

## THE LANDMARK

**PUBLICATION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** 

Vol. 55 September 2013

Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

bvhsri.org • 1873 Old Louisquissett Pike (Rte 246) • PO Box 125, Lincoln RI, 02865

### Society Launches 'BVHS ON THE GO'

Here's the idea. BVHS members and friends meet at an appointed time and at a predetermined location with the purpose of exploring an historic site or participating in another societies' event.

Several Society members made our first Field Trip to The Fall River Historical Society's "Echoes of Lizzie. A Special New Lizzie Borden Exhibit".

#### **IN MEMORIUM**

Robert V. Lewis, M.D. Everett A. Colerick



**BVHS ON THE GO** 

On August 19, 25 folks toured the **Cogswell Tower** in Central Falls Jenks Park. The youngest was 18 and the oldest was 92! We all made the trek up to the base of the tower, many to the tower top. Tour guide Bob Ferri led the group, sharing information about the park, the tower and the site's significance in Blackstone Valley history.

➤ (See page 2 for photos)

#### SAVE THESE DATES

Sunday, October 10, 2 PM

Rick Harris

The National Pastime & Origins and Development of

Baseball in Rhode Island

Tuesday, November 12, 7 PM *Todd McLeish*Arctic Whales in a Melting World

Saturday, December 7, 7 PM Upstairs Hall

Cumberland Lincoln Community Chorus Concert

Joint Fundraising Event - Tickets \$10

#### Comet ISON! Will it sizzle or fizzle? Find out Sunday September 15th 2 pm North Gate Downstairs Hall

No. 1

Dave Huestis, historian of Seagrave Observatory, has been monitoring the path of Comet ISON, and will give us the latest information as to its whereabouts and its potential for being seen. He will also inform you as to the nature of comets, and what they have meant in history.

In addition, Dave will introduce you to the historic Seagrave Observatory, owned by Skyscrapers, Inc., the Amateur Astronomical Society of Rhode Island. The primary telescope, the 8-inch



refractor, has been a part of Rhode Island history for over a century, and he will give you a virtual tour of Seagrave Observatory, located on Peeptoad Road in North Scituate.

Dave Huestis has been an amateur astronomer since his early teens. His love for astronomy has caused him to be a very active member of Skyscrapers, Inc., serving in many capacities, most notably as keeper of historical records. Dave also has been an instructor of Astronomy Labs at Bryant University for many years.

Central Falls • Cumberland • Lincoln • North Smithfield • Pawtucket • Woonsocket

#### Have you renewed your membership? Use this form to renew Now!

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES \$ 30Family \$ 20Individual \$ Donation	Amount Enclosed: \$
	Additional donations are gratefully accepted and are Tax Deductible
Member Name(s):	
Address:	
City:	State: Zip:
Phone: E-mail address:	
How would you like to receive the BVHS newsletter <b>The Landmark</b> and notifications?   Email US Mail	
Please check areas where you would like to help	
☐ Membership ☐ Newsletter ☐ Publicity ☐	Program
Please make your check payable to: BVHS Mail to: BVHS - Membership • P.O. Box 125 • Lincoln, RI 02865	
We would like your suggestions for future programs.	

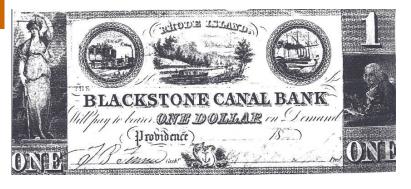
#### Look what we found in the archives

Original investors were enthusiastic to fund the Blackstone

FROM # BVHS

ARCHIVES

Canal, however, after 20 years of delays their enthusiasm waned. And with the advent of the railroad the canal was doomed. The bank divested itself from the Canal Company and continued to function well into the 20th Century as the Blackstone Canal National Bank.



T-Shirts
On Sale
At Monthly
Programs

See Save the Date for Days & Times

#### Blackstone Valley



Small Medium Large X Large

#### **Historical Society**



\$10

#### **BVHS EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President: Jason Dionne

401-862-4202

Email: jjhdio70@gmail.com

Vice President: John Houghton Secretary: Francine Jackson Treasurer: Lori Melucci

#### **Members-at-Large**

Gail Harris, Glen Laxton, Bob Ferri



#### THE TRAIN WRECK THAT CHANGED TIME

In 1853, an event occurred in Valley Falls, Rhode Island, that literally changed the face of time. On August 12<sup>th</sup>, a southbound and a northbound train found themselves on the same track, resulting in a devastating collision that killed 14 and seriously injured dozens more.

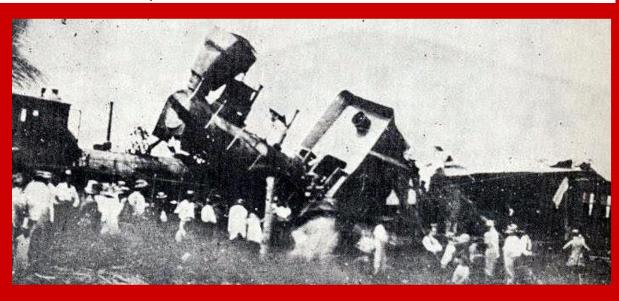
This was not the first train wreck to occur with major fatalities. It also should have been easy to divert: The two trains had several minutes in their schedule to pass by each other unscathed; but, one conductor's watch was off by two minutes, causing the trains to collide. This event was an eye opener for railroad executives, who then began the push for consistent time within large areas of the country – time zones. These



# THE RAILROAD SLAUGHFER. THE DISASTER ON THE WORCESTER AND PROVIDENCE ROAD.

This is thought to be the earliest train wreck photographed.

A daguerreotype, this photo was taken by a Mr. L. Wright of Pawtucket.





became the rule for railroad companies in 1883.

The August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1853, collision was also the first train accident to be photographed. See the exhibit on this historic event at the Blackstone Valley Historical Society, Lincoln, RI, beginning September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

FREE TOUR
North Gate Toll House
&
Arnold's Lonsdale Bakery

BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1873 Old Louisquisett Pike (Rte. 246)\*Lincoln, RI 02865

OPEN HOUSE Saturday, September 28 11 am - 4 pm

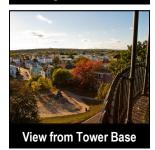
Apple Desserts & Drinks Available ~ Small Donation



## WWII Veterans Celebration & USO Revisited Memories

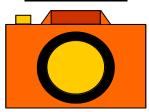


**Cogswell Tower** 









**PHOTO CREDITS** 

Cogswell Tower **Diego Correal** 

WWII Veterans
Memorial Ceremony &
USO Revisited
Jim Hendrickson



Pictured above clockwise from top left: Original plaque honoring the Lime Rock Grange WWI Veterans, Honored Veterans from the left: Robert D. Bateson, Ralph E. Lancaster, Gordon Jackson, Everett H. Wilbur, Oliver H. J. Perry II; BVHS President presenting certificate to Mr. Perry; Brown University Swing Dancers taking a breather; Reggie Centracchio Quintet; Jim & Joyce Bethel; Glenn Laxton plays and sings *Great Balls of Fire*; Manville Troup #1 Boy Scouts Jeffrey Guadagni & Jack Hoyle; USO Revisited "songbirds" Michelle Jeffrey and Esther Guadagni.