



THE LANDMARK

PUBLICATION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 57

JUNE

No. 1

Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

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

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

SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE 12
3:00 P.M.
@ NORTH
GATE

Andy DiPaola Concert

Benefit for the Blackstone Valley Historical Society.

JUNE 13
6:30 P.M.
ON THE GO!!

BVHS's annual tour of Cogswell Tower in Central Falls with Bob Ferri.

Meet at the Jenks Park entrance. Learn the history of the tower as we climb to the top for a spectacular view and go under the building to the hidden grotto.

AUGUST 27
10:00 A.M.
ON THE GO!!

BVHS On the Go! with Glenn Laxton

Meet at the Moshassuck Cemetery on Lonsdale Avenue in Central Falls. Bring your cell phone, iPad or similar device if you have one. We will watch original footage of the Sayles Bleachery Labor Strike as we walk through the stones and see the bullet holes left from the riot.

OCTOBER 16
2:00 P.M.
@ NORTH
GATE

Raymond Wolf Lecture

Ray Wolf will discuss his latest book, written from the personal log of John E. O'Hara during his service to the Navy during World War II (1942-1945).

NOVEMBER 20
2:00 P.M.
@ NORTH
GATE


C Morgan Grefe, R.I. Historical Society

Lecture concerning history of the triple decker building.



The Cumberland High School Archeology Club was honored by the town, School Committee, and community on May 26. They were also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by President Jason Dionne.

BVHS is awfully proud of these impressive kids!



Rent
North Gate!

Questions?
Call
(401) 651-6463

A perfect way to make your party pop is to have it in a hip historic setting ... Great for all occasions!

BVHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Jason Dionne

401-862-4202

Email: jihdio70@gmail.com

Vice President: John Houghton

Secretary: Francine Jackson

Treasurer: Lori Melucci

Members-at-Large

Gail Harris, Glenn Laxton, Bob Ferri

Visit us at www.bvhsri.com

Some Visual History – Dairy Farms of Lincoln

As late as the 1960's, there were 200 dairy farms in Lincoln. Now much of the farm land has turned into homes. The barns have been taken down and it is hard to see where they were. Chase Farm preserves some of this earlier period in Lincoln's history for us. Lincoln Woods Farm, once located where Smithfield Avenue meets Great Road in the present-day Gateway Park, was a well-known attraction, where "Saylesville cow's milk was turned into ice cream right before your eyes" according to "100 Years of Rhode Island State Parks." We've gathered some pictures and stories, and we'd welcome more pictures of dairy farms and barns in Lincoln. Most of the following information and the photographs of Chase Farm have been shared by Kathy Hartley, of Hearthside House Museum. The milk bottle and caps are from Dan Bethel's collection.

Chase Farm

Chase Farm was one of Lincoln's last operating dairy farms, and it had a long history. Benjamin Ellery Chase and his wife Alzada Thornton purchased the property in 1867. The land was originally owned by the Arnolds and it remained in the Arnold family from 1661 to 1810, when it was sold to Benjamin and George Smith, the father and brother of Stephen Smith, who built Hearthside. After Benjamin Smith's death in 1830, it was sold to Jeremiah Whipple. The Chases purchased the farm from the Whipples. One curious fact is that the sale documents were actually signed both in France and in Smithfield (Lincoln), since the Whipples were in Pau. Three generations of Chases farmed the property.

The first photograph shows the Chase farm in about 1921. The barns in the photograph burned down in 1925 in a fire started by a lightning storm. Fortunately the cows were out to pasture at the time. After the fire, the Chases purchased the neighboring Butterfly Farm, behind Hearthside, and the dairy became known as the Chase and Butterfly Farm. It had a herd of sixty to one hundred Holstein cows, which were rotated between four different pastures. Although the cows were milked by hand in the early years, the farm was an up-to-date milk-processing facility by the 1950's. Chase and Butterfly Farm provided home delivery to local residents until 1965, when they began selling milk wholesale to Maplehurst Dairy. Benjamin Chase died in 1974. In 1979, Mrs. Chase sold a large portion of the land to the Town of Lincoln for the preservation of its historical character and as open space. She lived in the Chase farmhouse until 1987.

Chase Farmhouse

The original house was the small clapboarded building across the driveway, visible in the picture. The present house was built in 1890. The Town of Lincoln has owned it for a number of years, and last year it entered into an agreement with Preserve RI to have it restored. The original plan was to find a curator who would live in the house and work on it in exchange for rent. It was determined, however, that this would take too long. Preserve RI instead began the restoration immediately. Much of the work has been done, and a tenant moved into the second floor at the beginning of the year, and another will move into the first floor in May. The restoration will continue and eventually the house will take on more of its original Victorian appearance. There are plans to rebuild the porches which were lost in the 1938 hurricane.



This article is authored by Lori Melucci, tireless Treasurer of BVHS.

She will continue her research in an article titled "Milk and Ice Cream Lincoln Woods Farm" ... Look for it in a future issue!

If you have any information about the milk industry in Lincoln, please contact bvhs58@gmail.com