

THE LANDMARK

PUBLICATION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 55

April 2015

No. 11

Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

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

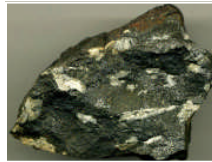
It's magnetic. It's extremely rare. It's the official Rhode Island Rock - Cumberlandite! Judy Hadley shares her knowledge Sunday, April 26, 2pm at North Gate Upstairs Hall

Our state rock, Cumberlandite, is almost exclusively found on a 4-acre lot in the Blackstone Valley. It was first discovered by settlers hundreds of years ago, and used to manufacture farm tools and cannons, although cannons tended to crack.

Judy Hadley has been researching this unique rock for several years, and is writing a book on it, to be published

later this year. She will also have with her samples for you to observe. Come and discover more about Cumberlandite, and hear many interesting historical tales of our state rock.

Rock Cont'd Page 2



North Gate gets a facelift thanks to Champlin Foundation

BVHS Member **Gail Harris** has been successful in writing a winning grant. The Champlin Foundation has awarded **\$59,895** to the Blackstone Valley Historical Society to refurbish the exterior of North Gate Toll House. The project will begin this spring or summer and will include: Replacement of damaged and worn clapboards; rotting trim boards (includes all exterior window trim). Removal of kitchen exhaust fan. Restoring kitchen window and windows in utility room. Replacement of rotted basement doors and window enclosures. (These repairs to be made before painting the structure.) Prepare, prime and paint the building exterior (walls and trim) in white.



Call for Nominations

President Jason Dionne has appointed a nominating committee: Glenn Laxton, Chair, and Bob Ferri, Jim Bethel, Don Coehlo, and Rick Walker.

You will find a listing of current officers and directors on page 2 of this newsletter.

Please contact Glenn Laxton with nominations by **April 26**.

(401) 728-5615 or

glennvlaxton@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

THE LEGACY

*Chris Nowak
Lecture Series*

Funded by her
Generous Bequest
to BVHS

Annual Meeting & Nowak Lecture

**Dave Harvey presents a
Brief History of Louisquisset**

**Sunday, May 17 1:30 pm
North Gate Upstairs Hall**

Did you know that 'Lousquisset' is just one of perhaps sixteen spellings of Louisquisset? And, did you know that it is not a man's name as we thought, but a place name?

You won't want to miss Dave Harvey's talk to learn even more about this important part of our Blackstone Valley history.

A BVHS TRADITION

Blackstone Valley
Historical Society



Strawberry Social

**Saturday
June 13
2-4 pm
North Gate
Downstairs
Hall**

What a great way to spend a summer afternoon...strawberries, shortcake, whipped cream!

Come join your friends at our 2nd annual Strawberry Social.

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

Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor awards BVHS \$5,000 Partnership Grant to catalog Society archives

FROM the BVHS



ARCHIVES

The Blackstone Valley Historical Society received a **\$5,000 Partnership Program Grant** from the **Blackstone Heritage Corridor** for the cataloging of the BVHS archives. The grant, which **Lori Melucci**, treasurer, was instrumental in putting together, will be used to purchase computer equipment and *PastPerfect Museum Software*. This software sets the collection management standard for

many organizations and is designed to manage all types of collections. The Society is matching this grant with \$4,000 which comes from monetary donations, \$1,000 thus far raised by BVHS, most of which was donated in memory of **Ann Buckley**, the mother of past-president Patricia Armitage, plus in kind volunteer hours and any further donations toward this project. All donations are tax exempt.

Pat Armitage will be leading this project, with the help of other members of the society, and a volunteer intern, **Jocelyn Dube**. A graduate of Rhode Island College with a Bachelor's in Anthropology, Jocelyn plans to pursue a Masters in Historical Preservation in the future. In the meantime, she is volunteering at BVHS to help utilize PastPerfect.

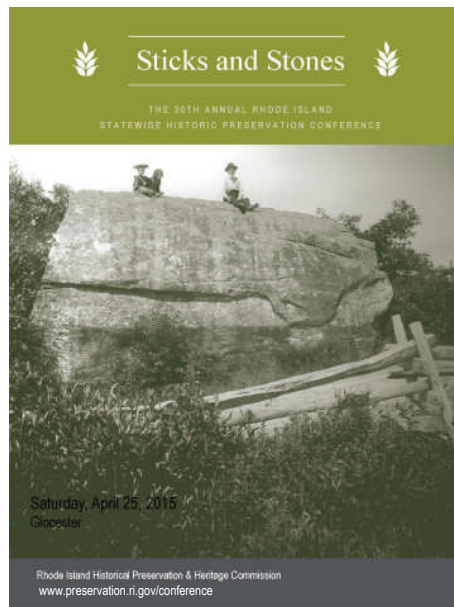
The BVHS's collection of photographs, documents, and printed materials was inventoried in 2007 by **Sharon Zagorsky**, a Tufts University graduate, with the help of **Al Klyberg**. An excel file and a printed list was created at that time. This grant allows us to start creating a more functional catalog, which will help us make the materials more searchable and accessible. Last fall, the BVHS received significant new acquisitions from the recently closed Lysander Flagg Museum in Central Falls and we are looking forward to working with them. The entire project is expected to take several years to complete.

The society's collections include lime industry relics, artifacts, books and stereoscopies, other industrial artifacts, books and records. Other collections include land deeds, grants, wills, genealogy books, RI and local history books, family bibles, banking records from Cumberland, tax records for North Providence from the Colonial to Federal era, and other items of interest relating to the history of the six communities in the Blackstone Valley in Rhode Island. Holdings (Inclusive dates: 1750-present)

Rock Cont'd from page 1

This image shows a segment of railroad track from the historic Iron Mine Railroad. This piece was dug out of the ground behind the Elder Ballou Meeting House Cemetery. The Iron Mine Railroad operated for less than ten years and was used to transport quarried Cumberlandite, which was used as trap rock.

Presented to the BVHS courtesy of Judy Hadley and the Blackstone River Watershed Council



Local Girl Scout creates a coloring book featuring historical sites in Lincoln

A new coloring book focused specifically on Lincoln's historic sites is now available for purchase after Lincoln resident **Lily Scribner** took it upon herself to create the detailed drawings for her Girl Scout Silver project.



Scribner, 14, of Girl Scout Troop 339 in Manville, designed the book to earn her Silver Award, the second highest award in Girl Scouts.

She had to submit her drawings and description of the project to a board of directors, who ultimately decided to grant her the award. Scribner, who is home-schooled, said her mother originally brought the idea to her after attending a Blackstone Valley Historical Society meeting one night. "My mom told me they talked about having a coloring book, and I went with that," she said.

She said most children in town do not know about its history, and if they don't know, "why would they want to protect and preserve it when they are older."

With the help of Kathy Hartley, president and CEO of Hearthside House, and Lori Melucci, treasurer of the Blackstone Valley Historical Society, Scribner was able to create drawings of 16 historical sites throughout Lincoln. Each page also features a brief summary of the structure, its historical relevance, and its hours of operation.

The book will be on sale for \$5 in the gift shop at Hearthside, 677 Great Road, and Blackstone Valley Historical Society headquarters at North Gate, 1873 Old Louisquisset Pike. All proceeds go toward the historic sites in this book.

Excerpted from an article by **Jessica Boisclair**, Valley Breeze Staff Writer

BVHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Jason Dionne

401-862-4202

Email: jhdio70@gmail.com

Vice President: John Houghton

Secretary: Francine Jackson

Treasurer: Lori Melucci

Members-at-Large

Gail Harris, Glenn Laxton, Bob Ferri