

THE LANDMARK

PUBLICATION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

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

You won't want to miss these Blackstone Valley events Sept. 27 & Oct. 5

THE LINCOLN LEGACY LOOP



THREE CENTURIES IN THREE MILES

What's so great about Great Road?

Great Road is one of the oldest roads in America. It dates from 1683, perhaps even earlier as a Native American trail. The purpose of the road was to connect the seaport of Providence to the northern country markets, reaching deeply into Massachusetts, as far as Worcester. As a thoroughfare road it sported a number of traveler's amenities: taverns, blacksmith assistance to broken wagon wheels, or replacing the shoes on horses. There were also wayside mills for making flour. Gradually other businesses appeared: textile mills and machine shops. There were also homes of prominent community leaders.

What's so great about Great Road: The important architectural remnants of all these former enterprises still exist and are on display to the American public.

On **September 27** from 11 am to 5 pm, take tours, explore the area, and discover how local residents and visitors traveled about from the seventeenth century to today. Organizations

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A SLICE OF LIFE (past):

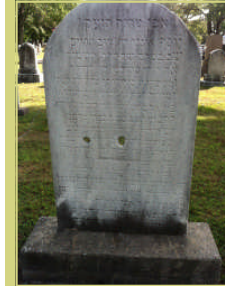


in the Blackstone Valley

Generously loaned to the Society by the R. I. State Archives, the exhibit will display photographs of the Blackstone Valley area, including photographs of residents and scenes around Woonsocket about 1905, plus a series of documentary photographs of downtown Woonsocket businesses in 1941, from the soda fountain "Candy Mart" to Western Auto Supply. Also shown will be some charming pictures of the Blackstone Valley area from the 1920s and 1930s, including a picture of two little girls at Peleg Arnold's Stone in Smithfield, a smiling woman at a water pump in Smithfield, and two tiny groups show early photographs of landmarks in Lincoln and Cumberland.

These items on display are scans of photographs, postcards, documents, and enlargements of lantern slides from the Archives. Many of the original photographs came from the National Park Service in Woonsocket; others were a donation from Howard Willis Preston, a man who worked in the Bureau of Information for the Secretary of State in 1920s.

SAYLESVILLE LABOR STRIKE



Two bullet holes in a gravestone are permanent reminders of the Saylesville Labor Strike of 1934.

Photograph courtesy of Susan Clarke

It was September, 1934. Low wages and terrible working conditions brought worker unrest to the forefront. In Saylesville, the streets were jam-packed as thousands of textile employees left their jobs and clustered at Moshassuck cemetery. To quell the unrest, the National Guard was called, resulting in a free-for-all of rioting and gunshots.

To this day, bullet holes still adorn some of the headstones within the cemetery.

Sunday October 5 at 2 pm at North Gate Glenn Laxton will be our guide to this bloody time in our neighborhood history. With newspaper photos from virtually all over America to a DVD copy of movie footage of that disastrous day, Glenn will take us back to one of the major times of labor unrest within the Blackstone Valley.

Glenn Laxton, although he calls himself retired, is still an author and videographer. In his time with the news channels, he won Emmy awards for his work on The Station fire, the von Bulow trial, and Plunderdome. He recently created videos for winners of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame.

Central Falls ♦ Cumberland ♦ Lincoln ♦ North Smithfield ♦ Pawtucket ♦ Woonsocket

What we did this summer



Society members and friends shared 2 exploration experiences in July

Return to Cogswell Tower: On July 23, **Bob Ferri** led a group of about 20 people on a tour of Cogswell Tower, from the clock at the top to the grotto beneath. Afterwards, we had coffee and doughnuts, generously contributed by Dunkin' Donuts on Broad Street.



Blackstone Valley Explorer Riverboat: On July 25, eight members and guests went on the second event of the Ancestors of the Blackstone Valley series, organized by Slater Mill, the Museum of Work and Culture, and the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council. We took an evening tour and enjoyed an interesting lecture on William Blackstone, the Industrial Revolution along the river, and more.



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participating in the event include: Blackstone Valley Historical Society; Historic New England's 1693 Arnold House; 1835 Captain Wilbur Kelly House, the

Visitors are invited to board any one of three shuttle buses that will depart on three different loops of the sites: Start at the Town of Lincoln's Gateway Park and Chase Farm Park parking lots, as well as the Blackstone Valley Historical Society. On-site or street parking available at each site with the exception of Moffett Mill and the Israel Arnold House. There is no parking at the Moffett Mill and very limited access at the Israel Arnold House, so the best way to access these sites is to step on the shuttle which departs from Gateway Park parking lot.

BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CONCERT SERIES
Live at North Gate

Ken Lyon Returns for a night of Blues and Jazz to benefit BVHS

October 25, 7 pm at North Gate is the place to be!
Tickets: BVHS Members \$15 ~ Non-Members \$20
Kids - 12 yrs and under \$10

Contact: Jason 401-862-4202 jihdio70@gmail.com Pacific Coast Highway



LOOK WHAT YOU DID!

\$705 Thank you for all your support this year!
\$500

Since July 1, when our membership year traditionally begins, we have taken in **\$705.00** in donations. **Pat Armitage** made a donation in memory of her mother towards our archive projects, and the **McDevitts** made a generous donation in memory of our long-time member, **Vi McDevitt**. Last year, our donations for this same period totaled **\$325.00**. Thank you very much for keeping the Society going! All your support will help us keep publishing our newsletter and enhance our BVHS archives.

It's not too late to Join or Renew your 2014 BVHS Membership

Your membership and participation in the Society events are valued assets to the success and continuation of the Blackstone Valley Historical Society.

We need **YOU** to help us fulfill our mission to Preserve the History of the Blackstone Valley.

BVHS on the Go Photos courtesy Lori Melucci

SAVE THE DATE

- Sep 27 11-4 Great Road Tour Open House
- Oct 5 2 pm Saylesville Labor Strike ~ Glenn Laxton
- Oct 25 7 pm Ken Lyon Concert*
- Nov 9 2 pm Hand Crafted Furniture ~ Hank Gilpin
- Dec 6 7 pm Cumberland Lincoln Community Chorus*



* Live at North Gate Fundraising Events

Town of Lincoln's 1694 Valentine Whittman Jr. House, 1810 Hearthside House, 1812 Moffett Mill, Chase Farm Park and the new site of the Pullen's Corner Schoolhouse (1867 and 1850), 1870 Hannaway Blacksmith Shop; 1703 Saylesville Meeting House; and the 1740 Israel Arnold House which is privately owned and currently for sale by the owners, but will be open to the public on this special day. Some sites will serve light refreshments.

Step-on guides will be featured on the buses to provide an overall history of Great Road along the way.

Thank you to sponsors Twin River Casino, Conway Tours, the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Don and Pat Hysko, the Great Road Historic Sites Collaborative, and the Town of Lincoln.



A great time was had by all at the **Strawberry Social**, which was so popular we ran out of shortcake! Members including **Joyce Bethel** and **Hope Boott** helped bring back the event by telling us about the old festivals and **Eleanor Ogden** donated a vintage Strawberry Festival ticket she found in her house on Louisquisset Pike!

BVHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Jason Dionne

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