

PANORAMA



First one-room Schoolhouse built in 1894 on 5th Street.



Two-story Frame School built in 1898.

NEWSLETTER

We salute School District #24, organized on September 11, 1894.

VOLUME 9, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER, 1981

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 16, 1981
8:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

P R O G R A M

"WILLIS COMPANY"

Co. H., 119th N. Y. Volunteers

This is a non-profit organization dedicated to accurately portraying the lives of Long Island volunteer soldiers during the period of our American Civil War.

They present, through living history, what it was like to be a soldier fighting for the Union in the year of 1863 versus the formidable Confederate foe.

Co. H. of the 119th N. Y. Volunteers was organized in the fall of 1862 by Benjamin A. Willis of Roslyn, who enlisted 100 men from Hempstead and North Hempstead towns on Long Island. "Willis Company" fought bravely to preserve the Union at many a costly battle.

The newly re-formed Company lives on through presentations to historical organizations and participation at Civil War encampments in New York and elsewhere. Members purchase their own uniforms and accoutrements, research the history of the unit and assume the identity of an original member for a unique first-person impression.

Following the program, which will also include slides and demonstrations, there will be a question and answer period.

Do join us for the first meeting and program of the new season.

MEETING SCHEDULE for the rest of this year:
October 21st
November 18th
December - no meeting

The 1982 schedule will be published in a future issue of PANORAMA.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome back...

This year our theme will be "Valley Stream Through the Years." Our suggestion box will be on the table in the front of the room and we hope you'll use it.

The Village Picnic on the Green turned out to be a lot of fun and a money-maker for us. Our tent was colorful and cool. Many volunteers helped out. Special thanks to the ladies who baked during some very hot weather. The goodies were very popular, not a bite was left. We even sold the crumbs! (One lady sold her cake before she even got to the tent.)

The note paper proved to be popular as did our book shelf, thanks to the Library. For details, come and listen to Dagmar's report.

We still need some volunteers to run the sales corner at the meetings.

We're looking forward to this year and hope that you will make it successful--we can't do it without you.

Claire McMahon

P. S. Paid-up membership cards are at the table as you enter.

SEASON

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR THE NEW SEASON

President - Claire McMahon
Vice-President - Bob Presbry
Corresponding Sec'y - Mildred Zulich
Recording Sec'y - Howard Ruehl
Treasurer - Dagmar Ficken
Trustees: Anthony Fiero, Jim Boerckel, Ted Libath, Al Mayernik, Wilbur Fare, Allan Dowdeswell, Lillian Weaver, Audrey Boerckel and Evelyn McQuade, EMMA BITOWSKI
Membership - Margaret Warrell & Andy Pfeiffer
Programs - Audrey and Jim Boerckel
Hospitality - Peg and Bert Keller
Publicity - Lillian Weaver
Sunshine - Agnes & Ted Libath
Country Store - You ? ? ?
PANORAMA - Evelyn McQuade, Editor
Eileen Brennan & Nan Miller

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
Valley Stream, N. Y.
Permit #924

Valley Stream Historical Society
P A N O R A M A
c/o 29 Cambridge Street
Valley Stream, N. Y. 11581

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

Al Mayernik

The Indians of Valley Stream

The Indians occupying the Valley Stream-Elmont area were the Rockaways, one of the thirteen tribes occupying Long Island. The Rockaways' main settlement was at what is now Rockville Centre. The tribe was scattered over the southern part of present day Hempstead and over an area including Rockaway Beach and Jamaica. Rockaway means "sandy place" in the Algonquin language.

The Rockaways, along with the other tribes of Long Island, were part of the great Algonquin Nation, tribes related by language, and who were widely distributed throughout the United States and Canada. The Cheyenne of the Western Plains were more closely related in language to the Rockaways than the Rockaways were to the Iroquois of central New York.

The Indian population of the entire Island could never have been large. Some historians estimate that as of 1635, the date of the first Dutch settlement in the area, the population was no more than 6,500 for the 13 tribes, averaging 500 per tribe. Colsjowominick was the Rockaway Indian village near the site of the present-day Valley Stream.

From 1635 on, the population steadily decreased, mostly from the diseases introduced by the white settlers; the Indians had no immunity to these diseases. Small pox, and even ordinary children's diseases such as measles, took a dreadful toll. Rum, sold by Dutch and English traders, helped destroy the moral fiber of the tribes.

At about 1670, only 35 years after the coming of the Dutch, there were only two small villages on the Island. Tribal life, as such, disappeared long before the American Revolution.

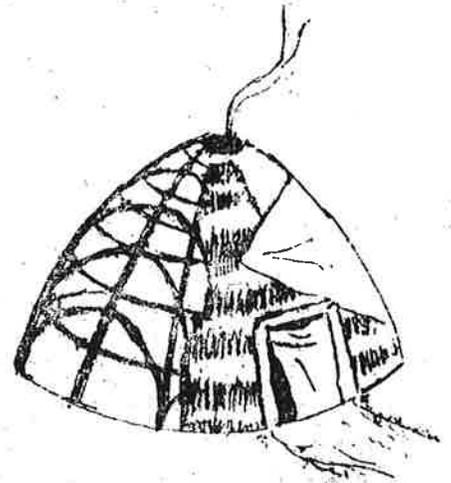
The Homes of the Rockaway Indians

The dome-shaped wigwam seems to have been the common type of dwelling on Long Island, though the long-house type, similar to that of the Iroquois of central New York, was also used by the Rockaways and other tribes of western Long Island.

The wigwam was made by digging holes in a circular pattern, inserting and tamping in saplings, binding each pole with its opposite number.

It was then covered with mats made of grass, grass thatch or skins of animals or both.

These wigwams housed a single family. The much larger long-houses held as many as seven or eight families, perhaps twenty or twenty-five people.



(To be continued)

LIBRARY - Al Mayernik is still working very hard on our bulletin board at the Library. This month he's featuring a display of World War II humor--Sad Sack, Bill Mauldin, etc. Be sure to tell Al of your favorites of his displays and mention any you might like to see in the future. He'd appreciate hearing from you.

COMING EVENTS

September 13th - Rabbi Resnikoff has invited all VSHS members to attend the dedication of the rebuilt Temple Gates of Zion, 322 N. Corona Ave., at 2 p.m.

September 26th & 27th - arts and crafts exhibit on Village Green. Also, Elks Club Oktoberfest in parking lot opposite their club house.

October - Library has asked us to put on program - more details at September meeting and in October PANORAMA.

LOST & FOUND - Claire has folding chair left at the picnic and will bring it to the September meeting for the owner to pick up.

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



Engine Company No. 2 was organized as the Nassau Chemical and Hose Co. No. 2 on October 4, 1922. Pictured above is one of their early possessions. Their firehouse is still located on Brooklyn Avenue.

VOLUME 9, No. 2

OCTOBER, 1981

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 21, 1981
8:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

PROGRAM

"LONG ISLAND ODDITIES"

presented by

RAY CHAMBERS

Need we say more? Ray has a new show of slides and his inimitable narration to highlight each one. It's always a treat when he is here, so don't miss this one!

In addition, Bert Keller will give a five minute recollection of the "old days" in Valley Stream. We hope others will share their memories with us at the meetings this season.

REMEMBER THIS DATE, TOO!

October 29 - 7:30 p.m. - Waldinger Library

"VALLEY STREAM: THEN AND NOW"

As mentioned last month, the Library invited us to put on a program this month. Howard Ruehl is getting together slides depicting various areas as they were and as they are now. Bert Keller, Emma Bitowski and Al Mayernik are also hard at work in gathering interesting facts that should be of interest to all. We do hope all members will try to attend to lend support to all who are putting this program together, as well as spending an enjoyable evening to boot.

HOBBY NIGHT for the November 18th meeting. Emma Bitowski is still looking for members who will share their arts, crafts, collections, etc. with us.

REMINDER

This will be the last issue of PANORAMA for those who have not renewed their membership. The rates are as follows:

Individual.....	\$3.00
Student.....	1.00
Contributing.....	7.50
Family.....	10.00
(four or more members of one family)	
Organizational.....	15.00
(clubs, business organizations, etc.)	
Sustaining.....	50.00
(tax exempt gift)	
Life.....	100.00
(tax exempt gift)	

If you can't renew at the October meeting, kindly make your check payable to the Valley Stream Historical Society and mail it to 123 South Central Ave., Valley Stream 11580.

REAR WINDOW

Our "Willis Company" program was absolutely fantastic. The men's devotion to Civil War history was truly inspiring.

From all reports, the V. S. Central High School Alumni meeting and party was a huge success, with over 200 in attendance. There were people from all parts of Long Island, as well as Maryland, Connecticut, California and Hawaii. (The Californian was our own member, Edith Van Dyk.)

Claire McMahon, our hard-working President, is still looking for someone to take charge of our little Country Store at the meetings. In addition, she is seeking a chairperson for the Flea Market to be held next Spring. Whoever does volunteer may rest assured he/she will receive lots of help and cooperation

1726 110128
A N IMPRINTS KETRA
30V1507 S N
530 111911-001

10811 'A N IMPRINTS KETRA
48211 'A N IMPRINTS KETRA
29 Cambridge Street
P A N O R A M A
Valley Stream Historical Society

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

Al Mayernik

The Indians of the Valley Stream Area--
The Making of Wampum

In the eastern United States, the Indians made strings of shell beads which they called wampum. It was used by them as money. The early settlers of New England and the Dutch and English colonists in New York and New Jersey also used wampum as a medium of exchange with the Indians.

White wampum, the most common variety, was made from the conch and the wick. The purple wampum was fashioned from the dark spot of the quahog or hard-shelled clam and was twice as valuable as the white. Wampum was made by cutting shells into small pieces and drilling holes through the pieces to form beads, usually one-quarter inch by one-eighth. The beads were then strung into a belt to form a design.

The south shore of Long Island, particularly between Rockaway and Patchogue, was the main wampum making area. Wampum was supplied to tribes distant from the seacoast. The Iroquois of central New York State used wampum in their ceremonies for treaty-making, mourning and record keeping. A message sent without a wampum belt was considered an "empty word." John Jacob Astor in the early 1800's bought large quantities of Long Island wampum for trade with the western Indians.

Even the three Indian names for Long Island refer to the importance of wampum making: Meltowax means "island of the ear shell"; Paumonok means "land of tribute," which was paid by the Island Indians to the Iroquois. Seawanacky means "island of shells."

The Role of the Iroquois Woman

In this time of greater consciousness of the role women should and could play in modern society, it is also time to correct misconceptions of the role the Indian woman, specifically the Iroquois, played in her society.

True, the Iroquois woman tilled the soil, planted and gathered the crops. She tanned the hides her men killed and made them into clothing and skillfully worked porcupine quills into intricate designs to decorate the costumes. She gathered sap from the maple for sugar and seeds

from the sunflower for bread. She made pots from clay and baskets from elm-bark, sweet grass and other materials. She pounded corn; she cleaned the long-house; she cooked; she cared for the children.

But she was no drudge, no mere beast of burden. In fact, the Iroquois woman occupied a higher place in her society than a woman of most other Indian tribes; certainly much higher than European women of earlier days. When an Iroquois woman married, her husband came to live in the house of her clan, welcome only so long as he furnished meat and proved himself acceptable. The crops and house were hers. Children belonged to her clan; the family line was traced through her clan. An older woman achieved great authority in her clan and often dictated the choice of chiefs. She sometimes had the power to forbid her son to go to war.

Women were represented in the religious and healing societies. Women often had the deciding vote in political affairs. The chiefs of the Iroquois Confederacy, the Five Tribes, were men, but they were chosen and could be removed by women.

If a woman was murdered, the injured family received twice as much payment as for a man. In the ceremonials mourning for a dead chief, it was pointed out it would have been much worse to lose a woman: "He who has worked for us is gone...but it is harder when a woman dies; with her death, the family line is lost."

(To be continued)

WELCOME ABOARD!

Three new members joined our ranks at the September meeting--Arthur Miller, husband of member Nan Miller and the parents of our President, Claire McMahon, Mildred and Vincent F. Donahue of Lynbrook.

Guests who shared our enjoyment of that meeting were Maybelle and Buck Smith of Florida and Anita Streliskes, who is the Librarian at the Forest Road School.

COMING EVENTS

October 18 - Al Mayernik will be giving a slide presentation at the Stamp Dealers Association show at the Holiday Inn in Hempstead. He will feature stamps relating to Long Island.