



**THE CRIER - DECEMBER 2021**  
**UNION LANDING HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**OF BRIELLE**

**VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1**

**DECEMBER 2021**

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COURTESY OF JENNIFER COLLINS

**John Edwards Belding (1927—2021)**  
**Union Landing Historical Society President**  
**Brielle Borough Historian**

## JOHN BELDING

### President Union Landing Historical Society of Brielle:

- 1983—1985
- 2000—2002
- 2006—2008
- 2012—2013

### Brielle Borough Historian:

- 1996—2018



**John Belding leading a tour of his beloved Osborn Family Burial Ground.**

**John led the restoration of this historic cemetery where Lieutenant Abraham Osborn, who served in the Revolutionary War, and his family are buried.**

I regretfully would like to inform the Brielle historical family that John Edwards Belding passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, surrounded by his family. John was born in in 1927 in Patterson, New Jersey. He graduated from Williams College, served in the U.S. Navy, and moved to his adopted hometown Brielle in 1967 with his wife, Elizabeth. (Cont'd on Next Page)

## JOHN BELDING (CONT'D)

There is no one in the history of the Union Landing Historical Society of Brielle (ULHS) that has meant more or given more to the Society than John. He joined the Historical Society shortly after it was formed in 1973. "I became President fairly quickly" he recalled in recounting how the volunteer group "rewarded me". He was President of ULHS on four separate occasions, the first time in 1983 and the last in 2013 for a total eleven terms. When not leading the ULHS, John stayed active with the Society by serving in various Officer roles and as a Director on our Board. Simply put, he was our leader.

In addition to his many contributions to ULHS, John also served as Brielle's Borough Historian for many years. In 1996, he succeeded the first Borough Historian, Carole "CAC" Clarke, who also was a founder of ULHS and its first President. John served as the Borough Historian until he retired in 2018. John also held positions with various committees in Brielle including the Shade Tree Commission and the Heritage Commission. He also served for many years as a member of the Preserve the Glimmer Glass Bridge Committee.

In addition to the foregoing, John spearheaded the restoration of the Osborn Family Burial Ground, a historic cemetery that contains the graves of both Revolutionary War and War of 1812 veterans. He also worked closely with former ULHS President Dave DuPre to plan and establish Brielle's 9/11 Memorial Park on Riverview Drive.

Beyond Brielle, John was a major presence in the Monmouth County historical community for many years. In recognition of this, in 2017 John was awarded the prestigious Jane G. Clayton Award. Named for a former county clerk who established the Monmouth County Archives, the award goes to an individual "who has made a major contribution to the preservation and knowledge of Monmouth County history". Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon said "John Belding is the epitome of a town historian...he is someone to be admired by all for his dedication to making the public aware of Monmouth County's wonderful history" as she made the award to John on Archives Day. John is also included in Ms. Hanlon's and Rick Geffkin's recent book, "To Preserve and Protect...Profiles of the People Who Recorded the History and Heritage of Monmouth County, New Jersey". John's profile was included in this prestigious publication that highlights the key Monmouth County historians who have worked to preserve the county's rich heritage over the years.

The above just scratches the surface of the many contributions that John has made to our community and the county over the years. In recognition of these many contributions, at Brielle's 2019 Centennial Celebration Brielle's Mayor "Tucker Nicol" proclaimed June 1, 2019 "John Belding Day" in Brielle. Mayor Nicol said "Borough Historian Belding did a fantastic job compiling so much information about the history of the borough over the years" as he announced the well-deserved proclamation.

Brielle's "Mr. History" will be sorely missed.....but never forgotten.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we entered 2021, there was the hope that the year would be a transition year from the bleak Covid ravaged 2020 and would lead to a more normal life during the second half of 2021 and onto 2022. Unfortunately, Covid had different plans. At mid-year, the Delta variant of the virus emerged and quickly spread through the US, putting a damper on our hoped-for plans for the second half of 2021. Now, late in 2021 the Omicron variant is unfortunately re-energizing this pandemic, impacting our plans for 2022. The Union Landing Historical Society (ULHS) Board decided not to hold any indoor general meetings or events during 2021, and will continue this posture until strong progress is made in getting the virus under control in the US.

However, the town decided to proceed with two outdoor events in late summer: Brielle Day and a 9/11 Memorial Ceremony as it was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this tragic event. The Board decided, since Brielle Day is held outdoors, that we would participate. So ULHS opened our booth on Brielle Day with our old-tyme soda, headlined by the soda classic, sarsaparilla. The Society also held our own annual 9/11 Memorial Ceremony at the 9/11 Memorial Park on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Both ULHS events were well attended.

Finally, the Board also decided, since we shut down the Society in early 2020, that the 2020 Board would remain intact and serve for 2021.

As we exit 2021, our hope is that we can resume normal activities sometime during the coming year, 2022. We will closely watch and follow the direction of our local and national civic and health authorities regarding when to resume the Society's normal activities. We will be in touch with you when that time comes.

Meanwhile, we hope everyone is well and had a safe 2021 and we look forward to 2022 with guarded expectations.

Jim Ham

President, Union Landing Historical Society of Brielle

Brielle Borough Historian



**UNION LANDING  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF  
BRIELLE**

**601 Union Lane  
Post Office Box 473  
Brielle, NJ 08730**

Phone: (978) 317-5252  
jgham111@gmail.com

**We're on the web  
WWW.ULHSBrielle.ORG**



**Officers & Directors**

**President:**

Jim Ham

**First Vice President:**

Mary Jane (MJ)  
Barretta

**Second Vice President:**

Virginia Loftin

**Secretary:**

Jackie Morgan-  
Stackhouse

**Treasurer:**

Curtis J. Porcello Sr.

**Directors:**

- Fred Rimmele
- Bridgette Markuson
- Ann Scott

**Editor of "The Crier":**

Jim Ham.

**HEAR YE...HEAR YE...ULHS HAS GONE SOCIAL...!!**

I have been working to keep all happenings of the ULHS updated and posted on our Facebook page and on our website (www.ULHSBrielle.org), along with pictures from our gatherings that have been held.

If you need to find out any info please check out our Facebook page (UNION LANDING HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BRIELLE) or go on our WEBSITE (www.ULHSBrielle.org)...

For those Facebook users...PLEASE click on our Facebook landing page...**LIKE US**...and **SHARE IT** with your Friends and Family!! The MORE the Merrier!!

**We have a new website address!**

**We have transferred all of our website content to our new domain name: **ULHSBrielle.org****

**'GREETINGS FROM BRIELLE'**

**MUGS FOR SALE!!!**

During the Centennial Celebration, the ULHS for the first time offered 'Greetings from Brielle' mugs for sale. The price is \$10 for a mug, three for \$25.



To buy a 'Greetings from Brielle' mug, please contact:

**Jim Ham @ 978-317-5252**

## 2021/2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ULHS activities will continue to be suspended until further notice,
- Hopefully, ULHS activities will be restarted by mid-year 2022; conditions permitting,
- ULHS will notify our members when our 2022 activities recommence.

## 2022 MEMBERSHIP

### *Time to Renew!*

Membership renewals for 2022 will be sent out in January. Individual memberships are still just \$15, and Family memberships are just \$35 - or you may provide even more support by becoming a sponsor for \$125, a corporate member for \$150, or a life member for \$300.

The Historical Society depends on its members and their support to continue providing all of our important and informative programs to the Brielle community, and to continue preserving its history. A membership application / renewal form is included on the last page of this issue of The Crier.

*"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."*

*Calvin Coolidge*

## The ULHS 2021 Board



### **From left to right:**

Secretary: Jackie Morgan-Stackhouse, Treasurer: Curtis J. Porcello, Sr.,  
1st Vice President: Mary Jane (MJ) Barretta, President: Jim Ham,  
Director: Ann Scott, 2nd Vice President: Virginia Loftin, Director:  
Bridgette Markuson, & retired Borough Historian/Past President: John  
Belding (Missing: Director Fred Rimmele)



# Union Landing Historical Society of Brielle

2021  
The Year in Review



## Brielle Day 2021

We had another very successful Brielle Day this year, after the event was cancelled last year due to the Covid virus. It was a fantastic sunny day (“It never rains on Brielle Day”!) for selling our Sarsaparilla and other vintage sodas, as well as our historic Brielle books and vintage pictures of Brielle. Ann Scott’s famous Crane House pumpkin bread, as always, was a tremendous success, selling out in record time this year by late morning.

We had a very good turnout and strong volunteer support at our booth. The Manasquan High School Key Club sent a dozen student volunteers throughout the day who were a tremendous help. I would like to extend a special thank you to Board member Curtis Porcello and his wife Theresa for their extensive efforts in coordinating everything for Brielle Day, to Virginia Loftin for arranging for the student volunteers and to Bob Kehoe who also helped at the booth all day.

The Historical Society would also like to thank retired Brielle Police Sergeant Jim Seidel for once again getting the ice for us, to the gentlemen from the Brielle Public Works for loaning us the large recycling buckets to hold the ice and soda, and for removing all the cardboard, recycling, and other waste throughout the day. It was a fun day for all the many people involved.

Brielle Day is the Historical Society’s largest fund raiser, and thanks to all involved, this year’s event was a tremendous success!



**Ann Scott selling her famous Crane House pumpkin bread**



# Brielle Day 2021

## Getting Ready





# Brielle Day 2021

## Ann Scott's Famous Pumpkin Bread & Mayor "Tucker" Nicol Stops By





# Brielle Day 2021 Pictures

## Tracy and Her Key Club Volunteers





# Brielle Day 2021

## Brielle Day Wraps Up & 9/11 Remembrance





## 9/11 Memorial Observation Pictures



**The borough's annual 9/11 Remembrance ceremony was led by ULHS President, Jim Ham, while Theresa Porcello read the necrology of the local 9/11 victims. The Brielle Fire Department #1 lowered the flag to half staff, the Boy Scouts Troop 63 placed a red rose in the 9/11 vase for each victim, Deacon Gary Pstrak led the invocation and benediction, while bugler Richard Schwarz concluded the ceremony by playing taps.**



## 9/11 Memorial Observation Pictures



**Pictures Courtesy of the Coast Star (Mark R. Sullivan)**



## 9/11 Memorial Observation Pictures



**Top Picture Courtesy of the Coast Star (Mark R. Sullivan)**



## 9/11 Memorial Observation Pictures



**Pictures Courtesy of the Coast Star (Mark R. Sullivan)**



## 9/11 Memorial Observation Pictures





## 9/11 Memorial Observation Pictures



**Top Picture Courtesy of the Coast Star (Mark R. Sullivan)**



**Brielle's 9/11 Memorial Park**





## Brielle's 9/11 Memorial Park

### Remembering the Victims

# GOD BLESS AMERICA

## REMEMBERING AREA VICTIMS OF THE SEPT. 11, 2001 ATTACKS

New Jersey's toll of residents reported among the missing or confirmed dead as a result of the 9/11 terrorist attacks has been set as approximately 700, of which 143 were residents of Monmouth County. Thirteen were residents of our local area.

### WORLD TRADE TOWERS

Edward A. Brennan, *Sea Girt*

John E. Connolly Jr., *Wall*

Brian T. Cummins, *Manasquan*

Paul Furfato (Son of Joseph & Margaret Furfato, Brother of Mark Furfato, *Brielle*)

Thomas F. Hughes Jr., *Spring Lake Heights*

Paul H. Keating, *Spring Lake Heights*

Christopher E. Lunder, *Wall*

Richard B. Madden (Son-in-Law of John P. & Elizabeth McIntyre, *Brielle*)

Charles W. Mathers, *Sea Girt*

James J. McAlary, *Spring Lake Heights*

James T. Murphy, *Spring Lake Heights*

Alfonse J. Niedermeyer III, *Wall*

Robert W. O'Shea, *Wall*

### UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 93

Donald A. Peterson, *Spring Lake*

Jean Hoadley Peterson, *Spring Lake*

### UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 175

Dr. Frederick C. Rimmele III (Son of Frederick & Marilyn Rimmele Jr., *Brielle*)

*O my God, in Thee I trust, let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.*  
Psalm 25:2



# Brielle's New Water Tower on Old Bridge Road

## Tomorrow's History Today!





# Brielle's New Water Tower on Old Bridge Road

## Tomorrow's History Today!



# Brielle's New Water Tower on Old Bridge Road

## Tomorrow's History Today!



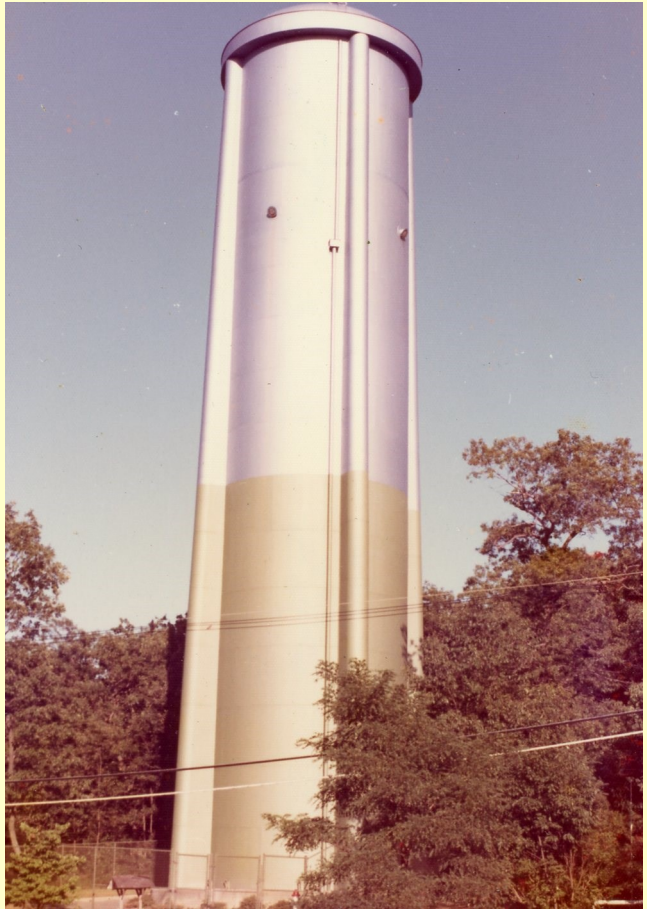


**Brielle's New Water Tower on Old Bridge Road  
Tomorrow's History Today!**



**Photos on Pages 22—25 by Sandra Levine and Greg Gomes.  
Use with permission of Kiely Builds.**

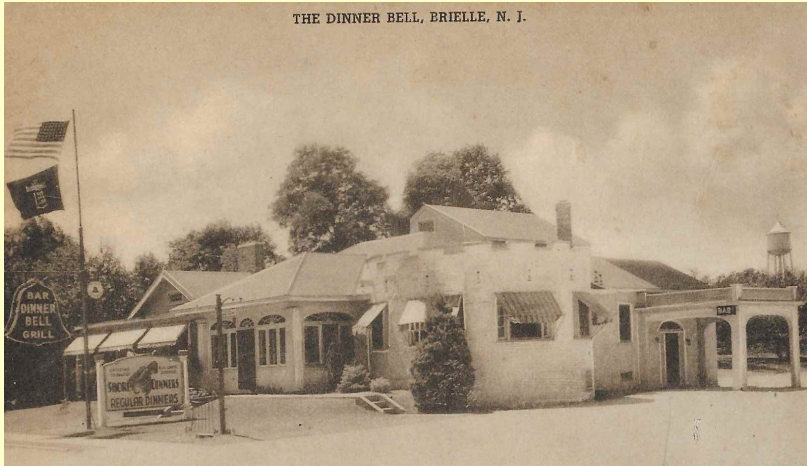
**Brielle's Old Water "Tower"  
on Old Bridge Road  
Tomorrow's History Today!**





## Now.....and Then

THE DINNER BELL, BRIELLE, N. J.



*The Dinner Bell  
Brielle, N. J.*



### THE DINNER BELL

Restaurant and Cocktail Lounge

Highway No. 71 Brielle, N. J.

A Famous Restaurant and Landmark for Fifty Years. Facilities for Banquets, Weddings and Dinner Dances. For Reservations, Phone CAstle 3-3816. Fully Air Conditioned - Open All Year. Closed Mondays except Holidays. Ownership - Management, Chester and Rita Bonafide.



**601 Union Avenue (Rt. 71) in Brielle has been the location of many restaurants over the years. For many years it was the Dinner Bell run by the Bonafide family, and later LT's, Charlie Browns, Brielle Brew Pub, and now Rella's Italian Tavern.**



**Special Research Project:**  
**704 Union Lane**  
**Homestead of Captain Shem Pearce**  
**Jim Ham, Brielle Borough Historian**



Brielle is blessed with almost 50 homes that were built in the 1800's. One of these older homes that stands out is 704 Union Lane, which was initially built sometime between 1830 and 1850, making it one of the older homes in town. It was the homestead of Captain Shem Bartley Pearce.

As with many of the early settlers in Brielle, Captain Pearce earned his livelihood on the seas as a ship captain. Following is his story and that of 704 Union Lane.



## **704 Union Lane**

### **Brief History of the Home**

As you drive up historic Union Lane from the Manasquan River, the road gently rises in front of you. Near the end of Union Lane, on the north side of the road, is one of the most historic homes in Brielle, 704 Union Lane....the former homestead of Captain Shem B. Pearce.

Union Lane was one of the earliest roads in Brielle. At one end of the street, at the Manasquan River, were the docks of Brielle. It was from here that many early residents of Brielle, who were ship captains, earned their living carrying the farm products and other goods from the surrounding area to markets along the east coast. From the docks, Union Lane led through the heart of old Brielle into the rich farmlands that stretched along the banks of the Manasquan River in Brielle.

According to the Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory, 704 Union Lane was built around 1830. It was reported that ship timbers were used in the construction of the house. By 1850 the home had already been expanded according to the Inventory Report. It is believed that two more additions were made to the home in the 1800's, one in 1860 and the second in 1887. A two-story wing was added to the home around 1945 and this wing was elevated and expanded around 2000.

Captain Shem and his wife Lydia Pearce bought 704 Union Lane in 1854. Following Lydia Pearce's death in 1910, the home was sold to August Voorhees in 1911. After being owned by several unknown families, the home's ownership passed through the following families: Beidlers, Dechenbachs (~1945), Hamptons, Kruger/Harrington, Di Nigris (1995), Stewarts (2005), and Scotts (2008).

Following is a page from the Monmouth County Inventory Report that focuses on 704 Union Lane and some historic pictures of 704 Union Lane as it changed over the years.

# 704 Union Lane

## Monmouth County Historic Home Inventory Report

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
 HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
 INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO. 1308-14

HISTORIC NAME: Capt. Shem Pearce House

COMMON NAME:

LOCATION: 704 Union Lane

BLOCK/LOT: 10 / 17

MUNICIPALITY: Brielle

COUNTY: Monmouth

USGS QUAD: Point Pleasant

OWNER/  
ADDRESS:

**DESCRIPTION**

Construction Date: c. 1830 with later additions

Source of Date: Stylistic, Ref. 1

Style: Vernacular

Architect:

Number of Stories: 2 plus raised basement

Builder:

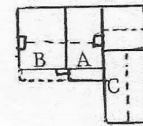
Foundation: Brick, concrete

Form/Plan Type:

Exterior Wall Fabric: Clapboard

Fenestration: Irregular

Roof/Chimneys: Multiple gables, 2 internal end chimneys

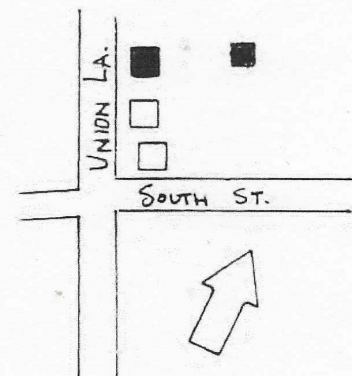


**Additional Architectural Description:**

This house was built in several sections. Sections A and B are the earliest; both probably date from before 1850, with Section A being the earlier of the two. A is a 2 bay, 1 1/2 story structure similar to the Longstreet House (1308-13) and the ell on 405 South St. (1308-11). It has been expanded by the enclosure of the porch in front of it. The roof on both sections A and B has wide eaves, probably a later alteration. Windows have 6/6 sash with the exception of the 2 light casements on the 2nd floor of Section A. Section B is a full two stories and 3 bays, and has been expanded on the second floor under the cross gable. The doorway is in Section B, and has a simple surround. The full front porch is supported by squared classical columns and is partially enclosed. A "Dutch" type door is in the basement. Ships' timbers were reportedly used in the construction of the house. Section C is a modern 2 story addition on a concrete foundation. **2000 Update:** Section C has been elevated and altered to look like section B (see photos on continuation sheets). A lean-to addition was connected to the rear of section C forming a saltbox roof.

PHOTO Negative File No. 1-16 to 19; 2000-5: 18 to 21

MAP (Indicate North)





**Captain Shem Pearce's Home & Barn**  
**Early Days....Before the Wing was Added**





**Captain Shem Pearce's Home  
After Addition of the Wing**





**Captain Shem Pearce's Home & Barn  
After Wing was Remodeled & Raised**





# Captain Shem Pearce's Home Today





**Captain Shem Pearce's Home**  
**"Pearce's Homestead Crowns Brielle Hill"**

*Pearce Homestead Crowns Brielle Hill*



The Pearce Homestead on Union Lane in Brielle.

**This picture and the accompanying article (next page) appeared in a local newspaper before the Wing was added**



## **Captain Shem Pearce's Home**

### **“Pearce's Homestead Crowns Brielle Hill”**

This might be called the house that “no one wanted to part with”.

Actually, it is the Pearce Homestead located on Union Lane in Brielle. It was built by a Civil War soldier, Shem B. Pearce, who raised his family of seven children here. While the builder followed the sea most of his life, except for his tour of military duty, he also worked the half dozen or more acres of the farm land that accompanies the property. With a family of his size (six of them boys), it is understandable why Mr. Pearce would need to raise all of his own food.

The reason the house could be dubbed “the one no one wanted to part with” was gleaned while collecting data about the building. Seven persons were consulted regarding the structure. Each of these, if they had lived in the dwelling or was directly related to someone who had been in residence, stated, “Wish we had that little house now” or “Regret that we didn't hold onto it”.

A visit to the charming little home would explain why. Situated on a gentle hill, framed by orchard trees that are backed by rolling fields, the home is a “dream cottage in the country”.

There are four small bedrooms with a bath on the second floor. A living room and dining room, both with fire places, occupy the first floor. The large old fashioned kitchen is in the cellar under the dining room. Since the cellar is almost completely above ground on the front side of the home, it is really a basement. With a paved area in front of the kitchen under the front porch, the room where the meals are prepared must be a cool retreat on even the hottest of summer days. The home is comfortably furnished with pieces in keeping with the style of the building.

When the dwelling was sold by the Pearce family in 1911, it was purchased by Augustus A. Voorhees whose family occupied it until the mid-1930's. Since then the home has changed ownership three times. It is now owned by Reverend Peter R. Deckenbach.

## 704 Union Lane

### The Pearce Family

As you drive up historic Union Lane from the Manasquan River, the road gently rises in front of you. Near the end of Union Lane, on the north side of the road, is one of the most historic homes in Brielle. The former home of Captain Shem B. Pearce.

Captain Pearce's family has a long and proud history in the area in and around Brielle. The family settled along the north banks of the Manasquan River in the days immediately preceding the Revolutionary War. Since then, the family has been among the most prominent families in the Brielle/Manasquan area. Family members have helped establish churches in the area, been mayors, helped found Brielle's fire department, been master boat craftsmen, won international speed boat races, served our country in times of war, including both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, to name just a few of the family's many accomplishments. Both towns have honored the Pearce's by having streets named after the family.

Captain Pearce is a descendant of the Pearce (Peirce or Perse) family that emigrated from England to New England and the area around Boston during the initial wave of settlers that came to America in the late 1620's and early 1630's. Daniel Pearce, who was born in 1611 in Ipswich, England, was the patriarch of the Pearce family that first arrived in America. The Pearce family remained around Boston and in nearby towns for their first four generations.

William Pearce, the great, great grandson of Daniel Pearce, arrived in Monmouth County by around 1755 and settled on the north side of the Manasquan River in a settlement now known as Manasquan. There were few settlers in the area at the time, so William opened a school for the education of the local children. Master Pearce made teaching his vocation along with farming. His home with his wife Lydia (Tilton) Curtis still stands at 29 South Street in Manasquan. Both William and his wife Lydia were Quakers and are both buried in the Quaker Cemetery in Manasquan. William was the great grandfather of Captain Shem Pearce.



## 704 Union Lane

### The Pearce Family (Cont'd)

The next two generations of the Pearce family, Asher Pearce and his son William Asher Pearce lived in and around Manasquan. Although Asher and his wife Mary (Ellison) were both of Quaker families and buried in the Quaker burying ground, Asher was active in the early days of establishing the Methodist church in Manasquan. William Asher Pearce was born in 1794 and married Meribah Chadwick in 1815. They had seven children that survived childhood, with Shem Pearce the second youngest of the children.

Captain Shem Bartley Pearce was born on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1821, in Manasquan and died on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1895, in Wall. He married Lydia Longstreet (1829 – 1910) on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1849. The Longstreet family members were among the earliest settlers in Brielle. Captain Pearce and his wife Lydia had eight children: Charles E. (1852 – 1936), John W. (1853 – 1938), Mary Amanda (1856 – 1947), Boudish (1858 – 1897), Franklin C. (1859 – 1930), Shem Bartley (1863 – 1938), and James Wellington (1868 – 1937).



**Captain Shem Pearce (far left) and his wife Lydia (3rd from left) with his son's family : S. Bartley Pearce (far right), his wife Eleanor (sitting 3rd from right), and their children. (Picture taken in 1894)**

## **704 Union Lane**

### **Captain Shem Bartley Pearce**

Shem Pearce was born in 1821 in Manasquan, the son of William Asher and Meribah (Chadwick) Pearce. He attended local schools and enrolled in the U.S. Army when he was 18 in 1839. He retired from the Army in 1845 and returned home where he found work on the ships sailing out of Union Landing (current day Brielle) on the Manasquan River. After returning home he met his wife, Lydia Longstreet, and they were married in 1849.

Shortly after they were married, Captain Shem and Lydia Pearce purchased 2 acres of land with a house on the corner of Union Lane and South Street in Brielle. This house, 704 Union Lane, was a small home with a kitchen in the basement, a first floor living area and a bedroom on the second floor. Ship's timbers were reportedly used in the construction of the home. The home was surrounded by fields that the family farmed during the growing season and an orchard with fruit trees.

Their first child, Charles, was born in 1852. As the Pearce's family grew to include eight children, they expanded their home twice to accommodate their growing family. In 1860, a small addition was made to the home and in 1887 the home was further expanded and modernized.

Shem Pearce was a ship's captain all his life, who sailed around Cape Horn at the tip of South America many times, particularly after the gold discoveries in California. He was also a master builder of boats: local schooners, beach skiffs and sloops. Several of his boat designs are detailed on the following page. Captain Pearce died in 1895 and his wife Lydia died 15 years later in 1910. The Pearce family sold 704 Union Lane to August A. Voorhees, from a well-known Brielle family, in 1911.



## Captain Shem Pearce's Ship Models

In addition to being the master and captain of many sailing ships during his lifetime. Captain Pearce was also a master boat craftsman. Following are several models of the boats that Captain Pearce designed and built.

60.. SHEM<sup>5</sup> B. PEARCE, son of William Asher Pearce [22] and wife Meribah Chadwick was born ca.1835, and married Lydia Longstreet. He is listed in the 1860 Census for Wall p. 465. He was a Civil War veteran, and a builder of local schooners, beach skiffs, and sloops. (*THE SEA BRIGHT SKIFF*, p. 130) Captain Shem Pearce was master of a sailing vessel all of his life, and who doubled Cape Horn many times, particularly after gold discoveries in California started a line of travel to the West Coast. This is probably the Shem Pearce whose will is recorded in 1895: #15858 M.W. 1895. His wife Lydia died at age of eighty- two years.



Pearce half models: 1. A shoal draft schooner of a type in general use in the shallow New Jersey inlets, probably by Shem B. Pearce about 1870. 2. Hull usually rigged as a sloop or catboat. The same model was later modified by hanging the rudder on the transom. (See photograph of hull under construction on the preceding page.) 3. Deadrise hull, formerly rigged as a sloop or catboat. It was later used for power boats. 4. Sneakbox. 5. Small sloop or catboat, similar to some built for members of the Manasquan Yacht Club. Courtesy of Mrs. H. H. Kroh.

## **A Tour of 704 Union Lane With Ann Scott**

**Theresa Porcello**

Ann Scott and her husband Richard purchased 704 Union Lane in May 2008. For them, it was love at first site, as Ann described:

“We had a little delay selling our other house, so buying this house got postponed. We had looked at it the previous fall or late summer, or something like that, and agreed to buy it almost immediately. We weren't looking to buy an old house that had stairs, but one day Tim Shaak, our realtor, called and he said, ‘You know that old farmhouse on Union Lane just went on the market. I know it's not what you're looking for, but I know you like old houses - would you like to take a look?’ That's all he said. I said sure. My husband I then drove over on our own. People were living here so we didn't go in it or anything, but we saw it, and then I looked up the driveway and I called Tim and said, ‘Yes - you just get a key’. So, we arranged to see the house with Tim, we came probably the next day, and after seeing it said, ‘Where do we sign?’. We were really feeling it was our house. I said to my husband, ‘You're the one that's having trouble with the stairs’. He had a problem breathing so stairs were hard and getting harder, but he was sold when he saw that barn, and said ‘We'll work it out’.

Ann then began the tour of her home by stating,

“I love being in the house. I feel a responsibility as sort of a caretaker of the old house, and yet I love the convenience of a new part, and that's where I live most of the time. I like when I walk into the dining room - I feel like I'm on a tour and I'm going through this house like it's a museum. I also sit in my chair and I do my hand work or my writing with the TV, phone, and all that sort of thing by me, but from where I sit, I have a view down the hall that's like a snapshot of history. You sit in the chair with your modern conveniences and see history and enjoy that at the same time, which is wonderful. I love the house, and I'm trying to take very good care of it.”



## **A Tour of 704 Union Lane With Ann Scott (Cont'd)**

**Theresa Porcello**

Ann is also well known to be a lover of nature, often seen working in her yard or her gardens. Ann commented that,

“Maybe a more human aspect of it is the joy of living in a house that is so open to the outdoors. I can watch the snow and the sun from almost any window. The birds love it here and I have a fishpond, and that's all part of my outside world – it means almost as much to me as the house. I like walking out the door and being part of the land. I love the barn - I like to look at it - it's beautiful.”

Ann's love of the house was evident throughout the tour. She spoke of her husband and family as we walked through the home, and I could feel the love throughout each of the rooms as Ann spoke fondly of her memories of her family and the times they spent there. I could also feel a sense of pride and happiness in her life, centered around her beautiful, historic home. It was heart-warming.

**A Tour of 704 Union Lane with Ann Scott  
Pictures of the Original Sections (T. Porcello)**



**Front Door**



**Original Cellar Door**



**Cellar Door**



**Cellar Kitchen Stove**



**A Tour of 704 Union Lane with Ann Scott  
Pictures of the Original Sections (T. Porcello)**



**Hallway**



**Main Hearth Room**



**Upstairs Bedroom**



**Upstairs Bedroom**

**A Tour of 704 Union Lane with Ann Scott  
Pictures of New Additions (T. Porcello)**



**Current Front Door**



**First Addition**



**Final Addition:  
Main Living Area**



**Final Addition:  
Upstairs Bedroom**



*Happy  
Holidays*

The image features the words "Happy Holidays" written in a highly decorative, cursive calligraphic font. The text is rendered in a dark red color with a subtle white shadow effect behind it. The word "Happy" is positioned above "Holidays". The letter "H" in "Happy" is particularly large and ornate, with a holly leaf and three red berries tucked into its upper loop. Similarly, the word "Holidays" ends with a holly leaf and three red berries. The entire composition is set against a white background, which is itself framed by a light green border. The overall style is elegant and festive.



**Union Landing Historical Society of Brielle**

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***Thank You!!!***