



THE YEOMAN

Farmingdale-
Bethpage
Historical Society
www.fbhsli.org

Mildred Johnston, President

James McCullagh, Vice-President

January
2011

“Carriage Collection” Program Sunday, January 23

The first program of 2011 for the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society will be held on Sunday afternoon, January 23, at 2 pm in the Board Room of Farmingdale's Village Hall, 361 Main Street. The program is "The Long Island Museum's Carriage Collection: A National Treasure in Your Backyard", which will be presented by Joshua Ruff, Curator of the Carriage and History Collections of the Long Island Museum in Stony Brook.

The program details the museum's renowned collection of 200 horse-drawn vehicles and an estimated 15,000 additional artifacts and archival materials related to carriages. Mr. Ruff will provide highlights from the collection, relate recent changes to the museum's galleries, and discuss the history of how this collection was formed and grew over time.

Mr. Ruff has worked at the Long Island Museum since 1997 and has been curator of many major exhibitions during his tenure. He is also an adjunct faculty member at St. Joseph's College and associate editor of the LONG ISLAND HISTORY JOURNAL.

This program on January 23 opens the 2011 Winter Lecture Series of the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society. Subsequent sessions are on Sunday, February 27 and Sunday, March 27. All are free, and interested area residents are welcome to attend.

January Meeting of ASCHS To Be Held In Riverhead

The winter meeting of the Association of Suffolk County Historical Societies (ASCHS), of which the FBHS is a member, will be hosted by the Suffolk County Historical Society at their museum/library at 300 West Main Street in Riverhead on Saturday, January 29, 2011.

The autumn meeting was held on Saturday, October 30, at the Long Island Maritime Museum in West Sayville, which included tours of the site's buildings and lectures on Long Island maritime history. The luncheon and business meeting were held at La Tavola Restaurant, on Main Street, Sayville. Representing the FBHS were Adrian Post, Barbara Post, and Mildred and Bill Johnston.

Society members interested in further information on upcoming ASCHS meetings are asked to call Mildred Johnston at 516-249-3099.

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Civil War Program Launches Lecture Series

The Fall-Winter Lecture Series of the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society began on Sunday, November 21, at Farmingdale's historic Village Hall with FBHS Trustee Harrison Hunt's presentation of "Long Island and the Civil War". Over fifty members and friends of the Society attended.

Mr. Hunt, a longtime scholar of the Civil War and author of two books on that era, utilized dozens of images in dynamically illustrating his topic of the war, which touched the lives of virtually all Long Islanders in the years of 1861-1865.

Village of Farmingdale Deputy Mayor Patricia Christiansen served as the official host, welcoming attendees and also briefing the audience on the Village's plans for the Veterans' Memorial Walk near the fountain on the Village Green. The Civil War Monument to be presented by the FBHS next Memorial Day will be part of this area dedicated to Farmingdale's war veterans.

Trustee Nancy White provided the screen and projector for the program. Hospitality Chair JoAnne Bihary once again presented a bountiful and attractive spread of refreshments. Assisting JoAnne with the setting-up and serving were Trustees Joseph Carosella Sr. and Pierre Lehmuller, and Society member Robert Deignan.

Longtime member Rhoda Schwartz was the winner of a pumpkin pie, emblematic of the Thanksgiving season, in a drawing. Trustee Pierre Lehmuller personally prepared the epicurean dessert.

Trustee Eric Goldschrafe made an eloquent plea for funds for the Civil War Memorial.

Society Co-Sponsors 22nd Annual Tricentennial Tree Lighting

The Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society co-sponsored the 22nd annual holiday lighting of the Village of Farmingdale's Tricentennial Tree on the evening of Tuesday, November 30. The Village of Farmingdale, the Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce, and the Farmingdale Public Schools have also partnered in the program since its inception in 1989.

In her welcoming remarks, Society President Mildred Johnston related the origin of the event, which grew out of the 300th anniversary celebration of the settlement of Farmingdale.

The Fourth and Fifth Grade Chorus of Saltzman East Memorial School under the direction of Ms. Joan Drewes sang several seasonal selections. The South Shore Brass Ensemble played holiday instrumental favorites at their 22nd consecutive appearance in the event. Master of Ceremonies was Brad DeMilo, the founding director of the Farmingdale Village Pops.

Village Mayor George "Butch" Starkie enthusiastically led the countdown for the crowd of eager youngsters at the tree-lighting time.

The FBHS hosted the refreshment time in Village Hall for the first time, following the program. Hospitality Chair JoAnne Bihary, assisted by Joseph Carosella Sr. and Robert Deignan, served over one hundred children, parents and other participants most successfully at a beautifully decorated table.

And the rain which was forecast did not materialize until later that evening!



In Memoriam: George Schriro

George Schriro, a member of the Society for 35 years, passed away on November 17, 2010. Mr. Schriro, a Life Member, drafted the By-Laws under which the Society has operated for many years, and served as a trustee for numerous terms. He was also active in other leadership roles in the Farmingdale community, including the Board of Education, the Library Board, the Village of Farmingdale, and the Farmingdale Jewish Center.

George and Pat, his wife of 62 years, enjoyed the programs and dinners of the Society over the years, including the day-trips to which George brought thorough preparation and enlightening insight.

The Society extends deepest sympathy to Pat, the four children, Dora, Merrie, Jane Rubenstein, and Paul, and the four grandchildren on the loss of a very wise, devoted, and generous husband, father, and grandfather. The Society has also lost a very special member with George's passing.

FBHS Website Link to "Historic Long Island"

Thanks to FBHS Website Chair Seymour Weinstein, the Society's website (www.fbhsli.org) is now linked to "Gold Coast Mansions: Historic Long Island", a heritage tourism and historic preservation site. By clicking on "Historical Societies" you may view program activities and events of several leading historical and preservation groups on Long Island including the FBHS.

Executive Board Meetings

The next meeting of the officers and trustees of the Society, originally scheduled for Thursday, January 6 at the Farmingdale Public Library will be postponed. The FPL is due to be closed during the weeks of January 3 and January 10 as a result of ongoing renovations. All officers and trustees are advised to call Society president Mildred Johnston at 516-249-3099 for the date, time, and location of the next executive board meeting. Subsequent meeting dates are due to follow the traditional first non-holiday, Thursday of the month: February 3 and March 3, 2011 (location to be announced). 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.

New York State Archives Announces New Saturday Hours

The New York State Archives has instituted new Saturday hours effective October 16, 2010. Saturday hours of operation at their facility, located on the 11th floor of the Cultural Education Center (CEC) at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, are from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free public parking is available in the Madison Avenue parking lots adjacent to the CEC. Directions and parking information are available on the New York State Museum website at <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/information/general/muswhere.html>.

The Archives will be open every Saturday, except major holidays (e.g. July 4th, Memorial Day, Veteran's Day) falling directly on a Saturday (checking their website is advised for such holidays). In case of inclement weather, researchers are encouraged to call the State Archives at (518) 474-8955 prior to their visit.



Village of Farmingdale Board Minutes: Highlights of 1910

The minutes of the Village of Farmingdale's Board of Trustees from 1910 reflect frequent meetings to discuss needs and concerns of the growing Village. Six years before, when the Village was incorporated, an enumeration revealed 1047 residents. The 1910 U.S. Federal census reflected 1567 inhabitants, an increase of 520.

At the annual election in March 1910, Adolph Bausch was re-elected as Village President to the second year of his eventual four year tenure (1909-1913).

Two questions were also on the ballot that March. The first was to create the office of Police Justice. This was passed by a vote of 47 to 32. The second was to authorize the Village to construct a sidewalk on South Front Street from Main Street to the Farmingdale LIRR Station, a distance of approximately one thousand feet. This item would represent a major improvement in an era of unpaved streets. It was approved, 47 to 36.

In other matters that year:

*The Village water department received approval to extend lines to streets previously unserved. In a special referendum in November 1909 the Village residents had authorized the purchase of the existing system of the Nassau County Water Company which lay within the Village, primarily the central "downtown" area. The purchase price of this original water system was \$23,500.

*The six-year-old Village took pride in its practice of planting trees along residential streets. A resolution in May 1910 adopted by the Board called for a \$50 reward for those providing information leading to the conviction of any person found guilty of tree vandalism.

*Electric and telephone service was being made available to growing numbers of homes and shops. The Village Board took a vigorously pro-active role in determining the placement of utility poles in order to preserve the character of the Village's appearance. Frequent discussions were held with the New York Telephone Company and the Babylon Electric Company on this matter.

In that era of trolley cars, few paved streets, and very sparse auto traffic, the recently-formed local government of Farmingdale was working industriously to improve the quality of life for all who lived or worked in the Village, a tradition which has endured now for over a century.

Local Events Sponsored by the Nassau County Historical Society

***Eva Greguski "Rustic Refinements: The Musical Genre Paintings and Prints of Long Island Painter William Sidney Mount, 1830-1860"**

Community Church of East Williston

Sunday, January 9, 2011, 2:00 p.m.

William Sidney Mount (1807-1868) of Setauket is America's foremost genre painters, who has been called the "Painter of American Life." Mount was also an amateur musician and a number of his paintings portray fiddlers and other musicians. For many years, our speaker, Eva Greguski, was the art curator at the Long Island Museum of American Art, Carriages, and History, which owns the largest collection of Mount paintings and prints. Her illustrated presentation focuses on Mount and Music.

N.B. The snow date is March 14 (same time and place).



Local Events Sponsored by the Nassau County Historical Society (cont.)

***Linda Russell "Songs America Voted By: Campaign Songs of the 19th Century"**

Community Church of East Williston

February 20, 2011, 2:00 p.m.

Balladeer Linda Russell traces our elections, from Jefferson's victory song to the ragtime melodies of Teddy Roosevelt's term.

A Piece of Wood Moulding Provides a Mystery

A recent query posted to the FBHS website, www.fbhsli.org, focused on a piece of wood moulding found in a local home. There was an imprint on the wood, "M.P. Denton," apparently indicating the manufacturer of the moulding. The homeowner hoped to find out more about the specific business located here in Farmingdale, which would have dated from the 1920s.

Based upon research using U.S. Federal Census records, the following facts were assembled. The 1920 U.S. Federal Census has a listing of J. Walter Denton and his wife, Mae P. Denton. J. Walter Denton was a merchant in coal and lumber. According to the census, J. Walter Denton owned his store. The Dentons lived on Main Street in Farmingdale. Mr. Denton was born in New York (State), while both of his parents were born in England. Mrs. Denton was born in New Jersey; her father was born in New Jersey and her mother in England. In 1920, Mr. Denton was 39 yrs old (born June 1880); Mrs. Denton was 34 yrs old (born c. 1886).

The Denton's home was located where the Hardscrabble Apartments are currently located on Main Street (next to Waldbaum's). In fact, the home was razed when the apartments were built in the 1980s.

On this same census page from 1920 there are two other listings which may be considered of interest. The first is for Adolph Bausch who was a manager of a moulding factory that also made picture frames. The second is a listing for 16 year old Alexander Mayerhofer, who worked as a woodworker for a frame and moulding factory.

It is reasonable to think that "M.P. Denton" is actually the wife of J. Walter Denton, coal and lumber merchant. It is also plausible that the Denton mercantile was a supplier to the Bausch moulding factory and that Alexander Mayerhofer worked for the Bausch business.

It appears that the Denton family had some history working in the lumber business. Twenty years earlier, the 1900 U.S. Federal Census shows that the Denton family was living in Amityville. This listing shows J. Walter Denton as 19 yrs old. One of his brothers is in fact a laborer in a lumber yard. Another Denton relative was a bookkeeper in a lumber yard.

If any of THE YEOMAN's readers have any information concerning the Denton lumber business that they would like to share, it could help to put the pieces of this puzzle together. Please contact Serena Brochu at 516-457-3217.



**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.

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

Executive Board

Mildred Johnston - President; Membership
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Gail Goldschrafe - Recording Secretary
Madeline Bondiotti - Corresponding Secretary
Frank Bondiotti - Treasurer; Collections Committee
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Serena Brochu - Trustee; Newsletter Editor; Collections Committee
Joseph Carosella, Sr. - 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
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