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Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

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

Hey ... Mark the Date!!

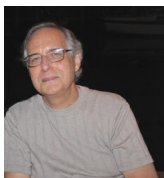


12/6 at 2 P.M.
Bob Tessier :
Tracing the Early
Settlers of
Albion, Rhode Island

While much of what is known about Albion revolves around the history of its mill, little is known about the area prior to 1822. What has been known about early settlement has come down through oral history and has been repeated many times since its original publication in 1936. Truth does not come through repetition, however. It comes from hard facts and reliable source documents. Based on comprehensive research, this program will identify some of the early settlers of Albion and the lands they owned, with particular emphasis on the Lapham family, who owned land in Albion for over 150 years. In the course of this discussion, many long-held claims will be debunked as well.

What About Bob?

Robert Tessier is the creator and administrator of the Facebook group page "Remembering Albion, Rhode Island" and also the website "[Tell Me About Albion, Rhode Island](http://TellMeAboutAlbion.com)." He is completing a research project about an aspect of Albion history that is supported by a grant from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities.



The unbeatable lecture series!

It's usually the older brother who gets the lime light (think Alec Baldwin, JFK), so it's



not surprising that Samuel Slater can roll off a Rhode Islander's tongue, but few know about John Slater, the younger brother (the man who founded the

first mill village built in America), Christian de Rezendes is looking to change all that with his ground breaking documentary, *Slatersville*. Originally a project of the town, severe budget cuts caused the film to lose its funding. Instead of throwing in the towel, Christian says he "took the torch and ran with it".

-continued on the back



BVHS bids a very fond Farewell and Safe Travels to Sue & Kurt Nicewander as they make their way to California. Sue has been the creative driving force behind the Newsletter and many other BVHS projects for 9 years. You will be missed!



On November 14 the Grange was a rockin' and over 90 people came a knockin'. Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame inductee Ken Lyon blew the roof off of North Gate introducing his much awaited new musical project, Nirk Nation. The night was kicked off with Justin

"Winding Boy" Lyon, who rambled just as easily as he strummed the Hill Country Blues. If you missed it, be sure to mark the calendar next time their performing.



In Memoriam

Barbara (Stromberg) Dupuis 5/4/1934 - 10/18/2015

Barbara was a long time member and gave of her time to the Society. In addition to treasurer, she also served as membership secretary for several years. BVHS will always be grateful for the time and effort Barbara gave to the Society especially when it was going through a crisis in late 2005.

Calling All Bowlers!

This fundraiser is just duddy!



WHEN

January 24
2 –4 PM

WHERE

Town Hall Lanes,
Johnston

DETAILS

Teams of 5 are invited
to compete for the super
awesome **trophy**!

15.00/person,
sign up deadline 1/7/16.

CONTACT

bvhs58@gmail.com
401-737-6229

BVHS has recently joined the Alliance of Rhode Island Historical Associations (ARIHS) whose mission is to increase and encourage public interest in local historical and cultural institutions by fostering cooperation, sharing expertise, promoting programs and events of the groups involved.

Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the ARIHS

Slatersville cont.

It's more than just some project for the award winning film maker, it's personal. Back in 2005, before the town even thought to approach him with the idea, Christian had been independently videotaping interviews with long term residents. When the town pulled out in 2011, grant proposals were submitted and awarded, helping fund the project in 2012. I asked him the idea behind the project. "Telling the story of its Two-Century-Long evolution - the highs, the lows, the drama, its struggles, its characters and more! And we're doing it all with the use of interviews, rarely seen photographs, articles, personal letters and more. Our story runs from the 1790's to present day." he says, and the excitement he has for it is contagious.

I said it's personal, and it definitely is. Christian's a good old homeboy, he grew up in Slatersville, attended Kendall-Dean School and got baptized at the Congregational Church. He lived in Brooklyn for three years, but missed the quiet, the space, and feeling of ownership that came with living in Rhode Island. Since being back he's been a full-fledged director. He's interviewed over 70 people, 8 of whom have passed away. He remembers Cecilia Flynn who is now 102 fondly. "She was a real spitfire with great life perspective and details about how the village functioned."

Funding has started to become an issue, however. Grants and donations only last so long, and in the final stretch the well has started to dry up. Christian is undeterred. He still pushes forward, recording precious interviews, uncovering rare 8mm film reels from the 1930's and discovering personal collections from Slater residents. RIC and RWU students help out, but he hopes for further funding to help finalize the film. **Check out Christian de Rezendes project at www.firstmillvillage.com . Follow him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/slatersvilleamericasfirstmillvillage.**

Found in the Archives ...

Starting in the summer of 2015, Pat Armitage, Lori Melucci and Jocelyn Dube starting the arduous process of cataloging the collection that BVHS has been building since 1971. Check out these awesome vaudeville photos that were logged this past month.



2015 - 2016 Capital Campaign



As you know, the society has applied for and received a grant to repair and paint North Gate. In the process other issues arose including foundation stabilization, new walkway and parking lot barriers. The Capital Campaign will fund this needed work and allow for continued upkeep of The Lonsdale Arnold Bakery, The Fire Station and the exterior and interior spaces at North Gate.

Help us meet our goal!

The BVHS would like to thank Joyce and Jim for their generous donation kicking off our capital campaign!

BVHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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401-862-4202

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