



# Gazette

Vol. XV No. 6

March 2003

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## THE LIFE OF BILLY YANK OF EAST PROVIDENCE IN THE CIVIL WAR

### MARCH MEMBERS MEETING

Monday, March 24, 7 PM  
Newman Church, Rumford

**Robert Hall**, formerly of East Providence, will present a program entitled "The Life of Billy Yank of East Providence in the Civil War."

What was it like to serve in the Civil War for the average northern soldier? Come hear this uniformed expert and invite others who have interest in the War Between the States.

Refreshments and business meeting will follow, as well as 'Split the Pot'.

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### President's Letter

David Kelleher

Dear Members,

February was a busy month for the society and I have a lot to report to you.

The February 24<sup>th</sup> members meeting was of great interest. **Les Haworth**, society member and proprietor of **Atlantic Flag and Banner**, brought a number of historic flags to the second of our winter pot luck suppers. He explained the historic background of each flag and how they were used over the years. Each table was adorned with a centerpiece of flags from different countries. He presented a flag to **Edna Anness** on her resignation as curator of the John Hunt House Museum. During the meeting, plaques of appreciation were presented to **Edna Anness** and **Earl Berwick** on the occasion of their resignations after many years of service: Edna as Museum Curator and Earl as chairman of the Building Committee. The **Sitting Room** in the John Hunt House has been **named in Edna's honor**, and the **Summer Kitchen** named in **Earl's honor**.

**Nancy Moore** and her crew of volunteers did an excellent job at the first **Antique Appraisal Day**. It was a great social success for all who participated. The society received a profit of just under \$500 from the event.

There has been some movement regarding the **Ide Farm House** on North Broadway. The owner of the property has offered \$5000 towards the moving of the house. Discussions are now going forward with the city looking into the possibility of using the house for affordable housing. There are two possible sites for the house: moving the house to one of the back lots on the site (meaning the city would have to buy the lot from the present owner) and moving the house to the site of the Philip Walker House. (Preserve RI will get back to us if they are in favor of the move).

There was a meeting about the **fish ladder** at Hunt's Mills Dam. The discussion centered around designing the fish ladder to include a pool for storing fish so that they could be transferred to other sites. They suggesting installing some kind of hydraulic system to do the job. Thankfully, **Ed Serowick** and **Ray Anderson**, society members, were there to object. **Jean Boyle**, East Providence Planning Department, was also against it. The design will include a holding pool and the fish will be removed by nets.

Good news about the **Pomham Lighthouse**. There is a new manager at the Riverside Mobil Exxon site. He is a member of the Coast Guard and is in favor of saving lighthouses. We will meet with him on April 10<sup>th</sup> to begin discussions on what can be done to restore the lighthouse.

Edna Anness is continuing to organize the society's participation in the Rhode Island Treasures Exhibition to be held at the Rhode Island Convention Center May 10<sup>th</sup> through June 15th. Details in the April newsletter.

Hope to see you at the March 24<sup>th</sup> members meeting.

Dave Kelleher

**The Gazette**

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**EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY**  
 P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774  
 Tel: (401) 438-1750

**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>
Jo Marchi	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Gladys Panzarella	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
Peter Allen	<i>Treasurer</i>

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Ray Anderson	<i>Buildings</i>
Kris Rose	<i>Grounds</i>
Mona Breault	<i>Markers</i>
Virginia Berwick	<i>Membership</i>
	<i>Museum</i>
	<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>



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 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) is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 to 4 pm.

## PRAISES FOR APPRAISAL DAY VOLUNTEERS

The Society held its first **Appraisal Day** on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and came away feeling richer for the experience, both monetarily and in volunteer camaraderie. Over thirty members manned the event or helped behind the scenes during the day and all of them said they would be glad to do it again. Despite the torrential downpours, people brought in their treasures and we were all treated to an amazing array of antiques from a **rolling Steiff bear** and **vintage model fire truck**, to an exquisite **porcelain vase** and **mochaware pitcher** that was best of show. **Lois and Everett Chapman** took the prize for largest item and Everett was gracious enough to talk about his painting to anyone interested. The Society cleared just shy of \$500 and gained several new members.

Members who helped in some way were: **Florence Adams, Sophie Allen, Edna Anness, Billie Arden, Ciel Becket, Ginny Berwick, Nancy Bowden, Marie Brand, Mona Breault, Arlene Butterworth, Austin Butterworth, Lois Chapman, Everett Chapman, Marion Craven, Elizabeth Chenet, Nancy Doucette, Don Doucette, Eleanor Ferrara, Fran Gross, Pat Henry, Dave Kelleher, Dorothy Maciel, Frances Miller, Dan Moore, Jon Moore, Nancy Moore, Ruth Peirce, Kris Rose, Aline Stringfellow, Tom Stringfellow, Eunice Tuckerman.**

The group of appraisers for the event were knowledgeable, congenial, and professional, and our collaboration with the Southeast Massachusetts Antique Dealers Association worked well. It was good to have two of our own members in the appraisal group as well: **Bob Penta** of *Bugleboy Antiques* and **George Chalko**. **Nancy and Richard Fredericks** of *Ruth Falkinburg's Dolls* in Seekonk, and **Nancy and Carl Johnson** of *The Schoolmaster's Wife* in Warwick completed the group. All the appraisers thought the day was a success and liked the pace, as it allowed them to spend as much time as needed with an appraisal.

The Society would like to thank the following businesses that donated food for the day. Their

generosity insured that all profits could go toward programs:

**Handy Bake Shop, Crugnale's, Dunkin Donuts** on North Broadway, **Monroe Dairy**, and **Morningstar Bakery**. If you patronize these businesses, please let them know how much their help was appreciated.

So, with one successful event under our belt, the opinion is that another should be planned. We'll be calling for volunteers again soon! On a personal note, at one time during the day, just after noon, I counted 7 women named **Nancy** within the appraisal area. Thank so much for your support!

Nancy Moore



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.

### 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.



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH

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

### APRIL

Wednesday, April 2, 7 pm  
**Board meeting Members welcome**  
 John Hunt House Museum  
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford.

Monday, April 28, 7:30 pm  
**Alhambra Cabaret/Dancing**  
**Strictly Sentimental Swing Band**  
 Post 10, American Legion  
 Willett Avenue, Riverside

### MAY

Saturday, May 3  
**East Providence Historical Sites Bus Tour**  
 sponsored by East Providence Chamber of  
 Commerce and East Providence Historical Society  
 Fee: \$10 per person.  
**Reservations, EP Chamber of Commerce, 438-1212.**  
**Deadline: April 18**