



# THE YEOMAN

January/  
February  
2009

[www.fbhsli.org](http://www.fbhsli.org)

Mildred Johnston, President

James McCullagh, Vice-President

## **FBHS Announces New Website**

The Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society announces the creation of a new website: [www.fbhsli.org](http://www.fbhsli.org). This site contains the story of the Farmingdale-Bethpage area in text and pictures. In addition to the history of the Bethpage Purchase, topics include Bethpage State Park, the Long Island Rail Road as it affected Farmingdale, Farmingdale State College and a capsule history of the aircraft industry in the Farmingdale-Bethpage area. The industry had a major impact on our national well-being during and after WWII, but contributed much in the early days of aviation as well.

The site's home page highlights upcoming events and contains additional links both within and external to the website. For example, the About Us page contains a listing of the officers and trustees, the society's mission, and an application for membership. For additional information, email us at: [info@fbhsli.org](mailto:info@fbhsli.org).

Come visit us!

## **Cooperative "Grumman Program Successful**

Despite wintry weather after an overnight storm, the cooperative program of the Central Park Historical Society and the FBHS on Sunday, January 11 at the Bethpage Public Library was most successful. Lois Lovisolo, now director of the Bethpage Library and former historian/archivist of the Grumman Corporation, presented a comprehensive survey of the firm from its founding in Baldwin in 1930 to its acquisition by Northrop in 1994. Her thoroughly illustrated program included photos of virtually all the types of aircraft produced by Grumman. Ms. Lovisolo also captured the ethos of the former Grumman Corporation, with its exacting level of quality workmanship, management's genuine concern for the welfare of employees, and the spirit and pride that formed the corporate culture.

Ann Albertson, vice-president of the CPHS, who is also hospitality chair, conducted the social period following the program. JoAnne Bihary, hospitality chair of the FBHS, also contributed to the abundance of refreshments.



## **Models of Grumman Aircraft Displayed at January Meeting**

Eric Goldschrafe, a longtime trustee of the FBHS and a master modeler, exhibited two legendary Grumman aircraft at the meeting at the Bethpage Public Library on January 11. Scaled in one-eighteenth size and meticulously detailed, the planes were a TBM Avenger torpedo bomber and a F6F Hellcat fighter. The two models each had wingspans of three feet or more.

## **“William Floyd, Long Island’s Signer of The Declaration” February 15**

The Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society will present the historian and author Gene Horton in the costumed role as “William Floyd, Long Island’s Signer of the Declaration of Independence” on Sunday, February 15 at 2:00pm at the Farmingdale Public Library. Learn about this contemporary (1734-1821) of George Washington, the contributions he made, and the sacrifices he suffered during the struggle for independence. This free program in the FBHS Winter Lecture Series will offer a biography of William Floyd’s life and also a review of the causes of the American Revolution.

Be with us on February 15 for this informative and inspiring program, and bring a family member or friend!

## **Two Hundredth Anniversary of Lincoln’s Birth on February 12**

Thursday, February 12, will mark two hundred years since the birth of Abraham Lincoln, who was to become our 16<sup>th</sup> President in early 1861. Born in Kentucky in 1809, Abe Lincoln rose from humble beginnings to become a country lawyer, a Congressman, and then a national political figure who was elected twice to the Presidency.

In celebration of Lincoln’s Bicentennial, museum exhibits are planned at sites across the country, including New York. For a complete list of exhibits, online resources, and suggested reading about Abraham Lincoln, please consult [www.lincolnbicentennial.gov](http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov). Or, logon to [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), and refer to the article by Anne Mancuso, entitled *Lincoln in Word, Image and History*, published in the December 11, 2008 edition of the paper.



## **“Vanderbilt Racer Returns to Long Island”**

The above headline in the December 24, 2008 issue of NEWSDAY related the story of East Hills resident Howard Kroplick and his successful quest in purchasing the ALCO-6, “The Black Beast,” which won the Vanderbilt Cup Races of 1909 and 1910 on Long Island, and also competed in the first “Indianapolis 500” in 1911.

Mr. Kroplick, who spoke at the Society's meeting on Sunday, November 16, 2008, on the Vanderbilt Cup Races, has been researching and collecting artifacts on the famed Long Island races and the resulting Motor Parkway for over five years. After restoration of the ALCO-6, Mr. Kroplick plans to exhibit it at a museum on Long Island, according to the article.

## **LIRR 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary FBHS Program Topic on March 8**

The Long Island Rail Road, the oldest railroad in the nation still operating under its original name, will reach its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April. David Morrison, a leading rail historian and former president of the LIRR Historical Society, will present a program for the FBHS on Sunday, March 8 at 2:00pm at the Farmingdale Public Library. It will include an overview of the railroad's history since 1834, as well as a calendar of events on Long Island during April noting the historic anniversary. This program will conclude the Winter Lecture Series. Plan now to be with us!

Also at the March 8 program, Patrick Looney, Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 261, BSA, will provide an update on his Civil War Veterans Project, which is nearing completion.

## **About Long Island: Winter Buds**

Trees etched sharply against a winter sky...bare branches lending the look of huge wire sculptures to the chill landscape,

Golden sprays of willow weeping over sometimes iced-up streams and ponds...and the buds...waiting...encased in their amazing packaging...miniatures of leaves, flowers, and soft green twigs...folded, twisted, and tucked inside protective casing...the buds scarcely noticed in their winter period of dormant gestation prior to spring birth yet to come.

But noticed or not...the buds are indeed here...and have been for months...in button-shapes on dogwoods...pointed spear-like forms on American beech trees...in tiny globes on berry bushes.

Through months of winter's wax and wane...the buds wait quietly...here on Long Island.

by Ray Adell



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**Farmingdale-Bethpage  
Historical Society**

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Farmingdale, New York 11735

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“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 Bondiotti – Treasurer; Collections Committee
- JoAnne Bihary – Trustee; Hospitality; Collections Committee
- Serena Brochu – Trustee; Newsletter Editor; Collections Committee
- Nancy Cinque – Trustee
- Eric Goldschrafe – Trustee
- William J. Johnston – Trustee
- JoAnn Krapp – Trustee; Exhibits Coordinator
- Pierre Lehmuller – Trustee
- Dolores McAfee – Trustee
- Seymour Weinstein – Trustee; Website
- Nancy White – Trustee
- Maria Zito – Trustee
- Lawrence R. Jorgensen – Ex-Officio Immediate Past President

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Box 500  
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