



THE HERITAGE NEWS

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF EAST ROCKAWAY & LYNBROOK

Volume #20 #1

Summer 2017

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS...!!!



It's time to open them. Here are your passwords:

1. RETRO...

Fifteen years at the Lynbrook Library, that's how long we've been presenting our program to every fourth grade youngster in East Rockaway & Lynbrook. Prior to that Bob Simpson would take his Grist Mill model into the local elementary

schools and give a presentation on the Haviland Davison Grist Mill. BTW, the Grist Mill Museum aka the Haviland Davison Grist Mill is open Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 pm through Labor Day.

Since we are talking history at least 20 years ago, Betsy Davison, and I believe a niece, came to the Museum for a visit and one of our Directors Norman Diamond, who was on duty at the mill, was sharp enough to recognize a connection and the rest is history for all concerned. We met the Davison families of both Charles and Oliver and they in turn met each other.

Of course, we have extended the Retro to include additional information about our communities.

We have a life size replica of the *Bristol Mexico* Monument and we have several people who cherish the opportunity to tell the youngsters the stirring story of the two local shipwrecks of more than 150 years ago.

We also include the story of a local personage of note Henri Charpentier the first of whom one would call a Celebrity Chef. While he purportedly invented the Crêpes Suzettes, we are yet unable to serve the youngsters a crêpe.

But, we do have a quern which is a mini grist mill and students have an opportunity to grind grain and they get a packet of wheat seeds to take home to plant. Each year we celebrate our young people.

We applaud our Volunteers: Anne Coughlin, Connie McDougal, Mary Colway, Madeline Person, Caroline Krendel, Linda Mathues, Madeline Pearson, Patricia Hickey, Patricia McGivern, Mary Ann McKenna and Bob Simpson.

2. ANNUAL MEETING...

Each year we have had a **Heritage Scholar** to give us a synopsis of the project they prepared for us. Alas, this year we did not have a scholar. But, we did get a touch of history for our meeting.

William and Linda Gaylor, proprietors of the Hallmark Lyn Gift Shop were willing to share with us their wealth of knowledge about the businesses of Lynbrook. Mr. Gaylor grew up in were and are Lynbrook, so he had a wonderful memory of the various businesses which are still in Lynbrook. It was obvious that he had a love of the village and wanted to see the businesses succeed and to play a role in the continued prosperity of the village. Their son and daughter-in-law also attended. The Hon. C. William Gaylor III is a member of the Nassau County Legislature.

3. A DOOR AJAR...

Do you ever wonder what's behind some of the doors which we pass as we stroll along a busy highway, or pass a beautiful house, or come upon a dump? Curiosity sometimes much be scratched.

Walking along Merrick Road to our car after dinner at EATS, there was a door ajar. It was rather late but it beckoned. Ever curious, Bob Sympson approached. Lo and behold a gentleman answered. Ed Kalter owner of H-O-T Drill Screws on Merrick Road responded. He agreed to sit down and talk at a later date.

We subsequently met with him. Mr. Kalter is the son of William, the founder of Manufacturer's Hardware Specialty Corp. H-O-T Drill Screws has had the same family ownership since 1947. They maintain the world's largest inventory of Self-Drilling screws. "They are available in steel zinc plated, steel climaseal coated, 410H stainless steel, 300 series stainless steel and 7075T6 Aluminum. All screws are available with bonded neoprene sealing washers. ' If we don't have it you won't find it"

H-O-T Drill Screws maintain the world's largest inventory of self-drilling screws.

Ed's father, Bill was a private in the US Army during WWII. As an "excellent typist he became responsible for typing a long list of thousands of names of GIs being sent home from the European theater. After a day or so two, Bill noticed that nobody was really checking the list, so he put his name on it and went home."

Bill opened his business in a phone booth. Manufacture's Hardware which was to distribute fasteners began.

In the 1960's a new type of screw called TEKS was invented. His son Ed recognized the revolutionary new screw as the greatest invention in fasters to come along. Thus, the birth of H-O-T Drill Screws became a reality.

The business will continue because his grandson Adam is ready to take over the business down the road. Indeed, the company still has many of its original customers from the '40's and 50's. HISTORY.

4. ROBERT MOSES...

If you've been to Jones Beach or out east on Long Island, you might want to give a nod to Robert Moses.

The HSERL Book Club is presently reading **The Power Broker by Robert C. Caro.**

Now the book in paperback is over 1000 pages. The idea of reading such a book can be challenging not only in length but also in weight.

One must overcome those impediments. We had the time to read it so length could be solved. Weight was another issue. Fortunately some of us had the paperback edition. Bob Sympson put the book in the saw and cut it into sections. It was most assuredly worth it. The book is wonderful not only for insight into the life and machinations of Robert Moses but also because the adage “History repeats itself.” is most evident. One could almost think one was reading a chronology of today.

5. NETWORKING...

Yes, we are still at it and it is most rewarding. Melanie Curtis Egan made an inquiry:

Hi, I'm from East Rockaway - family moved there in the 1920's. Recently, I realized that my grandfather's brother, Patrick J. Curtis, was likely involved with smuggling in East Rockaway during Prohibition. After a stint in SingSing for robbery, he became a guard in NYC and then moved to East Rockaway around 1926 and became a police officer. He died in 1927 in a drunken driving accident on Atlantic Avenue at 6:30 in the morning still wearing his uniform after being off duty since 10:00 pm. We think it likely that a shipment came in that night. Anyway, I wanted to see if you had any information on East Rockaway's connection to smuggling during Prohibition. Thank you.

Melanie Curtis Egan



I also have photos and paintings from the 1920's-1930's that I can share. My dad (Frank X. Curtis) donated a painting of East Rockaway to the Grist Mill around the time we moved away in 1972. The museum hasn't been open on the occasions I've gotten back to East Rockaway although it has been many years and I'm sure exhibits are replaced. Attached is one from around 1925 or 1926. I have others showing the area around Lawson Avenue at the time.

Networking is amazing for both local history and family history. We all have bits and pieces of the story that can complete the puzzle.

Melanie

Melanie, your research is wonderful!! I would love to include it in the Heritage News which I am preparing now. It supports my "push" about the importance of networking. Thank you so much for keeping me in the loop. Just let me know your thoughts.

:

On Aug 5, 2017, at 8:51 PM, Melanie Egan <MEgan@cfl.rr.com> wrote:

Hi Pat,

Thank you so much for your response. I will definitely check out the Long Island Studies program at Hofstra.

Yes, Pat Curtis was a rookie on the East Rockaway police force. I was hoping to see him included on the group photo in the book but he would have moved to East Rockaway after that. I believe he was only on the police force for about a year before he was killed. Here are some of the news articles from October 1927. If you zoom to 200% you can read them better.

This whole putting together the pieces about Patrick has been a fascinating journey. He was in my tree and we had quite a bit of information including the inquest into his death. But about a year ago, I was contacted by an Ancestry DNA match who matched me and several of my Curtis cousins. It turned out that his father was adopted in NYC in 1923 and he had actually given up on finding his grandparents. Well, after some more tests, it became quite clear that his father was the son of my grandfather's brother. Pat Curtis had died childless or so his family thought at the time. Now it turns out there is a wonderful line descended from him great-great-grandchild being born today. But after we made the connection, Mike Foy (the match) and I started looking at the info on Patrick. I had always ignored the "Felony Conviction" on his WWI registration form but now I found a Sing Sing record for him. Then we saw how his career changed. Before prison, he was an apprentice steamfitter with my grandfather. After prison, he had various guard positions, likely from his prison connections. Eventually, this handsome childless man about town (but married) decides to move from Manhattan to East Rockaway. How does that make any sense? And he made a point to convince his brother to move his family there too. Even though that meant that my father and grandfather had to commute into

NYC every day. Patrick had a nice house on Lawson Avenue for him and his wife while my grandparents were in a one bedroom bungalow with SIX children on 10 Edwin Court (still in the family today). Patrick was also a really sharp dresser whereas my grandfather looked the part of a worn out Irishman working really hard for his family. So there clearly was a reason for Uncle Pat to suddenly do so well, when you would think that life would be harder after prison. Then of course dying in a drunk driving accident during Prohibition was another clue, along with the details of the accident (still wearing his uniform, etc.). We are convinced that Patrick was given that job by those involved in smuggling to ward off any other police who might come upon them. That is the reason I'm from East Rockaway.

The other really crazy but purely coincidental thing is that Mike Foy's father moved to East Rockaway too – with his adopted parents! We can find no connection with Patrick, and actually the move took place several years after his death, but Mike's father went to school and church with cousins and an uncle, never knowing it.

Sorry this was so long winded but wanted you to know why we have such an interest in what was happening in East Rockaway then.

Hi Pat,



6. ANOTHER REQUEST...

Email: from Nick Buttita: My sister had a restaurant on Sunrise Highway in Lynbrook called Angela's Spaghetti House-the restaurant was at that location around 1967-68- would you happen to have a picture you could send me.

If anyone recalls this restaurant or can give us direction, please let us know.

7. Our Calendar so far...

September 11, 2017: History book club meets at 7:15 PM in the Lynbrook Public Library. The book to be discussed is *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York* by Robert A. Caro. It is available at the circulation desk of the Lynbrook Library. Please call 887-9094 to confirm your attendance if first time joining us. MHC

September 2017: Historic Images of Local Schools

Visit the Lynbrook Sr. High School's Bern Seiderman Gallery (by the cafeteria) to see historic photographs of Lynbrook and East Rockaway schools, students and staff from the 1800's to recent times. The exhibit hosted by the Historical Society of East Rockaway & Lynbrook is open Tuesdays, September 5, 12, 19 & 26, from 7 to 8 pm, . Also on view is a scale model of the Haviland-Davison Grist Mill, one of six mills which was located along Mill River between East Rockaway and as far north as present-day Southern State Parkway. These mills provided great economic value to the communities for more than two centuries. The high school is located at 9 Union Ave. Viewing may also be scheduled by calling 887-9094. MVP

November 30, 2017: Join us at the Lynbrook Public Library at 7:30 PM to hear Dr. Paul Van Wie, President of the Franklin Square Historical Society, present a program that includes, as we near the Christmas shopping holiday, *The History of the Bank Credit Card*, which began right here on Long Island. MHC

January 28, 2018: HSERL will hold its Annual Themed Tea- this year "Elvis is in the House." at the Lynbrook Library. Tickets will go on sale December 4th. MHC

8. MEMBERSHIP...

We don't want to preach to the choir. But we have to.

- Membership is vital to our continued existence.
- It tells us that you are interested in our work and our mission.

- It lets us know that we can call on you for assistance and direction.
- When we seek support from our legislators and public officials, they see that we also have your support.
- And even it is nice to know that we are not but a few trying to do a monumental job.

Let us hear from you.

Patricia C. Sympson PhD.
psympson@optonline.net
hserl@optonline.net

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Membership Categories

Individual	\$15	Supporting	\$100
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We invite you to help us make a difference and welcome you to join a committee:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> The Winter Tea | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Collections |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> The Retrospective |
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____ **Fun**

____ **Circa Signs**

Melanie,

I haven't forgotten you. It has been rumored that there was a tunnel built from the water to Henri Charpentier's Restaurant on Scranton Avenue. Most of the people who were in the know have passed on. When I wrote the book on East Rockaway I was warned not to address the KKK and bootlegging. I guess at that time there were still locals who had been involved and wanted it kept secret.

You might check at the Long Island Studies at Hofstra University. It has a wealth of information.

I would assume that your granduncle was on the East Rockaway force when he died. When I checked village records, I don't recall mention of this death because I would have included it in the book.

I will make further inquiries for you and if I get information, I will let you know.

Good luck in your search

Sorry this was so long winded but wanted you to know why we have such an interest in what was happening in East Rockaway then.

OFFICER CURTIS' FUNERAL IS HELD

Many Attend Service for Policeman Killed in Accident at Lynbrook Sunday

The funeral of Patrick Curtis, East Rockaway police officer, who was killed in an auto accident at Lynbrook Sunday was held this morning from his home at 27 Lawr... street, East Rockaway, followed by a requiem high mass at St. Raymond's Church, celebrated by Rev. Father Charles Craig.

A police escort led the funeral procession from the home of the church and from there to the Calvary cemetery when interment was held.

Captain of Police Patrick Murray walked in front of the cortege flanked on both sides by Motorcycle Officers Joseph Savage and Martin Burdick. The bearers, all members of the East Rockaway Police Department were Sergeants Chester Jones and Nicholas Ford, and the Patrolman John Motley, Alfred Comber, Ralph Ward and Fred Lang.

The services at the church were largely attended by relatives and friends of the deceased and the funeral procession was an unusually long one.

Family View | Quattrini Sun | Mozy Support | How to verify | Where do I live | Search Results | Patrick J. Curt | www.fultonhis | www.fultonhistory.com/News.../jamaica%20NY%20Long%20Island%20Daily%20Press%201927

Wells Fargo - Person... CareFirst BlueCross... Irish genealogy rese... Queens County, Ne... Cemetery | Photoduplication Se... Italian Genealogical... www.pefagan.com/... Other bookmarks

Funeral services from his home, 140-09 Springfield Avenue, Springfield Gardens, L. I. Funeral private. Plot in...-ration---

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CRASH KILLS NASSAU COP
 Patrick J. Curtis, 41, of East Rockaway, L. I., died at St. Joseph's hospital, Far Rockaway from a fracture of the skull. The deceased was a police officer employed at East Rockaway and at the time of the accident was riding in an automobile owned by a friend which collided with a tree on Atlantic avenue, Lynbrook on Saturday evening.
 He was at the time removed to the hospital for medical treatment. His condition gradually grew worse and he finally collapsed and died.

WOMAN DIES SUDDENLY
 Josephine S. Blanchard, 77, of 110 North 13th street, Flushing, was taken suddenly ill at her home

entered the rug an establishment in 1 maica and stole \$10. Daily pleaded not guilty and the matter was put over until October 20 for a hearing.

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 nounced to waiti that the hop off had been postponed

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