



# Gazette

Vol. XVII No. 4

January 2005

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## POT LUCK SUPPER/ BROWN BAG AUCTION

January Members Meeting  
Monday, January 24, 6 pm  
Newman Church, Rumford

Pot Luck Suppers provide a 'grazing' opportunity. We have some great chefs whose succulent dishes are not only visually pleasing but also a gastronomic delight. Recipes have been exchanged. The greatest compliment. ALSO...a Brown Bag Auction. Put that nifty item in a brown bag, any size, and see what the auctioneer can extract from bidders. The historical society will benefit. A business meeting will follow. The Telephone Committee will call the membership for Pot Luck main dishes, salads and desserts.

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### President's Letter *Kris Rose, President*

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Dear members,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! I hope your holidays were good and that 2005 is as good if not better for you and your family. The historical society is off to a good start with a \$5,000 grant from the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission. The money will be used to begin restoring what was the 1905 Amusement Park Office Building at Hunts Mills. Thanks to **Dave Kelleher**, Preservation Chairman, for all the work he did in that regard.

We had a good turn out for the Holiday Party (61) and a good time was had by all. Thanks to **Billie Arden** for organizing it. She always comes up with good entertainment.

**Edna Anness**, society Vice President, is organizing a committee to put together an application to the American Chemical Society to recognize the contribution of the Rumford Chemical Works to the chemical industry. If you are interested in helping, contact Edna through the historical society, 438-1750.

The January members meeting will be held on

Monday, January 24, 6 pm Newman Church. We'll have a Pot Luck Supper followed by a Brown Bag Auction. Bring your white-elephant item in a brown bag and see how much it will be auctioned for!

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### Preservation Committee David Kelleher, Chairman

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I met with **Ed Catelli**, Superintendent of city buildings, to give him information on the necessary forms and process by which we can obtain funds from the \$5,000 grant the society received from the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission to restore the **1905 Amusement Park Office Building** next to the Hunt House Museum. I also brought papers to **William Conley**, City Solicitor, to have him file an easement on the building stating that the city will maintain the building as a historic structure. I have been asked to appear before the city council on Tuesday, January 18 when the easement request is brought before the council.

Plans for the restoration of the **Weaver House**, Grove Avenue, and the **Brown-Williams Cottage**, Hunts Mills Road, continue. The painting of the exterior of the Weaver House and the beginning of the installation of a heating system, plumbing and wiring in the Brown-Williams Cottage will start early this spring.

At a meeting at the Waddington School, Legion Way, on December 15, a lease was signed between **Exxon-Mobil** and the **American Lighthouse Foundation**. About 30 people attended and began the process of forming a local chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation: **The Friends of Pomham Rocks Light**. **Greg DeMarco**, Manager of the Riverside terminal of Exxon-Mobil, presented a check for \$25,000 to **Timothy Harrison** of the American Lighthouse Foundation to start the fundraising effort to restore the light station and return the light to the tower. There will be a second meeting with a few key people to organize a list of officers, set up some goals and begin the process of fundraising and opening the local chapter to the public for their participation. I will inform the historical society next month on how members can become members of this group.

*The Gazette*

Is published monthly by the

**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**

|                           |                                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Kris Rose</b>          | <i>President</i>                     |
| <b>Nancy Moore</b>        | <i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i> |
| <b>Edna Anness</b>        | <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i> |
| <b>Jeanne Davis</b>       | <i>Recording Secretary</i>           |
| <b>Arline Butterworth</b> | <i>Corresponding Secretary</i>       |
| <b>Peter Allen</b>        | <i>Treasurer</i>                     |
| <b>Kris Rose</b>          | <i>Immediate Past President</i>      |

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

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

**RECOGNITION DEPARTMENT**

Several society members were recently recognized in the *East Providence Post* and *Providence Journal*. **Nancy Stevens**, community activist and antique hunter and **Kenneth Roberts**, historian and author of *Bullocks Neck: A History--with Personal Memoirs & Photos*, were featured in the *East Providence Post* in December. Also, **Edna Anness** is contributing a monthly article on East Providence history to the *Post*. **Denise Bass**, society member and feature writer for the *Providence Journal*, did a story with many pictures in December on the Rumford Chemical Works with details provided by Edna Anness.

**Jeffrey Faria** has come forth to serve as Grounds Chairman for the society. He's also taking courses in botany at URI this semester with wife **Cheryl**.

**Edna Anness, Virginia Berwick, Dave Kelleher** and **Mary Swanson** served as Hunt House Museum docents on Sunday, December 12. **Edna Anness, Virginia Berwick, Jeff and Cheryl Faria** volunteered on Sunday, January 9.

**GIFTS to the MUSEUM**

- Lowell and Edna Anness** - antique trundle bed
- Barbara Devine** - framed photo of Hunts Mills which belonged to Owen Devine and hung in his office over the mantle when he was director of the East Providence Water Department which was housed in what is now the Hunt House Museum.
- Gladys Panzarella** - history of Our Lady of Loretto Church with extra photos.

(If any gifts were omitted from this list in 2004, please contact Edna Anness at the society, 438-1750. I have been away a lot and may have missed one.)

**APPEAL FOR HELP**

The very large framed photo which belonged to Owen Devine was fine until we moved it. Before it is again hung on the wall, it needs loving gentle repair of the back supports for the very large glass and wooden backing. Please call Edna Anness, 438-1750 or 434-3347, if you feel you have the expertise and the spare time.

**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**

|                        |     |                    |
|------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| <u>Membership Form</u> | New | Renewal<br>/Change |
|------------------------|-----|--------------------|

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

**Circle Amount Enclosed:**

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

## THE SLIDE RULE

by John Agren

Besides the ball point pen, there was another article I had to buy at the Rhode Island State College book store. Anybody who took physics or college math was required to acquire and learn to use a slide rule. All engineering students had to have one and they usually bought the best, which at the time was made by Keffel & Esser. I had to have the best and so that's what I bought, along with a case for the same. Cost me a big \$37. This allowed men students to hang the article from the belt and thus be in sync with all the other nobles of the quadrangle.

Now, if you knew the ins and outs of the slide rule you could do rapid calculations of trigonometric functions in addition to obtaining the product of other mathematic computations. Of course, you had to move the slide rule and cursor to the proper location if you were to get the correct answer to the problem. This took a little skill along with patience and lots of practice.

A person can now obtain a simple calculator in just about the same way as in obtaining a ball point pen. The AARP and AAA always seem to have something going that permits a person to get a good calculator.... free. And, if not free then one can buy a simple calculator for two or three dollars. If a scientific calculator is needed then the cost is just a little bit more. But what you can do with these instruments is so much easier and so much more accurate than what you can do with slide rules, which have gone the way of buggy whips.



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**



### IN MEMORY OF

**Lewis Brewer**

**Arlene Hauk**

**Robert McCarthy**

*Sadly missed...fondly remembered*



### 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 Gazette welcomes "Members Memories"  
And articles of historical interest.  
Mail to the society: P.O. Box 4774,  
East Providence, RI 02916.**



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

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Providence, RI  
Permit #2712

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY

Sunday, January 9, 1 - 4 pm  
*Hunt House Museum Open*  
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford  
Admission Charges

Monday, January 24, 6 pm  
*Pot Luck Supper/Brown Bag Auction*  
Newman Church, Rumford

### FEBRUARY

Wednesday, February 2, 7 pm  
*Board Meeting Members Welcome*  
Hunt House Museum  
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

### **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.