



THE FREEHOLDER

SUMMER 2006 **THE OYSTER BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** FOUNDED 1960

☞ **WAY-GOOSE: A
“PRINTED” INVITA-
TION TO A DUTCH
NEXT DOOR FEAST,
PART II**

☞ **A LONG ISLAND
CONNECTION TO A
MURDER IN
PARADISE**

☞ **SOCIETY
PLANS
FALL EXHIBIT
ON COLLECTIONS**



THE HISTORY MAGAZINE OF THE TOWN OF OYSTER BAY

Editorial

With apologies to Abraham Lincoln, *The Freeholder* was conceived (over ten years ago!) as a history magazine of the members of the Oyster Bay Historical Society, by its members, and for its members.

If *The Freeholder* is to continue publication, we need more of our members to take an active role. No article is too long or short for our con-

sideration. Perhaps you have in mind a short, three paragraph article on an event or person of local historical importance. That would be perfect fodder for "The Gathering Place." Have a longer treatment in mind, say two or three pages? We are sorely in need of folks willing to tackle feature length articles. Need a topic or encouragement? Call the Editor at 922-5032 and he'll be sure to find a fit for you!

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of the
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Purpose: The Oyster Bay Historical Society was founded in 1960 with the express purpose of preserving the history of the Town of Oyster Bay. The Society maintains a museum and research library in the Town-owned c. 1720 Earle-Wightman House, 20 Summit Street, Oyster Bay
Call (516) 922-5032 for more information.

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THE POST RIDER

To the Editor:

Last month we visited your area and I picked up *The Freeholder* from Winter 2006. I finally sat down and read it from cover to cover. My question is, may I obtain a few extra copies to take to Florida and pass them around at our Christmas Eve Program? We will be at a campground in the West Palm Beach area and our campers come from a mixture of US states and a few Canadians. We are a

well-traveled group and I'm sure some would be interested in visiting your area.

I know how much hard work goes into the Historical Society. My husband and I helped to start the original Monroe Township (NJ) Historical Association. I helped put together our area's history book. One of my father's ancestors, I believe, came from your area, part of the reason for our visit.

Again, I enjoyed your area and truly wish it were easier to get to it.

Sincerely,
Rose Ann Jolley

Thank you, Mrs. Jolley, for your kind words. To answer your question, we do sell back issues of The Freeholder at

ABOUT OUR FRONT COVER

A fleet of 17th century Dutch merchantmen are shown in this painting by period artist Andries van Eertvelt The Dutch merchant fleet, the largest the world had ever seen, carried everything from spices to slaves and caused the English to cast covetous eyes on this trade. See related story on p. 3.
National Maritime Museum, London.

\$3.00 per copy, plus shipping and handling. Special Fall issues are \$5 per copy.

To the Editor:

I just hole-punched some recent copies of *The Freeholder* & placed them in a 3 ring binder. That's always a chance to review various magazines & see what I missed. Well, I found something I've been working on in one of your magazines.

I'd like to call to your attention your Spring 2005 issue and the article "The Search for George Baldwin" by Stuart R. Sheedy.

The St. Mary's County Genealogical
continued on p. 23

WHENCE WANDERED WAY-GOOSE?

Part II

By Elliot Sayward

A Special Feature of The Dutch Next Door

That England was slower than many of the countries of Europe in the development of the pursuits of mankind until well into the seventeenth century has been frequently recognized but just as frequently forgotten. She began to be strongly aware of this backwardness herself early in the century with particular reference to her near neighbors on the Continent, the Netherlands. The phrases, with their insulting definitions that Englishmen invented to describe Dutch characteristics, were one of the results of this awareness. A Dutch bargain was said to be so one-sided that it was no bargain at all. Dutch courage was that which came out of a bottle. A Dutch treat was an invitation to a dinner at which you paid for your own meal. Ask not the meaning of the phrase, Dutch Widow. This is a family publication.

Another result was her drive to beat the Dutch that engendered many of her efforts throughout

the century, including four short wars with them. It was a love-hate relationship without a doubt. England ended the century with a Dutch King of her own choice.

There was much to resent in the admirable accomplishments of her neighbors across the water. The brilliant engineering of Jan Cheese in reclaiming the fens and marshes of Dutchland are a prime example. The small provinces of the Low Countries gained measurable area by the redemption of this low-lying, underwater real estate as well as the admiration of the civilized world. The English, too, had large areas of low-lying, underwater real estate but were not able to deal with the problem themselves and had to contract

matters is attested to by vocabularies that are still with us. A small sampling of adopted words, very probably picked up by English soldiers in the Netherlands, are: trigger from trekker through tricker; cock, a translation from haan, a rooster. The names of various firearms, as snaphaunce, blunderbuss, harquebus, musket, carbine and pistol (snaphaan, donderbus, harquebus, musket, karabijn and pistool), are shared, the Dutch using them first. (According to the etymologist Johnnies, the original Dutch word haakbus was rendered as arquebus by the French. The Dutch eventually adopted it back as harquebus.)

And there are many more shar-

with those brilliant engineers to drain the fens and marshes on her shores and bring those wetlands into profitable use.

The instruction of the English by the Dutch in military and naval

The Dutch Boare Dillected, or a Delcription of HOGG-LAND.

A Dutch man is a Lusty, Fat, two Legged Cheese-Worm: A Creature, that is so addicted to Eating Butter, Drinking fat Drink, and Sliding, that all the World knows him for a slippery Fellow. An Hollander is not an High-lander, but a Low-lander: for he loves to be down in the Dirt, and Boar-like, to wallow therein.

The Dutch at first, When at the world, The English did relieve them: They now for thanks, Have play'd base Pranks With Englishmen to grieve them. **d** Those Spider-Lings, As big as Shrimps, Doe lively Repellect, How that the States Spin out their Fates Out of their Bowels vent. **e** The Inland Ratt That runs in at The Mouth of Crocodile, Eates his way through, And shews well how All Nations they beguile. **c** The Monstrous Pig, With Vipers Big, That Seven-headed Beast, Shews how they still, Pay good with ill. **T**otally English and the Rest, The Vipers come Forth of the Wombe, With death of their own Mothers: Such are that Nation, A Generation, That rise by fall of Other, **d** One of the Root Was Whelp about **D**ut Streets for rolling byes: **S**ome of that Nation, Sew'd in such Fashion Might be for Forgiveness. **e** Their Compass is An Holland Cheese, To steer a Cup of Ale-by: The Knife points forth Unto the North The Needle these Worms Gilt-by.



F Their Quagmire life ('I would make one smile) In Form lyes like a Cauldard: A Land of Bogs To breed up Hogs, Good Pork with English Mustard. **G** If any asks, What mean the Casks? **T**is Brandy, that is here: And Pickle-Mixing, (Without all Erring.) **T**is neither Ale nor Beere. **H** Those Two you see, That yonder bee Upon the Bog-Land Walking: Are Man and Wife, At wefull strife About last Night's work talking. **H**e Drinks too long: Shee gives him Tongue, In Sharp hot-folding Pickle, With Oyle to glib The same for Tib, Her tripling man to Tickle. **I** Spin all Day, You Drink away More then I get by Wheeling: I doe by part, Says he, Sweet Heart, For I doe come home Reeling. **T**he Holland Beare, Hath Stock-Fish store, As good as can be eaten, And such they are, As is their Fare, Scarce good till soundly beaten. **K** Their State-House such is, It stands on Crutches, Or Stilts, like some old Creeple. **L** Frogs in great Number Their Land doth Cumber, And such-like Croaking People.

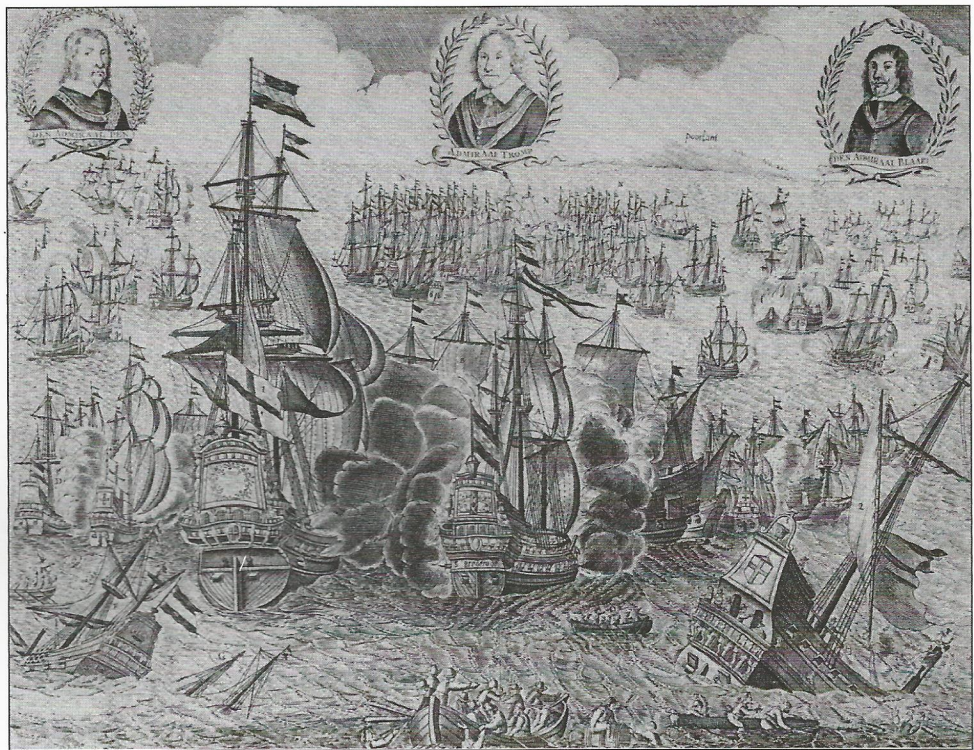
English jealousy of the Dutch is evident in this 1664 broadside and it led to four wars between the two nations during the course of the 17th century.

ings including beleaguer, linstock and probably knapsack.

It is hard to find an English word related to sailing and sailing ships that does not stem from the Dutch. Davies lists: ahoy, avast, boom, caboose, cruise, hoist, hold, hull, lash, reef, reeve, sheer off, skipper, sloop, smack, strand, swab, yard, yawl, yacht. And that's only the beginning folks, only the beginning.

Of course, as everybody knows, the Dutch taught the wool trade and its adjunct industries to the English. The marvelous machinery used in the manufacture of textiles that the English introduced to the world in the 18th century and afterward could not have been conceived, much less developed, were it not for the extensive education that Dutch clothmakers gave the English in the preceding centuries.

The point of this seemingly discursive disquisition is simple. Should we assume that immediately upon Caxton's return to England a stream of well informed and imaginative Englishmen plunged into the business of printing, and in no time at all, became highly proficient performers at the press and the creators of an English printing culture from which sprouted, in all directions, advances in the printing art and novel expansions of the uses of this new and wonderful means of communication? D.W. Davies didn't think so and



The Dutch and English fleets met in an epic three day sea battle off the English coast in February 1653. The Dutch fleet had been protecting a convoy of homeward-bound merchantmen when the English attacked. The result was a narrow English victory.

we have his opinion about it in the quotation that ended the first installment of this article. If we agree we would be well advised to look for Dutch influences in any printing matters we wish to explore during the ante-Moxon period. Perhaps there were other influences that English printers might have drawn on? If you find them, they shouldn't be ignored but they won't be as easy to find as the Dutch printers who were present for many years in English print shops and were thereby in an excellent position to share their skill in and knowledge of the subject. Perhaps we can find that they printed a broad sheet for the bill poster reading "This Way to the Way-goose.-- The Route to Its Roots."

"Turkeys, Heresy, Hops and Beer

Came into England all in one year."

This couplet produced in England early in the 17th century, but dealing with the 16th century, tells us much about the state of knowledge in the Tight Little Island up to and during the latter period. The year referred to has never been satisfactorily identified, partly because the statement's chronology is wildly inaccurate but there is general agreement that some 16th century year was in the mind of the writer. Allowing a little looseness of interpretation we can say he got the century right. I quote him here to suggest the backward, though improving, state of affairs in England at the period that English printers were making use of Dutch refugee printers as their

tutors in its already advanced state of printing since Gutenberg's invention. That is, if it were indeed his and not, as is thought by many, the work of a Dutchman from Harlem whom, if he lived on our block, we would call Larry Johnson. In the engraving in the *Art of Printing* that shows him, Moxon spells Harlem with one "a" as I just did showing that we have been a long time corrupting things we learned from the Dutch. At home, Larry was called Laurenz Janszoon Koster. Koster means sacristan, an office he held in his church. The claim of his supporters is an interesting one.

But I seem to hear voices asking: Who brought the turkeys, the heresy, the hops and the beer to the attention of Englishmen? The last two items, hops and beer, have been pretty well conceded to the....yes, the Netherlands. As soon as the Duke of Alva got into high gear in his blood-thirsty efforts to return the Low Landers to the Church, whence Luther and other heretics had tolled them away, those Low Landers began to flee their ancestral homes and to seek haven (no, not heaven) wherever they could find it. One of the places they went was England. For many centuries their ancestors had been going to England. Some went to find homes. Some went to find profitable business. Some went in the retinues of European nobles with English connections. Some went by official invitation to introduce England's backward inhabitants to the many trades and crafts that had been developed in the land of the little boy who saved the dike. And some went as mercenary sol-

diers to serve the high-placed English in their private squabbles. It can be seen that England was a place well known to them by tradition where safety and perhaps opportunity to prosper could be found.

Be patient. We will get there yet.

Netherlanders settling in England tended to seek out places to reside where they did not fall under restrictions of unfriendly guilds or too nosy or strict civil authorities. There were places called "Liberties" where these organizations did not hold sway and also friendly jurisdictions who were more concerned with other matters. Across the river from London but connected to it by the famous London Bridge was the borough of Southwark, corrupted in its pronunciation to

"Sutthuk" and in its morality to the phrase "Anything Goes!" Here the reveler of the 16th and 17th Centuries could find brothels, games of chance (that is games in which the mark had every chance of losing his purse and a very real chance of losing his life), theatres, bear and bull baiting, and almost any other pleasure he had the money to pay for.

Of course there were taverns galore. Many of these were presided over by Netherlandish brewsters who might have been called alewives except for the fact that they brewed and sold beer. And one of the ingredients of their, no doubt, delightful beverage was hops. Two down.

OK, OK. Somewhere some reader is complaining about my discursions. Don't. Lots of signif-



A 17th century view of Haarlem, home of Laurenz Janszoon Koster, by Jacob van Ruisdael. Haarlem was a center of Dutch resistance to Spain.



One gets the flavor of what the London borough of Southwark must have been like in the 17th century from this William Hogarth engraving published in 1733, entitled "Southwark Fair."

icant things happened in the 16th and 17th century that don't get a lot of attention. Other, later but also significant happenings fail to get proper attention. I intend to pack into this essay a good deal of such material, especially addressing the helpful shoves the Windmill Bunch gave their English neighbors. I don't say the coming of turkeys to England was one of the most important but if they hadn't gotten here we might have been eating goose for Thanksgiving dinner for more than 300 years. That might have added more ludicrous detail to the tiny way-goose problem.

The turkeys in our markets are the descendants of those that entered England in the 15th century. The stories offered to explain how those turkeys arrived on English shores are not

extra convincing. As far as I have been able to find out there has been no hard evidence supporting any argument that any identifiable persons or group introduced them. But the turkey got there already domesticated and they are first mentioned, and mentioned favorably, in the 16th century. Here is a scenario that may identify the bringers. Turkey was domesticated in Mexico. There is a strong belief among those who have discussed the matter that the Spaniards brought it back to Spain among their other items of discovery in the New World, otherwise called loot. Now, the Merchants of Klompen Inc., were trading all over Europe by the 16th century and among the places their ships frequented were the harbors of Spain. Anything new and different and hav-

ing profit potential excited these Dutch traders and it is not hard to imagine that they took a deck load of crated turkeys to their next port of call. If you prefer, you can imagine that they took them home and did a little market research first and then, assured by the sight of Hans Brinker chompin' delightedly on a drumstick, carried them across the Channel to introduce them to the Lords of Albion.

Did somebody ask, "What's Klompen?" Wooden shoes. Merely a metaphor to avoid a too frequent use of the word Dutch. While we're speaking of Klompen, let's note that the English have a wooden shoe they call a clog; we can wonder how clogs arrived on John Bull's feet.

Heresy for one group is orthodoxy for another. You may pick

your way through the conflicting opinions of the 16th century, if that pleases you, without my help. I shall point out, however, that England's most important heresy in that period was the establishment by Henry VIII of the Church of England and his 1534 Act of Supremacy that made him the supreme head of the new faith. That was heresy in a big way but it surely wasn't what the couplet writer was referring to. For him, the pleasure of publishing a wisecrack in verse would never have balanced the risk. Look what happened to Guy Fawkes who only planned the little enterprise of blowing up Parliament. Methinks, to adopt a usage of those early days, that the heresies thought to have entered England in the same year as the turkeys, beer and hops were those which forced the Dutch refugees to leave home to avoid the unwelcome Duke of Alva.

The point, as you have noticed, is that much that contributed one way or another to the culture of the English came from the Netherlands. But, and this is a big but, everything attributed to the Netherlands should not be accepted out of hand, but should be closely examined for supporting evidence. The Dutch are not going to be extra happy if someone credits them with the invention of pizza. Those shoves they gave our culture ought to be recognized for the momentum they gave us, but if that ever happens it will be enough.

Yes, I did say us. That

momentum and its shoves were still operating when Yankee Doodle went down to camp to give their encouragement in the matter of the little skirmish with the old country that was to result in our Republic with its yet-waving banner of red, white and blue. Had you ever noticed that those were and are the colors worn by the Dutch flag? We, who speak the English language, whether or not of English ancestry, owe the Tulip Titans more thanks than we will ever be able to offer them. They created the first real democratic government of modern times and we adopted many of the ideas that they tried. I refer you to a Scotsman named Douglas Campbell if you'd like to explore that statement.

Let's go back to Yankee Doodle for a moment. It is said fairly convincingly that the song was

formed on an old Netherlandish folk song that went to England with Dutch harvest workers who went there every year, as the Irish have done somewhat later. The name of the original Yankee Doodle was apparently hung on the New Englanders of Connecticut by the New York Dutch. In its original form it was Janke Doedel or Johnny Fool. Janke would have been pronounced "yahn-kee." It was sung by the British at the beginning of the festivities in 1775 with intent to disparage the Colonials. They replied, in effect, that's our song. By the time of the Bunker Hill battle a Brit was to state, "Yankee Doodle is now their paean."

**TO BE CONTINUED
IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE FREEHOLDER**



A scathing British satire of the Rebel army before Boston in early 1776, entitled "The Yankee Doodles Intrenchments Near Boston." Far from being offended by the moniker, the Americans wore it proudly.

THOSE OTHER ROOSEVELTS: THE FORTESCUES

by Raymond E. Spinzia

*Frequent contributor Raymond Spinzia's new book (co-written with his wife, Judith) is entitled **Long Island's Prominent North Shore Families: Their Estates and Their Country Homes**. A companion volume, on South Shore estates, is due out this Fall. See article on p. 13.*

Kenyon, Granville, and Maude Fortescue were the illegitimate children of Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, Sr. (1829-1906) and an Irish immigrant named Marion Theresa O'Shea.

Roosevelt initially established his satellite family in a Manhattan brownstone on the same street as his primary family's residence, listing himself in the New York City Directory as a fictitious lawyer named Robert F. Fortescue with Marion (1849-1902) as his wife.¹ He would later relocate the Fortescues to Long Island, near his Bayport Lotos Lake estate, which he occupied with his Roosevelt family.²

Of the three Fortescue children to reach adulthood Kenyon and Maude appear to have led relatively sedate lives.³ In 1900 Maude (1880-1961) married Ernest William Sutton Pickhardt and resided in London, England. Kenyon (1870-1939), a Sayville resident and a partner in the Manhattan law firm of Roosevelt and Kobbe, remained a bachelor.⁴

Their brother Granville (1875-1952), was the anomaly in the "Fortescue branch" of the family. The only Roosevelt to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Granville developed the same fascination for adventure as did his first cousin President Theodore Roosevelt. In 1898



Granville Fortescue at the Russian front, 1915.

Granville left the University of Pennsylvania to enlist as a private in Teddy's Rough Riders, eventually rising to the rank of corporal in its 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry.⁵ As a First Lieutenant in the 26th Volunteer Infantry, Granville served in The Philippines during the 1899-1901 insurrection. As a Second Lieutenant in the regular army's 4th Cavalry, he graduated from the Army General Service and Staff College in 1904. Later that year, as a First Lieutenant in the 10th

United States Cavalry, he was appointed by Theodore Roosevelt as a White House military aide. As such, he was posted as a military observer to Japan just prior to the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905. With the cessation of hostilities, Granville returned to the United States and, in 1906, resigned from the army.

That same year he accepted a commission as captain and special agent in the Cuban Rural Guard, resigning in 1909 to cover the Spanish Army at Malilla dur-

ing the Riff Uprising in Spanish Morocco (July-October, 1909) as a war correspondent for the London Standard.⁶

While Teddy was exploring the River of Doubt in Brazil in 1914, Granville took part in the exploration of the Orinoco River in Venezuela from its headwaters to its mouth.

With the outbreak of World War I Granville returned to journalism as a war correspondent for the London Daily Telegraph, reporting on the Belgian, French, English, Russian and Turkish fronts. When the United States entered the war in 1917, he served as a major in the 314th Field Artillery of the American Expeditionary Force in France. Granville was gassed during the German attack at Mountfaucon but remained in the army until 1928, retiring with the rank of major.⁷

At first the private life of Granville Roland Fortescue seemed to be as promising as his professional life. In 1910 he married Grace Hubbard Bell (1883-1979), a niece of the inventor Alexander Graham Bell and an heir to the Bell Telephone Company fortune. She was the daughter of Charles John and Roberta Wolcott Hubbard Bell, who resided on Connecticut Avenue in Washington, DC, and at Twin Oaks, the Hubbard-Bell, eighteen-acre estate on the outskirts of the capitol.⁸

Outwardly, the Fortescues appeared to be wealthy country gentry. In reality, financial affairs became a primary concern for them after Granville's final retirement from the army. With

the exception of a short stint as a fiction editor for *Liberty Magazine* in 1930, he steadfastly refused to engage in any form of steady employment, preferring instead to wait for the substantial fortune his wife would inherit at the death of her parents.⁹

Insulated in private schools paid for by family members, the Fortescue daughters Grace, known as Thalia (1911-1963); Marion, known as Rion (1912-1983); and Kenyon, known as Helene (1914-1990), appear to have been oblivious to their parents' constant bickering over financial matters and their frequent separations.¹⁰ Lacking proper parental supervision and a stable home environment, two of the Fortescue girls went from being rowdy adolescent pranksters to being adults beset with serious legal and, ultimately, life-threatening emotional problems.¹¹ What began as relatively harmless pranks such as taunting the Bayport boys by swimming nude in the lake on their parents' estate, Wildholme; parading nude around the estate in front of its middle-aged gatekeeper; Helene's fraudulent 1934 wedding ceremony in Carmel, NY; and her theft of a Valley Stream resident's truck in 1936, escalated into dangerous behavior with Helene threatening her husband Julian Louis Reynolds with an automatic pistol; the kidnapping of a baby from the lobby of the Patchogue movie theater by Thalia and her future husband Thomas Hedges

Massie; and ultimately into one of the most notorious murder trials of the 1930s.¹²

Massie (1905-1987), the son of a Winchester, KY, shoe store proprietor, was educated in a public elementary school and, subsequently, in private military secondary schools prior to his acceptance into the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. During his senior year at the academy he met Thalia and after his graduation in 1927, they married at the Bethlehem Chapel of the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.

Their marriage was stormy from the beginning. His "hard-drinking" bride of sixteen found it difficult to adjust to the social obligations of a naval officer's wife. Even Massie's transfer to Pearl Harbor in exotic Hawaii, in the spring of 1930, did little to quell their troubled marriage. As Thalia's drinking and extra-marital affairs increased, their arguments grew louder and more

continued on p. 16



Fortescue with his daughters



ASK UNCLE PELEG

Hey Uncle Peleg!

We get your magazine at our house but most of the time it's too deep for me. I read your explanations about the things people say that came from old guns and I thought that was pretty cool. So I thought I'd ask you about something I read in a book. It was "Don't fire till you see the whites of their eyes." That's from dumb city. By then the enemy would be sitting in your lap. I looked it up on the internet but all I could find was who said it. Enough different guys to fill a phone book. What do you think?

Jeff

I think you've asked me two questions. First. Why would anyone give such an order? Probably what you read was about the Battle of Bunker Hill. Our guys, a lot of untrained citizen soldiers, had laid siege to Boston which was full of British troops. Word got out of an attack planned by the Redcoats. Our side dug in on Breed's Hill after first considering Bunker Hill. They had limited powder and shot and the "whites of their eyes" command was given in order to make sure our

shooting was effective. Some say that Colonel Prescott said it. Others credit it to Israel Putnam. Doesn't matter. The Colonial troops were green, excited, questionable marksmen and shooting down hill. It's much easier to hit your target from a short distance than from many yards away. Further, if you miss the front-rank man you're aiming at you might get the unlucky chap behind him. And, shooting down hill carries a tendency to shoot high or low depending on how the shooter compensates. The defenders did very well. Two separate waves of English Regulars were driven back by the Colonials before their ammunition ran out and they had to retreat. Your second question is, I think, why are so many names offered as the giver of the order? Because it was not a unique, first time ever order. There is a record of its use

in almost the same words by Lt. Col. Andrew Agnew, a Scots officer fighting the French in Flanders 30 years earlier. It was probably used to steady troops in any situation where the officers wanted a concentration of effective fire.

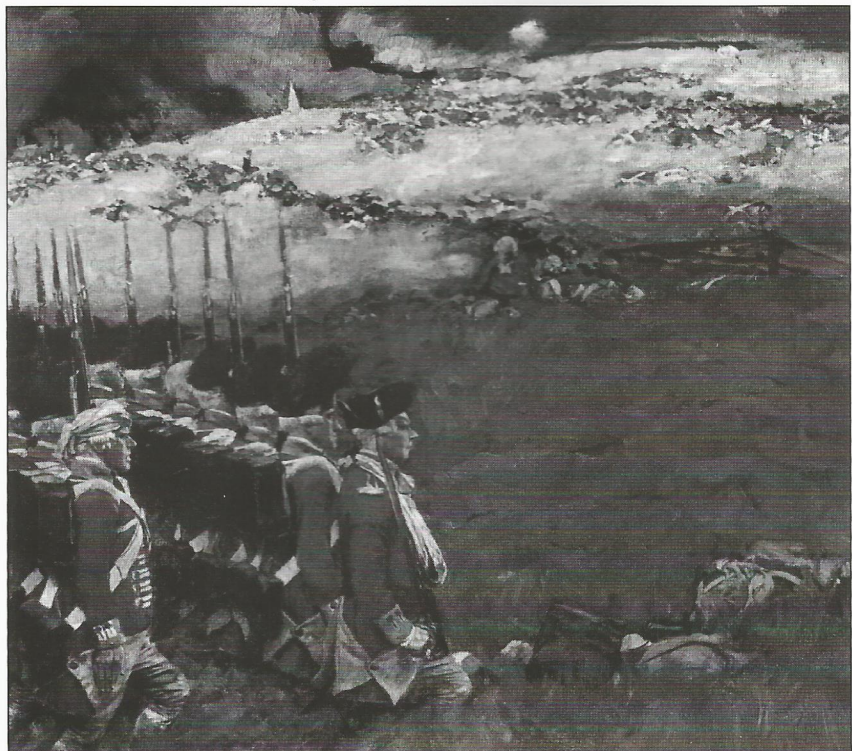
Uncle Peleg:

Enjoyed your column on metaphors related to shooting. Perhaps you'd be interested in a couple of other expressions derived also from the use of firearms. These are "misfire" as applied to a failed effort and "hang fire" as applied to an effort that has no present result but may have undesired ones later.

A. Oakley

Right on target! Thank you for making my job easier.

continued on p. 22



British troops march up "Bunker" Hill for another go at the Rebels in this painting by Howard Pyle. Over 1,000 unfortunate comrades lie in heaps.



CURRENTS OF THE BAY



*This section focuses on the doings of local historical societies, museums, and communities in the Town of Oyster Bay and its neighbors. Upcoming special events, exhibits, lectures and tours are featured, so send your submissions to the Editor if you would like to see your events covered in **The Freeholder**.*

SOCIETY PLANS FALL EXHIBITION AND EVENTS ON COLLECTIONS

This Fall, the Society is turning its focus on collecting and the need to preserve Oyster Bay's artifactual heritage for future generations. As in past years, the Society will mount an exhibition at the Earle-Wightman House and host a number of events.

On Sunday, November 19, at 2:30 pm a lecture on collecting by Tiffany & Co.'s John Loring will be followed by a reception and the opening of an exhibition featuring significant artifacts from the Society's collections. [Ed. note: This date is tentative as of press time. Also, there may be another event associated with this series. Please call the Society at 922-5032 for more information.]

SOCIETY MOURNS PASSING OF KEN GAMBONE

The Society mourns the passing of Ken Gambone on May 27, 2006. Ken, a former trustee of the Oyster Bay Historical Society, was also editor of the Society's newsletter in the mid-1980s, *Candlelight*. More recently Ken was a valued volunteer at the Society, not only researching and registering the Reichman Collection of Early American Tools on the Society's behalf, but also compiling a detailed guide to the collection. Our sympathies go to Ken's wife Joan and the rest of his family.



The haunting strains of the Sonevale Flute Quartet entranced visitors to the Society's Neighborhood Night on Tuesday, August 1. Those who braved the record-setting temperatures were entertained by the four ladies, who personified the show business maxim that, "The show must go on!"

Thanks to all those who came out in support of the Society!

TRA'S DR. JOHN STAUDT AND ED RENEHAN, JR., BID FAREWELL

Dr. John Staudt, Executive Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Association, and Ed Renehan, Jr., the Association's CEO, have stepped down from their respective positions with the organization.

Dr. Staudt, in addition to maintaining his position on the faculty

at Hofstra University, will join the faculty of the Wheatley School. It was a pleasure working with both gentlemen and I thank them for their invaluable assistance on the TR Statue Journal, as well as Dr. Staudt's most interesting lecture at the Society's June Annual Meeting. We wish them a fond farewell and the best of luck in their future endeavors.

It has been announced that

Cathal J. Nolan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of International History and the Executive Director of the International History Institute at Boston University will be the new head of the Theodore Roosevelt Association. We welcome Dr. Nolan to Oyster Bay and wish him well in his new position.

SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

On May 9th a group of 28 visitors participated in the first ever "Elderhostel" program to visit Sagamore Hill. Amy Verone and Edward Renehan, Jr., each gave a lecture and the group also enjoyed a tour of the museum, two films, lunch and a walk on the nature trail to the beach on Cold Spring Harbor. This event was followed by a second Elderhostel visit held on May 23. There are two more visits by this group scheduled for September.

The Volunteer Recognition celebration dinner held on Friday, April 27, was outstanding. The annual picnic for volunteers, staff, Friends of Sagamore Hill and their relatives was held Friday, July 14.

The .38 caliber Colt revolver used by TR during the Battle of

San Juan Hill has been returned, escorted by a group of FBI agents! Stolen in April 1990, the recovered gun was presented to Amy Verone by Mark Mershon of the FBI.

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Ernest Honig, a volunteer since July 1997.

RAYNHAM HALL MUSEUM

Raynham Hall's latest exhibit, "Come Out and Play!", a display of children's games, toys and dresses that were once popular will open in September. Please call 516 922-6808 for directions, details and information.

Raynham Hall will be inaugurating a Book Group this Fall. The group reads and discusses five works annually, thereby striving to deepen their appreciation for Raynham Hall and the Oyster Bay area by examining the historical environment in which they evolved. Most book selections are non-fiction.

Patriot coffee and Loyalist tea enliven the cordial and focused discussions. A specialist is often invited to make a brief presentation to the group. The Book

Group's first meeting is slated to take place at Raynham Hall on Monday, October 23, at 10 a.m. Renowned historian David McCullough's recent book, *1776*, will be the inaugural selection.

All are welcome. Free to all members of Raynham Hall, the Oyster Bay Historical Society and Planting Fields Arboretum.

Raynham Hall's Director, Sarah Abruzzi, will be moving on to become Director of the Three Village Historical Society in Setauket. Best wishes to Sarah in her new position!

FARMINGDALE-BETHPAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Farmingdale Fire Department continued its 100 years plus tradition of sponsoring the annual Memorial Day Parade. The Society proudly participated wearing red, white and blue reflecting the colors of "Old Glory." On May 21 Bill Johnston conducted a walking tour of "Village Schools - Past and Present". The Society's Annual Meeting/Strawberry Festival was held Sunday June 11.

LONG BEACH ISLAND LANDMARKS ASSOCIATION

The sold-out Sag Harbor Tour was successfully held on Wednesday, April 26th. Sunday, May 21, was the occasion of the "Teddy Roosevelt Cocktail Party" held at the Ross residence. James Foote, as usual, was at his best as our beloved "Teddy." On Saturday, September 16, Josh Soren will lecture on the history of High Hill Beach at the Long Beach Public Library. Wednesday, Septem-

OYSTER BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Categories of Membership

Individual	\$ 35	Business	\$ 75
Family	\$ 45	Business Sponsor	\$ 100
Contributing	\$ 75	Business Friend	\$ 300
Sponsor	\$ 100	Business Patron	\$ 500+
Sustaining	\$ 250	Benefactor	\$ 1000+
Patron	\$ 500		

Member Benefits: Quarterly Magazine, Members' Party, Invitations to Exhibition Previews and Special Events, 10% Discount on Publications and Workshops. Call (516) 922-5032 for more information on joining the Society.

**Visit the Oyster Bay
Historical Society's
NEW website!**

www.oysterbayhistory.org

ber 20, there will be a tour of Hyde Park, the Vanderbilt Mansion and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library and Museum. There will also be a lunch at either the Culinary Institute of America or a local restaurant. Please call (516) 431-3775 for details and reservations. Saturday, October 28, the Association will act as host for the quarterly meeting of the Association of Suffolk County Historical Museums. Sunday, December 10, will once again see our Holiday Candlelight Tour and Friday, December 15, we will have our elegant Christmas Dinner at a historic home.

**SPINZIAS TO PUBLISH
TWO-VOLUME SET ON
NORTH SHORE FAMILIES
AND THEIR ESTATES**

Local historians Raymond and Judith Spinzia will be coming out shortly with *Long Island's Prominent North Shore Families: Their Estates and Their Country Homes*. (Virtualbookworm.com Publishing Inc., College Station, TX, 2006.)

The Spinzias' two-volume comprehensive analysis of North Shore families documents over 1,500 estate owners in a modified "Who's Who" format. Included are 577 photographs of the estates, biographical data on the estate owners and their families, locations of estates using current street references and village des-

ignations, estate names, acreage, architects, architectural styles, dates of construction, landscape architects, subsequent owners, location of archival photographs of the estates, and information as to whether mansions are still extant and, if not, the dates of demolition.

Cross-referenced in the second-section appendices are estate names, village locations of estates, as well as architectural and landscape commissions. The civic activity and occupation appendices document the contribution of notable Long Islanders, including statesmen, intelligence agents, financiers, writers, and inventors. Maiden names, rehabilitative secondary uses of estates, including golf courses which were formerly private estates, motion pictures filmed at estate sites, a general bibliography of the "Gilded Age," and a bibliography specific to individual estate owners, with the location of personal papers, have also been included.

Volume I, 560 pages, includes an introduction and surnames A-M. Volume II, 637 pages, contains surnames N-Z, and a wealth of appendices.

Each volume sells for \$24.99 (ISBN 1-58939-785-1; ISBN 1-58939-786-x) and is available through the publisher, Virtualbookworm.com Publishing Inc., College Station, TX.

The Spinzias, who have devoted many years to the project, will be coming out this Fall with companion volumes dedicated to South Shore families and estates. [Ed. Note: Please see the article on p. 8, entitled *Those Other Roosevelts: The Fortescues*, excerpted

This September marks the centennial of President Theodore Roosevelt's review of the entire Atlantic Fleet in Long Island Sound, off Oyster Bay. In commemoration of this event, this issue of *The Freeholder* includes a facsimile reprint of the original program (from the Society's archives), courtesy of Levon Graphics.

from this upcoming release.]

**HGTV'S
IF WALLS COULD TALK
COMING TO OYSTER BAY**

"If Walls Could Talk," the weekly series on HGTV, is coming to the New York area to film homes with intriguing pasts and unusual stories. Now in production on its 8th season, the series kicks off with new homeowners who make surprising historical discoveries about their homes as they explore and restore them. A lucky few will be amazed to learn that the historic artifacts they've discovered are worth a fortune when the "If Walls Could Talk" appraiser drops by for a look.

Each half-hour episode features homeowners from across the country who share their amazing discoveries. Recent stories include:

A Connecticut family moves into a neglected 1800's Victorian

Many thanks to Harry L. Dickran of Levon Graphics Corp., Route 109, East Farmingdale, for printing *The Freeholder* for the Society.

His generosity allows the magazine to reach a much wider audience than was heretofore possible. Please patronize our sponsors!

The Society now has available a "1900 View of Oyster Bay," which shows every building in existence at that time and includes a list of businesses and prominent residences. Eminently suitable for framing, this print is a great bargain at \$20 plus shipping. Contact the Society at (516) 922-5032 to order yours today!

Also available are an 1833 map of Oyster Bay (\$5) and a map of Gold Coast estates c. 1920 (\$12.50). Shipping is additional.

only to find antiques and a mysterious locked cabinet. What they find inside tells the touching story of their home's original owner. Then, in the attic they dis-

cover original paintings and the "If Walls Could Talk" appraiser pays them a visit. The expert reveals their discoveries are worth thousands of dollars.

A husband and wife turn a turn of the century bank into their dream home. In the process they find the original bank vault full of safety deposit boxes that are still locked!

A Colorado couple find books, clothing and jewelry in their new home. The clues add up to the story of a best-selling author who lived in the house until she disappeared.

A New York bachelor buys a

hundred year old mansion and makes a chilling discovery in the basement— his home sweet home used to be a funeral home!

The series, which premiered in September of 1998, has aired over 200 episodes —each filmed in historic neighborhoods throughout the country.

"If Walls Could Talk" is produced for HGTV by High Noon Entertainment in Denver, CO.

Homeowners who would like to be considered for the program should contact Jenna Friederich at (303) 712-3146 or email at jfriederich@highnoonentertainment.com.



Eagle Scout candidate Trevor Collins, son of John and Allison, (perhaps influenced by his dad!) decided to tackle a most ambitious project to attain that coveted award - the restoration of the period wellhead behind the Society's Earle-Wightman House headquarters. Before and after photos of the project appear above. Great job, Trevor!



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



All Captains Will Return To Their Ships!

We give you for this test two lists. One of ship captains and one of the names of the vessels they commanded. All you need to do is set the name of each ship next to that of the person who captained it.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Roger Grenville | _____ | a. HMS Pinafore |
| 2. Joshua Slocum | _____ | b. Pequot |
| 3. Thor Heyerdahl | _____ | c. Cutty Sark |
| 4. Captain Ahab | _____ | d. We're Here |
| 5. Josiah Perkins Cressy | _____ | e. Adventure Galley |
| 6. Christopher Jones | _____ | f. Flying Cloud |
| 7. Sir Frances Drake | _____ | g. Spray |
| 8. Henry Hudson | _____ | h. Mayflower |
| 9. Ferdinand di Magellan | _____ | i. The Walloping Window Blind |
| 10. Horatio Nelson | _____ | j. HMS Victory |
| 11. Lt. John L. Worden | _____ | k. Atropos |
| 12. John Paul Jones | _____ | l. Golden Hind |
| 13. Captain Smollett | _____ | m. Kon Tiki |
| 14. Tug Boat Annie Brennan | _____ | n. Trinidad |
| 15. Captain Nemo | _____ | o. USS Monitor |
| 16. Captain Falkenburg | _____ | p. African Queen |
| 17. Charlie Alnut | _____ | q. Narcissus |
| 18. Disko Troop | _____ | r. Flying Dutchman |
| 19. Robert Fitzroy | _____ | s. Mary Rose |
| 20. Ralph Rackstraw | _____ | t. HMS Beagle |
| 21. Alan Villiers | _____ | u. Nautilus |
| 22. Horatio Hornblower | _____ | v. Half Moon |
| 23. Anonymous | _____ | w. Joseph Conrad |
| 24. Captain John Willis | _____ | x. Bonhomme Richard |
| 25. Captain William Kidd | _____ | y. Hispaniola |



Answers will be found on p. 22.





THE GATHERING PLACE



"The Gathering Place" is the department of the magazine housing contributions of an historical slant but of short length that might otherwise be lost among the longer pieces. To our members who are not ready to attempt long or deeply researched articles, this is the place for your notions and comments, however brief.

Anecdotes of Old Oyster Bay

by Alice Delano Weekes

In the scratch races that used to take place in the primitive and happy days of the Oyster Bay Yacht Club, when every boat was a different size and shape, many careful arrangements had to be made in an endeavor to equalize the sailing qualities of the boats. One of these was by a distribution of ballast, and it was sometimes difficult to find enough to go around. One year, Mr. Trotter generously lent some of his new sand bags for the purpose. The race over, the sand bags were being returned to their owner, and Alfred Roosevelt was in the act of handing them over, when he accidentally lost his balance and fell overboard, in his excitement and surprise forgetting to let go of the sand bags.

To use the words of an eyewitness, he went down in a sort of parabolic curve, ending with a hasty flourish of the legs that was somewhat like the snap of a whip lash. He did not come up until he remembered to let go of the sand bags.

This was a jest keenly appreciated by every member of the Yacht Club, except Mr. Trotter.

Those Other Roosevelts

continued from p. 9

frequent. Thalia's habits of prancing around their backyard partially clothed and insulting Massie's fellow officers and their wives at parties became an embarrassment to Massie and a

hindrance to his navel career, inducing him to threaten Thalia with divorce.

This unbearable situation evolved into a "nightmare" on the evening of September 12, 1931. Thalia, as she had done so often, over-indulged at an officers' party at the Ala Wai Inn, insulted virtually everyone at the party, and left

without her husband. When Massie arrived home, he found Thalia's face bruised and her jaw broken from a beating. She claimed to have been attacked, dragged into the woods, and raped multiple times by five or more Hawaiians.¹³

The ensuing trial of the five alleged attackers, which was embroiled in racial turmoil, resulted in a mistrial. The reason given was lack of evidence.



The Massies at their wedding, 1927.

Massie and his mother-in-law Grace Fortescue, with the assistance of two naval enlisted men Edward John Lord and Albert Orrin Jones, then devised a plan to kidnap and force a confession from Joseph Kahahawai, Jr., one of the alleged attackers. Their "interrogation" in Mrs. Fortescue's rented house went awry resulting in the shooting to death of Kahahawai and the arrest of Massie, Mrs. Fortescue, and Lord as they were driving toward

Koko Head to dispose of the naked corpse.¹⁴ While the other conspirators were attempting to dispose of the body, Jones, carrying the murder weapon, went to the Massie house where Thalia and her sister Helene were waiting for news of the interrogation. Upon hearing what had transpired, Helene took the pistol, drove to a secluded location, and threw it into a quicksand pond.

This time it was Massie, Mrs. Fortescue, Lord, and Jones who were on trial. The charge was murder in the second degree; their attorney was Clarence Darrow.

At the trial Massie testified that he remembered pointing the pistol at Kahahawai but had no recollection of firing the gun, putting the body into the car, or the police chase.

The defense adopted by Darrow embodied a two-prong strategy: first, that Massie was temporarily insane; and secondly, that a man has the right to avenge an assault on his wife. Darrow referred to the latter defense tactic as the "unwritten law." Tensions, feeding on the existing racial bigotry, were continually fanned by the yellow journalism of the Hearst newspaper syndicate, which referred to the murder as an "honor killing" and to Thalia's alleged attackers as Hawaiian thugs, degenerates, and fiends, and by articles in the *New York Daily News* referring to Hawaii as a "melting pot peril." As tensions escalated, the legislature of Massie's native state of Kentucky adopted a resolution asking President Hoover to use his powers as Commander-in-Chief to demand the conviction

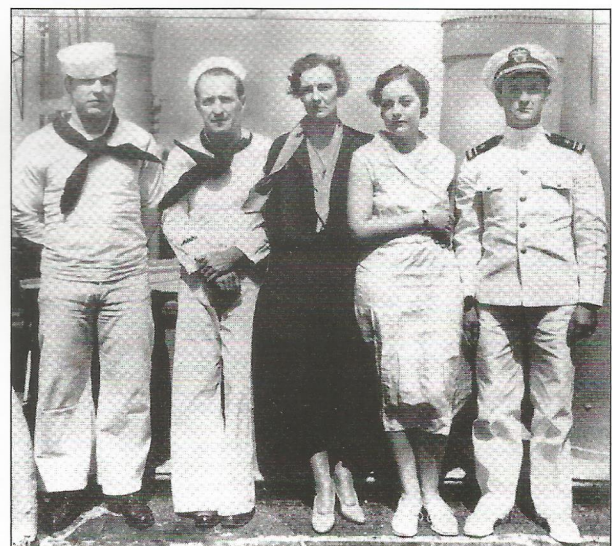
of the alleged assailants and the immediate release of Massie, Mrs. Fortescue, Lord, and Jones. If the Hawaiian courts and territorial government refused, the resolution further called on President Hoover to "declare martial law in Honolulu until such time as Hawaii can be made safe for women and especially the wives of our men in the army and navy...."¹⁵ Ever mindful of political expediency, Congressmen joined the call to put Hawaii under martial law. Fearing the possibility of race riots in the Territory, President Hoover held a special cabinet meeting in the White House to discuss possible actions. The Hawaiian National Guard was put on alert for possible mobilization; machine guns were mounted on Honolulu police cars. Shore leave for military personnel serving in Hawaii was restricted; naval maneuvers that were to be conducted in Hawaiian waters were canceled.

In this atmosphere of hatred and distrust the jury rendered its verdict. Darrow and the defendants, who were confident of an acquittal, were stunned by the verdict of guilty - guilty of manslaughter with a recommendation for leniency. The jury was obviously unaware that the reduced charge of manslaughter carried a mandatory sentence of ten years at hard labor.

The press, Congress, and Department of the Navy were incensed. One hundred members of Congress signed a petition to Hawaii's Territorial Governor Judd demanding that he pardon the defendants or face the end of Hawaiian self rule. The navy threatened to boycott and cancel its contracts with any firm that employed members of the jury. After four days of intense pressure from Washington and the national press, Judd commuted the sentence to one hour, to be served in his office at Lolani Palace, in the custody of the High Sheriff.

In the wake of the "Massie Affair" the four surviving alleged attackers of Mrs. Massie were never retried and spent the remainder of their lives in Hawaii. After the commutation of their sentence, the enlisted men Lord and Jones remained in the navy, both rising to the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

Grace, who continued to be plagued by emotional problems and alcoholism, was never able to



The four murder defendants, along with Thalia (second from right), on board USS Alton.

embody the spirit of her nickname Thalia, the Greek Muse of comedy and bucolic poetry, one of Greek mythology's Graces. On February 23, 1934, the Massies were granted a divorce in the Reno District Court. That very evening in a Reno nightclub, Thalia, who opposed the idea of a divorce, attempted suicide by drinking poison.¹⁶ Six weeks later, still despondent over the unwanted divorce, Thalia slashed both her wrists in another abortive suicide attempt while cruising the Mediterranean aboard the Italian liner *SS Roma*. After recuperating in a Genovese clinic for less than a month, she returned to the United States.

Adrift, restless, and depressed, Thalia moved around the country, appearing in court sporadically for drunkenness, disorderly conduct, and assault and battery. One of these incidents occurred in 1950 when Thalia, a part-time student at Los Angeles City College, was arrested for beating her pregnant landlady. Thalia subsequently enrolled in the University of Arizona where, at the age of forty-two, she met and married Robert Uptigrove, a twenty-one-year-old fellow student. After their divorce in 1955, she relocated to a Palm Beach apartment not far from her mother's Florida home.¹⁷ On July 2, 1963, Thalia finally succeeded in committing suicide by taking an overdose of barbiturates in her apartment.

Massie, like his wife Thalia, was plagued by crises after their divorce. In March 1937 he married Florence Storms of Chewelah, WA. In 1938 Florence became the center of an interna-

tional incident while in Japanese-occupied Tsingtao, China. A Japanese sentry, incensed that Florence didn't obey his commands and unaware that she neither spoke nor understood Japanese, slapped her across the face. The matter was resolved when representatives from the Japanese naval department expressed regret for the incident and assured the United States Consul in China that the sentry would be punished.¹⁸

Years of emotional upheaval finally caught up with Massie. In 1940, while serving aboard the *USS Texas*, he began to exhibit bizarre and unsettling behavior. He appeared disheveled while on duty; his behavior became irrational and erratic punctuated with violence. He displayed delusions of grandeur, hallucinations, and incoherent speech. His mental health had also disintegrated into believing that he was under the direction of supernatural forces to the point of carrying an empty bottle which he believed could be filled with powerful liquids that could give him untold abilities.

On July 9, 1940, after treatment at Norfolk Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, VA, and at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, DC, Massie was discharged from the navy with a medical disability. He relocated to San Diego and supplemented his disability pension by working alternately as a real estate agent and as an employee of General Dynamics, Convair, and other defense manufacturers. Massie died on January 8, 1987, the fifty-fifth anniversary of Joseph Kahahawai, Jr's murder.¹⁹

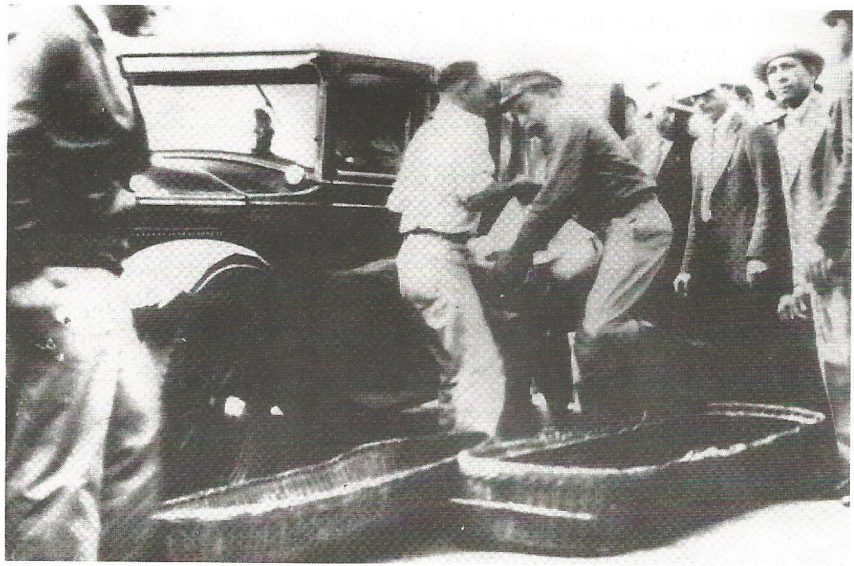
Just prior to Thalia's suicide attempt aboard the *SS Roma*, her mother inherited her portion of the Bell fortune and purchased a home in the Bahamas, naming it Stonehaven. She and Granville later relocated to Palm Beach, FL, where they built Isle Home, their house on Lake Worth, furnishing it rather insensitively in a Hawaiian motif. The Fortescues continued to spend their summers at Wildholme in Bayport until Granville, who was still unemployed, died in 1952. Mrs. Fortescue subsequently spent most of her time in Palm Beach, taking up water-skiing at the age of seventy-five and parasailing at age eighty-seven. She died in 1979 at the age of ninety-five, never showing any remorse for her part in the "Massie Affair."

Helene, whose only part in the "Massie Affair" was the disposal of the murder weapon, was, like her sister Thalia, an alcoholic suffering from emotional problems. In 1936 Helene married Julian Louis Reynolds, an heir to the Reynolds aluminum and tobacco fortunes. Her marriage, like that of her sister Thalia, was stormy from the beginning. The Reynoldses' divorce in 1938 was precipitated by Helene's excessive drinking, emotional disorders, and her burning desire to become an actress. In spite of her problems, Helene managed to have a career as an actress, primarily in "B" grade motion pictures, and, in the 1960s, as a Manhattan art gallery proprietor and artist.²⁰ As she was trying to adjust to the fact that her acting career had seen its day and still plagued by her life-long problems, for which she sought treat-

ment at Bellevue Hospital on several occasions, Helene had to withstand still another blow to her already fragile life. In 1966, just three years after the suicide of her sister Thalia, Helene's twenty-nine-year-old son Richard Roland Reynolds accidentally walked into the moving propeller of a plane which he was inspecting for possible purchase.²¹ Helene would eventually succumb to cancer at the age of seventy-six in 1990 while residing in Lake Worth, FL.

Ironically the murder trial could have been averted if Massie had accepted the advice of Thalia's physician, Lieutenant Commander John Porter. After the alleged attack, Porter examined Thalia and counseled Massie to drop the criminal charges against the alleged assailants. He even offered to use his influence to have Massie transferred to an out-of-the-way post where no one had heard of them.

Actually, the entire "Massie Affair" need not have occurred had the Honolulu police conducted a proper investigation of Thalia's claims instead of rushing to arrest the five alleged assailants. Overlooked, or perhaps ignored, by the police were two important inconsistencies. Thalia claimed that she had been dragged through the woods and raped multiple times, yet the dress and shoes she was wearing that evening showed no signs of tears or stains. Perhaps even more damning of the police investigation was the fact that a medical examination of the alleged attackers showed no recent sexual activity by any of the men.



Policemen removing Kahahawai's naked body from car.

After the commutation of the sentences imposed on Mrs. Fortescue, Massie, Lord, and Jones, the territorial legislature commissioned the Pinkerton National Detective Agency to investigate all aspects of the "Massie Affair." The agency's three-month investigation culminated in a three-hundred-page report which stated that the alleged attackers "had no opportunity to commit the kidnapping and the rape...We have found nothing in the record of the case, nor have we through our own efforts been able to find what in our estimation would be sufficient corroboration of the statements of Mrs. Massie to establish the occurrence of rape upon her."²²

ENDNOTES

1. Both the Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, Sr. and Fortescue residences were located on 20th Street in Manhattan.

Marion was not Robert's only mistress. A noted ladies' man, he reportedly purchased garish green

gloves at a sale in A. T. Stewart's Department Store, and distributed them to his paramours. For years his friends amused themselves, while strolling down Fifth Avenue or riding in Central Park, by looking to see who was wearing "the green gloves." David McCullough, *Mornings on Horseback* (New York: Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 2001), p. 22.

2. Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, Sr.'s first wife was Elizabeth Thorn Ellis (1830-1887), with whom he fathered Margaret (1851-1929), John Ellis (1853-1939), and Robert Jr. (1866-1929). Marion Theresa O'Shea became Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, Sr.'s second wife in 1888 with their marriage in a Roman Catholic Church in Clapham, England.

For a comprehensive history of Long Island's South Shore estates see Havemeyer, Harry W. *Along the Great South Bay from Oakdale to Babylon, the Story of a Summer Spa, 1840 to 1940*. Mattituck, NY: Amereon House,

1996; Havemeyer, Harry W. *East on the Great South Bay: Sayville and Bellport 1860-1960*. Mattituck, NY: Amereon House, 2001; and Spinzia, Raymond E. and Judith A. *Long Island's Prominent South Shore Families: Their Estates and Their Country Homes in the Towns of Babylon and Islip*. College Station, TX: Virtualbookworm.com Publishing, Inc., 2006.

3. Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, Sr. and Marion Theresa O'Shea's fourth child was a daughter. Harry W. Havemeyer, *East on the Great South Bay: Sayville and Bellport 1860-1960*. (Mattituck, NY: Amereon House, 2001), p. 44.

4. Maude and Ernest William Sutton Pickhardt were divorced at the time of his suicide in 1909. Pickhardt was the son of Manhattan millionaire Ernest Wilhelm Pickhardt who had made his fortune in the dye industry. Ernest's sister was Baroness Irene von Colberg. *The New York Times* July 8, 1909, p. 4. In 1945 Maude married Brigadier General Richard L. A. Pennington.

5. Granville had previously been expelled from Yale for firing a gun next to the head of a sleeping fraternity brother. He subsequently entered the University of Pennsylvania. When rejected for the university's football team, he assaulted the coach, causing him to be hospitalized for three days. University officials later reversed the coach's decision and placed Granville on the team. David E. Stannard, *Honor Killing: How the Infamous "Massie Affair" Transformed Hawaii* (New York: Viking, 2005), pp. 8-9.

6. During the Riff Uprisings

Fortescue actively participated in military actions and gave tactical advice to Spanish officers while under fire from the Arabs. Granville Fortescue, *Front Line and Deadline: The Experiences of a War Correspondent* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1937), pp. 9-24.

7. Wounded in the foot at the battle of San Juan Hill and gassed at Mountfaucon, Granville was the recipient of the Purple Heart, Certificate of Merit and Distinguished Service Award, Victory Medal, Spanish War Medal, Philippine Insurrection War Medal, Order of the Rising Sun, and the Japanese War Medal.

8. Born in Dublin, Ireland, Charles John Bell (1858-1929) was a cousin of Alexander Graham Bell. Settling in Washington, DC, Charles established the private banking firm of Bell & Company, ultimately becoming the chairman of the board, president, or a director of over a dozen corporations and a founder of the American Red Cross. In 1881 he married Roberta Wolcott Hubbard, the daughter of Gardiner Greene Hubbard of Boston, MA, and Twin Oaks. [Hubbard was the first president of the Bell Telephone Company and a founder of the National Geographic Society.] Charles and Roberta had two children: Helen Adine married Julien Ashton Ripley, Sr. and resided at Three Corner Farm on Ripley Lane in Muttontown and Grace Hubbard Bell, who married Granville Roland Fortescue. After Roberta's death in 1885, Charles married her sister Grace Blatchford Hubbard in 1887. Charles and Grace had three children: Gar-

diner Hubbard, Charles James, and Robert Wolcott Bell. *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* vol. 21, pp. 33-34.

The Hubbard-Bell estate Twin Oaks, located on Woodley Road in Washington, DC, became the Embassy of The Republic of China.

9. Because of Granville's steadfast refusal to obtain steady employment, his wife was compelled to charge friends for bridge lessons. The wife of the gardener at Twin Oaks referred to Granville as "dissolute, lazy, and a heavy drinker." The wife of the gatekeeper at the Fortescues' Bayport estate Wildholme claimed that the Fortescues "lived like low class foreigners" when there were no guests at the estate. Stannard, *Honor Killing*, p. 14.

Fortescue had inherited the Roosevelt Lotos Lake estate and renamed it Wildholme.

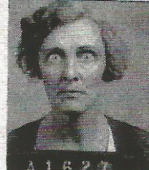

In 1953 vandals entered the main house and destroyed virtually every piece of the Fortescues' furniture, china, and paintings, while doing extensive damage to the structure of the house. For a detailed account of the vandalism see Havemeyer, *East on the Great South Bay*, pp. 258-260. In 1958 the main house was destroyed by fire.

10. Granville had at least one documented extra-marital affair. In 1905 he, along with two other men, was named as correspondent in the sordid trial of Chicago heiress Mrs. Grace Culver Taggard. Grace claimed that her husband Army Captain Elmore Taggard, who was suing her for divorce and custody of their two children on the grounds of infi-

delity, was suffering from the effects of alcohol and the tropical climate of The Philippines. Using her considerable family influence Grace had her husband incarcerated in an army mental ward. The ensuing seven-week court proceedings culminated in a divorce in the captain's favor. In rendering his decision the judge severely rebuked Fortescue and Grace's other lovers, blaming them for her immoral behavior and calling on society to treat the correspondents as "social outcasts." Stannard, *Honor Killing*, p. 10.

11. After studying at Oxford in England, the Fortescues' third daughter Marion, married Daulton Gillespie Viskniskki, the son of journalist Guy Thomas Viskniskki of Montclair, NJ. After their marriage, Daulton and Marion resided in Cambridge, MA, in the 1950s and were residing in Indianapolis, IN, in 1960. In 1961 their daughter Vikki married James C. Huff, the son of Clarence R. Huff of Canterbury, OH.

12. The Fortescue children may well have inherited their propensity for rowdy behavior from their parents, although it is certainly questionable that Granville's college incidents could be classified as youthful pranks. Their mother Grace could definitely be classified as a prankster. As a youth she and her friends took a joy ride through the streets of the capitol on a Washington "trolley car" which they had stolen. On another occasion Grace blocked traffic on Washington's Pennsylvania Avenue by joining hands with her friends and roller skating down

IDENTIFICATION AND RECORD BUREAU				
HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT			HONOLULU, HAWAII, U. S. A.	
Birthplace	WASHINGTON, D.C.			
Age	48 YEARS	Date of Birth	NOVEMBER 3, 1893.	
Nationality	AMERICAN.	Married or Single	MARRIED	
Occupation	HOUSEWIFE. (2574 Kalanianaʻʻohi Street, Manoa)			
Education	12 YEARS PRIVATE SCHOOLING.			
Height	5FT-6IN	Weight	134 LBS	Eyes BLUE
Hair	GRAYING	Build	MEDIUM	Comp. FAIR
Scars and Marks.				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>				
CRIMINAL RECORD				
Report No.	Date	Arresting Officer	Charge	Disposition or Sentence
18171	1-6-32	G. Harbottle--A. Takeda-- M. Freitas--M. Camacho-- Therman E. Black.	MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE.. (
<p>January 6, 1932. 8:00 A.M. Joe Kahahawai Jr., one of the defendants in the Ala Moana assault case was kidnapped from in the front of the Judiciary Building and taken into a Buick Sedan. Kidnapping witnessed by J. Atkins. General Alarm given by Deputy Sheriff William Kooval and Chief of Detectives John N. McIntosh for all Police Officers to be on the look-out for a Buick Sedan probably operated by a white woman and containing two or three men.</p> <p>9:30 A.M. A Buick Sedan operated by Mrs. Fortescue noticed by Officer G. Harbottle, driving at a fast rate of speed on Waialae Road near Kahala Road. Harbottle with Radio Patrol Officers Arthur Takeda and Manuel Freitas, Louis Camacho and Therman Black gave chase. Harbottle occupied, captured and placed under arrest on Kalanianaʻohi Highway. Takeda, Freitas, Camacho and Black were taken to the U.S. Navy. On the back floor of the auto was the dead body of Joe Kahahawai Jr., covered with a canvas cloth and securely tied with ropes. Victim's body naked at the time of discovery.</p> <p>10:45 A.M. Albert Orrin Jones arrested at Mrs. Masses's residence by Chief of Detectives John N. McIntosh.</p> <p>12:15 P.M. Autopsy performed on body of victim by Dr. Robert Faus who stated that victim was shot at the base of the left lung by a 32 cal. steel jacketed bullet. Death was due to bleeding.</p> <p>12:20 P.M. Defendants taken to James Gilliland's Office for investigation.</p> <p>2:30 P.M. Defendants fingerprinted & Photographed at Police Station.</p> <p>3:30 P.M. Defendants charged with FIRST DEGREE MURDER.</p>				
(Please furnish all additional criminal history and police record on separate sheet.)				
DO NOT FOLD				

Mrs. Fortescue's arrest file.

the avenue. *The New York Times* August 3, 1938, p. 14.

13. In reality, of the five alleged attackers, two were native Hawaiian, two were Japanese, and one was Chinese-Hawaiian.

14. During the ten-mile, high-speed car chase police fired three shots at the car knocking out its rear tail light. The pursuit came to an end when Mrs. Fortescue was finally forced off the road by the police.

15. *The New York Times* January 19, 1932, p. 3.

After the conviction, Kentucky's Governor Laffoon restored Massie's rights of citizenship within the state. *The New York Times* June 1, 1932, p. 1.

The publisher of the *New York Daily News*, Joseph Medill Pat-

terson, was Granville's friend from his prewar days as a European correspondent. Stannard, *Honor Killing*, p. 299.

16. Patrons at the Reno nightclub testified that Thalia had taken poison yet her physician Dr. Vinton A. Muller denied the veracity of the police report of attempted suicide. *The New York Times* February 24, 1934, p. 30.

17. Thalia's second husband Robert Uptigrove died in 1958 at the age of twenty-six.

18. *The New York Times* July 31, 1938, p. 26.

19. Stannard, *Honor Killing*, pp. 406-7.

20. In later life Helene Fortescue Reynolds was the proprietor of Kenyon's Painting Pad located in the Volney Hotel at 23 East 74th

Street in Manhattan. As an artist Helene signed her own paintings as Kenyon, Charles Adams, Herbert Foust, and Marie Hetherington. *The New York Times* November 13, 1968, p. 4.

21. *The New York Times* October 13, 1966, p. 45.

22. Stannard, *Honor Killing*, pp. 396-9.

For a detailed account of the "Massie Affair" see Black, Cobey *Hawaii Scandal*. Waipaku, HI: Island Heritage, 2002; Stannard, David E. *Honor Killing: How the Infamous "Massie Affair" Transformed Hawaii*. New York: Viking, 2005; Van Slingerland, *Peter Something Terrible Has Happened*. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1966; Wright, Theon *Rape In Paradise*. New York; Hawthorn Books, Inc., 1966.

Helene Fortescue Reynolds (born Kenyon Fortescue) used the stage aliases of Helene Reynolds, Helene Whitney, and Joyce Gardner as an actress. The following list details her filmography, including her television appearances.

Motion Picture Films as Helene Reynolds:

1941 – *Confirm or Deny* (Dorothy)

1941 – *Blue, White, and Perfect* (Helen Shaw)

1942 – *Girl Trouble* (Helen Martin)

1942 – *Roxie Hart* (Velma Wall)

1942 – *Tales of Manhattan* (actress)

1942 – *Moontide* (woman on boat)

1942 – *The Man Who Wouldn't Die* (Anne Wolff)

(originally titled *No Coffin for the Corpse*)

1943 – *Dixie Dugan* (Jean Patterson)

1943 – *Heaven Can Wait* (showgirl Peggy Nash)

1943 – *Wintertime* (uncredited – Marian Daly)

1943 – *The Meanest Man in the World* (wife)

1944 – *Bermuda Mystery* (Angela)

Television appearances as Helene Reynolds:

1945 – "The Front Page" (Mollie Malloy)

October 1948 – "Mirage in Manhattan" on The Chevrolet Tele-Theatre

Motion Picture Films as Helene Whitney:

1939 – *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Fleur De Lys)

1940 – *The Philadelphia Story* (society woman)

1940 – *The Saint's Double Trouble* (Ann Bitts)

1940 – *Millionaire Playboy* (uncredited)

1941 – *City of Missing Girls* (Katherine Crawford)

Motion Picture Films as Joyce Gardner:

1939 – George O'Brien western, directed by David Howard for RKO[unable to determine title]

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Ask Uncle Peleg

continued from p. 10

Dear Uncle Peleg:

I was tempted to address you as Uncle Hogleg or Pistol Peleg but

don't want to seem disrespectful. I came up with five figures of speech having to do with guns and used metaphorically which I want to add to your armory. I think most readers will understand their second meanings so I don't provide explanations. They are "fixed his flint," "quick on the trigger," "hold your fire," "keep your powder dry" and "a shot in the dark." A different kind of usage is naming the foreman of a cattle ranch the "ramrod" which used to be common at least in the pulp Westerns. But that's just another "notch on my pistol butt." And that makes me a "six-shooter" metaphor-wise. "Straight shooter" lifts me into the old Smith and Wesson "seven-shooter" class and I quit.

Dead Eye Dan'l

Well, Dan'l, I'd say you were "Hotter than a pistol." Thanks to you figure of speech collectors I didn't have to do much work this quarter. I just sat back and watched the "Turkey Shoot." Betcha don't have one for "wadding."

Answers to Test Your Knowledge,

from p.15

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. s | 14. q |
| 2. g | 15. u |
| 3. m | 16. r |
| 4. b | 17. p |
| 5. f | 18. d |
| 6. h | 19. t |
| 7. l | 20. a |
| 8. v | 21. w |
| 9. n | 22. k |
| 10. j | 23. i |
| 11. o | 24. c |
| 12. x | 25. e |
| 13. y | |

Blocklyn's Books



Book Reviews by Philip Blocklyn

Brother & Me: Thomas Jackson and the Underground Railroad... Westbury and Jericho Many Generations Ago. A Historical Novel. By Kathleen G. Velsor. Cold Spring Harbor, Rosalie Ink Publications, 2005. 98 pp. B&W illustration. Bibliography. \$16.95

Brother & Me is a historical novel, and like all historical novels, it mixes fact with fiction for narrative effect. Real people and places exist in these pages: John Jackson and his sawmill on the Jerusalem River in Wantagh, Elias Hicks and Jemima Seaman, Valentine Hicks and his wife Abigail, the Quaker meeting houses of Westbury and Jericho, Henry Highland Garnet and the African Free School of New York City, and most famously Frederick Douglass, whose 1845 *Narrative of the Life* may be the most persistently unread classic of American literature. Among these people and places moves Thomas Jackson, whose escape from slavery in 1763 and memoir of 1844 form the basis of the story, as pieced together in 1955 by twelve-year old Anna Willis and

her Westbury neighbor Brother Jackson, distant relation of Thomas. These three people, however, are entirely the creations of author Kathleen Velsor's imagination.

The idea of the mysterious Unpublished Memoir remains a powerful element in childhood fantasy, and those children who find themselves all afire to discover a cache of secret maps, letters, and manuscripts will often feel compelled, on not finding them, to invent them instead. This reviewer, for instance, is not ashamed to admit his discovery of the secret papers of Jacques Laffitte, a pirate who, entirely unbeknownst to history, terrorized the lower Delaware Valley at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Really - you can look it up.

People may object to Dr Velsor's mix of fact with fiction, but they should not forget that one of her primary goals as author is to instill in her young readers the fascination Anna Willis has with primary records as tools for historical research. We could of course just come out and tell our children, "PRIMARY SOURCES ARE IMPORTANT!" but who would listen to that? Better to tell a story, as Dr Velsor does, of Anna Willis and her investigations into the past of her friend Brother and, in the end, of her own Willis family.

The author's inspiration for her novel seems to stem from her discovery, in the attic of her 1890 Bayville summer home, of a scuffed, brown leather suitcase. No, it did not contain the Notebooks of Anna Willis that provide the "text" for *Brother & Me*, but

that's beside the point. It's the inspiration that counts. Who among us, having moved as a child into a new house, has not made that most hopeful of historical searches, the one for Signs Of Past Lives? You mount a dark and narrow staircase, its risers worn by rough shoes, to a low white door at the top of the steps. Behind the door, you feel sure, are pirates, or slaves escaping to freedom, stories of liberty, and justice. The truth is, however, that there's almost never anything there, besides a few filters for overhead fan vents, if you're lucky.

But much later on in life, you'll be luckier. You'll again head upstairs to the white door, behind which this time lies the story of your family, or your city, or your own history and your place in it. If you don't turn the latch and step through with the burning curiosity and hope of childhood, that particular story will be lost forever.

The Post Rider

continued from p. 2

Society received a copy of the new genealogy *The Ark and the Dove Adventurers* and I wrote a review of this book, which was published in the Spring 2006 issue of our quarterly, the *Generator*, of which I am the Editor.

I suggested to Ned Smith, the librarian at the NYG&B, that they purchase a copy of this book for their library, so it may be available there in Manhattan for Mr. Sheedy's research. We have a copy on our Society's shelf at the local St. Mary's County Memorial Library, Leonardtown, MD.

continued on p. 24

The Post Rider

continued from p. 23

I am an Oyster Bay person by ancestry Van Velsor from Woodbury on my mother's side and Hicksville Germans - Thomas & Harbach - on my father's.

David Roberts

[Ed. Note: What follows is an excerpt from Mr. Roberts' review, with information pertaining to Anam Benum, one of the subjects of Mr. Sheedy's article in the Spring 2005 Freeholder.]

...One of the servants who came over with a Catholic gentleman, Thomas Greene, Esq. from Kent, was Anam Benum, born ca. 1617. This servant was in his late teens. He finished his term in January 1637/38 and received land in Mattapanient [Mattapan] Hundred on the Patuxent River...

Benum ran himself into debt

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 19, 2:30 p.m.

Lecture/ Exhibition Opening

A lecture on collecting by Tiffany & Co.'s John Loring will be followed by a reception and the opening of an exhibition featuring significant arti-

facts from the Society's collections. [Ed. note: This date is tentative as of press time. Also, there may be another event associated with this series. Please call the Society at 922-5032 for more information.]

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 9, 4 - 6:30 p.m.

Annual Holiday Party

Be part of an old-fashioned candlelit, holiday celebration at the Earle-Wightman House, which will be decorated in period fashion. Refreshments & music will provide just the right mood to ring in the holidays. See old friends and make new ones at this annual party for the Society's members.

and fled the colony about 1639. The fact he went north is indicated in that one of his creditors sent a legal document in 1643 to both the authorities in New Netherland and New England informing them of Benum's debt. He shows up in the records of Gravesend in 1648, where he received lot # 20. In 1651, he is a sponsor at a baptism at the New Amsterdam Dutch Church.

Not only did he run off from his debts in Maryland, he got a married woman in Gravesend to leave her husband &

move in with him. In 1656/57, George Baldwin of Gravesend divorced his wife Abigail because she had gone off with Benum/Benam & had a child by him. Abigail returned to Warwick, Rhode Island.

In 1660, Benum got land in Flatlands and by 1666 was in Newtown [now in Queens County]. He died in Maspeth Kills shortly before 9 November 1670. By that time, he had a wife named Alice.

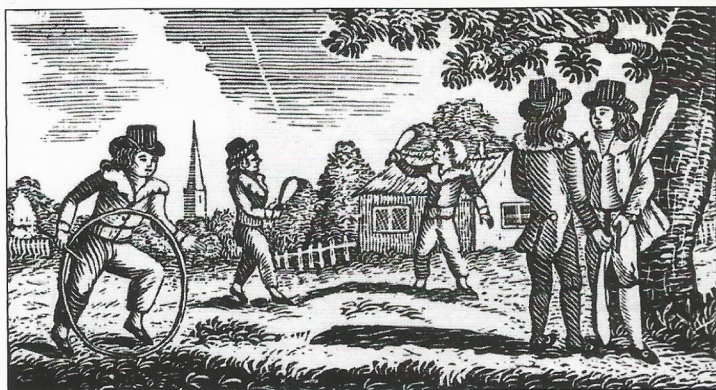
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THE FREEHOLDER SUMMER 2006