



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XVII No. 5

February 2005

POT LUCK SUPPER/ BROWN BAG AUCTION

February Members Meeting
Monday, February 28, 6 pm
Newman Church, Rumford

It's "Deja vu all over again." Last year we were also denied a January pot luck supper due to the weather. So it's February pot- luck- supper- time. The telephone committee will call the membership for main dishes, salads and desserts. Don't forget the auction item you bagged last month. A business meeting will follow.

President's Letter

Kris Rose, President

Dear members,

Are you all dug out and enjoying this mild weather? Hopefully these temperatures will hold so we can have our **Pot Luck Supper** on the 28th! Remember to bring your "white elephant" item to auction off!

When the weather clears, the **construction class** at **East Providence High School** will finish the *gazebo* and we hope to add 2 benches for people to sit on.

Edna Anness and her committee met concerning the award process from the **American Cemical Society** and we will keep you updated as things happen.

Les Haworth has volunteered to repair the frame that holds a wonderful picture of Hunts Mills that was donated by **Barbara Devine**. When it is repaired it will be hung over the fireplace in the room that used to be **Owen Devine's** office when the John Hunt House was the site of the Water Department. Thanks Les!!

The Board is still looking for two positions to be filled. We need a **Recording Secretary** and a **Program Chairperson**. If you know of someone you feel would be a good candidate or if you yourself are interested, please contact me.

I hope to see you all at the February meeting/Pot Luck Supper.

Preservation Committee

David Kelleher, Chairman

Letters of support were sent from the East Providence Historic Properties Commission and the East Providence Historical Society to the state in favor of the **Enhancement Grant application** submitted by the city for improvements to **Roger Williams Avenue**. The improvements for that area are far overdue and the Enhancement Grant will provide the funds to upgrade the street and sidewalks and lighting. It is our hope that this grant will be awarded to the city and we can then proceed to have the area designated as a **National Historic District**.

At a city council meeting, the council approved the placing of a ten year easement for the **1905 Amusement Park Office Building**. This is another step in getting the building restored. Negotiations with the city will now proceed to start the work in the spring.

Work continues on the **Weaver House**, Grove Avenue. The windows are in and work is now being done on the front portico.

A second meeting of the **Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse** will be held at the Waddington School, Legion Way, on Tuesday Feb 15 at 7:00 P.M. Much progress has been made in getting the group organized. Bank accounts have been established, a P.O. Box (15121, Riverside) is in place, and an e-mail address pomhamrockslighthouse@yahoo.com is now available. **Don Doucette**, President, **Nancy Doucette**, Secretary and **David Kelleher**, Treasurer are all members of the East Providence Historical Society. The group has applied to the state Department of Transportation for an enhancement grant and is working on membership fees and ways to raise funds.

The Gazette

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EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY
 65 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford, RI 02916
 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>
Jeffrey Faria	<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>
	<i>Program</i>
Florence Adams	<i>Publicity</i>
Reinhard Wohlgenuth	<i>Webmaster</i>

HUNT HOUSE MUSEUM NEWS

Contributed by Edna Anness

Les Haworth, society member, has volunteered to repair the **Owen Devine picture** so that it can be hung over the fireplace in the museum Keeping Room where it hung for years.

The following society members will serve on the newly formed *American Chemical Society committee*: **Edna Anness, Earl and Ginny Berwick, Dave Kelleher, Kris Rose, Clint Sellew, and Reinhard Wohlgenuth**. They met on January 29. They will be working with **Dr. Martin Saltzman**, Providence College and **William F. Harty**, Harty Realty, owner of building #31 (formerly Rumford Chemical Works) on a proposal which Edna Anness is putting together.

If all goes well, either a Rumford chemical building or the Hunt House Museum Rumford Collection, or both, could receive a plaque designation as a **National Historical Chemical Site**. **Paul R. Jones, PhD**, Professor of Chemistry at the University of New Hampshire, who spoke to the society membership during the 1994 Rumford exhibition contacted the society to apply.

Who donated papers pertaining to the **Camp White Association** along with their bylaws and meeting minutes? They were found in the museum office. Call the society, 438-1750.

SPECIAL REQUEST

IF ANYONE EVER KNEW OLIVE BERRY OR HER SISTERS, RUTH PRATT AND LILLIAN HASCALL, THE CHILDREN OF DR. THEODORE AND EMMA HASCALL OF RIVERSIDE, PLEASE CALL EDNA ANNESS: 434-3347.

RECOGNITION DEPARTMENT

David Murray, society member, was recognized in the January 7 *Seekonk Star* for "writing for kids, reading to kids and fighting for kids' right to be creative." An East Providence high school graduate, Mr Murray has published two books of children's poetry and last June he published 'The Enchantress of Caratunk', an adventure which takes place in the Caratunk Wildlife Refuge.

The Recognition Department recognizes errors. **Jeff Faria, Grounds Chairman, and wife Cheryl** are enrolled in the URI Master Gardener Program. Botany is only one of the subjects covered.

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
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Name(s) _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone # _____

Circle Amount Enclosed:

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

THE SNOW STORM

by George E. Kent

I grew up on a farm in Kent Heights that delivered milk to the door of our customers. This was done every day of the year regardless of snow, hurricanes or equipment failures. Whenever one of these things happened everyone pitched in to get things going. The delivery trucks were not 4-wheel-drive and each one had to have chains installed before loading.

One of the big storms I remember dumped about 2 feet of snow by 3:30 A.M. when everyone showed up at the barn. After shoveling things out and taking care of the animals, three of us were assigned to each truck, along with a shovel. The route I went on had Uncle Charley, Cousin Ralph and me to deliver north of the farm into Providence.

In those days very few of the streets got plowed. However, the street car tracks were always plowed. We all shoveled our way from the farm to Pawtucket Avenue onto the plowed tracks. This meant that when a street car came along we had to shovel a place to get the truck out of the way. Uncle Charley would stay with the truck and Ralph and I would carry the bottles of milk up each street. On long streets we would each have a carrier in each hand. Getting through the snow with this load was, to say the least, very tiring.

When we got into the East Side of Providence many of the streets were plowed and it was better going. We finally made it to the end of Wickenden Street and Uncle Charley took us into Jake's Lunch. There for 15 cents we each got a bowl of kidney beans, a piece of toast and a cup of coffee and you could get a refill on the coffee. It was warm in Jake's and Ralph and I had all we could do to keep from falling asleep and falling off the stool.

At the time, there were a good number of milk dealers in East Providence but there were only a few of them that had their own herd of cows. In spite of the fact that The Kent Farm had 60 head of cows plus 4 to 6 horses to care for, the customers got their milk before anyone else. This was because after delivering the milk my uncles had a full day of getting things ready for the next day and Ralph and I had to go to school. And it was then 14 cents a quart delivered to the door.

The Gazette welcomes "Members Memories"

And articles of historical interest.

Mail to the society: P.O. Box 4774,

East Providence, RI 02916.

The Hunt House Museum, Hunts Mills Road, Rumford, will be open on Sunday, February 13, 1 to 4 p.m. Admission \$3, \$1 East Providence residents, Free for society members. A junior girl scout troop from Riverside will be visiting.

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

THE THIRD ANNUAL BUS TOUR OF HISTORIC EAST PROVIDENCE

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2005

10:00 A.M. — 12:00 P.M.

**STARTING AT THE HUNT HOUSE
MUSEUM,**

HUNTS MILLS ROAD

**(OFF PLEASANT STREET) RUMFORD
TICKETS: \$12:00 FOR MEMBERS OF
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OR THE
EAST PROVIDENCE CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

\$15:00 FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

COME AND ENJOY A COUPLE OF HOURS OF FUN ON A DOUBLE DECKER BUS AND VIEW SOME OF THE HISTORY OF THE CITY. VISIT THE RING OF THE GREEN IN RUMFORD, THE HISTORIC MILL VILLAGE OF PHILLIPSDALE, WATCHEMOKET DISTRICT, RIVERSIDE AND ITS THREE AMUSEMENT PARK SITES. DAVID KELLEHER WILL BE YOUR HOST AND POINT OUT THE LANDMARKS AND DISCUSS SUCH TOPICS AS JOHN HUNT, JOSEPH AND SAMUEL BRIDGHAM, PHILIP WALKER, CHARLES LOOFF, EUGENE PHILLIPS AND GEORGE WILSON. CALL THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR RESERVATIONS: 438-1212. SEATING IS LIMITED.

**WARM WELCOME TO
OUR NEW MEMBERS**

John McBride

David Murray



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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 13, 1 - 4 pm
Hunt House Museum Open
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
 Admission Charges

Monday, February 28, 6 pm
Pot Luck Supper/Brown Bag Auction
 Newman Church, Rumford

MARCH

Wednesday, March 2, 7 p.m.
Board Meeting *Members Welcome*
 Hunt House Museum
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Sunday, March 13, 1 - 4 p.m.
Hunt House Museum Open
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
 Admission Charges

Monday, March 28, 7 p.m.
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.