



# THE LANDMARK

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*Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History*

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

## Senetchonet to Manville: A Journey Through Time

*The Manville Movies at North Gate! Free!*

By popular demand, BVHS will be showing both parts of *Senetchonet to Manville: A Journey Through Time*, by Betty and Carlo Mencucci, which includes pictures and other material collected by Roger Gladu and many interviews with Manville residents. Each movie is nearly 2 hours long. The first part will be shown on Sunday, January 14 at 2:00 p.m. If you missed it last year, here is your chance! **Please check Facebook or news media for cancellations in case of weather.**

Part I describes Manville's beginnings in colonial times, the mechanical genius of the Wilkinson family, and the rise of the great



Manville-Jenckes Mill after 1955 flood and fire Photo on staircase at North Gate

mills. Then a series of tragedies takes place as the movie covers the astonishing gas explosion of a Manville house in 1924, the textile strikes in

the 20s, and culminates in the dreadful flood and fire after Hurricane Diane in 1955.

On January 21, we

will show Part II, which includes more stories of Manville, and histories of businesses including the first woman-owned car dealership in RI.

### MOVIE MATINEE

January 14

2-4:30 pm, Sunday

**PART 1: Senetchonet to Manville: A Journey Through Time**

January 21

2-4 pm, Sunday

**PART 2**

**BVHS, North Gate  
1873 Old Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln, RI 02865  
Popcorn Available!**

## Public Drinking Fountains and Henry F. Jenks

One summer, during our tour of Cogwell Tower led by Bob Ferri, Danny Bethel pointed out the large vase-like object in the photograph at right, and identified it as a public drinking fountain. He said that there used to be many of these fountains, and that there are post card collectors who specialize in scenes showing them.

In the mid-nineteenth century, there was a great push to install public fountains to provide accessible, clean, free water for all. Many fountains also featured troughs for dogs and horses. In England the first one was installed in 1859. The Temperance movement was a strong advocate for them, since they believed that fear of contaminated water

encouraged people to drink beer. Although it is not clear whether this logic was sound, many were installed in both England and the United States. Frequently these fountains were beautifully designed and showed great craftsmanship. They were often funded as memorials.

There is an interesting blog about them called

(continued on p. 2)



Fountain by Henry Jenks in Jenks Park

# Public Drinking Fountains and Henry F. Jenks

(continued from p. 1)  
"Memorial Drinking Fountains: Cast Iron, A lost art trend" at <https://memorialdrinkingfountains.wordpress.com/>.

These splendid public fountains had a relatively short life. Many were made with iron and they deteriorated with time. Also, as people became aware of germs and disease transmission, the fountains were seen as health hazards. A few survive; there is one in front of the Providence Athenaeum. The Lime Rock fountain once stood on the circular flowerbed in the middle of Great Road by the Masonic Lodge.

Henry F. Jenks from Pawtucket was a prominent manufacturer and designer of these street fountains. The blog above lists him as the manufacturer of a fountain currently located near the courthouse in Charlottesville, VA.

In the picture to the right, he is standing near one of his fountains at the corner

of Pleasant and East Avenues at the foot of Church Hill in Pawtucket.

Henry Jenks was born in Pawtucket in 1837. He was employed at the Hope Iron Works in the construction of engraving machinery until the outbreak of the Civil War. He then went to work for William T. Nicholson in Providence, who manufactured gun machinery, except for a short period when he served in the army.

In 1865 he invented and patented the Jenks window spring, and started a shop to manufacture them in Pawtucket. At the end of the war, he returned to the Hope Iron Works as department superintendent. Hope Iron Works at that time manufactured ship windlasses, steam engines, and general machinery.

In 1869 Mr. Jenks took charge of his Pawtucket shop and continued to invent new machinery. One

of his specialties was drinking fountains.

This biography is from the "Illustrated History of Pawtucket, Central Falls and Vicinity" (Rhode Island, USA) by Henry R. Caufield, 1897, "Biographies of Prominent Citizens" pp. 353-356 at [www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/jenks/668/](http://www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/jenks/668/). The following quote is from the same article:

"Mr. Jenks was always deeply interested in the

progress of Pawtucket. Through his efforts the illuminated dial clock was placed on the Miller building in Main street square, modern drinking fountains were placed in convenient places about the city, and with him originated the idea and plans for celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the successful introduction of cotton spinning in America by Samuel Slater, which occurred in 1890."



Henry F. Jenks with one of his drinking fountains (BVHS archives)

## Spring House



Lampercock Spring House

This fall there were several articles about the historical farm structures at the intersection of Wilbur Road and Cynthia Road. Neighbors worry about the new and proposed construction in the area, especially of a currently undeveloped wetlands lot, impacting the rare Lampercock Spring House and the Phetteplace cemetery (LN013). The spring was once well known as a reliable source of pure water, and was used to keep milk cold at the dairy farm.

# Peck/Atwell Cemetery: Ken Postle

October 28: Super cool- after spending a couple of hours in Millville and Blackstone, putting up flyers for the Church, I headed to Attleboro to respond to a Cemetery request... Marianne from the Attleboro Historical Commission and DAR has been asking for me to do a look over assessment of a Peck/Atwell Cemetery behind the CVS there and I decided to spend a few minutes and check it out...It takes about a half hour most days to go from Millville to Attleboro, but there was



Headstone of 2-year-old Elizabeth Keepers from the Peck cemetery

an accident back up on 146, so it was about a 45 minute ride, but well worth it! At first I couldn't find it because it is tucked into the back corner of the CVS lot, but when I did- wow! As soon as I saw it, I knew that a Recovery effort there is not only doable, but badly needed...A small hillock overlooking a meandering small river- gorgeous...Much of what today is visible is stub only, but the enclosed area with a few readable inscriptions is chock full of hollows. A quick poking

by me and then more after Marianne arrived revealed buried chunks of stone right where the headstones should be..There are two complete pairs of headstone/footstones to orient by and the lot is 1/2 laid out direct East to West with another portion slightly off angled..Lots of stuff to interpret there, way more to find, judging by the abundant Hollows and a conservative estimate of between 40 to 60 Burials, if there are none beyond the modern wire fencing...Will we get an intrepid crew together to tackle it? Time will tell..



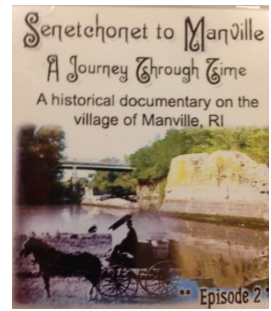
November concert and exhibit at BVHS. Above, Nevan and Remy DiMucci assist at Michael DiMucci's lecture on American music up to WWI. Above right, Michael DiMucci plays the pump organ at BVHS. Below right, part of Kevin Heskin's collection of WWI memorabilia on display. Photos by Jim Hendrickson.



## Upcoming Events at North Gate

**Most events are free.  
Everyone is welcome.  
Donations are gratefully accepted.**

**2-4:30 pm, Sunday, January 14:** Movie Matinee. The first part of *Senetchonet to Manville: A Journey Through Time*, the historical documentary of Manville by Betty and Carlo Mencucci, which includes many pictures and other material collected by Roger Gladu. Upstairs at North Gate. Returning at popular request! Free event.



Movie Matinee!

**2-4 pm, Sunday, January 21:** Movie Matinee. The Sequel! The second part of *Senetchonet to Manville: A Journey Through Time*. Upstairs at North Gate. Popcorn available. Free event.

**2-4 pm, Sunday, February 25:** Exhibit: The Lime Kilns of Lime Rock. Free

**2-3 pm, Sunday, March 18:** Lecture by Jim Ignasher, Smithfield historian. "How did the creation of Smithfield's first airport in 1932 ultimately change the course of WWII in the Pacific? And have you ever heard about the bizarre air battle that took place over Boston? Or what became of a fighter pilot who mysteriously vanished from formation while on a routine training flight over Connecticut?" On March 18 local writer and historian Jim Ignasher will tell these and other little-known tales relating to New England Aviation. Free.



Lime Kiln near Louisquisset Pike

**2-3 pm, Sunday, April 22:** Lecture by Rick Beyer, author and documentary filmmaker, will speak about *The Ghost Army of World War II*, the deception unit in the U.S. Army. For more information, see <http://rickbeyer.net>. Free.



Dummy Tank in Factory  
(The Ghost Army)

**2-3 pm, Sunday, May 20:** The Christine Nowak Lecture by Kevin Klyberg, Ranger, Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park. Title TBA. Free event.



Santa visits North Gate

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401-862-4202

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

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