



THE LANDMARK

PUBLICATION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol.67

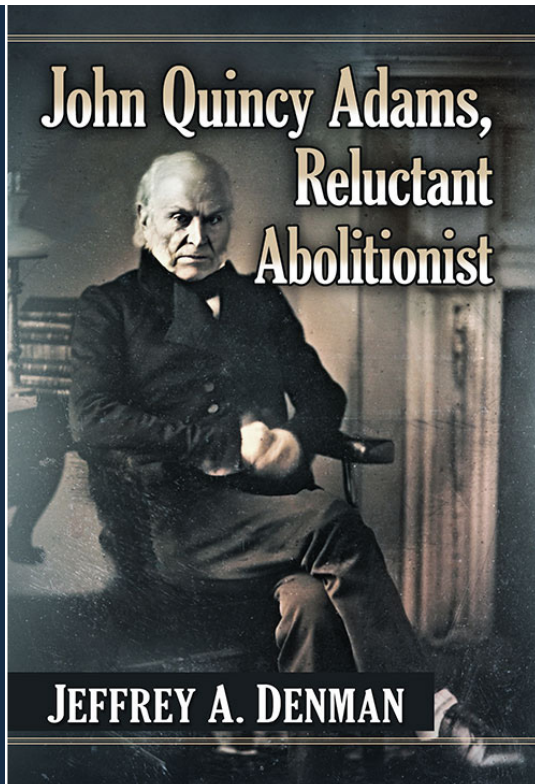
May 2026

No. 4

Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

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

Jeffrey Denman Gives Talk on John Quincy Adams



Book Cover: John Quincy Adams, Reluctant Abolitionist



Jeffrey A. Denman

abolitionists, but never became one himself. However, Adams did harbor an intense hatred for the arguments of Southern slaveholders, and eventually found himself in the center of America's greatest struggle.

Informed by Adams's revealing and often tormented musings from his vast diary, this sweeping narrative offers a unique and gripping account of John Quincy Adams's battle with slavery, while exploring the many fault lines in American society that led to the Civil War. Also included are the dramatic showdowns on the floors of the House of Representatives and Supreme Court, as well as Adams's attempts at outsmarting Southern politicians and his efforts to keep slavery at the forefront of Congressional activities."

co-author of *Greene and Cornwallis in the Carolinas*. Denman gives a fresh view of Adams in his book, examining his life and work on the issue of slavery.

The publisher's blurb for this book notes that "As a Harvard alumnus, diplomat, US President, member of Congress and attorney before the Supreme Court, John Quincy Adams had a unique relationship with slavery. Prickly and curmudgeonly, he danced with

Jeffrey A. Denman will come to BVHS on May 17 to give a talk about his book, *John Quincy Adams, Reluctant Abolitionist*. Denman is a historian, author, and retired American history teacher from Brookline, Massachusetts, who writes books focusing on the late 18th and early 19th centuries, particularly the American Revolution. His newest book is *Philadelphia Quakers and the American Revolution*, and he is the

Sunday, May 17

**1:30 pm:
BVHS Annual
Meeting**

**2:00 pm:
Christine Nowak
Lecture
Jeffrey A. Denman
"John Quincy
Adams, Reluctant
Abolitionist"**

Light refreshments will be served after the talk, which follows the annual meeting.

BVHS Annual Meeting May 17

The annual meeting for the BVHS will be on May 17 at 1:30 p.m. The Nominating Committee for the BVHS, Bob Ferri, Jim Clarke, Dan Bethel, and Rick Walker, led by Don Coelho, announces that the slate of officer nominees for 2026-2027 remains the same: Jason Dionne – President, Lori Melucci – Vice President, Francine Jackson – Secretary, John Houghton – Treasurer, Members at large: Gail Harris, (continued on p. 2)

Upcoming Events at Northgate

1:30 p.m., Sunday May 17: BVHS annual meeting and board elections.

2:00 p.m., Sunday, May 17: **Jeffrey Denman** will talk about his book “John Quincy Adams, Reluctant Abolitionist” (Christine Nowak Lecture).

11:00 am-4:00 pm, Saturday, Sept 19: Great Road Open House Day. Northgate Toll House and the Arnold’s Lonsdale Bakery will be open. Lincoln’s revolutionary war veterans will be featured with a exhibit of photographs of their gravestones taken by **Jim Hendrickson**.

2:00 pm, Sunday, October 18: **Charlotte Taylor**, RIHPHC Archeologist, “Living with the Dead in Rhode Island: From Cemetery Destruction to Cemetery Preservation.”

2:00 pm, Sunday, November 15: **David Lawlor**, Run of the Mill Productions, RI documentary filmmaker, will present his latest projects.

Ken Postle Honors Veterans’ Graves: Flagging begins May 9

Ken Postle, cemetery coordinator for the BVHS, and volunteers from the cemetery group will start putting new flags on veterans’ graves starting on Sunday, May 9. Volunteers are needed and welcome.

May 9 Flagging Locations

- Mineral Spring Avenue Cemetery: 9 am-11 am
- Oak Grove Cemetery: 1 pm until done.

There is plenty of parking. Dress for the weather; no open-toed shoes. Gloves,

hand trowels, and bottled water are recommended. Drivers to pick up bundles of old flags and bring new ones to the workers are welcome. Postle plans to place new flags on the veterans’ graves in all the cemeteries in Pawtucket, Lincoln, Cumberland, and North Providence by Memorial Day.

Contact Postle on his Facebook page ([River Road and Blackstone River Valley Cemeteries](#)) if you would like to help or to learn more.



On left, Jennifer Kilsey, Pawtucket Cultural Affairs Program Coordinator, at Mineral Spring Avenue Cemetery. On right, flags go up on the memorial for the veterans of Fairlawn Post 42.

BVHS Annual Meeting

(continued from p. 1)
Bob Ferri, and Don Coelho.

We welcome suggestions for new officers and encourage you to ask your friends to join the society. If you are interested in joining the board or wish to suggest someone, please contact the committee chairman, Don Coelho at don.coelhojr@icloud.com. Nominations will

also be taken from the floor during the annual meeting.

The BVHS board organizes activities, lectures, and exhibits, cares for North Gate and its artifacts and collections and works to increase awareness of local history.

If you would like to attend a board meeting, they are usually held on the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

BVHS Executive Board

President: Jason Dionne

401-862-4202

Email: bvhsri@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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