



The Barn Museum News

The Newsletter of the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society
Bellport, New York 11713



Volume 12 Number 1

June 2010

Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society's Major Fund Raiser for 2010

CAVAFY: Passions & Ancient Days

Starring Emmy Award Winning Actor - YANNIS SIMONIDES

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.
Bellport Middle School Auditorium
Kreamer Street, Bellport, New York

\$100.00 per person

**Hear what others have said about Cavafy: Passions & Ancient Days:
... Unique experience, Will transport you to another dimension,
Out of the ordinary ...**

**And now, the BBHS has a rare opportunity to bring this world-class theater experience,
which has been performed all over the world, to Bellport.**

**But who was this modern master? Actor-writer Yannis Simonides evokes the remarkably
prescient spirit that inhabits Cavafy's work, gracefully weaving the author's poetry into the
story of his life in cosmopolitan, multi-cultural Alexandria. The riveting performance is
accompanied by music and images of Cavafy's time as well as of his beloved Alexandria.**

**Following the performance, join Mr. Simonides at the Historical Society's
Brown Building, 12 Bell Street, for a Cocktail Party featuring Greek savories.**

**For additional information please call: 631 776 7640 or visit our website bbhsmuseum.org.
*For more about the Performer and the Performance, please turn to page 4.***

Historical Society

Co-Sponsors

*Long Island Decoy Collectors Association
39th Annual Antique Decoy, Fishing & Sporting
Collectibles Show*

Saturday, February 27, 2010 was the scene of an incredible, one-day exhibit featuring “The Decoys of Bellport” and “The First 1923 Bellport Anti-Duskers Society Decoy Show.” The photo shows a small fraction of the entire exhibit, which displayed more than 40 Bellport decoys, together with exhibits of the Pattersquash Gun Club and the Anti-Duskers Society.



The Anti Duskers Society was formed in the early 1900s by a group of Bellport men living on Howell’s Point Road, in protest against the illegal practice of shooting birds coming in to feed as daylight faded. [1] Although it was a source of food, the birds were fast disappearing, being shot at a rate of 50 or 60 at a time. This practice was eventually outlawed.

You can visit the Barn Museum’s decoy collection, including carvings by Wilbur R. Corwin and John Boyle, at 31 Bellport Lane, Bellport, NY 11713. Call 631 776 7640 for more information or visit our website at bbhsmuseum.org.

[1] Bellport and Brookhaven, A Saga of the Sibling Hamlets at Old Purchase South, compiled by Stephanie S. Bigelow, Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society, 3rd Edition, 1985, p 89.

Some Questions Answered:

It was mentioned in Captain Thomas Bell’s obituary (The Barn Museum News, Vol. 11, No. 3, pg 4), that a Presbyterian minister said a few words at the funeral. Was Thomas Bell a Presbyterian? Mr. Richard Thomas, an unofficial historian of the South Haven Presbyterian Church, Brookhaven, NY submitted the following:

In 1828 there was no Presbyterian congregation in Bellport, and the people had to travel to South Haven to the meeting house on the west side of the Carmans River. In that year, the congregation of the Parish of South Haven erected a new building on the east side of its burying grounds and raised money by selling pews.

Thomas Bell purchased Pew No. 11, believed to be the next-to-last pew on the left side of the meeting house. He may have purchased it from a previous owner sometime after 1828. In 1840, the congregation decided to purchase back all of the pews and make them available generally for anyone’s use. It is known that Thomas Bell was the owner of Pew No. 11 in 1840. [1]

[1] The Church that Thomas Bell was a member of was moved to its current site on December 28, 1960 on the corner of Beaverdam Road and South Country Road in Brookhaven, NY. Thomas Bell’s pew is still there, although in a different place. The pews originally faced toward the entrance to the building but were switched around to face the opposite direction in 1860.

For more information on the South Haven Presbyterian Church, read www.oldsouthhavenchurch.org/History or The Church at the South - A History of the South Haven Church, by George Borthwick, Amereon Ltd., Mattituck, New York, 1989

Continued on page 10

**Bellport-Brookhaven
Historical Society**

**ANTIQUÉ
SHOW & SALE**

**Sunday, May 30th, 2010
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Rain Date: Monday
May 31st 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**On the beautiful grounds of
the Post Crowell House
31 Bellport Lane
Bellport, NY 11713**

Directions:

Take Sunrise Highway (Rt 27) to exit 56
Station road. follow south 2 miles. Station
Road will become Bellport Lane.
Post Crowell House will be on the left.

Attending or Vendor Information:

Thomas Cornell
631-289-9505 Fax 631-289-9507

Admission \$5.00
www.bbhsmuseum.org

PHILIP R. MUNSON MEMORIAL

Friend and Fellow Trustee

*Our good friend and fellow Trustee, Phil
Munson, passed away October 3, 2009.*

Affectionately known as “Downtown,” Phil was following a family tradition when he became involved with the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society. His mother, Marion Elizabeth, joined in 1980, and he joined in 1987. His historical affinity was evidenced by the purchase of two Shaw houses, on Bellport Lane and on South Country Road, with his late wife, Sally. They also donated a late 19th century quilt and the tiring stone by the Blacksmith Shop to the Society.

Phil became a Trustee in 2000 and chaired the Docent Committee and the Speakers and Tours Committee. He also participated in the Buildings and Grounds project to acquire a grant for the restoration of 12 Bell Street. Margaret and Phil became lifetime members of the Society in 2009.

Gazebo Restoration

The family's decision to use funds donated in his memory for the restoration of the gazebo is especially meaningful because it was restored in 1997 by their dear friends, Kathy and Paul Ellis.

Generous Offer

And to encourage the project, Margaret has generously offered to match every dollar that is donated in Phil's memory. The estimated cost of Phase 1 is \$7500. Donations have come in, and we are off to a good start, but we need your help to complete the project. Contributions can be sent to BBHS, P. O. Box 47, Bellport, NY 11713. *Note P. Munson Memorial.* Thank you.

About the Performance - Cavafy

This year, the major benefit event for the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society is “Cavafy: Passions and Ancient Days,” a theatrical event conceived and performed by the Emmy Award winning actor, Yannis Simonides, and based on the life and work of Constantine Cavafy (1863-1933), the great Greek poet who was born and lived in Alexandria, Egypt. Politics, history, eroticism, art and love of learning are the ostensible subjects of this very particular voice, conveying a pagan sensitivity to physical pleasure and a bittersweet sense of historic futility. Cavafy is famous for his startling contemporary subject matter and his appealingly straightforward style. Constantine Cavafy became known to a broad audience after WWII when he became the poet of Lawrence Durrell’s city in the four novels of the “Alexandria Quartet.” E.M. Forster, Arnold Toynbee, and T. S. Eliot were among the earliest promoters of Cavafy in the English-speaking world before the Second World War. His work was championed by and reflected in the work of some of the greatest poets and writers of our age, including W. H. Auden, who once said “if Cavafy were unknown to me, I should have written quite differently or perhaps not written at all.” More recently, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was a great admirer of Cavafy’s work and his poem, Ithaka, was read at her funeral. Cavafy is the only modern Greek poet who is so well-known and admired that his work in translation has become part of English literature.

About the Performer - Yannis Simonides

Born in Constantinople and raised in Athens, Yannis Simonides, is a Yale Drama School trained Emmy-Award winning actor/writer/documentary producer. He has served as professor and chair of the NYU Tisch School of the Arts Drama Department, and is the founder and director of the Greek Theater

(Elliniko Theatro) in New York and of Mythic media, a performing arts lab.

His performance work, past and ongoing, includes plays by Euripides, Sophocles, Aristophanes, Shakespeare, Brecht, Korres, Kambanellis and others, along with solo and ensemble pieces culled from the writings of C. P. Cavafy, General Makriyannis, Nikolai Gogol and others. He has received the support of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Greek Ministries of Culture and Foreign Affairs, The A. S. Onassis, I. Kostopoulos, S. Niarchos, M. Tsakos and A. G. Levendis Foundations, IBM, Time Warner and the Mobil Foundation. He co-produced Mikis Theodorakis’ 75th Birthday Celebration at Lincoln Center with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and has been associated with the Annual Festival of Greek Music and Dance at Symphony Space in New York City, presented by the World Music Institute and AD&M Productions. He narrated the PBS specials Axion Esti, Visions of Greece and Return to the Homeland.

Complimentary Tickets for Students

A limited number of student tickets to “Cavafy: Passions and Ancient Days” are provided free of charge thanks to the generosity of audience sponsors. To request a complimentary ticket, please email The Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society and include the name of the school you attend at cavafy@bbshmuseum.org. Your ticket will be held at the door in your name on June 5th. Seats are limited; first come, first served. Admission to the performance only.

***Historical English Tour of
Homes, Gardens, & Architecture
Yorkshire and Northumberland
August 5 - 13, 2010***

Contact Bob Quinn, 286-9198 or
Margaret Munson, 286-9654 for information.

STILL ANOTHER SIDE OF THOMAS BELL

Captain Thomas Bell built the schooner Competitor in Bellport, New York in 1867. She was 47 tons, 72 feet 4 inches long, 20 feet wide and 4 feet in depth. Little did Captain Bell know then, that his ship would be captured by Spain in Cuban waters in 1896 and that the crew would be charged with filibustering [1] and sentenced to death.

HE BUILT THE COMPETITOR

Captain Thomas Bell Constructed the Noted Filibustering Schooner of Long Island Timber at Bellport

Bellport, L.I. – The schooner Competitor, the crew of which has recently been released from a Spanish prison, [2] was built of Long Island timber, in this village, about thirty years ago by Captain Thomas Bell. Captain Bell had built two small craft for bay use from plans of his own, and as they proved seaworthy and serviceable he then built the Competitor on the same plan. In reality there were no ribs in the framework of the vessel, their place being supplied with what might be termed staves, on short planks, reaching from the floors to the plank sheer, or gunwale, which was of very heavy timber. These staves were placed closely side by side and were of two-inch white oak. The outside planks were of the same material, each being six inches in width. The two were securely treenailed [3] together, there being four treenails of every square foot of the vessel's surface or more than twelve thousand in all. The only heavy timbers about this strange craft were her keel, floor timbers and plank sheer. Many predicted failure for the craft, which some even dubbed Captain Bell's sea basket, [4] but her thirty years of the roughest kind of work proved that Captain Bell's sea basket was all right as far as staunchness went. She was used for years by the Coast Wrecking Company and the Merritt Wrecking Company, and to the

writer's personal knowledge has rode at anchor off Long Island's shore, attending stranded ships, through many rough wintry gales. Folks here say it is too bad that Captain Bell's ideal, after proving her builder's theory to be correct, should perish at last by the worms in Spanish hands. Captain Thomas Bell and his brother founded and named Bellport.

Brooklyn Eagle, November 27, 1897

[1] Filibuster - derived from the Spanish filibustero (freebooting); an irregular military adventurer, specifically an American engaged in fomenting insurrections in Latin American in the mid-19th century (Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary)

[2] See "The Last Voyage of the Competitor," pg. 8

[3] Treenail (or Trenail or Trunnel) - a wooden peg or dowel used to fasten pieces of wood together, especially in timber frame construction and wooden shipbuilding. (Wikipedia.org)

[4] See "The First Voyage of the Competitor," pg 8

Continued on page 8

Volunteers Needed

BARN MUSEUM

Friday and Saturday

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Call Bob Duckworth

286-0888 or 289-4690

DUES DUE

If you haven't returned your membership dues for 2010, please do so as soon as possible. We are counting on you! A new membership form can be found on bbhsmuseum.org. Mail to: David Cleaves, Membership Chairman, PO Box 47, Bellport, New York 11713. Thank you.

2010 CALENDAR

**The Bellport-Brookhaven
Historical Society**
is very excited about the

MAY

EVENTS PLANNED for 2010.

Trustees Kate Carmel, Carol Bleser and Victor Principe have planned a calendar of activities that should appeal to every age group. This year will be an ambitious one, and should bring to everyone's attention that the Society is not for just a few, but the community as a whole.

“Save the Dates” and “Mark Your Calendar”
For additional program information,
go to bbhsmuseum.org, bellport.com
or telephone 631-776-7640

BBHS EXCHANGE SHOP
12 Bell Street, Bellport, NY
631-286-0888

Open: Thursday, Friday & Saturday
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Consignments taken
every Wednesday
10:00 am - 12:00 noon

APRIL

April 18, 2010 (Sunday)
George Stoney- Guest Speaker
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Brown Building
12 Bell Street, Bellport NY 11713

Presentation and discussion of two films
“Painting from Nature” (1972) and “Planning
for Floods” (1974) - by legendary documentary
film maker George Stoney.

May 5, 2010 (Wednesday)

**Exchange Shop Accepting
Consignments**

12 Bell Street, Bellport, NY 11713
Every Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
Contact: Bob Duckworth, 631-286-0888

May 27, 2010 (Thursday)

Exchange Shop Opens

12 Bell Street, Bellport, NY 11713
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Contact Bob Duckworth, 631-286-0888

May 29, 2010 (Saturday)

Barn Museum Opens

31 Bellport Lane, Bellport, NY 11713
Friday, Saturday
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
FREE

May 30, 2010 (Sunday)

Rain date: Monday May 31, 2010

**Bellport-Brookhaven Historical
Society Antiques Show**

Historical Society Grounds
(access from 31 Bellport Lane
and 12 Bell street)
9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Admission \$5.00

AR OF EVENTS

JUNE

June 5, 2010 (Saturday)

Cavafy - *Passions and Ancient Days*

Presentation by

Emmy Award Winning

ACTOR YANNIS SIMONIDES

See page 1 for details.

June 13, 2010 (Sunday)

**Environmentally Focused Tour of
The Great South Bay**

(Each Adult must be accompanied by a child)

Leaving from Bay Shore Marina

Adults \$45.00 Children 14-18 \$20.00

under 13 free

11:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

JULY

July 17, 2010 (Saturday)

**Historical Bellport Bicycle Treasure
Hunt - A Family Adventure**

31 Bellport Lane, Bellport, NY 11713

Adults \$20.00 Children 13-18 \$10.00

under 12 free

July 31, 2010 (Saturday)

**Extraordinary Houses of Bellport,
Brookhaven and East Patchogue**

House Tour

Adults \$45.00, no children please

SEPTEMBER

September 12, 2010 (Sunday)

**Building Boats by Hand
Carmens River**

*Hands on demonstration with
Hank Maust and Ken Budny*

Adults \$20.00 Children 6-15 FREE

NOVEMBER

November 12, 2010 (Sunday)

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Carol Bleser
Annual Meeting of the**

Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Brown Building, 12 Bell Street, Bellport, NY 11713

Lecture: *The Long Forgotten History of
Plantations and Slavery in Colonial Long Island*

Members Free Non Members \$15.00

Students with ID \$5.00

DECEMBER

December 12, 2010 (Sunday)

Holiday Party

Brown Building

12 Bell Street, Bellport, NY 11713

Future Events

**Robert H. Pelletreau Award for
Historic Preservation in
Suffolk County**

THE FIRST VOYAGE OF THE COMPETITOR - 1867

The following account was told by Captain Bob Homan to a reporter for the [Brooklyn Eagle](#) in 1897. The same story was also carried by the [Suffolk County News](#).

...“As soon as she [The Competitor] was completed she was turned over to the Coast Wrecking Company and put under the command of *Captain Tom Conklin* and she started for St. Thomas in tow of the steamer Relief. You know in those days there was no very strict discipline on the wrecking steamers and schooners and it was almost impossible to get any of the wreckers to go on the Competitor. ‘Why,’ said one of the old wreckers, ‘I’d sooner take my chance in a surf boat than that bandbox. She’ll drop apart when you strike the stream off Hatteras.’ Captain Tom told them that they could not all go on the steamer and finally induced some of them to go with him.

“Well, we took a real old-fashioned no’easter off Hatteras, sure enough. The Relief had to head into it and pitched and rolled like a can-buoy. Her propellor was out of water half the time racing like mad. On the second day the towing hawser parted and the Competitor was adrift. The Relief finally got near enough to the schooner to hail. ‘Say, Captain Tom, do you want us to try to take you off; I guess we can by getting the surf boat out.’

“‘Take me off, hey!’ bawled Captain Tom, ‘I am going to St. Thomas with the schooner and you have got all you want to do on that steamer, which is making worse weather than we are. Goodbye.’

“We put a double reefer foresail on that skimming dish and turned her off before that no’easter and you ought to have seen her skip.

The Relief was out of sight astern in fifteen minutes after we headed before the gale.

“It took us just three days to reach St. Thomas and two days later the Relief came in. The steamer had to keep headed into the sea until the gale moderated, but the Competitor made as good weather scudding before that no’easter as a yacht would in New York Bay on a summer’s day.

“I wedged the Competitor’s treenails myself when she was built and I knew she would hold together ‘till the cows came home’ and when we got through with that job and got ready to start north again, would you believe it, every man in the gang wanted to come home in the Competitor in preference to coming in the steamer Relief, but Captain Tom told them ‘you fellows that would not come out in her can’t go home in her. The boys that started with me when this sea basket was untried are the men that will have the honor of taking her back to Staten Island.’ And from that time on for thirty years that she was used by Captain I. J. Merritt’s wreckers there were always enough men willing and ready to go anywhere in the little sea basket to relieve stranded ships and as one who helped fasten her planks I wish she could be rescued from the Spaniards and brought home here to die.” [Suffolk County News](#), Dec. 17, 1897 & [Brooklyn Eagle](#), Dec 15, 1897.

THE LAST VOYAGE OF THE COMPETITOR - 1896

The Competitor’s last voyage began when she left Key West, Florida between 10 and 11 o’clock on the night of April 20 with a full cargo of arms, ammunition, and men for Cuba. She was commanded by Capt. Alfredo La Borde, a resident of Tampa. Her crew consisted of Owen Milton of Kansas; William Kinlea, an Englishman; and Elias Bedia and Teodoro Maza,

both Cubans.

On April 25, 1896, while looking for a place to land, the schooner was captured by the *Messagera*, a Spanish gunboat, near Berracos, on the northern coast of the Province of Pinar del Rio. The captured ship, crew, and cargo were taken to Havana.

The Trial(s)

The captain and crew were charged on May 8, 1896 with filibustering by a naval court-martial in Havana. All of the accused pleaded not guilty. The captain claimed that the vessel was seized by the Cuban passengers after he had refused to venture upon the Cuban coast, and that he had made no arrangement that his craft should be used for filibustering purposes. Several of the witnesses admitted that when the men were captured they were not armed, and offered no resistance. Despite this fact, however, the prosecutor asked the court-martial to convict the prisoners of filibustering and to impose the death sentence.

Only after US intervention, did Madrid say that the cases of the *Competitor*'s men would be referred to the supreme council of the army and navy. The US argued that the men were subject to the protection afforded by the Cushing protocol; [1] the Spanish claimed that the men were excluded because they were taken with arms in hand and not on land.

After a long consideration, it was determined that the proceedings of the naval court martial, which convicted the prisoners of being fillibusterers and sentencing them to death, were erroneous The case was remanded for another trial before a civil court, as was guaranteed by the Cushing protocol.

One Year Later

In October 1897, the Spanish cabinet ordered the

ministers of foreign affairs, the navy, and the colonies to examine the documents in the case, with the view of its eventual settlement by the courts. It was semi-officially asserted that if the crew of the *Competitor* were sentenced to death or imprisonment, they would be pardoned by the government at Madrid.

Released - November 1897

After nineteen months in captivity and bearing all the marks of severe suffering and terrible hardship, the entire crew returned to New York aboard the Ward Line Steamer *Saratoga*.

The Competitor Died in Cuba

Sadly, the *Competitor* never came home.

Some Parting Thoughts from

The Advance

The arrival of the now worldwide famous "Competitor" prisoners . . . is especially interesting to us owing to the fact that the "swift little Yankee schooner" on which the men were captured was built right here in Bellport, near where the Bay House [2] now stands and in her early days (and perhaps even yet) had on her stern the words "Competitor of Bellport."

O. H. P. Robinson and his son John B. helped build her over thirty-five years ago, and today have vivid recollections of many peculiar features of the boat's construction, being built as she was after the purely original ideas of Capt. Thos. Bell her owner, who first used the *Competitor* in the coast wrecking business, which, since then, has developed into the great Merritt-Chapman Coast Wrecking Company of today. In those days no tugs were used by the wreckers and whenever a vessel was stranded, a fleet of small wrecking schooners was immediately sent to the scene to take off the passengers and cargo.

Continued from page 9

It is said that on these occasions, the Competitor was always one of the first to reach the wreck and by the name given her even today as the “swift little Yankee schooner,” she seems even yet to be somewhat of a flyer though she is a little along in years.

The Advance, November 26, 1897

[1] Cushing Protocol of Jan 12, 1877 provides that “no citizen of the United States residing in Spain or adjacent islands or her ultramarine possessions, charged with acts of sedition, treason, or conspiracy against the institutions, public security, the integrity of the territory, or against the supreme government, or any other crime whatsoever, shall be subject to trial by any exceptional tribunal, but exclusively the ordinary jurisdiction, except in the case of being captured with arms in hand.” New York Times, May 7, 1877

[2] The Bay House was located at the foot of Bellport Lane, Bellport, New York on Great South Bay.

References:

New York Times, April 28, 1896; New York Times, April 30, 1896 - A Filibuster Captured; New York Times, May 2, 1896 - Six of Messangera’s Men Were Lost; New York Times, May 6, 1896; Brooklyn Eagle, May 8, 1896 - Recent Events; New York Times, May 9, 1896 - A Court-Martial in Havana; Brooklyn Eagle, May 9, 1896 - Sentences are Secret; Brooklyn Eagle, May 11, 1896 - Recent Events; Brooklyn Eagle, October 7, 1896 - New Competitor Trial; Brooklyn Eagle, October 15, 1897 - Capture of the Competitor; Brooklyn Eagle, November 1, 1897 - Capture of the Competitor; Brooklyn Eagle, November 7, 1897 - Spain May Be Merciful; Brooklyn Eagle, November 19, 1897 - Competitor’s Crew Sails; Suffolk County News (Sayville), November 19, 1897 - Free Men Once More; Brooklyn Eagle, November 19, 1897 - Spain’s Conciliatory Policy; Brooklyn Eagle, November 23, 1897 - Home with a Deplorable Tale; Patchogue Advance, November 26, 1897 - Bellport Column; Patchogue Advance, November 26, 1897 - Competitor Crew

Some Questions (continued from page 2)

Regarding Mrs Bell, my question was’ “Why wasn’t she mentioned in Thomas Bell’s Obituary (see The Barn Museum News, Vol. 11, No. 4, pg 9). Again, Mr. Thomas offers an explanation.

I have run across obituaries in the New York Times for the 1880 period that make no mention

of the wife and children of the person who died. When the family was not mentioned, the individual was often renowned for some invention, some company he founded, or some military exploit. The obituary would go into great detail about his accomplishments while ignoring the existence of a family altogether.

By 1900, the New York Times would routinely, at the very end of its major obituaries, have a sentence like this: “He leaves a wife, two sons and a daughter;” but the names of the wife and children were not printed.

Amelia V. A. Huleu Bell - Obituary

Mrs. Bell’s death notice appeared in the New York Times, February 1, 1890. It says,

BELL – At Huntington, L.I., January 31, 1890, AMELIA V. A. BELL, widow of Capt. Thos. Bell of Bellport, L. I., aged 83 years. Funeral from residence of Wm. H. Beers, Huntington, L. I., Sunday, Feb. 2, at 1:00 P.M. Relatives and friends are invited.

The Advance, February 7, 1890, where I thought a more in-depth article would have been written, given that she was the widow of Bellport’s founder, simply said: *The remains of Mrs. Amelia Bell were interred in Woodland Cemetery on Monday, Feb. 3rd.*

Mrs. Bell’s Marital Status

Commenting on the status of Mrs. Bell after Capt. Bell’s death, Mr. Thomas offers: *As she is designated as “widow of Capt. Thos.,” nothing indicates that there had been any strain in her relationship with her husband.*

Now the question of where Mrs. Bell was living during the 1870 census and why she was in New Jersey during the 1880 census still remains a mystery. Only this time there are a few more names in the mix – Huleu, Beers, and Victoria Agnes Huleu (yes, there was another Victoria). But, we will talk about that another time!

NEW TRUSTEES

Meet Trustee Annalou Fletcher

Class of 2012

I first discovered Bellport Village when I visited the home of a colleague in 1989. I had been working on Wall Street since 1983 and thought the Hamptons were a real rat race—more of the same. But I loved Bellport at first sight. Luckily I was able to find a home in the Village, spending weekends (both summer and winter). My job took me to Australia in 1997 and London in 2001. When I retired from BHP Billiton (London) in 2002, I returned to Bellport full time.

I became involved with the Bellport Garden Club (no one can live in England and not be interested in gardening), serving as Program Chairman for two years and as President for two years.

In the interim, my partner and I discovered a derelict house in the historic district of East Moriches. In the process of restoration, I learned much about the history of Brookhaven Town and the rich historical heritage of the entire South Shore area. When the opportunity came to contribute a bit to the preservation of that heritage, I was honored to be elected to the Board of Trustees of the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society.

Meet Veronica E. Cantwell

Class of 2012

While I grew up in Oyster Bay, I arrived in Suffolk County over 30 years ago. Brookhaven Hamlet became my home when my daughter entered kindergarten at Brookhaven Elementary. I discovered for myself the beautiful hamlet resting there.

Immediately I fell in love with its tranquil, undeveloped countryside, a perfect place to raise my two daughters.

I own William J. O'Neill Sales Exchange Co., Inc., located in Patchogue, NY. We have been in business for nearly four decades, and my exposure as a collateral loan broker and an estate appraiser has helped me to develop an expertise in antiques and fine jewelry.

As an active business owner, and a member and past director of the Patchogue Chamber of Commerce, I have sat on numerous committees, assisted in many fundraisers, and have participated in many of the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society events. Recently I relocated to East Patchogue, another special haven, and look forward to continuing to serve these extraordinary communities.

Let's Play - I Spy

I spy a: A compass rose - Whales - Wreck off the old inlet - Bellport seal - Gunner, Ducks in Flight - Fish - Manor of St. George - Hay Boat - Crab - Clamshell - Gull - Scallop shell - Scooter on ice - Bennington flag - Settler and Indian - Old South Haven Presbyterian Church w/Daniel Webster trout - Methodist Church - Antique Fire engine - Bellport Bay Yacht Club - Cannon - Soldiers Monument - Bell - American Flag

Visit the Barn Museum, 31 Bellport Lane, Bellport, NY (631 776 7640) this summer and find all of the above. Clue: it's all in one place!

Tax Tip: "I found a new way to beat the inheritance tax. I am leaving everything to the government." Line from

The Doughgirls, 1944 film.

Sounds more like a comedy routine, but it came from the Bellport Column of The Advance, October 2, 1908

Author Unknown

We used to keep chickens years ago (brought 'em up from the old farm), they never stayed at home, however. They wandered over all our neighbors flower beds until we got ashamed of ourselves and had a wholesale slaughter. We couldn't sell 'em, had to eat 'em all, and we have never felt the same toward a chicken. Did you ever notice if you had a lot of fowl to sell you couldn't get forty cents a piece for them, but if you are buying, they will cost you a dollar. After that we kept a horse that disturbed the neighborhood by getting "cast" [1] at night, then a cow who bellowed at the rising sun, then a well-bred dog who "lugged" wagons, and finally a cat that fed on the other fellows' newly-hatched chicks. But now we have discarded all the domestic animals that are supposed to make village life interesting, and have only the old windmill left. Last night we heard what sounded like the shriek of a lost soul. It was our mill, shall we have to lose her too? The plumber has diagnosed the case and bids us hope.

[1] Note: Since the term "cast" was unfamiliar to me, I offer the following explanation from MyHorse.com. "It's hard to believe that a horse can get stuck – or cast – in his horse stall. However, this is a real danger. A horse is said to be cast when he has lain down or rolled and managed to position himself with his legs so close to the stall wall that he can neither get up nor reposition himself to roll the other way. Most horses panic when they find themselves cast in their stall. They will struggle violently, banging their legs against the wall (making quite a lot of racket) of the stall and sometimes banging their heads."

For Sale - Brooklyn Eagle, August 17, 1902
\$11,000 - BELLPORT 20 acres, 480 feet main road, 210 feet bay front, high knoll, view of the bay and ocean, adjoins Architect Cook's. A. Lenssen, Owner, Dwight Place, Englewood, NJ
Anyone intrested??

And you think 2010 was cold?

Back in February 1857, the Brooklyn Eagle reports: "The Great South Bay has been frozen so thick during the recent cold weather, that our eastern neighbors have been riding with their teams and sleighs upon the Bay from Bellport to Amityville, a distance of more than thirty miles."

The Census Enumerators - The Patchogue Advance, April 8, 1910

". . . The rates of compensation for the enumerators vary according to conditions. In farming localities 27 1/2 cents for each farm, 3 1/2 cents for each inhabitant, and 10 cents for each barn or inclosure (sic) containing live stock not on farms or ranges reported is allowed. In the thickly settled sections 3 cents for each inhabitant is the general rate . . ."

BELLPORT-BROOKHAVEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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