



Union Landing Historical Society

Quarterly Newsletter
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the Curtis House and mailed to U.L.H.S.
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www.briellehistory.org

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BRIELLE SALTWORKS TO SUBURB
UNION LANDING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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BRIELLE
NEW JERSEY
SALTWORKS TO SUBURB



The society's latest book, *Brielle - Saltworks to Suburb* has gone to press and pre-sales are underway. Orders placed now through September 11 will be available for pickup at the Curtis House on Brielle Day, September 12, 2009. We will have both of our recent publications available for sale - have yours personalized and autographed that day! The book retails for \$21.99 and *all profits from books purchased directly from the society benefit the society's projects and programs. Please purchase directly from the Union Landing Historical Society - thanks!* Pre-order yours today or stop in at the Curtis House Brielle Day. As our thank you for your support - *all pre-order purchases will include a free limited edition tote bag!*

Brielle - Saltworks to Suburb includes over 80 photographs, many of which have never been published before. This comprehensive history of Brielle from the time of the Lenape Indians to the present day is a compelling read. It is full of interesting facts and tidbits of information from long time residents. Learn about this area's involvement in the Revolutionary War, local sea captains, the foundation of the town and its structure, famous people who visited here and even an unsolved murder! This year's ULHS museum exhibit at the Curtis House on Brielle Day will include all new photographs and artifacts that are featured in the new book.

In honor of our publication, two weeks following our Brielle Day release, the society will be celebrating with a dinner at the historic Manasquan River Golf Club. This event held on Friday, September 25, 2009 will replace this year's Harvest Home Supper. Your invitation is enclosed with this quarter's newsletter mailing. Please respond by September 15th. We look forward to seeing you on Brielle Day when you pick up your book and at the Golf Club after you read it!

From the Holmquist Files...

by Natalie R. Holmquist

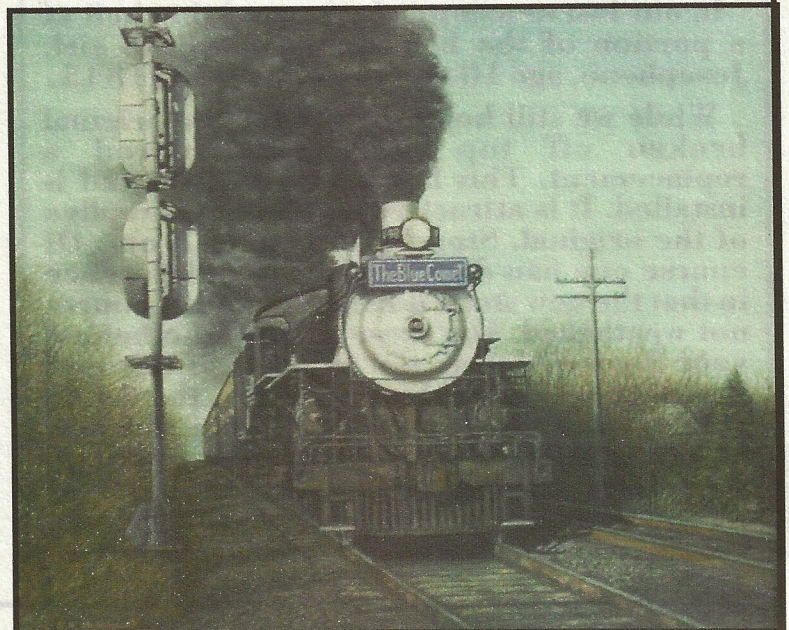
In December 1975, in honor of the 1976 United States Bicentennial celebration, the Blue Comet Nostalgia Special ran from Raritan to Bay Head and back.

The locomotive, Pacific 148, had been in service on the Florida East Coast Railway. The coaches were a matched set of Jersey Central standard open window coaches. The only part of the Special that had been used on the Blue Comet was the observation car, No. 1178, named "De Vico," which later served as a New Jersey Transit track inspection car, and was the last operating survivor of the famous Blue Comet.

The Nostalgia Special, carrying various dignitaries, drew crowds of people, who lined the track to see the first steam locomotive to go down the line in many years.

Due to space limitations, in our last newsletter "Brielle's Mystery Train", we omitted the photo caption. It read "Blue Comet engine No. 832 is pulling train 3313 southbound into Long Branch station on a Jersey City-Bay Head run." This proves that the Blue Comet engine did come though Brielle.

This newsletter's photo shows the Blue Comet Nostalgia Special approaching the Green Avenue, Brielle crossing. This oil painting was done by Society member and local artist, Richard Holmquist. You will be able to view more of Mr. Holmquist's works in the Curtis House Brielle Museum at Brielle Day 2009. His works can also be seen on his website, <http://www.holmquistart.com>



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.

Union Landing Historical Society
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YOUR HISTORY QUESTION ANSWERED!

Your History Question Answered Have your question answered! E-mail to info@briellehistory.org and watch for your answer in an upcoming U.L.H.S. Newsletter!
by John Belding, Borough Historian

Q: Now that the Society has restored the Osborn Family Burial Ground and has established the 9/11 site and further has authored two books adding further insight concerning the history of Brielle, what will be the next endeavor?

A: We are now set to embark on an oral history project to capture on tape the recollections of folks who for many years currently or previously resided or worked in Brielle. The first interview was on Wednesday, July 8th with Catherine Shirley, the wife of Captain Howard Arthur Shirley, Sr. She is now in her 90s and resides in Toms River. We will attempt to interview as many "old timers" as possible to learn of the "old days" here in Brielle. Can you suggest someone with whom we might wish to speak? (You may have wondered about the status of the video project we began four years ago – Bob Hartman remains extremely ill and has not completed the editing. It continues to be a "work in progress".)

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

U.L.H.S. CALENDAR

August 31, 2009 - 7:30 pm in the Borough Historian's office, Borough Hall - *Brielle Day Planning*, helpers and sarsaparilla sellers needed! Please call if you can not attend and can assist - 732.528.6600 x 117 (DATE CHANGE)

September 5th 2009 - 9-11 Memorial Observance, 9-11 Memorial Garden, Riverview Drive, 10am (UPDATED)

September 9th, 2009 - Squan Village Historical Society's Annual Dinner Picnic in their 1813 Barn! Bring a food item, 6pm. Reservations required, respond to Mrs. Reynolds at 732.223.6770

September 12th, 2009 - Brielle Day, annual sarsaparilla sale, visit the Brielle Museum in the Curtis House & pick up your pre-ordered book (includes free gift!), add'l book sales, author signing

September 25th, 2009 - Book Release Dinner Celebration, 6pm at the Manasquan River Golf Club, \$30 per person, invitation enclosed (NEW EVENT!)

October 10th, 2009 - Archives/History Day at 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan 10 am - 3 pm. Free & open to all. Plan on attending!

NOTE: Harvest Home Dinner previously scheduled will be replaced this year by the Sept 25 Book Release Celebration
November 22, 2009 - Special Program, to be announced

Historical Osborn Graveyard

By John E. Belding, Project Coordinator

In our last newsletter I reported the theft of a portion of the headstone of a little girl, Josephene, age 10 months who died in 1845.

While we still hope to recover the original broken off top part, we ordered a replacement. This has been received and is installed. It is attractive and an exact replica of the original. Stop by and check it out. Of course one can discern there is a difference in that the new stone is fresh cut and of course not weathered. For those of you who helped your Society defray the expense of this new stone, please accept our sincere thanks. A child's headstone on either side of this new stone has suffered damage over the years and a piece is missing from each. Perhaps we might consider replacing these two headstones as well if the Members so desire.

9-11 Memorial Garden

By E. David DuPre, Project Coordinator

The sixth observance of the 9/11 attack will be held this year on Saturday, September 5th at the South Monmouth 9/11 Memorial Site on Riverview Drive at Birch Drive. The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 10 am. The family of Brian Cummins of Manasquan has been invited to honor his memory with the presentation of a family floral-piece during the ceremony. Brian was the youngest son of Martin and Maureen Cummins of Manasquan. Other participants will include members of the Fire Company, the First Aid Squad, Boy Scout Troop 63, the Union Landing Historical Society, Mayor and Council Members. Family members and friends of the victims are also expected to attend. It is suggested that those attending bring their own lawn chairs. The length of the ceremony is not expected to exceed twenty-five minutes.