

# THE LANDMARK

PUBLICATION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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*Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History*

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

Before printing, we were notified of the heart-breaking passing of an irreplaceable member of the Blackstone Valley Historical Society. Al Klyburg was one of the cornerstones of the recovery of BVHS starting in 2006, taking on the responsibilities of Vice President and resident agent. He was instrumental in guiding the renovation of the Buckley Museum building into a state of the art archival storage area and enabled BVHS to receive donations of some collections for the archives among other things. He was our "go to historian". Most of all he was a friend. Without his guidance and gift of time, BVHS would not be where it is today.

We will never find words to articulate how deeply we will miss you, Al.

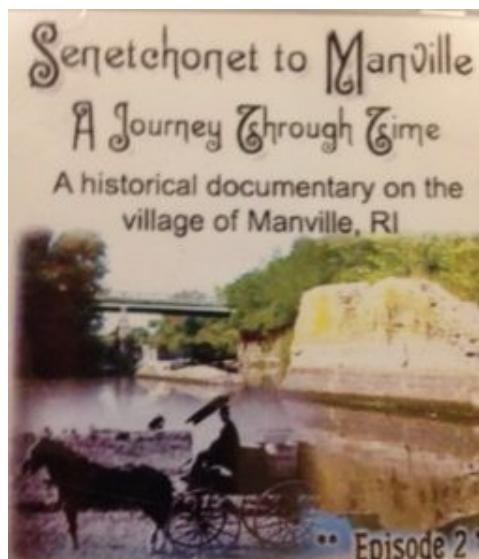


Please  
Join  
Us ...

Sunday, January 22 — 2:00 P.M. — North Gate

A Movie Matinee!

Enjoy selections from the movie, *Senetchonet to Manville: a Journey through Time*, by Betty Mencucci and Carlo Mencucci. This is a documentary on the history of Manville, which contains hundreds of historical photographs of Manville from the collection of Roger Gladu. This showing is made possible by a generous gift of Roger and Lorraine Gladu.



**(From Ken)** - This has been a busy and productive month. We've been researching the now partially available Arnold Cemetery notes at the Providence Library, with the assistance of the archivist Kate Wells. These notes comprise what is left of James Arnold's copious notes and observations of historical cemetery transcriptions done from the 1890's through 1919 in the RI area. Using these notes and research from our site sleuths, we have made finds with two Colonial families in particular-the Ballous and the Harris family. Research done by members of our site combined with recollections of visits past led us to the discovery of 3 pre 1717 burials in the Mann Cemetery yard (Ln #4) that were from the 1685 Peter Ballou family. We have now photographed and identified two of them as William Ballou (died before 1717) and Peter Ballou Jr, who at 21 years of age was July summer heat bathing in the Blackstone when he drowned causing his parents so much grief that they sold the land and moved to Scituate. John Houghton and I traveled to the Judge Mann Lot off Rt 146 and spent an afternoon clearing the Lot of trees and hiking around the old electric car path and the remnants of Albion Road while searching for a second 1805 Ballou Cemetery rumored to be nearby. We didn't find that but observed a lot of hidden walls, and ruins in the nearby woods there. We are still looking for the remains of the Peter Ballou homestead "well" rumored to be on Stump Hill near a spring fed stream called Overlook Brook. John Houghton has done some great deed research on the Moses Ballou Lot (Ln #5), which ties in with some great research from friends of the work, which indicate that that some of the field stones in that yard mark Hannah Ballou (who knew Roger Williams well), her son James, and grandson, Samuel with spouses and kids. These folk were all important to the early economy and settling of the Lincoln area.. Hannah was the daughter of Robert Pike and wife of Maturin Ballou, two folks key to the founding of Providence and RI itself and some of them were witnesses of the King Philipps Conflict...I can't wait to get in that yard and recover and photograph it!



Working with Barry Polak at the Lincoln 14 Sherman Lot in early January.

I also got to work on the Harris family mystery Lot which has been hidden away for years on the banks of the Moshassuck River at the intersection of Sherman Ave and Rt 146 across from the old Lime Kiln. This may very well be the resting place of the earliest Harris family members who from the 1650's onwards built and maintained the oldest and most productive Lime Kilns and mines for our area. The Gregory Dexter operation came later and in the last century combined with the Harris family one to become one enterprise now called the Conklin operation. In future days, I want to get this Harris Lot cleared, surveyed and recovered and publicize its 'connection to the neighboring



Tree roots growing into the walls on a kiln.



Sherman Lot after clearing.

In 2017, I would like to see as many of these historical burial yards tied into the local history with signage where possible that the denizens helped to shape and to find as many of the missing locations as is humanly possible before they are developed out of existence-one lost is too many and the fight is ongoing, but as more people become aware of what field stone burials look like and about the important work that we are doing in recovering, mapping and preserving these lots, perhaps we can save some more...

# *Found in the Archives ...*

*Starting in the summer of 2015, Pat Armitage, Lori Melucci and Jocelyn Dube starting the arduous process of cataloging the collection that BVHS has been building since 1971....*

*Join us as we check in to see what they've found this past month.*

Picture (below) is a Fire Trump and Silver buckle (found below the Rough and Ready Jr.) that was used by Fire Chief Samuel S. Collyer (1832-1884). Born in Pawtucket in 1832 he worked with the old Rough and Ready Company. He was the first Chief Engineer of the Pawtucket Fire Department. In 1884 he was fatally injured on the way to a fire. A life size statue of him can be found in a small park, known as Collyer Park, is located at the corner of Main Street and Mineral Spring Ave. in Pawtucket.



MODEL AND BUCKLE CAN BE VIEWED ON 2ND FLOOR OF NORTH GATE



Picture (above) is of Old Rough and Ready, Jr., a model of the Pawtucket Fire Department

Horse Drawn Pumper. It is a fully operational model complete with coal burning firebox and functioning copper boiler. It was built by George H. Webb – 1870.

## **...Think About It...**

On the November ballot, Pawtucket residents voted 52.2% in favor of a 5 million dollar bond to repair it's City Hall Tower.

This is a complicated issue. The tower itself serves no purpose other than aesthetic. Intended to hide wires, instead it has become a leaky monolith. If taken in context, however, the tower is a strong representation of the perseverance that flows through the divided city, and its loss would be tragic.

Historic Preservation is a concept in need of preserving itself. In an age where people beg for quick and cheap, it is the exact opposite. In the case of the tower, what is the argument for a 5 billion bond granted to be spent on unused infrastructure?





## 2016-2017 Capital Campaign



### Francine is on the radio!

Tune in to WRNI at 9:35 A.M on the 4th Thursday of the Month

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!

#### Submit your stuff!

Have a story to include in this awesome Landmark newsletter?

Send it along!

dubejocelyn@gmail.com

Factual or Fictional—Everyone has a story to tell.

Looking for warm stories to get us through the cold winter.

Consider donating your time!

Attend a meeting, think about participating on a committee, or help out with hospitality (i.e. donate yummy food) during our events.

Every bit helps!

e-mail [bvhs58@gmail.com](mailto:bvhs58@gmail.com)

## Upcoming events

January 22  
2:00 P.M.  
@ north gate

### Selections from the movie, *Senetchonet to Manville: a Journey through Time*

Documentary on the history of Manville, which contains hundreds of historical photographs of Manville from the collection of Roger Gladu.

This showing is made possible by the generous gift of Roger and Lorraine Gladu.

March 19  
2:00 P.M.  
@ north gate

### Guest Author : Joseph Coduri

Joseph will discuss his **new book :**  
*Rhode Island Railroad Stations: Postcards Views at the Turn of the 20th Century*

### BVHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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