



THE LANDMARK

PUBLICATION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 58

May 2018

No. 8

Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

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

War of 1812 kickstarted the Industrial Revolution

National Park Ranger Klyberg explains origins of Blackstone Valley development

The War of 1812 played a major role in the industrialization of the Blackstone Valley. While obviously no battles were fought here, the War of 1812 and the embargoes leading up to the war played a key role in launching the first textile industry boom in the Blackstone Valley, and therefore the United States, according to Kevin Klyberg, a national park ranger, who will be giving the annual Christine Nowak Memorial Lecture on May 20 at 2:00 pm.

Klyberg continues, "The ban on importation of textiles from Europe, beginning in 1807, inspired the creation of dozens of new textile mills across the Blackstone Valley. In many ways, the



The Moffett Mill on Great Road in Lincoln is a rare wooden mill to have survived since the boom period of the War of 1812 Era.

cotton mill boom of this era is what really made the Industrial Revolution revolutionary, as it expanded the textile industry beyond a handful of sites. By 1815 the Blackstone Valley had transformed into an industrial landscape, and the United

States was on its way to becoming a manufacturing powerhouse. "

Ranger Kevin Klyberg has been working with the National Park Service for 21 years, first for the Blackstone River Valley

Kevin Klyberg
The War of 1812 and the Development of the Blackstone Valley
2:00 pm, May 20
Upstairs
1873 Old Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln, RI 02865

National Heritage Corridor and now for the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park (www.nps.gov/blac/index.htm).

During that time he has shared the sites and stories of the Blackstone Valley with thousands of visitors.

The Christine Nowak Lectures were begun in 2013 in memory of Nowak, a respected local journalist and past president of the Society.

BVHS Holds Annual Meeting, Elections 1:30 pm May 20

The Nominating Committee for the BVHS, consisting of Don Coelho, Bob Ferri, Jim Bethel, Rick Walker, and Jim Hendrickson, under the direction of Don Coelho, Nominating Committee Chairman, announces that the slate of officers/ nominees for 2018/2019 re-

mains the same:
Jason Dionne - President
Lori Melucci - Vice President
Francine Jackson - Secretary
John Houghton - Treasurer
Members at large:
Gail Harris
Bob Ferri
Don Coelho

If you are interested in

joining the board, which organizes historically-related activities, lectures, and exhibits, cares for North Gate and its artifacts and collections, and works to build awareness and community around the historical origins of the Blackstone Valley, please contact the committee chair-

man, Don Coelho at don.coelho@crbard.com. Nominations will also be taken from the floor during our annual meeting on May 20.

All are welcome to attend board meetings, which are usually the first Monday evening of the month at 6:30 pm.

Excavation near Lincoln 24 exposes buried gravestones



Broken stone uncovered

Earlier this month, Ken Postle noticed excavation going on next to the Lincoln 24 cemetery on Sprague

Avenue, and reported it to the Town of Lincoln. The owner was made aware of the state regulations by the town and state regarding distance from the visible cemetery, and that the bare lot was suspected of being a covered-over cemetery field, but the lot had been platted years ago. He resumed excavation farther away from the cemetery.

On April 23, Ken noticed the excavation and he stopped to look. He found an almost full base with a tiny corner portion of the stone channel sticking out of the ground where the excavator missed it. The neighbors, who also noticed the digging, began calling Ken, and the town, and many concerned people called the media and

added posts to Ken's Facebook page.

The next day the State Archaeologist visited the site and shut down excavation work, pending further study. Michelle San Miguel of Channel 10 came to visit the site and interview Ken. The interview was shown on the 5:30 news on April 24.

19th Century Photos of Ashton Dam Discovered

After Jim Ignasher of the Smithfield Historical Society gave his wonderful talk on local events from aviation history last month, he sent us an email. He had been approached by Roger Beaudry of the Woonsocket Historical Society, who had found a box of glass negatives. Some of the negatives were of the Georgiaville Dam, and some were marked "Ashton Gate Chamber." He thought that the photos were of Ashton Dam in Lincoln / Cumberland. The box was dated "Fall, 1894." Jim did some checking, and he found that the Georgiaville Dam underwent a construction

modification project at that time. He didn't know why negatives from Ashton would have been in the same box.

He made scans of the glass negatives. If you would like to see the pictures of the Georgiaville dam, he posted them on the Smith-Appleby website on the Historic Photos page. (<https://smithapplebyhouse.org/historic-photos/>)

Here are some of the Ashton photos which he sent to BVHS for our archives. Thank you, Jim!

Ashton Dam is near Ashton and Quinville, and can be viewed from



Plate 7

the Blackstone Canal Bike Path. It is also close to the Ashton Viaduct, the Captain Wilbur Kelly House Transportation Museum, and the Ashton Historic District.

What you can see of the dam today is similar to the photos, although most of the structure is under water. Check it out for us!



Plate 4



Plate 5



Our Sign!

BVHS Gets Its Sign Back!

On April 8, Greg and Marion Dale noticed an old BVHS sign for sale on Craigslist, and informed Susan Clarke. Working quickly, Gail Harris, one of BVHS's directors, contacted the seller and purchased the sign, which the seller had found at a Seekonk

Flea Market. The owner graciously reduced the price for BVHS. The sign was on display on April 22 in North Gate for Rick Beyer's talk. Thanks to all the members of BVHS who pitched in with contributions to get our sign back! If anyone knows where it originally hung, please email us.

Mussey Brook Bridge Rehabilitation Complete

The Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) has reported that the repair of the Mussey Brook Stone Arch Bridge on Old River Road in Lincoln is complete. Stone arch bridges are very rare, and Mussey Brook's may be

one of the oldest bridges in Rhode Island, probably dating to the 1840s.

The bridge is one of only 20 masonry bridges maintained or built by the State of Rhode Island. RIHPHC worked with the Department of Transportation on this project.



Mussey Brook Bridge April 22, 2018

New Signs on Old Cemeteries and Some Cleanup....



John Houghton assembles a new cemetery sign.

On April 14, we went out and put new signs on five cemeteries and did some cleanup with Ken Postle and George Boardman from the R.I. Cemetery Owners Association,

who graciously came with a truck to help us remove fallen branches from the cemeteries. We filled up the truck quickly! John and Ken had picked up the signs last fall.



John finds a footstone.



George Boardman makes sure the new sign is secure.

Photos by Ken Postle

Upcoming Events at North Gate

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

1:30-3:30 pm, Sunday May 20: The BVHS Annual Business meeting takes place at 1:30 pm downstairs at North Gate. At 2:00 pm, the Memorial Christine Nowak Lecture will begin upstairs. Ranger Kevin Klyberg from the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park will give a talk entitled *The War of 1812 and the Development of the Blackstone Valley*. Free event. Refreshments. North Gate, 1873 Old Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln, RI 02865

6:30 pm Wednesday June 20: Tour of Cogswell Tower led by Bob Ferri, Central Falls City Councilman. Meet at the entrance to Jenks Park on 580 Broad St, Central Falls, 02863. Free.

Hours TBA, Saturday, September 22: Great Road Open House Day. BVHS will be open as part of Great Road Day. The Arnold's Lonsdale Bakery will be open. Exhibit at North Gate: *The Lime Kilns of Lime Rock*. Visitors are invited to have a piece of BVHS's 60th anniversary birthday cake! 1873 Old Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln, RI.



Cogswell Tower

Catch Francine's Radio Show

Catch BVHS Secretary Francine Jackson's monthly radio show at 9:35 am on the 4th Thursday of every month. on WRNI (1380AM and 95.1 FM).

On Thursday, April 26, she will have representatives from the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council on the show, and it promises to be very interesting!

In Memoriam

Former Lincoln resident, Sarah B. Marshall Fell, 90, passed away in upstate New York on Dec. 8, 2017. She was the daughter of Dr. J. Brewer Marshall, who was one of the

founders of the BVHS. She was a teacher in the Lincoln public schools for many years. There will be a memorial service at 11 am Saturday May 19 at Lime Rock Baptist Church.



Truck loaded with broken branches in front of the Lampercock Lane Cemetery, April 14. See story on p. 3

See Pawtucket in 1892



Main Street, Pawtucket, 1892

Pat Armitage, BVHS archivist and past president, has submitted three photographs from BVHS for consideration for the Providence Journal's new hardcover pictorial history book, "Rhode Island Memories: The Early Years." Photos from the late 1800s to 1939 were requested. One was this photo from the Foster Collection.

BVHS Executive Board

President: Jason Dionne

401-862-4202

Email: jjhdio70@gmail.com

Vice President: Lori Melucci

Secretary: Francine Jackson

Treasurer/Property Manager:
John Houghton

Members-at-Large

Gail Harris, Bob Ferri, Don Coelho



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