



THE LANDMARK

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Affiliate Associations

Preservation Society of Pawtucket ♦ Great Road Historical District

President's Message

Dear Friends,

It is with mixed emotions that I tell you that I am moving to Virginia in early spring to be near my son and his family and to care for my granddaughters, Kaylie who is 6 and Genevieve, 2 months.

It has been my privilege to serve as President of BVHS for almost 4 years.

During that time period much has been accomplished through the concerted effort of many people particularly the Board of Directors and those who have served on the Board during this time period. Many people have spent many hours bringing our Society from a deep hole in December of 2005 to where it is today at the beginning of 2010.

I cannot even begin to list the names of all those who have helped lest I forget someone. I will just say a BIG THANK YOU to all who have supported me and the BOD in all our efforts.

Much has been done, but there is much more to do, particularly the completion of the project to move the archives from the 202 year old North Gate building to a safer and

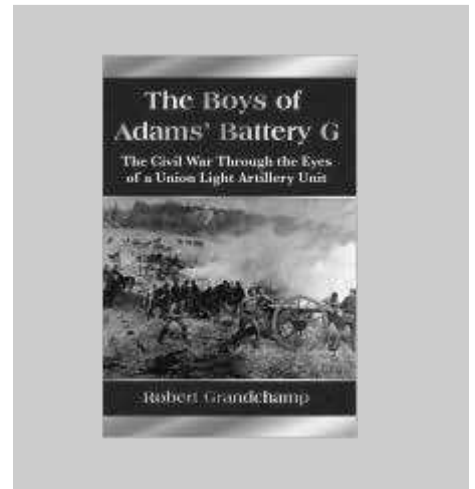
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Rhode Island Author Robert Grandchamp Presents "The Boys of Adams' Battery G" Wed. Feb. 3, 7 PM North Gate Upstairs Hall

This program will investigate the story of a small group of men from Rhode Island who banded together to form Battery G, First Rhode Island Light Artillery. These men came from all walks of life and literally changed the face of warfare by their use of new cannon technology.

Raised from Rhode Island farmers and mill workers in the autumn of 1861, the Union soldiers of Battery G fought in the war's deadliest battles, including such bloody conflicts as Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Spotsylvania, and Cedar Creek. At the storming of Petersburg on April 2, 1865, seven cannoneers were awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in the face of the enemy.

This history captures the battlefield exploits of the "Boys of Hope" but also depicts camp life, emerging cannon technology, and the social events of the Civil War.



This book and others by Robert Grandchamp are available for purchase at Barnes and Noble, Cranston, RI.

Robert Grandchamp received his M.A. in American history from Rhode Island College and is now an independent historian working out of Warwick, RI. He has authored or edited seven books. A former National Park Ranger in West Virginia, he is the recipient of the Order of Saint Barbara from the Rhode Island National Guard, among other awards for his work.

"In Your Own Backyard" DVD on Sale!

A must-have addition to any collection of Blackstone Valley history, this DVD commissioned by the BVHS illustrates the importance of the Blackstone Valley through photographs and narration. Available at meetings or by mail.

**Get your copy
NOW!**

BVHS Member Price is \$15

Non-Member price is \$20

more accessible area in the Fire Station where researchers can come and find helpful information. This project has been enabled by a generous bequest from the Virginia Doris estate.

The spring program is in place and I leave the work of the Society in the capable hands of the BOD. I am pleased to note that through the judicious use of financial assets, the Society is in good fiscal shape.

But and it is a big BUT... your help and support is needed, immediately. The Society needs someone to oversee, be in charge of, these areas:

- **Hospitality and Refreshments**
- **Maintenance of Membership List** – current and renewals (should know how to use *Excel*)
- **Membership Recruitment** – more members are needed
- **Publicity** – write ups for the media (print, radio, TV, internet) about upcoming events, meetings, accomplishments
- **History Day Project**
And, of course,
- **A new president for the 2010-2011 term**

If you can help in any of these areas contact me (737-6229 or bvhs58@gmail.com) or Al Klyberg, chair, nominating committee (aklyberg@msn.com).

Most Sincerely,

Pat Armitage

SAVE THESE DATES SPRING 2010 PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Wednesday evening, February 3, 7:00 PM

Author **Robert Grandchamp** will talk on

“The Boys of Adams’ Battery G”

This is the first ever publication on this unit which fought in many bloody engagements in the war and saw seven men awarded the Medal of Honor

Wednesday evening, March 10, 7:00 PM

Al Klyberg will talk on

One Hundred Years of State Parks

Sunday afternoon, April 18, 1:30 PM

Dan Bethel, Lincoln resident & noted collector

Blackstone Valley Ephemera

Featuring calendars from Arnold's Bakery, milk bottles, maps, bottle caps, and much more

Sunday afternoon, May 16, 1:30 PM

Blackstone Valley Historical Society Elections

And a talk by **Ranger Chuck Arning**
of the **National Park Service**

**All Programs & Events will take place
at North Gate Toll House
1873 Old Louisiquisset Pike (Rte 246)
Lincoln, RI**

RI Council for Humanities sponsors a view of 19th Century RI through the eyes of a Free Black Man on Feb. 10

William J. Brown, the noted 19th century Black Rhode Island leader, published his autobiography in 1883. Considered the finest narrative by a free African American, this extraordinary book is not only a memoir, but one of the most exciting observations of the Rhode Island community, both Black and White, ever written. The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities has funded a yearlong study of Brown's life, which includes a series of lectures, exhibits and walking tours.

A discussion and planning session will take place on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 5:30pm at the Brick School House at 24 Meeting Street in Providence. You are invited to participate in this event, to share your thoughts on the book, and to help determine what the Providence walking tour should encompass.

Copies of his book, *The Life of William J. Brown of Providence, R.I.*, may be purchased at your local bookstore. We encourage you to read it on your own or with a book club.

This event is sponsored by Ocean State Learning. If you would like to attend or learn more about this project, where to purchase the book, or find a book club, please contact: Ray Rickman, (401) 421-0606; rickman@rickmangroup.com.