



# THE LANDMARK

PUBLICATION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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*Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History*

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

## “Dairy Days” by Danny Bethel

### See vintage milk bottles from Lincoln, RI dairy farms

On Saturday, October 24, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, BVHS will be showing “Dairy Days,” an exhibit by Danny Bethel of his collection of vintage milk bottles and other memorabilia from local dairies. Approximately one hundred milk bottles from Lincoln dairies will be displayed.

Many farms will be represented, with different types and styles of bottles, including painted and slug versions and many bottle size variations. Other dairy farm items like milk caps will also be on display.



Milk Bottles from Bethel's collection

Some of the dairies represented in the exhibit will be Maplehurst, Henry Jordan Farm, Chase Farm, Butterfly Farm, Chase & Butterfly Farm, Lincoln Woods Farm,

Comstock Farm, Rene Lamare, Manville Dairy, Stony Brook, Theinert Farm, Fair Oaks Farm, Pascale Farm, Lonsdale Co. Farm, Jordan Bros/Echo Farm, El Rancho,

2:00 to 4:00 pm

October 24, 2020

Exhibit

“Dairy Days”

Carl Franz, Ulrich Demaris, Highland Cottage, Maple Farm, and Clarke Farm.

Don't miss this slice of local history! We ask that our guests wear masks.



“Special Golden Guernsey Milk”

Left: Theinert Farm on Old River Road (right across from Kirkbrae which was the Church family farm), about 1931-1932. From left to right: Al Equi, unknown, Bill Theinert, unknown, Walter Theinert, and unknown. Photograph courtesy of Gail Harris

Right: Maplehurst Farm Milk Bottle, Bethel Collection



# Please Support BVHS

BVHS has lost more than half of its income this year because of COVID. We support Northgate, the Bakery, and the Fire Station with rental income, membership dues and donations. We were lucky enough to be awarded a grant last year from the Champlin Foundation to replace the furnaces and the bathrooms. We also applied for and received a small COVID grant from the RI Council of the Humanities. However, we lost all rental income from March to July. Occasional rentals for events have stopped. The church is only renting half time at half rent. Please think of BVHS this year.

## The BVHS Sign Goes Up

Don Coelho, Susan Clarke, Jason Dionne, and John Houghton hung the new BVHS sign on September 12, 2020. Don Coelho made the sign last winter. There were pictures of the project in the February issue of *The Landmark*. It was up in time for Great Road Day and it can be seen, like the original sign, from Rt. 146.



The sign goes up on the building. John Houghton on left. Jason Dionne on ladder, Don Coelho on far right.

## New at the Bakery: “The Bread Man”

During the summers after high school and his freshman year at college in the 1950s, Harry Goff Carpenter drove a bakery truck for the Arnold Bakery Company. He is now living in Maine, and he contacted BVHS. He sent Gail Harris this picture and his story, which is now on display at the Bakery.

(continued on p. 3)



“The Bread Man” Harry Goff Carpenter 1953

## Great Road Day Exhibit



Ken Postle explains how to find buried stones

On Great Road Day, BVHS had an exhibit featuring photographs from the Facebook site of this year’s cemetery restoration work. Ken Postle, Greg Duhamel, Johnelle Bergeron, and Zachary Cote all took time off to come and talk to visitors. Duhamel arranged an exhibit of artifacts found at the homestead near the Zebina Cook cemetery, including nails, buttons, a wrench, and bits of harness



Greg Duhamel and Zachary Cote arrange artifacts

in the glass case. Postle added some of his tools to complete the exhibit.

Other news: There is a clean-up at Oak Grove Cemetery on Oct. 24. See the River Road and Blackstone River Valley Cemeteries Facebook site if interested. Ken Postle has continued working on Lincoln 14 (Harris and possible Native American). Greg Duhamel has been working on the Scott Lot., Cumberland #31.



## Upcoming Events

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

We are not holding talks at Northgate this fall in an effort to keep our members and visitors safe. We plan to hold two or three exhibits that guests can walk through and enjoy. We ask that all guests wear masks.

**2:00-4:00 pm, Saturday, October 24: Local Dairies: History in Milk Bottles.** Dan-ny Bethel will hold an exhibit of his collection of vintage milk bottles from local dairies.

**2:00-4:00 pm, Saturday, November 21: The World War II Collection of Kevin Heskin.** Heskin will exhibit more highlights from his collection of World War II memorabilia, including uniforms, helmets, gas masks, rifles, map cases and more, including Japanese, Italian, German and Spanish items.



Milk Bottle Caps from  
Bethel's collection

## “The Bread Man,” continued

(continued from p. 2)

Every morning he would get up early, load his truck with bread, pies, cakes, sticky rolls, and dough-nuts, and sell them door to

door. If he ordered too little, he would lose sales, too much and he would have to discard the excess. He made about \$125 a week—good for a seasonal job.

## In Memoriam: Madeleine O. Robinson



Madeleine O. Robinson

Madeleine O. Robinson, Ph.D., teacher, artist, and writer, died August 23, 2020. She was the daughter of Thomas F. and Leona M. (Dechampes) Robinson. She was born in Seekonk, MA but lived for many

years in Cumberland. She was a member of BVHS and attended many events.

She was the first teacher in the United States to gain tenure in 1970. Her 38-year teaching career ranged from middle school to college, and she spent 28 years with the Providence public school system.

Some of her photographs of the Blackstone River were featured in a 2018 exhibit at Northgate. She also gave a presentation at BVHS in 2017 about her cousin, William Robinson, who was brought up in Central Falls and became the chairman of Coca Cola in the 1950s.



Ken Postle talking about cemetery restoration to visitors at BVHS on Great Road Day



### 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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**Visit us at [www.bvhsri.org](http://www.bvhsri.org)**

# Membership

*We are not doing a separate membership renewal mailing this year to save postage and paper. We hope this will not be an inconvenience.*



## **Time to renew your BVHS Membership for 2020-2021.**

(BVHS membership year runs from September through August.)

2020 has been a particularly unsettling year for all. BVHS has had to cancel events and has had losses financially. BVHS has now initiated events, exhibits, that are safe to attend and would encourage your participation and especially your financial support to ensure the continuation of the Society.

**Donations to BVHS are Tax Deductible to the full extent of the law. Thank you.**

You may contact Pat Armitage at 401-737-6229 or [bvhs58@gmail.com](mailto:bvhs58@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

To renew online by credit card, go to <http://www.bvhsri.org/join/>. The BVHS has partnered with Paypal for secure processing.

### **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES: PLEASE CHECK OFF WHICH APPLIES:**

Family \$ 35 \_\_\_\_\_ Indiv. \$ 25 \_\_\_\_\_ **Donation** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amt Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive **The Landmark** and notifications by: ☐ US Mail ☐ E-mail

Please make your check payable to: **BVHS** and write membership on memo line.

Mail to: **BVHS – Membership P O BOX 125 Lincoln, RI 02865**

Suggestions for Future Program **and/or areas you could help with:**

• \_\_\_\_\_  
• \_\_\_\_\_