

The Barn Museum News

The Newsletter of the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society

Volume 9 Number 1

March 2007



SUMMER GALA *Bellport - Brookhaven* *Then and Now*

Saturday, August 4, 2007

SAVE THE DATE

This year's Gala is a view of Bellport and Brookhaven as seen through the eyes of late 19th and early 20th century artists. As we know, Bellport was something of an artists colony for many prominent and successful painters.

The Committee is very excited about this year's exhibit. Not only have they assembled an incredible collection of area paintings, including Darley, Granville-Smith, and Kost, but this will be the first show in the newly renovated building at 12 Bell Street.

The collection represents a unique moment in time for Bellport – a chance to see things the way they were and how they are today.

We thank Mr. Robert Schancupp for his talent and artistry in creating this year's poster. Look for it soon.

Remember: Saturday, August 4.
Put it on your calendars now. You won't want to miss this exciting event.

OLD MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT *Overnight trip*

Wednesday, May 23 –
Thursday, May 24, 2007

Reservations are limited to 40

The Historical Society trips are always interesting and well planned. Mystic Seaport is no exception.

Phil Munson, Chair, Programs and Tours, has arranged a wonderful get-away to Mystic Seaport. Been there before? See it again. A trained docent will guide you through the Seaport on Wednesday. You will have ample time to explore the area on your own.

Contact Phil at 631-286-9654 now! Don't be left out. He is waiting to hear from you.

Payment

You are responsible for all of your own expenses, including transportation, hotel, and dinner. Only \$16 per person will be collected in advance for the Seaport tickets.

Transportation

By your own means. Phil will be happy to coordinate carpooling if you wish. Make your own ferry reservations.

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ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

One hundred fifty members and friends gathered on Sunday, December 10 to celebrate the holiday season with good food and great company. The atmosphere was warm, and you could feel the holiday spirit all around you.

If you weren't able to attend the party, at least you can enjoy some of the homemade desserts that were served. And for those who were there, here's a second helping.

Meringues (Peg Rand)

4 egg whites
1 cup superfine sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 1/2 cups mini chocolate chips

Whip egg whites till frothy. Add salt. Continue beating while adding sugar gradually. Whip until stiff. Add vanilla. Fold in chips.

Put spoonfuls on brown paper covered baking sheet. Bake at 275 degrees about 45 minutes. Cool before removing from paper. Store in tins. (Note: don't make on a humid day and be sure all utensils are fat free, or egg whites will not beat stiff.)

Dream Bars (Evonne Hammond)

Cream together 1/2 cup butter, 1/2 cup brown sugar and 1 cup flour. Pat into shallow, well-greased 8"x8" pan. Bake 15 minutes at 325 degrees. Cool.

Cover with the following mixture: 2 eggs well beaten, 1 cup brown sugar, 2 tablespoons flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1 1/4 cup coconut, 1 cup chopped nuts, 1/2 teaspoon vanilla. Mix well and bake 15 to 20 minutes at 350 degrees. Cut into squares, cool. Freeze or keep in sealed container.

PELLETREAU AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Society requests your nomination for the Robert H. Pelletreau Distinguished Service Award in Historic Preservation for 2007.

Deadline June 30, 2007

Presented in alternate years to the person or organization that has done the most to further historic preservation in Suffolk County or has made a significant contribution to the preservation of a noted historic site in Suffolk County, the award honors the memory of Robert H. Pelletreau, Historical Society President for 22 years.

The recipient, chosen by a panel of distinguished authorities in the field of preservation, receives a \$1000 check and a plaque of appreciation presented at a special award ceremony.

Entries must be submitted by June 30 to be considered. More information and the nomination form are on the Society's website www.bellportbrookhavenhistoricalsociety.org.

***Be sure to visit the Post-Crowell House
and all of its treasures when The Museum
Complex opens in May 2007.***

MEMBERSHIP + DONATIONS = CONTINUED OPERATION

*When we accept tough jobs as a challenge
and wade into them with joy and
enthusiasm, miracles can happen.*

Arland Gilbert, Positive Quotations, Gramercy
Books, NY, pg 533 (1993).

The Post-Crowell House
The Milk House
The Exchange Shop
The Blacksmith Shop
The Barn Museum
The Boat House
The Brown Building
and now, added to the list,
12 Bell Street.

THIS IS YOUR MUSEUM

You are our miracle. The Trustees have accepted the challenge of keeping the Complex operational. Only you can make it possible for us to continue to keep the buildings maintained and the Museum open.

The enthusiasm, work, and interest of our members is essential – and we have just that — but the buildings need maintenance, electricity, heat, insurance, and the list goes on. We cannot maintain these buildings — *your buildings* — without your help.

If you haven't sent in your membership for 2007, please do so now. The membership fee does not begin to cover the Museum's costs. It is your donations that keep the Complex open and running.

Please be generous when you think of the Museum and be proud that you are helping to preserve the historical heritage of the Bellport-Brookhaven area.

Mail your tax deductible membership and contribution check to:

The Bellport-Brookhaven
Historical Society
Attn: Membership Committee
PO Box 47
Bellport, NY 11713

Thank you.

From the Post-Crowell House

What does a mahogany federal drop leg table, ca 1830; a pine six-board sea chest, ca late 18th century; and a walnut slat front desk, ca 1760 have in common? They are but a few of the wonderful antiques found in the 1833 Post-Crowell House.

The Curator and a volunteer have spent the past few months taking inventory, cataloging, and photographing the more than 1000 artifacts located in the Post-Crowell House. The house is a treasure-trove of furniture, paintings, and accessories.

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APRIL 1865

It was the best of times and the worst of times. The long Civil War was over, but the joy was quickly dampened by the assassination of President Lincoln.

Two perspectives of the war and the aftermath are told through the letters [1] of Charles Harmon Paddock from the battlefield and the diary [2] of Carolyn Cowles Richards from the homefront.

Both Charles and Caroline were residents of Canandaigua, NY. Caroline was a contemporary of Charles Paddock. In fact, she mentions Charles, his sister Hattie, and his future wife Helen (Nellie) Coy(e) several times in her diary.

[1] Charles Harmon Paddock Collection of Civil War Letters on file at the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society, Bellport, NY.

[2] Village Life in America: 1852-1872, as told in the Diary of a School-Girl, by Caroline Cowles Richards, Corner House Publishers, Williamstown, MA 01267, 1972. The original Diary of Caroline Cowles Richards, 1852-1872, Canandaigua, NY was copyrighted in 1908 by Caroline Richards Clarke; it has been reissued twice.

End of the War

April 2, 1865 - Letter to Hattie

Since I last wrote you much has been done by the Army here. I need not write you the particulars as they will be known to you before this reaches you – Victory everywhere – Glorious victory – it is even talked of occupying Richmond before the end of the week.

April 3, 1865 - Letter to Hattie

Here we are at last after four years of horror and bloodshed such as has hardly been equaled – Richmond is ours! Babylon has fallen, and we occupy the town.

You can not imagine with what intense feeling we entered this city. I know with what enthusiasm the news of the downfall of Richmond will be received at the north as it is no more or less than the downfall of the “Great Rebellion.” The struggle may be prolonged for a few weeks, but to all intents and purposes the war is ended.

April, 1865 - Diary, pgs 177-178

What a month this has been. On the 6th of April Governor Fenton issued this proclamation: Richmond has fallen. The wicked men who governed the so-called Confederate States have fled their capital, shorn of the power and influence. The rebel armies have been defeated, broken and scattered.

The cannon has fired a salute of thirty-six guns to celebrate the fall of Richmond. This evening the streets were thronged with men, women and children all acting crazy as if they had not the remotest idea where they were or what they were doing. Atwater block was beautifully lighted and the band was playing in front of it.

Monday Morning, April 10, 1865 - Diary, pgs 179-180

Whether I am in the body, or out of the body, I know not, but one thing I know, Lee has surrendered! And all the people seem crazy in consequence. The bells are ringing, boys and girls, men and women are running through the streets wild with excitement...The war is over.

The Assassination

April 15, 1865 - Diary, pg 182

The news came this morning that our dear president, Abraham Lincoln, was assassinated yesterday, on the day appointed for thanksgiving for Union victories. I have felt sick over it all day and so has every one that I have seen. All seem to feel as though they had lost a personal friend, and tears flow plenteously. How soon has sorrow followed upon the heels of joy!

April 19, 1865 - Letter to Hattie

I little feel like writing just now or have I for the last few days – the announcement of the death of President Lincoln fell upon us like a burst of thunder, the army is overwhelmed with grief and rage – I never saw so much excitement as I now see among soldiers. I do not believe there ever was a man more beloved and respected than was Mr. Lincoln by the soldiers of the army – Only a few day’s since we saw him here in fine spirits – took him by the hand and heard him speak cheerily and joyfully and now – The only thing that preserves the citizens of Richmond is the loathing and abhorance at the deed expressed upon all sides – not a rebel in the place has been heard to speak lightly of the outrage – but on the other hand express the deepest regret at the occurrence and that the deed should be attributed to the Southern people. Today is the day of the funeral – and at twelve o'clock I fired a salute of twenty one minute guns from the Capitol grounds with my section. Nothing is talked about but this murder, nothing is done. Everyone seems to be paralysed and it will be long before people regain their former confidence – It is most unfortunate for the South for all that kindness and pity felt for the people is as once dashed aside and now all sympathy being gone – discipline alone must protect them for a time – if it was a southern conspiracy as undoubted it was, it will recoil most fearfully upon the conspirators when discovered.”

Wednesday evening, April 19, 1865 - Diary, pg 185

This being the day set for the funeral of Abraham Lincoln at Washington, it was decided to hold the service today, instead of Thursday, as previously announced in the Congregational church.

Thursday, April 20, 1865 - Diary, pg 187

The papers are full of the account of the funeral obsequies of President Lincoln. We take Harper’s Weekly and every event is pictured so vividly it seems as though we were eye witnesses of it all. The picture of “Lincoln at home” is beautiful. What a dear, kind man he was. It is a comfort to know that the assassination was not the outcome of an organized plot of Southern leaders, but rather a conspiracy of a few fanatics, who undertook in this way to avenge the defeat of their cause. It is rumored that one of the conspirators has been located.

John Wilkes Booth

April 26, 1865 – Diary, pgs 187-188

Now we have the news that J. Wilkes Booth, who shot the President and who has been concealing himself in Virginia, has been caught, and refusing to surrender was shot dead. It has taken just twelve days to bring him to retribution.

April 29, 1865 - Letter to Hattie

I must say that you have extraordinary taste – when you so coolly write that you can not help but admire the courage of J. Wilkes Booth – it is the strangest manner of displaying courage I ever heard of. He had waited and waited for his opportunity and did not attempt to execute his diabolical crime until he had made his escape as certain as human power could – and then he displayed his gallant courageous nature by stealing into a private box of a theatre and unseen shoot an invalid old man from behind in presence of some

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ladies – and this you call courage – such courage needed the “brandy, brandy, brandy,” he so vehemently called for before the outrage. I fear you have imibed this from Tilden who was an acknowledged sympathizer with the Southern Confederacy – That he did this for immortality – well he has got it just such immortality as had Judas Iscariot. His master Jeff Davis, Benedict Arnold or any other infamous person that it has been the misfortune of the world to produce. Oh he was ambitious – it is a great pity that his death could not have been a little more grand and imposing and conducted by public officials – I do not know a man of honor who would not have delighted to have officiated in the capacity of hangman in the departure from this life of that, it is infamy enough to be merely J. Wilkes Booth.

May 13, 1865 - Letter to Hattie

I wish if you continue to admire J Wilkes Booths “courage” you would cease writing me about it, it makes me extremely angry, if you must admire heroism and courageousness there are three thousands of (instances) persons who have made most noble examples of those qualities since the war commenced. The idea of this mans qualities being compared to Grant – bull dog – courage – it was the desperation of the murderer – the cowardly murderer who saw no means of escape and knowing his doom was a disgraceful death merely did what any suicide would do — accepted the easiest death. He had not courage after he saw there was no escape to meet his fate – he displayed the quality most admired in Grant indeed! But most certainly no one ever thought that he lacked the courage given to most men – any man with any pride possesses the same and to as great an extent.

May 21, 1865 - Letter to Nellie

You delighted me beyond measure by the disgust you expressed at this idea of lionizing J Wilkes Booth – we think exactly alike on this subject –

I have heard no such thing here in the army, but I have heard of this spirit at the north among certain people who would make a hero of him and who are never weary of extolling his courage and gallantry in this most cowardly deed – as if there were not real heros enough for these hero worshipers without their selecting a murderer as a demigod.

Saturday, July 8, 1865 - Diary, pg 197

It is wonderful that 800,000 men are returning so quietly from the army to civil life that it is scarcely known, save by the welcome which they receive in their own homes.

Remembering Anne Potter

Jane Potter Graham and Lawrence Potter will speak about their mother’s life through her poetry

Fireplace Literary Club

Brookhaven Free Library

Beaverdam Road, Brookhaven, NY

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

2:30 p.m.

* * *

At Anne’s Memorial Service, Lawrence said,
“Mom was a child prodigy as a poet, and published her first collection at age 12. ...and she continued throughout her life to have her poems published in newspapers and magazines. Literature defined who she was.”

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Dominy/Rose Desk

One of the more interesting and valuable pieces is a walnut slat front desk (American, ca 1760) with elaborate stepped and scrolled interior with shell carving, secret drawer, and original brasses. It stands 42 inches high, is 36 inches wide, and is 18 1/2 inches deep.

Curator Dolores O'Connor says: "The Museum is very fortunate to have this wonderful piece in its collection.

What makes this desk very interesting is that it is a "Dominy" desk. It was built by Nathaniel Dominy IV (b. 1737 - d. 1812). The Dominy's of East Hampton were furniture workers, clockmakers, carpenters, and all-purpose craftsmen. The desk we own is valuable because (1) it is a Dominy desk, and (2) because has not been repainted or refinished."

The desk, also known as the "Rose Desk," has a long and interesting history. It came from the estate of Elizabeth Post Morrow (Post-Morrow Foundation). According to Mrs. Morrow's records, the desk was purchased from Miss Harriet Rose in 1921 and, at that time, still contained some of Dr. Rose's medicines. It came with the following history:

"Belonged to Rev. Dr. David Rose (1737-1799). He was the second minister at Sout Haven Church where he is buried. He graduated from Yale College in 1760 and having first studied medicine, practiced in the Parish where he preached from 1765 until his death, January 1, 1799. His first wife was Anna Mulford of East Hampton. His second wife was Sarah, widow of Benjamin Havens,

and daughter of Nathan Strong of Orange County. Her children were Sarah, Anna, Ester, Nathaniel and Elisha. He was eminent as a physician as well as a minister."

Dr. Rose, also known as "Priest" Rose, was a very important man to the communities he served – he was a preacher, a doctor, and a teacher. One can almost imagine Dr. Rose sitting at this desk, dispensing medicine, and carrying on the business of the day.

You can read more about Dr. Rose, the history of the South Haven Church, and the history of the area since its beginning in *The Church at the South, A History of the South Haven Church* by George Borthwick, Cutchogue Presbyterian Church, Cutchogue, NY, copyright 1989.

2007 Calendar

April 15, 3:00 p.m.

General Meeting

Speaker: Robert Sisler

"L.I. Colonial Spy Rings"

May 23-24

Mystic Seaport Trip

Memorial Day Weekend

Opening of Exchange Shop and
Museum Complex

June 30

Deadline for Pelleatreau Award
nominations

August 4

Summer Gala

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Wednesday, May 23

The group will meet at Mystic Seaport at 1:00 p.m. on May 23. The two-day admission ticket includes the docent's fee.

You have the option of taking the Seaport tour or going to such attractions as the Aquarium, the First Home of American Impression, or tour the Nautilus submarine.

All participants will receive a map of Mystic and the Mystic Discovery Guide far in advance of the trip, so that you can make plans for what interests you.

Hotel

You can relax at the Inn at Mystic. A special rate of \$125 per night, double occupancy, has been negotiated. If you wish to extend your visit at that same rate.

The Inn offers tea at 4:00 p.m.

Dinner

We will go on to delicious dining, in a private room, at the Captain Daniel Packer Inne, which has been in existence since 1754.

Entrees vary from \$20 to \$27. Guests will receive a copy of entrée choices so that you can make your selection in advance. There will be a cash bar.

Thursday, May 24

After breakfast at the Inn at Mystic (included), you are own your on to do as you please.

Museum Exchange Shop

Bob Duckworth reports that the Shop is closed until May and that most of the items not sold are back in the hands of their owners.

Bob reports that the Shop was quite busy this year, and that it was able to turn over \$6500 to the Trustees. You see how all those big and little items add up. The monies collected at the Shop are used to help maintain the buildings and grounds of the Museum Complex.

May is NOT far away. Start putting aside all those items that need a new home. Remember you get 70% and the Society gets 30% of the selling price.

And, if you donate items directly to the Shop, the Society gets 100% of the selling price. Please consider it.

ELECTION OF 2007 OFFICERS

The Board of Trustees of the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society announce the election of officers for 2007.

President – *Fran Fosmire*

1st Vice President – *Jan Harting-McChesney*

2nd Vice President – *Carol Bleser*

Recording Secretary – *Jan Harting-McChesney*

Corresponding Secretary - *Robert Duckworth*

Treasurer – *Jonathan Pokorny*

NEW TRUSTEES

The Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society is very pleased to welcome Dorry Tooker and Jan Harting-McChesney to the Board of Trustees.

Dorry Tooker

Dorry Tooker (Brookhaven, NY) received her Masters Degree from Dowling College with majors in English and Education K-6.

Dorry is well-known in the area having co-owned the Treasure Island Antique Shop in Bellport Village until 2004. She now is employed at Remember Yesteryears Antique Center in Patchogue Village; here she is responsible for all sales transactions and managing the financial aspects of the business.

Prior to her retirement from Brookhaven National Laboratory in 2000, Dorry was Manager of the Technology Transfer Outreach Office. In this capacity she was responsible for recruiting Long Island businesses to interact with Brookhaven researchers with their funding specific portions of research projects at the Laboratory.

Dorry enjoys reading, hiking, gardening, and collecting eclectic antiques.

Jan Harting-McChesney

Jan Harting-McChesney has returned to the Board of Trustees as 1st Vice-President and Recording Secretary.

She brings with her a love of the area

and a long history of volunteerism with the Society. In speaking with Jan, I discovered that she strongly believes, “Everyone’s story begins at home.” Home to Jan means, the People in your life, the places you live, the experiences you have...in other words, your personal history.

Born on Long Island and raised all over the world, Jan returned to the south shore of Long Island to marry, raise a family and grow her professional life. Working on her doctorate in Literacy, Language, and Cognition at Hofstra University, Jan is at present a professor of Literacy, Language, and Cognition in the Child Study Department at St. Joseph’s College where she endeavors to help the next generation of teachers prepare young Long Islanders to learn about the world and their personal histories.

Bellport Printers are Back

Actually, they never left. We are happy to report that Judy and her crew at The Bellport Printers are *not* going anywhere. We look forward to our continued working relationship and are so glad to be saying “hi” instead of “good bye.”

Visit our website:

bellportbrookhavenhistoricalsociety.org

From the Archives...

Margaret Munson

There were no winners to December's Archival Quiz. The answers are:

What was the name of the store that is now Wallen's and when was it sold?

Answer: Raulston's, 2/9/50

2. What was the name of the steamer that ran from Bellport to New York City in the summer of 1857? *Answer: The Screamer*

Anecdotes from Early Regulations in Brookhaven Town, Brookhaven History of Law Enforcement.:

In 1663, the Town of Brookhaven fined one man 10 shillings for cursing and another the same amount for lying.

Note: I think we should watch ourselves just in case this one is still on the books!

In 1667, the fee for settling differences was a "gallant of cider."

Special to *The New York Times* –
June 19, 1910

BELLPORT, L.I., June 18 –

Bellport has many surprises in store for the vacationist who will seek it this Summer as a haven for rest and recreation. The village has been incorporated since last Summer, and has signalized the event by making many improvements.

Everything indicates a season of unprecedented activity. Yachting, as usual, will have the call. The Bellport Yacht Club's schedule includes many regattas, teas, bridge parties, and countless other diversions. Taffy Point, the club's popular annex, will be the most popular feature of the resort this season.

Missing from the Files

Does anyone have the following back issues of the Bellport-Brookhaven Newsletter that they would be willing to give up to complete the Museum's files? Call Margaret Munson, 286-9654.

Vol 1, No 1 (1996)

Vol 4, No. 4 (1998) – may or may not have been an issue

Vol 5, No. 2 (2001) – Fall and Winter?

Vol 5, No. 4 (2002) – Fall and Winter?

BELLPORT-BROOKHAVEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

31 Bellport Lane, Bellport, NY 11713

631-286-0888

631-776-7640

www.bellportbrookhavenhistoricalsociety.org

President:	Fran Fosmire
First Vice President:	Jan Harting-McChesney
Second Vice President:	Carol Bleser
Recording Secretary:	Jan Harting-McChesney
Corresponding Secretary:	Robert Duckworth
Treasurer:	Jonathan Pokorny
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Archivist:	Victor Principe
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Trustees Ex-Officio: Jean Pokorny, Lawrence Cummings

Newsletter: Ginny Waterman and Bob Duckworth