



THE LANDMARK

PUBLICATION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Pat Armitage - *President*

Al Klyberg - *Vice-President*

Affiliate Associations

Preservation Society of Pawtucket ♦ Great Road Historical District

BVHS hosts “Photo Detective” at March 18th meeting at North Gate

Maureen Taylor to talk about her book “Picturing Rhode Island”, discuss her research techniques and how to apply

When you peruse your collection of family photos, can you identify all those pictured? The location? The year?

If you have wondered how to answer these questions, you will want to spend an evening with BVHS guest speaker **Maureen Taylor** Wed. March 18 at 7:00 pm. The Society will hold a brief meeting immediately followed by Maureen’s talk in the upstairs hall of North Gate.

Recognized as an authority in photo identification and preservation, Ms. Taylor’s main focus remains family photography, history and genealogy.

Known as the “Photo Detective” she has authored several books, including: *Through the Eyes of Your Ancestors*, *Preserving Your Family Photographs* and *Picturing Rhode Island, Images of Everyday Life, 1850-2006*.

Taylor found her muse in 1978 while examining a shiny metal daguerreotype. She has since combined her study of history with her desire to preserve that history. A native of Rhode Island, Ms. Taylor now lives in the Boston area with her husband and two children.

Light refreshments will be served in the downstairs hall following the talk. Her books will be available for purchase and autographing.

Local collector to share his knowledge of “Postcards from the Blackstone Valley”

Dan Bethel, BVHS member and postcard collector will be the featured speaker at the Society’s April 19th meeting. He will discuss many aspects of postcards including age identification and postal marks.

This will be a “hands on” even. Dan will have many, many postcards for you to look at and ask questions about. Please be sure to have your glasses and perhaps a magnifying lens with you as there will be many tiny details to view.

“A family photograph is more than a random collection of images; each one is a story worth saving.”

Maureen Taylor



BVHS looks to future: Annual Meeting & Elections Scheduled May 17th

The Society’s nominating committee, chaired by Al Klyberg, is putting together candidates for a slate of officers and directors for the upcoming term, July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. The election will be May 17. Elected positions are:

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

If you or anyone you know would be interested in running for office or serving on a committee, please contact Al at: aklyberg@msn.com or 401-333-4484.

You can help Historical Society Restore the rare Valley Falls Panoramic Bird's Eye View Map

By Al Klyberg and Pat Armitage

At its November 19, 2008 meeting, BVHS unveiled the newly restored panoramic map of Saylesville. Several other panoramas were on display that evening, one of which was in very bad condition – the Valley Falls Bird's Eye View. After the talk that evening there was discussion that the Valley Falls panorama should also be conserved.

The panorama was taken to the conservator **Ruth Strach** of At Last! Studio. She has estimated that it will cost about \$400 to consolidate and protect the map with another \$150 to make a protective mat so it can be handled safely. The process will be to attach the various loose pieces together with a tissue backing. The rough edges will be consolidated by this process as well. The stains for the most part are not on the main portion of the view, but rather around the edges. No attempt will be made at this point to remove the stains. At a later date, the panorama could be taken to the New England Document Conservation Center in North Andover where further work could be done, such as washing it and having the stains removed. The cost for this additional conservation work probably would be in excess of \$1,000. Nothing done to it now would prevent or compromise any future conservation efforts should funds become available.

This Valley Falls view is extremely important. No other copy is known to exist. It documents the heyday of manufacturing on both the Cumberland side and Central Falls side of the Blackstone River at the end of the 19th century. These are the years of **Elizabeth Buffum Chace** and her family along with numerous other industries. The view itself fits

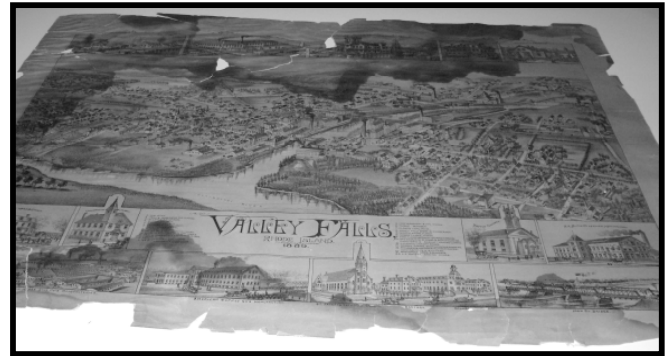


Photo courtesy of Pat Armitage

directly in the middle of the other panoramic pictures with numerous other industries. The view itself fits of Pawtucket/Central Falls to the south, Saylesville to the west and Lonsdale to the north. They were all executed by the same firm, O. H. Bailey of Boston. Not only is there great detail of the mills and the operatives homes, but, also, of the railroads, schools and churches of the vicinity.

BVHS member, **Chris Nowak**, remembered seeing a copy of this view at Walmsley's store, but on contacting the family recently she learned that they lost track of it. The copy we received from the offices of the Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor is either that copy which went astray or another of the same vintage.

BVHS has set out to preserve this panoramic view of Valley Falls. Thus far \$170.00 in donations has been received toward this conservation and the Society is soliciting additional amounts in \$10, \$25, \$50 or more toward this worthy project. Any amounts no matter how small would be helpful and appreciated.

Make checks payable to:
BVHS with Valley Falls Map in the memo line
Mail checks to:
BVHS, P O Box 125, Lincoln, RI 02865

SAVE THESE DATES		
April 19	1:30 PM	<i>"Postcards from the Blackstone Valley"</i> by Dan Bethel
May 17	1:30 PM	Blackstone Valley Historical Society Annual Meeting & Elections

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

www.blackstonevalleyhistoricalsociety.org