

THE LANDMARK

PUBLICATION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 55

March 2014

No. 6

Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

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

Do you remember going to *The Track*? Sunday, March 9, 3pm at North Gate Bob Kynch will share stories of horse racing at Lincoln Downs in its heyday

By Francine Jackson

When you go to Twin River nowadays, you might forget that this part of Lincoln has been through several changes, but, if you look around the property, you might catch glimpses of the original, Lincoln Downs, which still is there, in both spirit and buildings.



*Lincoln Downs
Lincoln, R. I.*

For those of us who remember going to “The Track” and watching the incredible beauty of thoroughbred racing, it may in the blood, although those

days have been gone for quite a while. But, it’s not forgotten by many, some participants and others who worked for Lincoln Downs.

One of those is Bob Kynch. He started working at Lincoln Downs as a teenager, cleaning stalls and walking the horses seven days a week. He also went down the road to Narragansett Park in Pawtucket, working for both tracks until they closed. But, he has continued to keep the days of Lincoln and Narragansett in the minds of Rhode Islanders, and on Sunday afternoon, March 9th, Bob will bring part of those days to North Gate. With souvenirs and memoirs, he will bring us back to the golden days of thoroughbred racing in Rhode Island. Also, others who were a part of the Lincoln community will be there to assist Bob

in bringing back this historical period.

Bob also will let you in on another of his projects: A movie based on the Lincoln Downs days. In fact, if there are any of the audience present who might have memories or memoirs of those days, please come and share. This program is sure to be a wonderful walk down Memory Lane for those of us who remember Lincoln Downs, and a fantastic introduction to the beauty of horseracing for those who might not have been a part of the “Track” in its heyday.

Michael DiMucci

David M. Marshall

TICKETS
AVAILABLE

Call: 401-862-4202
or bvhsri.org

Public \$15
BVHS \$12

Sunday, March 2, 3 pm
North Gate Upstairs Hall

The Train Wreck that Changed Time ~ Valley Falls, RI ~ August 12, 1853

Member Lori Melucci created an exhibit for the September 28 BVHS Open House.

Following is the next installment from the display that day: **THE INQUEST**

The Boston train from Providence arrived at the switch about five minutes after the collision, and the people aboard were some of the first to help the injured, who were placed on board an undamaged car and taken to Pawtucket for medical assistance.

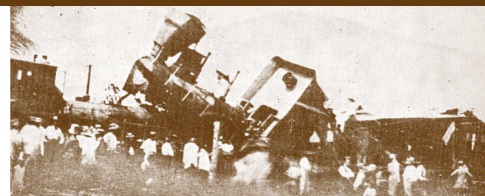
The bodies of the dead were carried to Free Hall in Valley Falls. An inquest was convened on the spot. Free Hall was also described as the town hall.

The jury indicted Putnam five days later, determining that the crash was “the immediate result of the culpable carelessness,

inexperience and want of judgment of Frederick W. Putnam, the conductor.”

The railroad was censured for putting such a young and inexperienced conductor on the train, and for not providing him with an accurate watch. It was discovered that Mr. Putnam was using a watch he had borrowed from a milkman.

The northbound train, which was carrying the president of the railroad company and the superintendent, was criticized for starting a minute late. A signal on the Valley Falls side of the switch was recommended, since the curve of the track



**THE RAILROAD SLAUGHTER.
THE DISASTER ON THE WORCESTER
AND PROVIDENCE ROAD.**

and a rock outcropping had prevented the trains from seeing very far ahead. Finally, it was concluded that the “arrangement in regard to these trains [was] bad”, and there was no need for the three trains to be so crowded together within minutes of each other.

Train Wreck (Con’t on Page 2)

Chris Nowak
Lecture Series

Funded
by her
Generous
Bequest
to BVHS

Good relations between the Narragansett and the European colonists lasted until King Philip's War – the first major war between colonists and Native Americans – broke out in 1675. Philip was the English name given to Metacom, the chief of the Wampanoag tribe and the son of Massasoit, the Native American leader who famously helped the Plymouth settlers survive their first winter in the New World. The Wampanoag and other tribes made a stand against the Europeans' continuing territorial expansion, and in December 1675 the settlers launched an attack on the previously neutral Narragansett. Some 700 Narragansett, including many women and children, were killed in the single battle known as the Great Swamp Massacre.

After this bloody battle, the Narragansett, led by their war chief Canonchet, joined in Philip's struggle against the Europeans. In March 1676, a party of Narragansett destroyed a company of English soldiers and their Native American allies along the Blackstone River, and after negotiations brokered by Williams failed, the Narragansett burned Providence. By April 1676, however, the settlers had defeated the Narragansett and killed Canonchet. The tribe soon abandoned its territorial homeland, with some joining the Mohegan or Abenaki tribes and more settling among the Niantic, with the combined group taking the Narragansett name.

FROM the BVHS

SHARE YOUR FAMILY WWI PHOTOGRAPHS and MEMORIABILIA WITH BVHS



BVHS would like to acknowledge the one hundredth anniversary of the start of WWI by honoring those local men who served in that war. If you have a relative who served in that war we would like to collect photos, military rank and service history and biographies of that loved one to use in a special display we are planning. These will then be kept in our archives to document the Blackstone Valley's contribution to this historic event. If you have questions or wish to contribute to this project, please call or email Susan Clarke at 401-451-0921 or susanraecclarke@gmail.com.

ARCHIVES

Train Wreck (Con't from Page 1)

The directors of the Providence and Worcester railroad met while the inquest was underway. They dismissed the conductor, the engineer and the master of transportation of the Ux-

bridge train, and voted to double-track the route as far as Lonsdale. They also placed a signalman on the Valley Falls side of the curve. But feelings were running high about railroad safety. On August 9, there was a head-on colli-

sion on the Camden and Amboy railroad, also the result of an incorrect watch and poor timekeeping. Four people died in that accident. After the horrifying Valley Falls collision, the public had had enough.

EXPLORE HISTORY

BVHS ON THE GO

LOST VILLAGES OF SCITUATE - March 23, 2014, 1:30 PM

Meet at the Hope Elementary School, 391 North Road (Rt.116), Hope, RI 02831

BVHS will join the 90-minute air conditioned **Lost Villages Bus Tour** on March 23. The bus tour departs and returns from the Hope Elementary School. Guide Raymond Wolf, is the author of *Lost Villages of Scituate* and *The Scituate Reservoir* in the Images of America series.

The tour is \$23.00 per person. Call 401-821-0016 to make reservations. Don't forget to say that you are with BVHS on the Go! \$3.00 of the ticket price will be donated to the BVHS.

For more information about the tour, see <http://www.raywolfbooks.com/Tours.html>

EXPLORE HISTORY

BVHS ON THE GO

SMITH-APPLEBY HOUSE - March 29, 2014, 1:00 PM

Meet at North Gate Toll House, 1873 Old Louisquissett Road (Rte. 246) Lincoln, RI 02865

We will drive to Smith-Appleby House at 220 Stillwater Road, Smithfield, RI, 02917, arriving around 1:30 p.m. The Smith-Appleby House, which was built in 1696 by Elisha Smith, the grandson of one of the six men who settled Rhode Island after expulsion with Roger Williams from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. There is an interesting tour and demonstrations of aspects of colonial life. The House and property are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

SAVE THE DATE	Sunday, April 6 2 pm Downstairs Hall	Dan Bethel	<i>Central Falls Ephemera</i>
	Sunday, May 18 1:30 pm Downstairs Hall	Annual Meeting & Dr. Kevin McBride	<i>Chris Nowak Lecture</i>
	Saturday, June 21 Downstairs Hall	Strawberry Festival	<i>Returning to BVHS</i>

All these Programs & Events take place at North Gate Toll House
1873 Old Louisquissett Pike (Rte 246) Lincoln RI 02865

BVHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Jason Dionne

401-862-4202

Email: jihdio70@gmail.com

Vice President: John Houghton

Secretary: Francine Jackson

Treasurer: Lori Melucci

Members-at-Large

Gail Harris, Glen Laxton, Bob Ferri