

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER

1984 MEETING SCHEDULE

Wednesday	January 18
Wednesday	February 15
Tuesday	March 20
Tuesday	April 17
Wednesday	May 16
Wednesday	June 20
Wednesday	September 19
Wednesday	October 17
Wednesday	November 21

* Subject to rescheduling

VOLUME XI, NUMBER 4

JANUARY, 1984

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,
January 18, 1984
6:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

COVERED DISH SUPPER

Door opens at 6:00 p.m. Shortly thereafter, we will enjoy an "Attitude Adjustment" Hour with welcoming beverages and cheese with crackers. Supper will follow at 7:00 p.m., according to the alphabetical assignment below:

- A - G Vegetable content, hot or cold, such as salads, casseroles, etc.
- H - O Dairy-type foods (eggs, cheese); gelatins, fruit; fish, hot or cold.
- P - Z "Starchy"-type, hot or cold. This might be potatoes, beans, rice, noodles, etc.

As customary, the Executive Board members will provide cakes for dessert in lieu of covered dishes. DO NOT BRING MEAT OR MEAT-CONTENT DISHES. The Society will provide these items, as well as bread, butter, tea and coffee. A goodwill offering will be accepted during the evening to cover this expense. The pleasure and popularity of this annual Society event merit your generosity in food and funds.

Guests are welcome. However, they will be expected to adhere to the foregoing requirements unless you undertake to do this for them. In order to provide adequately for any guests, please call Lil Weaver (791-5030) to inform her of your guest plans. One final word...please bring hot foods fully cooked and hot! Kitchen facilities are limited. See you then!

Lil Weaver

Following the supper, a short business meeting will be conducted by President Anthony Fiero, who will then turn the evening over to Program Chairman Jim Boerckel and Vice President Bob Presbry for the showing of Society slides of our events of the past several years.

Sounds like a nice, relaxing evening. Do come!

Mr. William P. Stris
41 Parkwood Drive East
Valley Stream, N. Y. 11580

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
Valley Stream, New York
Permit #924

Valley Stream Historical Society
P. A. N. O. R. A. M. A.
123 South Central Avenue
Valley Stream, New York 11580

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

by Al Mayernik

Whaleboat Warfare

Though the British occupied the entire length of Long Island after Washington's defeat and retreat in August 1776, skirmishes and raids by Patriots continued. This was the period of "whaleboat warfare."

Whaleboat guerrillas based in Connecticut crossed the Sound and kidnapped prominent Loyalists, who were later exchanged for Patriot prisoners. The whaleboats were effective in interrupting the flow of goods from the eastern end of the Island to the British stationed in New York City. Daring Patriot crews seized poultry, hay, grain, building materials and other Island commodities needed by the British occupation forces.

Raids were made on Oyster Bay, Huntington, Setauket and other British-held Island towns. In return, the British and Loyalists raided towns on the Connecticut shore. Late in April 1777, two thousand British and Loyalist troops crossed the Sound, landed at Black Rock (today's Fairfield) and marched to Danbury, an important American supply depot. There the British burned 19 houses, 22 barns and storehouses, 1600 tents, 1700 bushels of corn, 1700 barrels of pork, 700 bushels of wheat and 50 barrels of beef. It was a terrible blow to the American army, already short of supplies.

In retaliation, a detachment of American raiders under Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs left Guilford, Connecticut to destroy British stores collected at Sag Harbor. Meigs crossed the Sound with 170 men in whaleboats in May 1777, accompanied by two armed sloops. They arrived at Southold at six p.m. and carried their boats overland to Peconic Bay, where they re-embarked. When within four miles of Sag Harbor, Meigs hid the boats in the woods and with 130 men marched to attack the British guard at two o'clock in the morning.

The alarm soon spread and a British schooner, armed with 12 cannon, open fire upon the raiders. Some Patriots returned the fire while others set the vessels in the harbor on fire.

The Americans killed or captured the entire British force at Sag Harbor, destroyed all their shipping: 12 brigs and

sloops, 100 tons of hay, a quantity of rum and other stores. Colonel Meigs returned to Guilford with 90 prisoners; the Patriots did not lose a single man in the raid.

For this brilliant exploit, the Continental Congress thanked Meigs and presented him with an elegant sword. (to be continued)

* * *

For general information about VSHS, contact Anthony Fiero - 561-2090

* * *

BITS OF THIS AND THAT

There will be another "pass the hat" collection for the Statue of Liberty Restoration Fund during the meeting following the Covered Dish Supper. The Society will match all monies collected. Receipts will be given to contributors desiring them...Have you noticed that attractive Christmas wreath on the door of the Museum? It was placed there by the Valley Stream Garden Club and certainly lends a special touch to the building. In the future, "Flowers by Grieco" will be supplying seasonal decorations for the door. A wonderful and much appreciated gesture by Mr. Victor Grieco...We'll be looking forward to Trustee Harold Igoe's next report on the progress of the restoration of the Museum...What a terrific slide show and talk Tim O'Brien, editor of the monthly paper, "Long Island Heritage", gave at our November meeting...We are saddened by the passing of Dr. Wilbur Holz and extend sincerest sympathy to his family...Al Mayernik is busily preparing for his display on the Statue of Liberty for the Society's bulletin board in the Waldinger Library (for February). (McQ.)

* * *

KITTEN

A kitten is so flexible that she is almost double; the hind parts are equivalent to another kitten with which the forepart plays. She does not discover that her tail belongs to her until you tread upon it.

Henry David Thoreau

Valley Stream, N. Y. 11580
41 Parkwood Drive East
Mr. William P. Stris

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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

by Al Mayernik

Long Island was occupied by an enemy army longer than any area under the American flag. After Washington was driven from Brooklyn in late August 1776, British troops occupied the entire Island until they departed in late 1783.

During the period of occupation, those hostile to King George III and, sometimes, even those loyal to him, suffered greatly from the demands of military occupation. Citizens who favored independence were harassed, arrested and their property seized or burned. The families of two signers of the Declaration, Francis Lewis and William Floyd, were among those who were punished. Even the Loyalists were sometimes cheated by the army supply officers when the farmers delivered firewood, hay, grain and livestock.

Most of the inhabitants of Brooklyn and Queens, then including Nassau, favored the King. Suffolk was for the Patriots. With the departure of the British army in November and December 1783, the Loyalists feared the Patriots would take revenge on them. And revenge, they had! Loyalist property was seized; the new legislature of New York State passed laws confiscating Loyalists' property; the great Loyalists' manors were broken up. Individual Tories were mocked, spat upon and beaten.

Loyalists fled to England, Nova Scotia, Upper Canada (Ontario) and the Bahama Islands, seeking new lives in new lands. Perhaps 40,000 fled to Canada, including more than one-third of the population of Queens County, including Nassau.

Long Island lost many trained people and community leaders: government officials, merchants, lawyers, ministers, doctors and skilled craftsmen. And in this exodus were some of the founding families of Long Island: Seaman, Hicks, Denton, Hewlett, Carman, Ludlow, Hendrickson and Kissam.

Some Loyalists stayed. It was many, many years before the bitterness that was an aftermath of the Revolution could be forgotten.

(to be continued)

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

by Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man traveling a lone highway,
Came at evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm deep and wide,
Through which there flowed a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
For the sullen stream held no fear for him
He turned when he reached the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man!" cried a fellow pilgrim near,
"Why waste your strength with your
building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day,
And you never again will pass this way;
You have crossed the chasm deep and wide,
Why build a bridge at eventide?"

The builder raised his old gray head,
"Good friend, on the path I have come,"
he said,

"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet will pass this way.
This stream which has meant naught to me,
To that fair-haired boy may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim.
Good friend, I am building this bridge
for him."

* * *

WORD MASTER

William Safire, author of the book, "On Language," and columnist for The New York Times, told TV interviewer Dick Cavett that he has named his dog Peeve, in order to be able to say, in honesty, that he "has a pet Peeve."

* * *



McQ.

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XI, NUMBER 6

MARCH, 1984

N E X T M E E T I N G

TUESDAY,

March 20, 1984

8:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

Program

"SHORT TALES

of

THE LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD"

R. J. HARRISON

Richie Harrison will share with us many of his memories and experiences as a Long Island Rail Road engineer. He is the author of the book, "LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD MEMORIES - The Making of a Steam Locomotive Engineer." This certainly sounds like the ideal program for the railroad buffs and "Dashing Dans and Dotties" among us.

Cakes for our refreshment hour tonight will be supplied by Agnes Libath, Eileen Brennan and Jane Sutter. Much obliged, ladies!

How nice of Walter Savery to volunteer to take charge of our Hospitality Committee this year. Yea, Walter!

Winter can trudge along slowly until March has come. The cold and wind and snow of January and February are sharp and keen. They seem like endless things, until March is here. . . . March, the month of spring. Hope rises in March, like the sap in the maples by the side of the road. Hope puts spring just beyond the hill, despite the snows that come sometimes in the year's third month. March is filled with expectancy and radiant hope, and man, as always, places his trust in the arms of nature and the year.

Lansing Christman

LOOKING AHEAD

For our April 17th meeting, Jim and Audrey Boerckel have lined up members from the Long Island Early Flyers Club, who will talk on "The Flight of the Spirit of St. Louis" and, of course, on Col. Lindbergh himself. The cake donors will be Jane Simon, Helen Zang and Happy Hering.

* * *

LOOKING BACK

The reports at the past few meetings on the Museum are certainly exciting to hear--progress, progress!!

Robert Raynor's program last month on the town of Freeport was very well received by the attendees. And Mr. Raynor enjoyed being with us, too! His slides showed how the Freeport Museum was developed, step by step. He also told of an old courthouse that was located right on the water (which no longer exists). Old vaudevillians who lived in Freeport formed an organization called "The Lights" and put on marvelous productions.

Thanks again to Lil Weaver for handling the hospitality table.

Mr. William P. Striss
41 Parkwood Drive East
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HISTORY AS HOBBY
by Julia Crow

(From Modern Maturity, Feb./March
1984)

In California, an amateur historian recognizes the value of an old New York State court recorder's book and persuades the owners to loan it to the New York historical society for microfilming. From the East, it had gone by covered wagon to the Middle West, its empty pages filled with family records. From there it had drifted with generations westward to the Pacific. Now, 130-year-old records are filling the gaps of genealogical and municipal history 2,500 miles away.

The library is a good place for amateur historians to start and librarians are excellent guides to other sources if given a hint of what is sought. Museums and historical societies will have old maps and records that may be helpful, as are

the files of newspapers and land offices.

Some of the most famous of our country's trails—the Donner, Oregon, Mormon and others—have been mapped by faithful trackers from just such sources.

The sentence in a book, "The canyon was so rugged the emigrants used cables and winches to pull the wagons forward up the hill—the marks of the old cables could still be seen on the trees a few years ago," sent my husband and me tramping through rocky canyons to find a tree two centuries old, girdled by scars over 100 years old.

The interest can begin anywhere, in the crumbling foundation of an old building, a remark dropped by

some old-timer. If you have a camera, take a picture of that school or house or church or bridge before it is demolished. Future generations of historians will thank you. And you can add to the collection of the nearest historical society.

If you can talk to people easily, record personal reminiscences. The stories may be vague, sometimes exaggerated, but this is where the essence and romance, the human flavor of history is found. Accuracy can be checked later.

The past, around us everywhere, is free and exciting to explore and so many-sided that anyone can take part in its research. A little time and interest is all you need to turn what you find into an absorbing hobby. ■

PAR FOR THE COURSE

A week before school opened, I walked the route my first-grader son would take to school. I walked slowly and it figured out twenty minutes. But when he walked it alone, he was ten minutes late the first two days of school. Puzzled, I walked with him the third day. The twenty minutes was all right, as far as it went. But I'd failed to consider such side trips as:

Tracking down a trail of ants from a sidewalk into a lot.
Critical inspection of a display of trinkets and bicycles
in a store window.

An educational pause to watch a man change a tire.
Swing around half a dozen phone poles.

Friendly overtures to three stray dogs and one brown cat.

In short, I had forgotten I was six years old once myself.

— San Diego Tribune

McQ.

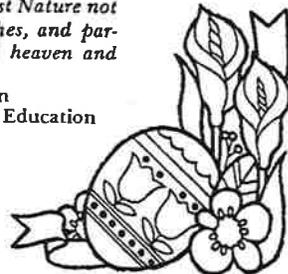
PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER

*"Spring
In those vernal seasons of the year, when
the air is calm and pleasant, it were an
injury and sullenness against Nature not
to go out and see her riches, and par-
take in her rejoicing with heaven and
earth."*

John Milton
Tractate of Education



VOLUME XI, Number 7

APRIL, 1984

N E X T M E E T I N G

TUESDAY

April 17, 1984

8:00 PM

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

Program

"THE FLIGHT OF THE SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS"

Hank Anholzer and a number of other members of the Long Island Early Flyers Club will present another of their entertaining, informative and educational programs on the early days of aviation. Since their last visit with us they have opened their Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, which we were privileged see a couple of years ago. Now we have a chance to relive Colonel Lindbergh's historic flight in his world-renowned plane. Sounds like another great program.

Cake doners for this meeting will be Jane Simon, Helen Zang and Frances Hering. (Thank you!)

* * *

May meeting: Wednesday, May 16th.

BITS OF THIS AND THAT

Thanks due to Lil Weaver for picking up the Hospitality chores at the March meeting, and to Audrey Boerckel, Fran Hering and Agnes Libath for assisting with the "clean-up" and to Fred Naef for pinch-hitting for the vacationing Wilbur Fare in doing all the other duties required to keep things running smoothly.

The Nominating Committee is hard at work lining up a slate to be presented at the meeting this month, with the election scheduled for the May meeting.

We extend sincere sympathy to the family of Marguerite Schmitt, who died last month.

The March meeting was well-attended by members and guests, who all enjoyed personable R. J. Harrison's program on his memories and experiences as a Long Island Rail Road engineer.

* * *

A TOAST YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

America--half-brother of the world!--with something good and bad of every land.

- Bayley

Mr. William P. Stris
41 Parkwood Drive East
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Valley Stream, New York 11582

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND - by Al Mayernik

Valley Stream - 1783-1860

If you've wondered what Valley Stream was like in the period between the Revolution and the Civil War, visit the Old Bethpage Restoration.

Valley Stream and the majority of the villages on Long Island were "something like" the Restoration. Most people were farmers and the Village had similar stores and trades and the same dirt roads, muddy after a rain, dusty when dry. Farmers brought their grain to the gristmills to be ground into flour. Logs from the farmers' woodlots were made into useful lumber at the Village sawmills. In the wintertime, Cornell's Pond (Hendrickson Pond) supplied ice for the community that was stored for summer use deep in sawdust in the icehouse nearby.

Changes came slowly, hardly noticeable from year to year. The first store was opened in 1843 by Robert Pagan. Prior to this, residents had to go to Hempstead for their purchases. It was Robert Pagan who established the Village's first post office in his store and gave Valley Stream its name. The Plank Road (Merrick Road) was extended from Pearsall's Corner (Lynbrook) as a toll road to Jamaica in 1853. The planks supposedly covered the deepest of the mudholes.

In mid-century, Valley Stream had no church but was served by a Methodist circuit rider. Later, Sinner's Hope Chapel was built, the predecessor of Grace Methodist Church. The first school house, a one-room building, opened in 1859 and was the beginning of District 13.

When there was a fire, prior to 1860 (and later), all that could be done was to watch the building burn. The residents were unable to do much more than wet down adjoining buildings if a blaze got much of a start. (The fire department was organized in 1898.)

Though a railroad extended through the center of the Island from Brooklyn to Greenport, the railroad would not come to Valley Stream until after the Civil War.

* * *

Best wishes to all for a joyous springtime celebration of the Passover and Easter holidays from the Officers and Trustees of the Valley Stream Historical Society.



McQ.

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



May 28 is Memorial Day Commemoration. We have been invited to march in the Village Parade and do hope that many more members who join the line of march in addition to those who signed up at the last meeting.

A fitting tribute to those men and women who sacrificed their lives for us.

VOLUME XI, Number 8

May, 1984

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,
May 16, 1984
8:00 PM

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

Program

"THE GOLD BEATERS OF HICKSVILLE"

Mr. Thomas Daunt, Curator of the Hicksville Gregory Museum, will be our guest speaker this evening and will explain "Goldbeating" - an ancient craft recreated in Hicksville. This certainly should be an enlightening evening for all of us. Try not to miss it.

The Hicksville Gregory Museum is Long Island's Earth Science Center and is well worth a trip to Hicksville to see it.

The cakes for our refreshment table will be supplied by Ruth Anholzer, Marge Finkenstadt, Marion Clinchy and Rachel Dann--and we do thank them!

* * *

Audrey Boerckel's supply of Memory Lane items for the MAILEader has just about run dry. So, put on your thinking caps and then get those reminiscences down on paper and send them off to Audrey or give them to her at a meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At the April meeting, the following slate was presented for the election at the May 16th meeting. (Nominations from the floor will be accepted until election time.)

President.....Claire McMahon
Vice President.....Robert Presbrey
Recording Secretary.....Helen Dowdeswell
Corresponding Sec'y.....Margaret Dalton
Treasurer.....Mildred Zulch

Trustees for 1 Year: Henry Krooss, Adele Hagmann, Ted Libath, Anthony Fiero

Trustees for 2 Years: Alphonse Mayernik, James Boerckel

Trustee for 3 Years to fill the term of Claire McMahon.....Lillian Weaver

* * *

Audrey and Jim Boerckel are trying to set up a trip to the Cradle of Aviation Museum for all VSHS members interested in going. Details have to be worked out and we will be advised if and when we might be going at the May 16th meeting.

* * *

SICK LIST

Marge Dalton is home from the hospital and recuperating nicely at home.

Mildred Zulch is in Franklin General Hospital.

Howard Ruehl is in South Nassau Com. Hospital.

It's membership renewal time again. To renew, kindly fill out this form and mail it to the address shown below or bring it to the meeting. Please make checks payable to the Valley Stream Historical Society. (Individual memberships are \$5.00.)

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1984 MEMBERSHIP FORM
P. O. Box 22 EXPIRES JUNE 1985
Valley Stream, New York 11582

I have marked my category below. Please send my

New Renewal

TO: Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Introduced by _____

Hobbies and/or special interests _____

- Individual.....\$ 5.00
- Student..... 2.00
- Contributing..... 7.50
- Family..... 12.00
(four or more members of one family)
- Organizational..... 25.00
(clubs, business organizations, etc.)
- Sustaining..... 50.00
(tax exempt gift)
- Life..... 100.00
(tax exempt gift)

Membership paid by Cash Check

Date _____

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND - by Al Mayernik

Changes in Long Island Place Names

In the 19th century, Long Island saw many changes brought about by the telegraph, steamboat, railroad and telephone. Another change, evident to one perusing old maps of the island, is the change in place names. Here are a few of these name changes of villages, or sections thereof, most of which were made during the 1800's:

<u>Astoria:</u> Hallet's Cove; Steinway	<u>Little Neck:</u> Cornbury; Little Madnams Neck
<u>Baldwin Harbor:</u> Hick's Neck	<u>Lindenhurst:</u> Breslau
<u>Bay Shore:</u> Pentauquit	<u>Lynbrook:</u> Bloomfield; Pearsall's Corner
<u>Bethpage:</u> Central Park	<u>Manhasset:</u> Cow Neck
<u>Cedarhurst:</u> Ocean Point	<u>Massapequa:</u> Fort Neck
<u>College Point:</u> Tew's Neck, Lawrence's Neck	<u>Massapequa Park:</u> Brush Plains
<u>Strattonport:</u> Flammersburg	<u>Mineola:</u> Hempstead Branch
<u>East Moriches:</u> Benjaminsburg	<u>Middleburg:</u> Hastings
<u>East Rockaway:</u> Near Rockaway; Clinktown	<u>Malverne:</u> Norwood
<u>Elmhurst:</u> Middleburg; Newtown	<u>Manorville:</u> Punk's Hole; St. George's Manor
<u>Elmont:</u> Foster's Meadow	<u>Orient:</u> Oysterponds
<u>Floral Park:</u> Hinsdale	<u>Queens Village:</u> Little Plains; Brushville
<u>Forest Hills:</u> White Pot; Hopedale	<u>Richmond Hill:</u> Clarenceville
<u>Freeport:</u> Washburne's Neck; Raynor South;	<u>Ronkonkoma:</u> Lakeland
<u>Raynortown</u>	<u>Roosevelt:</u> Rum Point
<u>Glen Cove:</u> Mosquito Cove	<u>South Haven:</u> The Fireplace
<u>Great River:</u> Youngsport	<u>Valley Stream:</u> Rum Junction; Hungry Harbor;
<u>Greenport:</u> Sterling	<u>Cookie Hill; Tigertown:</u> Skunk's Misery
<u>Howard Beach:</u> Ramblersville	<u>Wantagh:</u> Ridgewood
<u>Inwood:</u> North West Point	<u>West Hampton:</u> Ketchabonack
<u>Jericho:</u> The Farms; Springfield	
<u>Kew Gardens:</u> Head of the Vleigh	
<u>Lake Success:</u> Lakeville	
<u>Laurel:</u> Franklinville	

(To be continued)

MY MOTHER'S DAY

I'm always away on Mother's Day
'Cause my mother is no longer here.
I miss her so much and could feel her touch,
The memories of her are so dear.

What she did for me can never be
Appreciably expressed.
Her kindly words and many deeds
Were always the very best.

So, I must go away; I still can't stay
Where I lost her so suddenly.
But, some prayers and tears
Will keep me through the years,
Remembering Mother's Day.

Jane Sutter
(VSHS Member)

A donation of \$35.00 was received from the Blessed Sacrament Rosary Altar Society in thanks for the work of Howard Ruehl and Al Mayernik.

MUSEUM UPDATE

Village Trustee Harold Igoe gave a report on the progress of the Museum at our April 17th meeting. The forms for incorporation of the Museum have been completed. The trustees of this corporation are Bert Keller, Claire McMahon, Anthony Strifolino, John Mastromarino and William Sypher. A temporary fence has been installed. May 12th has been designated as clean-up day and volunteers are requested to help. The structural engineer has completed his study. The Finance Committee, headed by Mr. Serota, feels that its goal is easily achievable. An initial donation of \$5,000 was made by Chairman Serota. The Valley Stream Lake study continues with hopes of low-cost improvement.

Vice President Bob Presbrey is doing a super job distributing copies of those attractive, eye-catching flyers he is making up to advertise our meetings and programs. Take a bow, Bob

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PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



Pythagoras used to say life resembles the Olympic Games: a few men strain their muscles to carry off a prize; others bring trinkets to sell to the crowd for a profit; and some there are (and not the worst) who seek no further advantage than to look at the show and see how and why everything is done.

Montaigne

VOLUME XI, Number 9

June, 1984

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,
June 20, 1984
8:00 PM

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
7th Street & Brooklyn Avenue
Valley Stream

PROGRAM

Short Business Meeting
Installation of Officers
Chinese Auction
Strawberry Festival

Our customary format for the June meeting. An oldie, but a goodie.

Jim and Audrey are once again in charge of the Chinese Auction and ask your indulgence in bringing White Elephant and mystery gifts. You can contact them ahead of time (561-7138) or just give your contributions to them on arrival at the meeting.

Also badly needed are finger cakes or cookies to be served with the ice cream and strawberries. This is an absolute must to ensure the success of this delectable part of the evening!

This will be our last meeting until September, so we do hope that you will be there.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

President Anthony Fiero wishes to thank all those who marched in the parade and he regrets that illness prevented him from joining the ranks. The marchers were: Mr. & Mrs. Fausto Cimador in their 1954 Pontiac, Howard & Marion Clinchy, Allan and Helen Dowdeswell, Wilbur, Warren, Janet & Karen Fare, Christopher Ford, Carolyn Gladky, Bert Keller, Henry Krooss, Ted Libath, Janet Mankewich, Andy, Claire & Michael McMahon, Al Mayernik, Andy Pfeiffer, Robert Presbrey and Shirley Siegel. (Our apologies if anyone was left out of this listing.)

MUSEUM UPDATE

Bert Keller reported for Trustee Igoe at the May meeting and announced that volunteer work on the Museum had begun on May 12th. Central High students, Friends of Bridge and VSHS members painted the fence and cleaned up inside until the work had to be suspended because of rain. The work was completed the following Saturday. Bert praised the workers and especially John Barone, village employee who is particularly talented in restoration. The Museum is scheduled to be completed within two years. A rendering of the Museum as it will appear when finished was shown in a photo put on display by President Fiero.

Since that meeting, the flagpole from the recently demolished Donahue School (Franklin School) has been delivered to the Museum for future use.

It's membership renewal time again. To renew, kindly fill out this form and mail it to the address shown below or bring it to the meeting. Please make checks payable to the Valley Stream Historical Society. (Individual memberships are \$5.00.)

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 22
Valley Stream, New York 11582

1984 MEMBERSHIP FORM
EXPIRES JUNE 1985

I have marked my category below. Please send my
 New Renewal

TO: Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Introduced by _____
Hobbies and/or special interests _____

- Individual.....\$ 5.00
- Student..... 2.00
- Contributing..... 7.50
- Family..... 12.00
(four or more members of one family)
- Organizational..... 25.00
(clubs, business organizations, etc.)
- Sustaining..... 50.00
(tax exempt gift)
- Life..... 100.00
(tax exempt gift)

Membership paid by Cash Check

Date _____

R.I.P.

Harry Polychron, father of VSHS member Jim Polychron, died in Florida on May 20th. His Polychron Liquors at 162 Rockaway Ave. is the oldest surviving family-owned retail establishment in the Village (and possibly New York State). In 1928, Mr. Polychron and his brother Phillip bought a delicatessen at the corner of Rockaway and Mineola Avenues. In 1933, Harry opened the liquor store at the corner of Valley Stream Boulevard and Rockaway Avenue, where it is still located. It was one of the first stores to be licensed by the State of New York. Our condolences to Jim, his mother and family.

VSHS member Richard H. Brown died on May 1st. A resident for over 60 years, Mr. Brown opened a law office in Valley Stream in 1923 and had been the source of many of our Memory Lane articles over the years. One of his family members had served in the American Revolution and 4 of his ancestors had come over on the Mayflower. Mr. Brown's wife, Anna (Bergler), also a VSHS member, died last June; they were married in 1924. Our sympathies to their four sons and 12 grandchildren.

Margaret McQuade, mother of PANORAMA editor, Evelyn McQuade, died on May 10th. A resident of Valley Stream for almost 55 years, she lived in our "old Gibson" home purchased in 1924 by my father, the late William R. McQuade. (She was one great lady--and my life is richer for having known both of them.)

THANK YOU

"Thank you for your cards, prayers, blessings and get-well wishes; they made my stay at South Nassau a pleasant one."

Howard Ruehl

My own personal thanks to Barbara Ehlinger for stepping in and getting PANORAMA in the mail last month (with an assist from her son, Bill). Also, heartfelt appreciation to VSHS officers and trustees for their many kindnesses. Evelyn McQuade

STATUE OF LIBERTY FUND

The proceeds from the Chinese Auction will be donated to the Statue of Liberty Fund. Another reason to plan to be there! Also, a Hummel donated by Mrs. Agnes George will be auctioned at the June meeting.

BITS OF THIS AND THAT

Al Mayernik's great articles on Long Island history will be resumed in the September issue of PANORAMA. His article on Valley Stream will appear in the July issue of Long Island Heritage.

Mr. Thomas Daunt, Curator of the Hicksville Gregory Museum gave a most enlightening talk on the ancient art of Goldbeating, together with slides and artifacts, at the May meeting.

A letter of thanks was received from the Waldinger Library for the \$100 donation for books on Long Island history.

Audrey Boerckel is still looking for items for the Memory Lane column in The MAILleader. Also, if you know of any old-time resident who is moving, perhaps you could ask them to donate old papers, pictures, etc. that they no longer want.

It has been brought to our attention that out-of-town members receive their copies of PANORAMA after the meeting dates. We are sorry that this has happened. Unfortunately, it seems other post offices do not give the excellent service that Valley Stream does. We will try to give more advance notice concerning program schedules as one way of trying to solve this problem with the bulk mailing.

The Village Picnic will be held at the Village Green on Sunday, July 1st; rain date, July 8th. We will have our usual tent and will sell our various items, in addition to books and cup cakes donated by members. Please try to help us out again this year.

Those who signed up at the May meeting thoroughly enjoyed the bus trip to the Cradle of Aviation Museum at Mitchel Field. Their volunteers are doing an amazing job in reconstructing and/or repairing aircraft that were originally built on Long Island or were used for historic flights originating from Long Island airports.

Extra copies of the July issue of Long Island Heritage will be delivered to the Waldinger Library. Al Mayernik will also bring extra copies to the September meeting.

At the September 19th meeting, we hope to have another program from the Camberwell Collection presented by Mrs. Ray Chambers; our Annual Covered Dish Supper will be held on October 17th, instead of January.

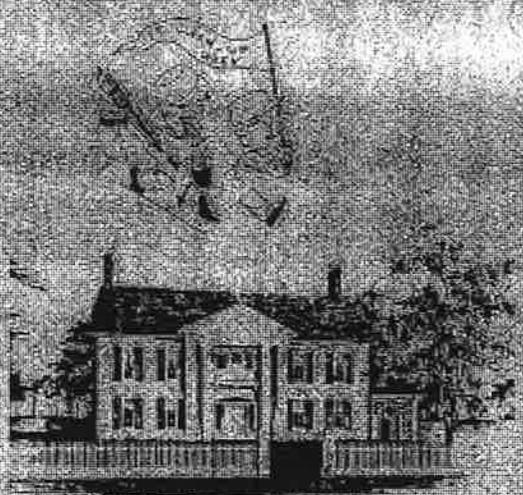
"It is better to have loafed and lost than never to have loafed at all."
(James Thurber)

Valley Stream Historical Society
P A N O R A M A
P. O. Box #22
Valley Stream, New York 11582

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Valley Stream, N. Y. 11580

PANORAMA



VOLUME 11, Number 4

October, 1984

NOVEMBER MEETING

Wednesday,
October 17, 1984
6:30 p.m.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Ayns-Williams Building
7th Street (Off Brooklyn Avenue)
Valley Stream

COVERED DISH SUPPER

The door opens at 6:00 and members and guests are invited to enjoy an "Attitude Adjustment" time with welcoming beverages and snacks. Supper will follow at 7:00 p.m., according to the alphabetical assignment below:

- A - G "Starchy" - type, hot or cold. This might be potatoes, beans, rice, noodles, etc.
- H - O - Vegetable content, hot or cold, such as salads, casseroles, etc.
- P - Z Dairy-type foods (eggs, cheese); gelatins, fruit; fish, hot or cold.

The Executive Board will provide cakes for dessert in lieu of covered dishes. **DO NOT BRING MEAT OR MEAT-CONTENT DISHES.** The Society will provide these items, as well as bread, butter, tea and coffee. Please bring hot foods fully cooked and hot! Kitchen facilities are limited.

Guests are welcome; however, they will be expected to adhere to the foregoing requirements unless you undertake to do this for them.

A minimum donation of \$1.00 per person will be collected at the door. The pleasure and popularity of this annual event merit your generosity in food and funds.

A short business meeting will follow the supper and then Jane Sutter, VSHS member, songwriter and lyricist will present a program on her experiences in Tin Pan Alley.

BITS OF THIS AND THAT - Jimmy Boerckel is once again sending out 400s for Memory Lane items. Wouldn't you like to see one of your favorite reminiscences printed in the MAILleader?

The VALLEY STREAM MUSEUM Committee has asked for volunteers to help "clean up" the Museum - inside and outside (scrapping, painting, etc.) - on October 13th and October 20th, starting at 8:30 a.m. All welcome, regardless of age. Contact Jean Barker at Village Hall - 825-4200.

SICK LIST - glad to hear that Bert Keller and Henry Krooss are both feeling better and out and around again.

WELCOME, WELCOME to Father Bruce Torrey, the new pastor at Holy Trinity. We do wish him much success in his new assignment.

Sincere **SYMPATHY** to Father Donald Schneider on the recent passing of his lovely wife Marion, a VSHS member.

Village Trustee and Liaison to our Society, **HAROLD IGOE**, reported at our September meeting that the footing for the Franklin School flagpole is in place on the Museum grounds and Congressman Ray McGrath has donated a flag.

NOTE: The date of the **NOVEMBER MEETING** has been changed to **November 28th**. Hank Anholzer will head the program for this meeting and the subject will be on the restoration of old automobiles.

JIM and **AUDREY BOERCKEL** are plotting a first-time December event for the Society, by way of a wine or cordial tasting on December 5th. **JIM POLYCHRON** is helping them to plan this enjoyable event. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar. Jim Boerckel will keep us posted as the plans firm up.

GOOD WORKS - He who has more learning than good deeds is like a tree with many branches but weak roots; the first great storm will throw it to the ground. He whose good works are greater than his knowledge is like a tree with fewer branches but with strong and spreading roots, a tree which all the winds of heaven cannot uproot.

Talmud

VALLEY STREAM, N. Y. 11580
41 BEECHCROFT DRIVE EAST
MR. WILLIAM F. SHAW

VALLEY STREAM, N. Y. 11580
P. O. BOX 22
P. N. D. & N. Y.
VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THE MONITOR AND THE MERRIMACK

by Air Mayernik

The Monitor and the Merrimack

One of the most important events of the Civil War, perhaps equal in importance to the Union victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg, occurred at a shipbuilding yard in Greenpoint, Long Island. That event was the building of the Monitor, which saved the Union's blockade of the South and which revolutionized naval warfare all over the world.

When the South seceded from the Union, they seized all Federal properties within their area: forts, post offices and navy yards. The Union navy was forced to abandon the Norfolk Navy Yard and they burned and scuttled many ships including the steam frigate "Merrimack." The Confederates raised the "Merrimack," removed her masts, covered the side with heavy iron plates and renamed her the "Virginia."

On March 8, 1862, the "Virginia" sailed into the Hampton Roads, the body of water where the Chesapeake and James River meet the Atlantic. She attacked the wooden ships of the Union blockading squadron. She rammed and sank the "Cumberland," destroyed the "Congress" and scattered the other ships, with no damage to herself.

Fear spread throughout the North. What if the "Virginia" entered the Potomac and threatened the Nation's capital? Or New York, Philadelphia or Boston harbors? The North would be helpless.

Like a fairy tale, rescue arrived in the nick of time. Early in October 1861, John Ericsson's first ironclad was abuilding in the shipyard of Thomas Rowland in Greenpoint. Within 100 days the ship was finished. So hurried was the preparation, that the mechanics worked on her night and day to the hour of her departure. There had been little time to drill the gun crews, to work the turret and to become familiar with unusual features of the ship. The crew was composed of volunteers.

The "Monitor" left New York on March 6. The ship was unfit as a sea-going craft; the ship leaked badly and at times "water came down under the turret like a waterfall." The "Monitor"



The Monitor and the Merrimack

reached Hampton Roads the evening of March 8, in time to witness the burning of the "Congress" in the distance.

The next morning, the "Virginia" again entered the Road intent on destroying the remaining blockading ships. The "Monitor" steered directly toward the "Virginia" and a four-hour battle ensued. Broadside followed broadside, sometimes at a range of only a few yards, but without apparent damage to either vessel. The battle was a draw; the "Virginia" withdrew, never again to challenge the blockade.

The Union was elated: the blockade was maintained. A greater effect the "Monitor's" victory had was on future warships. Britain, which had considered it had 149 first class warships, now realized that of that number only two could be trusted "to an engagement with that little Monitor." Navies all over the world had to rebuild to replace their wooden ships with ironclads.

(To be continued)

* * *

LAST CHANCE to renew your membership before being dropped from the PANORAMA mailing list. The dues schedule is: Individual: \$5; Student: \$2; Contributing: \$7.50; Family: \$12 (4 or more members of one family); Organizational (clubs, business organizations, etc.): \$25; Sustaining (tax exempt gift): \$50; Life (tax exempt gift): \$100. Please remit to VSHS, P. O. Box 22, Valley Stream, New York 11582.

* * *

INDIFFERENT - The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that's the essence of inhumanity.

George Bernard Shaw

PANORAMA



THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

was proclaimed from York by the Continental Congress on November 1, 1777, to be celebrated on Thursday, December 18. It was read by Sam Adams of Massachusetts, "Father of the Revolution," advocating for the first time "one day of public thanksgiving" for all of the states after the battle of Saratoga, "that with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts."

By various historical and patriotic societies and the National Thanksgiving Foundation

(From an historical sign erected on East Market Street in York, Pennsylvania.)

VOLUME XII, No. 3

November/December 1984

Coming Events

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,
November 28, 1984
8:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

Program

Another welcome visit from our friend, Hank Anholzer. This time Hank will tell us about the restoration of antique automobiles by The Long Island Regional Group of The Early Ford V-8 Club of America. This is a popular hobby of thousands of people throughout the country, and it should be most interesting to learn just how they keep those beautiful old cars in top notch condition.

Our hostess/cake doners for the evening are: Caroline Young, Marion Raeder, Gladys Shaw, Margaret Finkenstadt and Eileen F. Brennan. Thank you all!

and then...

on

Wednesday,
December 5, 1984
8:00 p.m.

(also in the Church Hall)

A CORDIAL & LIQUEUR TASTING

Jim and Audrey Boerckel and Jim Polychron have arranged for a representative from Hiram Walker to show a film and then let us sample many delectable after dinner and dessert drinks to give us a headstart on the holiday season. At the door contributions for this event are \$2.00 per person.

We don't usually have any events in December, so this doesn't sound like one to be missed!

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT

President Claire McMahon wishes to express her sincere appreciation and thanks to all who worked on the Covered Dish Supper--another successful evening enjoyed by members and their guests.

About 50 people witnessed the raising of the flag at the Museum on Sunday, November 11th, on the flag pole that had stood on the grounds of the recently demolished Donahue School (Franklin School). Mayor Greco and all the Village trustees attended and Trustee Harold Igoe preceded and actually hoisted this flag that had been presented to the Museum by Congressman Ray McGrath.

Don't forget to send along any "Memory Lane" items you have to Audrey Boerckel.

It was fun to hear Jim Boerckel interview Jane Sutter about her "Tin Pan Alley" days for the Covered Dish Supper program.

We have received an acknowledgement from the Statue of Liberty Restoration Committee for your contributions and the Society's matching contribution.

* * *

1985 Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday.....	January 16
Tuesday.....	February 19
Tuesday.....	March 19
Wednesday.....	April 17
Wednesday.....	May 15
Wednesday.....	June 19
Wednesday.....	September 18
Wednesday.....	October 16
Wednesday.....	November 20

(Circumstances beyond our control might cause these dates to be changed.)

* * *

Interest

When a person takes you aside and asks you what rent you pay and whether your boots pinch, you know that he is interested in you.

George Bernard Shaw

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Mr. William P. Striss

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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

The Coming of the Railroad (Part I)

Two locomotives were built for the Brooklyn and Jamaica Rail Road and soon became the property of the newly organized Long Island Rail Road. The "Ariel" was finished in November 1835 and was used for the first run from Brooklyn to Jamaica in 1836. Both "Ariel" and the second locomotive "Post Boy" were identical, weighing about 7 tons and cost \$7,000 apiece. The line was soon extended from Jamaica to Hicksville.

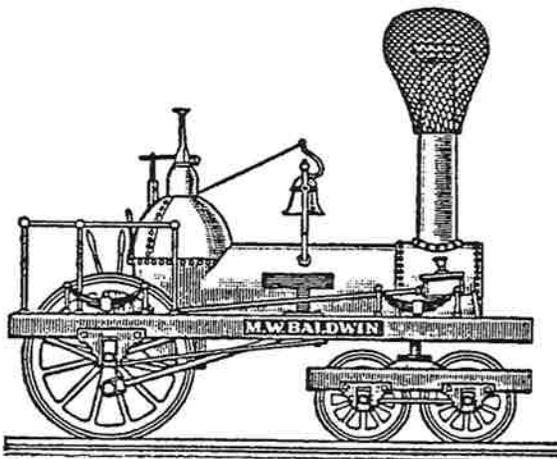
The plan was to run the tracks from Brooklyn to Greenport, where passengers would take a ferry to Southington, Connecticut, and then transfer to a Boston-bound train on the Old Colony Line. Though the railroad was completed to Greenport in 1844, the extended line did not immediately bring prosperity to the Long Island Rail Road since a direct overland route was completed from Boston to New York City in 1850.

There was great opposition to the railroad throughout the Island. Villagers objected to the noise; farmers were angered when trains frightened their livestock and sparks from wood-burning engines set fire to their fields and woodlands. Stations were burned; tracks were torn up and trains were stoned and wrecked.

(To be continued)

HELP WANTED

We are in desperate need of an Acting Treasurer to help us out while our Treasurer, Mildred Zulch, is recuperating. Helen Dowdeswell, our Recording Secretary, has been doing an admiral job of filling in, but now has other commitments. We are hoping that someone from the membership will volunteer to take over the books at this time. Please contact Claire McMahon - 561-9879 or speak to her at the meeting.



"Ariel" - The LIRR's first locomotive

* * *

BEAUTIFUL LADY OF LIBERTY - by Jane Sutter (VSHS member)

Beautiful Lady
It's so good to know you
To look up at your eyes
That light up the skies
And make our hearts pound.

Beautiful Lady
Though you're just a statue
Nothing can match you
We're so glad you're around.

You are our hope and inspiration
You have our love and admiration
You're the spirit of our great nation
You make us so proud.

Millions of people were thrilled to see you
And millions more are eager to meet you
Your torch will glow 'til eternity
Beautiful Lady of Liberty!

* * *

NOTE OF SYMPATHY - to a former VSHS president, Ted Libath, on the recent death of his mother Joanna Libath, a longtime resident of the Village.

* * *

The next issue of PANORAMA will be sent out in January. Enjoy the holidays!