

THE LANDMARK

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Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

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

Explore Dan Bethel's Central Falls "Ephemera" Sunday, April 6 at the Blackstone Valley Historical Society North Gate Toll House Downstairs Hall

By Francine Jackson

Dan Bethel really knows how to collect, and loves doing it. He has taken it upon himself to collect memorabilia from much of the Blackstone Valley. On

Sunday, April 6th, at 2:00 P.M., you will be able to see his "ephemera" of one of the state's biggest little cities, Central Falls, Rhode Island. His collection includes memories of this important part of what was once a section of Northern Rhode Island's "Quality Quarter."

Dan Bethel has been finding and collating memorabilia of the Blackstone Valley for decades. In addition to Central Falls, he has obtained substantial ephemera of the other cities and towns in the Valley: Lincoln, plus Smithfield, and Cumberland, which he has previously placed on display at



"The dinner hour at the J.P. Coates Thread Mill, Central Falls, RI."

North Gate. On April 6th, come join us as we gaze fondly at memories of our next-door neighbor, the tiny, but historically important, City of Central Falls. No refreshments will be served in deference to the display



Central Falls Fire Station

Historian & BVHS Member Al Klyberg is RI Heritage Hall of Fame Inductee

Al Klyberg served 30 years as Executive Director of the RI Historical Society during which time he led a group of professional research librarians, educators, editors and museum curators to seek out historical materials emphasizing the more recent periods of RI history (post Civil War history to the decade of the 1990s). He also managed the publication of thirteen volumes of *The Papers*



of Major General Nathanael Greene and two volumes of *The Correspondence of Roger Williams*. "I began an archive of local television news film and oversaw the microfilming of all the newspapers of Rhode Island up to 2000," he said. "Under my watch, the Historical Society acquired the home of former U.S. Ambassador to England, Winthrop Aldrich and Klyberg Cont'd Pg 2

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

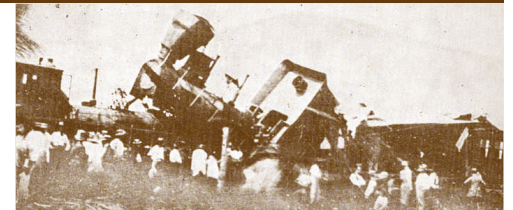
Member Lori Melucci created an exhibit for the September 28 BVHS Open House. Following is the next installment from the display that day: **THE AFTERMATH**

The Railroad Commissioners for the State of Rhode Island held a special meeting on August 25 to investigate the causes of the accident. The report that was prepared after this investigation had far-reaching consequences. Rhode Island legislators, as a result of this report, passed an act that "drastically increased the liability of common carriers in cases where death resulted from their carelessness or neg-

ligence." (Acts, Resolves and Reports of the General Assembly of RI (1853), 257-58).

THE LEDGER

The ledger was discovered in the Blackstone Valley Historical Society's archives in 2007 by Sharon Zagorsky, a Tufts University graduate student from Lincoln. It contains pages of handwritten names of the dead and in-



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

jured from the train wreck, and may have come from the office of an attorney or an insurance agent. It indicates that a total of \$43,376.00 was paid in compensation for the accident.

*Chris Nowak
Lecture Series*

**Funded
by her
Generous
Bequest
to BVHS**

The proposed talk at the BVHS annual meeting May 18 is about a particular King Philip's War site in North Smithfield that so far is an under-reported event. But it is not about the whole war. Nipsachuck Swamp apparently held cultural significance for native tribes in the Rhode Island/southern Massachusetts region. They gathered there annually to observe meteor showers thought to represent the departure of the souls to their final rest. It was a particular gathering point and time frame. The Connecticut militia figured it out and launched two devastating attacks there on the Narragansetts and other supporters of Philip. The talk will be given by Dr. Kevin McBride on his investigations to locate the site and the results of two seasons of archaeological findings. It will be the second in our new annual Chris Nowak memorial lecture on Blackstone Valley History.

FROM the BVHS

LOST AND FOUND ~ HOME AT LAST ~ HIDDEN TREASURE RETURNED



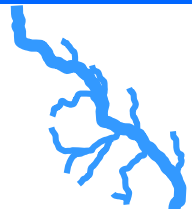
ARCHIVES

The holidays have passed and some of you may have started cleaning up your closets, attics or barns. Please keep your eyes open for hidden treasures. Sometimes you may come across something that has some history behind it and should be taken out and displayed. This was the case last year when I decided to clean up part of my barn. A friend of mine offered to help me go through some things and we came across an old piece of wood- painted white with black letters. It had two rings screwed into the top edge as if it were once hanging. The letters spelled out, "No. Gate".

My friend said it was an original sign to the North Gate building. How was it that this sign was in my barn? Whatever the reason, it was time for the sign to return home. Ironically, I was a new member to the Blackstone Valley Historical Society and knew that I could give it to my friend Gail. She would make sure that it was in good hands there. They were happy to have it. I was happy to bring the sign to its home where it hangs in the North Gate foyer. *Laurie Taylor*

What's Happening

Mar 26 7:00 pm Johnston Historical Society "*Daughters of the King - Migration to New France in 1663*"



Apr 6 2:00 pm Blackstone Valley Historical Society "*Central Falls Ephemera*" by Dan Bethel

Apr 16 7:00 pm Norfolk Library "*Weber Duck Inn*" by **Ross Pini**

May 18 1:30 pm Blackstone Valley Historical Society Annual Meeting & Chris Nowak Lecture by Dr. Kevin Mc Bride

**BLACKSTONE
RIVER VALLEY**

Through Apr 30 8:30am - 4:30 pm State Archives A FREE Exhibit "*A Slice of Life (Past) ~ An Exhibit of Documents and Photographs from the Blackstone Valley, from the State Archives*"

IN MEMORIAM



Josephine
"Jo Jo"
Godek



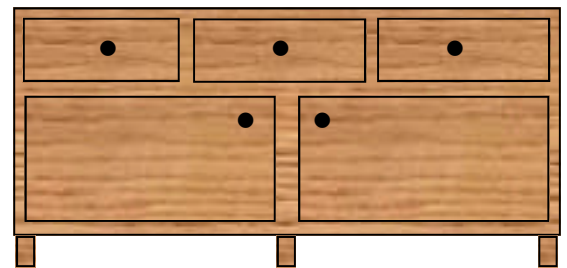
Betty Lees

BVHS NEEDS  YOU

BVHS needs a bureau approx 18" x 42" to store office supplies and materials. It should have 2-3 drawers and 2 doors as shown. Used is fine.

We can paint if needed.

Call Gail Harris: 401-333-5105.



Klyberg From Pg 1

developed the Museum of Work and Culture at Woonsocket." He served on the boards of several local historical groups including the Blackstone Valley Historical Society and was a founding incorporator of the RI Black Heritage Society. For 30 years he promoted establishing a state history museum, the latest version being Dynamo House at the former South Street Power Plant in Providence. During this effort he devised (with the help of many others) a defining scope of the field of RI history with over 200 topics under the headings of The Six Big Ideas of RI history.

Klyberg was elected to the National Council of the American Association of State and Local History and was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the National Museum Services Board in 1981.

The RI Heritage Hall of Fame banquet is April 26th. Dinner tickets are \$75.
Contact Ms. Somravanh "Sam" Litthisack at 401-526-6174

BVHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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