



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XVI No. 1

September 2003



MAKING 'WAVES': WOMEN IN WORLD WAR TWO

September Members Meeting
Monday, September 22, 7:00 pm
Newman Church, Rumford

The East Providence Historical Society and **The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities** will present the program **"MAKING WAVES: Women In World War II"**. The speaker is **Evelyn M. Cherpak**, Curator of the Naval Historical Collection: the archives/manuscripts division of the Naval War College Library.

Do you know any women who served in WW II? We would enjoy having them as our guests. Encourage friends to join us as we begin a new program year. Refreshments and business meeting will follow.

Question: What does WAVES stand for?
(Answer on page 2)



LURA SELLEW MAYFLOWER MEDAL

Robert F. Huber of the **Pilgrim John Howland Society** has announced he is funding an award program with \$100,000 to be entitled the **LURA SELLEW MAYFLOWER MEDAL** which carries with it a \$1,000 cash award and certificate. The objective of the award is to honor the memory of **Lura Sellew** and also to honor someone who has made an outstanding contribution to Pilgrim Heritage. Lura was **Secretary of the Howland Society** for eleven years, **Governor General** and later **Deputy Governor General** of the **RI Mayflower Society** and **President of the Warren Cousins**. (Continued on page 3)

President's Letter and Board Briefs

Kris Rose, President

Here we are at the beginning of a new season and the weather has already begun to change...and a welcome change it is! We are also beginning a new year in the Historical Society that I hope will be an interesting and profitable one.

Ray Anderson has many great programs for the year; **Peter Allen** says our treasury is in good shape; and the other chairpersons are continuing *their* work. As always, we are looking to our members for input and especially help in making the society run even more smoothly. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated!

Along those lines, **Pat Henry** needs help in providing *munchies* for the monthly meetings. For many years now Pat has provided baked goods and decorations for all of us. Although some of our members have been helpful in this regard, she needs a commitment from many more or we will not be having refreshments at the meetings any more. I am hoping that many of you will step forward to help so that this most enjoyable part of our socializing can continue. There will be a sign up sheet at the September meeting for those who are willing to help.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GROUNDS: Take a walk around the back of the John Hunt House Museum and view the beautiful **rock wall** being constructed by city workers! It is not complete yet, but you can see how it will contribute to the garden that will eventually be planted.

(Continued on page 3)

The Gazette

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EAST ● PROVIDENCE ● HISTORICAL ● SOCIETY
 P. O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774
 Tel: (401) 438-1750 Web Site: ephist.org

OFFICERS

Kris Rose	<i>President</i>
Nancy Moore	<i>1st Vice President</i>
Edna Anness	<i>2nd Vice President</i>
Jeanne Davis	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Arline Butterworth	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
Peter Allen	<i>Treasurer</i>
David Kelleher	<i>Immediate Past President</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>
	<i>Preservation</i>
Ray Anderson	<i>Program</i>
Florence Adams	<i>Publicity</i>
Reinhard Wohlgenuth	<i>Webmaster</i>



It was decided by the Board to open the John Hunt House Museum **one Sunday a month**. Families with children and those who work would be able to visit. It was decided to open the second Sunday of each month except for October 12 which is a holiday. Sundays open are: October 19, November 9 and December 14 from 1-4 pm. **Virginia Berwick** and **Edna Anness** will be at the museum on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 working on the collection but not for tours, so **call before you come to make sure they are there**. If you wish a special tour call for an appointment.

Gifts to the Museum

Gifts to the Museum received since March 1st:

- Nancy Bowden**- Antique ladderback chair
 - Ralph Bradley**- First Baptist Church historic pamphlet
 - Helen Brush**- a Fiske milk box
 - George Chalko Jr.**- photo of EP Army Unit in front of the old city hall
 - Sophie Connors**- three teacups and saucers (Red Rose Tea)
 - Norma Dawson**- Daggett geneology and picture of the Daggett House once located on North Broadway
 - Dorothy Duane**- Maps of Riverside
 - Betty Gibson**- EP Post.1962
 - Mary Hughes**- Two photos, antique underskirt, doilies and collars
 - George Page**- early milk can and milk bottle rack St. Michael and Grace Church-antique RUMFORD cookbook
 - Clint Sellw** - Copy of "Graven Images, New England Stonecarving and its Symbols, 1650-1875" by Allen Ludwig
 - Robert Sharp**- Map of Daisyfield (Center St.) in 1896
 - Robert Tewksbury**- List of those from EP High School who were in the Armed Forces during World War II
- If you have made a gift and it is not on this list, please call **Edna** or **Virginia** and it will appear next month.

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**

Membership Form New Renewal /Change

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Amount Enclosed:

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

**WAVES: Women Accepted for Volunteer
Emergency Service**

LURA SELLEW MAYFLOWER MEDAL (Continued from page 1)

Lura received her Master of Arts degree from Brown University and began a long teaching career. She was named **Educator of the Year** in East Providence in 1979. Lura shared her artistic talents freely and in 1990 was honored by the **General Society of Mayflower Descendants** for her accomplishments. She was a charter member of the **East Providence Historical Society**, *Secretary* for twenty-four years and a *Vice President* after that. She served on the **East Providence Historic Properties Study Commission**. She was installed in the **Alumni of East Providence High School Hall of Fame**.

The East Providence Historical Society also honored Lura by naming the Herb Garden west of the John Hunt House Museum, **LURA'S GARDEN**, and in 2002 presented to her husband, Clint, a **Certificate of Appreciation** for her support in renovating the John Hunt House.

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORIC PRESERVATION STUDY COMMISSION

Dave Kelleher, Chairman

THE IDE HOUSE: Unfortunately, the 1812 Ide House, North Broadway, has been lost. It was demolished. The city did not have enough time to come up with support and financing for the project.

THE PHILIP WALKER HOUSE: There will be a meeting on September 17 to continue discussions on the future of the Walker House, also on North Broadway. I hope to attend that meeting. Arrangements have been made with the senior high school to develop gardens in front of the house.

PRESERVE RI is now connected to **Heritage Conservation Network**. They are planning a workshop on how to repair horsehair plaster and beehive ovens. Through this network, the workshops are being advertised across the country and overseas.

RIVERSIDE SQUARE: The project to improve Riverside Square is nearing completion. Most of the work has been road improvements and tree and flower plantings. The biggest part of the project is the moving of a veterans' monument from in front of the Activities and Recreation Building (former Riverside Junior High

School) Bullocks Point Avenue, to the corner of Turner and Bullock's Point Avenues.

ROSE LARISA MEMORIAL PARK & THE CAROUSEL: The park is coming along fairly well. Most of the paths are in. The sprinkler system is in. Parking lot done. The staircase to the beach has been started. Funds have been found to build the concession stand but it has not been started yet.

A contract has been signed to begin the foundation under the carousel but nothing has been done yet. It looks as if we could have operated the carousel for the season if we had known of the delay in starting the project.

President's Letter (Continued from page 1)

MARKERS: We have had a few requests for **historical markers** and one will be given out at the September meeting. I am planning to send a note to all homeowners who have requested information in the past, whom I have not heard from, in hopes of getting more applications returned.

MUSEUM: After a discussion with **Ginny Berwick** and **Edna Anness**, Museum Committee members, it was decided to open the museum to the public on the second Sunday of the month, 1 -4 pm, instead of Tuesdays and Thursdays (details listed on page 2). Interested parties can call the society, 438-1750, to arrange a special tour with Ginny Berwick. If anyone is interested in becoming a docent at the museum, please see Ginny at the September meeting.

PROGRAM: **Ray Anderson** has many different and interesting programs planned for the year. Each program will be announced in the newsletter. We would love to have members' reactions to these programs posted on the web-site! If you feel like being a "junior reporter", write something up and send it to our web master: reinhard-kathy@worldnet.att.net.

PUBLICITY: **Florence Adams** continues to send notices to the local newspapers on upcoming events. If you miss the newsletter, check the *East Providence Post*, *Providence Journal* or the society's web-site: ephist.org.

MEMBERSHIP: **Mona Breault** reports that we now have **218 memberships**; 147 individual and 71 families.

I hope to see you all at the September meeting, and please **consider volunteering** this year. **Every little bit helps!!**

Kris Rose

MUSEUM VISITORS

Fifteen members of the **Stephen Paine** family, originally from Rehoboth, visited the John Hunt House Museum in August including **Jeffrey and Cheryl Carpenter Faria** who joined the society. Also, **David Abell**, Chicago, IL, descendant of Preserved Abell and Robert Abell & Sons who built houses on the 'Ring of the Green', visited with his wife, Ellen. They joined the historical society and made a \$100 donation. We thank them.

Over the summer, when the John Hunt House Museum was closed, the society received eleven telephone calls and eight e-mails, all of which received a response.



RI TREASURES EXHIBIT VOLUNTEERS

On Sunday, May 18, the following members volunteered at the East Providence Historical Society booth at the RI Treasures Exhibit: **Ray Anderson, Virginia Berwick, Marie Brand, Arlene and Austin Butterworth, Virginia Gonsalves, David Kelleher, Nancy Moore, Brad and Thelma Stone and Charlene Underhill**. Volunteers had a tour of the exhibit before it was open to the public.

Edna and Lowell Anness, who had been away, volunteered on another day.

The East Providence Historical Society had the largest number of volunteers at any one time!

Our thanks to all.



EASTSIDE MARKETPLACE OLD TIME ALMANACK

Toby Rossner, feature writer for the **Eastside Marketplace Old Time Almanack**, is doing a story on the East Providence Historical Society/John Hunt House Museum to be carried in the market's special advertising section some Sunday in September. The market is located at 165 Pitman Street, Providence.

Belated Thank You

Last month we thanked a lot of folks
 But a picnic chef was shunned. (*not deliberately*)
 Each year he labors 'ore the coals
 His name? **BOB SODERLUND**. (*most emphatically*)



Continued Volunteers "Thank You"

Building Committee: (Chairman needed) Les Haworth, Dave Kelleher, Nancy Moore, Bob Soderlund, Bob Tewksbury

Grounds Committee: Ray Anderson, Chairman, Billie Arden, Marie Brand, Nancy Moore

Museum Committee: Virginia Berwick, Chairman, Edna Anness, Kris Rose, Rose Marie Sirenski, Nancy Stevens, Bob Tewksbury

Newsletter Mailing: Florence Adams, Billie Arden, Mona Breault, Frances Gross, Jo Marchi, Helen Smith

Telephone Committee: Florence Adams, Marie Brand, Sophie Fredrick, Louise Healy, Gloria Peterson

Webmaster: Reinhard Wohlgemuth



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

Luella Holmes (Clifton) Mountain
425 Westminster Ave. #166
Hanover, PA 17331

August 27, 2003

Dear Virginia Berwick,

At age ninety-two, I have decided it is time to clear out my lifetime files and jettison a lot of the "stuff." This morning, when I opened the "East Providence" folder, I found your letter of May 1999 but no copy of any reply to it. With the better-late-than-never teaching of my youth guiding me, let me answer it. The "East Providence" book was certainly interesting but I began to feel my age when I realized that I could remember the things that were no longer there! Six Corners particularly intrigued me because in my earliest memories this was a sort of a circle in the middle of which was a horse trough! I also had very, very vague memories of riding on the carousel at Hunts Mills - being lifted onto the "horsie" by some adult who was being careful not to muss, unduly, the white embroidered dress of the little girl in his or her charge.

We lived on Walnut Street for about twenty five years when it was shaded by lovely old elm trees - in which orioles annually nested down near the Waterman Avenue end. This was in the days when families stayed put and the "Walnut Street Gang" -our group of girls - played together before being old enough to go to school and over the years escorted each other to James Street, Grove Avenue and A.P. Hoyt schools as well as graduating from East Providence High School. Incidentally, an issue of the East Providence newspaper for 1928 will show you some of us on the front page the week of our graduation. My first real job, aside from baby sitting, was as a supervisor at the Kent Heights School playground one summer (1928 ?).

I was born of New England stock in a small town in Massachusetts but within weeks my parents moved to that double house on Pawtucket Avenue opposite the cemetery of the White Church (as we called it). It was to that cemetery, as embryo Girls Scouts (there were no Brownies in those days) we marched from Six corners to Rumford on Memorial Days in the annual parade, during which a Mr. Reed from Walnut Street rode in the lead car, as I recall. I remember him as being the last Civil War soldier in town but my brother, seven years my junior, declares it was from another war. At any rate, we both agree he was OLD.

As a history buff, you will be interested to know that on Mother's side I am a descendant of the Sabins and often thought how interesting that life brought that family into full circle centuries later when my folks returned almost to the site of that man's days in the time of its settlement. The circle continued, too. I re-met Earle Mountain, whom I had dated as a teen-ager and again in our twenties. We both found other mates with whom we shared fifty years or more before re-meeting and marrying in 1992. We had a year and a half together before his death during which we relived the East Providence of our youth - sharing happy and amusing memories and renewing some old acquaintances - although, all too few were left, even then.

(to be continued in the October Gazette)



East • Providence • Historical • Society
P.O. Box 4774
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 22, 7:00 pm
Members Meeting Public Invited
Newman Church, Rumford
Program:
Making 'Waves': Women in World War Two

OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 1, 7:00 pm
Board Meeting Members Welcome
John Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Sunday, October 19, 1-4 pm
John Hunt House Museum
Open to the Public

Monday, October 27, 7 pm
Members Meeting Public Invited
Newman Church, Rumford
Program: *to be announced*

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.