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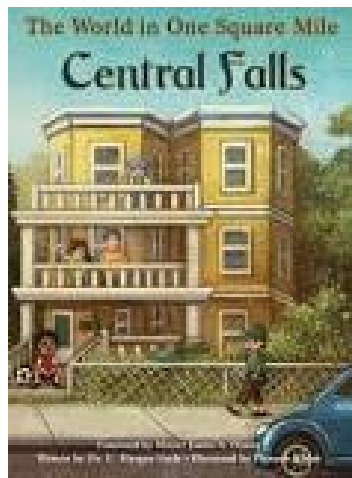
Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

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

“The World In One Square Mile: Central Falls”

Although only one square mile in size, the city of Central Falls is rich in history. To showcase this, author Morgan Grefe, the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Historical Society, has written the ultimate children’s book about the city. On March 10 at North Gate, she will talk about it.

The World in One Square Mile introduces



Book Cover

different phases of the city’s history through the eyes of children: from the first settlers there, to the lives of those working in the mills, up to today. Included are vivid descriptions of various places near and dear to residents of the city, especially beautiful Jenks Park, which holds a special place in the author’s heart.

Morgan Grefe has been the head of the RI Historical Society for many years. She will read various passages from her book. Although she will not have copies of the book with her, she will be willing to autograph any you bring with you.

Morgan Grefe: March 10
Dan Bethel: March 31
North Gate, BVHS,
Free events

Danny Bethel Turns Back Time: Lime Rock



Mount Moriah Lodge and Lime Rock's Public Water Fountain

Danny Bethel is returning to North Gate with a fascinating exhibit of his Lime Rock collection.

Bethel has been collecting photos, documents, post cards, and other ephemera relating to Lime Rock for

15 years. Featured in this exhibit: the Lime Quarry, the Lime Rock Fire Department, the Lime Rock Baptist Church, the Smithfield Lime Rock Bank, the Lime Rock School House, Mount Moriah Lodge, and the Louisquisset Pike. Among the items on display will be a document about a 19th century business arrangement regarding purchasing wood from a wood lot for the lime kilns. There will be photographs of Eddie Dowling and his wife

Rachel (Ray) Dooley, and a program from *The Glass Menagerie* when Eddie Dowling was in the cast. (Rt. 146 was named after Eddie Dowling, an actor and producer born in Woonsocket.). Another interesting piece of ephemera in the exhibit is a church bulletin from the Lime Rock Baptist church that mentions fixing the roof after the hurricane of 1938.

Don't miss this show on Sunday, March 31, 2:00 p.m.

Bernasconi Paintings Show Fairy-Tale Views of Lincoln



Lime Quarry by Vincent Bernasconi

Last spring when we were working on the Lime Kiln exhibit at BVHS, Jim Bethel offered to let us display some of the material he had saved over the years when he worked for the

Conklin Lime Quarry. Among the photographs and press clippings were some beautiful little pictures, which he said were photographs of paintings. There was a fairy-tale picture of hikers standing by a pool, surrounded by cloud-like lime cliffs. There was another of the lime kiln in the Conklin quarry yard. He told us that they had been painted by Vincent Bernasconi, known as "Berni," who lived in a house on Wilbur Road near the quarry. Jim and his wife Joyce had known him well. Bernasconi (1885-1962) was a staff artist and cartoonist who worked for the Provi-

dence Journal. He had been born in England, they told me, and he was descended from a family of Italian artists who had originally come to England to paint and sculpt decorations for stately homes there. They invited me to see their collection of Vincent Bernasconi paintings. I am sharing them here.

I found a profile of Bernasconi in the July 24, 1919 issue of "Editor and Publisher," a New York trade magazine, with a cartoon of "Berni" working furiously surrounded by newspapermen. According to the article, he was born in Birmingham, England, and graduated from an art school. About 1917 he began working at the Providence Evening Bulletin, keeping a little farm in Lime Rock, and joining the Masons and the Pen and

Editor & Publisher for July 24, 1919

LITTLE TRAGEDIES OF A NEWSPAPER OFFICE



"Stephen Wright" Kiln, Conklin Lime Quarry

Pencil Club of Rhode Island.

Although I haven't been able to confirm whether there is a family connection, there are two prominent Bernasconis listed on Wikipedia. Francis Bernasconi (1762-1841) was an English ornamental carver and plasterer active in the early 19th century, who worked on Trinity College in Cambridge, Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey. A relative of Francis Bernasconi, George Henry Bernasconi (1842-1916), son of George Vincent Bernasconi, also has an entry in Wikipedia. He was an artist who lived in Birmingham, and he contributed cartoons to the Birmingham journal "The Town Crier."

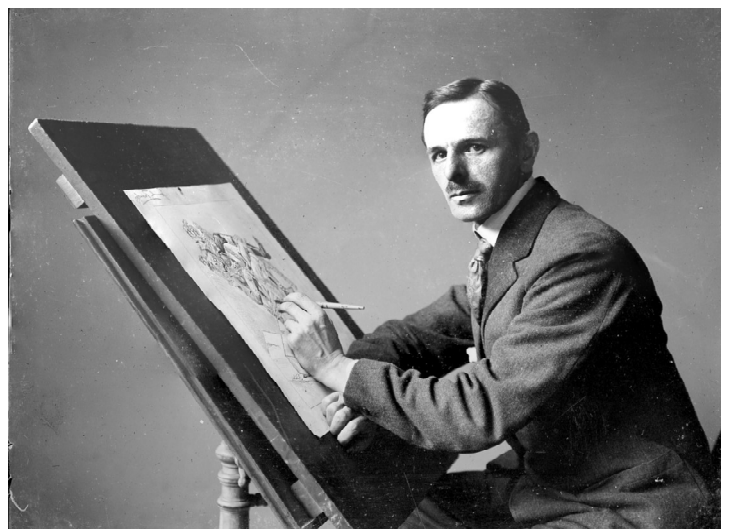
By Lori Melucci

Photographs of the paintings courtesy of Jim and Joyce Bethel.



Clockwise from the top on this page:

- (1) South Quarry, Lime Rock.
- (2) House on Great Road, near Moffat Mill.
- (3) Vincent Bernasconi at his easel, collection of Dan Bethel.
- (4) Great Road, view of Mt. Moriah Lodge.



Upcoming Events at North Gate

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

2:00 p.m., Sunday, March 10. Book Talk: *The World in One Square Mile: Central Falls*. Morgan Grefe from the R. I. Historical Society will talk about her children's book, an illustrated history of Central Falls, told from the viewpoints of immigrant children in periods ranging from 1700 to 2006. Free, all welcome. Children welcome.



Next Up: Morgan Grefe

2:00 p.m., Sunday, March 31. Exhibit: Lime Rock, from the collection of Dan Bethel. Bethel's collection of ephemera relates to the Blackstone Valley's history and culture. He will show his recent acquisitions from Lime Rock. Free, all welcome.

3:00 p.m., Sunday, April 28. Concert by Michael DiMucci: *Americana III*, featuring the music of the 1950s and 1960s at North Gate. Tickets: \$20.00, on sale soon at www.brownpapertickets.com and at the door.

1:30 p.m., Sunday, May 19. The BVHS Annual Meeting will take place at 1:30 pm., followed by the Christine Nowak Lecture, which will be given by Kevin Klyberg, at 2:00 pm. The meeting and talk will take place in the barn of the Captain Wilbur Kelly House Museum, 1075 Lower River Road, Lincoln, R.I. 02865. All are welcome to attend the meeting and the talk, which will be about the Blackstone Canal. Free.



Kelly Barn

Michael DiMucci Brings Rock & Roll to North Gate



Michael DiMucci

Motown and early rock & roll.

Tickets: Available soon
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4105521
and also at the door.



WWII Exhibit on Feb 24. Photo by Jim Hendrickson

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CONCERT
SERIES
Live at
North
Gate

Michael DiMucci, RI Tenor, presents a program of nostalgic songs from the 1950's and 1960's. The concert celebrates historical music from Doo-wop to Folk to the early beginnings of

**Americana III: Songs
from America's
History, from the
1950's -1960's
3 pm, Sunday,
April 28, 2019**

**Tickets: \$20 (21.69
with BPP service fee)**

**Fundraiser for the
BVHS**



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