



# THE LANDMARK

PUBLICATION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 57

March

No. 7

*Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History*

[bvhsri.org](http://bvhsri.org) ♦ 1873 Old Louisissett Pike (Rte 246) ♦ PO Box 125, Lincoln RI, 02865

Please  
Join  
Us ...

Sunday, March 19 — 2:00 P.M. — North Gate

**Joseph Coduri**

*Rhode Island Railroad Stations:  
Post Cards Views at the Turn of the 20th Century*

Joseph E. Coduri received his Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Rhode Island and began this career on the staff of the University's Bureau of Government Research working with cities and towns throughout Rhode Island.

After 14 years he left the academic environment and became a Supervisor of Local Government Assistance for the State of Rhode Island. Joe retired in 2013 after a 45-year career in State service.

Joe has been collecting post cards of Rhode Island for the past 35 year and since 1988 he has chaired or co-chaired the very successful Annual Exhibit & Show of the Rhode Island Post Card Club. His first goal in retirement was to produce *Rhode Island Railroad Stations: Post Card Views at the Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*

Joe and his wife Joan reside in Warwick, Rhode Island.



Q10 & WITH JOE CODURI

**Do you travel by train whenever possible? Is there anything that can be done to make our rail system more accessible?**

I'm a big fan of rail transportation, but its accessibility is challenged by our reliance on the automobile. High speed rail systems are more successful in other parts of the world. I travel by train whenever I have a chance.

**Do you miss being a part of Government?**

I had a very rewarding career in government, but am certainly enjoying my retirement by writing books and volunteering my time at historical societies and similar organizations.

**How is the Rhode Island Post Club doing these days? Is the younger generation taking up collecting?**

The Rhode Island Post Club has a good number of members, but it is not without its challenges, which are similar to other post card clubs in the New England area - namely competition from the internet and a declining numbers of dealers. Also, the younger

genera tion doesn't seem as interested in collecting post cards, compared to an earlier generation.

**Where are the best places to find collectible/memorable postcards?**

Post cards can be found at flea markets, post card shows, antique shows, yard sales and on the internet.

Much has happened since the last newsletter-The first event was the continuing recovery and clearing efforts at Lincoln 14 on Sherman Avenue, which have yielded numerous new burial markers, greatly expanding the perimeters of the yard and our knowledge of the site.

The second big event was the exciting discovery of a completely new cemetery by two of our team members, Barry and Ted Polak. I was astounded when I went to verify it and with Barry found and pulled up multiple field stone markers in what looks to be a very large burial yard. This previously unknown lot is located behind West Butterfly Road and Butterfly Pond and is easily accessed off a well worn hiking trail that runs from Breakneck Road near the Lodge Restaurant over to Sherman Avenue. The cemeteries' denizens are as yet unidentified, but suggestions range from the original Narragansetts to one of the first families of Quaker settlers or a tantalizing combination of both, where an earlier yard was added on to by the next wave of inhabitants. At any rate it was lost to time and history and it will be a source of much upcoming work and recovery in the days ahead.



Evidence of markers at Butterfly cemetery.



Butterfly cemetery after initial clearing.



Perspective on Butterfly cemetery. Barry Polak is standing 20 ft. away.



Barry Polak affixing sign to tree at Butterfly cemetery.

The warm weather has been great for recovery and digging, allowing us to also do extensive raking and brush clearing. Soon enough, it will be time to replace all the worn out veteran flags in the Valley with new ones and I will be coordinating with the Pawtucket schools to do those cemeteries and with any volunteers who want to help with the many smaller yards scattered throughout our locales.

Please let us know if you need a flag and/or marker for a veteran loved one or ancestor. As always, thank you for your continued and much appreciated support of these efforts and adventures-without you folk, none of this would be possible!

*In November 2015 BVHS voted to aid Ken Postle in his efforts to uncover lost cemeteries.  
Donations to help him in his mission can be submitted to BVHS.*



In our April Newsletter, BVHS will be showcasing a story by Dave W. Harvey, speculating on the origins of the name Harvey the Rabbit. To pre-game, here is a scene from the movie which he references. Save this issue so you can reference it next month.

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“Sanderson: How did you happen to call him Harvey?”

Elwood: Harvey is his name.

Sanderson: How do you know that?

Elwood: That was rather an interesting coincidence, Doctor. One night several years ago I was walking early in the evening along Fairfax Street- between Eighteenth and Nineteenth. You know

that block?

Sanderson: Yes, yes.

Elwood: I had just helped Ed Hickey into a taxi. Ed had been mixing his rye with his gin, and I felt he needed conveying. I started to walk down the street when I heard a voice saying: “Good evening, Mr. Dowd.” I turned and there was this great white rabbit leaning against a lamppost. Well, I thought nothing of that, because when you have lived in a town as long as I have lived in this one, you get used to the fact that everybody knows your name. Naturally, I went over to chat with him. He said to me: “Ed Hickey is a little spiffed this evening, or could I be mistaken?” Well, of course he was not mistaken. I think the world and all of Ed but he was spiffed. Well, anyway, we stood there and talked, and finally I said- “You have the advantage of me. You know my name and I don’t know yours.” Right back at me he said: “What name do you like?” Well, I didn’t even have to think a minute: Harvey has always been my favorite name. So I said, “Harvey,” and this is the interesting part of the whole thing. He said- “What a coincidence. My name happens to be Harvey.”

Sanderson: What was your father’s name, Dowd?

Elwood: John. John Frederick.

Sanderson: Dowd, when you were a child you had a playmate, didn’t you? Someone you were very fond of – with whom you spent many happy, carefree hours?

Elwood: Oh, yes, Doctor. Didn’t you?

Sanderson: What was his name?

Elwood: Verne. Verne McElhinney. Did you ever know the McElhinneys, Doctor?

Sanderson: No.

Elwood: Too bad. There were a lot of them, and they circulated. Wonderful people.

Sanderson: Think carefully, Dowd. Wasn’t there someone, somewhere, sometime, whom you knew – by the name Harvey? Didn’t you ever know anybody by that name?

Elwood: No, Doctor. No one. Maybe that’s why I always had such hopes for it.”



Tune in next month for Dave W. Harvey’s “A Family Legend”.





Rent  
North Gate!

**Questions?  
Call John!  
(401) 651-6463**

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

## 2016-2017 Capital Campaign

\$10,000  
\$8,000  
\$6,000  
\$4,000  
\$2,000



### Francine is on the radio!

*Tune in to WRNI at 9:35 A.M. on the  
4th Thursday of the Month*

North Gate is in need of a few necessary renovations this year, including insulation, a new furnace, and a much needed remodel of the drive-way. Our 2016-2017 campaign will help will these projects.

We wish to specially thank the Bethel family for their recent generous donation.

### Help us meet our goal!

#### Submit your stuff!

Have a story to include in this awesome Landmark newsletter?  
Send it along!  
dubejocelyn@gmail.com

Factual or Fictional—Everyone has a story to tell.

Looking for warm stories to get us through the cold winter.

If you know someone who  
hasn't been receiving their  
Landmark newsletter, please  
let Pat know.

Call (401) 737 6229

E-mail bvhs58@gmail.com

## Upcoming events

April 23  
2:00 P.M.  
North Gate

#### Dan Bethel

Dan brings his latest collection of  
ephemera to North Gate

May  
TBD

#### Annual Meeting

Details to be determined soon.

#### BVHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Jason Dionne  
401-862-4202

Email: [jjhdio70@gmail.com](mailto:jjhdio70@gmail.com)

Vice President: John Houghton  
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