



# THE LANDMARK

PUBLICATION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 60

January 2020

No. 4

*Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History*

[bvhsri.org](http://bvhsri.org) ♦ 1873 Old Louisquisset Pike (Rte 246) ♦ PO Box 125, Lincoln RI, 02865

## Learn more about Rhode Island outhouses from Ray Wolf, local historian and author

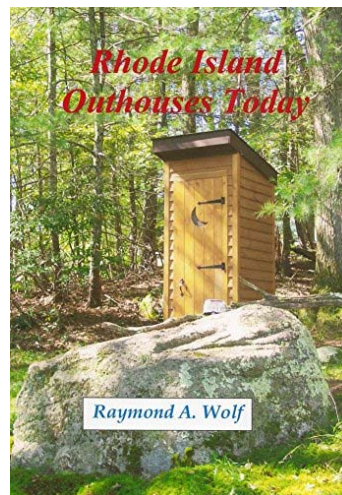
By Francine Jackson

Author Ray Wolf is always looking for unique topics in Rhode Island; one day, he wondered if there happened to be enough outhouses left in the state to fill a book. So far, he's located enough to fill three books. Come for a fascinating tour of these now almost forgotten buildings of yesterday.

Since 2008, Wolf has

been writing historical books encompassing the history of Rhode Island, from the creation of the Scituate Reservoir and its significance to his family, to diners across the state; from villages within Rhode Island towns, to, of course, outhouses, volumes I, II and III. Wolf will also have books with him to purchase.

Enjoy his travels



"RI Outhouses Today"

**2 pm January 26**  
**North Gate**  
**1873 Old**  
**Louisquisset Pike,**  
**Lincoln, RI**  
**Free Event**

throughout the state in search of what was at one time a necessary part of every household.

## Central Falls honors Elizabeth Buffum Chase, 19th century abolitionist and women's rights activist



Elizabeth Buffum Chase, Wikipedia

By Francine Jackson

Congratulations are in order for the City of Cen-

tral Falls, for not only saving its post office, which had been on the country's closure list, but also for rallying for, and winning, the right to name it after one of the nation's major anti-slavery crusaders, Elizabeth Buffum Chase.

Chace was born in 1806 in Smithfield, RI, to a Quaker family that held strong abolitionist views. After marrying Samuel

Buffington Chace, also a Quaker who shared her views on slavery, the couple, at great personal risk, made their home in Valley Falls a stop on the Underground Railroad for slaves working their way toward Canada and freedom.

In 1835 she co-founded the Fall River Female Anti-Slavery Society, in an attempt to  
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## BVHS is awarded a Champlin Grant

Thanks to the efforts of Gail Harris, BVHS Director, the society received a Champlin grant to replace the furnace in North Gate and repair the bathrooms and make them handicapped accessible. The building will be closed for the month of February to make these repairs.

She worked hard on other repairs last fall, including replacing the bakery door.

# Upcoming Events at North Gate

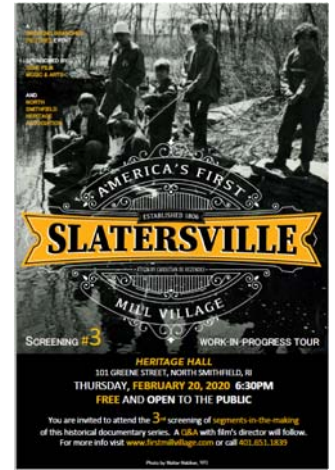
Most events are free.  
Everyone is welcome.  
Donations are gratefully accepted.

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

**6:30 pm, Thursday, February 20:** Screening #3 of portions of the film *Slatersville: Work in Progress* will take place at Heritage Hall, 101 Greene Street, North Smithfield. This showing will include a segment with material from BVHS archives.

**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.



## Central Falls honors Elizabeth Buffum Chase

*Continued from p. 1*  
end all racist practices.

In addition to their valiant work in this cause, the Chace family was highly regarded in all aspects of higher education, where several of their children and grandchildren became authors, educational advisors, and university administrators. Most notably, grandson Edward was fired from the University of California, Berkeley, for refusing to sign the loyalty oath of the 1950s, during the McCarthy era.

The Chace family was also important in the local textile industry. Their Valley Falls Company, in later years, became Berkshire Fine Spinning Associates, and is now collectively known as Berkshire Hathaway.

In 2001, Elizabeth Buffum Chase became the first female to be honored with a bronze bust in the RI State House.

Last December, President Trump's signing into law the naming of the Central Falls Post Office

after Chase was a fitting tribute to a woman who tirelessly worked in the anti-slavery movement. As Congressman David Cicilline has stated: "Her commitment to the abolition and suffrage movements were decades ahead of her time, and a model for the rest of our country."

## Slatersville Film

On 6:30 pm, February 20, at Heritage Hall, 101 Greene St., North Smithfield, there will be a showing of excerpts from the film *Slatersville: Work in Progress*. The sequences shown will include North Smithfield's founding in 1871, the Centennial in 1971, and a Slater family letter from BVHS.

### BVHS Executive Board

President: Jason Dionne

401-862-4202

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

Vice President: Lori Melucci

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John Houghton

### Members-at-Large

Gail Harris, Bob Ferri, Don Coelho

## In Memoriam: Charles Richardson, former President of BVHS



Charles Richardson

Charles Richardson of Pawtucket, a member of BVHS since 1977, and president from 1990 to 1991, died on November 9, 2019. He was a Coast Guard veteran, and a traffic manager for the Davol company.

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