



# THE LANDMARK

PUBLICATION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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No. 8

*Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History*

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

Please  
Join  
Us ...

Sunday, April 23— 2:00 P.M. —North Gate

**Dan Bethel**

*Ephemera from  
Lincoln, Cumberland, Smithfield & Central Falls*



Come look at Dan's latest showcase featuring many items from singular subjects.  
Look for collections from Lincoln Downs, Cumberland Monastery, Winsor Apple Orchard and more!



1929 trolley  
accident in  
Limerock



The "Oval"  
baseball field off  
Martin Street in  
Cumberland



Route 116 being  
built



Memorial Day  
ceremony at  
Wilbur Road  
bridge in honor of  
veteran Harry  
Speight

## Calling for Nominations!

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for the Executive Committee.

The positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Directors.

Contact Pat Armitage, Chair, with any nominations at [bvhs58@gmail.com](mailto:bvhs58@gmail.com) or 401-737-6229 by May 1.

## *In Memoriam*

Gordon Jackson , passed away 3/21/17



Gordon was a valued member of BVHS as well as a longtime member of the Limerock Grange and Fire Department. On his passing, board member Gail Harris remarked "It is sad, but I would like to remember Gordon this way. When I first joined BVHS, we all got together one day and cleaned the kitchen. I remember Gordon -- so quiet -- diligently working to clean the old cast iron stove and "blackening it" for hours. Then, there was the time when he was driving by North Gate and noticed one of the old plastic storms had fallen off. He took it, had new glass inserted, and put it back in place. The Jacksons are in that group of older members which I wish I had known long, long ago."

So as some of you know, I have taken on the interim pastorate of a Church in Millville in addition to my day job hours in the warehouse. This has cut my available time for recovery down some, but since last month I have been busy contacting the Pawtucket schools for the Memorial Day flagging in May and the associated essay contest. I have also been setting up for the April 8th recovery effort in Millville, Mass of the "Old Cemetery", that has almost completely vanished.

(Hopefully by the time this is published we will have some good results to report!)

My initial guess is that this is a mixed burial yard containing uninscribed Quaker field stones and fragments of traditional inscribed markers-There is only one standing inscription left and fragments of some others, but nothing yet identifiable. With myself representing BVHS and Lee Clement representing the Millville Historical Society, folks are teaming up with the New Hope Baptist Church youth group (that I pastor) to bring some dignity back to the neglected and severely compromised burial.



"Standing in that pulpit where Pastors led services through the Revolution and Civil War was very cool!"



New Hope Baptist Church Cemetery after a day of cleaning.

Deer visiting the Friends Meeting House.



I am also planning to get back out into the Sherman Ave Indian Cemetery to recover more stones and to further explore the similarities between these burial markers and the ones discovered by Barry Polak that we have been recovering behind Butterfly Pond in Lincoln. I also want to get a group and date together to fully explore and recover my Ballou family burials in the Moses Ballou Lot, now that we have deed and family right of access.

Cumberland High School has been waiting for the weather to clear to get back out with me in their yards-very cool!

April 29th is the scheduled date for Pawtucket DPW to bring heavy equipment into the Oak Grove and Mineral Spring Avenue cemeteries to right as many as possible of the larger fallen and vandalized monuments. This is something my partner in advocacy, Bill Greenwood and I have been lobbying for these last 5 years.

As always, thank you for the incredible support and encouragement you folk and BVHS provide-None of the outstanding work that has been done to date would have been possible without your help!

**Ken was also recently nominated by the Attleboro Historical Commission to receive a Historic Preservation Award!**

**The Ceremony is May 8 at Attleboro City Hall.**

**Congratulations, Ken!**

*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 February Newsletter, we began a three part story by Dave W. Harvey, speculating on the origins of the name Harvey the Rabbit. We pre-gamed, with a scene from the movie which he references.  
Reference your last issue and save this issue so you can look back next month.

It was the early 1920's, just a few years after WW 1 ended, when late one night a drunk approached the two story building in Brooklyn where my father lived on the second floor and yelled up "Harvey, Harvey, come down and let me in." This often repeated demand was made by Frank Fay a hugely popular stand-up comedian who lived on the first floor and was returning from one of his late night performances. My father, the nice guy that he was, always obliged and came down to let him in. I doubt that Dad knew much about Fay until later when Fay became famous for his creation of the role of Elwood Dowd in the play about an invisible white rabbit, Harvey. He became famous for other things too; but, more about that later.

Our daughter Sue asked us about *Harvey*, the movie that had been shown recently at the Warwick Library. This reminded me of the incident described above that became one of my dad's favorite stories. He enjoyed telling it whenever the opportunity arose. Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines a legend as a story coming down from the past and one regarded as historical although not verifiable. The heart of our legend is that Dad speculated, no, he believed, that Fay had a say in the naming of the white, six foot one and a half inch rabbit. Fay's choice, Harvey, according to Dad, harkened back to those days when Dad trudged down those stairs late at night to respond to Fay's demand to let him in the front door of that Brooklyn apartment house.

The notoriety of Frank Fay, born Francis Donner, is a story in itself and the end notes will explain this. But, is there any evidence that Fay actually suggested the name Harvey for the Pooka – white rabbit? (See note 1) I could find no evidence that he did but there are some speculations.

Dad insisted that in the movie, Elwood, who is sitting at a bar, is asked how he came to choose Harvey for the name of the rabbit. Elwood responds that it just seemed right. So the leap is made that Elwood – Fay – had in mind those long ago days in Brooklyn when Harvey came to his rescue at the door of the apartment building. I have found no such passage in the movie version of the play. However, there is a delightful passage in Act two of the play. Elwood is being questioned by Dr. Sanderson with regard to his being admitted to Chumley's Rest for treatment. (Ref: last month's issue.)

Tune in next month for Dave W. Harvey's second and final installment of "A Family Legend".

Please  
Join  
Us ...

On April 30th at 2P.M. the Rhode Island Wind Ensemble will be playing  
a show at St Ann Arts and Cultural Center!

The show will be featuring Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame inductee  
Greg Abate on saxophone.

There is a 10 dollar suggested donation to benefit St. Ann

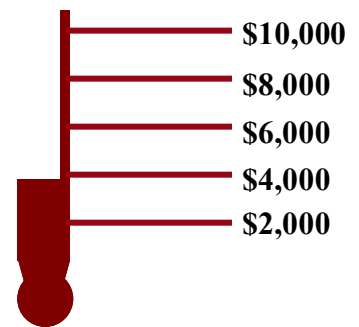


Rent  
North Gate!

**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



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!**

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](mailto:bvhs58@gmail.com)

### BVHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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401-862-4202

Email: [jhdio70@gmail.com](mailto:jhdio70@gmail.com)

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Gail Harris, Bob Ferri



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Visit us at [www.bvhsri.com](http://www.bvhsri.com)



## Francine is on the radio!

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

### Submit your stuff!

Have a story to include in this awesome Landmark newsletter?

Send it along!

[dubejocelyn@gmail.com](mailto:dubejocelyn@gmail.com)

Factual or Fictional—Everyone has a story to tell.

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

## Upcoming events

May 21  
1:30—2:00 P.M.  
North Gate

Notice of Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

May 21  
2:15 P.M.  
North Gate

### Annual Chris Nowak Memorial Lecture

**Gail Mohanty**

Adjunct Professor of History and Social Sciences  
at Bryant University

**Lecture: Technology and the Landscape**