



# THE LANDMARK

PUBLICATION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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*Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History*

[bvhsri.org](http://bvhsri.org) ♦ 1873 Old Louisquissett Pike (Rte 246) ♦ PO Box 125, Lincoln RI, 02865

## SAVE THE DATE

### OCTOBER

Sunday, October 18, 2 pm  
Upstairs Hall  
William Jennings will talk about  
"The Fabre Line"

### NOVEMBER

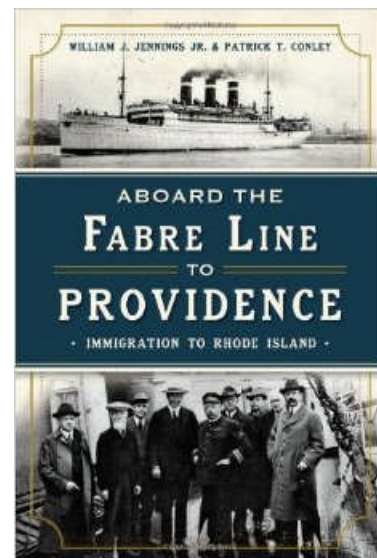
Saturday, November 14, 7 pm  
Upstairs Hall  
Nirk Nation Concert  
Tickets: \$15  
BVHS Fundraiser

### DECEMBER

Sunday, December 6, 2 pm  
Upstairs Hall  
Robert Tessier will talk about  
"History of Albion"

**Sunday, October 18 at 2 pm author William Jennings takes us along the transatlantic journey Rhode Island immigrants followed on the Fabre Line from 1911 to 1934**

Acute congestion at the port of New York during the early decades of the 20th century resulted in the Fabre Line, a French-registered transatlantic steamship company catering to immigrant transport, choosing Providence as a port of call for its steamers between the years 1911 to 1934. At that time Providence was experiencing a renewed maritime vigor. During its calls there the Fabre Line landed nearly 84,000 aliens at Rhode Island's capital city, 11,000 of which chose Rhode Island as their permanent place of abode. The two largest immigrant groups to debark at Providence during Fabre's years were the Portuguese and Italians; however, many others came from various countries around the Mediterranean



Books will be available for sale & autographing by William Jennings.

basin. Immigrants were the mainstay of the line, as was passenger traffic.

*Fabre Line continued on Page 2*

## BVHS Announces its first online exhibit



### *Selections from the Archives of Lime Rock Grange #22*

This exhibit has been made possible by grants from the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor and the Ida B. Littlefield Memorial Trust. Their generous assistance has allowed us to begin the computer cataloging of the archives.

Visit: <http://www.bvhsri.org/selections-from-the-archives-of-lime-rock-grange-22/>

1971.1 Photograph. Harvest Supper Series. Limerock Grange BVHS

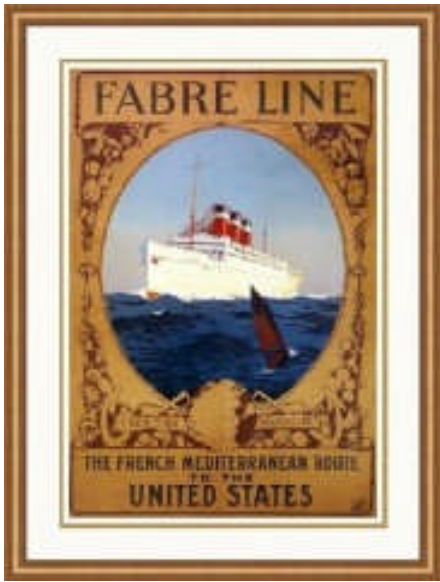
## BVHS MEMBER YEAR CHANGED

In the spring the Executive Committee voted to change the Society's membership year from July – June to September – August. Membership renewals have been sent out either via regular mail or e-mailed depending on how you receive you newsletter. Please fill out the renewal form and mail it in. Those people who sent money in over the summer will not get a renewal notice.

Make copies of the form and get your relatives and friends to join. The membership needs to grow and you can help. Direct any questions or concerns to Pat Armitage at [bhvs58@gmail.com](mailto:bhvs58@gmail.com) or 401-737-6229

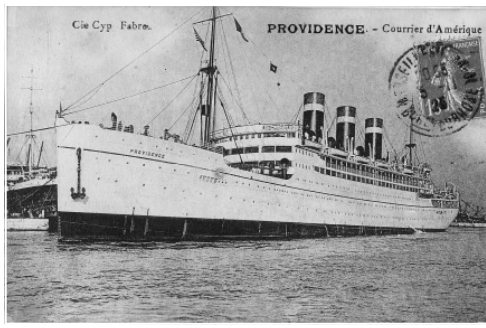
Fabre Line continued from Page 1

Immediately before the outbreak of the First World War, the Fabre Line took off with a boom only to have the conflict dampen its business and its future expectations. Yet the line held on, and the initial postwar years were the company's best at Providence. Then came the national immigration restriction acts of 1921 and 1924 which presented the line with a serious challenge. Seeking to hold on to passenger traffic, Fabre ships began the practice of sending its vessels to various ports in the eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea, along with its traditional calls at Italy, Portugal, and the Azores, in or-



der to fill its passenger manifests. Also, in an endeavor to offset the loss of human traffic, the line sought to increase cargo handling at the port as well as making a vigorous effort to promote tourist business. The line was unsuccessful in each of these latter efforts. When the Great Depression of the 1930s deepened, the Fabre Line quit the port of Providence without recognition or announcement on July 4, 1934. The days of transatlantic glory at Providence came to an abrupt termination.

The Fabre story involves tales of Providence and the state making serious efforts to keep Fabre at the port, Fabre's friction with the New



Haven Railroad, whose dock the line used during its initial years at Providence, the perils of transatlantic travel during the war years, the immigrant experience upon landing and the fine efforts of those who assisted them when they arrived, and the line's attempt to beef up cargo handling and promote tourist traffic at the port in an effort to bolster the losses from sagging immigrant traffic.

Many Rhode Islanders, and those residing in Southern New England, can trace the experiences of their intrepid ancestors journey to the "promised land" of America on the Fabre Line during those early years of the twentieth century.



FABRE LINE		De NOVA YORK a de PROVIDENCE, R. I. directamente	
por un SOBRES con 4 Dias, e para LISBOA, con 9 Dias.		SERVIDO POSTAL PORTUGUES.	
GRANDES VAPORES DE MALA.		TRINTA e CINCO HORAS de servico sem escala de passageiro algum.	
TABELA EM VISTA			
Nome do Navio	Classe	Partida de Nova York	Partida de Providence
BRITANNIA	Grande	15 de Maio	18 de Maio
PROVIDENCE	Grande	15 de Junho	18 de Junho
FRANCE	Grande	15 de Julho	18 de Julho
ITALIA	Grande	15 de Agosto	18 de Agosto
PORTUGAL	Grande	15 de Setembro	18 de Setembro
ESPAHA	Grande	15 de Outubro	18 de Outubro
AFRICA	Grande	15 de Novembro	18 de Novembro
ASIA	Grande	15 de Dezembro	18 de Dezembro

# 2015 - 2016 Capital Campaign



As you know the society has applied for and received a grant to repair and paint North Gate. In the process other issues arose including foundation stabilization, new walkway and parking lot barriers. The Capital Campaign will fund this needed work and allow for continued upkeep of The Lonsdale Arnold Bakery, The Fire Station and the exterior and interior spaces at North Gate.

**Help us meet our goal!**

## BVHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Jason Dionne

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Email: [jhdio70@gmail.com](mailto:jhdio70@gmail.com)

Vice President: John Houghton

Secretary: Francine Jackson

Treasurer: Lori Melucci

## Members-at-Large

Gail Harris, Glen Laxton, Bob Ferri

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