



# THE LANDMARK

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*Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History*

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

## BVHS Open House on Great Road Day

### Haynes Gives Talk on Navy Service in the 1980s and Coming of Age

On September 20, BVHS will have an open house from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Northgate, home of the Blackstone Valley Historical Society, was originally built as a tollgate and residence for the toll collector for the Louisquisset Turnpike. The pike was built to expedite the shipment of lime to Providence, and was faster and straighter than Great Road. Over the years, Northgate also served as the home of Lime Rock Grange #22, a popular social gathering place for local farm families.

Next to Northgate is Arnold's Lonsdale Bakery, a



Lime Kiln at Sherman Avenue

one-story, one-room structure that was relocated and reconstructed on its current site. Arnold's Lonsdale Bakery was founded around 1875 in this building by Joseph Jenks Arnold and his wife. The bakery eventually grew into a thriving business that operated in Saylesville for nearly a century.

On Great Road Day, visitors can explore an exhibit downstairs at Northgate highlighting the historic lime kilns of Lime Rock. The bakery will also be open

for tours. It is a small museum with antique bakery equipment, photographs, and memorabilia from the Arnold family's long-running business.

#### Rod Haynes Gives Talk

At 1:00 p.m. there will be a special event. Rod Haynes, who grew up in Lime Rock, will talk about his new book "Unauthorized Disclosures: A Navy Memoir of the 1980s" in which he reflects on navy life, Reagan-era politics, and coming of age

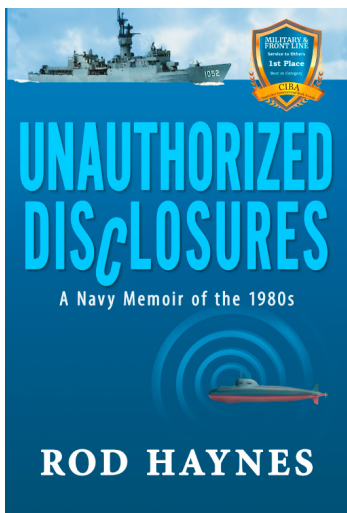
**September 20  
Great Road Day  
BVHS Open 11 am to  
4 pm**

**1:00 pm Talk by  
Rod Haynes  
*Unauthorized  
Disclosures: A Navy  
Memoir of the 1980s.***

in the 1970s and 1980s.

In his book, Haynes offers a candid, often irreverent account of a young man's transformation from beer-soaked aimlessness in the post-Vietnam 1970s to assuming military duties as a commissioned officer aboard various U.S. Navy vessels during the Reagan military build-up. He invites audiences to follow his transformation in a rapidly changing nation.

All are welcome to attend or if you have time, help out at this event. Both Northgate and the bakery are located at 1873 Louisquisset Pike.



Haynes' book, available on  
Amazon

**Don't forget to renew your membership! <https://www.bvhsri.org/join/>**

# Mayor Opens McCoy Stadium Time Capsules

By Francine Jackson  
Photos by Jim Hendrickson

During the demolition of McCoy Stadium this summer, two time capsules were found. On June 23, Pawtucket Mayor Donald R. Grebien invited the citizens of Pawtucket to be present at their opening.

For most of the over 200 persons who came, in the words of Mayor Grebien, the night was “bittersweet,” as they gathered near the dirt pit that had once been McCoy Stadium.

The first time capsule had been laid in the 1940 cornerstone, at the beginning of the baseball field’s construction. The second had been buried between the pitcher’s mound and home plate in honor of the sport’s longest game in 1981.

Grebien, wearing a Paw-Sox jersey, was Master of Ceremonies. He noted the presence of several ball players who had been a part of the longest game, members of the audience who had been season ticket holders, the former PawSox president Mike Tamburro, and City Council President Terry Mercer, who had always lived in the shadow of the stadium.

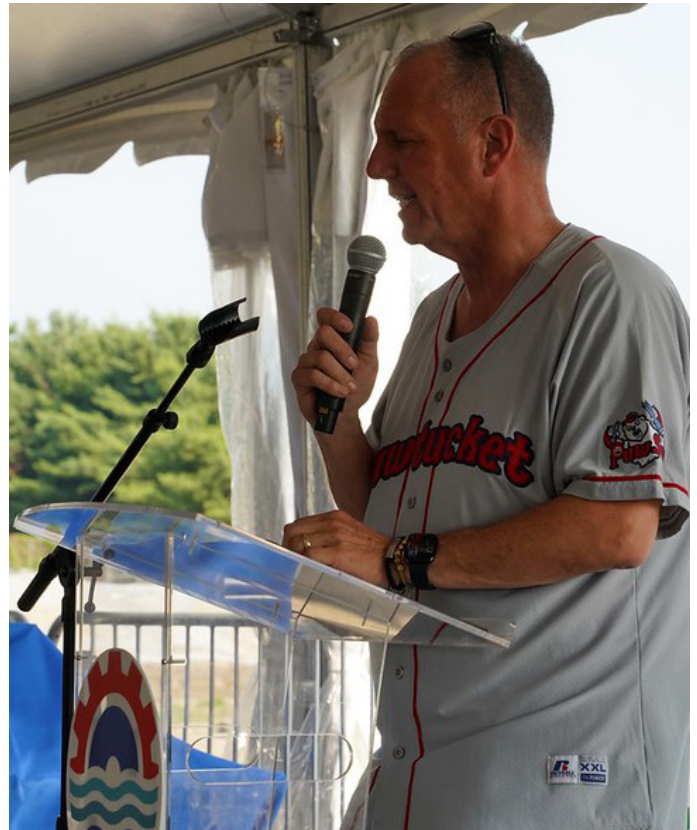
The first capsule, a copper box, included a letter from the committee who had laid the cornerstone, an envelope sealed with the then-mayor’s city seal, and a pamphlet noting that 1940 also was the 250th anniversary of clothmaking in Pawtucket.

The larger 1981 capsule was filled with memorabilia from the game between the PawSox and the Rochester Red Wings, which ended 44 years ago on June 23rd.

The historic game between the Pawtucket Red Sox and the Rochester Red Wings began on April 18 and lasted 32 innings before being halted after nearly nine hours of play. When the game resumed two months later, the PawSox scored in the 33rd inning to break the tie and secure a 3–2 win.

Sealed within a PVC pipe were baseballs with the players’ autographs, a Paw-Sox hat, a poster that had been made commemorating the game (a copy of which is now at the Baseball Hall of Fame), a program, the score-book page, and the official scoring form.

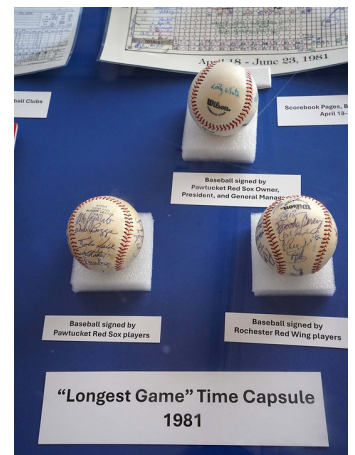
Both capsules and their contents are now housed at the Public Archaeology Laboratory in Pawtucket, for preservation. And, with that, *Continued on p. 3*



**Above: Mayor Grebien addresses the crowd.**

**Right: Signed baseballs from “The Longest Game.”**

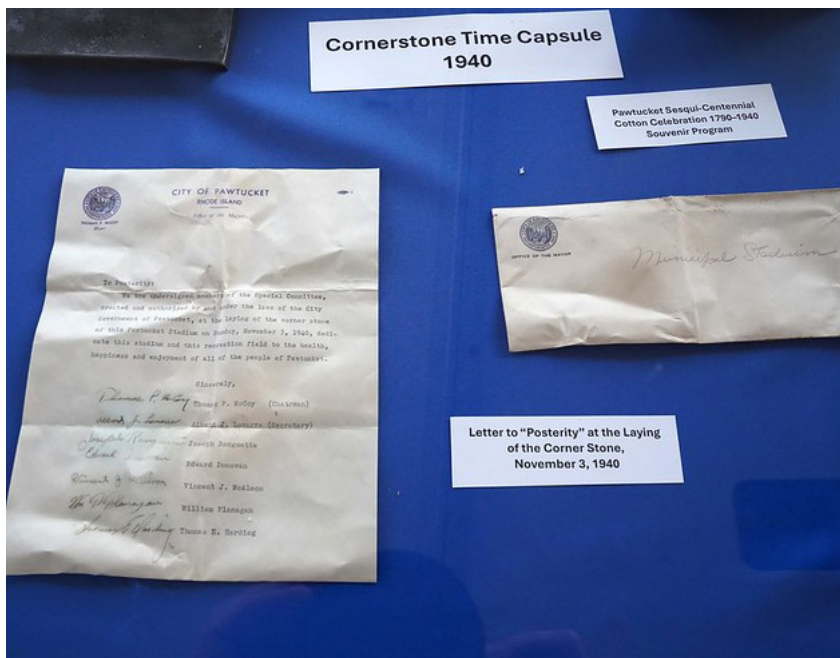
**Right below: Jim Hendrickson with the cornerstone from McCoy Stadium**



**Above: Opening of the time capsules. Francine Jackson in right foreground.**







Contents of the Cornerstone Time capsule from 1940.

*Continued from p. 2.* baseball, and baseball history, is officially gone from the City of Pawtucket, as the land is being readied for the construction of a citywide high school.



Part of the 1981 Time Capsule and some of its contents.

## BVHS Receives Grant for Cemetery Clean-Ups



State Rep. Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith, Francine Jackson, Jason Dionne, John Houghton, and Ken Postle at BVHS after the presentation of the grant by Shallcross-Smith.

Photograph by Jim Hendrickson.

On July 15, State Representative Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith met members of the Blackstone Valley Historical Society at Northgate to present the Society with \$1000 for tools and other supplies to preserve and clean up cemeteries in the region.

Board members of the Historical Society, President Jason Dionne, Treasurer John Houghton, Secretary Francine Jackson and Rev. Ken Postle, BVHS cemetery coordinator, gratefully acknowledged this grant. Postle, who has done significant work for many years restoring local cemeteries and raising awareness of their historical sig-

nificance, explained that the money was needed for tools used to cut back weeds, fallen branches and debris in the cemeteries. He has also made it a priority to make sure that all veterans are properly honored with flags by their headstones.

Shallcross-Smith acknowledged the arduous task involved in keeping these cemeteries in good condition, and thanked Ken for his service in doing so.

If you wish to donate to this worthy cause, there is a donation form at <https://www.bvhsri.org/donate-to-the-bvhs/>.

Please indicate that you wish your donation to go toward cemetery restoration.

**Rent Northgate for gatherings!  
Members receive a discount.**

<https://www.bvhsri.org/rent-historic-north-gate/>

## Upcoming Events

**11:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m., Saturday, September 20:** Great Road Open House, see p. 1

**1:00 p.m., Saturday, September 20:** Rod Haynes, local author, gives talk about his book "Unauthorized Disclosures: A Navy Memoir of the 1980s."

**6:30 p.m. Monday, October 6:** John Kostrzewa, a former assistant managing editor at the Providence Journal and author of *Walking Rhode Island: 40 Hikes for Nature and History Lovers with Pictures, GPS Coordinates, and Trail Maps*, will give a talk on hiking in Rhode Island.

## Trolley Remains Uncovered by Construction on Louisquisset Pike

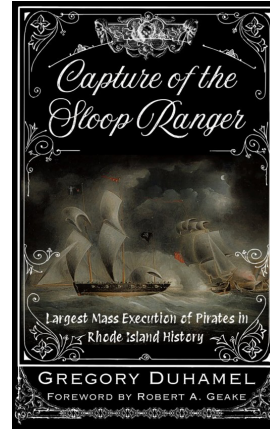


Photograph of the bridge abutment for the Jordans' cows

Earlier this summer, Sofia Barr, staff writer for the Valley Breeze, heard about "steps for an old trolley line" appearing alongside Louisquisset Pike, as a result of the clearing of land for the construction of Cobble Hill Crossing, a development of 10 duplexes. She contacted Francine Jackson, BVHS Board member, who referred her to Judy Hadley and Brian Guadagni and other members of BVHS.

The "steps" according to Guadagni, were a remnant of the electric trolley which ran from Providence to Woonsocket, parallel to Old Louisquisset Pike, in the early 20th century.

Guadagni explained that the stone construction was originally a bridge abutment for the trolley to allow the cows from the Jordan Dairy Farm, which extended on both sides of Louisquisset, to pass under the trolley to the pastures on the other side. He noted that a segment of the path of the trolley was visible from Cobble Hill if you looked between the rocks towards the location of the development. A large section of the former trolley line leads through the Aust Preserve on Wilbur Road. Read the full Valley Breeze article: <https://tinyurl.com/msesy5r9>



Gregory Duhamel, known for his work restoring Woonsocket cemeteries, has published a new edition of his book, *Capture of the Sloop Ranger: Largest Mass Execution of Pirates in Rhode Island History* with an introduction by Robert A. Geake, author of *Historic Taverns of Rhode Island*.

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### BVHS Executive Board

**President: Jason Dionne**

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**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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