



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XVIII No. 1

September 2005

President's Letter

Nancy Moore, President

Hello Everyone:

Welcome back from a summer that delivered the sunshine. If you are a gardener, that may have been a mixed blessing! The garden at the Hunt House Museum is toughing it out and will be fine next spring.

Are you ready for a fall of very interesting and informative meetings? The first one takes us to that impressive building on Taunton Avenue - the Masonic Temple. We will be treated to a tour of the building and a talk on the Order's history here in town. I know I've always been intrigued by that splendid facade.

The subject for the October meeting will keep us abreast of the plans for the former Rumford Chemical Works, North Broadway. It is about to begin another chapter in its life here and we will experience the changes. It is possible that some of us may want to live in that building someday. The important thing is that the building be valued for its place in East Providence history.

The November meeting will take place in Riverside closer to the subject of the talk - Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. You will be delighted with the progress being made. The lecturers are people "in the trenches" in the restoration. Not to be missed!

Now, is it possible that you have a neighbor or friend who hasn't taken advantage of the great programs we present? Our membership has been fiercely loyal and we maintain our numbers, but wouldn't it be wonderful to reach out this year to a new audience? The East Providence Post has spotlighted our good works and our incredibly talented members. There probably are residents whose interest has been whetted. Let's invite them to join us.

See you at the Temple.

HISTORY AND TOUR OF THE MASONIC TEMPLE

Members Meeting
Monday, September 26, 7 p.m.
Masonic Temple, East Providence

After **Doreen Bonney**, Gazette editor, wrote her interesting story about her Rainbow Girl days at the Masonic Temple (Nov.'04 Gazette), one of our members, **Tom Stringfellow**, suggested that it would be a nice idea to have a tour of the Temple. This beautiful building has been a landmark on the East Providence skyline for many years but few residents have ever had the occasion to enter the building. It underwent extensive renovation a few years ago.

The building, which resembles a Greek temple, is located at 222 Taunton Avenue. Its front door is actually on a point between Taunton Avenue and Alice Street. Access to the building is by way of the side door on Alice Street. Its correct name is GRAND LODGE OF RI., F. & A.M. FREEMASONS' HALL. Several historical society members belong to the Temple including Tom.

The program will cover the history of the building with a short interior tour. Refreshments and business meeting will follow. The public is invited.



The Masonic Temple on Taunton Ave., E. Providence.

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

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Nancy Moore	<i>President</i>
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	<i>Program</i>
Florence Adams	<i>Publicity</i>
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The Hunt House Museum, Hunts Mills Road, Rumford, will be open on Saturday and Sunday, October 8 and 9, 1 to 4 p.m. in conjunction with the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor's program "Footsteps in History." Monday, October 10 is a rain date for either day. Admission \$3; \$1 East Providence residents; Free, society members.

RECOGNITION DEPARTMENT

Kris Rose, immediate past president and current 1st vice president of the historical society, was featured in the August 19 East Providence Post.

Edna Anness, 2nd vice president and former museum curator of the historical society, contributes a monthly article of local historical interest to the East Providence Post.

Arline Butterworth and **Nancy Moore** served as docents at the Hunt House Museum on Sunday, September 11.

You will be recognized by **Mona Breault, Pat Henry** and all who attend the September meeting if you volunteer to bake a goodie for all to enjoy. Mona and Pat present a tasty table but they need some help. Take a turn this month. Call Mona, 431-2945.

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

Frances Butterworth: four folding chairs

Thank you!
Your generosity is appreciated!

HUNT HOUSE MEMORY

By Sister Mary McManus, S.S.C.

The first time I visited the Hunt House was in June, 1995 when I returned from the Philippines. My cousin, Pat Henry, had often told me about all of the activities of the East Providence Historical Society, and I was very interested in visiting the Hunt House. As we drove in, Pat mentioned that our Aunt Marie (Tormey) had seen the house the previous week and commented, "That's the house where Nana delivered the Barnes boy." She remembered wading in the water of the millstream near the house as a little girl. The name Barnes rang a bell with me...

About twelve years ago while visiting a Catholic school in Connecticut, I met the principal of the high school, Fr. Robert Barnes. We started chatting and he discovered that I was from Rhode Island. He mentioned that he had been a Christian Brother before being ordained a priest. His religious name had been Brother Peter and he had taught at St. Raphael's Academy in Pawtucket. Both my father and brother were graduates of St. Ray's. Brother Peter was there at the time my brother was a student. I was delighted to discover this connection and when I came home I told my dad, Eddie McManus, that I had met Fr. Barnes. Dad was sitting at the kitchen table. He nodded his head and said in a thoughtful voice with a twinkle in his eye, "Oh, yes...Bobby Barnes. Your grandmother (Gertrude McManus) delivered him." I was so surprised! Talk about a small world!

Dad went on to tell me how he had sat on top of the kitchen table swinging his legs as he waited for his mother to deliver the baby in the next room. When I heard my cousin remark that this was the house where Nana had delivered the baby I couldn't believe my ears. The Hunt House was the actual house where my father had sat on the kitchen table while Nana delivered the baby, whom I met as a grown man... a priest in Connecticut!

I was so delighted to tour the house. They are doing such a wonderful job of restoring it. I was thrilled to stand in the "birthing room" as they called the room next to the kitchen, with its wide fireplace. There, Nana had delivered "Father" Bobby Barnes. Wandering into the kitchen I could imagine my dad as a little boy, dangling his feet as he sat patiently waiting for his mother, while outside, Aunt Marie dipped her toes in the clear waters of the millstream. It certainly is a small world after all.

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 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 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

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ephist.org



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 26, 7 p.m.
 Members Meeting *Public Invited*
 Masonic Temple Taunton Avenue
 Program: *History and Tour of the Temple*

Monday, October 24, 7 p.m.
 Members Meeting *Public Invited*
 Newman Church, Rumford
 Program: *Jordan Stone and Colin Kane,*
Peregrine Group,
 Plans for the new Rumford Center
 (former Rumford Chemical Works)

OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 5, 7 p.m.
 Board Meeting *Members Welcome*
 Hunt House Museum
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford.

Saturday & Sunday, October 8 & 9, 1 to 4 p.m.
 Hunt House Museum Open
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
"Footsteps In History" celebration
 Rain date: Monday, October 10.



*Next month's
 "Member's Memory"*

*Some interesting
 facts about
 Riverside's very own
 vaudeville team:*

Babcock & Dolly