



Union Landing Historical Society

Quarterly Newsletter
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Available at Brielle Borough Hall,
the Curtis House and mailed to U.L.H.S.
members each Feb/May/Aug/Nov

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www.briellehistory.org

Editor: Suzanne J. Shea

When ULHS plans a Mystery History Tour - don't miss it! On March 18 a group of about 20 members took a private tour of the Harms' home on Linden Lane and one of Brielle's last large estates along the Manasquan River. We most sincerely thank the Harms Family for opening their incredible trophy room to the society to explore. It was also quite a treat to see Mr. Harms' grandfather's original plumbing truck which has been restored to its glory. We thank the Wessons and Mr. Van Sciver for allowing us to spend the afternoon touring the home and gardens of Lamport Hall, one of Brielle's historic homes, located at 836 Riverview Drive.

Our tour guide for the afternoon at Lamport Hall was Peter Van Sciver of Van Sciver Realtors (www.luxuryshorehomes.com). This six bedroom manor house, currently being marketed by Peter, has a long and storied history in Brielle. The estate's property, located on the eastern side of the Manasquan River Golf Club, was originally the site of the famed "Tippecanoe-on-Manasquan", more popularly known as 'the log cabin house'. When Edwin Isham and his associate Mr. Devoll purchased the property in the early 1900's, the log cabin house was moved across Riverview Drive to make way for their luxury estate. Both men were successful opera singers and producers and were also known for developing the first residential apartment buildings in New York City. The buildings they developed beginning at 27 West 67th Street were among the first such dwellings that bridged the gap between the luxury mansions along Fifth Avenue and the cold-water tenements in poorer sections of the city.

Isham's place in Brielle history was cemented as being one of the original investors in the Manasquan River Golf Club. As local legend has it, the original investors had an option to purchase the Charles Osborn estate for \$60,000 and were \$10,000 short of the purchase price at the eve of the option's expiration. After a meeting of the investors at Lamport Hall failed to yield the financial commitment to complete the deal, the group drove south to Bay Head to a local watering hole. After several rounds of drinks the group returned to Brielle, the final commitment of \$10,000 was offered and the club property was then purchased.

After the deaths of Isham and Devoll, the estate was acquired by Mr. Sinclair, a prominent attorney and judge in Monmouth County. Having made the decision to purchase the property without first consulting with his wife, he abruptly found himself "in the doghouse". After several days of deliberation in isolation Mrs. Sinclair emerged and informed her husband, "If you're going to force me to move there, I'm going to redecorate it with the best Europe has to offer... and you're paying for it." The Sinclairs took up residence at Lamport Hall in the 1940's. Mrs. Sinclair became a fixture in Brielle, especially seated in the back of her chauffeur driven Rolls-Royce. Many local residents recall seeing Mrs. Sinclair at the Brielle Shop-Rite with her chauffeur 'behind the wheel' of her shopping cart.

Mystery History Tour 2012



Image courtesy Peter Van Sciver
www.luxuryshorehomes.com

Society News

by Ray Shea

In continuing with our 2012 theme of highlighting homes of Brielle, this Brielle Day, September 8, 2012, the society plans to offer guided tours of notable historic sites in Brielle. Our Borough Historian John Belding has been working diligently on the next title in our Mini-Booklet Series, Historic Sites of Brielle - A Guided Tour. In it, Mr. Belding offers a brief history of over 30 notable historic locations in Brielle. Readers of the booklet will be able to conduct themselves on a tour of historic sites in Brielle ranging from the former location of the Union Salt Works to the Three Cedars Tea Room to the Wing Estate.

On Brielle Day 2012, ULHS guides will be offering tours of a selection of these sites departing from the Curtis House during the day. The Walking Tour booklet as well as the previously published history of the Union Salt Works and MAPS! will be available for sale along with our two books "Images of America - Brielle" and "Brielle - Saltworks to Suburb".

A BIG THANK YOU to our appraisers, Mrs. Johnson, Col. Bob Randolph and Mr. Weaver, and to the participants of the 2012 Antiques Roadshow. We hope everyone enjoyed and learned something! It was another fun and successful show!

2012 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY The Union Landing Historical Society is happy to offer one \$250 scholarship to a 2012 graduating senior who is a Brielle resident (proof of residency may be required). Award will be presented at our Decoration Day program, May 27th at 2pm. To enter, please submit an essay - minimum 250 words on the subject "why should local landmarks be preserved?". Form available through local high school guidance departments, at Brielle Borough Hall, or online at <http://www.briellehistory.org/scholar.htm> - any questions info@briellehistory.org Entry must be typed, mailed to ULHS, PO Box 473, Brielle, NJ 08730 and postmarked by May 12th, 2012. Good Luck!

YOUR HISTORY QUESTION ANSWERED | U.L.H.S. 2012 CALENDAR

Your History Question Answered
by John Belding, Borough Historian

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

Q Again concerning "old" structures, a RR buff wonders just how old is the RR bridge over the Manasquan River?

A The current heavy steel and concrete draw bridge was placed in operation June 1912, 100 years ago. It replaced a wooden swing bridge that had functioned since 1881. Unhappily the eastern end of the new concrete pier that supported the raised bridge, at the fulcrum of the movement, soon cracked. These piers "were imbedded deep in the river bottom having been sunk in caissons" according to an Asbury Park Evening Press news item of February 8, 1913. "It is said that the breaking would have been impossible with steel reinforcing" the article further stated. They then placed iron bands around the pier to hold it.

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

Sunday, May 27th - 7th Annual Decoration Day Program, Civil War, Osborn Graveyard, Holly Hill Drive, 2pm

Thursday, June 14th - 5th Annual Flag Day Ceremony, "Flags of the Civil War", Riverview Drive & Dutch Treat Breakfast, 8:30am

Monday, August 27th - Borough Historians Office, Brielle Day Organizational Meeting, 7:30pm

Saturday, September 8th - Brielle Day Annual Sarsaparilla Sale & One Day Museum, Curtis House

September, date TBD - 9-11 Memorial program

Wednesday, September 12th - SVHS Covered Dish Barn Dinner

Saturday, October 13th - Archives Day, Monmouth Co. Library

Sunday, November 18th - Annual Program / Fall Luncheon

A December Sunday Afternoon - a History Holiday outing TBD

Keep up-to-date: <http://www.briellehistory.org>

Historical Osborn Graveyard

By John E. Belding, Project Coordinator

Have you visited the burial ground recently? Early spring is always a good time of year to do so. The daffodils around the gravestones are truly magnificent in color and numbers. They are of an old variety and we preserved them when the graveyard restoration was underway. Later on in the spring the purple flowers on the creeping myrtle will be in bloom. We will continue to battle the weeds that wish to smother them. This is the reason we are planting specimen trees with deep roots to provide shade which will discourage weeds. It would be easy to just plant grass and mow it. However if a power mower even touches one of the ancient marble gravestones, much irreparable damage will take place. Agreed, working on the myrtle takes time but it is the right thing to do. In addition we have on file a number of letters of approbation from Osborn family members praising and encouraging our work. One of the descendants also wrote noting the "family would like it kept as natural as possible and the creeping myrtle be trimmed and left around gravestones."

Available now in our Booklet Series....

The Union Saltworks, by the Holmquists \$3/donation and MAPS! - the 2010 Brielle Day Exhibit \$5/donation
READY TO PRINT: Historic Sites of Brielle - A Guided Tour
UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS: Osborn Family Graveyard, and the Southern Monmouth County 9/11 Memorial

2012 Scholarship to Brielle Resident-Graduating Senior
Details: <http://www.briellehistory.org/scholar.html>

Keep up with ULHS on facebook!
<http://www.facebook.com/briellehistory>

ULHS expresses heartfelt sympathy to the Scott family on the passing of ULHS charter member Richard Scott

9-11 Memorial Garden

By E. David DuPre, Project Coordinator

At the April 22nd Borough Council Meeting, Patrick Padgett, a member of Brielle Boy Scout Troop 63, was introduced to the Mayor and Council. Patrick had submitted a proposal to erect a bell tower at the South Monmouth 9/11 Memorial Site. This project would serve to fulfill a community service requirement that any scout seeking to advance to the rank of Eagle Scout must complete. Borough Council had already received individual copies of his plans beforehand so that they might review his proposal. Patrick was there to answer any questions Council might have and to seek their approval. Members seemed impressed with his presentation and saw no reason to deny his request.

Back on Labor Day 2011 our nation was observing the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. At that time Patrick had just gained possession of the bell and thought this would be a most appropriate time to toll the bell as the name of each victim of the tragedy was being read and his fellow scouts were laying a rose at the memorial rock. The bell was brought to the site and tolled for the first time. Even at that time Patrick envisioned a permanent structure for the bell which would add the ambiance of the site.

Approval by Council to expand the site is the first requirement he must meet before he can even begin the other procedures required by scout law to become an Eagle Scout.

Thanks to this issue's contributors:
Mr. Belding, Mr. DuPre & Mr. Shea