



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

Archaeologist Reveals Secrets of the Stone Walls of RI

The networks of stone walls that extend across Rhode Island are more than quaint landscape accents. They are dynamic records of our shared past worth studying and preserving.

At 2:00 pm on Sunday, October 14, Rhode Island state archaeologist Timothy Ives will give an illus-

2:00 pm, October 14
Timothy Ives, RIHPHC
Stone Walls of RI
Northgate, 1873 Old
Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln

trated, one-hour presentation on the history and character of stone walls across the state. As the Principal Archaeologist at the Rhode Island Histori-



Stone Wall, Wilbur Road

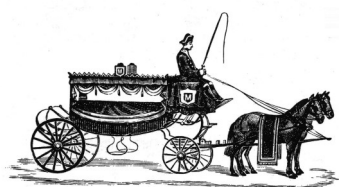
cal Preservation and Heritage Commission, Ives directs a program to identify, document, pre-

serve, and interpret Rhode Island's archaeological record. BVHS is hosting this presentation, which is one of RI-HPHC's Rhode Island Archaeology Month activities. For the full schedule of activities this month, go to:

www.preservation.ri.gov/archaeology/18october.php

The Corpse That Drove a Hearse – and Other True Tales of the Macabre: Talk by Jim Ignasher

On Saturday, October 20 at 7:00 pm, Jim Ignasher from the Smithfield Historical Society will bring us a Halloween presentation, “The Corpse that Drove a Hearse — and Other True Tales of the Macabre.” Truth can be stranger than fiction, and New England is not lacking for bizarre mortuary tales of the dead, the undead, and those caught somewhere in between. Take for instance the de-



parted man who ended up in control of the hearse at his own funeral, or the man who walked in on his own wake and saw himself lying in the casket! Then there's the medical student who re-animated the ill-gotten corpse of a beautiful woman — and

7:00 pm, October 20
Jim Ignasher
The Corpse that Drove a
Hearse
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later married her!

The Victorian fear of a premature burial was very real, and apparently, well founded, but how many know that there were those who actually made a living by being buried alive?

Author and historian Jim Ignasher will present these and other strange but true tales just in time for Halloween. These are not ghost stories, but historically documented cases virtually forgotten since they occurred.

These stories are true, and will be presented in a tasteful manner, however, due to the subject matter, the presentation is not recommended for young children. (continued on p. 2)

The Corpse

(Continued from p. 1)
Ignasher became interested in history as a teenager, and began writing about local history and giving talks about his research starting about fifteen years ago. His goal is to uncover forgotten tales from the past that others have overlooked. He is active with the Historical Society of Smithfield, contributes a monthly column to the Smithfield Times magazine, and maintains a website called "New England Aviation History", which chronicles little known stories and forgotten incidents relating to New England aeronautical history.

Hauntings by Day, Hauntings by Night

Hearthside will be holding several Halloween-related events between September 25 and November 1, including the exhibit, *Gone but Not Forgotten: Victorian Mourning Customs*, which will be on view October 14, 1-4 pm; October 20 & October 27, 5-8 pm. www.hearthsidehouse.org/calendar



Photo of dam found by Jim Ignasher



Pratt Dam, courtesy of Kevin Klyberg

Kevin Klyberg Identifies Dam Pictures

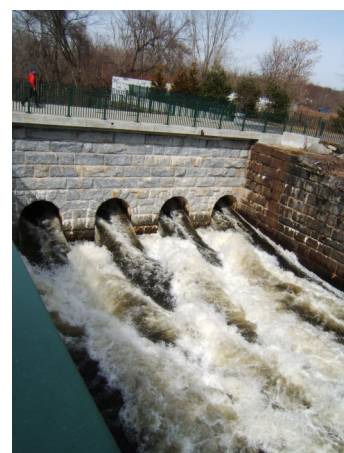
If you saw the May issue, it featured some interesting pictures of the building of a dam sent to us by Jim Ignasher. Roger Beaudry of the Woonsocket Historical Society found a box dated 1894 with glass negatives of the Georgiaville Dam, and sent them to Jim Ignasher. Jim noticed some of them were marked "Ashton Gate Chamber," and shared them with us. We thought they were of the building of Ashton Dam.

However, when Kevin Klyberg from the Blackstone Valley National Historic Park saw the



Detail of photo of dam

pictures, he realized that they were of the Pratt Dam in Lonsdale, which is close to the Ashton Dam. He said that the Pratt Dam was built in 1893-94, which would match the date on the box. Also, the Pratt Dam still has the five arch-



Pratt Dam, courtesy of Kevin Klyberg

ways on the Cumberland side of the river and the long spillway that the railroad ran over which now carries the bikepath. The large stone structures coming up from the top of the spill way were the pilings that were used to support the railroad bridge.



Michael DiMucci

Michael DiMucci Sings Big Band at BVHS

Americana II: Songs from America's History, from the 1920's -1940's

Michael DiMucci, tenor and pianist presents a concert of songs and their sto-

ries from America's past on November 4th. This program features well-known melodies from the Roaring Twenties & Jazz Age to the 1930s during the Great Depression and the beginnings of Old Hollywood to the Big Bands and crooners of the 1940s as our country

approached the era of World War II.

Tickets \$20 (\$21.69 with service fee). Buy tickets starting October 3 through BrownPaperTickets.com. <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3630566>

BVHS's Newest Member Enjoys Great Road Day



Moffett Mill

By Erika Niedowski

Even before moving to Lincoln from Providence last year, the stretch of Great Road east of Butterfly Farm was one of my favorites while biking through town. But until this year's Great Road Day, I didn't know too much about what's behind the walls of the historic places right in my backyard. A great road indeed!

I set aside a few hours for my journey, beginning at Arnold House, the oldest and once grandest of buildings in Lincoln well before it was Lincoln, in the "North Woods" of Providence.

The life of the Rhode Island-style "stone ender" came into focus as I learned about the many Arnold family inhabitants, viewed the massive stone hearths, and saw where travelers slept on feathers on the floor during the building's incarnation as a Public House.

Next I stopped at Chase Farm Park, once a dairy farm and now a gem of preserved open space. At the new visitor center, I caught a talk by Ranger Kevin Klyberg of the Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park. Visiting next door, I learned why the one-room Pullen's Corner Schoolhouse is called the Hot Potato School: To keep

their hands from freezing on the walk to school, children kept warm potatoes in their pockets that the teacher later cooked for lunch.

Next I took the shuttle to Moffett Mill, my favorite stop of the day. The building is open only on Great Road Day so it felt like a treat to be inside. The wooden mill perched on the Moshassuck River was a versatile machine shop that helped make the rest of Great Road thrive; it made ship parts, textile industry machines and more. The original tools and machinery on display quite literally propelled the industrial revolution.

After a quick self-guided tour through stately Hearthside House, which I was surprised to learn was never inhabited by the man who built it to impress a lady, I drove to

Northgate, home of the Blackstone Valley Historical Society, for a piece of cake to celebrate BVHS's 60th birthday. Finally, I got a "tour" of the original one-room Arnold's Lonsdale Bakery next door, which has a rich history that spans several towns and locations. I could practically smell the bread.

As a Lincoln resident and new BVHS member, I'm so glad to have participated in Great Road Day. I didn't hit all the stops – next year! I'm looking forward to learning more Blackstone Valley history and sharing my new perspective of our Great Road.

Photos by Erika Niedowski



Moffett Mill



Inside Moffett Mill



Arnold House



Kevin Klyberg at the Visitor Center

Upcoming Events at North Gate

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

2:00 pm, Sunday, October 14: *Stone Walls of Rhode Island*, a presentation by **Tim Ives**, State Archaeologist, RIHPHC. BVHS will host this presentation as part of [RIHPHC's Rhode Island Archaeology Month](#). BVHS, Northgate, 1873 Old Louisquisset Road, Lincoln, RI 02865. Free.

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. BVHS, Northgate, 1873 Old Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln, RI 02865. Free.

3:00 pm, Sunday, November 4: Concert by **Michael DiMucci** on the music from the 1920s to World War II. Tickets \$20 (\$21.69 with service fee). Tickets on sale at BrownPaperTickets.com. <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3630566> (Tickets will also be on sale at the door.)

2:00 pm, Sunday, November 18: *Slater Mill*, a talk by **Carl L. Johnson**. BVHS, 1873 Old Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln, RI 02865. Free.



Michael DiMucci



Slater Mill

Special Thanks



BVHS's 60th Birthday cake

BVHS would like to say thank you to our members for their support on the occasion of its 60th birthday. Of special note this month, we would like to thank Eleanor Ogden for her generous donation to BVHS. Mrs Ogden is a long-time member of BVHS. Her parents were both active in BVHS: Howard R. Whitney (former President) and Edith V. S. Whitney (Membership chairperson).

BVHS would also like

to thank Rob Lake from R. J. Lake Construction, Inc., who donated and installed a beautiful stone doorstep for the Bakery in time for Great Road day.

John Houghton & Susan Clarke have worked hard to have the parking lot repaved. The enormous potholes and piles of gravel won't be back!

Madeleine Robinson donated the photographs of the Blackstone Valley that she took between 1990 and 2010 that are on display downstairs.

Special thanks also to the Bethel family.

Thank you to the board members and everyone who has kept BVHS going for an amazing 60 years.



New Doorstep for the Bakery

BVHS Executive Board

President: Jason Dionne

401-862-4202

Email: jjhdio70@gmail.com

Vice President: Lori Melucci

Secretary: Francine Jackson

Treasurer/Property Manager:
John Houghton

Members-at-Large

Gail Harris, Bob Ferri, Don Coelho



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