



THE LANDMARK

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Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

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

Great Road Day at Northgate

Visit Northgate and the Arnold's Lonsdale Bakery on Lincoln's free historic open house day



THREE CENTURIES IN THREE MILES

Saturday, September 22
Great Road Historic District
Lincoln, Rhode Island

Sites Open:

Arnold House: 11-5 p.m. 487 Great Road

Blackstone Valley Historical Society & Arnold's Lonsdale Bakery: 11-4 p.m. 1873 Old Louisquisset Pike

Hannaway Blacksmith Shop: 11-4 p.m. 671 Great Road

Hearthside House Museum: 11-5 p.m. 677 Great Road

Moffett Mill: 11-4 p.m. accessible only by shuttle bus transport from Chase Farm Park

Pullen Corner Schoolhouse: 11-4 p.m. 671 Great Road

Mount Moriah Lodge: 11-4 p.m. 1093 Great Road

Saylesville Friends Meeting-house: 11-4 p.m. 374 Great Road

Valentine Whitman House: 11 - 2 p.m. 1147 Great Road

**Don't forget to renew
your membership!**

**Donations are always
welcome to help keep up**

**North Gate, the Fire
Station and the Bakery!**

www.bvhsri.org/join

Special Exhibit at Northgate - Reflections in the Water: Photographs of the Blackstone Valley

For Great Road Day, there will be a special exhibit of the photography of Madeleine O. Robinson at Northgate Tollhouse.

The exhibit is entitled *Reflections in the Water: Photographs of the Blackstone Valley*. Dr. Madeleine Robinson, a Cumberland resident, artist, and former teacher, is a member and has donated this beautiful group of her photographs to the BVHS.



Tree Reflection in the Canal,
Uxbridge

Celebrate BVHS's 60th birthday with us. All are invited to have a piece of cake on Great Road Day!

The Blackstone Canal is the subject of many of the photographs. The photograph at left was shown at the Attleboro Arts Museum Annual Member's Exhibition in 2008, and won an Award of Merit.

Discover Great Road's History on Sept. 22

Free tours and open houses will be available at the annual Great Road Day in Lincoln, 11 am to 5 pm Saturday, Sept. 22. Many historic buildings will be open, and the event marks the official introduction of the Great Road Heritage Campus at Chase Farm Park by the Friends of Hearthside. New features have been added to the event, making it a perfect family outing on a fall day. In addition to historic site tours, you'll find exhibits, games for

kids, and food along the way, for a big dose of local Blackstone Valley history all in one day.

The volunteer organization that started in 2001 with restoring and opening the 1810 Hearthside House has expanded to include other historic sites at the neighboring Chase Farm Park. With the completion of the restoration of the one-room schoolhouse at Chase Farm Park, and the addition of a new Visitor's Center to

the historic property, the Park now offers a journey through Lincoln's early history in this snapshot of life during the 19th century.

The campus includes Hearthside House Museum, the Hannaway Blacksmith Shop, the Moffett Mill and the Pullen's Corner Schoolhouse, all situated on the picturesque historic dairy farm of 85 acres. The new Visitors Center offers a gathering spot under its picnic pavilion as well as a community
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Find history, family activities and food on Great Road Day



New Visitors Center at Chase Park

(Continued from p. 1)

room and public restrooms, making it possible for tours and groups to visit the site for any length of time.

This one-day event is part of a national celebration of museums known as Smithsonian Museum Day during which museums across the country open their doors for free with the goal of getting more residents to visit the cultural resources found in their own communities.

Hear antique phonographs

Some features at the special celebration taking place at the Great Road Heritage Campus at Chase Farm Park include a special antique phonograph exhibit on display at the Hearthside House Museum, with the owners of these relics present to show how each works and sounds. Outdoors, Hearthside's "cook" will demonstrate how cooking was done over the open fire while she prepares some Colonial favorites.

At the Hannaway Blacksmith Shop c.1880, watch iron be heated over the forge and then molded into useful implements.

At the Pullen's Corner Schoolhouse, learn from the teachers and children what

school, and recess, was like in the late 19th century in Lincoln.

A rare opportunity will be the viewing of the Moffett Mill c.1812. As one of the state's earliest wooden mills, it is only open on selected occasions because of its inaccessibility along the busy curve of the roadway below Chase Farm. The only access will be by shuttle bus.

Apple crisp, Dynamite sandwiches for sale

At the new Visitors' Center at Chase Farm, home-made baked goods await, including apple crisp, old-fashioned Indian Pudding, cookies, breads, cakes and more. A northern Rhode Island favorite, Dynamite sandwiches, will also be available for sale, along with beverages.

Kevin Klyberg, Ranger from the Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park, will be giving a presentation about Great Road at noon and again at 2:00 p.m. Restrooms and the shuttle bus drop off and pick up point are also located at the Visitor's Center.

In addition to the

Great Road Heritage Campus, several other historic sites on or adjacent to Great Road in Lincoln will be open. A journey back to the late 17th century is featured at the c.1693 Arnold House and the c.1694 Valentine Whitman House, two rare stone-ender houses, as well as at the c.1703 Saylesville Friends Meetinghouse, the oldest continuously used Quaker meetinghouse in New England. One of the earliest Masonic lodges in the state, the c.1804 Mt. Moriah Lodge, provides public viewing just one day a year, which is on Great Road Day. BVHS's Northgate toll house features a photography exhibit, and the Arnold's Original Lonsdale Bakery will be open.

Visitors are invited to tour all sites, or just a select few at their own pace. Signs will be posted at each site along the route.

Free shuttle bus

There is limited parking at each site with the exception of the Moffett Mill, which is accessible only by shuttle bus. The shuttle bus pick up is at Chase Farm Park at the Hannaway Blacksmith Shop. The bus will make continuous runs along lower Great Road between Chase Farm Park, the Saylesville Friends Meetinghouse, the Arnold House, Hearthside, and Moffett Mill. The four sites in Lime Rock, the Arnold Bakery, the BVHS, Mt. Moriah Lodge, and the Valentine Whitman house, are not on the shuttle.

Great Road was built in 1683 as the major thoroughfare on the west side of the Blackstone River. With historic houses, farms and mills, the nationally-designated Great Road His-

toric District in Lincoln retains much of the Blackstone Valley's early 19th century rural character.

Great Road Day is a collaboration among the several participating historic sites, the majority of which are volunteer-run organizations. The event is sponsored in part by the Town of Lincoln, which owns Chase Farm Park and several of the properties.



Mt Moriah Lodge

Sites to Visit

Arnold House (1693): In 1693, Eleazer Arnold, a major landowner, built his house along Great Road, one of the earliest roads in the colonies.

Two stories high, with a massive chimney end wall, the house is a rare survivor of a once-common Rhode Island building type known as a stone-ender. The home so dominated the modest dwellings of nearby farmers that it earned the title "Eleazer's Splendid Mansion." 487 Great Rd

Saylesville Friends Meeting House (1703): This is one of the oldest continuously-used Quaker meeting houses in New England and the first house of worship erected in Northern Rhode Island. A cemetery adjacent to the building is the final resting place of many of Lincoln's earliest families including the Arnolds and Hearthside's builder, Stephen Hopkins Smith. 374 Great Rd

Hearthside House (1810): According to legend, Stephen Hopkins Smith used \$40,000 in
(Continued on p. 3)

Arnold Family Shares Memories of Longtime RI Bakery



Cruller box c1948 from the Arnold's Lonsdale Bakery

By Gail Harris

Back in February, Sarah Jenks Arnold Fuller left a message on our website. Her father is Joseph (Rob) Robbins Arnold. His father was Joseph, son of Ernest, who was Joseph Jenks Arnold's son. Joseph Jenks Arnold was the founder of the Arnold's Lonsdale Bakery.

This was exciting, and

after inquiry, I discovered both Sarah and her parents live in Cumberland.

A visit was arranged for late March. I had the opportunity to meet Rob, his wife Carolyn, Sarah, Sarah's husband Jason, and their sons. A delightful family; we had so much fun talking about the bakery.

Rob recalls working as a very young man at the

Saylesville Bakery on Chapel Street.

A bit of history: Though the bakery was still operating in the 1970's, the bakery line had consolidated to just a few items. At that point they continued to have the retail store at the plant; the delivery trucks were given to the drivers; and they were to deliver only Arnold Bakery products. However, with no contract binding them to this agreement, they began to deliver bread and pastries for other companies. In addition, the Arnold Bread Company of Connecticut came into Rhode Island, also selling bread and bakery products. Arnold of RI sent a cease and desist order to Arnold of CT. An agreement was drawn up, and Arnold of CT was allowed to sell its products in RI.

Later the bakery was

sold to a Rhode Island company who ran it until they closed it.

Carol was most kind and thoughtful to present to us a cruller box which was never used. A line from the company description on the box, "... which had its beginning 73 years ago," indicates that this box was from 1948. The boxes would have been printed without the number of years, and each year they would simply stamp the appropriate year in that space. Treasures like this make the bakery come alive.

I have yet to discover the exact date the bakery closed but assume it was in the late 1970's. Come visit us on September 22 at our Open House.

See <https://www.bvhsri.org/our-environment/the-arnold-bakery/> for the story of the bakery

Historic Sites Open on Great Road Day, continued

(Continued from p. 2) lottery winnings to construct this state-ly home for a young lady he wished to marry. Considered to be one of the finest Federal-style houses in Rhode Island, it features many unique architectural elements. 677 Great Rd

Moffett Mill (1812): A rare example of a wooden mill built during the first wave of industrialization in the Blackstone Valley and considered one of the earliest machine shops constructed in Rhode Island. This restored mill along the Moshas-suck River made parts for wagons, carriages, shoe and corset laces until its closing in 1900.

Chase Farm Park (1867): Lincoln's last operating dairy farm is now a public park, with

85 acres of picturesque hills and meadows. The history of this early farm, one of many that dotted the landscape during the 19th century in Lincoln, is provided by an interpretive panel. 671 Great Rd

Pullen Corner School (1850): Recently moved across town from Angell Road to Chase Farm Park on Great Road is a one-room school, the Pullen Corner School, also known as the "Hot Potato School," an 1850 schoolhouse that was part of the Smithfield school system (before Lincoln existed) where children of farm families were educated from grades 1-8. The schoolhouse has undergone a total restoration and is the site for

school groups and tours where its history is told by docents and children in period attire. 671 Great Rd

Hannaway Blacksmith Shop (1880): Hear the sound of the hammer striking the anvil and smell the metal as it heats from the fire of the forge as turn-of-the-century blacksmithing demonstrations take place at this original smithy that served area farms and homes. Located at the entrance to Chase Farm Park. 671 Great Rd

Mount Moriah Lodge (1804): In 1804 the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island granted permission to form a Masonic Lodge in Smithfield (before Lincoln was formed),

which came to be known as Mount Moriah, the 8th lodge in the state at that time. The 2-story brick building started as a one-room schoolhouse and then was enlarged in 1804 for the Lodge. This was an important local institution in Lime Rock, and included many of the town's most notable citizens. It is still in operation. 1093 Great Rd at the corner of Anna Sayles Rd

Northgate, Home of the Blackstone Valley Historical Society (1807): This two-story building was originally built as a tollgate and residence for the toll collector for the Louisquisset Turnpike. The Pike, faster and straighter than Great (Continued on p. 4)

Upcoming Events at North Gate

**Most events are free.
Everyone is welcome.
Donations are gratefully accepted.**

11:00-4:00 pm, Saturday, September 22: Great Road Open House Day. Arnold's Lonsdale Bakery will be open. Visitors are invited to have a piece of BVHS's 60th anniversary birthday cake!

7:00 pm, Saturday, October 20: *The Corpse That Drove a Hearse - and Other True Tales of the Macabre*, a Halloween talk by Jim Ignasher, Smithfield Historical Society.

2:00 pm, Sunday, November 18: Slater Mill talk by Carl L. Johnson.

Look for a Michael DiMucci concert coming up.



Inside the Bakery
Photo by Jim Hendrickson

Local Scouts work to clean and restore Angell Rd Historic Cemetery



Cleaning up the Cemetery. Photo by Ken Postle

Scout Evan Thompson from Lincoln led a group of his fellow scouts and volunteers in a restoration of Lincoln 59, a beautiful historic cemetery

off Angell Road in Lincoln Meadows as an Eagle Scout project. Ken Postle assisted Evan and the scouts. Ken, who lives in Pawtucket, has

inspired and educated people about protecting historic cemeteries for several years.

On August 21, Evan, Ken, and the scouts were commended by the Town of Lincoln at the Council Meeting.

The cemetery, called the Richard Angell Lot, contains 18th and 19th century graves of the Angell and Hawkins families. The scouts cleared the underbrush, recorded 21 inscriptions, and uncovered and repaired stones.



The Cemetery Before Cleanup



Scout Evan Thompson speaking at the Town Council. Ken Postle at left.

Historic Sites, continued

(Continued from p. 3)

Road, to some extent superseded it. The Pike was built to expedite the shipment of lime to Providence. Kevin Klyberg, in his talks at the Visitor Center, will touch on this story. In later years, the building served as the Grange, a social gathering place for local farm families. It is currently home to BVHS. 1873 Louisquisset Pike.

Arnold Bakery (1874): This one-story, one-room bakery was relocated to its current spot adjacent to Northgate, A

Lincoln business which lasted nearly 100 years was begun in this tiny workshop by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jenks Arnold in Lonsdale, but within a few years they were so successful that a large bakery was built in Saylesville. 1873 Louisquisset Pike

Valentine Whitman Jr. House (1694): A classic stone-ender house, this is the site of the first town meeting in Smithfield. The Whitmans were some of the first settlers in Northern Rhode Island. The house is fully furnished and has 3 floors open for viewing. 1147 Great Rd.

BVHS Executive Board

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