



THE YEOMAN

Farmingdale-
Bethpage
Historical Society
www.fbhsli.org

Mildred Johnston, President

James McCullagh, Vice-President

Installation Dinner To Be Held Tuesday, October 27

The Installation Dinner of the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society will be held at the La Casuccia Restaurant, 196 Main Street, Farmingdale, on Tuesday evening, October 27. The social time begins at 6:00 pm.

Trustee Nancy White is chairing the arrangements, as she has done so successfully for many years in the past. This is the Society's 46th Installation Dinner, an annual tradition dating back to the founding year of 1964.

Dr. Natalie A. Naylor, professor emerita at Hofstra University and president of the Nassau County Historical Society, will speak following the dinner on "Quadricentennial 2009: Henry Hudson, the Dutch, and Long Island's Colonial History."

A flier with additional details on the dinner arrangements accompanies this issue of THE YEOMAN.

Join us on October 27 for a pleasant evening of informative history, good food, and warm fellowship.

"Quadricentennial 2009": New York's 400th Anniversary

In her address at the Society's Installation Dinner, Dr. Natalie A. Naylor will speak of Henry Hudson, the Dutch, and Long Island's colonial history.

Hudson explored in 1609 under the Dutch flag, enabling The Netherlands to establish its stake in the New World. Western Long Island, including much of today's Nassau County, was controlled by the Dutch until 1664. Although the colony of New Netherland survived for less than four decades, the legacy of the Dutch has been enduring in our architecture, language, and culture. Professor Naylor will explore this history and legacy of Dutch New Netherland. (Note - New Netherland does not have an "s" at the end, as does The Netherlands in Europe.)

Officers, Trustees To Be Inducted at Dinner

The officers and trustees of the Society who were elected, or re-elected, at the Annual Meeting on June 14 will be officially inducted at the October 27 Installation Dinner. These members include: Recording Secretary, Gail Goldschrafe; Corresponding Secretary, Jeanne Buck; Trustees, JoAnne Bihary, JoAnn Krapp, and Joseph Carosella Sr. Harrison Hunt, who was appointed by the Board this past summer to complete the unexpired term of Trustee Maria Zito, who resigned, will also be officially installed.

The terms of the officers extend through October 31, 2011, and those of the trustees, October 31, 2012.

October
2009

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Harrison Hunt Keynote Speaker at Civil War Symposium

Harrison "Terry" Hunt, FBHS Trustee and Past President, will be the keynote speaker at a Civil War Symposium on Saturday, October 17 to be presented by the Suffolk County Historical Society at the SCHS Museum in Riverhead. His topic will be "The Long Island Experience in the Civil War." The one-day symposium will focus on Long Island's participation and experience in the war years. Further information and registration details may be obtained by visiting www.suffolkcountyhistoricalsociety.org or by calling 631-727-2881.

Fall-Winter Lecture Series to Begin Sunday, November 15

The FBHS Fall - Winter Lecture Series will begin on Sunday, November 15 at 2 pm at the Farmingdale Public Library. Harrison "Terry" Hunt will present "Civil War Medicine," a topic Mr. Hunt has been researching for 35 years. Disease killed more men than bullets did during that horrific conflict. Don't miss this enlightening presentation.

Also at the November 15 meeting, Eric Marten, "the Long Island Fiddler," will present selections from the Civil War period. Mr. Marten captures the spirited melodies of the war with his violins, some of which are authentic period instruments.

This is an afternoon not to miss! Plan now to be with us. The lecture series is also a perfect time to introduce family members and friends to the Society. And it's free!

Transit Museum Trip By Rail and Subway a Success!

Trustee Pierre Lehmuller led a small but enthusiastic group of FBHS members and friends on a trip by LIRR and subway to the New York Transit Museum in Downtown Brooklyn on Saturday, August 29. The main focus of the well-planned trip was the special exhibit "The Route of the Dashing Commuter: The LIRR at 175," marking the 175th anniversary of North America's largest commuter railroad. (The exhibit closed September 13.)

Mr. Lehmuller prepared an extensive brochure on the rail and subway stations used on the trip, the rail and subway equipment on which the trip participants rode, and the special exhibit which was the focus of their trip. He is to be congratulated for his meticulous planning and follow-through which made the trip so worthwhile to the participants.

Executive Board Meetings

The next meeting of the officers and trustees of the Society will be on Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 7pm at the Farmingdale Public Library in the conference room near the Reference Desk. The meetings will follow the traditional first, non-holiday Thursday of the month schedule. Subsequent meeting dates will be: November 5 and December 3, 2009. Members are reminded that they are always welcome to sit in on meetings of the executive board and, with prior arrangement with the president, to address the Board on matters of concern.



Photo of Royal Arcanum Hall Sought



With members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church preparing to commemorate the congregation's centennial in 2010, special attention is being given to the church's early history. The first worship services were held in the home of the Loehrs family in late 1910. As the small congregation grew, arrangements were made to meet in the Royal Arcanum Hall, a lodge hall on Main Street. This two-story building is now the site of Village Cleaners, 281 Main Street. In 1911, the church purchased the chapel on Washington Street which is now the Bethlehem Church of God.

The FBHS is requesting assistance from Society members or friends who can provide photos of the Royal Arcanum Hall or the Loehrs' family residence. Please call Mildred Johnston at 516-249-3099 so that arrangements to copy the photo(s) may be made.

Farmingdale State College Seeking Artifacts For Centennial Exhibit

Farmingdale State College, Long Island's first public institution of higher learning, is preparing to celebrate its one hundredth anniversary in 2012. One of the facets of the observance will be an exhibit reflecting the Farmingdale area in the 1912 era. What are most sought are not photographs, which are fairly numerous, but rather the loan of three-dimensional artifacts of that period suitable for display in exhibit cases. If you have an item or two to lend, please call Mildred Johnston, FBHS president, at 516-249-3099.

Village Walk Set For Sunday Afternoon, October 4



The Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society will sponsor a walk in a central portion of the Village of Farmingdale on Sunday afternoon, October 4. The walking tour will include sections of Rose, Richard, Main, Prospect, Weiden, Bernard, and Doud Streets. The area has been a favorite locale of residence with many business and professional people with offices or shops in the Village over the years, due to its close proximity to the central business district.

Participants are invited to meet at 2pm on the Village Green, next to Village Hall. No pre-registration is necessary, and there is no fee. The walk will be held in case of light showers, but postponed if there are thunderstorms or heavy rainfall.

Those interested are invited to visit the website of the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society at www.fbhsli.org for further background information on the Farmingdale area.

East Islip Society to Host Fall ASCHS

The East Islip Historical Society will host the fall meeting of ASCHS (Association of Suffolk County Historical Societies) on Saturday, October 24. Since FBHS is a member of ASCHS, individuals belonging to FBHS are welcome to attend. If you are interested in attending, kindly contact Mildred Johnston at 516-249-3099 for further details.



Benjamin Franklin Yoakum

A name that is familiar to longtime Farmingdale residents is also significant in the two southernmost counties of Texas - Hidalgo and Cameron - along the Rio Grande River which forms the boundary with Mexico. The name is that of Benjamin Franklin Yoakum.

Why the relationship? Yoakum was born in Texas in 1859. As a young man he became a railroad worker serving on a surveying team as the network of rails expanded in the post-Civil War era. His energy and skill brought him a rapid rise through the managerial ranks, and while still in his twenties he became an officer of a major railroad. When the St. Louis and San Francisco (Frisco Line) Railroad merged with the Rock Island Line in 1905 to form a 17,000 mile network, it was Yoakum who was named chairman of the executive committee. At the time, it was the largest system under single management in railroad history.

In addition to his railroading expertise, Yoakum was an able recruiter, for he attracted skilled farmers to the areas opened by his rail lines, provided them with artesian wells, and taught them citrus farming. That is why it has been said that "South Texas was built by Yoakum's genius."

In 1907 Yoakum moved to New York City to take a position in the world of banking. There he lived in a town house, but still favoring the openness of a rural area, he purchased a country estate in Farmingdale--- a spread of 1,100 acres lying along the northern border of the recently formed village (Farmingdale was incorporated in 1904.)

In Farmingdale, Yoakum raised prize cattle and high quality fruit and vegetables. Once a year he would hold his "farm dinner" for village residents, proudly telling them, "Everything was raised right on this place," as he greeted his neighbors gathered around the tables. Mr. Yoakum was especially generous to the Farmingdale Fire Department and to the caddies of his golf course, for whom he built a clubhouse.

The Lenox Hills Golf Course which Mr. Yoakum established on his estate proved to be an omen of things to come. Following his death in 1929, the northern portion of the estate became the core property of the new Bethpage State Park, in which a total of five eighteen-hole golf courses were built. The southern portion, lying within the Village of Farmingdale, was developed by homebuilders, beginning in the 1930s, as the Lenox Hills area.

Two thousand miles away, in south Texas, Benjamin Franklin Yoakum is still perhaps remembered as the man who brought the railroad, water, and citrus farming. In Farmingdale, his adopted community, he is remembered as the generous, kindly estate owner whose legacy is Bethpage State Park and the stately Lenox Hills section of the Village of Farmingdale.



FARMINGDALE-BETHPAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
46th ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2009

You are invited to be part of the 46th Annual Installation Dinner of the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society, which will be held Tuesday, October 27, 2009, at La Casuccia Restaurant, 196 Main Street, Farmingdale, at 6pm.

Dr. Natalie A. Naylor, professor emerita at Hofstra University and president of the Nassau County Historical Society, will speak following the dinner on "Quadricentennial 2009: Henry Hudson, the Dutch, and Long Island's Colonial History."

Nancy White, a Society trustee, is chairing the dinner. She requests that she receive your registration by Monday, October 19, 2009. Please be sure to indicate your choice of entrée on the registration form.

The dinner, for a total of \$35 (thirty-five dollars) per person, will include garden salad, pasta with fresh tomatoes, choice of three entrees, dessert, and beverage. Also included are wine and soda on the tables; cash bar for mixed drinks.

Please join us for an evening of fine food and good fellowship as we induct new and re-elected officers and trustees.

Nancy White
315 Conklin Street
Farmingdale, NY 11735

Enclosed is a check for _____ persons at \$35. each for a total of \$_____ payable to the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society for the 46th Annual Installation Dinner at La Casuccia Restaurant, 196 Main Street, Farmingdale, on Tuesday, October 27, 2009, at 6pm.

Please indicate entrée selections:

- ___ Chicken Parmigiana, roasted potatoes and mixed vegetables
- ___ Salmon with lemon, olive oil, and a touch of garlic, roasted potatoes and mixed vegetables
- ___ Veal Ivano (veal with fresh mozzarella topped with tomatoes, onions, basil, olive oil and touch of balsamic vinegar), roasted potatoes and mixed vegetables

Your Name

Telephone Number

Street Address

Others in Party

Town, State, Zip

I/We would prefer to sit with: _____



**Farmingdale-Bethpage
Historical Society**

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.

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
- Seymour Weinstein - Trustee; Website
- Nancy White - Trustee
- Lawrence R. Jorgensen - Ex-Officio Immediate Past President

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

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