



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

Dedicated to Preserving the Heritage and Enjoying the History of Our City

Dates:

Fall Open Houses :
September 10 1-3:30/
October 8

Hikes at Hunt's 1:30 at
the Gazebo/ 1-3

Family Games 1-3 front
lawn

"EP Roots" at the Educa-
tion Center 1-3:30

Exhibit: "The Heyday of
Amusement Parks in EP"

Member Meetings
September 25 at Union
Primary for tour at 5:30
October 23 at Weaver Li-
brary 6:30 - 8:00 Carou-
sels with the Serowiks

CONTACT US AT;

East Providence Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, RI 02916-4774

Tel. (401) 473-0677

Email info@ephist.org

Web Site ephist.org

September 2023

Volume XXXVI

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

No. 1

by Cheryl Faria and Jeff Faria, Co-Presidents

John Hunt House Museum

In June we premiered a fabulous presentation of East Providence's Amusement Parks. The exhibit will be on display on the 2nd Sunday of the month through December of this year. Most of the materials and artifacts came from the collection of Ed Serowik, Sr. who grew up at Crescent Park and later took on the care of the carousel. Part of the display is in the rotating exhibit room at the back of the Museum and another part is in the Education Center, the small yellow building to the left of the Museum. Ed (bottom right) and his son, Ed Serowik Jr., are at each exhibit with videos and anecdotes about the parks. Please come see this wonderful collection!



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 P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI
 02916-4774
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 Web Site: ephist.org

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**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 \$25 individual, \$35
 family or business, or a Life
 Membership for \$250.

Please make check payable to:

East Providence Historical Society

and mail membership form to

East Providence Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, RI 02916-4774

Gardening Tips from Jeff Faria

URI Master Gardener

As we have had a wet summer, many weeds have matured and are now setting seeds for the years to come. Remove seed heads and place in trash, so as not to survive in your compost.

Planting chrysanthemums now, will perk up your garden in places that are very visible, and will add color until a hard frost.

Lawn maintenance, aeration and fertilizing is best done in September, because weeds usually do not germinate now.

Planting a cover crop, such as oats or annual rye grass, will help your garden soil with nutrition, and avoid loss of organic matter during the winter.

Lettuce, spinach, and even radishes and carrots can be planted now for a late fall crop.

Watch for early cold spells, with temperatures below 40°, for tender house plants that have been outdoors all summer. Cover with a sheet or bring them indoors for the night.

Membership Form New Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

\$25 Individual
 \$35 Family/Business
 \$250 Life

We again had tours of the museum guided each month by our team of knowledgeable docents. Our researchers Sandra Turgeon and Tom Warzeka continued to help visitors with their genealogical research through the Ancestry, Family Search and Find a Grave located in the Education/Research Center. Ernie Germani and Alex Kemp led the monthly hikes of the grounds and Rickard Smith of HomeSmart Professional Real Estate sponsored his monthly ‘Coffee and Hot Chocolate Bar’ with cookies in the Gazebo.



Rickard Smith looking at home in the Gazebo



Beverly Pettine helping children enjoy Hunt House



Eryn Boyce looking fashionably 18th century!

Member Meeting!

On Monday, September 25th our monthly Member meeting will be a tour of the newly renovated Union Primary School. The program will be co-hosted by the EP Historical Society and the Weaver Library. Please see the article on page 4.

Community Gardens


The 26 raised bed community gardens behind the John Hunt House Museum continue to grow and thrive. The 26 gardening groups do a wonderful job of maintaining their gardens. And a big thank you goes to Ivan Colon, a gardener who has been with us since the gardens opened in 2020, for taking on a leadership role with the other gardeners.



*The East Providence Public Library and
East Providence Historical Society are proud to present...*

**EAST
PROVIDENCE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

**ON-SITE Tour of
Union Primary School Property!
Monday, September 25th 5:30pm**



**Architect David Sisson and
project manager Tom Clayton
will be giving the public a full tour!**

Meet us at 1320 Pawtucket Ave. for 5:30pm

**EAST PROVIDENCE
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Contact Ryan with any questions at rmccauley@eplib.org

We've all been watching with great interest as the colors have changed on Union Primary School. Those of us who have championed the reuse of the building for years couldn't believe our eyes. The architecture firm of David Sisson, based on Taunton Avenue, was firmly in charge with a huge can of black paint. One June day, Dave Kelleher and I could stand it no longer - we went and knocked on the door. The project manager, Tom Clayton of Touchdown Realty, let us nose around and we asked what the time line was for rental: August. That let us out of the running for a September members' tour. However, as the summer passed, and it was obvious that the timeline wasn't being adhered to, I knocked on the door yet again. Yes, a tour could definitely happen for September 25. The Historical Society has now partnered with our friends at the Weaver Library. (Some of you may remember our collaboration on a tour of the Rumford Library.) We think you will be amazed at the changes - come and see for yourselves!

Our thanks to Ryan McAuley

For the history of Union Primary, try out the new Gazette reference system, which is explained on the next page.

1989-Vol1, #11/ 1991- Vol III, #7 +Vol IV, #1 + Vol IV #2/ 1995- Vol VII,#11, 2008,Vol XXI #1/ 2009 Vol XXII, #5 +#8

Arts in the Village Concert Series 21st Season Preview

2023–2024



SEPTEMBER 23

Andrius Žlabys — SOLO PIANIST

OCTOBER 28

Southcoast Chamber Players — PIANO QUINTET

FEBRUARY 24

Schwartz & Bournaki — CELLO/PIANO DUO

MARCH 16

Vox Cor Trio — PIANO & BRASS TRIO

APRIL 13

Tong & Sheppard — VIOLIN/PIANO DUO

All concerts: Saturdays at 7:30 PM • Goff Memorial Hall, Rehoboth MA
508-431-6879 • www.rehobothantiquarian.org/arts-in-the-village

We foster a continuing relationship with our Rehoboth neighbors (we had the name first) and the Blanding Library honors the Blanding family which married into our John Hunt Jr. family.

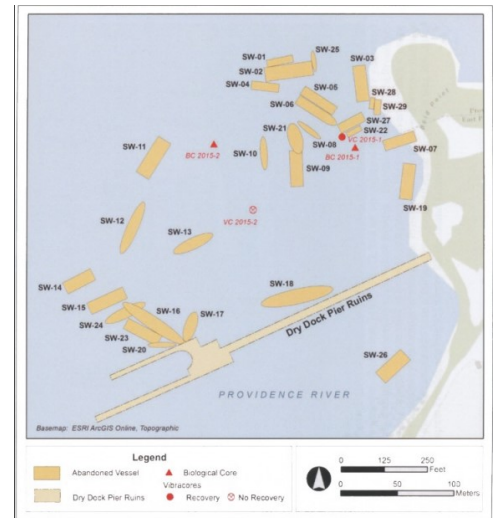


Below is a tutorial for accessing the Gazette material from the very first issue in 1988. Thanks to Tom Warzeka, whom you may have met at the Education Center, a cross reference system is now in place for finding articles which may be of interest to you: ones that have already had the research done! For those of us in the trenches every month looking for this material, this is such a boon! Thank you Tom.

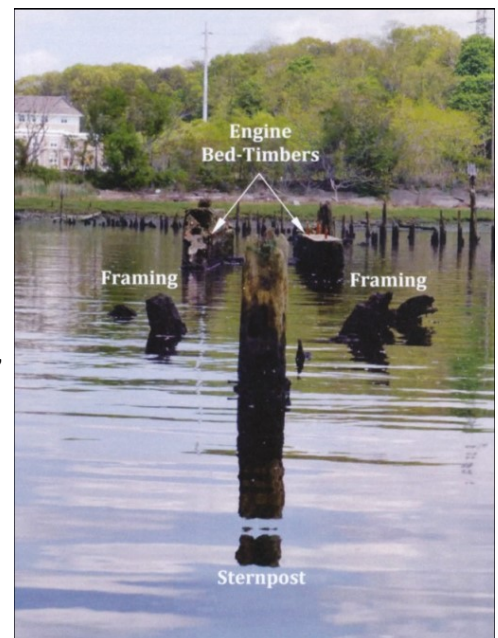
All issues of the Historical Society newsletters (Olde News from 1988 to 1994 and Gazette since 1995) are now accessible from the Gazettes page on our web site at "<http://ephist.org/about-us/gazettes/>". They are stored as Portable Document Format (PDF) files. Simply click on a month name to read the issue from that month and the year shown above it. Depending on your browser's configuration, the issue may be shown within the browser itself, opened with an external/helper application, or downloaded to your device.

In addition, there is an index of all historic articles at "<http://ephist.org/index-to-gazettes/>". This index page is searchable using any browser's Find feature (e.g. Ctrl+F in Chrome and Firefox). Once you've located an article of interest, click on the corresponding month-volume link above it. Again, your browser's configuration will determine the action taken. Also, at the top of the page, you can click on a year in the table to jump to the list of articles published during that year.

The Providence Journal (Saturday, July 23) contained a letter to the editor from Michael Frederick Geisser of Warren, who has sailed for over 50 years on Narragansett Bay. He is asking that the “eyesore and derelict” area known as Green Jacket Shoal be cleaned up. He gives an accurate description of the working East Providence waterfront known in the early 20th century as the Esso Station of the Bay and of vital importance to the Blackstone River corridor shipping. But in April 2015, David Robinson, then senior researcher for the URI Oceanographic Program and now in charge of MA Archaeology, did a SEA Grant dive of the Shoal and was in awe of what he discovered: in addition to the remains of the Providence Dry Dock pier, 29 shipwrecks of which 10 have been identified, the most famous being the Bay Queen (1865-1902, see photos) and the Mt. Hope.

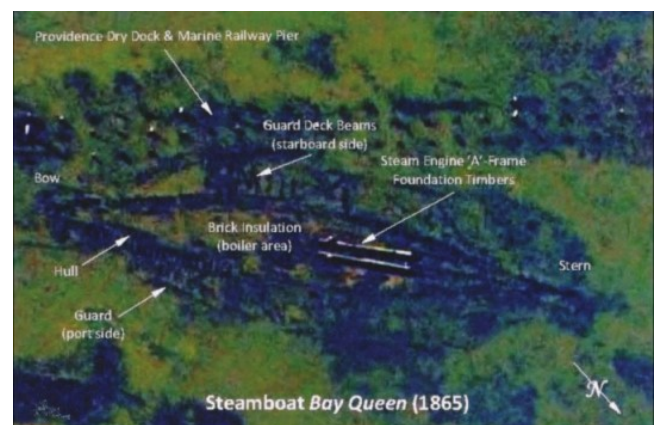


In 2016, the EP Historical Society partnered with Robinson as a featured speaker and Providence River Company Tours and the Blackstone Valley Explorer began visiting the site. In 2023, a grant was received by the EP Historic District Commission for an interpretive sign at Bold Point which will help visitors understand what lies on that treacherous shoal and how important that ships’ graveyard is in the understanding of the evolution of commercial/ recreational development throughout the Bay. Robinson’s continued research will be the source of information for these signs.



Ships’ graveyards are scattered all along the East Coast, some of which have been given National Register status. It is the hope of preservationists in the area that Green Jacket Shoal will attain that status.

For a comprehensive look at Robinson’s work, please see the article “Green Jacket Shoal: the Case for National Register Status” in the November 2016 issue of the EP HS Gazette at: [“http://ephist.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2016-November.pdf”](http://ephist.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2016-November.pdf)



HISTORIAN'S CIRCLE

January 1 – December 31, 2023

Thank you to those who donated to our Annual fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you are helping the Historical Society meet our annual, strategic and endowment goals for the 2023 calendar year.

Hunt's Mills Park: \$1,000+

Angel Cabral	Cheryl and Jeff Faria
Hugh Kiley	Laurie and Bill McWeeney
Barbara Rix	Dotty Thornley
James N. Viara	Lois Williams

Crescent Park: \$500-\$999

Jacqueline and Lee Ashcraft	
Nancy and Dan Moore	Woods Heating Service

Vanity Fair Park: \$200-\$499

Nancy Allen	Earl Berwick
Richard R. Bushnell & Paula Perkins	David Czerwonka
Carole DiFabio & William Litchman	
Margaret Dooley	Virginia Neves Gonsalves
Darryl Hardern	Elizabeth Ingraham
Pat Paulson McGrail	
Jack and Kathy Richer	Mary and Steve Rosa

Boyden Heights Park: \$100-\$199

Gordon R. & Wendy L. Wood-Hubbard	
Barbara Barnes & Beverly Pettine	William Francis
Caroline D. Chick	Romeo DaSilva
Friends of Katherine Kazarian	Pam and Paul Goulet
Frederick F. Harrop	Miriam Kenney
Kathryn McGovern	Patricia McGrail
Tracey and Todd Moline	Michael & Norma Reynolds
Ed and Paula Serowick	Charlene Underhill

Friends: \$25-\$99

American Ring Company	Sandra Barber
Helen Archibald	James Boyd
Peter G. and Sandra M. Barilla	Ivan and Malinda Colon
James Boyd	Rebecca Ellis
Jane Dennison	Gilmore's Flower Shop
Gil Fletcher	DeDe Moubayed
Michele H. Kazarian	Ryan McCauley
Ruth McCarthy	Jayne Poland
Deb Ormerod	Jack and Kathi Savage
Mark Saunders	Betty Stoner
Candy Seel	Jean and Gary Zunda
Anthony Valerio	

Thank you!!!

If there are any errors or omissions in this list, please let Cheryl Faria know so we can correct it for the next issue of The Gazette.
401-419-8682 cherylfaria@verizon.net

A Gentle Reminder:

Dues Overdue

Bills were sent out in early July to those members whose membership was up for renewal. If you had not yet paid, please use the form on page 2 and mail your check to the post office address indicated. You may also use Paypal: Go to ephist.org to submit your payment. Thank you!

We hope you will continue to be part of the EPHS community by renewing your membership.

Carole DiFabio

Chair, Membership Committee

In memory of . . .

Virginia Neves Gonsalves, a Lifetime Member.

Mona L. Breault, who served on the Membership Committee and was the Historical Society's secretary for many years.

Our condolences to family and friends.

**Thank you to the following members
who have upgraded to Life Members!**

Frederick Harrop

Kathryn McGovern

Katherine Kazarian and Sam Daniel

**And to Hugh Kiley, who joined as a
Life Member**



John Hunt House

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

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