



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

Joshua Bell traces William Draper's remarkable journey as a World War II naval "combat artist"

NEW DATE!

2 pm December 8

North Gate

1873 Old Louisquisset

Pike, Lincoln, RI

Free Event

On December 8 at 2:00 p.m., join former National Park Ranger Joshua Bell from Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park as he traces William Franklin Draper around the Pacific, using the works of art Draper created along the way.

Draper (1912-2003) was



"Tired Tigers-Umnak-Alaska" 1942

born in Hopedale, MA, in the Blackstone Valley. His family developed and patented numerous improvements in textile machinery throughout the 19th and ear-

ly 20th century. The family business, which became the Draper Corporation in 1917, was once one of the largest manufacturers of power looms and textile machinery in the country.

Draper was named after his grandfather, a Civil War veteran, and U. S. Ambassador to Italy, but his passions were music and the arts. When the United States entered World War II, he volunteered his services as an artist. During World War II, he became an official combat artist for the Navy, starting as a lieutenant junior grade and finishing as a lieutenant commander. His assignments took him to the Aleutian Islands, Hawaii

and the South Pacific. He also completed murals for the US Naval Academy at Annapolis. In addition, he was a portrait painter. He painted Admirals Nimitz and Halsey during the war. Many years later, he also painted Presidents Kennedy and Nixon.

Cumberland Town Hall District placed on the National Register

The Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Committee has just announced that the Cumberland Town Hall at 45 Broad Street, the former Valley Falls Post office and Library at 16 Mill Street and the statue commemorating Cumberland's war dead have been designated the "Town Hall Historic District" and have been placed on the National Register. The Town Hall, a 3-story colonial revival style brick structure with a wooden clock tower, was designed by Rhode Island architect William R. Walker and built in 1894. (continued on p. 2)



William F. Draper Photo from Wikipedia

Upcoming Events at North Gate

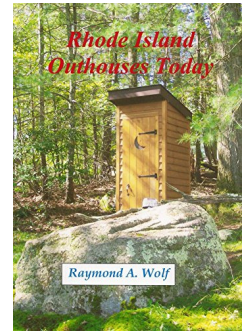
**Most events are free.
Everyone is welcome.
Donations are gratefully accepted.**

2:00 pm, Sunday, December 8: Former National Park Ranger Joshua Bell will introduce the work of William Draper, from Hopedale, MA.

2:00 pm, Sunday, January 26: Ray Wolfe returns to talk about RI outhouses.

3:00 pm, Sunday, March 15: Michael DiMucci returns to North Gate with a new concert. Fundraiser for BVHS. Details TBA.

2:00 pm, Sunday, April 19: Archaeologist Charlotte Taylor from the RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission will give a talk on “Maritime Misfortunes in the Ocean State.” Taylor maintains an inventory of the location and condition of the state’s shipwrecks.



RI Outhouses Today by Ray Wolfe

Uncovering history: Ken Postle and Greg Duhamel and their volunteer teams honor veterans’ graves, continue research and visit a special bell

At the St. James/Bernon cemetery in Woonsocket, Greg Duhamel and his volunteers are continuing their work. On November 9, for Veteran’s Day, they stopped work to share stories about the veterans buried there.

On November 9, Ken Postle was at Oak Grove cemetery in Pawtucket to show the bell he found with Barbara Zdravsky from the Pawtucket Preservation Soci-

ety to Michael Viveiros, a filmmaker, and they rang the bell! (For more about the bell, see the Sept. 2017 newsletter at www.bvhsri.org.)

Postle is beginning work on the Peach Hill cemetery (NP2), which has over 75 graves listed. The site is very overgrown. Pieces of stones were in neighbors’ yards. An 18th century stone for a Captain James

Olney had Tom Mowry and others on the Facebook page beginning research. Tom said “it looks like [James was in] Capt. Jencks company in 1758 and the Campaign of 1762 So that would be provin-

cial service.” The cemetery is located near #38 Peach Hill Avenue in North Providence.

See pictures plus video of the bell on Facebook (River Road, Blackstone River and Canal Cemeteries.)

Cumberland’s Historic District



Town Hall Historic District. Photo from press release.

(continued from p. 1) The Valley Falls Company Store, built ca. 1890, was the Post Office and Valley Falls Free Library from the 1890s to the 1920s, and was a grocery store from the 1920s to 1988. The two-story commercial building has fine wood framing around its glass storefront windows.

Catch BVHS board member Francine Jackson’s monthly radio show at 9:35 am on Nov. 21 on WNRI (1380AM /95.1 FM). It will be about the restoration of St. Ann’s Church in Woonsocket.

#1 holiday hack:
When you buy your gifts at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates. **amazonsmile**

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