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Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

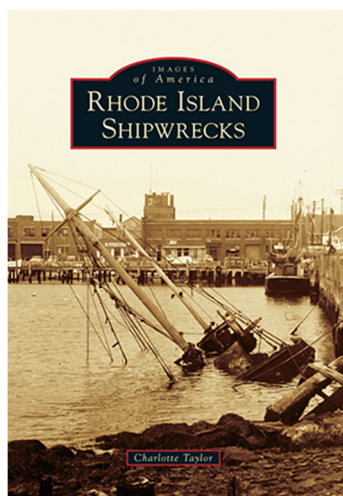
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Maritime Misfortune in the Ocean State

RI archaeologist will share history of Rhode Island shipwrecks

Rhode Island has more shipwrecks per square mile than any other state. The south coast and Block Island are the resting places of many shipwrecks, with many more located in Narragansett Bay.

The first recorded shipwreck in Rhode Island took place in the 17th century, immediately after the arrival of the Europeans, with the grounding of a Dutch trading vessel. Over the centuries, thousands more vessels came to grief in these waters. Bad weather, human error, equipment failure, and



military action accounted for many of these tragic events. Many shipwrecks from the 19th century into the 20th were captured in

dramatic paintings, drawings, and later photographs. Archaeologist Charlotte Taylor, author of the 2017 book, "RI Shipwrecks," (Arcadia Publishing), will speak at the BVHS March 20. She will showcase some of the best pictures and stories from a long litany of maritime misfortunes here in the Ocean State.

Taylor came to Rhode Island for graduate school in archaeology at Brown University and never left. She is now an archaeologist at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Com-

R.I. Shipwrecks

**2:00 pm, Sunday,
March 20**

**North Gate Toll
House, BVHS**

FREE

mission, where she maintains an inventory of the location and condition of the state's shipwrecks. She has been part of the archaeological survey projects on several of the shipwrecks included in her book.

Seeking Volunteers to Honor Veterans' Graves



Ken Postle putting flags on veterans' graves.

Every spring, Ken Postle, cemetery coordinator for the BVHS, organizes groups to put flags on veterans' graves around Blackstone Valley in preparation for Memorial Day. Flagging days are coming up. Postle will be posting signup notices on the Facebook page he manages, called

[River Road and Blackstone River Valley Ceme-](#)

[teries](#), seeking volunteers to help honor local veterans' graves by decorating them with U. S. flags.

The four biggest and easiest opportunities to help will be at St Francis, Oak Grove, and Mineral Spring Avenue Cemeteries in Pawtucket. In addition, many smaller cemetery lots all over Lincoln, Cumberland and North-Providence, hold many

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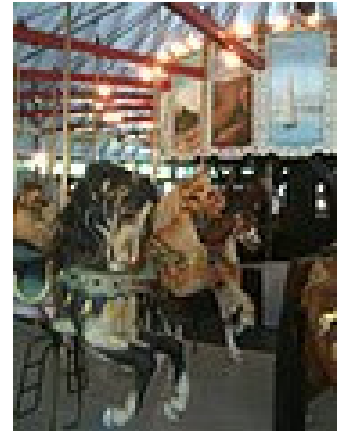
Upcoming Events

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

2:00 pm, Sunday, March 20: **Charlotte Taylor**, archaeologist at RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission, will give a talk about Rhode Island shipwrecks.

2:00 pm, Sunday, April 24: **Theodore Coleman**, a civil engineer who is a member of the Providence Center for Reconciliation's Snowtown research team, will give a talk about the Snowtown race riots in Providence in 1831 and the team's research. Snowtown was located near Charles and Gaspee Streets in Providence.

2:00 pm, Sunday, May 15 (Christine Nowak Lecture): **Donna Houle**, of the Friends of the Loeff Carousel at Slater Park, will give a presentation about the Carousel. The BVHS annual meeting will take place at 1:30 pm before the talk.



Loeff Carousel at Slater Park
Image from Wikipedia

RI Historical Cemetery News, Cont.

(continued from p. 1) veterans' graves, which will also be flagged.

R.I. Historical Cemetery Awareness and Preservation Weeks, taking place in April and May, are being sponsored by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission and the Rhode Island Advisory Commission on Historical Cemeteries. The full calendar can be found on <https://preservation.ri.gov/ricw-calendar>.

Among the activities planned will be a tour of the Mineral Spring Cemetery on 10:30 am on April 30. A cleanup is planned at the Union Cemetery Annex in North Smithfield on May 21. Cleanups are proposed but currently unscheduled at the Kimball Lot in Cumberland, the Lydia Harris Lot in Lincoln, the Peach Hill Cemetery in North Providence and at several locations in Woonsocket.



RI Historical Cemeteries Awareness and Preservation Weeks
See activities at: <https://preservation.ri.gov/ricw-calendar>

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Best-Laid Plans: The Building of Lincoln Junior High School

A special thank you to Robert Tessier, a BVHS member, for sending us his in-depth research report on the planning and building of the Lincoln Junior High School from 1950 to 1955, a complex political process that nearly resulted in the secession of Manville and Albion from Lincoln. Two copies are available in the BVHS archives.

Don't forget to renew your membership! Donations are always welcome to help keep up North Gate, the Fire Station and the Bakery! www.bvhsri.org/join



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