

# 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 Louisquisset Pike (Rte 246) ♦ PO Box 125, Lincoln RI, 02865

## Blackstone Canal: Highway to the Headwaters

Ranger Kevin Klyberg, from the Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park, will give the BVHS's annual Christine Nowak Lecture in the Park, at the barn of the Captain Wilbur Kelly House Museum, 1075 Lower River Road, Lincoln, RI. The talk, "Blackstone Canal: Highway to the Headwaters," will take place at 2:00 p.m. on May 19, immedi-



Kevin Klyberg, photo by Jim Hendrickson

ately after the BVHS annual meeting. There will be a shuttle to take people from the small parking lot to the barn.

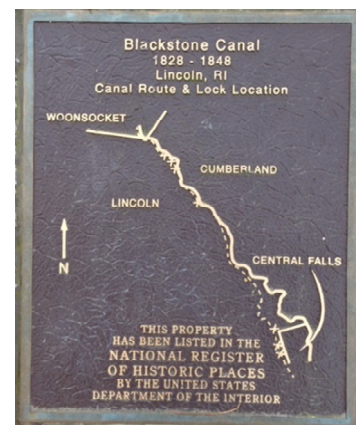
The Blackstone Canal connected Worcester to Providence and was in use from 1828 to 1848. Construction started in 1825,



Blackstone Canal, with Kelly House to the left

and was completed in 1828. It increased prosperity for the Blackstone Valley. Farmers' goods were easier to ship by water instead of along the dirt roads, and mills sprang up along the river. It was a two day trip

for canal boats from Worcester to Providence. An overnight stop was made in Uxbridge. The canal was approximately 35 feet wide and ascended 451 feet, passing through 49 locks. It was designed by Benjamin Wright, chief engineer of the Erie Canal,



Blackstone Canal National Register Plaque

and Holmes Hutchinson, later chief engineer of New York's canals. However, in 1847, the Providence and Worcester Railroad opened, and the canal quickly became obsolete.

This lecture is free. Please join us at the Kelly Barn on Sunday, May 19.

### BVHS Annual Meeting 1:30 pm May 19

The BVHS Annual Meeting and Election will take place at 1:30 p.m., before the lecture.

The Nominating Committee for the BVHS, consisting of Donald Coelho, Robert Ferri, James Beth-

el, Judy Hadley, and Michael DiMucci, under the direction of Don Coelho, Nominating Committee Chairman, announces that the slate of officers/ nominees for 2019/2020 remains the same:

Jason Dionne: President

Lori Melucci: Vice President  
Francine Jackson: Secretary  
John Houghton: Treasurer  
Members at large:  
Gail Harris  
Bob Ferri  
Don Coelho

If you are interested in joining the board, which

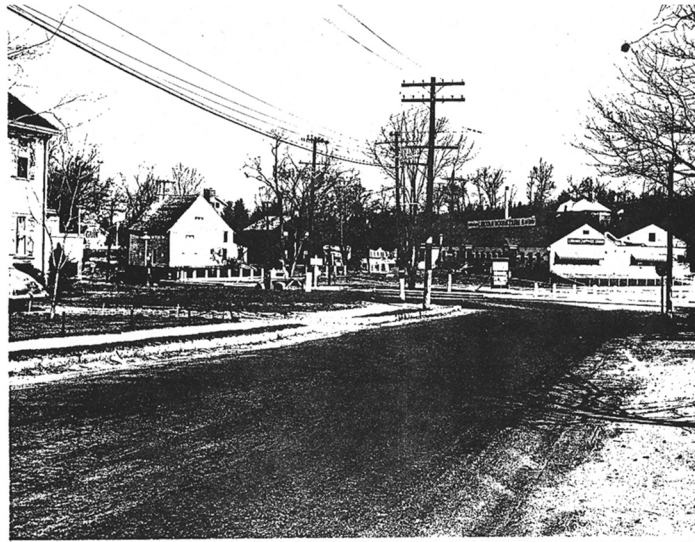
*Continued on p. 2.*

# Remembering Lincoln Woods Dairy

By Lori Melucci

Lincoln Woods was the first state park created in Rhode Island. On February 12, 1909, the Providence Metropolitan Park District Commission met at Hearthside to mark the acquisition of the land. The park was a success from the start.

The Arnold family, whose farm was near the entrance to Lincoln Woods State Park, eventually took note of the park's growing popularity, and decided to add a "milk bar" and ice cream parlor to their dairy farm. It was located in the present day Gateway Park. Lincoln Woods Farm became an attraction in its own right. In Al Klyberg's words, "the Lincoln Woods Dairy at Great Road and Smithfield Avenue was where Saylesville cows' milk was turned into ice cream right before your eyes, only adding to



This photograph shows the former Lincoln Woods Dairy at the intersection of Smithfield Avenue and Great Road. It is reproduced from "Hannaway Blacksmith Shop and Chase Farm: A Report and Recommendation" by Albert T. Klyberg and Peter L. Moreau, February 1990.

the treat of the trek to Lincoln Woods."

Harmon Poole from Simsbury, CT, remembered that in the 1930's, the "very modern milking system was made part of the entertainment for those who bought their ice cream at the inside

windows. The heavy-uddered cows would march into one of the four display stalls and were hooked up to the milkers. Each stall had the cow's name near the large glass tank that was rapidly filling with that cow's milk. Spectators would root for

their favorite cows." Mr. Poole believed that the ice cream parlor was invited to have a shop in the 1939 New York World's Fair.

During World War II, Clifton Arnold ran the farm. In 1943, the hayloft of the barn caught fire. The barn was lost and the Milk Bar and Ice Cream parlor took heavy damage. Oliver H. Perry, who joined the fire department at sixteen, remembered being called out of high school in Pawtucket to fight the fire. In 1947, Clif Arnold was interviewed by Dairy World, in an article on Lincoln Woods Farm in the July issue called "Out of the Ashes." Arnold talked about the fire in the interview, saying that he couldn't get enough lumber to rebuild the barn in 1943, so it was built of cinderblocks, and they did a lot of the work themselves. Many people came out to see the ruins after the fire, and

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## BVHS Annual Meeting and Election 1:30 pm May 19

*Continued from p. 1*  
organizes historically-related activities, lectures, and exhibits, cares for North Gate and its artifacts and collections, and works to build awareness and community around the historical origins of the

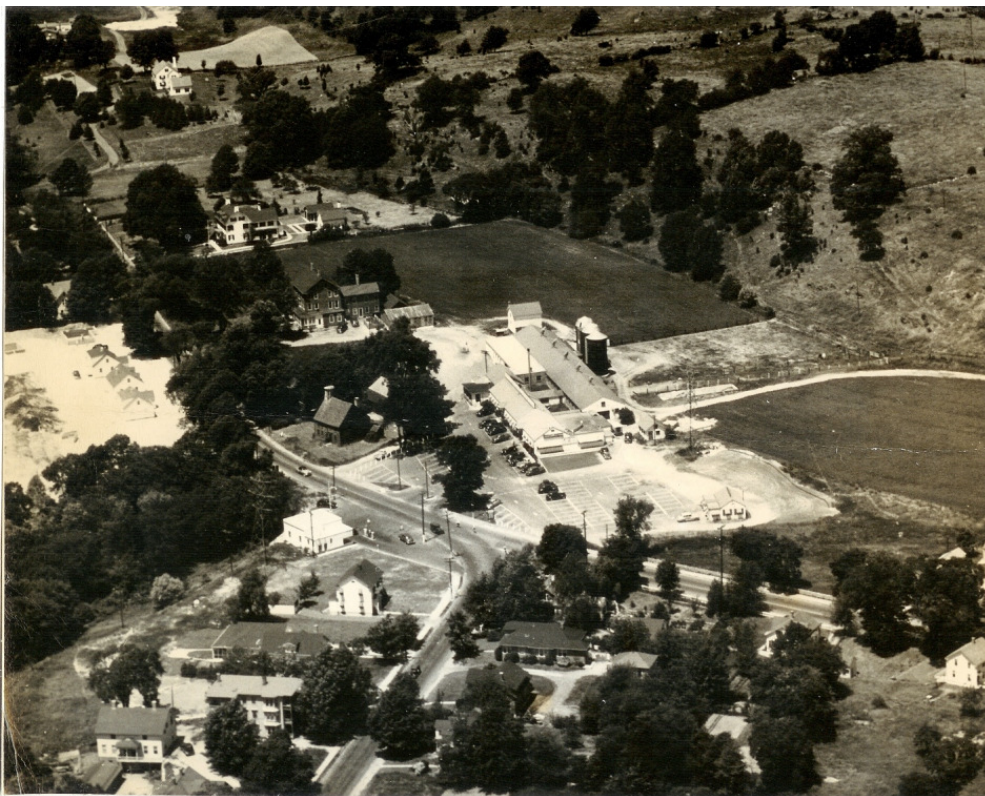
Blackstone Valley, please contact the committee chairman, Donald Coelho at [don.coelho@crbard.com](mailto:don.coelho@crbard.com).

Nominations will also be taken from the floor during the annual meeting on May 19.



Lincoln Woods Farm, courtesy of Danny Bethel





Aerial photograph of the Lincoln Woods Dairy taken from a 1941 biplane, courtesy of Hearthside House Museum . Eleazer Arnold House is slightly above left of center.

**GARELICK BROS. FARMS**  
**Lincoln Woods Farm Co.**  
**Price List**  
 EFFECTIVE *Jan 15, 1953*

HEAVY CREAM	40 Qt. Jug			
	8 Qt. Can	8.77		
	Qts.	1.25	113	
LIGHT CREAM	1/2 Pts.	.33	30	30.2
	8 Qt. Can	4.49		
	Qts.	.80	.68	
PAST. MILK	1/2 Pts.	7.14	18.2	.19
	8 Qt. Can A	8.00		
	8 Qt. Can B	1.80		
HOMO. MILK	Qts. A	26	23	
	Qts. B	24	21	22
	1/2 Pts.			
FAVORED MILK	8 Qt. Can A	1.88		
	8 Qt. Can B	1.72		
	Qts. A	27	24	23
BUTTERMILK	Qts. B	25	22	
	1/2 Pts.	6.74		
	8 Qt. Can	4.20		
BUTTERMILK, G. N.	Qts.	23	20	
	Qts.	25	22	
	Qts.	21	18	
SKIM MILK	Pts.	43	37	
	Jar.	34	29	
	Lb.			
SOUR CREAM	Lb.			
	Lb.			
	Pkg.			
COTTAGE CHEESE	Pts.	29	24	
	Pts.	25	20	
	Pts.	44	39	
SALT BUTTER				
SWEET BUTTER				
WHIP BUTTER				
CHOC. SYRUP				
COFFEE SYRUP				

Receipt from Garelick Farms, Lincoln Woods Farm Co. 1953. Collection of Danny Bethel

watched the buildings being rebuilt.

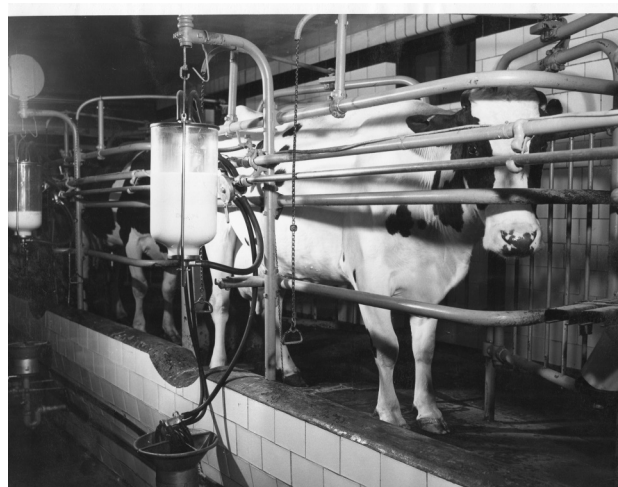
By 1947, the Milk Bar was thriving again, selling 1,200 bottles of milk and 500 gallons of ice cream a day on weekends. It had a 25 foot sandwich bar and about 20 tables. The ceiling-high windows into the Milking Parlor were on the inside wall next to the barn.

Several Lincoln residents remembered Lincoln Woods Farm. Dave Rice went there after Pawtucket West high school games in 1948. Glenn Laxton remembered being taken there in the early 1950s. Sometime before 1953, the dairy was purchased by Garelick, but they did not own it long. The barns were taken down by the early 1960s.

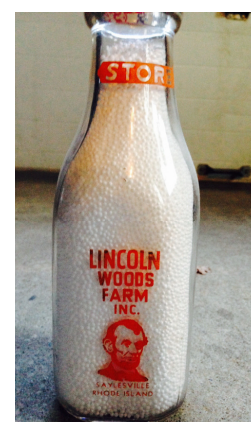
Traces of the foundations of the buildings can still be seen in Gateway Park.



Above: Family group enjoying ice cream in parking lot of Lincoln Woods Farm. Below: Cow being milked at Lincoln Woods Farm Collection of Danny Bethel



Milk Bottles Collection of Danny Bethel





## Upcoming Events

**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. Light refreshments. Free.

Bob Ferri will be leading BVHS's annual tour of Cogswell Tower in Jenks Park again this summer. The date will be posted soon!

## Blackstone Valley Watershed Council Opens New Environmental Center

The Blackstone River Watershed Council invites all to its Grand Opening of its new Environmental Center at 100 River Road, Manville, RI 02838 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Saturday, May 18. Light refreshments will be served and there will be presentations by Janet Coit,

Director of the RI DEM and the Eastern Medicine Singers, an Algonquin Drum Group from Providence.

Please RSVP by Thursday May 16th to: Judy Hadley [Treelady@cox.net](mailto:Treelady@cox.net) or Keith Hainley [dkhainley@gmail.com](mailto:dkhainley@gmail.com).

## BVHS Shares Photo for Viola Davis Interview on Today show



Central Falls. Photo by John Zangari, from the belfry of Notre Dame

BVHS contributed this photo for the background of Today's Viola Davis interview. You can see the interview at <https://www.today.com/video/viola-davis-opens-up-about-the-darkness-and-stigma-of-growing-up-in-poverty-58901573642>

## Danny Bethel Collection to be Exhibited at Smith-Appleby House

Danny Bethel shows his collection of ephemera, including photographs, documents, postcards, etc. featuring Smithfield at the Smith-Appleby House on from 1:00 to 4:00 pm on May 19. Run over after the annual meeting!

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



Cogswell Tower. Photo by Jim Hendrickson

## Pawtucket Students Honor Veterans' Graves

Ken Postle is leading Pawtucket middle school and high school students in placing flags on veterans' graves this week. Slater Jr. High will be at St. Francis Cemetery on the morning of May 13. The Tolman

High School ROTC will go to the Mineral Spring Avenue Cemetery that afternoon, and Goff and Jenks students will be working at Oak Grove Cemetery on May 14.

### Publications referred to in dairy article:

100 Years of Rhode Island State Parks, Albert Klyberg, State of RI DEM, 2009 (quote in article is from p.5.)

"Out of the Ashes," by Charles H. Leach, *The Dairy World*, July 1947.

### BVHS Executive Board

President: Jason Dionne

401-862-4202

Email: [jjhdio70@gmail.com](mailto: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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