



# UNION LANDING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 2013.1

February-2013

## President's Column

Our December presentation by Paul Hammelberg on "Old Tin Toys" was entertaining and educational. A crowd of about 3 dozen members and residents attended. Paul, a Brielle resident, is nationally recognized for his expertise, understanding and knowledge concerning toys of this genre.

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**WINTER & SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Sunday, March 17 @ 2 PM	Bill Schroeder - @ Curtis House Topic 1905 Racing Boats Bart Pearce Boat Works
Saturday, April 13 @ 2 - 4PM	ULHS ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW \$5. FEE PER APPRAISED ITEM
Sunday, May 26 @ 2 PM	Decoration Day @ Osborn Graveyard

## Election of Officers & Directors

The Annual Meeting was held Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. The Nominating Committee, comprised of Eve Hershkowitz, Chair, Julie Lembo & Ann Scott, proposed the following Slate of Officers for 2013:

President	John Belding
1st Vice President	Gordon Reinauer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Ann Scott
Secretary	Bridgette Markuson
Director	James Langenberger

All terms are 1-year, except for the 3-year Director's term of office. There were no nominations from the floor. The Secretary cast a single ballot, electing the Slate proposed. Rich Dunne, former Mayor of Manasquan [and President of the Squan Village Historical Society] installed the newly elected officers, charging them with dedication to their responsibilities.

## Committee Chair & Trustee Appointments

After the Election, President Belding appointed the following Committee Chairs & Trustees:

Finance & Budget	Ron Solotruk
Hospitality	Gail Herbert & Marge Langenberger
Membership	Eve Hershkowitz
Programs	1 <sup>st</sup> VP, Gordon Reinauer
Special Events	2 <sup>nd</sup> VP, Ann Scott
Displays & Presentations	John Pierciey

President John Belding & Dave DuPre will remain Project Managers for the Osborn Graveyard & 9/11 Memorial Site, respectively. Appointed to 3-year terms as Trustees were

Osborn Graveyard	Michael Murphy
9/11 Memorial Site	Gary Pstrak

## Bylaws

The Bylaws Committee, including Eve Hershkowitz, Chair, President Belding, Gail Herbert, Bridgette Markuson, and Gordon Reinauer, met thru September & October, rewriting the existing Bylaws .. which were 27 years old. Copies were

distributed at the November luncheon & December meeting, then mailed to all other paid members-in-good standing mid-December. At the Annual Meeting, Chairwoman Hershkowitz fielded questions & feedback from members. All recommended changes but one, were approved. The last one regarding the rate for Corporate Sponsorship was sent to the Membership Committee for further review. The Official 2013 Bylaws, rev. 0, were e-mailed & snail-mailed to members, within a week of their approval.

## Membership Dues - Important

While many ULHS members are paid up for 2013, some are not. If you look at your mailing label, you'll see a "face" on it. If it's a "smiley" ☺ .. your dues are paid, but if it's a "frowny" ☹ .. we haven't received your dues yet!!

## Historic Captain James Henry Green House

Membership was informed that this historic house on the river was demolished. Captain Green had purchased the property on February 7, 1835 as noted in Deed Book H3, page 363. The owners of Hoffman Marina West intend to upgrade their marina property and felt the building was not a structure worthy of upgrade. Captain Green had established a boarding house here at this home, in approximately 1850. It continued to serve as a summer hotel for years through various owners. Deterioration began in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Apartments were created, but the tenants weren't considered appropriate for the marina's economics. Following demolition, President Belding took photos of the stone foundation, of the original house section. This foundation consisted of bog iron stone, plus some brick work. An original ancient brick has been salvaged for our archives. No gold coins or other valuables have as yet been located.

PLEASE SEE OTHER SIDE



## Storms of the Centuries

by Dr. Jean C. Wilson

The headline read: "HOUSES COLLAPSE AS STORM RAGES - Every Shore Town Suffers Heavy Loss, Which Grows with This Morning's Tide..." A news article about Hurricane Sandy? No, this headline is from a front-page article published in the New York Times of 4 January 1914, the year that would see the beginning of World War I. The multi-day storm of early January 1914 ravaged the coasts of New Jersey and New York and bears an eerie similarity to the dreadful Sandy of Fall 2012. The 1914 article begins: "The big waves which had piled up along the New Jersey and Long Island coasts in the twenty-four hours up to midnight last night washed scores of buildings off their foundations, tumbled them along beaches, and sucked the wreckage into the ocean."

"The furious seas which ate at the coastline all day yesterday, crumbling thousands of acres of firm land into sand and hurrying it seaward, left hundreds of buildings tottering, so that all along the coast it was feared that the destruction done so far would be small compared to the havoc likely to be worked at high tide this morning." Gale-force winds were determined to have ranged from 40 to 90 mph. The destruction will sound all too familiar. At Sea Bright, fishermen's houses "were shaken from their foundations again and shattered into kindling by the big waves." The "wind-lashed waves destroyed a section of the boardwalk at Spring Lake... At Sea Girt no hope is entertained for the preservation of the historic old Beach House, the principal hotel of the place... At Manasquan a row of fifty bungalows is already partly inundated and the owners believe that the rising tide will sweep them from their foundations before daylight... The boardwalk at Point Pleasant was swept away early last night and several cottages have been undermined..."

Brielle would not escape the ravages of this storm: "At Brielle the Manasquan River is rapidly rising and is already threatening the cottages and hotels. In addition it has flooded the tracks and roadbed of the New York & Long Branch Railroad and is within a few feet of the arch of the big steel wagon bridge which connects Ocean and Monmouth Counties... the only passable bridge within six miles of the coast." In a second article in the New York Times on the following day (5 Jan. 1914), it was noted that at Brielle, "a force of men worked all night to save the boat-building establishment of S. Bartley Pearch [sic], known in the motor boating world as the skipper of the famous Dixies [JCW: this is, of course, S. Bartley Pearce]. The tide on this river is the highest on record. A span of 150 feet of the trestle of the New York & Long Branch Railroad was carried out, and a gang of fifty men was employed last night in an effort to save the rest of the threatened trestle." John Belding has recently noted in this newsletter (May 2012) that this second railroad bridge, which had replaced the previous wooden one of 1881, had only been in operation since June 1912.

Devastating coastal storms are a part of our community's history, both distant past and very recent. We sincerely hope that those individuals who suffered as a result of Hurricane Sandy might take some solace from these events of 1914: as we know, properties were gradually rebuilt, new trees planted, and the community was to go on. Best wishes to all who are currently rebuilding for themselves and the generations to come.

(All quotations in this article are taken from the Pro-Quest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times (1851-2008): 4 January 1914 and 5 January 1914.

### REVOLUTIONARY FLAGS FOR SALE @\$20.00 EACH

- Grand Union, Rev. War (3' X 5') red-white-blue printed-nylon
- Don't Tread On Me, Rev. War (3' X 5') yellow-green printed-nylon
- Star Spangled Banner, War 1812 (3' X 5') red-white-blue printed nylon
- Gadsden, .Rev. War (3' X 5') red-white- green tree printed nylon
- Grand Union, Rev. War (3' X 5') stitched stripes nylon \$25.
- Green Mt. Boys, Rev. War (3' X 5') green -blue printed design nylon

#### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President	John Belding
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Gordon Reinauer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Ann Scott
Secretary	Bridgette Markuson
Treasurer	Eve Hershkowitz
Director	Janice Wurfel
Director	Joseph Entwistle
Director	Jim Langenberger

<b>Osborn Graveyard</b>	John Belding
Trustee	Betty Anderson
Trustee	Oliver Reynolds
Trustee	Michael Murphy

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audit	Ron Solotrukk
Bylaws (2012/13)	Eve Hershkowitz
Finance & Budget	Ron Solotruk
Hospitality	Gail Herbert & Marge Langenberger
Membership	Eve Hershkowitz
Programs	Gordon Reinauer
Special Events	Ann Scott
Displays & Presentations	Francis John Pierciey
Newsletter	VACANT
<b>9/11 Memorial Site</b>	Dave DuPre
Trustee	Richard Holmquist
Trustee	Fred Rimmele
Trustee	Gary Pstrak



One might reasonably claim that our nation today is in a period of decline due to ever-encroaching government involvement in our lives. A symptom of this profound crisis is ever waning active membership in volunteer organizations that were once keys to our previous success as a people. There are those who aver our civil society is facing a political and cultural decay. We at ULHS continue to believe supportive and cultural groups such as ours are now of even greater importance for our civic wellbeing. We constantly opine on the desirability to attract new/younger members, but to whom do we look to affiliate with us? Should we concentrate on any particular segment of our citizenry? Some say well maybe not Generation Y, the Millennials, who after all live in their present-tense world in which nothing much matters, that happened before they were 12. Others would avoid soliciting membership from Generation X or GENX folks who it is said seem to give the impression that what occurred, say World War II or prior, predates the dawn of their cultural consciousness and which events are not worthy of consideration or study. Still others would avoid the Boomers who they say seem to give the appearance of perhaps a state of solipsism, which suggests that we should really actually focus on them who have already been focused on ad nauseum, ad absurdum ad infinitum. However can we not proclaim our activities must be planned to attract adherents from all friends and neighbors, those who share life with us in our town, regardless of age. We of the old guard do continue to carry on but should ask ourselves what can we do that may appeal to all strata of contemporary society. In that regard, what should we do and who will do it? We do need to convince our fellow citizens of any age on the desirability and urgency even now to actively affiliate with and be a factor in the ULHS, assisting us to become increasingly relevant for these days.

August 11– Membership planning meeting @ 2:00pm  
 September 2 – 9/11 Ceremony @ 10:30 am  
 September 7 –Brielle Day, sarsaparilla sales  
 October 12 – Archives Day, Mon Co Library 9:00-3:00  
 November –Harvest Home luncheon date/place TBA  
 December – Schroeder Mausoleum tour date TBA

Newsletter Q & A

**Q** Is it true that one of the first “parkways” in New Jersey led directly to Brielle and if so when did that happen?

**A** That is a true statement and evidence of that can still be observed. The “parkway” began at the Shark River and ran in an almost straight line from the Shark River to what was once the Brielle Circle. [At the circle, the road took a sharp left turn and led to Bridge Avenue Brielle, then over the river.] Today this is a portion of Route 35. It was completed in 1932 and designed to be a pleasant summer evening ride through the countryside, mostly farms and pine woods. To enhance the “parkway” aspect, there were alternately planted on both sides of the road an oak tree then a long needle pine. In the early 30’s it presented a pleasing appearance. Traffic was minimal. If one looks carefully, some of these original trees can still be noticed now rather old and gnarled. An example can be found in front of the Campbell Carpet store. Most have been removed/destroyed.

John Belding

Current Treasure’s Report has been submitted on 6/30/13 and is on file.

Historical Osborn Graveyard

You may remember the deplorable condition into which the Osborn Family Burial Ground had descended particularly during the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Yet on occasion someone might inquire by what authority did the Union Landing Historical Society enter on to “private land” and preserve that site. We accepted the authorization to do so from Chapter 294, Laws of 1983, Sections C.40:10b-1 through C.40a 4-45, 18. This law, “Historic Cemeteries Act” noted that “many ... historic cemeteries ... have fallen into disrepair, disorder and decay. The Legislature, therefore, declares that it is altogether fitting and proper, and in the public interest, to enable local governmental units to assist in the restoration, maintenance and preservation of such cemeteries”. Upon request, the Borough of Brielle promptly and graciously offered “to assist in the restoration ....” and the project thus commenced under ULHS leadership. Incidentally, check out our newly painted fence.

John Belding





The Union Landing Historical Society hosted the Brielle Borough Sixth Annual Flag Day ceremony on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at the 9/11 Site, Riverview Drive in Brielle. Many residents of the Borough joined with us in this patriotic commemoration. The program began at 7:00 PM with a Pledge of Allegiance to our flag lead by the Boy Scouts of Troop 63 and Cub Pack 63. Two members of Manasquan Post 1838 Veterans of Foreign Wars explained the proper way to dispose of torn and worn out American flags. The Post accepted from the Society, for appropriate handling, a considerable number of these damaged flags which had been accumulated at Borough Hall. A number of Revolutionary War era flags were displayed by the boy scouts including a rare "76" flag courtesy of the Manasquan Elks Club. Each participant at the gathering received copy of a printout displaying a number of early flags from the Revolutionary War era with accompanying appropriate description.

2013 OFFICERS	
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First Vice President	Gordon Reinauer
Second Vice President	Ann Scott
Secretary	Bridgette Markuson
Treasurer	Eve Hershkowitz
Director	Jim Langenberger
Director	Janice Wurfel



9/11 Site Enhancement

Further site improvement and expansion will commence in July when Eagle Scout candidate Patrick Padgett, Troop 63 Brielle, begins his project. Such community improvement projects are required of Eagle Scout candidates as part of the requirements for that coveted badge. Patrick has outlined a plan to erect a large bell previously purchased by Dave DuPre. At the annual memorial service, the bell will be tolled as the name of each 9/11 victim is read and as a Boy Scout lays a rose at the base of the necrology stanchion. This bell will be suspended by a tower erected by Patrick. He will also provide suitable landscaping about this tower including brick edging. He also plans to provide a circular brick edging around the flag pole. Shrubs will also be placed in appropriate areas in this general vicinity. Upon satisfactorily completing this project, he will be awarded the rank of Eagle at a Court of Honor. Members and residents are invited to observe the progress of this project. Written by Dave DuPre, Trustee, 9/11 Site

- December - Schroeder Mausoleum tour date TBA
- November - Harvest Home Luncheon date/place TBA
- October 12 - Archives Day, Mon Co Library 9:00-3:00
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