



Southold Historical Society NEWSLETTER

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

An Autumn Reverie.

With summer coming to a close, it becomes time to reflect upon this past summer season. Overall, our programs and events were very successful – from the summer gala at Brecknock Hall and the Ice Cream Social to our featured exhibit done in cooperation with the Embroiderer's Guild – a good time was had by all. Thanks are due to the many volunteers that help out at each of these events – and a special thank you is due to members of the Southold NJROTC who worked extremely hard setting up and taking down for the Ice Cream Social.

But nothing stops in autumn – not by a long shot. New projects abound everywhere. Very soon the Education of Youth committee will begin welcoming hundreds of young students to the Museum Complex and the Horton Point Lighthouse. At the lighthouse, they will be able to see new displays and objects which have joined the exhibits there – including the model of the U. S. S. Holland. The annual lecture series has begun, featuring local and regional history presentations and is a great way to learn more about the history of New York and Long Island.

The climax of our calendar year is of course the Candlelight Tour, which attracts over a thousand visitors the day after Thanksgiving. We invite all of you to volunteer at the event and to partake in seeing the decorated period buildings, watching the Christmas Tree light up for the first time, and visiting with old Saint Nick.

Geoffrey K. Fleming
Director

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our Society is “More than Historical!”

While it is clearly important that we work diligently to preserve the history of Southold and explain it well to our community, the Society and its members form bonds that are “more than historical.” In my role as President, I have the opportunity to observe and become aware of some amazing people who volunteer for our Society.

I see leaders of committees, board members, and diligent workers who have major medical problems, either for themselves or families, forging ahead to carry out the work of the society, undaunted by the burdens they bear. Not only do they handle this well; they offer it with a smile and with excellence. To add to the value, I see behind and around them their fellow volunteers offering meaningful support both to carry out the tasks for the society, whether they are operating the Lighthouse, running the Treasure Exchange, dealing with Education of Youth, or any number of other society functions, AND supporting their leader or companion. In our society, people care about each other, and it is an honor to observe it in action.

Yes, we do need to preserve the history of Southold, and frankly it looks to me like we are doing that well. We also need to respect the spirit of our ancestors by offering the kind of mutual support that would make them proud. It appears to this president that ancestors of our society would be smiling as they observe today's volunteers. Indeed, our society is “More than Historical.”

John E. Barnes
President

A Special Appeal This fall we will not be sending out the usual appeal. We hope you will watch for a special mailing which will invite you to support a new project which is going to allow us to do more for the community than we ever have before. This project is very exciting to all of us here and has been over a decade in the making. Watch for your invitation to be part of the project!

Horton Point Lighthouse



At the lighthouse, the season is winding down. Visitors have been enjoying the new Holland submarine display and a new video showing the views

at the top of the lighthouse that can be watched on a monitor at the base of the tower. Coming next year is an enhanced exhibit on the lifesaving service. Many thanks to all our lighthouse keepers for their help this season – we will hopefully see you at the Chilly-Chili party!

The Treasure Exchange

Though summer is crazy at the Exchange, fall is also a great time to stop in and see our new offerings. The Exchange will be open until just a few days before Christmas so that shoppers can hunt for that perfect gift! We are currently open Tuesday through Saturday, 10-4 and we take consignments on Tuesdays, 10-2 – the last consignment day will be November 18th. We are always looking for new volunteers.

In Memoriam

KLAAS HONIG ~ 1923-2011
former Society Trustee

Collections Corner

This summer has seen our collection grow with some amazing items. The Society purchased three items which if you have time, I recommend a visit to view them. First is the ledger from the Ditch Plains Lifesaving Station which details the wreck of the Circassian in the 1870's, the ledger is currently on display in the Horton Point Lighthouse. We also purchased a beautiful shoreline painting by David Lithgow, the same artist who created the ceiling murals in the parlors of the Ann Currie-Bell House. Lastly, our most recent acquisition is the painting currently on display in the office by Benjamin R. Fitz, entitled "A Dull Day." When Geoff and I picked up the painting, I drove Geoff crazy, turning around from my seat every 20 minutes, staring at it and saying, "I can't believe we got this!"
- Amy Folk

Archives Corner – The Coleman Estate revisited.

Mr. and Mrs. John Burlinson Coleman owned a brick Colonial Georgian house on Long Meadow Point in the North Parish section of Bay View, Southold during the 1940s which overlooked Peconic Bay. The property included numerous magnificent gardens and trees. Glorious roses were among significant specimens that were in full bloom during a June 1945 Southold Garden Club meeting which was held on the Coleman beach property. Among some of the highlights on the property was a statue told to the visitors as being named "The Goose Girl" that was by Janet Scudder that had a beautiful pink rose beside it called "Eternal Youth." A small statue of St. Francis along with a bird feeding station was also distinctly visible to the onlookers which was surrounded by sensational miniature roses. Mrs. Coleman had outdone herself by presenting a true feeling of beauty and relaxation to her guests as they witnessed such extravagance by being adorned with her style. This remarkable section of Bay View was later developed and became known as Harbor Lights. I can be reached at the Southold Historical Society by phone at 765-5500 or by e-mail: southoldresearch@gmail.com - Dan McCarthy



Long Island Coast by David C. Lithgow

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 10, 12 – 8pm – HARVEST DINNER – The smell of hot pot roast and salmon will be in the air at our fall dinner. Join us at the Soundview Restaurant for great food and a friendly atmosphere. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased in advance at the Society office, or the day of the event. There is also a 50-50 raffle.

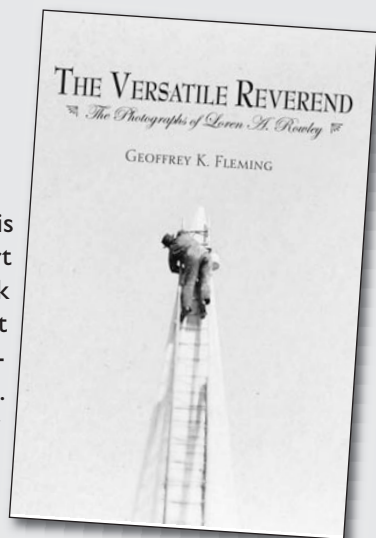
NOVEMBER 25, 3-6pm – THE CANDLE-LIGHT TOUR – A favorite for locals and visitors alike, it includes tours, live music, caroling, the lighting of the community Christmas Tree, and a visit with Santa himself. The tour takes place at the Museum Complex, located at the corner of Main Road and Maple Lane. The event is free to all who attend.

DECEMBER 4, 3pm – HOLIDAY TEA – The holiday tea has been a favorite for decades. Join us for fine food and other refreshments and a lecture on local and regional history. The tea is held in the Ann Currie-Bell house, located on the corner of Main Road and Maple Lane.

NEW BOOK!

The Society is pleased to report that our new book on the work of East Marion photographer Loren A. Rowley is now available for purchase in the Society museum shop.

The 65 page catalog includes reproductions of thirty photographs by Rowley, plus a detailed biography. Get your copy today!



Education of Youth

The Education of Youth Committee announces its “Step Back in History Week” is moving from the month of May to October beginning with this school year. The hands-on activities designed to bring history alive for grades K-6, will be presented Monday-Friday October 3-7 and also Tuesday and Wednesday, the 11th and 12th. This exceptional program has been successfully offered over the last twenty years with volunteers welcoming youngsters, teachers and parent chaperones both to the Museum Complex and Horton Point Lighthouse. Twig dolls, corn cob horses, weathervanes, printers caps, quill pens, sailors valentines, lavender sachets, knot tying, and headstone rubbings are all part of the fun as students visit the different historic buildings and take a “step back in history.”

Grants

The Society is pleased to report that it has received a grant from the Greater Hudson Heritage Network in support of the restoration of two early portraits of members of the Wells family. The paintings along with their frames will be conserved jointly by Sherman Art Conservation and Rhonda Feinman Custom Picture Frames. We expect to see the paintings return in beautiful condition in the spring.

A New Roof



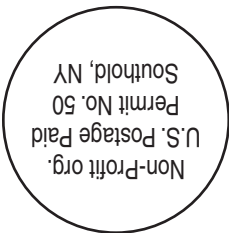
If you are riding by the Museum Complex you may see a nice new, shiny cedar roof on the print shop. It was time. The work done by ELI Construction will ensure the building will survive for many years to come.

Preserving & Promoting Southold's History

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Southold Historical Society

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Staff

Director.....Geoffrey Fleming
 Office Manager.....Deanna Witte-Walker
 Collections Manager....Amy Folk
 Archives Assistant.....Dan McCarthy
 Office Assistant.....Walter Jackson

**Next deadline for the newsletter:
 December 1st, 2011 for January, February and
 March 2012.**

**The Society Office will be CLOSED – Columbus
 Day (Oct. 10), Veteran's Day (Nov. 11),
 Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 24) and Christmas
 Week (Dec. 16-30)**