



# THE LANDMARK

PUBLICATION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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*Affiliate Associations*

Preservation Society of Pawtucket ♦ Great Road Historical District

## A Special Message from Your President

*Pat Armitage*

Dear Friends:

It had been my intent to forgo being president for the 2011-2012 term and to concentrate on developing the archives into a more workable form. As no one came forward to fill the presidency, I have decided to run again to carry on the work that was begun several years ago. You will also note that Peter Moreau is stepping down as treasurer and we definitely need someone to step up to the plate and become treasurer.

But, be that as it may, we are still in a pickle as we need more people to step up and help out.

I understand that it is difficult to jump right in as president, what we need is

someone who is willing to learn the ropes so this organization can grow and flourish.

With that in mind this upcoming year needs to be a **YEAR of CHANGE for BVHS.** The BOD needs your help in finding people who can CARRY on the MISSION of BVHS. I know that many of you have given of your time and expertise in the past.

*What I am asking you is to look around you and see who among your friends and neighbors in the community might be able to help us out.*

Thanks in advance for your help,

*Pat*

## What BVHS Needs Right Now!

1. A **TREASURER:** someone with good recordkeeping skills, math skills and computer skills, knowledge of spreadsheets or record keep software like *Quicken™* or *Microsoft Money™*. Is a voting member of the BOD. And keep track of the income, disbursements, mutual funds, CDs, prepares reports for meetings, prepares tax forms for IRS, sees that an audit is done each summer.
2. A **MEMBERSHIP Record Keeper:** someone with good recordkeeping skills and computer skills, knowledge of spreadsheets and/or a simple data base. Keeps track of current membership list; updates the mailing lists; sends out renewal notices in late June for upcoming year which is July 1 to June 30; distributes membership cards. Is a committee person and does not have to regularly attend BOD meetings.
3. A **MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:** someone who has a good rapport with people and can, with members of a committee, reach out to the community of Blackstone Valley and recruit new members to enhance and make the Blackstone Valley Historical Society membership grow.

**All Programs & Events take place at North Gate Toll House  
1873 Old Louisquisset Pike (Rte 246) Lincoln, RI  
Wilbur Road bridge over Rte 146 closed til summer 2011**

## Annual Membership Meeting and Elections Sun. May 15 1:30 pm North Gate Downstairs Hall

BVHS Nominating Committee presents the following slate of Nominees

<b>President</b> .....	Patricia Armitage
<b>Vice President</b> .....	Mark S. Krieger
<b>Secretary</b> .....	Francine Jackson
<b>Treasurer</b> .....	OPEN
<b>Member-at-Large</b> .....	Jason Dionne
	Glenn Laxton
	Gail Harris

## Tom Greene will talk on “James Tyson, Providence Bookseller and the 1936 Tercentenary” 2:00 pm Sunday May 15 at BVHS Meeting

By *Francine Jackson*

At 1:30 PM on May 15, 2011 in the downstairs hall of North Gate, Blackstone Valley Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting and Elections. Following the meeting at about 2:00 PM, noted historian Tom Greene will present "James Tyson, Providence Bookseller, and The 1936 R I Tercentenary". This talk was originally scheduled in February, postponed by inclement weather.

Tom will introduce us to this collection of 62 covers and, by selecting several of them for particular study, will show the beauty and uniqueness of these individual pieces of art and history. This program is free and open to the public.

Many of us remember the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Rhode Island in 1986, but noted historian Tom Greene will take us back to the 300<sup>th</sup>, Rhode Island's Tercentenary, in 1936. At that time, Providence bookseller James Tyson created a set of first-day covers (envelopes) in honor

of this event, to be cancelled on May 4, 1936. Tyson made them by cutting and pasting both relevant pictures and original signatures that he found in books directly onto these envelopes. Although he was not the only person to make a set of these historic souvenirs, Tyson did not make these in quantity; he only produced one set of these covers.

Tom Greene is an expert on postal history. He is Curator of the Philatelic Collections at Brown University. He is president of the Warwick Historical Society, the RI Philatelic Society, the RI Postal History Society, and the Nathanael Greene Homestead. Mr. Greene is the author, editor and publisher of the RI Postal History Journal, and wrote the Photographic History of North Providence, Volumes 1 & 2.

He also is an accomplished musician. After receiving music degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music and the University of Connecticut, Mr.

## SAVE THE DATE

**July 16, 2011 OPEN HOUSE**  
*Great Road Attractions Group* to host simultaneous event. *BVHS* along with *Hearthiside* and other historic sites along Great Road will host open houses and/or tours of their sites. The Society will open the reconstruction of the *Original Arnold's Lonsdale Bakery* and the *Virginia Doris Archival Storage Area in the Fire Station*. If you would be willing to volunteer an hour or two of your time that day please contact:

Pat Armitage (737-6229)  
[bvhs58@gmail.com](mailto:bvhs58@gmail.com) or  
Al Klyberg (333-4494)  
[aklyberg@msn.com](mailto:aklyberg@msn.com)



Author and Lecturer Tom Greene

Courtesy *Pat Armitage*

Greene published articles and critiques for the music journal "Chelys." He was part of the music departments of the Warwick and Smithfield public school systems, and has taught at URI, RIC, Brown, CCRI, and colleges in Boston. Mr. Greene was also involved in an 8-part television series on music for Channel 36.

North Gate Toll House, located at 1873 Old Louisquisset Pike (Route 246), Lincoln, RI, is the headquarters of the Blackstone Valley Historical Society which is dedicated to the history and antiquities of the northern Rhode Island communities of Pawtucket, Central Falls, Lincoln, Cumberland, North Smithfield and Woonsocket. All interested persons are invited to join the organization.