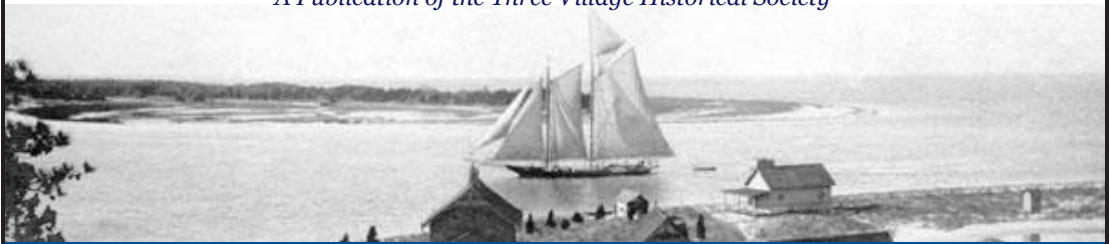




# The Historian

*A Publication of the Three Village Historical Society*



**VOLUME 56 ISSUE 2**

**SUMMER 2019**

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## Three Village Historical Society Wins 2019 AASLH Award of Excellence By Bev Tyler



*At the Village Green, students learn about the diversity of immigrants who lived and worked here as well as the varied ancestry of the Three Village area soldiers whose war-time deaths are memorialized here.*

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) recently announced that the Three Village Historical Society is the recipient of an Award of Excellence for the Founders Day program. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 74th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

Founders Day, an annual event for fourth grade classes of the Three Village Central School District, is an exploration of the depth and diversity of Brookhaven's original settlement area in Setauket. The program is designed to complement the New York State

curriculum and enhance students understanding of their local history. It includes a comprehensive presentation about the founding and development of the settlement as well as guided walking tours of historically significant landmarks.

### The Creation of the Founders Day Program

The celebration of Brookhaven Town's 350th Anniversary in 2005 and the restoration of the Vance Locke murals in the Setauket Elementary School were the impetus to create Founders Day in 2006 as a method to teach local history to fourth graders. As Three Village Historical Society's Education Chair and Historian, I joined with Three Village Central School District's fourth grade teacher Donna Smith, Education Committee member Lindsey Steward-Goldberg, Setauket School Principal Anne Rullan, Setauket School PTA representatives Beth Calo, Linda Sanders, and Katherine Downs-Reuter, and Brookhaven Town Historian Barbara Russell to form a Founders Day Coordinating Committee. It devised a program with these goals & objectives:

- Educate students on their local history, utilizing a theme based on the murals, enabling students to connect their history to the outside world.
- Design a program with interactive experiences to engage students and provide multi-modal learning platforms, reaching all 500 fourth grade students in the district.
- Reach out to the administrators and teachers to produce a program that fits into the teaching schedules.

Accommodations were made to bring (by bus) all fourth grade classes to the Setauket Elementary School auditorium, location of the 1951 Vance Locke murals that depict the history of Brookhaven Town. The committee introduced students to the 350+ year history of the town through the artist's twelve murals. During the first seven years of Founders Day, students, with the aid of vignettes and artifacts, participated in educational exercises that reflected the different themes of the murals, such as architecture, shipbuilding, and transportation. In 2015, a general theme of community building, growing, and preserving was instituted. Volunteers from community organizations were trained as walking tour guides. By 2018, the walking tour incorporated more in-depth training and instruction for guides, detailed tour booklets for each guide and student, and tour stops that exemplified a series of strong interrelated themes.

Our Society Mission Statement says, "The Three Village Historical Society exists to foster and preserve local history and educate the public about our rich cultural heritage." The Founders Day Program meets the Society's mission by fostering an education program that enables students to explore local history. Using the murals as a stepping stone for illustrating the community's past, a walking tour based on the

*Cont. on page 8*

## The Three Village Historical Society

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## President's Message



Stephen Healy  
President, TVHS

Dear Friends and Members of the Three Village Historical Society,

I enthusiastically embrace my role as president of the board of the Three Village Historical Society. Thanks to an amazing office staff and board of trustees, we have exciting projects planned. Our education programs continue to evolve as we have revitalized onsite visits and tours as well as in-class presentations. We strive to deepen students understanding of both local and national history.

One such program is Founders Day, an event for every fourth-grade class in the Three Village Central School District. It was recently recognized by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). Through the efforts of the Founders Day Committee, TVHS was awarded AASLH's Award of Excellence, which was presented at the Leadership in History Awards in Philadelphia this August.

We expanded our adult education program to include bus trips to museums and locations of historical importance in addition to lectures, Tea with a Spot of History talks, and other edifying events. Our next bus trip, to the Litchfield Historical Society, will take place on Saturday, November 9th. These excursions offer opportunities for people to socialize and explore our greater American culture and heritage.

TVHS relies on the generosity of our supporters. We have expanded our donation model to include cars, boats, timeshares, land, and houses. Every dollar donated to TVHS goes to running our society and its educational programs. Since the Society is a 501c(3) non-profit organization, donations are tax-deductible.

The Three Village Historical Society evolved into the great organization it is today with the help of our past presidents, board members, employees, and dedicated volunteers. The biggest thanks must be given to the Three Village community for supporting our events. The Three Village Historical Society is dependent upon our volunteers and our membership for continued growth. Follow us on Facebook or visit [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org) to see upcoming events, and to learn more about our educational programs and how to get involved!

*Stephen Healy*

**CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS:** Do more with your membership!  
We're looking for industry professionals and dedicated community members to join the Three Village Historical Society Board of Directors.

Nominate yourself or a peer at [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org) or call the office at 631-751-3730

### The Historian

Published bi-annually by the Three Village Historical Society.

Suggestions for articles are welcome. Please send all articles, photos, feedback and ideas to:

[OfficeManager@tvhs.org](mailto:OfficeManager@tvhs.org)

In the subject line please include: **The Historian.**

Editors:  
Sandy White, Mari Irizarry,  
Tara Ebrahimian, & Karen  
Martin

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Three Village Historical Society

## Volunteer Appreciation, Wine & Cheese Event



*Guests enjoying live music*

The first annual Volunteer Appreciation Event, held on July 17th, brought together staff, board members, and volunteers to celebrate the individuals who so generously give their time and talents to Three Village Historical Society. The event, which took place at the history center, featured live music from Country Line Road as well as cheese donated by Wild by Nature, fudge offered by Linda Johnson of Chocology, and wine provided by some of the board members. While enjoying the beautiful performance, tasty treats, and welcoming wine, attendees had the opportunity to catch up with friends, make new acquaintances, and sign up to volunteer for upcoming events such as Culper Spy Day, the Spirits Tour, and the Candlelight House Tour. It was a positive experience enjoyed by all, and we hope to make this an annual tradition.

## A Banner Year for the Three Villages *By Karen Martin*

As the Three Village Historical Society celebrates its 55th year, we send our congratulations to several of our fellow institutions in the area and take a brief look back at their beginnings. As you read, you will note that the Melville family is a common presence in the establishment of Old Field South, including the Old Field Club and Three Village Garden Club founded in 1929, and the Ward Melville Heritage Society and Suffolk County Museum founded in 1939. The family took an active role in the Three Village community 80-90 years ago, and it's legacy is still thriving today.

**The Long Island Museum, founded in 1939, celebrates its 80th anniversary.** Over years, the museum has grown to meet the needs of its collections by building new facilities, relocating historic structures, and consolidating its collections to its present grounds. Beginning as the Suffolk Museum in 1939, it occupied the old Stone Jug building in the old Stony Brook shopping district where it displayed the natural history collections of O. C. Lempfert and Dr. Winifred Curtis. When Ward Melville "redeveloped" Stony Brook in the early 1940s, the museum moved into its new home in the renovated (incorporating the Stone Jug) former firehouse on Christian Ave. (now The Jazz Loft). In 1951, having expanded to the grounds of the former Stony Brook Hotel, the Carriage House opened with a collection of 80 vehicles and became known as the Suffolk Museum and Carriage House. The 1950s saw the addition of several local period structures to the grounds including the Nassakeag schoolhouse, West's blacksmith shop, the Williamson barn, and railroad Engine 39, as well as the restoration of the Stony Brook Grist Mill. 1973 brought a name change to the museums in Stony Brook and a new vision. The new art museum building was opened in 1974. In 1979, the new history museum, located in the former Bayles lumberyard, across the street from the Carriage Museum, was dedicated. In 1987, a new Carriage Museum building was added. It is impossible to list all the contributions, programming, and exhibitions the museum has made over the years to preserving our local history. Congratulations to the Long Island Museum, accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1973 and, since 2006, a Smithsonian Affiliate.



*The Stone Jug*

Carriage Museum building was added. It is impossible to list all the contributions, programming, and exhibitions the museum has made over the years to preserving our local history. Congratulations to the Long Island Museum, accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1973 and, since 2006, a Smithsonian Affiliate.

**The Three Village Garden Club celebrates 90 years.** May 1, 1929, was the first meeting of the Three Village Garden Club organized by Jennie Melville, and held at the home of Mrs. Henrietta Shipman. Meetings continued at members homes, the Old Field Club, the Neighborhood House, and other locations, with weekly columns in the local newspaper. The garden club's first flower show was June 25th, 1930. In May 1931, Jennie Melville acquired the vacant "Old Homestead" in Stony Brook. After extensive renovations, it opened in August as the Three Village Tea House and Women's Exchange operated by the garden club. It advertised "afternoon tea and luncheon served daily-dinner card parties—antiques and gifts." The exchange was an outlet for the sale of furniture, handicrafts, baked goods, and preserves. The proceeds were used to help finance community improvements and bring additional income to families hit hard by the Great Depression.



*Three Village Tea House. Renamed the Three Village Inn 1938*

*Continued on page 7*

## Join us for Our Litchfield, CT Bus Trip—Saturday, November 9th



# BUS TRIP

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH**

Hop on the bus, and join TVHS Historian Bev Tyler as our guide, to visit the Litchfield Historical Society Museum in Litchfield, CT this fall. Tickets are \$110 for TVHS members/\$125 for non-members, and cover roundtrip transportation, entrance to the museum with a docent led tour, private walking tour, cemetery tour, and buffet lunch on the 2nd floor of the Village Restaurant (please note the dining room is not handicap accessible). For more details, and to purchase tickets, go to [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org).

Litchfield's history spans the Revolutionary War through the Colonial Revival and into the Modern Movement. It is also home to the Litchfield Law School, America's first law school, which opened in 1784. Revolutionary War buffs will be sure to enjoy the Benjamin Tallmadge Collection, an exploration of objects and archives, including his Revolutionary War letters, papers from life in Litchfield, and portraits.

The walking tour, Heroes of the Revolution, will explore the role that Litchfield played during the Revolution, with particular emphasis on Benjamin Tallmadge and his unit, the 2nd Continental Light Dragoons.

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT:** [WWW.TVHS.ORG](http://WWW.TVHS.ORG) | LUXURY BUS & FERRY ROUND TRIP TRANSPORTATION | DOCENT LED MUSEUM TOUR | PRIVATE WALKING TOUR | CEMETERY TOUR | BUFFET LUNCH INCLUDED



**“Traitor” By Orlando Maione**



From left, Connor O’Neil, Jonathan Rabeno, Leah Dunaief, Dave Morrissey Jr. and Benji Dunaief

“Traitor”... One year to the hour and just one day short of one year to the day, the sequel to last year’s award-winning film, “One Life To Give” had its world premiere at the Stony Brook University Staller Center on Sunday, June 23. Again, as she did for the first film, Leah S. Dunaief, editor and publisher of the Times Beacon Record News Media (TBR) and executive producer of both films, presented the free screening as a “gift to the community.”

“Traitor” was written and directed by Leah’s grandson, Benji Dunaief, who produced and co-authored “One Life To Give.” It takes place four years after the end of the first film, 1780, and the location has moved from our local historic Setauket of the first film, to Boston. Returning as the lead for this film is professional actor and former local resident, David Morrissey, Jr. as Benjamin Tallmadge, who again gives an excellent performance. The early part of the new film focuses on the tragic loss of Tallmadge’s Yale classmate, Nathan Hale, as a volunteer amateur spy who was captured and hanged. This greatly affected Tallmadge who recruited Hale into the Continental Army; it resulted in Tallmadge later convincing General Washington to create a new, well trained spy ring to continue Hale’s attempt at intelligence gathering so his death would not be in vain. Thus, the Culper Spy Ring was formed, with Tallmadge as its head.

The remainder of the film “chronicles the incredible true story of the capture of British spy, Major John Andre by Culper spy master Benjamin Tallmadge,” which prevented the treasonous surrender of West Point to the British by the Commandant of West Point, by Brigadier General Benedict Arnold, in return for a large sum of money and “high position in the British Army.” “One Life To Give”, with a runtime of a little over an hour, was reformatted into two chapters and shown first to the full house Staller audience. After a brief intermission, “Traitor,” which runs about a half-hour, was introduced as Chapter III. All three parts will now by marketed as a series.

**Prohibition 2019: An Evening of Booze and Bootlegging By Tara Ebrahimian**



Tom Manuel playing the trumpet.

Prohibition Night 2019 was the bee’s knees! Fellas and flappers turned out in style at The Jazz Loft to mourn the passing of John Barleycorn (personification of alcohol, popularized during the 1920s) and toast him with an evening of great jazz music from Tom Manuel and The Hot Hot Peppers!!!!!! George and Karen Overin directed mourners to the service led by Steve Ayle, who gave a rousing eulogy. Stony Brook Florist graciously provided a floral arrangement and individual flowers; mourners laid roses on the coffin built by board member Jeff Schnee.



George and Karen Overin.

Attendees entered the world of the “Unseeing Porcine Funeral Parlor,” a blind pig (speakeasy), and viewed life on Long Island during Prohibition through a photography exhibit. Antique liquor bottles decorated the dimly lit room, as (electric) candles provided a mournful glow from their stations in front of the drawn window shades. After the mock funeral, the visitors made their way outside to the garden, where beer donated by Sunrise Ales & Lagers was available on tap. Raffle items were provided by The Jazz Loft, Sunrise Ales & Lagers, Chocology, Prohibition Kitchen and TVHS. Then, music had toes tapping and bodies bopping as the band serenaded the audience with swinging tunes from the Roaring Twenties.



Flappers and fellas enjoying the garden.

Now in its third year, Prohibition Night is an annual fundraiser for The Jazz Loft and Three Village Historical Society. Rooted in the history of Long Island during the Jazz Age, this popular spring event continues to expand its creative vision and grow in attendance. Proceeds from ticket, beer, and raffle sales benefit both nonprofit organizations. The evening of Booze and Bootlegging was a rollicking romp through Long Island’s salty past. Special thanks to Tom Manuel, our gracious host and co-conspirator.



Sandy White & Tara Ebrahimian enjoying a drink.



Marla Waldron, Musician with The Hot Hot Peppers!!!!



Jeff Schnee and Dr. Jeri-Ann DiPaola.

## The 5th Annual Culper Spy Day—Saturday, September 14th

On Saturday, September 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Three Village Historical Society, Tri-Spy Tours in Setauket, and the Long Island Museum and the Ward Melville Heritage Organization in Stony Brook will host a day of spy related tours and activities for the 5th Annual Culper Spy Day.

The event is named for the Culper Spy Ring founded by Benjamin Tallmadge of Setauket, which provided General George Washington with the information he needed to turn the tide of the American Revolution. A collaboration of more than 40 historical and cultural organizations, from Montauk to Manhattan, will gather in the Three Village area for a day of community events. Participants will have the opportunity to build their own Revolutionary War story and visit the places where history was made during this self-guided tour.

For the first time, we are welcoming the redcoats with the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment of Foot with drills, encampment, and musket firing. Across the Village Green, the patriots will be represented by the Benjamin Tallmadge District of the Suffolk County Boy Scouts who will have an encampment and colonial cooking. Among other Culper Spy Day activities, the Three Village Historical Society will have an interactive Culper *SPIES!* exhibit and a book signing with award winning novelist and nonfiction author Selene Castrovilla. The Three Village Chamber Players will perform colonial music from 12 to 4 p.m., and the outdoor gift shop will be selling a selection of books, shirts, and assorted toys. Visitors will also enjoy invisible ink demonstrations and Anna Strong's famed clothesline, used for sending signals to Culper spies working off Long Island's shores. Joining us at TVHS will be the Anna Smith Strong Chapter of the DAR with quilting demonstrations and Raynham Hall Museum offering spy games. The Tavern on the Field will offer snack and lunch options from food trucks Eat Me, Drink Me, Fat Boys BBQ Bus, and Food Nation Generation.

Go to The Long Island Museum to see demonstrations in the blacksmith shop. Visit Plain Air Painting by LIMarts artists Joseph Rotella and Lori Scarlatos in the carriage barn at the Caroline Church in Setauket. Ward Melville Heritage Organization will host docent led tours at the historical sites of the Thompson House, Stony Brook Grill Mill, and Brewster House. Colonial cooking demonstrations will be at the Brewster House and the Village Green. Stony Brook University's Special Collections Department will display original letters written to Benjamin Tallmadge from George Washington from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Country House Restaurant and The Three Village Inn will feature spy themed lunches. Reservations are required and not part of the ticket prices. Other Culper Spy Day sites and activities include historical cemetery tours, live colonial music, mill grinding demonstrations, the Vance Locke murals, instruments from around the world, colonial toy making, tea with Big Bill the Tory, quilt making demonstrations, and much more.

Organizations participating in the Culper Spy Day event include:

The Three Village Historical Society  
Long Island Museum  
Ward Melville Heritage Organization  
Tri-Spy Tours

42nd Royal Highland Regiment of Foot  
Anna Smith Strong Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution  
Benjamin Tallmadge District of the Suffolk County Boy Scouts  
Brewster House, c. 1665  
Campus Bicycle  
Caroline Church of Brookhaven  
Country House Restaurant  
Custom House  
Discover Long Island  
The 1750 David Conklin Farmhouse Museum  
The 1795 Dr. Daniel Kissam House Museum  
Drowned Meadow Cottage Museum, Incorporated Village of Port  
Jefferson  
East Hampton Library, Long Island Collection  
Emma S. Clark Memorial Library  
Fairfield Historical Society, Fairfield Museum & History Center  
Frank Melville Memorial Park  
Fraunces Tavern @ Museum  
Gallery North  
The Grist Mill, c. 1751  
History Close at Hand

Huntington Historical Society  
Joseph Lloyd Manor House  
Ketcham Inn Foundation  
Litchfield Historical Society  
Old Methodist Church  
Paumanok Tours  
Preservation Long Island  
Raynham Hall Museum  
Rock Hall Museum  
Setauket Elementary School  
Setauket Harbor Task Force  
Setauket Neighborhood House  
Setauket Presbyterian Church  
Sherwood-Jayne Farm  
Special Collections, Stony Brook University Libraries  
Stirring Up History  
Three Village Community Trust  
The Three Village Inn  
The Thompson House, c. 1709  
Times Beacon Record News Media  
Underhill Society of America, Inc.

To purchase tickets and a full list of Culper Spy Day activities, please visit [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org). Tickets can be picked up at the Three Village Historical Society at 93 North Country Road in Setauket from September 9th – 13th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm or on September 14th starting at 9:00 am, at which time visitors will receive a bracelet and a copy of the Culper Spy Day map with all event listings. Tickets are good for admission to participating organizations for Saturday 14th. Some organizations include additional dates. Additional fees apply for meals.

**CULPER★SPY DAY**  
*Our Revolutionary Story* 

### Membership Corner

We have wonderful events coming in the last half of 2019 including Culper Spy Day, the Spirits Tour, and the Candlelight House. Keep in mind, tickets are discounted with a TVHS membership! In addition, as a member, you enjoy free access to programs such as our monthly lectures and Tea with a Spot of History talks, as well as a 10% discount in our gift shop!

Our membership renewal notices are now being sent via email, so you can renew easily online. If you have not received your renewal, please contact the office at 631-751-3730. Your continued support enables the Society to expand and enhance its historical, educational, and preservation programs. We cannot do it without members, so thank you in advance for your continued support!

We so appreciate your continuing support the Society and for spreading the word! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Holly Griesel & Dotty Miller,  
Membership Chairs

**Save a tree! Visit our website, [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org), to make a secure online payment for your membership!**

## 2019 Three Village Historical Society-Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

10% discount on gift shop purchases, subscription to The Historian Newsletter, free entrance to our exhibits, nine monthly Member Meetings, discount, and advance purchase on many society events and programs.

Suggested Membership Levels:	
Individual:	\$40.00
Dual/Family:	\$50.00
Patron:	\$100.00
Benefactor:	\$250.00
Major Contributor:	\$500.00
Friend of the Barn:	\$750.00
Founder:	\$1,000.00

Volunteering Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit Docent | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Shop              | <input type="checkbox"/> Spirits Tour   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yard Sale      | <input type="checkbox"/> Candlelight House Tour | <input type="checkbox"/> Culper Spy Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events |

Check payable to: **Three Village Historical Society**

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail application to: **Three Village Historical Society, 93 North Country Rd. Setauket, NY 11733**  
**OR save a stamp and renew online at [www.tvhs.org/membership](http://www.tvhs.org/membership)**

I would like to make a Gift Membership to: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

For a complete list of benefits for each level of membership please visit our website: [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org)

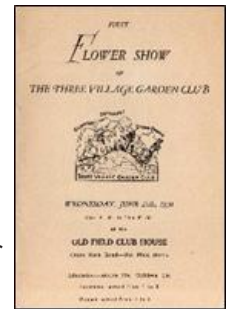


**A Banner Year for the Three Villages** *By Karen Martin (Cont. from page 3)*



*Women's Exchange at the Tea House*

In 1935, \$12,000 worth of items were sold. After the museum closed its craft center in the former firehouse in 1978, the building was leased to the garden club and became the new home of the exchange. Many recall the wonderful treasures they found there. In addition to the traditional flower shows and garden tours, the garden club has been involved in many beautification projects in the Three Village community, including the elimination of billboards that once dominated the landscape and the planting of rhododendrons and dogwoods along the roadside. During WWII, the club participated in relief projects for the Red Cross, U.S.O., and British War Relief. Over the years the garden club has beautified the Three Village community



*1st Flower Show*

by creating and landscaping public areas. In 1946, the rock garden on the Stony Brook Village Green was constructed in memory of founder Jennie Melville. On June 17, 1959, the Three Village Garden Club Sanctuary was dedicated, followed by improvements and additions to the building and grounds. The club also formed horticulture and antiques study groups and, of course, its annual sale of holiday arrangements. With its continued dedication to the enrichment of our area, we wish much continued success to the Three Village Garden Club.



*Old Field Club*

**The Old Field Club at 90.** August 22, 1929: “A tea-dance, attended by about 300 guests, marked the opening of the new clubhouse, the “Old Fields,” in Old Fields South...Mr. and Mrs. Frank Melville of Manhattan and Stony Brook, L. I., were the hosts.” (*Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Aug. 24, 1929). The clubhouse was built by Suffolk Improvement Corporation (SICO), owned by the Melville Family, the developers of Old Field South. Membership in the club would be available to owners of homes in the new Old Field South development. The Old Field Club was advertised as “the center of social life in the community [with] ample facilities



*Clubhouse (r) & School (l)*

for dining, dancing, card parties, etc., as well as for swimming, boating, riding and tennis.” The “beautiful clubhouse near West Meadow Beach” opened for its first season on May 31, 1930, when, the newspaper reports, “Its locker and shower rooms, tidewater swimming pool afloat, private beach on the Sound, and tournament tennis courts will be available to its members and their friends.” (*Port Jefferson Echo*, May 22, 1930). The first use of the clubhouse was actually by the Old Field Country Day School. The new private school, operating from September 30, 1929, to May 31, 1930, would “provide a well-balanced, all-day training for children from pre-school to sixth grade... Tuition will be \$200 for the pre-school and kindergarten, \$250 for the intermediate groups and \$300 for the fifth and sixth grades.” (*Port Jefferson Echo*, Sept. 26, 1929). Among the first students were the children of Ward and Dorothy Melville. A new separate building for the school was under construction, next door to the clubhouse, by the time the school’s first year was over and it opened to students on Sept. 29, 1930. The school would close in the early 1940s.



*Country Day School Students*

The Old Field Club has served its membership for 90 years. It has acted as a venue for events such as horse and flower shows, hosted private parties and special occasions, and catered to various organizations, including the Three Village Historical Society.

**Old Field South Community Celebrates 90 years.** The original plan for the Old Field South sub-division was drawn in March 1929, and included all the property south of the Village of Old Field, west of Mud Road, north of the community of Soundview, and east by West Meadow Beach. It contained small parks, a chipping green, a riding stable along Mud Road, and membership for the new Old Field Club. All residences were to be single family homes, except section S, across from the chipping green between Indian Path and Market Path, which would be apartments, semi-detached houses, and retail businesses. The developer was Suffolk Improvement Company, formed by Frank Melville Jr. and Stephen Yates. It was a planned community with control over sales and architecture. The early homes were designed by Richard Haviland Smythe, architect of choice for Melville’s projects, with landscaping by the Olmstead brothers. Building and sales were slow to progress through the Great Depression and during World War II due to a shortage of materials and buyers. The overall design of the project also changed. Sales of homes increased steadily after World War II, with many young families moving to Old Field South. Marketed as “small estates for country gentlemen,” a 1934 *New York Times* advertisement states, “15 new Colonial estates, priced from \$4,950 to \$10,500 – ONLY 10% CASH.” Congratulations to the Old Field South Property Owners Association.



*Ward Melville*

**Ward Melville Heritage Organization on Its 80th Anniversary.** The Melville family legacy continues to this day through the Ward Melville Heritage Organization, now celebrating its 80th year. Established Dec. 29, 1939, as the Stony Brook Community Fund and renamed in 1996 as WMHO, it is “...a privately funded not-for-profit corporation that protects and preserves historic and environmentally sensitive properties deeded to it by Ward Melville. By enhancing and interpreting its properties, the organization creates educational and cultural experiences that integrate history, art, theater, music, science, and technology.” ([www.wmho.org](http://www.wmho.org)). Visit its website to learn more about its organization, the properties it preserves and interprets, and the programming it offers. Our congratulations to the Ward Melville Heritage Organization on the work it does by preserving the

history and educating the community for 80 years.

## Three Village Historical Society Wins 2019 AASLH Award of Excellence

By Bev Tyler (continued from cover)

publication *Discover Setauket: Brookhaven's Original Settlement*, and primary documents and artifacts, students are exposed to history from our Native American roots through the middle 20th century.

### Founders Day Exemplifies Good History

Students learn how the arrival of English settlers to the area in the 17th century eventually depleted the Native American population. The mural depicts the exchange of goods initially paid to the Native Americans for items they could not produce themselves. Students view the 1655 deed, a primary source used by the muralist as his model.

Diversity is a term used often, and it is included on a vocabulary list that is provided to teachers ahead of time. The walking tour includes the Village Green Veterans Memorial where the names of WWI, WWII, and Vietnam soldiers reflect the ethnic diversity of the community by the 20th century. In the mid-late 1800s, an influx of Eastern European immigrants arrived in the area to work in a local factory, which greatly changed the ethnic makeup of Setauket. Students are shown a c.1900 photograph of schoolchildren, which further illustrates this point.

### Community is a Central Theme of the Program

In the auditorium, Founders Day presenters engage students to give examples of types of communities and stress that a community's core strength is cooperation among people. The murals span the time from Native American hunter gatherers to the early 20th century. Each time period is discussed with an emphasis on people working together in a community.



Three Village 4th grade students come to the Setauket School auditorium in celebration of Brookhaven Town Founders Day to learn about the history of Setauket/Brookhaven through the murals of Vance Locke.

Students are challenged in the auditorium presentation and on the walk to think critically about local life throughout four centuries. Our geographical location on an island created both challenges and opportunities in our history, a thought-provoking concept for the fourth-graders. The program also provides an opportunity to explore how our past influenced our community growth. For example, our location made it an ideal place for shipbuilding to become a primary means of employment in the 19th century. Students are asked how our geography affects our community growth today.

Critical to the success of Founders Day is the committee's ability to assess and evaluate our goal of providing a truly interactive and engaging experience. To accomplish this, we rely on informal assessment. Guides are instrumental in letting us know what worked and what areas need improvement so that we can make the changes necessary to develop a better experience. Formal assessments were developed to help us improve the various components of the program and implemented for this past Founders Day.

In 2018, we witnessed exciting new elements that have a far-reaching effect in the community. Through the efforts of fourth grade teacher Eric Gustafson and District Instructional Technology lead teacher Andy Weik, students researched the murals, wrote scripts, and produced videos of each of the Vance Locke murals in the Setauket Elementary School auditorium. Included in the process were Donna Smith and I, who reviewed the scripts and led discussions about primary source documents. The students recorded the videos, which were produced with a QR code added at the base of each mural. All but two were completed in time for Culper Spy Day, the community-wide celebration of the Setauket-based Revolutionary War spy ring. For the first time, the Setauket school auditorium was open to take part in the celebration. Four of the Vance Locke murals are scenes of activity in Setauket/Brookhaven during the Revolutionary War. Many of the students who worked on the videos attended dressed in colonial costumes and were joined by Assistant Principal Karen Mizell; they answered questions and talked to some of the more than 800 people who attended Culper Spy Day. The school was one of more than 25 locations open for Culper Spy Day in Stony Brook, Setauket, and Port Jefferson.

### Positive Results of the Founders Day Program

The enthusiasm generated by the Founders Day program has resulted in students, teachers, guides, participating organizations, and the general public gaining a "shared memory, a sense of the common good . . . [and] a commitment to the distinctive qualities of a place." The importance of place is not in the structures we build, nor in the natural landscape we enjoy, it is in the people who live here, the relationships we build, and the interactions with the people whose company we enjoy, both now and in the past, the stories we tell, and the history we relate. These are lessons we want our children to learn and the reason it is important to continue cooperative ideas and projects such as Founders Day. As Three Village Historical Society President Steve Healy noted, "This honor was made possible through the efforts of TVHS Education Director Donna Smith, TVHS Historian Bev Tyler, Katherine Downs-Reuter, a founding member and trustee of the Three Village Community Trust, Brookhaven Town Historian Barbara Russell, and the entire TVHS education team."

### Founders Day Guides are Critical to the Success of the Program

In addition to the Founders Day Coordinating Committee, the Founders Day program relies on a dedicated group of guides who study the material, including changes and improvements made every year to the program. Each guide leads one of the dozen or so fourth grade classes from the five Three Village elementary schools on an exploration of the area. Our Founders Day Guides 2015-2019



## Three Village Historical Society Wins 2019 AASLH Award of Excellence

By Bev Tyler (cont.)

include Barbara Wallace, Bob Becherer, Mort Rosen, Art Billadello, Rick Melidosian, Barbara Tyler, John Yantz, Maryanne Vigneaux, Beth Calo, Linda Sanders, Cathy White, Lindsey Steward-Goldberg, Chantel Sellers, Steve Hintze, Chris Ryon, Katherine Downs-Reuter, Steve Healy, Annie Healy, Tara Ebrahimian, Tom Lyon, Pam Crum, Liz Twiss, Elizabeth Kaplan, Sue Lyon-McMann, Patty Yantz, Jean Sobalvarro, Terri Redder, Barbara Russell, Donna Smith, and myself.

Presentation of the awards will be made at a special banquet during the AASLH Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA on August 30, 2019.

1. See *The Founders Day Story 2005-2019.PDF* (Text and Note 15) on [www.TVHS.org](http://www.TVHS.org)



Map and Guide



Volunteer Guides



Students at The Carriage Shed



Students at The Village Green

## Candlelight House Tour: A Lasting Legacy By Patty Yantz & Patty Cain

What does the opening of Jones Beach, the first Academy Awards presentation, and the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King have in common? All these events took place in the year 1929, 90 years ago this year! That year was also noteworthy for the Three Village area with the establishment of the Old Field Club, the area of Old Field South, and the plans designed for the Old Field Horse Farm by the philanthropist, Ward Melville.

On December 6th & 7th, the Three Village Historical Society will honor this landmark anniversary by hosting the 41st annual Candlelight House Tour. The Old Field Club, homes in the Old Field South area, and the Horse Farm will be highlighted. We will also focus on the people and events over the past 9 decades that have helped make the Three Village area the wonderful place that it is.

Once again, as in previous years, we will have beautiful homes decorated in holiday decor by outstanding designers. Interesting little known facts of our local history will be relayed by our engaging docents. This year's tour is one not to be missed!

We also wish 'happy anniversary' to our fellow organizations; The Three Village Garden Club (90 years), The Long Island Museum, and The Ward Melville Heritage Organization (80 years). We hope that you will join us in celebrating the wonderful place that we call home.

### 41ST ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT HOUSE TOUR 2019 A Lasting Legacy | December 6th & 7th

Members Only Pre-Sale: October 28th–November 3rd

General Public Sale Starts: November 4th

For more information and to purchase  
your tickets online visit [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org)

## Volunteer Spotlight—Sahil Sangwan By Donna Smith & Karen Martin



Sahil Sangwan with Education Director Donna Smith

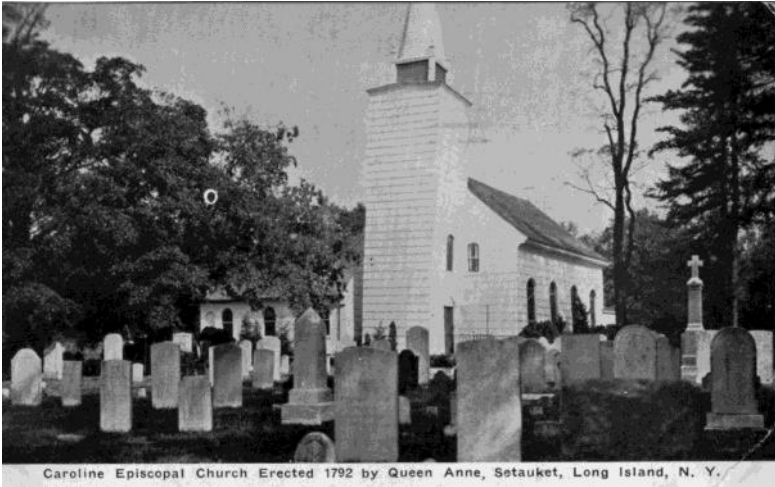
Several years ago, Sahil Sangwan came to TVHS to sign up as a volunteer. He was just beginning high school, was outgoing and friendly, and loved history: exactly what TVHS needed!

Sahil's introduction to TVHS was when, in 2014 as student at Gelinas Junior High School, he contacted our archivist to pursue a project for the 2015 New York State Archives Student Research Awards. His entry, "Impact of the Melville Family's Contributions to the Three Village Area," was selected by the New York State Archives, and Archives Partnership Trust as the recipient of the 2015 Laura and Robert Chodos Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records Grades 6-8. This was followed by the Lincoln Forum Student Scholarship award in 2016, and in 2017, a research project on Fire Island for the National History Day competition. Sahil not only excelled in his academic pursuits and competitions, but continued to follow his interest in history.

Sahil has been an active volunteer as a docent at the *Spies!* exhibit, leading tours on Sundays. In addition, he has participated in Culper Spy Day, the Candlelight House Tour, and the Spirits Tour, where he portrayed William Sidney Mount, top hat and all! In 2016, Sahil was the recipient of the TVHS Young Historians Award for his dedication and service. This year, TVHS was proud to award a scholarship to Sahil at Senior Award Night at Ward Melville High School.

In the fall, Sahil begins his college career at Northeastern University in Boston. We all will miss him and wish him the very best!

## "The Unforgotten" 2019 Spirits Tour *By Frank Turano*



Caroline Episcopal Church Erected 1792 by Queen Anne, Setauket, Long Island, N. Y.

The 2019 Spirits Tour on Saturday, October 19, 2019, will feature individuals who have had varied impacts on the lives of those around them. None have had lasting fame or notoriety. Some have had a moment of community recognition; within a generation or two, each has been all but forgotten.

Frank Capra, the director of the film "It's a Wonderful Life" wrote in his autobiography "...each man's life touches so many other lives. And if he isn't around it would leave an awful hole...." On the tour, we will visit some of the people who filled in holes in the fabric of our community. Some filled in small holes and others not-so-small but all contributed in some way to the community that we enjoy today.

Most of these people have slipped into the haze of our collective past. All are worthy of our remembrance. Each of the twelve characters you will meet helped give this community its depth and diversity.

In the Setauket Presbyterian Churchyard, you will meet: Richard Floyd, one of the founding fathers of the Town of Brookhaven and a disgruntled loyalist; Caroline Strong, a World War I nurse who served both in Europe and here at home; Justice Carl Ruhland, a local Justice of the Peace and businessman familiar to too many local "roughs;" Myra Davis Lyons, a grieving mother who suffered the loss of two of her children under widely different circumstances; John Scott, a 17th century character of dubious but colorful reputation whose claim to Long Island made him an international figure; and, Hilma Jayne, whose origins and circumstances put her in the right place at the right time. Across in the Caroline Churchyard you will encounter Anna Kopriva, a European War refugee whose family lived the American Dream; Henrietta Shipman, the wife of a businessman and self-proclaimed industrialist with a curious passion; Marjorie Bishop, a 20th century artist who had a varying style and passion for her craft; Edward Preiffer, a World War II soldier who served in the Philippines on December 7, 1941, and endured the Bataan Death March; Sarah Young, a woman with a curious story and an uncommon devotion to the man she loved; and Brigadier General Francis Spinola, a Civil War veteran who had a marked effect on this community and was the first Italian American to serve in Congress.

We hope that you will enjoy yourself and take a moment to reflect on the people you knew in the past that had great, but perhaps momentary impacts on your life or those around you. They deserve to be *unforgotten*.

The Three Village Historical Society Presents **The 25TH ANNUAL**

# **SPIRITS CEMETERY TOUR**

## *The Unforgotten*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 2019 (RAIN DATE : OCTOBER 26TH)**

TICKETS: [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org) | MEMBER PRE-SALE: September 9th-15th | GENERAL SALE BEGINS: September 15th

## Dominick-Crawford Barn Update *By Steve Hintze*



The Dominick-Crawford Barn is in the final phase of getting our Town of Brookhaven building permit. It has been a long road with many obstacles, but we are rounding the final corner. In the first week of August, the entire barn was laid out and photographed aerially, with a drone, by Scott Brown of Antique Carpentry, so we can assess what timbers will need to be repaired and/or replaced.

We are now seeking additional funding from the Robert L Gardiner Foundation and the Gerry Foundation for this project to insure we can start and complete rebuilding and repurposing the barn in a timely manner. TVHS will need help from all of our members and the community to bring this historically significant barn back to life. Please follow our emails and future communications to find out how you can help.



## The Historic 2001 Yankees Postseason Part 3 in a 3 part Series by Bob Lauto



In the last installment of our series on the historic 2001 New York Yankees postseason, the Yankees, having won the American League Pennant and secured its ticket to the World Series, were on their way to Arizona to start the Series against the Diamondbacks. In the meantime, NY fans were faced with an immediate dilemma. Yankee Stadium was hosting games 3, 4, and 5 of the Series and every ticket holder knew that New York City, Yankee Stadium and the World Series would be front and center across the world; these 3 games were a prime target for Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda.

It was difficult to find friends willing to attend the 3 games. My brother and I each held 2 tickets for the 3 games. While the Yankees were losing the first two games of the series in Arizona, I made plans for the games on October 30th, Halloween, and November 1st at Yankee Stadium.

Game 3 quickly became a major international event when it was announced that George W. Bush, President of the United States, was going to throw out the ceremonial first pitch. Metal detectors were quickly installed outside the stadium and used for the first time at a sporting event to screen every fan in attendance. President Bush was asked by Derek Jeter right before the pre-game ceremonies, "Are you going to throw in front of the mound?" President Bush asked him what he thought and Derek said "This is Yankee Stadium, you better throw on top of the mound otherwise they'll boo ya." The President said "Okay I'll do that." Then as Jeter was leaving, he turned to the President and said "But don't bounce it, they'll boo ya." The President confidently walked out to the mound wearing a bullet proof vest covered by a Presidential fleece, and before 55,820 fans, put his foot on the rubber and threw a strike. The Yankees got back into the series behind Roger Clemens that night winning 2 to 1.



In game 4 on Halloween, the Yankees won in dramatic comeback fashion, when, with the Yankees one out from defeat, Tino Martinez hit a game-tying two run homer. The stadium, suddenly shocked alive by the homer, was on its feet until Jeter came to bat with 2 outs in the 10th inning. He entered the batter's box as the clock struck 12:00 am and with that, Major League Baseball was for the first time in history being played in the month of November. Jeter promptly hit a 3 and 2 pitch toward the right field porch and over the 314 foot sign and the moniker, 'Mr. November' was born.

It was cold and windy on November 1, 2001. We entered the old Yankee Stadium that night with nervous anticipation. With the damaged World Trade Center Flag flying over Yankee Stadium, there was a buzz throughout the wind whipped stadium and something surreal and almost spiritual gave me chills down my spine. It was not the usual mystique and aura at Yankee Stadium, but something different. Even with the somber pregame ceremonies, the crowd was still excited from the unbelievable comeback win the night before.

Excitement slowly dissipated from the fans as game 5 progressed. The Yankees had no offense and were, like the night before, down 2-0 with one man on base and 2 outs in the 9th inning. Down to their last out, the crowd sitting on its collective cold hands, Scott Brosius had no intentions of giving up. I remember saying to those I was with "I can't believe I'm hoping for a repeat of last night". A second later, Brosius hits a high fly ball into the left field seats to tie the game. Total pandemonium erupted in the stadium. We were jumping up and down hugging each other, high fiving complete strangers. The Yankees went on to win game 5 in the 12th inning with another walk off and took a lead in the series 3 games to 2.

Jumping ahead to game 7 and the close of the series, the Yankees experienced a heartbreaking defeat out in Arizona. Although the game ended in a 9th inning walk off win for the Diamondbacks, the Yankees never gave up hope and never made the final out. In fact, a game 7 without a final out has only happened 6 times in baseball history. The Yankees were victorious in 3 unforgettable games at Yankee Stadium and the city of New York would survive and come back from the events and aftermath of 9-11. What we had just been witness to was proof that the city of New York, indeed America, all of us, were going to be okay. We witnessed a city reborn and life renewed.

This 3-part series is dedicated to my friend Frank, who recently passed from Lou Gehrig's disease. He was not afraid to witness history with me.

### Historical Photographic Exhibit at Emma S. Clark Memorial Library



Horse Show

"Either a building is part of a place or it is not. Once that kinship is there, time will only make it stronger." -Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*.

During the month of September, TVHS will present its third annual exhibit of historical photographs from our archives in the main reading room of the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library. On display are photos from Stony Brook, Old Field, and Setauket. Some places are familiar, some have hidden histories, and some are almost forgotten. With progress the old is often replaced with claims of the newest and the greatest. Some sites disappear, while some existing buildings get repurposed. This is true of the Three Villages. The images capture local efforts of property revitalization and preservation: an estate in ruins rises again, a financial institution becomes a home for the arts, an old millpond gets a new life, a revolutionary era historic site is rescued from dilapidation, and horse show grounds are preserved for the future. When you visit the

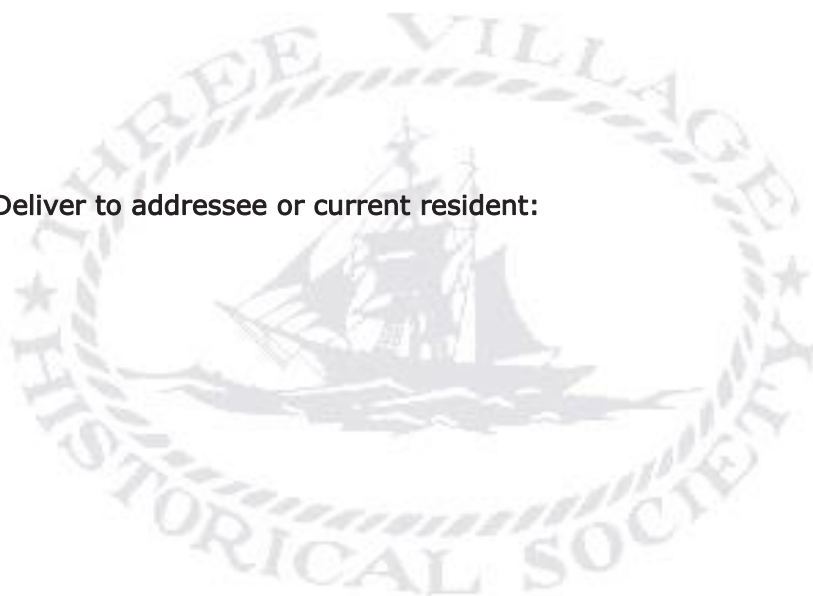
library in September, don't forget to take a look and see if you can identify the less familiar places. After the close of the exhibit, the framed photographs will be on sale in the Society's gift shop for \$40 each.



Three Village Historical Society  
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Clip and save. ....

### TVHS Calendar of Events

**Tea with a Spot Of History:** *Members Only\** Held at our History Center at 93 North Country Rd, Setauket

Sept. 18th: **C E Purdy, 20th Century Painter of Scotts Cove**  
w/ Barbara Russell at 2:00 pm

Oct. 9th: **The Setauket Raid of August 22, 1777**  
w/ Art Billadello at 1:30 pm

Nov. 13th: **Stony Brook before Ward Melville**  
w/ Bev Tyler & Donna Smith at 2:00 pm

### Lecture Series:

Setauket Neighborhood House, 95 Main Street, Setauket.  
Free to members, \$5 for non-members. 7pm-9pm

Sept. 23rd: **Lecture & recital of harpsichord music** with Kyle Collins

Oct. 28th: **Historic Haunts of Long Island** with Kerriann Flanagan  
Brosky and Jose Giaquinto (Sponsored by Tri-Spy Tours)

Nov. 18th: **Diving into Long Island History** with Brett Curlew

### SPECIAL EVENTS

5th Annual Culper Spy Day: Saturday, September 14th

25th Annual Spirits Tour: Saturday, October 19th

Litchfield, CT bus trip: Saturday, November 9th

41st Annual Candlelight House Tour: December 6th & 7th

**\*Be sure to see page 6 for  
Membership Information!  
Renew Today!**

### TVHS WALKING TOURS \*

**Down the Ways: The Wooden Ship Era:** Sept. 8th, Oct. 26th

**Walk Through History with Abraham Woodhull:** Oct. 13th, Nov. 11th

**Explore & Discover Setauket's Revolutionary History Tour:** Sept. 28th

**Admission:** \$15 (\$10 for TVHS Members) \*Please check the Society's website at [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org) for complete descriptions, location and starting times for all of the Walking Tours or contact the office at (631)751-3730. All walks start at 2:00 pm unless otherwise noted.



**Tri Spy Tours, April- November. Purchase Tickets at [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org). Dates subject to change.**

**Tri-Spy Walking Tour:** Oct. 12th @10am, Nov. 29th (Turkey Trot) @1pm

**Tri-Spy Bike Tour:** Oct. 20th @10am

**Tri-Spy Kayak Tour:** End of regular season. Now booking private tours.



**Exhibit Hours:** Open Sundays from 1-4 pm

**Chicken Hill: "A Community Lost to Time"**

**Spies!** *How a Group of Long Island Patriots Helped George Washington Win the Revolution.*

**Admission:** \$5 Children/Students,  
\$10 Adults. **Members Free.**

