



The Barn Museum News

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



Volume 12 Number 3

December 2010

The Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society

Holiday Party

Sunday, December 12, 2010

12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Gathering in the Brown Building

Appetizers and spirits of the season will be served

A silent auction will be held
for the live tree.

The only contribution
requested is an ornament.



Please R.S.V.P. to 631-776-7640 or

by email at: events@bbhsmuseum.org

Calamita Dedication - August 29, 2010

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, the historic 150 year old Candelabra Spruce was dedicated to the memory of Frank and Alyda Calamita. Life members of the society, Frank established a memorial fund in memory of his wife who died in April 2000. Following Frank's death in July 2009, the Society decided to dedicate the spruce as a living memorial to the couple.

Both Historical Society President Dr. Jan Harting-McChesney and Past President Dr. Carol Bleser spoke at the event. Dr. Harting-McChesney welcomed the Calamita's many friends and family. Dr. Bleser spoke of the Calamita memorial and introduced Frank's son Nicolas Jansen (Jann) and his family who traveled from Oxford, England for the occasion.

Jann (shown in the photograph) graciously thanked the Society and spoke of how his parents enjoyed the camaraderie of the Society, the beauty of the grounds, and the merriment at each party and event. He also spoke about having a place called home (Bellport) that gave the family roots. He said, *"My parents came from different places and spent many years living outside of Bellport, but this community continued to provide a home place over the years."*



Our thanks to Mr. Jeremiah McGiff who constructed a table and two beautiful teak benches for the occasion.

Cummings Dedication - Sept. 19, 2010

Lawrence G. Cummings, BBHS Trustee Ex-Officio, passed away on April 11, 2010. His wife Gloria indicated that she would like to do something to honor Larry, and when she heard about a discussion to replace the Exchange Shop walkway, she suggested that all monies donated in Larry's memory be put toward the walkway.

And so, on Sunday, September 19, 2010, Gloria welcomed more than 50 friends and family to the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society to dedicate a new brick walkway in front of the Exchange Shop at 12 Bell Street.

Historical Society President Dr. Jan Harting-McChesney said *"Larry was a gentle guiding force for the Society as his manner was to be pleasant and supportive in all his endeavors with the BBHS. He could be counted on to provide clear guidance concerning our insurance needs, many issues about the structure and history of the buildings, and often had funny little stories about the historic residents of the area. Quick to smile and willing to 'mull things over,' Larry was an integral part of the BBHS for many years, and we will miss his presence."*

Look for Larry's brick the next time you pass 12 Bell Street. It is a nice reminder of a person who cared about Bellport and the Historical Society.



Robert H. Pelletreau Distinguished Service Award in Historic Preservation - November 14, 2010

This year's award was presented to The Congregation of the Middle Island United Church of Christ in recognition of their dedicated and heroic efforts to preserve and restore the historically significant church, formerly known as the Middle Island Presbyterian Church (1837). Fortunately the Church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005 and escaped demolition due to the commercial development of Middle Country Road.

2010 Pelletreau Award Committee

Dr. Carol Bleser -- Trustee and former President, Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society and Professor of History, Emeritus, Clemson University.

Alexandra Parsons Wolfe -- Director of Preservation Services, Society for Preservation of Long Island Antiquities.

Tom B. Williams -- Vice President, The Post-Morrow Foundation, Brookhaven.

Previous Award Recipients

2001 - ***Bertram Seides*** in recognition of his restoration efforts on behalf of the Ketcham Inn, and his major role in the designation of Moriches, Center Moriches, East Moriches and Eastport as historic districts.

2003 - ***The Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Association*** in recognition of their successful efforts to preserve and restore the 1730 Suydam Homestead and the 1905 Gardiner Barn.

2005 - ***The Yaphank Historical Society*** in recognition of past and ongoing efforts to restore and to maintain historically significant houses and properties in Yaphank, NY, including the 1850 Robert H. Hawkins House.

2007 - ***Charla Bolton*** in recognition of her many significant efforts to advance historic preservation on Long Island and to ***Jane Platt and Radey Johnson*** in recognition of their dedicated restoration efforts in the preservation of the historic Pelletreau house (circa 1770) located within Bellport Village.

Thanks to Dr. Ira Hayes - Great Voices

What could be better than spending the afternoon listening to Leontyne Price, Luciano Pavarotti and Barbra Streisand – and that was only the first session.



Dr. Ira Hayes mesmerized the audience with his soft-spoken, knowledgeable description of a variety of “Great Voices” and what made them great. Adjectives such as phenomenal, incredible, and gorgeous were peppered throughout his talk as he spoke about the artists in an almost intimate nature. His passion and enthusiasm for the subject matter was embraced by the audience.

The “Great Voices” series held at the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society was a new venture, and we are grateful to Dr. Hayes for his time and talent.

A True Riches to Rags Story or He Forfeited His Heritage for the Woman He Loved

No, we are not talking about King Edward VIII and Mrs. Wallis Simpson, but the story of two lovers, George Drummond and Eliza Harrison, and, although their story started in Scotland, part of it took place right here on Long Island, in Brookhaven Hamlet.

. . . A romantic story is told of an English lord, George Essex Montifex Drummond, heir to the earldom of Leith, Molfort and other titles, who fell in love with his grandmother's maid and ran away with her and came to Bellport in 1874. They lived for a time in one of the old fashioned gable roofed houses near the shore. . . [13]

Sadly, George and Eliza's lives didn't have a story book ending. But one thing was clear – George loved Eliza. “Overtures were frequently made for reconciliation, but the consideration was his forsaking the woman with whom he cast his lot. This he refused to do.” [9] It was said that he “had loved not wisely, but too well.” [7]

It is, however, a fascinating story filled with divorce, adultery, illegitimate children, suicide, dis-inheritance, struggle, pain, poverty, and death – all the elements that would make a hit TV series today – but this was real life. George and Eliza's tale is told through quotes taken from the references listed at the end of the story. The entire story is fascinating reading.

All About George

George was born George Essex Montifex Drummond on September 3, 1856.

His father was George Henry Charles Francis Malcolm Drummond, Viscount Forth. On October 8, 1861, at the age of 27, he committed suicide by drinking laudanum poison. The reason being, his mistress had died shortly after giving birth to an illegitimate daughter. He “was with her at the time of her death, was very much grieved, and wept bitterly. Soon afterwards he commenced drinking brandy, and appeared like a madman.” [1] Young George was only 5 years old.

George's mother, Lady Mary Harriet Capel had sued for divorce on the grounds of “repeated cruelty, drunkenness, and adultery,” but it was not granted because she herself had committed adultery. She relocated to Lima, Peru. It was there that she died of yellow fever on April 30, 1868 at the age of 32. Her lover, Capt. Blakely, died a few days later in Chorillos. George was only 12 years old.

With his father's death, George became the heir apparent of his grandfather. So at an early age, George was orphaned and was left in the care of his grandmother, Charlotte Mary Maynard Capel, The Countess of Perth and Melfort who was a “confirmed invalid.” George still enjoyed a privileged life, but this is where Eliza entered the picture.

There was talk that Eliza had eloped earlier with her father's coachman. "She was 'cast off' by her irate parent, and it became necessary that she, as well as her husband (whom she subsequently left), should go out to service." [9]

All About Eliza

There are differing accounts of the position Eliza (Harriet) Harrison held in the household. One says she was a maid to George's grandmother; another says she was the grandmother's companion, and a third says she was a nursery governess who tutored George. Eliza was the daughter of a London tradesman; a respectable family but with no title. She was "about five years older than her noble charge," and was "bright, good-looking, ambitious," [7] and had both education and refinement. She was also tall, fair, and in exceedingly good form.

Education

George was not much of a scholar and, "as far as education went, he was comparatively ignorant." [12] His first "boyish ambition" was to be a sailor and "he associated with fishermen," while in Scotland, "and assumed their dress." [12] "The grandfather talked of the university and the army, George said he preferred the sea or America." [5] After learning about the "infatuation," his grandfather had planned on sending George to the naval academy at Woolwich; the couple left for America before that ever happened.

Love and Elopement and Marriage

It was said that Eliza conceived a liking for George, and he became madly infatuated with her. Eliza told the boy that "his step grandmother wished to do away with him and so worked upon him that he came to America with her, she furnishing the funds." [9] Other accounts say that they were married the day after his grandmother's funeral. "They spent a great deal of time together, 'without arousing suspicion,' until they disappeared one morning and returned married." [7] George was 15.

The marriage was denounced by the family, and George and his bride sailed for America, arriving almost penniless. Still another account says "he married her after he reached America." [16]

Years later at George's funeral, Eliza was questioned by reporters who asked about her previous marriage. "It is not true," said she [Mrs Drummond] "that I was married before I became the wife of Lord Drummond. I was not married until 1874, when the Rev. Mr. Cooper married us at our own house in Brookdale, [Brookhaven] L.I." [9]

The Flight to America

"With romantic ardour the young lord vowed never to desert his wife or return to Scotland until he returned as Earl of Perth and unless his wife was received as befitted her new rank." [7] They traveled under Eliza's maiden name, Harrison. Passenger lists from the SS Calabria show Geo

Emily Ferrier Czaja - Bellport Artist

I had the pleasure of visiting with Em Czaja – an extraordinary lady. She knows Bellport like, well, let's put it this way. She was born and raised here and was the Village historian for more than 20 years. If you want to know anything about Bellport, Em probably has the answer.

But there is the other side of Em – the artist. And this was the reason for my visit. Mrs. Czaja very generously donated a large collection of her water colors, pen and inks, paintings, and art work to the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society.

Em – the Artist

When Did You Begin Painting?

I began drawing as a child, but had no formal training. I took lessons from local artists such as Ruth and Jerry Grace and Jody Love. Then it was my turn, and I taught classes to local ladies who met in Olga Roe's home.

What Mediums Do You Like or Dislike?

My favorite mediums are pen and ink and water colors. I now work with markers; they are so handy, and they dry instantaneously.

I disliked working with oils. It's not the technique, but the smell of the paint and turpentine that bothered me. It's a good medium because you can cover any errors easily, but the smells were too much, and they take a long time to dry.

Have Any Favorite?

It is hard to choose a piece that is my favorite. I really don't know. I have done so

many it's hard to say. But, I guess my favorite subjects are fish and sea life. I just love to draw shells of any kind.



Awards?

I've won a few awards, mostly from the South Bay Art Association in Bellport and Wet Paints in Sayville. I am very proud of them.

Any Advice?

My advice to any artist is to keep on drawing. You need to keep drawing to keep you going. And use all kinds of mediums. Try them all to find which one you like best. Remember that drawing IS the work of the artist. And always have a sketch book and a couple of pens or pencils with you. You never know when inspiration will strike.

Em – the Bellporter

I asked Em to tell me about herself, and, in the course of the conversation, learned a bit about old Bellport. These are her words:

My mother was Helen Read, from Bellport, and my father was Harry Ferrier. He was born in Italy and came to the US when he was about 6; he was raised in Bath Beach, Brooklyn, one of seven brothers and two sisters. I should add that my mother had one sister and three brothers.

Em Czaja (continued from page 6)

My Dad was stationed at Camp Upton on Long Island and was performing with the Yaphank show created by Irving Berlin. It was called Yip Yip Yaphank .

When the show was performed at the Comet Theater (now Wallen's Market), my mother served cake and coffee. That's how my parents met – at the Comet Theater. In fact, after they met, he would walk about 12 miles from Camp Upton to my grandparent's farm which was at the east end of Head of Neck Road so he and my mother could court. They were married in October 1920.

After my parents were married and before I was born, my mother followed my father all around the country while he was touring. But, when the time came, my mother returned to my grandparents, and I was born on their farm on January 27, 1922. I was joined later by my sisters – Anna Ferrier Terwilliger and Marion Ferrier Hawkins.

My grandparent's farm (the Read farm) was located past VanderZalms near the end of Head of Neck Road by the old laundry, west of Mott Brook. The property went to Beaver Dam Road, approximately where the Bellhaven Nursing Center is today. In addition to growing vegetables, my grandparents also had a dairy farm and delivered milk. They sold eggs and vegetables. I remember a field of asparagus. Most of the income, however, was from milk and eggs.

There was an old horse named Jack. He knew exactly which houses got milk and would move onto the next house while my grandfather was delivering to the previous house.

I attended the old wooden school on Station Road in Bellport for the first two grades. The school then became too small, so, while the new school was being built, I attended 2nd grade in Villano's Store in the Village, which belonged to Mr. Smyth, the plumber. It is now the Tailor Shop on Bellport Lane, north of Porters. Speaking of school, I remember that Nina B. Corwin, was my first-grade teacher, and Ruth Peck Corwin (Wilbur's wife) was my 4th grade teacher. There were four in the Peck family, and she told me "4 pecks make a bushel." I never forgot that.

The grammar school was completed in 1929, and Em finished school in the new high school, which also faced Station Road, graduating in 1939.



Em continued, “Emily Read (my aunt and namesake) worked for the telephone company as an operator. The building was located on the west side corner of New Jersey Avenue and South Country Road, next to the present Fire House. It used to be Skip Albin’s house, and the wing on the side was for the telephone company.

Skip had a store on Bellport Lane, south of Carla Marla’s. He would sell you anything! And he would always call the young girls ‘sis’. Anyway, my Aunt suggested that I become an operator too, which I did, working at the company for about 12 years. I remember sitting at my board, watching people walk up and down the street. One day, Mort Czaja was riding his bicycle (he used to deliver groceries for Bohacks, which was where the Deli is today). I said to my friend, “I’m going to marry him” And, of course, I did.

Mort was living on Brown’s Lane with his sister in Connie Thompson Borntreger’s house. I met Mort at a blackout party at the Thompson house, and, that was it. We began keeping company and “went together” all summer before Mort was drafted into the Air Force in 1941.

Rev. Jones (Uncle Rev) was the minister at the Southampton Methodist Church. He was previously the minister of the old Bellport Methodist Church that was on the corner of Browns Lane and Maple Street. We called him to marry us, and he performed our wedding ceremony on October 27, 1945 in Southampton. We were married for 50 years; sadly Mort died in 1995, shortly after

our anniversary.

In the ‘50s I took up golf because my husband played and would leave me each weekend to play golf, so I took it up and became very good at it. I joined the Bellport Womens Golf Club in 1960’s and was president of the club in 1965 and took my turn on all the committees. I wrote the first bylaws and put some substance and rules into our club. I became the club champion in 1967 and continued winning eight championships and played until 2001 when I had a triple bypass. It was just too much to continue to play anymore.”

Today Em is still sketching and painting, like the true artist she is. Thank you, Em.

-- Ginny Waterman

EXCHANGE SHOP

12 Bell Street, Bellport, NY
631 286 0888

OPEN

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LAST DAY OF SEASON
Friday, December 17

LAST CONSIGNMENT DAY
Wednesday, November 17

ANNUAL 20% SALE
Saturday, January 8, 2011

Harrison 18, male, mechanic and Eliza Harrison 22 female, wife arriving on July 24, 1871 from Liverpool.

Jobs

George's various jobs were a bit confusing. It seems, upon his arrival at Castle Garden (the point of immigration until 1892 when Ellis Island opened), was he was "engaged" "by Theron Losee, a merchant of South Street, to take charge of the latter's summer home in Brookhaven, Long Island." [14] However, another account says that "on reaching America, young Drummond secured various situations taking the name of George Johnson to conceal his identity. He went to work as a shipping clerk in a wholesale flour house in South Street in New York (owned by Theron Losee). He stayed for about two years. So it makes sense that he worked for a few years for Theron Losee, and then came out to Brookhaven. Eliza was noted as working as a servant with a family on Madison Avenue, where she represented Drummond as her orphan brother. [15] During this time they received a small allowance from Eliza's family. George's other jobs included a common sailor, packer in a wholesale clothing house, and a night gate man on the elevated railway. Eliza's last position was making vestments for clergymen and any other menial jobs to keep the family together.

Brookhaven

"Giving up the city in disgust, they finally took up their quarters in a hut on the

on the Yaphank Meadows, near Brookhaven, Long Island. Here, for about five years they lived a miserable, secluded life, 'George,' as the tall, awkward youth was generally called by his neighbours, supporting his wife and himself by his scanty earnings in fishing and shooting." [7] "His venture in the duck shooting business on Long Island shows how nobly he strove to keep those he loved from poverty." [11] Here "he did a little farming, shooting, and boating for a living. A year later, when he was nearly 18 years old, he was married to the woman by the Rev. Mr. Cooper of the Presbyterian Church." [8] And, again, "In Brookhaven he earned a precarious living by gathering clams and shooting ducks. He was the butt of the village boys, and the acts of violence to which their pranks drove him frequently got him into trouble with the police." [15]

A completely different account of their lives in Brookhaven says, "They live very happily, these noble lovers – noble in nature as well as by titles – in the neat and simply furnished cottage by the bay. Quite contented, too, they seem, considering the possibilities before them. All the little hamlet takes a kindly interest in them, each one feeling in some way a guardian to them and responsible for their well being. And in coming years the story of Lord and Lady Drummond will enrich Brookhaven's store of traditions, while the remembrance of them will be among the pleasantest cherished by its people, and also by those who found in a visit to them a delightful experience." [5]

And, still another account: "Lord

Barn Museum Closes for Season

Bob Duckworth reported that: "Our new banners 'MUSEUM OPEN TODAY' helped considerably to draw in more than 200 visitors this year. We had one placed at the driveway entrance on Bell Street and one at the entrance on Bellport Lane.

We had several excellent docents, among them a young high school student Matt Zampariello, also, Elizabeth Meade, Nancy Meade, Rita Buckley, Peg and Al Rand, Margaret Munson, Ginny Waterman, and Evonne Hammond. We are encouraged by the interest shown by the public, many of whom were unaware of our extraordinary facility."

The Museum will re-open Memorial Day Weekend, 2011. - Bob Duckworth

The Peek-in Inn (Followup)

As noted on page 8 of the BBHS Newsletter, August 2010, Mr. John Lengyel was the proprietor of the Peek-In Inn, which burned to the ground in November 1929. After the fire, it seems that Mr. Emil Lengyel continued in business, but at a different location.

"Emil's Tavern, Merrick Road,* Brookhaven, Long Island, N.Y., Bellport 186, Open all year." - Post Card, late 1920s-1930s,

Mr. John Deitz added the following information: "My interest in Emil Lengyel came about as I was trying to trace the history of the various iterations of what is now the Ground Round on Montauk

Highway (South Haven).

The core of this structure may well be the W. Hawkins house shown on the 1858 Caace Map. Exterior evidence suggests a two-story house. But it has been the site of an Inn and restaurant since before 1900, and there is little doubt that Emil's Tavern is the modern Ground Round.

Cutting and pasting from my notes, I have come up with the following places of business located on this site. The dates are from different citations: Cedar Inn (before 1900), Old Cedar Inn (ca 1910), Chics Music Box Grill (ca 1920), Emil's Tavern (ca 1930), Hof Brau Inn (ca 1930), Old Cedar Inn (again) (ca 1940), Latin Casino (ca 1946), Mastic Hour (ca 1950-1970), Purple Onion (unknown), Borderline Café and Grill (unknown), Stinger's Bar and Grill (ca 2002-5), Chase Lounge (ca 2005), and the current Ground Round (ca 2009)."

"While I didn't think Montauk Highway/South Country Road was commonly called Merrick Road, I have recently come across a number of deeds that refer to the highway as "Merrick Road." It was apparently more commonly used than I had previously thought. Also, "Montauk Highway" in old records may also be a reference to modern South Country Road/Main Street, Bellport. Before Robinson Boulevard was put through, which eventually became our modern Montauk Highway, the main road from Patchogue east through Bellport and Brookhaven was of course what we now call South Country Road; it then was also known as the Montauk Highway, and may also have been known as Merrick Road." -- John Deitz

For additional information and pictures of the above businesses, visit <http://brookhavensouthhaven.org/history/HistoricSitesImages.asp?InventoryCode=Br04.2-S>

Drummond visited Riverhead while the circuit court was in session. . . .It was soon rumored through the village that he was in town, and as he was the only ‘Lord of High Degree’ who had ever been there, a great desire was evinced to see him, and he was introduced to the people by Egbert T. Smith, who was at his home, Drummond Castle, in Scotland, some years since. . . .Lord Drummond, the future Earl of Perth, was well received at the county seat of Suffolk, and was cordially invited to come again.”[6]

The Children

In March 1878 George and Eliza became the parents of a son, Malcolm. The boy died in infancy, and it was a blow that George never recovered from. A second child, a girl May Harriet was born in 1881.

The Plea

It was during his stay in Brookhaven that “Drummond’s situation was brought to the notice of the family of a lawyer, who often befriended him. He wrote to the Earl of Perth, the boy’s grandfather, but the latter refused to give him any assistance unless he would give up the woman with whom he eloped. These terms Drummond refused to accept.” [15] Several people visited Drummond and endeavoured to induce him to give up his wife and return home. “His grandfather’s arms were open to him whenever he concluded to leave those of his wife. But he preferred those of his wife.” [7]

The End

Lord Drummond died of consumption on August 4, 1887 at the age of 31. He was poverty-stricken and, being unable to work prior to this death, was being supported largely by the earnings of his wife and the charity of friends.

His legal adviser, John B. Ireland, through kindness, advanced the funds necessary for his interment in Trinity churchyard, and ordered that his own family tomb be opened. It is here “he sleeps his last sleep in a grave far from home, rather than sleep in the tomb of his ancestors by means which seemed to his honorable nature low and despicable.”[11]

Upon Lord Drummond’s death, his daughter May assumed the title of Lady Drummond. His will left “all the property that he may become entitled to or be proved to have had a legal right unto to his daughter, May Drummond.” [10] Attempts were made to secure her inheritance, but it seems they too failed. The 1900 census shows Mary H. Drummond, age 20, single, and employed as a telephone operator. The 1930 census lists May H. Drummond as head of the household, renting, single and working as a public utilities office clerk. Her mother Elizabeth, age 75 and widowed, was living with her.

It is sincerely hoped that, despite all the contradictions and inconsistencies in the literature, that somewhere, the couple did find some happiness. And perhaps it was love, right from the start on both parts. A friend wrote, “much has been said about the

man, but little of his wife, the woman who has stood beside him both in sunshine and in storm. [11]

My sincere thanks to Richard Thomas of Brookhaven Hamlet for all of his interest and research on Lord Drummond. His wealth of information and enthusiasm is truly amazing. -- Ginny Waterman

References

- [1] Suicide of Viscount Forth, Otago Witness, 28 Hakihea (July) 1861, pg 3
- [2] Under Miscellaneous - Divorce Case, Otago Witness, #823, 6 September 1867, pg 17
- [3] English News - Extraordinary Divorce Case, Daily Southern Cross, Vol. XXIV, #3470, 29 August 1868, pg 4.
- [4] The Dering Divorce Case, Daily Southern Cross, Vol XXIV, #3487, 18 September 1868, pg 4.
- [5] A Romance in Real Life, South Side Signal (Babylon), December 23, 1876, pg. 3
- [6] Brookhaven Record - Personal, South Side Signal (Babylon), May 5, 1877, pg 3
- [7] A Romantic Career, Evening Post, Vol XXVII, #83, 4 October 1884, pg 1
- [8] Lord Drummond's Story, The New York Times, August 7, 1887
- [9] Buried Far from Home, Brooklyn Eagle, August 7, 1887, pg 1
- [10] An Earl's Heir, Brooklyn Eagle, August 13, 1887, pg 4
- [11] In Memory of Lord Drummond, Brooklyn Eagle, August 14, 1887, pg 14
- [12] A Romance of the Peerage, Evening Post, Vol XXXIV, #104, 29 October 1887, pg 1
- [13] From Patchogue to Montauk, Brooklyn Eagle, July 19, 1896, pg 26
- [14] An Earl's Heiress in a Hospital, New York Daily Tribune, January 15, 1897
- [15] Romance of a Peerage, The New York Times, January 25, 1899
- [16] Lady Drummond, Now, Brooklyn Eagle, March 2, 1903, pg 40
- [17] Oldest British Peer, Brooklyn Eagle, December 23, 1900, pg 45

Gazebo Negatives Uncovered

Recently discovered in a tin Whitman's Sampler candy box marked "Pictures - None of Bellport," were several negatives of the BBHS gazebo (noted as Barbara's Garden). Jeremiah McGiff, who is restoring the gazebo, says: "*This photo is the best to date, and rather extraordinary.*"



Also found were several negatives of a field in Brookhaven (noted as Brookhaven Field). Look familiar?



The negatives are estimated to be circa 1940s, based on the dates of other aged, brown envelopes in the box. Photography is attributed to Florence Crowell.

The lesson learned? Never take anything for granted. Look through every box or tin or envelope. You never know what priceless artifact you may find.

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year
It's never too late to have a happy childhood,
but the second one is up to you
and no one else!

Found on the Internet

Edgewater Inn Burns - April 4, 1928

Only a year or so before the Peek-In Inn burned to the ground, the well-known Edgewater Inn in Brookhaven met the same fate.

“Fire starting apparently in the rear kitchen of Edgewater Inn, an old and noted hostelry on Beaver Dam Road, Brookhaven, early Wednesday morning swept rapidly through the large rambling frame structure and left it two hours later only a mass of embers and twisted metal marked by two partly collapsed chimneys. A small bungalow on the property was also burned down. The place had not been occupied for some months The origin of the fire is suspicious as there was no stove lighted or other likely cause. A plumber had been there Monday to take out a furnace. The fire was discovered at 1 o’clock by some young people out riding”

Patchogue Advance, April 6, 1928

The Edgewater Inn was originally the home of John Smith Rose, built in 1820 in Brookhaven Hamlet. The house was purchased by Rachel Purdy De Arcas (1844-1925) in 1899, and was converted into a small resort hotel and run as a successful business for 20+ years. It was sold to Campbell Forbes in 1924 and then to Mrs. Herbert Wickham the following year. The main house contained 25 rooms and a dining room that sat 50.

The photograph shown below is probably



circa 1912, while the second postcard shows the Inn during the mid to latter part of 1920. In fact, the current owners of the property, Joanne and Blair Munhofen, remember the hedges and twig archway when they purchased the property in 1948. Joanne added, “If you look carefully between the chimneys of the 1912 picture, you can see a windmill. Remnants of the base of that windmill are still visible.” She added,



“when Blair and I were building our home, we would find old spoons and pieces of china (blue and white) that were used by the Inn. They are interesting souvenirs of a time long ago.” Photographs courtesy of Joanne and Blair Munhofen

For additional information on Brookhaven and South Haven Hamlets, please visit <http://brookhavensouthhaven.org>

Here is a Little “Hearsay Story”

There is a little known “cemetery” in Bellport Village. It was probably established in the 1920's, and there are only two stones in it. They read:

Ahwah of Hydegree Roodles October 17, 1923	Grei Wee Tok April 23, 1928
Great God of Dogs Wilt thou not take her in	Great God of Dogs I pray thee let him in



So now you know that no humans are buried on the site, but Jean Coakley was told by her husband Father John Coakley who was told by, well we don't know who, that the graves belonged to Mrs. Birdsall Otis Edey's beloved Scottie dogs. Years ago, when the Edey family owned the large white home on the south side of South Country Road adjacent to Christ Episcopal Church, the graves were off in the woods. Today they are still visible, although nature has taken the liberty of piling up debris around the bases of the stones.

Now, can anyone add to this?

BELLPORT-BROOKHAVEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

31 Bellport Lane, Bellport, NY 11713

631-776-7640

www.bbhsmuseum.org

President: Jan Harting-McChesney
First Vice President: Victor Principe
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Newsletter: Ginny Waterman

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Iron Gates -- 100 Year Old Gift

Woodland Cemetery's beautiful iron gates facing Station Road (Bellport) were donated by Mrs. Huldah Shaw in memory of her husband and son sometime between 1903 and 1910. Edward R. Shaw died on February 11, 1903, and her son Ralph Hoover Shaw died January 2, 1899 at age 21. The epitaph on his stone reads “taken in the beauty and promise of youth.”



Take a few minutes to enjoy the beauty of these gates when you are passing by.