



Union Landing Historical Society

Quarterly Newsletter
Volume 1 Issue 2
Available at Brielle Borough Hall,
the Curtis House and Mailed to U.L.H.S.
members each January/April/July/October

April 1st, 2007

www.briellehistory.org

Editor: Suzanne J. Shea

From the Holmquist Files...

By Natalie R. Holmquist

The telegraph was patented in 1837 by Samuel F.B. Morse. The railroad was operating in this area before the telegraph arrived here. The railroad right of way was an obvious place for the telegraph lines to be placed. The telegraph office was located in the railroad station, and the railroad agent was usually the telegraph operator. The local telegraph office was in the Manasquan station. This office handled telegrams for Manasquan, Union Landing (Brielle) and Point Pleasant. Before the telephone arrived, the agent sent messengers to deliver the telegrams. They traveled by horseback, wagon or boat on their appointed rounds in all kinds of weather. The messenger who had to deliver to Point Pleasant either had to go to Union Landing and get a boat to row across the river, or go all the way up to the bridge at what is now Route 70. It must have been a relief to him when the railroad bridge crossed the river from Union Landing to Point Pleasant in 1880 and the road bridge at what is now Route 35 was built at approximately the same time.

Helen Holmquist, author of The Brielle Story and mother of Richard Holmquist, had a great interest in local history, which inspired her daughter-in-law, Natalie Holmquist, to start collecting newspaper clippings, articles and notations from various sources about the early days in this vicinity.



March 14th, 2007-Gas Light Installed at the Historic Osborn Family Graveyard, Holly Hill Drive, Brielle, New Jersey. Drive by at night and take a look! Also see it when you join us at our Second Annual Decoration Day Ceremony on May 27th, 2007 at 2pm. Participants needed contact Mr. Belding.

*Thanks to this issue's contributors:
John Belding, Raymond Shea, David DuPre
Natalie Holmquist and Debbie Palmer*

U.L.H.S Standing Committee Updates:

Historical Osborn Graveyard

By John Belding, Project Coordinator

You were aware that our Society has been working with New Jersey Natural Gas Co. with the goal of installing a period gaslight by the gate of the Osborn Family Burial Ground. We're pleased to report to the Membership that this has been accomplished. NJNG put in a gas line and meter for us at no charge. Dickson Supply furnished the gaslight on a post and on March 15th, the Department of Public Works installed this attractive light, which had been chosen by us. To help defray whatever expenses may occur, Mayor Nicol allotted ULHS \$2,000 of Brielle Day surplus funds. This kind of money will pay for the gas over an extended period. It is now lighted and will provide an "eternal" light. It provides a further sense of presence to this historic burial ground as well as adding a bit of security. It also gives light to the podium at the entrance for possible early evening visitation. Drive by some evening and take a look. In addition you will note the Department of Public Works has cut back a good deal of undergrowth and brambles at the lower end of the property outside the fence, providing a better view of the graveyard. This also gives our newly planted Japanese maple room to expand and grow. The blue historic site signpost is in need of a fresh coat of paint. The DPW will handle this. The President has requested a deeper shade of blue.

9-11 Memorial Garden

By E. David DuPre, Project Coordinator

The Union Landing Historical Society's 9/11 site on Riverview Drive has suffered some damage during the winter months from vandalism and the weather.

In the center of the site the lawn has been ruined due to the use of the site as a ball field by local youngsters. We will have to consult with the Department of Public Works to determine what can be done to restore the lawn and to prevent further vandalism.

The necrology list which is posted at the site has been completely eroded due to seepage of rain and subsequent freezing. We have postponed restoration until the spring. At this time we will be consulting with Ahern Copy Center for their thoughts on restoration. It has been called to our attention that there is also an error regarding the Flight Designation for Dr. Rimmele's listing, and this will be corrected when the new plaque is made.

History Book Committee

By Raymond F. Shea, Chairman

The book committee is currently putting all its efforts into working on our addition to the Arcadia Publishing "Images of America" series, tentatively titled "Brielle - Sportfishing Capital of the World". Our target date for initial sale of the book is Brielle Day 2007. That is a tight schedule and the publisher has given us a deadline of May 15, 2007 for submission of all images and text materials. We are still seeking loans or donations of any type of visual material pertaining to sportfishing, commercial fishing and diving in or out of Brielle for possible inclusion in the volume. We are especially short of materials covering the time period from the mid 1960's through the 1990's. Please contact me by phone at 732-528-1079 or by e-mail at rfshea@briellehistory.org if you have any materials to offer. Any materials loaned to the society will be scanned here in Brielle and returned promptly to the original owners.

We are also in need of volunteers to help bring this project to fruition - the committee meets on Tuesday mornings at Borough Hall at 10 am. Help with organizing images into chapters and writing captions is especially needed at this time. Please join us.

Union Landing Historical Society
P.O. Box 473, Brielle, NJ 08730

U.L.H.S. LAST MEETING/EVENT

Amazing March meeting!! We hosted Richie Kohler, one of the famous deep-sea divers, who discovered a German U-boat off our waters. Before a crowd of about 150 people, Kohler talked about the perils and passions of the expedition. Many came with their copies of the book, "Shadow Divers" by Robert Kursen, which details his historical underwater discovery. The book reportedly will be the basis for a motion picture production soon. Submitted by Debbie Palmer

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT EVENT

UNION LANDING HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S
EIGHTH ANNUAL
ANTIQUES...COLLECTIBLES...TREASURES
ROAD SHOW
Donation: \$5 per item
Bring seven items and enjoy a ride in a 1931 Model A Ford Roadster with rumble seat!
SATURDAY, APRIL 21st, 2007
2:00 to 4:00 pm
CURTIS HOUSE
644 UNION LANE, BRIELLE, NJ

U.L.H.S. 2007 CALENDAR

**All are welcome! ULHS' Standing Book Committee Meeting Tuesdays 10am - Borough Historian's Office
January 9th, 2007 - Nominations for new officers
February 11th, 2007 - 2 pm Curtis House - First meeting of the year includes installation of new officers and trustees. Organizational meeting.
March 18th, 2007 - General meeting - presentation by Richie Kohler of Shadow Divers.
April 21st, 2007 - ULHS Annual Antique Road Show - bring your items and our experts will tell you how much they are worth! \$5/item donation.
May 20th, 2007 - General meeting - presentation by Charles Bello on the Brielle Archeological dig.
May 27th, 2007 - Second Annual Decoration Day Event at the Historic Osborn Graveyard, 2pm
June, July and August - special outings to local historical sites as announced.
August 19th, 2007 - Curtis House general meeting - preparation meeting for Brielle Day.
September 8th, 2007 - Brielle Day - Annual Sarsaparilla Sale! Also available: historic photos, note cards, stationery and more!
October 21st, 2007 - General Membership Meeting and Harvest Home Dinner covered dish social.
November 14th, 2007 - Joint meeting with the Squan Village Historical Society at the Bailey- Reed House.

Your History Question Answered

By John Belding, Borough Historian

What is the capacity and height of the water tower at the DPW yard?

Give up? The capacity is 35,000 gallons and the tower height is 125 feet. This tank and tower were installed in 1936. The ordinance to install a water system had been passed in September 1927, following which water mains were laid. Up until 1936, we purchased water from Marasquan via a metered connection on South Street.

Read The Borough Historian's "It Was Only Yesterday" collection of historical vignettes: <http://www.briellehistory.org/archive.htm>

Have your question answered! E-mail to info@briellehistory.org and watch for your answer in an upcoming U.L.H.S. Newsletter!



Renew Your Membership or Join the Union Landing Historical Society



Yes! I would like to assist the Union Landing Historical Society, Inc., a non-profit educational corporation, with its programs and events by becoming a member. Enclosed is my check to the Union Landing Historical Society, Inc. for \$ _____. Your contribution is tax deductible. Membership includes the ULHS quarterly newsletter.

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| Annual Memberships | NAME _____ |
| Student.....\$7.00 | ADDRESS _____ |
| Individual.....\$10.00 | CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ |
| Family.....\$35.00 | PHONE _____ |
| Sponsor.....\$100.00 | E-MAIL _____ |
| Corporate.....\$300.00 | |
| Life Membership.....\$500.00 | |
| | Mail along with your check to: Union Landing Historical Society, Inc. P.O. Box 473 Brielle, NJ 08730 |

Thank You!