



# THE LANDMARK

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*Affiliate Associations*

Preservation Society of Pawtucket ♦ Great Road Historical District

## SAVE THESE DATES

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  
1:15 PM

### **Blackstone Valley Historical Society Elections**

**Ranger Chuck Arning** of the National Park Service

will talk about how he created his "Along The Blackstone" video

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

### **Correction**

The \$15,000 bequest to the Blackstone Valley Historical Society was given by the estate of Virginia L. Doris not Doris Duke.

## Lincoln resident Dan Bethel returns to BVHS Sunday April 18 to talk about and display his collection of Blackstone Valley ephemera

### **Moshussuck Valley Railroad # 1 [1913] and # 9 [1967]**

One of America's shortest railroads, the Moshussuck Valley Railroad operated between Saylesville in Lincoln, RI, and Woodlawn in Pawtucket, RI.



### **BVHS annual meeting, elections set for May 16 at North Gate**

Society members will elect officers and directors for the upcoming term, July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 on Sunday May 17, at 1:30 pm in the downstairs hall at North Gate. Elected positions are:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- 3 Members-at-Large

If you or anyone you know would be interested in running for office or serving on a committee, please contact Al Klyberg:

Telephone: 401-333-4484

Email: [aklyberg@msn.com](mailto:aklyberg@msn.com)

Dust off your memories and join **Dan Bethel** as he shares stories and his collection of Blackstone Valley ephemera Sunday afternoon April 18. Dan will begin the afternoon with a talk about his collection in the Upstairs Hall of North Gate at 1 pm. Following his presentation, you will have the opportunity to view his collection featuring historic items from Lincoln, Cumberland and Smithfield displayed in the first floor hall.

On display will be historic deeds, documents, and maps as well as milk bottles and caps, signs, Arnold Bakery calendars, firemen's muster ribbons earned in fire fighters competitions, war service medals and several **David Davidson** pictures of Hearthside, circa early 1900s.

The bulk of the collection covers the span of years from the 1700s to 1960.

*Photos courtesy of Dan Bethel.*

# President's Message

Looking forward to spring with its new life and blooming flowers, I have some good news items to share with you.

Firstly, as it turns out, I am not moving out of RI this spring. My son's family is going to be moving in the not too distant future, hopefully closer to RI, and it seemed silly for me to move twice. So for the time being I will be staying put.

Secondly, many thanks to Al Klyberg for his grant writing efforts, BVHS has won a grant from the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in the amount of \$3,000. This award, combined with the recent bequest of \$15,000 from the late Mrs. Virginia Doris, will enable us to complete renovations to the fire station to hold the archives. See article elsewhere in newsletter for more details.

Thirdly, a power surge during a storm in February destroyed part of the recently installed fire alarm system. Many thanks to John Houghton for being on top of the situation and overseeing the repair to the system.

## REMEMBERING Robert K. Smith, Sr.

Known to us as Ken, a long time member passed away February 23, 2010. Ken was actively involved in BVHS for many years having served on the property committee among other things.

## BVHS receives \$3000 Grant from Heritage Corridor to purchase shelving to house Society collections in the Lime Rock Fire Station adjacent to North Gate

The Blackstone Valley Historical Society has succeeded in winning a competitive grant for new library equipment. This winter the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor conducted a two-step competitive grant process to assist Valley groups in their missions to advance the aims of the Corridor. BVHS won \$3,000 to purchase new library shelving for its efforts to bring its library collection storage up to date in the relocation project which will move the library out of the second floor North Gate space to a refurbished area in the adjacent Lime Rock Fire Station.

Since its move from Pawtucket to Lincoln, in 1971, BVHS has housed its research library on the second floor of the Grange Hall building. This locked storage area while providing secure space has never been ideal for actually using the manuscript, graphic and printed research collections. This cramped space does not admit the presence of a proper library table for spreading out materials for examination.

As a result of a prior grant from the Rhode Island State Archives (\$2,000) an inventory of the collections in storage was made and plans were developed to make more space for them in the adjacent Fire Station building, which has the advantage of being more fire-proof and at ground floor level. Upgrades to the fire station in the form of fire and intrusion alarm systems, heating and air-

conditioning systems, devising a better grade storage system have occurred or are in the process. Most of this was made possible by the recent bequest of \$15,000 from the late Mrs. Virginia Doris of Saylesville, Pawtucket, and Warwick. Recent Legislative grants from the RI General Assembly have also made refurbishing of the Fire Station possible.

The Corridor grant will be used specifically for a compact metal storage system—storage shelves mounted on tracks. A full range of shelves slides back and forth on the tracks enabling the doubling of materials to be accommodated. An aisle is created by rolling the shelves open when access is required. When the new arrangement is completed by mid-summer or early fall, there should be enough room in the fire station for the current collection at North Gate, Mrs. Doris's historical archives, and space for future additions. With this new arrangement, the library will take up less than a third of the available space in the fire station.

## BVHS NEEDS YOU!

### Hospitality & Refreshments

- Help coordinate goodies for the meetings
- Set-up and serve those goodies
- Quick clean-up after meetings

Call Pat Armitage: 401-737-6229

## "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

## Special Note

If you have any problem playing the DVD that you purchased, please contact Pat Armitage

(401-737-6229)

or email [bvhs58@gmail.com](mailto:bvhs58@gmail.com)