



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

From the Holmquist Files...

by Natalie R. Holmquist

A Wise Decision

The Route 35 bridge collapsed on August 21, 1946. It was determined that marine borers gnawing on a piling caused the collapse. Traffic had to be diverted to the upper Manasquan River bridge until a temporary repair could be made.

A new bridge had to be built, but a great controversy arose about its style and location. Local Brielle officials and many citizens wanted the same low level style bridge at the same location at the end of Higgins Avenue. The State Highway Department wanted a wider, higher span which could accommodate more traffic. They were looking ahead 25 years when they expected five hundred thousand more cars and a million more people to be in this area.

Many meetings and much correspondence took place with heated arguments between local and State officials. Finally the Highway Department plan was approved after a few alterations on April 16, 1948. It provided for an elevated bridge which was to clear the water at the draw by 30 feet so that about 90 percent of the boats could navigate under it while it was closed. The elevated roadway would be designed to carry the increased vehicular traffic. The new bridge opened to traffic in 1951.

All of us have seen the heavy traffic over today's Route 35 bridge, especially on summer weekends. Imagine all that traffic going down Higgins Avenue! Thankfully the State officials were forward thinking enough to spare us the problem!



Aerial view circa 1938. Note the Rt. 35 low level bridge at the end of Higgins Avenue.

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.

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

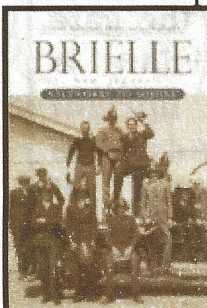
Society News by Ray Shea

The society's latest book, *Brielle - Saltworks to Suburb* has been on sale almost two months now and we are quite pleased with the sales so far. This book was a tremendous effort and I want to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to all those who contributed to the project, even in the smallest way. Your efforts have helped further the society's mission of recording and preserving the history of Brielle. If you have not purchased your copy yet, please do so directly from the society as the sales of the book are a fundraiser. We do collect royalties on sales from retail stores, but our profit is substantially greater on books purchased directly from the ULHS. Order yours online today at www.briellehistory.org or purchase at the Borough Historian's office at Borough Hall.

This past Brielle Day saw a revamping of the society's annual Brielle History Museum in the Curtis House. We constructed an all new exhibit of artifacts and archival materials that highlighted the storyline of the new book. Many thanks go out to those who were kind enough to loan items for our exhibit,

including the Brielle Fire Company, Oliver Reynolds, the Holmqists, the Wurfels and the Bogans. Special thanks also go out to John Pierciey for his generous donation of time and materials to construct eight display cases for the artifacts shown in our exhibit.

Last but not least, this past September 25th we took time to celebrate our book release with a dinner at the Manasquan River Golf Club. I cannot think of a more appropriate venue for our event than the Golf Club, since the oldest part of the clubhouse was the original Abraham Osborn farmhouse, built ca. 1800. An enjoyable evening was had by all and we hope to continue this event in the future. Many thanks also to local architect and club past-president Rich Graham for sponsoring this event.



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<http://www.briellehistory.org/order.htm>

YOUR HISTORY QUESTION ANSWERED

U.L.H.S. 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: Several years ago Bob Hartman and John Belding videotaped a number of "old timers" in positions of authority in Brielle, i.e. police chiefs, fire chiefs along with their current counterparts. Bob was to edit this raw material and present a DVD to us. What is the status of this project?

A: Bob has been ill with a number of illnesses that have zapped his strength and stamina. He has spent much of the past three years in and out of hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices plus much time on bed rest. He and his wife Mary Lou attended our September 25 book release party at which time he voiced the hope that he may be able to proceed on this project. He may alter the format somewhat from his original plan which will permit him to do less editing. We were much encouraged and hope his condition will permit him to proceed.

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

Historical Osborn Graveyard

By John E. Belding, Project Coordinator

If you have observed the grave yard recently, you will notice considerable progress with the landscaping. In August under my supervision someone who was required to perform community service worked at the Graveyard. We also now have the assistance of a high school student who has applied to become a member of the Key Club and will fulfill 25 hours of service to his community. Two other candidates have inquired regarding helping us in a similar manner and of course we welcome this. It is an effort to maintain the graveyard itself plus the surrounding property in a fitting manner. The borough DPW mows the grass outside the fence. Some of the periphery vegetation plus the interior is our responsibility. The borough will perform weed-whacking inside the gate but the Director's supervision is necessary. Our fragile but upright gravestones are very precious and add to the integrity of the burial ground. Of course all who would be willing to help with the care of the grounds are most welcome to join us.

November 22, 2009 - New Jersey Historical Divers presentation by Dan Lieb, 2 pm Brielle Elementary School All Purpose Room. Ticket enclosed but not required for admission. This is a joint presentation with Cub Scout Pack 63 - be sure to bring your family, friends and neighbors!

Monday, January 11, 2010 - 7:30 pm, Borough Historian's Office, nominations for 2010 officers and 2010 Organization Meeting. Bring ideas!

THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN BRIELLE DAY!

a couple of cases of sarsparilla still available
donation \$24/case of 24 bottles, call 732.528.1079

BRIELLE HISTORY NOTE CARDS & POSTCARD REPRINTS

on sale - \$5/donation - great gift!

U.L.H.S. WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!

Susan Belding and Paul Mathews, David Eareckson
The Markusons and Rutgers University-Alexander Library

9-11 Memorial Garden

By E. David DuPre, Project Coordinator

To clarify the mission of the 9/11 site in Brielle, let it be remembered that the site was not planned to be a local monument recognizing only the victims of the terrorist attacks that were from Brielle, but was designed to include all victims from Manasquan, Sea Girt, Spring Lake, Spring Lake Heights and South Wall, as well as Brielle.

It is to be noted that the State of New Jersey responding to the interest shown by the member communities of the South Monmouth 9/11 Memorial Site decided to name the Route 70 bridge over the Manasquan River as the 9/11 Memorial Bridge, and to broaden the area of recognition to include all victims from Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

When that Memorial Bridge was dismantled and the new Bridge was built, the State again named the new bridge as the 9/11 Memorial Bridge and recognized the Victims with two pair of memorial plaques, one pair for each side of the bridge and containing the names of all who perished from Monmouth and Ocean counties.

A segment of the demolished bridge was sent to be erected at the South Monmouth Memorial Site where the annual observance is held.