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Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

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

Jim Bailey updates BVHS on his latest research Discoveries from the 18th-Century Metcalf Bowler Property

Jim Bailey will be returning to the Blackstone Valley Historical Society (BVHS) for a double feature at 2:00 pm on Sunday, April 16. He will provide a brief update of his presentation to the BVHS last year concerning the ongoing recovery of 17th century Arabian silver coins in New England and their connection to the infamous voyage of Captain Henry Every of the pirate ship *Fancy*. Additional coin discoveries and some of his latest research findings will be discussed.

The main feature of his presentation recounts his experiences in finding the site of a long-vanished country estate in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. The



The hole where one of the 17th century Arabian coins was uncovered at Sweet Berry Farm in Middletown.

estate belonged to one of the wealthiest men in Rhode Island on the eve of the Revolutionary War, Metcalf Bowler, a merchant and farmer who served in the RI Assembly from 1767 to 1776, and was Chief Justice of the RI Supreme Court from

1770 to 1777.

While the site produced a number of exciting artifacts dating back to the 18th century, the history behind the artifacts proved to be far more significant. Over 240 years later, it's hard to contemplate the magnitude of the decision that

2:00 p.m. Sunday

April 16

Jim Bailey

all Rhode Islanders had to face sooner or later: remain a loyal subject of England or join the fight for independence? We'll look at one man's decision.

Jim Bailey is a lifelong Rhode Islander from Warwick. He is happily married and has one daughter, one son, two dogs, and too much to do. His discoveries into the unknown history of Henry Every's infamous pirating career is under development for a book and a docuseries film project.

Ken Postle Investigates Possible Lost Whipple Lot

Ken Postle, BVHS historic cemetery coordinator, visited Cumberland Cemetery 40 on Teal Lane with Mayor Jeffrey Mutter, who contacted him about an assessment. This damaged and partially lost cemetery may be a Whipple family lot. They'll be looking for help with genealogical research and searching for stones soon. The mayor is looking into having DPW help with the cleanup. Visit the [Facebook page for details](#)

BVHS Annual Meeting May 21

1:30 pm Sunday, May 21: Annual Meeting and talk by Kevin Klyberg, Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park Ranger.

Dan Bethel Post Card Exhibit

9:00 am to 2:00 pm, April 30. Knights of Columbus, 15 Bassett Street, North Providence, for the RI Post Card Club. The exhibit will feature photos and postcards from Lincoln Downs and the 1934 Saylesville Mill Strike.