



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XVIII No. 3

November 2005

POMHAM ROCKS LIGHTHOUSE

Members Meeting
Monday, November 28, 7 p.m.
RIVERSIDE LIBRARY,
475 Bullocks Point Avenue
(corner Knowlton Street)

The Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse will present a progress report on the restoration of the city's 1871 historic lighthouse. **Donald Doucette**, Chairman and **David Kelleher**, Treasurer, will inform the members of the society about the many aspects of the group's goals and plans for the coming year.

Following a short discussion, **Keith Lescarbeau**, owner of **Abcore Restoration Company, Inc.**, who with two fellow workers are doing the restoration work, will conduct a power point presentation showing in great detail the many exterior features that have been restored. This will be a rare opportunity for the members to see, up front, the excellent workmanship that has been done to the lighthouse and be able to understand how this difficult and delicate process has been accomplished. The view of the lighthouse from the bike path or any other viewpoint does not do justice to the marvelous detailed workmanship that this power presentation will reveal.

Keith Lescarbeau is well known in restoration circles throughout Rhode Island. He has been involved with many historic buildings including The Towers, Narragansett, and the Plum Beach Lighthouse, North Kingstown. Keith will explain many of his methods and procedures so that we will understand how restoration works. The public is invited. Refreshments and business meeting will follow.



PRESERVE RI HONORS EDNA ANNESS

On October 26, society member **Edna Anness** received **Preserve RI's 2005 merit award** for her 14 years of service as the curator of the Hunt House Museum and for her achievements in preserving the history and historic architecture of East Providence. Most recently, she was instrumental in the nomination and acceptance of the Rumford Chemical Works complex to the National Register of Historic Places. **Nancy Moore**, society president, accepted the award since Edna was travelling in Eastern Europe at the time.

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

Nancy Moore	President
Kris Rose	1 st Vice President
Edna Anness	2 nd Vice President
Cheryl Faria	Recording Secretary
Arline Butterworth	Corresponding Secretary
Peter Allen	Treasurer
Kris Rose	Immediate Past President

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

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.

RECOGNITION DEPARTMENT

Helen Dorr and Rose Marie Sirenski responded to the call for teapots and dessert plates. Helen gave a teapot and Rose Marie, 6 dessert plates.

Marie Brand donated garden tools and equipment galore.

Cookie bakers for the September 26 members meeting: Edna Anness, Arline Butterworth, Dorothy Duane, Kris Rose and Dolores Therrien. And for the October 24 meeting: Virginia Berwick, Jean Henderson, Helen Smith, Eunice Tuckerman, and Virginia Williams.

The following members served as Hunt House Museum docents for the Blackstone Valley's 'Footsteps in History' tour on October 8, 9, and 10: Florence Adams, Earl and Virginia Berwick, Arline Butterworth, Donald Brothers, Jeff and Cheryl Faria, David Kelleher and Nancy Moore.

Edna Anness, Virginia Berwick and Donald Brothers served as docents on Sunday, November 13.

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**

The Hunt House Museum, Hunts Mills Road, Rumford, will be open on Sunday, December 11, 1 to 4 p.m. Admission \$3, \$1 East Providence Residents, Free Society Members.

MEMBERS MEETINGS/ GAZETTE GAP

The membership voted earlier this year to cancel the January and February members meetings due to the cold and sometimes bad-driving conditions. Therefore, the next members meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2006. Spring starts the week before! We haven't published a December Gazette in a couple of years and will not this year. At the moment it seems likely that there will not be a January or February Gazette. If the need arises, the Board will approve going to press. AH.....New England winters.

Membership Form New Renewal /Change

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Amount Enclosed:

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

President's Letter

Nancy Moore, President

We had a full house for the October 24 members meeting, indicating just how important you think the restoration/rejuvenation of the Rumford Chemical site is. We were treated to an excellent presentation by the Peregrine Group and those attending had many good questions. As this project progresses, we will ask the company to keep us abreast of the work. As you know, because Rumford Chemical has been designated a National Chemical Society site, we feel a responsibility to be especially vigilant about this project, the "museum" building being one of the most important for the society as curator of so many Rumford artifacts.

We haven't had a full press release yet but you will note that another of our fabulous volunteers has received a prestigious award. Edna Anness was honored by Preserve RI for her outstanding work in education/curating. We are so proud of you Edna! And so lucky to have you in our group.

Please note the change of venue for the November 28 members meeting. But you were planning to visit the new Riverside library anyway weren't you? Join us for a hammer and nails presentation of the restoration of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. And take a walk on the bike path to see the work for yourself. It is awesome! See you there.

"DECK THE HALLS WITH FRUIT AND VEGGIES....."

Several members have already chosen a mantle (there are 6) or space in the Hunt House Museum to decorate in the 18th century manner to compliment the Holiday Tea, December 3, the museum opening, December 11 and the Holiday Party, December 19. Children's toys from the museum collection will also be on display. Set up time is the week of November 28. It's not too late for you to join in the merriment.



IN MEMORY OF

George Murdock
and

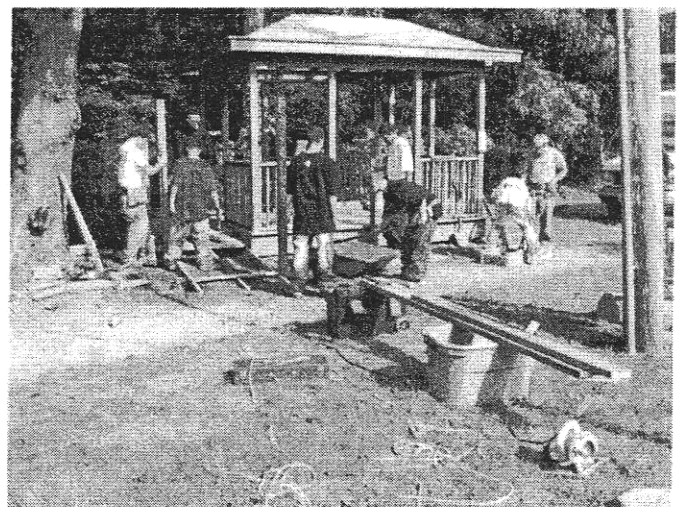
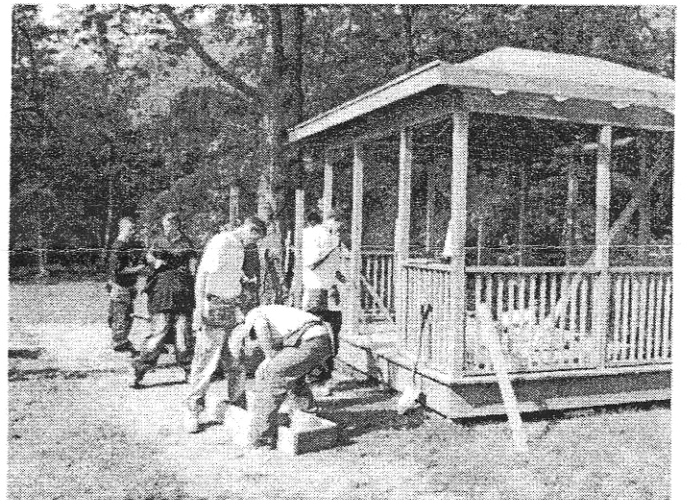
Robert Tefft, MD

Sadly missed... fondly remembered

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Jeff Faria, Chairman

Students from the East Providence Vocational and Technical High School have resumed the task of completing the **Tea House gazebo**. Junior high students (pictured) and Senior students, under the direction of their teacher, **Thomas Galligan**, are working towards completing the project this fall. The students have used their skills to create the Tea House gazebo, designed in the style of the original Hunts Mills Cafe. It is located on the same spot on the grounds of the Hunt House Museum as when the amusement park was popular around the turn of the twentieth century into the 1920's. Once complete, the oriental style Tea House gazebo will be a nice spot to rest, out of the sun or rain, and enjoy views of the museum grounds and sounds of the Ten Mile River and horseshoe falls.



Students from the East Providence Vocational and Technical High School working on the **Tea House gazebo** next to the Hunt House.



HOLIDAY TEA

The society will sponsor a *Holiday Tea* on Saturday, December 3, 3 to 5 p.m.

Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford.

Guests will be served by
ladies in 18th century attire.

Gentlemen invited.

('George Washington' will be there.)

Reservations requested by
Monday, November 28.

Limited Seating.

Donation: \$10.

Reservations will be
held at the door for payment.

Telephone: 438-1750 or 434-5116.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
ephist.org

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Dave Kelleher, Chairman

Much progress has been accomplished at the 1905 Amusement Park Office Building next to the Hunt House Museum. Over the summer, a whole corner of the foundation collapsed. More work needed to be done than originally thought. Nancy Moore, society president, suggested that we take advantage of the collapsed foundation and have a larger doorway made and add another window so that the cellar portion of the building could be used as a potting shed and garden tool area. With the help of Dean Martineau, contractor by trade and member of the East Providence Historic Properties Study Commission, a mason company was hired to do the brick work. Dean Martineau put in the frames for the door and window. Future funds will be needed to purchase a door and a window. Dean Martineau will also be hired to do the roofing with the city providing the shingles. This work should be completed before winter. Effort was made to have the building scraped and painted by members of the Rumford Lions Club with all supplies provided by the city, but good painting weather is quickly coming to an end so that part of the project will be done in the spring.

The Brown/Williams Cottage, Hunts Mills Road, has been examined by Berry/Lykins Architects, LTD of Providence. Complete blueprints of the exterior and interior of the building have been done. The cottage was viewed with the architects, members of the East Providence Historic Properties Study Commission and the East Providence Planning Department. The city will now meet with the architects to discuss their recommendations and seek funding to restore the cottage correctly and bring it back to living conditions so that it might possibly be used for affordable housing.

The Pomham Rocks Lighthouse is nearing completion of the first phase of its restoration. The exterior has been restored to its 1871 splendor. Details of the restoration will be presented to the society at its November 28 members meeting.

A third printing of the booklet "Historic East Providence" is available at city hall, all city libraries and the Hunt House Museum. Copies are going fast.



HOLIDAY PARTY

The society will hold a Holiday Party for members and guests on Monday, December 19, 6:00 p.m. at Newman Church, Rumford. Young's Caterer's Inc., Seekonk, will provide the buffet. Al Sims, piano, and Wayne Patnaude, vocalist, will provide the entertainment. The cost is \$15 members., \$18 non members. Reservations will be held at the door for payment. All reservations must be honored.

 RESERVATION DEADLINE:
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12. 

The Telephone Committee will call the membership. Reservations will also be accepted by calling the society, 438-1750 or 437-1530.

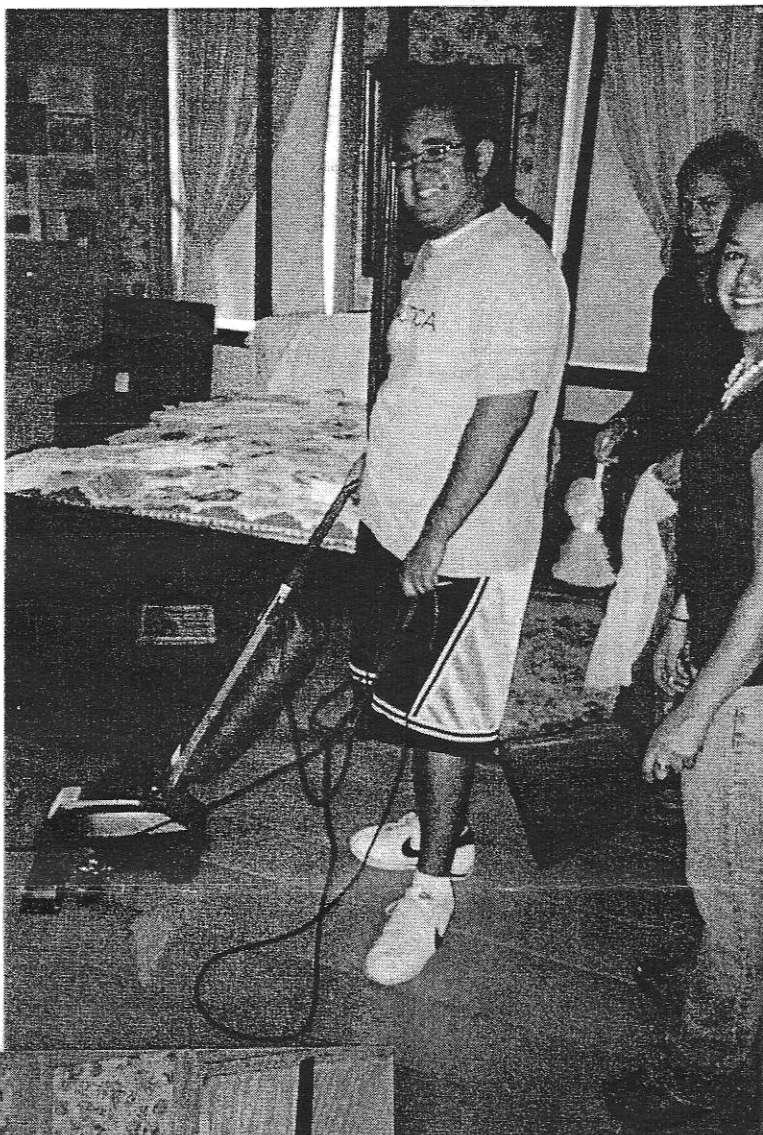
In lieu of a gift exchange, the society will accept mittens, socks, scarves and toiletries to be donated to Crossroads Rhode Island, formerly Traveler's Aid.

WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Mary Lou Blecharczyk
Donald Brothers
Marion Kenney
Bill & Peggy Racca
Doris Yencko

MUSEUM FACE LIFT

The historical society was invited to include the Hunt House Museum as part of the Blackstone Valley "Footsteps In History" tour over the Columbus Day weekend. That meant the potential for lots of exposure but the museum wasn't ready! It hadn't been cleaned in some months. But Kris Rose, society member, invited members of the National Honor Society of East Providence High School to do their volunteer hours at the museum and six students accepted. On Wednesday, October 5, from 2 to 4 p.m., this crew dusted, washed, vacuumed and stored things away with Kris and Nancy Moore present to direct their effort and provide the tools. The immediate effect was amazing. We have made the students honorary members for a year and as such they will receive the monthly Gazette. Thanks for your hard work and smiles.





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

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Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

Monday, November 28, 7 p.m.
 Members Meeting *Public Invited*

Riverside Library

475 Bullocks Point Avenue

Program: Progress Report on Pomham Rocks
 Lighthouse Restoration

DECEMBER

No Gazette or Members Meeting

Saturday, December 3, 3 to 5 p.m.

Holiday Tea

Hunt House Museum, Hunts Mills Road

\$10 per person Reservation Deadline: November 28

Sunday, December 11, 1 to 4 pm

Hunt House Museum Open

Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Admission Charges

Monday, December 19, 6 p.m.

Holiday Party, Newman Church, Rumford

\$15 Members. \$18 Non-Members

Reservation Deadline: December 12.

JANUARY

No Gazette or Members Meeting

FEBRUARY

No Gazette or Members Meeting

MARCH

Wednesday, March 1, 7 p.m.

Board Meeting *Members Welcome*

Hunt House Museum

Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Monday, March 27, 7 p.m.

Members Meeting *Public Invited*

Place and Program To Be Announced