



THE YEOMAN

Farmingdale-
Bethpage
Historical Society
www.fbhsli.org

Mildred Johnston, President

James McCullagh, Vice-President

110th Anniversary of "Mile-A-Minute" Murphy's Feat

The Farmingdale-Bethpage area has been in the news this year, as in 2002, for hosting the U. S. Open golf tournament at Bethpage State Park. But another athletic event 110 years ago probably carried Farmingdale into the national press more than any occasion up to that time. The event centered on a young man, Charles M. Murphy.

Friday, June 30, 1899 was a clear but cool early summer day, perfect for a bicycle ride. Murphy went for a ride on his Tribune "Blue Streak" that afternoon. When he was finished, he had set a world speed record, and Farmingdale and the Long Island Rail Road were front-page news around the nation!

Hal B. Fullerton, a public relations official of the LIRR, had known Murphy through their mutual interest in regional bicycle organizations. An idea was jointly developed to have Charles Murphy attempt to set a record with the help of a train. About three miles of wooden planking was laid between the rails of the Central Branch eastward from Farmingdale to Maywood Siding. The 29 year-old Murphy trained for two months with dumbbell weights, a jump rope, a stationary trainer, and light road work, all of which contributed considerable muscle to his 145 pound body.

He and Sam Booth, engineer of locomotive No. 39 had a brief consultation before the one-car train left the old South Farmingdale station at Main Street about 5:10 pm. that June 30th. The sole passenger car, crowded with reporters, carried an improvised hood on the rear to shield Murphy from wind resistance. Engineer Booth accelerated quickly, but Murphy kept pace. The train briefly pulled ahead, causing Murphy to lose the advantage of the calm air in the hood, but he pedaled furiously to catch up. He covered the measured mile in 57.8 seconds, likely hitting 70 miles-per-hour at some points. He was hauled aboard the pace coach, with his legs still clutching the bicycle, just before the planked course ended. He had done it, and for the remaining 51 years of his life, he was "Mile-A-Minute" Murphy!

Farmingdale has had many memorable moments in its long history, and "Mile-A-Minute" Murphy's ride is among them! This summer marks the 110th anniversary.

Lauren Scotti, FBHS Award Winner

Lauren Scotti, winner of the Society's second annual award to a graduating senior at Farmingdale High School, has established a splendid record as a member of the FHS Class of 2009. She is a member of National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Leaders Club, and Interact (the Rotary International's service club for young people). She has achieved a grade-point average in excess of 97% despite holding a part-time job after school for the past three years. Lauren joins three other siblings in college as she begins her studies at SUNY Cortland.

THE YEOMAN congratulates Lauren Scotti and wishes her continued success in her studies!



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Society Honors Eagle Scout Clifford Burhans

A Court of Honor was held by Troop 261, BSA, in the Farmingdale Public Library on Saturday, May 30 at which Clifford Burhans, a senior at Farmingdale High School, was granted Eagle Scout status. Clifford's Eagle project involved refurbishing the grounds of the Bethpage Meeting House, Religious Society of Friends, on Quaker Meeting House Road, Farmingdale. With assistance from his Troop, Clifford cleared the fence area bordering the road of overgrowth, removed the old fence, then constructed and painted a new fence, in addition to other work.

In his remarks, Clifford thanked Jean Hubbard, clerk of Bethpage Meeting, and Samuel Mitchell of the Jericho Meeting, who are both FBHS members, for their invaluable support with his project. Mildred Johnston, president of the Society, presented Clifford with a Certificate of Appreciation at the ceremony.

Civil War Exhibit at SCHS Museum in Riverhead

The Suffolk County Historical Society has opened an exhibit on the Civil War at the SCHS Museum, 300 West Main Street, Riverhead. The title is "Patriots Come Forward: Suffolk County's Role in the Civil War." Curated by Dr. Richard F. Welch, this exhibition explores the experiences of Long Islanders during the Civil War. Art and artifacts from the SCHS collection are featured as well as objects from private collections, such as diaries and letters.

The exhibit will be on display through November 14, 2009. Call 631-727-2881 or visit www.suffolkcountyhistoricalsociety.org for information on museum hours and special events and programs related to this exhibit.

Sunshine and a Blue Sky for Annual Meeting/Strawberry Festival

The Society's Annual Meeting/Strawberry Festival was held on Sunday afternoon, June 14, at the Dr. Daniel W. Kissam House in Huntington under weather conditions unusual for the spring of 2009. The sun shone from a cloudless sky and the temperature was pleasantly warm, but not hot or humid. Some attendees deemed it the best weather to date in an otherwise cool and wet spring.

Mildred Johnston gave the President's Report, highlighting activities of the past year including the inauguration of the FBHS website. Vice President James McCullagh, in his role as chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate. Recording Secretary Gail Goldschrafe and Corresponding Secretary Jeanne Buck were re-nominated to continue in their respective offices, as were Trustees JoAnne Bihary and Nancy White. Trustee Dolores McAfee having declined re-nomination, Joseph Carosella Sr. was named for this role. After calling for further nominations from the floor and hearing none, Mr. McCullagh asked for and received a unanimous acclamation to elect the slate. These individuals will be inducted at the Installation Dinner in late October.

Vice-President McCullagh also announced the resignation of Trustee Maria Zito, which has been accepted by the Executive Board. In accordance with the By-Laws, President Mildred Johnston has appointed Harrison Hunt, a former President of the Society, to serve the remainder of Trustee Zito's term.

"Minutes of History" Again a Village Pops Feature

For the 23rd consecutive year, the "Minute of Farmingdale History" again this season is a feature of the Farmingdale Village Pops concerts. The popular concert series itself is in its 27th consecutive year, directed throughout by Brad DeMilo, who began the "Minutes" in 1987 as Farmingdale observed its Tricentennial of Settlement.

Speakers this year have included Roy Douglas, John Hanc, Deputy Village Mayor Patricia Christiansen, and Pierre Lehmuller. The July 29 presenter will be Serena Brochu, and the August 12 speaker will be former Village Mayor Willis B. Carman Jr. The "Minutes of History" are printed in subsequent issues of the FARMINGDALE OBSERVER.



Huntington Historical Society a Welcoming Host for FBHS Visit

For the second time in the last several years, the Huntington Historical Society served as host to the FBHS Annual Meeting/Strawberry Festival on June 14 (Flag Day) at the Dr. Daniel Kissam House. The Huntington society, owner of four historic properties, had welcomed us on Sunday, June 1, 2003 at the David Conklin House. Unlike the recent visit, that day was marked by an all-day rain, and the 2003 FBHS Annual Meeting/Strawberry Festival segments were held in the Conklin barn.

At the Kissam House on June 14, our FBHS group toured the historic 1795 house after holding the business meeting outside under the shade of large trees. The Strawberry Festival segment was held in the Kissam barn, which held an impressive collection of farm implements. Robert (Toby) Kissam, HHS executive coordinator and descendant of the original owner, decorated the barn for Flag Day with several historic U.S. flags from the HHS collection. The oldest was an 1863 flag with 35 stars which Congress adopted during the Civil War.

THE YEOMAN thanks the Huntington Historical Society for hosting our June 14 meeting as in 2003, and especially recognizes the role of Cathi Horowitz, HHS director of education and outreach, for her invaluable assistance in planning and implementing this most recent visit so well.

In Memoriam: Lois Herrschaft

Lois Herrschaft, wife of Robert Herrschaft, passed away on May 9, 2009. Lois' funeral service at the Farmingdale United Methodist Church took place on May 18, which would have been her 90th birthday. Lois and Bob were nearing their 68th wedding anniversary. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Linda.

Lois, along with Bob, joined the Society over 25 years ago. They enjoyed the meetings, dinners and bus trips in the company of their many friends. Lois served as a trustee of the Society for a time in the 1980s.

The officers and trustees of the Society extend deepest sympathy to Bob on Lois' passing.

A Visit to Gettysburg



July 1 thru 3 1863 saw one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War -- the Battle of Gettysburg. All told, some 51,000 soldiers were killed, taken prisoner, or wounded. Amazingly, only one resident of the town of Gettysburg was killed. To this day, one can walk past the many antebellum buildings along the streets of Gettysburg that bore witness to the battle -- still adorned with bullet holes from those three days.

Farmingdale has its own connection to Gettysburg. Many of the men from Farmingdale who went off to serve the Union cause were members of the 145th Infantry of the New York Volunteer Army. This unit saw action at Gettysburg at the part of the battlefield called Culp's Hill. Throughout the battlefield, there are monuments honoring the many military units that served during the battle. Stationed near Culp's Hill is a monument to the 145th. Having worked on the Farmingdale Civil War Veterans project and coming to "know" some of the veterans, I felt it fitting that I should have the opportunity to visit Gettysburg.

(Story and Photo by Serena Brochu)



FARMINGDALE-BETHPAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Trip to New York Transit Museum
Saturday, August 29, 2009



The Long Island Railroad celebrates its 175th anniversary this year, the oldest railroad in America still operating under its original name. In conjunction with this milestone, the New York Transit Museum is sponsoring an exhibit entitled *The Route of the Dashing Commuter: The Long Island Railroad at 175*. The FBHS is planning a trip to the museum on Saturday, August 29.

The NY Transit Museum is housed in the old Court Street station. The special LIRR display includes historic and contemporary photographs, maps, illustrations and objects on loan and from the museum's collection that tell the fascinating story of the railroad and how it contributed to the development of Long Island. The museum also features a variety of realia that tell the history of the New York City transit system from its earliest days to new projects such as the East Side Access, the Second Avenue subway and the extension of the "7" line that will move the transit system forward into the 21st Century. The museum's collection includes vintage wooden elevated cars built in the 1880's as well as subway cars from the 1920's to the 1980's, housed on two tracks on the station's lower level. As a special addition, the museum is featuring a vintage LIRR caboose, the first time a caboose has ever traveled in the NYC subway system. The museum also offers a store with a variety of unique transit related items.

Our trip will leave Farmingdale station on the 11:06 am train, transferring to the subway for a ride to the Museum. We will have a one-hour guided tour and then members are free to remain in the museum, eat in one of the many restaurants in the area or hike across the Brooklyn Bridge. Since each person will have his/her own ticket, you are free to remain in the city and return to Farmingdale on your own. We have developed a three-tier all inclusive pricing structure to meet different contingencies:

\$ 25.00 for FBHS members and guests

\$ 20.00 for FBHS members and guests who qualify for senior fares (65 and over)

\$ 5.00 for FBHS members and guests who have monthly LIRR tickets and MetroCard .

N.B. This trip requires considerable walking and climbing steps from the subway station to the street.

Questions: Please email pierre32@optonline.net or call 516-731-0170





FARMINGDALE-BETHPAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Trip to New York Transit Museum
Saturday, August 29, 2009



NY TRANSIT MUSEUM TOUR

Clip and return to:

Pierre A. Lehmuller
 32 Hunt Place
 Bethpage, NY 11714-6411

Your Name: _____

Name(s) of Guest(s): _____

Street Address:

Town, State, ZIP:

Email: _____ Telephone: (____) _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS	TYPE OF TICKET	RATE	TOTAL
	Regular Adult Fare	\$ 25.00	\$
	Senior Fare (65 and over)	\$ 20.00	\$
	Museum Only Fare (I'll use my own LIRR Pass and MetroCard)	\$ 5.00	\$
	TOTALS		\$

Please make checks payable to "Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society."



**Farmingdale-Bethpage
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Box 500
Farmingdale, New York 11735

www.fbhsli.org

"We hold fast to the elements that
are dear to us."
- Jesse Merritt

The Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society was founded at a meeting in historic Powell House, Merritt Road, Farmingdale, on April 12, 1964. It is chartered as an incorporated non-profit educational and cultural organization by the University of the State of New York.

**Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical
Society**
Box 500
Farmingdale, New York 11735

Executive Board

- Mildred Johnston - President; Membership
- James McCullagh - Vice President
- Gail Goldschrafe - Recording Secretary
- Jeanne M. Buck - Corresponding Secretary
- Frank Bondietti - Treasurer; Collections Committee
- JoAnne Bihary - Trustee; Hospitality; Collections Committee
- Serena Brochu - Trustee; Newsletter Editor; Collections Committee
- Joseph Carosella, Sr. - Trustee-elect
- Nancy Cinque - Trustee
- Eric Goldschrafe - Trustee
- Harrison Hunt - Trustee
- William J. Johnston - Trustee
- JoAnn Krapp - Trustee; Exhibits Coordinator
- Pierre Lehmuller - Trustee
- Dolores McAfee - Trustee
- Seymour Weinstein - Trustee; Website
- Nancy White - Trustee
- Lawrence R. Jorgensen - Ex-Officio Immediate Past President

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