



Gazette

Vol. XVI No. 10

July/August 2004

President's Letter

Kris Rose, President

Dear Members,

Summer is in full swing. I hope you are enjoying the great weather we have had. Once again, the weather cooperated for the **Annual Meeting/ Picnic** and a good time was had by all. For the first time, **a few city employees attended**. We hope that more will attend in the future!

I would like to thank all those who helped me get it all together for the picnic: **Dave Kelleher, Dan Moore, Jim Rose and Bob Tewksbury** who did the cooking; **Florence Adams** who ran the shortcake table; **Ray Anderson** for getting the grill; **Billie Arden** who ran the 50/50 raffle; **Peter Allen** who collected the reservation money; **Mona Breault** who accepted society memberships.

On June 25, **Dave Kelleher** and I attended a ceremony at the Slater Mill in Pawtucket where the **City of East Providence** was one of 24 communities cited by the United States Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as a **Preserve America Community**. A representative of Laura Bush, **Lynn Scarlett**, Assistant Secretary of Policy and Budget for the U.S. Department of the Interior, presented the awards. The 24 communities cited are all part of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.

I feel that the city and we owe a big thank you to **Edna Anness**, historical society Vice

President. It was through her effort that the Heritage Corridor has recognized the Hunts Mills area as notable. **THANK YOU, EDNA!!!**

If you have been to Hunts Mills recently, you have seen the shell of the **gazebo/tea house** replica. **Tom Galligan**, construction teacher at East Providence High School, hopes to get some students together this summer to complete the project. If that isn't possible, they will finish it in the fall.

Progress is being made on the **Weaver House**, Grove Avenue. Contracts for the heating and windows have been made and the exterior work should be finished by the fall.

The city has received a \$30,000 grant to begin work on the **Williams-Brown Cottage**, Hunts Mills Road. The long-term plans are to renovate the house and make it available for affordable housing.

Ray Anderson, Program Chairman, is busy planning some great programs for the coming year. If you have any ideas, please call Ray, 438-2462.

I would like to thank all the Board Members for their hard work this past year. All that they do makes my job as president so much easier. It truly is a joint effort that makes the society run so well.

Have a great summer. We will see you in the fall.

Kris Rose

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>
Kris Rose	<i>Immediate Past President</i>

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bob Tewksbury	<i>Buildings</i>
Ray Anderson	<i>Grounds</i>
Kris Rose	<i>Markers</i>
Mona Breault	<i>Membership</i>
Virginia Berwick	<i>Museum</i>
	<i>Museum Curator</i>
Doreen Bonney/Florence Adams	<i>Newsletter</i>
David Kelleher	<i>Preservation</i>
Ray Anderson	<i>Program</i>
Florence Adams	<i>Publicity</i>
Reinhard Wohlgemuth	<i>Webmaster</i>

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**

JOHN HUNT HOUSE MUSEUM

THE JOHN HUNT HOUSE MUSEUM,
 HUNTS MILLS ROAD, RUMFORD
 WILL BE OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 1 TO 4 PM
 ADMISSION \$3; \$1 EAST PROVIDENCE
 RESIDENTS; FREE SOCIETY MEMBERS.

RECOGNITION DEPARTMENT

Atlantic Flag and Banner was omitted from the corporate members list last month. The company was the first in East Providence to become a corporate member of the society followed by eleven others. We shall continue to reach out to the business community.

The chairmen of society committees are listed in the masthead of the monthly *Gazette* but committee members are not generally known. Our appreciation to the following:

BUILDING - Earl Berwick, Les Haworth, David Kelleher, Nancy Moore, Bob Soderlund.

GROUNDS - Billie Arden, Nancy Moore.

MUSEUM - Edna Anness, Kris Rose, Rose Marie Sirenski, Nancy Stevens, Bob Tewksbury.

NEWSLETTER (mailing) - Florence Adams, Billie Arden, Mona Breault, Fran Gross, Jo Marchi, Helen Smith.

TELEPHONE - Florence Adams, Marie Brand, Sophie Fredrick, Louise Healy, Gloria Peterson, Sonia Zell and starting in September, Peggy Carter.

MEMBERSHIP (hospitality) Pat Henry, Mona Breault.

Virginia Berwick, Mona Breault and Arline Butterworth served as docents at the John Hunt House Museum on Sunday, July 11.

Membership Form New Renewal /Change

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Amount Enclosed:

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

*Warm Welcome
 To Our New Members:
 Doris Therrian
 Joyce Traficante*

Preservation Report

David Kelleher, Chairman

I am in the process of applying for a grant from the state preservation office to help the society bring **heating and air conditioning** to the second floor of the John Hunt House Museum.

I'm working with the city council to grant the society a lease for the '**Meter House**': the small white building next to the museum which was originally the office for the Hunts Mills Amusement Park and then used by the East Providence Water Department. I'm also applying for money from the same grant to begin painting the exterior of the 'Meter House' and replacing the roof.

The **East Providence Historic Properties Study and Designation Commission** presented the annual preservation awards to the owners of three historic properties at the July city council meeting. As Chairman of the commission, I presented the awards to:

John and Olga Paiva, 115-117 Roger Williams Avenue. The house is one of the duplex mill houses built by the *Washburn Wire Company* at the turn of the century.

Anne Greene and William Skorvanek, 21 Sunnyside Avenue. The house is an octagon-sided house that was originally the *band stand* for the *Boyden Heights Amusement Park*, one of three amusement parks built in Riverside in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Mark Young, 19 Haworth Avenue, located in the center of the city off Pawtucket Avenue. There is some evidence that this beautiful house was once a *library* for the area.

The residents received a framed certificate from the city and a framed picture of the property.

Dave Kelleher

A Bulova Watch

By John Agren

At high school graduation in June of 1943, my parents gave me a 17 jewel Bulova watch. A watch was a common high school graduation present but there were many other gifts which were equally appropriate and loved just as much. Like most men's wrist watches, mine was rectangular in shape but it came with a special expandable gold wrist band. The girls at graduation received similar presents although

their watches tended to be round in shape and smaller than the ones the boys received.

These watches probably cost between thirty five and fifty dollars, a pretty good sum at the time, probably equivalent to two hundred or two hundred and fifty of today's dollars.

Of course there were other kinds of watches and gifts but Bulova was the most popular watch. These watches kept pretty good time, usually within four or five minutes of the exact time. Many were set at seven o'clock every evening when the Seekonk Fire Station, Newman Avenue, blew its seven o'clock whistle. One problem was that the watches had to be wound every day and quite often they were wound too tight. This required a trip to the Providence Watch Hospital, Weybosset Street, with the concomitant charge for the service.

Now it is possible to buy a far superior watch at Wal Mart for five dollars or less. These watches do not need to be wound and keep perfect time. Once the time is set, you can forget about them for years. They are dust free and often can be taken into the swimming pool without causing damage.

Program Committee

Ray Anderson, Chairman

The following programs for society monthly meetings are confirmed through December:

SEPTEMBER - David Wagner, artist, presents over 25 large paintings depicting Washington and Rochambeau's march to Washington, DC from Newport. A very special history presentation.

OCTOBER - Paul Parker, reporter, presents 175 years of Providence Journal history.

NOVEMBER - Dr. Jane Lancaster shares Reading Rhode Island: Girls Lives in 1799. Diaries as historical records.

DECEMBER - East Providence Historical Society catered Holiday Party.

The Gazette welcomes "Members Memories" and articles of historical interest.

**Mail to the society: P.O. Box 4774,
East Providence, RI 02916.**



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

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Providence, RI
Permit #2712

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

Sunday, August, 8, 1 - 4 pm
John Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
Admission \$3; \$1 EP Residents;
Free, society Members



SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, September 8, 7 pm
Board Meeting *Members Welcome*
John Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Monday, September, 27, 7 pm
Members Meeting *Public Invited*
Newman Church, Rumford
Program: David Wagner, Artist

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.