new cards into the system already established. Another responsibility would be seeing that they are being taken care of properly.

The curator could do the work on his/her own schedule. A gentleman or lady.....someone with an interest in things old and in the history of East Providence.

Edna will train the person who comes forward. Contact the society, 438-1750, and leave a message for Dave Kelleher, Virginia Berwick or Edna Anness.



John Hunt House

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 22, 10 to 4 pm
Newman Church, Rumford
Antique Appraisal Day

Monday, February 24, 6 pm
Members Meeting Public Invited
Newman Church, Rumford
**Pot-Luck Supper/ Flag-Banner
Presentation**



MARCH

Wednesday, March 5, 7 pm
Board meeting Members welcome
John Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford.

Monday, March 24, 7 pm
Members Meeting Public Invited
Newman Church, Rumford
**Life of Billy Yank, East Providence, in the
Civil War**