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Pat Armitage - *President*

Al Klyberg - *Vice-President*

Affiliate Associations

Preservation Society of Pawtucket ♦ Great Road Historical District

2008: The Year in Review BVHS Celebrates 50th Anniversary, Highlights of Society Activities

2008 marked the start of the 50th anniversary year of the Blackstone Valley Historical Society. The milestone was marked with an Anniversary Gala Sept. 20th attended by 70 members, past members, and guests of the Society. Throughout the Blackstone Valley and across Rhode Island, elected officials designated Sept. 20, 2008 as "Blackstone Valley Historical Society Day."

As part of the celebration, a video, commissioned by the Society, was shown. Called, "In Your Own Backyard: 50 Years Preserving and Promoting Our Blackstone Valley Heritage," the video was produced by member Glenn Laxton and Tracey Ingle. Laxton and Ingle will discuss how the video was made at the Sunday, Feb. 8 meeting of the Society. The meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. in North Gate, the Society's headquarters at 1873 Old Louisquisset Pike (Rt. 246), Lincoln. Another showing of the video will be given after the lecture.

During the course of the year, Society members attended programs on the:

- Success of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council,
- Firsthand memories of members of the former Lime Rock Grange,
- Process behind the creation of Birds Eye View prints of Blackstone Valley villages in the 19th century,
- Evolution of Woonsocket neighborhoods, and
- Paranormal activities in the region.
- Titanic Railroad

In addition, these programs also attracted the interest of many non-members who attended the sessions.

In March, the Society presented an award at the Rhode Island History Day competition for high school students.

The winners were **Alyssa Maurano** of Johnston and **Katherine Stein** of Smithfield, sophomores at Mount St. Charles Academy in Woonsocket. Their presentation was called "The Cry of the Children" and centered on child labor at the Slater Mill, Pawtucket.

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Learn how "In Our Own Backyard" Video was made at the Society's Sunday, February 8 at 1:30 pm

You won't want to miss this presentation Sunday, Feb. 8 at 1:30 pm in the North Gate downstairs hall. "In Your Own Back Yard: 50 Years Preserving and Promoting Our Blackstone Valley" was written and narrated by **Glenn Laxton** and produced and videotaped by **Tracey Ingle** with original music by **Jay Brunelle**. This BVHS 50th Anniversary documentary has captured the essence of the Blackstone Valley so that others might be inspired to get involved with the Historical Society. A screening of the video will follow the discussion.

Glenn will lead the discussion, asking Tracey to explain how and where she did the videotaping as well as how the narration and video were melded to create the final product. As an added bonus Jay, the man who sang on the video, will sing one of his songs.

Laxton, a member of the BVHS Executive Committee, was a television and radio news reporter for over 40 years, is recently retired from Channel 12 on which you may have seen some of the "Not To Be Forgotten" series.

Ingle grew up in Rhode Island, and now lives in western MA. She holds a BS in Art and Art History from Rhode Island College. Her interest in working on this project arose naturally out of her love for the area, its history, and the challenge of capturing a glimpse of the Valley.

Brunelle performs as a musician at various venues and has studied in music studios and classes throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts. He has been the recipient of awards, including honorable achievement for courses taken at New England Song Writers' Association and Business of Music and honorable mention from Billboard Magazine.



**In case of bad weather, listen to radio/tv
for cancellation announcement**

Year in Review (Continued from Page 1)

Members also took a stand against the renaming of **Eddie Dowling Highway** to the **Blackstone Valley Heritage Highway**. A letter was sent to the State Senate opposing the name change and the Senate adjourned for the year without approving the measure.

The Society received a **\$250** grant from the **Rhode Island Foundation "Ott Fund"** to be used to restore a panoramic print of Saylesville created by O.H. Bailey. This panorama, restored by **Ruth Strach** at her Scituate studio, was placed on display during the November meeting.

Shortly after the Society's anniversary gala, the organization was honored with the **Blackstone Valley Tourism Council's 2008 "Footprints in History"** award for its work in preserving, promoting and showcasing the Valley's history for the past 50 years.

**"Remembering Lincoln" at CCRI
Celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birth,
Feb. 12-16 at Knight Campus**

This is the bicentennial commemoration of the birth of Abraham Lincoln on President's Day evening, Monday, Feb. 16 at 7 pm. Featured speakers will be **Thomas Turner, PhD**, Bridgewater State College and **John A. Every, PhD**, Community College of Rhode Island.

Turner will present the relationships that Lincoln had with southern New Englanders, especially Rhode Islanders, before and during the Civil war. Every, will talk about the connections that linked the lives of George Washington to Abraham Lincoln.

The event is free and open to the public at the CCRI Knight Campus, 400 East Ave., Warwick, RI, Board of Governors' room 4090. For more information call: John Every 401-825-2454, 401-338-1027. Also, you can email jevery@ccri.edu or www.CCRi.edu.

**Picturing Rhode Island is March topic
Maureen Taylor shares photos, tips
on how to identify your family photos**

A "not to be missed" presentation, well known Rhode Island author **Maureen Taylor** will share a history of Rhode Island in pictures with tips on how to identify your family pictures.

Taylor is a photo curator and editor and is a nationally known expert on genealogy and photography and the author of several books on the subject.

Plan to attend the March 18 meeting at 7 pm at North Gate. Several of her books will be available for purchase and autographing.



View of the Rice Room located upstairs in North Gate.

Photo courtesy of Pat Armitage

**2009 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION
JOIN or RENEW MY BVHS MEMBERSHIP
Send to: BVHS, PO Box 125, Lincoln RI 02865**

SAVE THESE DATES

March 18	7 PM	<i>"Picturing Rhode Island"</i> by Maureen Taylor
April 19	1:30 PM	<i>"Postcards from the Blackstone Valley"</i> by Dan Bethel
May 17	1:30 PM	Blackstone Valley Historical Society Elections

**All Programs & Events will take place at North Gate Toll House
1873 Old Louisquissett Pike (RI 146) • Lincoln, RI 02865**

www.blackstonevalleyhistoricalsociety.org