



John Hunt House

# Gazette

Vol. XVI No. 6

March 2004

## EARLY NEW ENGLAND CLOCKMAKERS



**March Members Meeting**  
**Monday, March 22, 7 pm**  
**Newman Church, Rumford**

This 45 minute slide lecture looks at **antique clocks** of New England and a variety of the tradesmen who manufactured them. With a special close-up look at three generations of the **Willard clockmaker family** working in the Boston area, we may understand how this important trade developed in America.

**Cynthia Dias-Reid** is a native of East Providence. She began her museum career working at Slater Mill Historic Site after graduating from Rhode Island College. She was employed at Old Sturbridge Village for twenty years working in the education, interpretation and curatorial departments as well as illustrating some of the museum's publications. She is currently employed at Putnam Elms in Brooklyn, Connecticut.

Refreshments and business meeting will follow.



## Preservation Committee

David Kelleher, Chairman

There have been a couple of articles in the paper lately about the **loss of historic properties**; one from Cumberland and one from Barrington. There is concern throughout Rhode Island that we are losing connections to the past and this is true in East Providence. There are **no ordinances to protect our historic properties**, hence, it is possible for someone to buy a historic structure, demolish it and build a newer building.

The members of the **East Providence Historic Properties Commission** are about to begin the process of looking into the possibility of writing an ordinance or two to insure that historic properties are protected. This will be a process that must be done carefully and include all interested parties. The rights of the owners of private property, the business community, city officials and the general public all need to be considered.

The loss of the **Ide Farm house** on North Broadway and the possibility of losing another 18th century house at **325 North Broadway** is making this effort to protect historic properties an important task that needs to be done now.

With the help of the city **Planning Department** and members of the board of **Preserve Rhode Island**, the properties commission will begin this process at its March 25th meeting. A few members of the properties

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*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**

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<b>Ray Anderson</b>	<i>Grounds</i>
<b>Kris Rose</b>	<i>Markers</i>
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<b>Ray Anderson</b>	<i>Program</i>
<b>Florence Adams</b>	<i>Publicity</i>
<b>Reinhard Wohlgemuth</b>	<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**

**Membership Form**     New     Renewal /Change

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed:**  
**\$25 Family**        **\$15 Individual**        **\$150 Life**   

*Gifts to the Museum*

**Virginia Berwick:** two post cards  
**Newman Congregational Church:** C.1840 mahogany and upholstered American Empire couch. Formerly owned by Dr. Raymond E. Stevens

**To Jim Wims, Rumford antique dealer:** many thanks for his expert repair of the above-mentioned couch.

*Thank You. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.*

*Warm Welcome To  
 Our New Members:*

**John Ettling**  
*And Our New*

*Corporate Members:*

**Graphic Ink, Inc.**  
**Gripnail Corporation**  
**Indoor Tennis Court**  
**International**  
**Construction Management**  
**Corporation**

**JOHN HUNT HOUSE MUSEUM**

**THE JOHN HUNT HOUSE MUSEUM,**  
**HUNTS MILLS ROAD, RUMFORD**  
**WILL BE OPEN SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 1 TO 4**  
**PM. THE 2ND SUNDAY IS EASTER.**  
**ADMISSION \$3; \$1 EAST PROVIDENCE**  
**RESIDENTS; FREE, SOCIETY MEMBERS.**

**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**

## Preservation Committee

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commission will meet with **William Conley**, City Manager, on March 11 to seek his advice and have already been encouraged by **Patrick Rogers**, the properties commission's liaison to the city council.

I shall keep the board of the historical society informed as to the progress of the properties commission's work so that they can have input and support the commission as they see fit.

If you have any suggestions or ideas about this important process, please send your comments to me, **Dave Kelleher**, 36 Riverside Drive, Riverside, RI 02915. tel. 433-2763. e-mail [rid05377@ride.ri.net](mailto:rid05377@ride.ri.net).

Dave Kelleher



## EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORIC SITES BUS TOUR

Do you know all the historic sites in East Providence? If not, why not take a tour in a double-decker bus and see why East Providence is.....**HISTORICAL**. Saturday, May 15th, 10 am - 12 noon. Leave from the John Hunt House Museum, Hunts Mills Road, Rumford. Tour Guide: Dave Kelleher. Historical society members \$12. EP Chamber of Commerce members (co-sponsors) \$12. General Public \$15. **RESERVATIONS**; EP Chamber of commerce, 438-1212.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### MARCH

Monday, March 22, 7 pm  
Members Meeting *Public Invited*  
Newman Church, Rumford  
Program: *Early New England Clockmakers*  
Guest Speaker: *Cynthia Dias-Reid*

### APRIL

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

Sunday, April 18, 1 - 4 pm  
John Hunt House Museum  
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford  
Admission \$3; \$1 EP residents; Free society members.

Monday, April 26, 7:30 pm  
*Alhambra Cabaret/*  
*Strictly Sentimental Swing Band*  
Post 10, American Legion  
830 Willett Avenue, Riverside  
Benefit Legion Scholarship/Historical Society  
Donation: \$5 at the door

## Grounds Committee

Ray Anderson, Chairman

By the April issue of the *Gazette*, 1,000 daffodils should be blooming on Hunts Mills Road! This should guide residents and visitors to the John Hunt House Museum and its gardens and improved landscaping. Make plans to view this peaceful site.

Those who garden speak of how relaxing and rewarding an hour or two working in the soil with plants can be. Do you know of someone who would benefit from time spent in this tranquil oasis? Call me, 438-2464 or the society, 438-1750.



John Hunt House

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### 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.

