

# 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

## The Lime Kilns of Lime Rock: An Exhibit

If you live in Lime Rock, you may be familiar with these mysterious stone structures. But maybe not. Most of them are hard to see, even though you may drive past them often. This exhibit will walk through seven sites that are part of Lime Rock's history. Mining and processing lime was nearly a continuous industry in Lime Rock from 17th century until nearly the 21st century, and these stone kilns, which bear a strong resemblance to ones in England, are relics of this early industry.

Our original idea was to do a walking tour, but most of the locations aren't very accessible.

Lime deposits were discovered in Rhode Island very early in the colony's history. Although limestone was found what is now Johnston,



Wall Kiln off Louisquisset Pike, probably late 18th century, early 19th century

North Providence, and Cumberland, the largest

deposits were in Lime Rock, which was then part of the Providence territory and referred to as the "North Woods" or the "outlands." In 1730, it became Smithfield. At some point between 1662 and 1669, Thomas Harris and Gregory Dexter each gained possession of land in the Lime Rock area containing limestone deposits and shortly afterwards began to work them. There is a letter dated August 19, 1669 from Roger Williams to the governor of Connecticut, John Winthrop Jr,



Hidden in the thicket near the entrance to CCRI  
Photos by William McManus

### EXHIBIT

February 25

2-4 pm, Sunday

Please check Facebook or news media for cancellations in case of weather.

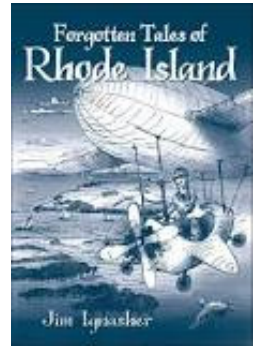
introducing Gregory Dexter to his notice as a producer of lime. Descendants of Thomas Harris and Gregory Dexter dominated the lime business until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Harris Lime Rock Company was incorporated in 1823, and the Dexter Lime Rock Company was incorporated in 1854, and they later merged. The Whipples, Jenckes, and Arnolds also owned lime deposits and were involved in the business of producing lime.

Lime was prized in colonial times. It was chiefly used for mortar and plaster for building. The "stone ender" chimneys at the Eleazer Arnold House and the Valentine Whitman house were built using local lime. It was also used in tanning, bleaching, blacksmithing, sugar refining, and candle making. Later it was used as a soil amendment, as it is used today. In the late nineteenth century, hydraulic cement took the place of natural lime mortar in building. Before the discovery of limestone, the early colonists made lime by burning seashells, which was inferior for building.

## Upcoming Events at North Gate

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

**2:00-4:00 pm, Sunday, March 18: Talk 2:00 pm-3:00 pm. Refreshments afterwards.** Talk 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.



Forgotten Tales of Rhode Island  
By Jim Ignasher

**2:00-4:00 pm, Sunday, April 22: Talk 2:00-3:00 pm. Refreshments afterwards.** Talk 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.

**1:30-2:00 pm, Sunday May 20: BVHS Annual Business meeting.**

**2:00-3:30 pm, Sunday, May 20: Christine Nowak Lecture 2:00-3:00 pm. Refreshments afterwards.** Ranger **Kevin Klyberg** from the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park will offer a lecture entitled *The War of 1812 and the Development of the Blackstone Valley*. The program will discuss how the War of 1812 played a major role in the industrialization of the Blackstone Valley. Free event.



Dummy Tank in Factory  
(The Ghost Army)

## Kelly House Barn



Kelly House Barn

At the Captain Wilbur Kelly House and Transportation Museum, the new barn is nearly complete. This replica of the original small milking barn was a project close to the heart of Al Klyberg, who helped secure funding for it. It is intended

to facilitate the visits of school groups to the Kelly House Museum, and provide additional interpretive space for programs.

When the barn is finished, there are plans to honor Al Klyberg as well as the 1960s organization

C.A.N.A.L. (Committee for the Advancement of Natural Areas in Lincoln.) CANAL's members did early work to bring attention to the canal as a historic and recreational asset.

John Houghton from the BVHS has been serving on the committee for the barn.

The Museum and Barn are at 1075 Lower River Road in Lincoln, near the Canal.

### BVHS Executive Board

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