



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XVII No. 2

October 2004

PROVIDENCE JOURNAL HISTORY: 175 YEARS

Members Meeting
Monday, October 25, 7 pm
Newman Church, Rumford

Paul Parker, a Wallingford, Connecticut native, joined the Providence Journal staff full time upon graduating from the University of Connecticut in 1988. He became a member of the newspaper's investigative team in 2002. He has been a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize among others.

Investigation is also a hobby for Mr. Parker: he is exploring his family's roots in Colonial America, Ireland and French Canada. He enjoys herb and vegetable gardening at the home he shares with his wife, Carol Kenyon-Parker, in Pawtucket.

Mr. Parker will present a program on the 175 year history of the Providence Journal.

Refreshments and business meeting will follow.

President's Letter

Kris Rose, President

Dear members,

This being an election year, there will be many bond issues presented to voters on November 2. The historical society Board of Directors is asking that you consider voting "YES" on Question #11-

Historic Preservation and Heritage Bonds. This is a \$3 million grant program for the preservation of public and non-profit owned historic sites, museums and cultural art centers located in historic structures. The Hunt House Museum fits these categories and we, as a non-profit organization, could benefit from the passing of this bond issue. The Hunt House Museum will be open on Sunday, October 24, 1 -3 pm in support of this bond issue. We hope we can count on our members to support #11.

The program for the November members meeting looks to be another very interesting one: **175 Years of the Providence Journal.** I hope you all will join us. Other programs planned include a Christmas party, Pot Luck Suppers, Brown Bag Auction and a Ham and Bean Supper.

Don't forget the **Hunt House Museum Harvest Tea**, Saturday, November 23. Donation, \$10 and reservations must be made in advance.

I hope to see many more of our members at the monthly meetings!

Kris Rose, President



Happy
Halloween

The Gazette

Is published monthly by the

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>

RECOGNITION DEPARTMENT

Cheryl Faria served as a docent at the Hunt House Museum on September 12. Due to an oversight, her name was not included in the September Gazette.

The calorie count was up at the members meeting on Monday, September 27, thanks to the following bakers: Kris Rose, Pat Henry, Edna Anness, Florence Adams.

Warm Welcome
To Our New Members:
Barbara Brewster
Edward Keenan
James Viara

GIFTS to the MUSEUM

Austin Butterworth - Indian hatchet
 Norman Dawson - copy of a photo of Six Corners in 1944
 Howard Prendergast - Collection from donor's late father, Howard Prendergast: news articles, personal recognitions, political ads, flyers and photos plus 'town' government news. Several plaques given to him for his volunteerism in 'town'. (For those who do not know of him, he was very active in local politics, attended every council meeting and yet never ran for office. He operated Prendergast's News for many years: a store on Waterman Avenue.)

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**

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

David Kelleher, Chairman

Ric Greenwood, RI Historic Preservation Commission, met with **Nancy Moore**, society Vice President, and me at the **Brown/Williams Cottage**, Hunts Mills Road, Rumford, early last month to evaluate the cottage. After a good investigation of the building, Mr. Greenwood determined that there is good evidence that construction of the cottage was begun in the mid to late 18th century. This is great news. Mr. Greenwood will make a report to the EP Planning Department regarding his findings and make suggestions as to how to begin restoration of the cottage.

I met with **Colin Kane**, one of the principals in the Roger Williams Avenue **Rossccommons project**, and gave him all the information I have about the history of the Phillipsdale area. At that meeting, he proposed that the historical society work with him in designing a Phillipsdale plaque to be placed on the grounds of Rossccommons. He will finance the project.

The historical society should be hearing from the RI Historic Preservation Commission in November regarding our grant proposal to restore the **1905 Amusement Park Office Building (meter house)** next to the Hunt House Museum.

Progress is being made on the **Weaver House** next to Weaver Library. Windows should be replaced this month. The roof and gutters will be done next. Bids for the exterior painting and repairs to the side porch and front entrance came in way over budget. New plans will be needed.

East Providence city workers will paint the outside of the building but will need to wait until spring.

I have submitted information to **Pam Kennedy**, RI Historic Preservation Commission, regarding our application to have the Phillipsdale area declared a **national historic district**. This is just a preliminary investigation to see if it is worth proceeding with the application.

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

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

THE BALL POINT PEN

by John Agren

In September of 1947, I entered Rhode Island State College. My favorite class was English taught by a Professor Smith. Some students called him "Dr. Sex" because in the books and stories we were required to read for him, much of our discussion seemed to revolve around that subject as it pertained to our assignments. "Sex" once gave a class writing assignment and to complete his assignment I would need a better writing instrument.

The college book store was in the basement of Quinn Hall. Quinn was a multitask building with library, administration office and a tiny college book store in its basement. I entered the store with a friend and asked the pretty coed grad student clerk about writing instruments. She was a little thing about five feet tall with light blue eyes and blond hair tied in a bun in back. She said they had the latest item, a newly invented pen called a "ball point". The ink was contained in the pen so, she explained, there would be no need to continuously dip the pen into an ink well. I bought one of her pens. Cost me six dollars, a lot of money for a poor freshman, and went home to my Quonset hut number 43 to begin "Sex's" assignment.

When I got half way through the "Sex" assignment, that ball point pen had indigestion, burped and all the ink came bubbling out and on to my creative writing. All would have to be done over again! There was no guarantee on the pen. I could not get my money back and could not afford buying another. I finished the assignment using the old pen and ink bottle instrument.

Things are a bit different these days. On the top of my bedroom bureau there are many ball point pens, only two of which I paid for. These two specials are for doing a daily crossword puzzle; they write with dark ink and have erasers that quickly mute any mistake. The rest are all free. They have a litany of names on them. They come from doctors, hotels, orthopedic centers, insurance companies, churches and there is a special one emblazoned "Class of 1943 60th Anniversary Reunion EPHS".

Today one can have a much better ball point pen given to him than one he could buy sixty years ago! These pens write nice and clean, they do not get indigestion and if they run out of ink you can throw them away and get another for no charge!

**VOTE 'YES' ON #11 FOR
PRESERVATION AND HERITAGE
IN RHODE ISLAND**

**HISTORIC PROPERTIES HERE IN
EAST PROVIDENCE."**

**VOTE "YES" ON QUESTION #11
AND SUPPORT THE EAST
PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY ON NOVEMBER 2!**

**ATTENTION FRIENDS OF THE
EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY! YOU CAN SUPPORT
PLACES THAT MAKE RHODE
ISLAND GREAT BY VOTING "YES"
ON QUESTION #11 ON THE
NOVEMBER 2, 2004 BALLOT—A \$3
MILLION STATE BOND
REFERENDUM TO FUND STATE
PRESERVATION GRANTS FOR
PROJECTS AROUND THE STATE.**

**IF APPROVED BY THE VOTERS,
QUESTION #11 WILL PROVIDE
\$3 MILLION IN STATE
PRESERVATION GRANTS FOR
ARTS AND CULTURE
ORGANIZATIONS, MUSEUMS, AND
HISTORIC SITES LIKE THE EAST
PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY.**

**IN 2004, THE EAST PROVIDENCE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY APPLIED
FOR A STATE PRESERVATION
GRANT FOR FUNDS TO HELP
RESTORE THE 1905 AMUSEMENT
PARK OFFICE BUILDING (METER
HOUSE IN LATER YEARS) NEXT
TO THE HUNT HOUSE MUSEUM.**

**PRESIDENT KRIS ROSE SAID,
"OUR ORGANIZATION NEEDS
GRANTS OF THIS KIND TO HELP
US CONTINUE TO RESTORE**



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

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.



**HUNT HOUSE MUSEUM
HARVEST TEA**

sponsored by the
East Providence Historical Society

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 3 - 5 pm

**John Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills road, Rumford**

**GUESTS WILL BE SERVED BY
LADIES IN 18TH CENTURY
ATTIRE.**

GENTLEMEN INVITED.

*Reservations requested by Wednesday,
October 20. Limited Seating.*

**DONATION: \$10. RESERVATIONS
WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR
FOR PAYMENT.**

**TELEPHONE: 438-1750
OR 434-5116**



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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Providence, RI
Permit #2712

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

02916+2509 03



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

Saturday, October 23, 3 - 5 pm
Hunt House Museum Harvest Tea
Donation \$10. Reservations Required

Tuesday, November 2
ELECTION DAY

Sunday, October 24, 1 to 3 pm
John Hunt House Museum Open House
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
at the request of
RI Historic Preservation Commission
in support of preservation bond issue.

Wednesday, November 3, 7 pm
Board Meeting *Members Welcome*
Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Monday, October 25, 7 pm
Members Meeting *Public Invited*
Newman Church, Rumford
Program: *Paul Parker, Providence Journal, 175*
years

Monday, November 22, 7 PM
Members Meeting *Public Invited*
Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
Program: To Be Announced