



THE FREEHOLDER

SUMMER 2007 **THE OYSTER BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** FOUNDED 1960

☞ A LOOK AT
ROSALIE JONES'
SUFFRAGE
ACTIVITIES

☞ HOLLYWOOD
ON THE BAY?

☞ SOCIETY'S NEW
EXHIBIT ON
REVOLUTIONARY
WAR



THE HISTORY MAGAZINE OF THE TOWN OF OYSTER BAY

Editorial

In this issue of *The Freeholder* we are pleased to present a different aspect of local figure Rosalie Jones - that of her activities on behalf of the Women's Suffrage movement, courtesy of the talented pen of historian Natalie Naylor.

Frequent contributor Walter Karppi details his odyssey on getting to the bottom of Oyster Bay's Hollywood

connection, as well as a piece in "The Gathering Place" on a sensational murder which he stumbled on in the midst of his research.

We round out this issue with a second installment of Robert Harrison's look at our island's erstwhile poets, this time those of the Revolutionary War. Speaking of that era, be sure to visit the Earle-Wightman House this Fall for a look at the Society's new exhibit on the Revolution!

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THE POST RIDER

To the Editor:

A *Newsday* online blogspot posting (8/8/07), seemed oddly reminiscent of an action taken by Rosalie Jones in 1920. As I noted in my article in the last issue of *The Freeholder*, Rosalie erected a toll gate on Eaton's Neck close to where the firehouse is today, charging \$1 to park for the day and an extra .50 to spend the night on her Eaton's Neck beach property.

The present proposal, admittedly one

among many to be considered by the Asharoken Village Board in view of the court's refusal to hold KeySpan Energy responsible for the beach erosion caused by the expulsion of water at a rate about one million gallons/minute at the Northport power plant, would charge \$8 to non-residents who wish to enter the waterfront community.

It does seem that this is another example of "what goes around, comes around." Judy Spinzia
New Columbia, PA

[Ed Note: We failed to make some corrections to Judy's article on Rosalie Jones, having to do with Rosalie's education, for

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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
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ABOUT OUR FRONT COVER

Women's Suffrage "Pilgrims" en route to Washington, D.C. in 1913; Rosalie Jones is in the front center with a staff in her hand. See related story on p. 3.
Courtesy of the Suffolk County Historical Society.

which we are heartily sorry!

The correct information, in place of that which appears at the top of p. 4, follows.] ...and attended Brooklyn Law School. She earned a LL.B degree from George Washington University, Washington, DC, in 1919 and a Doctor of Civil Law degree, from George Washington College of Law, now part of American University, in 1922. Her master's thesis, "The Labor Party in England," was written in 1919.

To the Editor:

Does anyone have any documentation concerning the first school built in the Town of Oyster Bay?

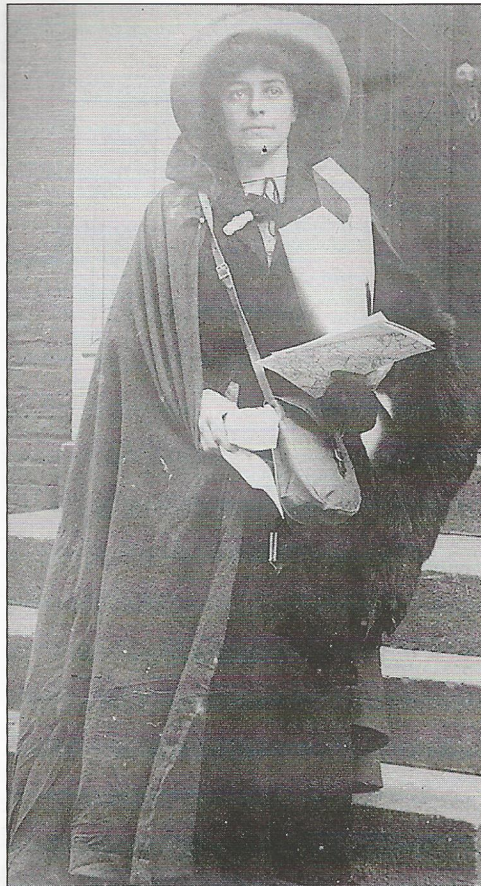
John Hammond

GENERAL ROSALIE JONES (1883-1978): OYSTER BAY'S MAVERICK SUFFRAGIST

by Natalie A. Naylor, Ph.D.

Ninety years ago, women in New York State achieved the vote following a successful referendum in 1917. Nationally women's suffrage was secured in 1920 with ratification of the 19th Amendment. Figures such as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Carrie Chapman Catt are among the well-known national leaders, but local women in the movement are less familiar. Oyster Bay was home to Rosalie Gardiner Jones, who had a relatively brief but quite flamboyant role in the suffrage campaign.

Jones was a well-known name in Oyster Bay and Huntington towns. Thomas Jones, the progenitor of the family in America, was a privateer for whom Jones Beach is named. In the nineteenth century, Walter Restored Jones and his brothers were responsible for the mills and whaling in Cold Spring Harbor. Other members of the Jones family played an important role in establishing the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Rosalie Jones also had Livingston, Gardiner, and Hewlett ancestors — all old Long Island families.¹ Her parents owned extensive land on the North Shore, including in Bayville, Oyster Bay, Cold Spring Harbor, Lloyd Neck, Asharoken, and Eaton's Neck. Her father, Dr. Oliver Livingston Jones, had owned the large Hotel Laurelton, which Louis Comfort Tiffany razed to build his Laurelton Hall home. Her mother, Mary



*"General" Rosalie Jones
Library of Congress*

E. Jones, owned more than a thousand acres in Cold Spring Harbor and Laurel Hollow alone.

The Jones family was wealthy and socially prominent. Rosalie, born in New York City (where her family also had a residence), was a middle child, having one older sister and four brothers. Their ancestral home was in today's village of Laurel Hollow, which in the nineteenth and early twentieth century was referred to as Cold Spring Harbor. When Walter R. Jones built the family's Greek Revival Jones Manor on the Syosset Road in 1855, it was the largest home on Long Island, with more than a hundred rooms.

He bequeathed the property to his nephew, who was Rosalie's maternal grandfather. After his death in 1882, Rosalie's mother inherited the estate. After Jones Manor burned in 1909, Mary E. Jones built a Georgian-Revival style home which still stands. Built of concrete to be fire-proof, it had 24 bedrooms, 16 baths, and 14 fireplaces.² Rosalie Jones lived in these homes in her early and later years.

The women's suffrage movement in this country dates back to 1848 when Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and a number of other women called a convention in Seneca Falls in upstate New York to discuss the situation of women. Stanton prepared a Declaration of Sentiments, modeled on the Declaration of Independence, which stated, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men and women are created equal" (emphasis added). The first of the "repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward women," was "He has never permitted her to exercise her inalienable right to the elective franchise." That 1848 convention was the beginning of the women's rights movement, which focused much of its efforts on securing women's right to vote — suffrage. Hundreds and thousands of women worked for decades to achieve votes for women. Some women active in the final decade of the American suffrage campaign were inspired by their involvement in the English suffrage movement, including Alice Paul, a young Quaker



*Rosalie Jones (on left) and Elisabeth Freeman with Suffrage Wagon, 1912.
Courtesy of the Huntington Historical Society.*

from New Jersey, and Cady Stanton's daughter, Harriot Stanton Blatch, who each became leaders in the radical wing of the American suffrage movement in the 1910s.³

During her late teens and early twenties, Rosalie Jones led a life similar to that of others of her class. She was a socialite, quite beautiful, and a debutante who had "come out." She appears in social notes in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* and *New York Times*, traveling with her mother and sister, attending dances and receptions, and winning a fencing tournament. She attended Adelphi, then a woman's college in Brooklyn, but did not receive her degree until some years later, after her suffrage activities. She also made a grand tour of the United States (earning some of the funds by raising chickens) and then went to Europe with a cousin. On this trip she witnessed women's suffrage activities in England and France.⁴

After returning, Rosalie covered an acre of land she owned in Syosset with women's suffrage "signs and slogans." A friend's chauffeur told the family about it and added, "We always used to think Miss Rosalie was a lady." Most of her relatives felt that Rosalie had "disgraced the family." Her first speech for suffrage was at the Roslyn clock tower and she later told of her initial panic and terror at speaking in public.⁵ In 1911 she joined with Harriot Stanton Blatch and Alva Belmont to speak about women's right to vote on the corner of Wall Street and Broadway in New York City. Although they had tomatoes and eggs thrown at them, Jones and others continued to hold such "open air meetings."⁶

The next year, Rosalie joined with the English suffragette Elisabeth Freeman, touring Long Island in a horse-drawn "Votes for Women" wagon. Whenever they gathered a crowd, they dis-

tributed flyers on women's suffrage and held impromptu meetings. Jones and Freeman raised money for the Ohio suffrage campaign that fall by selling buttons and homemade "Votes for Women" cakes. They sent their wagon to Ohio and campaigned there as well. Rosalie spoke at a suffrage meeting at Mrs. Belmont's home in East Meadow about her tour of Long Island. She used the term "martyrdom" for having "been refused shelter after-dark from the rain by the proprietor of an Inn."⁷

From 1912 to 1913, Rosalie Jones was president of the Nassau County branch of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association, which was the main suffrage organization. In 1912, she organized a hike, or pilgrimage, from New York City to Albany to present petitions to the new governor for women's suffrage and to gain publicity for the cause. She planned a 140 mile trek with Ida Craft from Brooklyn. Rosalie appropriated the title "General" and Craft was the "Colonel," second in command. Using military titles and language, they had a drummer, "war correspondents" (reporters), and a "commissary wagon" carrying supplies. When this "Votes-for-Women Pilgrimage" was announced, an editorial in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* characterized it as a "tramp to Albany" and referred to "the tramps or tramps." This kind of mocking coverage would follow the pilgrims all the way to Albany, although the editorial did acknowledge that "the women are in earnest, very much in earnest."⁸

Some prominent suffrage leaders declined to join the march. They said the railroad was quicker (three hours) and they would rather spend the time on suffrage activities at home. In fact, Rosalie's mother and her sister Louise were members of the New York State *Anti-Suffrage Association*. Her mother hoped to squash Rosalie's plan, saying the idea of a hike in winter was "ridiculous" and "absolutely foolish."⁹

The pilgrimage started on December 16th from the end of the subway line in The Bronx, at 242nd Street. *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* described General Jones as "young [she was 29], fair to look upon, and has a fortune in her own right, and is still 'Miss.'" Several hundred started on the march and their first stop was in Yonkers, where they were met by the mayor and local suffragists. They held an open air meeting, with a speech given by Harriet Laidlaw, who was Manhattan borough chairman and an officer in the national suffrage organization. After that meeting in Yonkers, Laidlaw and many others returned to New York City. This became the pattern for the hike. Only five stalwarts, including Rosalie, hiked the entire distance. For segments of the march they were joined by local and sometimes New York City suffragists. The hikers carried yellow knapsacks, staffs, and yellow "Votes for Women" banners (yellow was the suffrage color). The newspapers sometimes used other titles for Rosalie: "Generalissimo Rosalie Jones," "the bully commander," and "Jeanne d'Arc," and often referred to her

as the "little general."¹⁰

The hikers endured fog, rain, and mud and encountered four inches of snow in Upper Red Hook on December 24. By the last days, their feet were swollen and blistered. Hearing along the way rumors that her mother planned to come and bring her home, Rosalie actually hid for a day. One young man, who was marching with his sweetheart, was taken home by his father.

The pilgrims reached Albany on December 28th, having walked a total, with detours, of 170 miles in twelve days. Rosalie praised the reception they received along the way and asserted that the hike had advanced the cause. In a joint statement, Jones and Craft said, "On this trip hundreds of people have heard the votes for women gospel whom we never could have reached through ordinary meetings. We distributed thousands of rainbow leaflets at farm house doors, and made immediate [spontaneous] speeches at cross roads gatherings." The Episcopal bishop of Albany, however, said the hiking suffragettes were a band of silly women. Silly or not, their march did achieve wide publicity in newspapers throughout the country. An editorial in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* acknowledged that they "have reason to congratulate themselves and their achievement gained an enormous amount of advertising."¹¹

Even before they reached Albany, the General announced another march from New York to Washington, D.C. This march was to take place in February, in time to present a suffrage petition to President-elect Woodrow Wil-

son, who would be inaugurated in March. The "Suffrage Army" hike started in Newark, New Jersey, on February 12 and covered more than 250 miles in just over two weeks. The sign on their wagon read, "Criminals and the insane can't vote, neither can I, What about it?" This time, they had uniforms - brown pilgrim capes with hoods. They planned to emulate George Washington's crossing of the Delaware during the Revolution by ferrying across the river in small boats, but huge chunks of ice in the river necessitated a change of plans. Nonetheless, one of the enduring images of the march was a cartoon modeled on the famous Emanuel Leutze painting. Again, newspaper coverage was extensive. There were some tensions on both hikes between General Jones and Colonel Craft. When one of the marchers sometimes got ahead of the group and was mistakenly greeted as Rosalie, she was threatened with a court martial and brought back in line. Again the hikers encountered some rain, snow, and mud, although generally the weather was good. They were, however, unable to avoid blisters and sore feet.

The goal of the pilgrims was to "keep the subject of suffrage before the public in an absolutely non-militant way." They greeted farmers along the way, giving them suffrage literature and asking them to "read this and remember us in 1916," when a state suffrage referendum was scheduled in New Jersey. They sold postcard pictures of the hikers for 5 cents. Among the signs that greeted the hikers in one vil-

lage were: "Please, make us a little speech, General Jones" and "Jonesy, you are all right." In Newark, Delaware, some boys let loose mice when the hikers appeared, creating pandemonium; the newspapers reported the hikers were "routed." Alice Paul drove to Hyattsville, Maryland, to greet General Jones and her hikers, but most of the mainstream suffrage leaders ignored them. While in Hyattsville, the hikers received word from Anna Howard Shaw, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), that they were to deliver their message to national headquarters rather than to Wilson himself, on grounds that it was more likely to reach him and it would be more dignified and proper. Rosalie did send a letter and a "Votes for Women" pennant or flag to Wilson by parcel post. The hikers made a triumphal entry into Washington on February 28th and Rosalie spoke outside the local suffrage headquarters, while her anti-suffragist mother watched and smiled with pride. Rosalie also gave a tea for the "war correspondents"—the reporters who had accompanied the "Hudson Army." In the evening Harriot Stanton Blatch presided at a Grand Suffrage Rally and General Jones spoke.¹²

Rosalie and her pilgrims participated in the suffrage parade in Washington, but they were relegated to the back; the officers of the NAWSA were in the place of honor at the front. The national officers felt that "Rosalie Jones' martyrs," as they were called, had already received too much attention. They were doubtless jealous



*"General Rosalie Jones Crossing the Delaware,"
Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1913. Library of Congress*

of the publicity the hikers had garnered and embarrassed by what they regarded as undignified behavior. But the papers reported "vociferous applause" for General Rosalie Jones and her band of hikers; thirteen had walked the full distance. The parade ended in a near riot; nonetheless, it was dramatic and impressive, the largest suffrage demonstration to date.¹³

Even before reaching Washington, Colonel Craft announced that she had accepted invitations to make suffrage pilgrimages through Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Ohio. She said she wanted only those who were sincere about suffrage and not just on a lark (which suggests that some of the hikers were in fact not serious about it). Craft planned to limit each day's hike to a maximum of ten miles, rather than the twenty to twenty-seven miles daily that had resulted in blisters. Rosalie announced she was through with

hiking for a time, and that she was going to Europe; she promoted Craft to general.

It is not certain that Rosalie went to Europe, however, for when she returned to Long Island, she organized and conducted a series of pageants and parades in New York, with a suffrage parade in Hempstead on May 24, 1913. A week later, she went up in a biplane at an Aeronautical Society Carnival on Staten Island and dropped suffrage leaflets from the plane. In June she was part of a suffrage "flying squadron" touring the state by automobile. In September of the same year General Jones arranged an all-night Suffrage Aviation and Encampment Meeting at the Hempstead Plains Aviation Field in Garden City, with a suffrage parade from Mineola, demonstrations by women aviators, and speeches. Unfortunately, rain and fog played havoc with all the plans. Many of the

flights were canceled and only fifty participants stayed overnight to try to sleep on straw in one of the hangars. The headline in the *Hempstead Sentinel* reported, "Suffs' Win Day on Aviation Field. Leave No Aviator Without His Yellow Badge." It reported, "had the weatherman been a little more propitious the day would have been a glorious success." Rosalie also organized a traveling suffrage school in 1913; its final stop was to be at the fire house in Cold Spring Harbor in December, but at the last minute the fire chief reneged (perhaps pressured by Rosalie's mother) and Rosalie delivered her talk at a livery stable.¹⁴

After her first hike to Albany, Rosalie Jones had become a celebrity and was a much sought-after speaker for suffrage. She participated in the Women's Suffrage State Convention in Binghamton in October 1913, joining with Carrie Chapman Catt to reorganize local groups in the Association by election districts rather than counties. In January 1914, General Jones and the pilgrims were again hiking to Albany to present a petition to permit women poll watchers in the 1915 election when a suffrage referendum would be on the ballot. She presented suffrage banners to mayors en route, traveling on the west side of the Hudson this time. That year Rosalie also led a hike in Missouri, spoke in Nebraska, Nevada, and Montana, and attended the NAWSA Congress in Nashville, Tennessee. In New York City she presented a bright yellow automobile to suffragists with "Votes for Women" emblazoned on its side and drove

it to a suffrage convention in Rochester. After she returned, she spoke at a meeting sponsored by the Woman's Political Union in New York City and organized the Board for the Further Advancement of Suffrage Education which conducted essay contests in high schools. In 1915, she spoke on Long Island, campaigned in New Jersey, and commanded her "hikers squad" at the rally in New York City on the eve of the 1915 state referendum.¹⁵

After the disappointing defeats of referendums in New York and New Jersey, Rosalie seems to have withdrawn from suffrage activity, or at least her name is absent from the newspapers and suffrage records. (Victory was clearly in sight, though the vote for women would not be attained in New York State until 1917 and nationwide in 1920.) Apparently she focused her efforts on pursuing her education. In the summer of 1918 she attended New York University and Dartmouth College. She received her A.B. from Adelphi College (having completed necessary examinations), law degrees from Brooklyn Law School and Washington College of Law (later affiliated with American University), and an M.A. from George Washington University—all in 1919! Three years later, she received a Doctor of Civil Law from American University. She was admitted to the bar in New York and the District of Columbia, but did not practice beyond some pro bono work; she was also involved in various personal and family legal suits.

Rosalie's post-suffrage career is interesting, but beyond the scope of this article. Briefly, she was

active in the peace movement and politics in the 1920s, and in 1927 married Senator Clarence Dill (Democrat, Washington). After they divorced in 1936, she returned to Long Island and resumed her maiden name. Her Laurel Hollow neighbors in the 1940s and 1950s mainly remember the goats she raised and her increasing eccentricities. She died in Brooklyn in 1978 at the age of 94.

Unfortunately, despite the interest in women's history in recent decades, the role of General Rosalie Jones in the suffrage movement has been neglected, perhaps partly as a result of her being an independent maverick. She was brilliant, outspoken, and determined. Although she could be a martinet, "Rosalie's martyrs" were devoted to her. Her audacious tactics and talent for publicity during her meteoric suffrage career achieved significant results at the important grass roots level.

Notes

This article is excerpted and expanded from a talk at the Historical Society's 20/20 series in April 2007. The author would appreciate hearing from anyone who has memories of Rosalie Jones in her later years they can share (Natalie.Naylor@Hofstra.edu; 516-538-7679).

1. Dominica M. Barbuto, "Walter Restored Jones, Long Island Merchant Capitalist," *Nassau County Historical Society Journal* 46 (1991): 19-26; Elizabeth L. Watson, *Houses for Sciences: A Pictorial History of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory* (Plainview: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 1991), which includes a genealogical chart

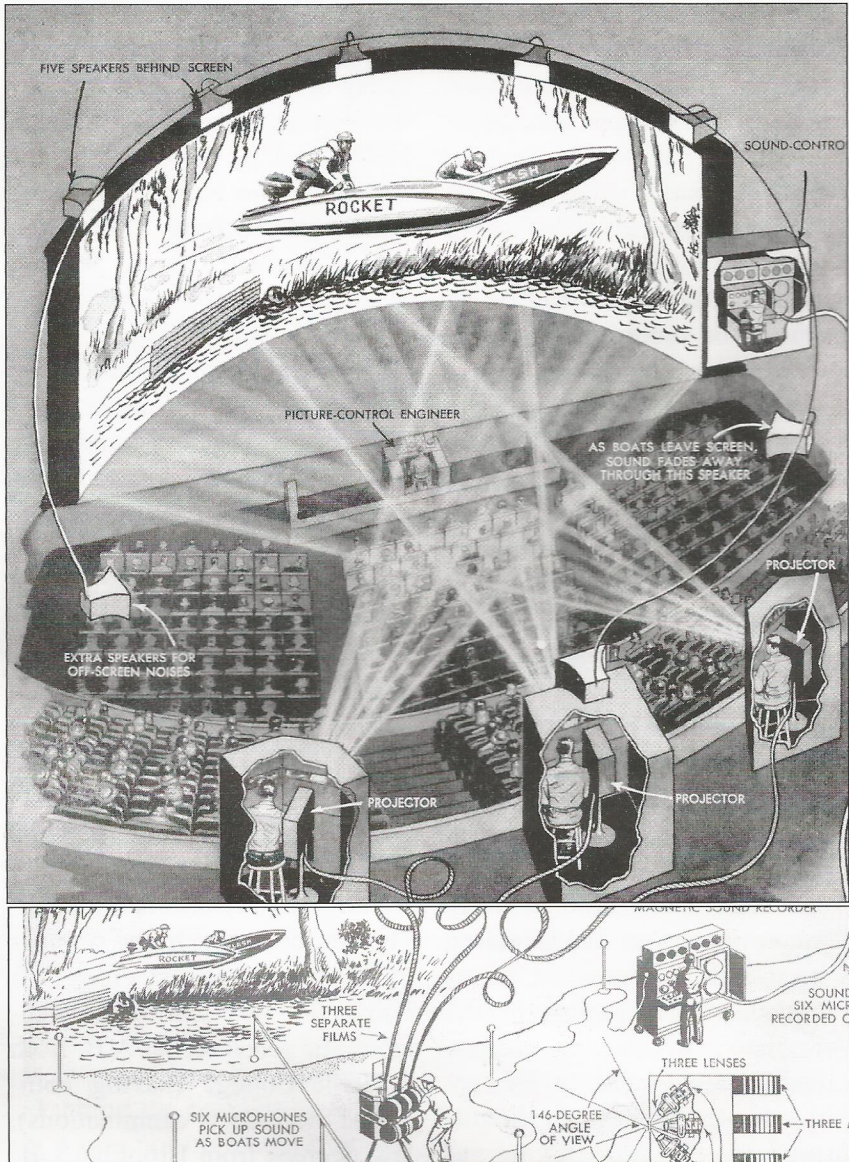
continued on p. 19

HOLLYWOOD ON THE BAY?

by Walter G. Karppi

Long-time member, artist and Oyster Bay resident, Nicholas LaBella visited the Earle-Wightman House bearing two printed movie programs dating from the 1950s; one entitled "This is Cinerama," the other "Cinerama Holiday." Mr. LaBella remarked that the programs mentioned early development work was done in an indoor tennis court located in Oyster Bay. There were no details as to the type of work done nor was the location specified. Armed with this snippet of information a search of local libraries was initiated resulting in the finding of several books containing information regarding the technical aspects of Cinerama, again briefly mentioning Oyster Bay but without further details. An Internet search of Cinerama related topics found much in the way of personal, technological and engineering data but little else. Intrigued with what was turning out to be a mystery led to a fruitless visit to local indoor tennis courts – one located on Tennis Court Road in Cove Neck and the other off Mill River Road in East Norwich. Upon finding that neither had ever been used by or for Cinerama, a dead end was reached.

While searching for the elusive, mysterious tennis court the names of several individuals of note kept cropping up including one residing, at that time, in nearby Huntington! Further perusal of Mr. LaBella's programs, and other documents, revealed their involvement with Cinerama in its early stages of development. The tennis court search was sidelined temporarily so more could be learned of these pioneers.



A schematic view of the Cinerama process.

Lowell Thomas, Chairman of the Board of the Cinerama company, was a famous reporter appearing often in the newsreels shown in motion picture theaters in the days before television. Merian C. Cooper was a noted Hollywood mogul and the co-producer of the original *King Kong* movie in 1933 whose success, incidentally, was credited for saving Radio Studios, today's RKO Studio's predecessor, from bankruptcy. Finally there was

the "father" of Cinerama, Fred C. Waller – the earlier mentioned Huntington resident.

Lowell Thomas (1897-1981) was probably the most notable and well-known of this trio. During the First World War he traveled with and wrote about the exploits of T. E. Lawrence, later to become famed as "Lawrence of Arabia." In the years before television became the ubiquitous device that we know today, Mr. Thomas's voice and face were

familiar to millions of moviegoers. Except for the first-run theaters, most movie houses showed two feature films, a cartoon, a short subject, coming attractions and a newsreel. He was the voice many heard while watching Twentieth Century Fox's Movietone newsreels as well as producing and narrating travelogues. He had been a radio broadcaster from the '30s until his retirement in 1976.

Merian C. Cooper's (1893-1973) life reads like a script for an Indiana Jones adventure. A World War I bomber pilot, he had been shot down by enemy fire and held prisoner until war's end. He then joined a relief mission to Poland and in 1919 founded the Kosciusko Squadron which fought with the Polish Air Force against the Bolsheviks. Shot down again in eastern Galicia and captured by Cossacks, he escaped only to be recaptured by a Red soldier. Killing his captor, he then made good his escape.

Once again a civilian, he served a brief stint working the night shift for the *New York Times*. Hating the news trade, he became an explorer visiting and chronicling such places as Ethiopia (then called Abyssinia), the Andaman Islands off India's east coast, Persia (Iran) and Siam (Thailand). In 1925, while in Persia, Cooper and his cameraman, Ernest B. Schoedsack, made his first film, *Grass*. This was followed in 1927 by *Chang*, made in the Siamese jungle. As a Hollywood producer he was the first to team Fred Astaire with Ginger Rogers, and persuaded Katherine Hepburn to take a screen test. During World War II

he returned to military service and his first love, flying. He served in China, flying missions into enemy territory. The final two individuals involved in the initial offerings were Hazard E. Reeves, who developed the unique sound system "Cinerama-Sound" and Robert L. Benedick, the producer.

By far the least famous, and all but unknown, yet in many ways the most interesting of the group, was the fascinating individual, without whom Cinerama would not have been born. Fred C. Waller was a multi-faceted inventor who held over 1,000 patents on a wide variety of devices. Among his numerous inventions were: water skis, a wind direction and velocity indicator, a still camera that took a 360 degree picture and the Photo-Metric camera which measured a man for a suit in a fiftieth of a second. The architect Ralph Walker asked him to devise a motion picture exhibit for a project he was preparing for the 1939 New York World's Fair.

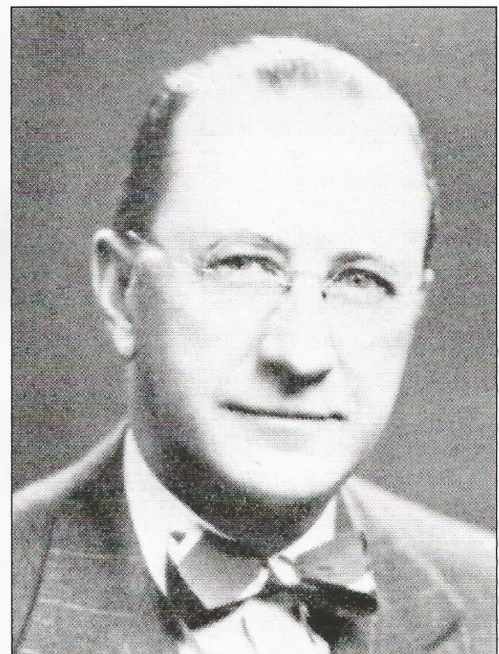
Waller developed the projection system that was used inside the trademarked symbols of the Fair, known as the "Trylon and Perisphere." The "Trylon" was a soaring three-sided tower juxtaposed with the enormous hollow ball dubbed the "Perisphere." Upon entering the Perisphere, visitors were greeted by a curved screen which duplicated the curved field of vision of the human retina. The success of this exhibit was the seed from which Cinerama was

to grow. Pearl Harbor and America's entry into the war put an end to the peacetime development of this process and, as had so many others, Cinerama went to war.

Arguably the most important of all his inventions, and a precursor of Cinerama itself, was the "Waller Flexible Gunnery Trainer" developed to train aerial gunners during World War II. Ready in the Autumn of 1940, it incorporated 5 interlocked 35mm projectors aimed at a spherical screen, giving the gunner trainees a realistic three-dimensional "feel" of combat without its hazards. Eighty-five were built and were often run on schedules of 15 to 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This little known but truly fabulous invention was credited with preventing many thousands of American wartime casualties.

Most untrained individuals have trouble hitting a fixed target

continued on p. 17



Fred C. Waller



ASK UNCLE PELEG

Dear Uncle Peleg:

Having just finished reading a general history of the Revolutionary War, I hope you can explain something which the author didn't address. Namely, why were Patriots and Loyalists during the Revolution sometimes referred to as "Whigs" and "Tories?" I can understand why the British would refer to the Americans fighting against them as "rebels," but why Whigs? Was it because of their hairstyle, as in the English Civil War when Cromwell's troops were called "Roundheads?"

Can you shed any light on this?
Carl W.

The terms "Whig" and "Tory" were English imports describing the two political parties in England during the 18th century.

However the history of the terms, and the two parties, has its beginnings in the 17th century, during the time of the "Glorious Revolution" when the supporters of the Catholic King James II, and those who wanted to return a Protestant king to England's throne, went toe to toe.

Since many of James' supporters were Catholic Irishmen, they were **all** derisively referred to as bogtrotters and "tories," an old epithet for Irish rebels.

In turn, the "Exclusionists" who wanted to put a Protestant on the throne and supported the accession of William of Orange, were referred to as "whigs," which according to the **OED** was synonymous with country bumpkin.

For much of the 18th century, the Whigs were actually the party of government, while the Tories sat in opposition. However, upon the accession of George III, the political situation in Britain underwent a sea change and the

Whigs found themselves on the outside looking in.

By extension, those in America loyal to the Crown were referred to as Tories, while those in opposition were referred to as Whigs.

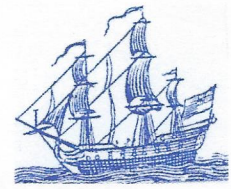
By the way, you seem to be forgetting a third party, which according to John Adams (someone who should know!) was more numerous than either of the other two...those who just wanted to be left alone! They were referred to as "fence-sitters" or "trimmers" by both sides. The meaning of the first reference is pretty obvious, the second less so. It refers to their talent for "trimming" their sails depending on which way the wind (and the tide of the war) was blowing!



"King George III seated on the Coronation Chair"
Sir Joshua Reynolds



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**.*

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS "HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD" IN CENTRE ISLAND

Tucked away on the eastern shore of Centre Island lies a spot that feels more like the craggy coast of Maine than this exclusive Island enclave just an hour away from the bustle of Manhattan.

At this magnificent and rustic locale is the unique home of Mr. & Mrs. J. Wooderson ("Woody") Glenn. And what makes it even more unique is the remarkable restoration of the 19th century Oyster Bay lighthouse that the Glenns rescued from certain demolition, and brought to their property in 1965.

"It was a labor of love," said Mr. Glenn, at the award presentation by the Oyster Bay Historical Society. The lighthouse, which had been a beacon for so many years at the entrance to Oyster Bay in Cold Spring Harbor, had deteriorated to the point that the Coast Guard decided to replace it with a lattice tower.

Woody and his father noticed that the lighthouse was being disassembled from the caisson on which it had previously been mounted. After the cast iron lantern was removed and the wooden part of the structure was dumped into the water, the Glenns were able to persuade the Coast Guard to let them move the lighthouse to Woody's property. With a little luck and a lot of engineering skill, the lighthouse was moved from the caisson to its



The 19th century Oyster Bay lighthouse rescued by the Glenns.

present location with a minimum of damage. It now serves as a unique retreat.

At the presentation, Society President Maureen Monck stated that the credo of the Oyster Bay Historical Society is "preserving our past and protecting our future." She noted that a project of this scope dramatically reflected the essence of that goal.

"It took a great deal of foresight and dedication to rescue this important Oyster Bay landmark, and the Glenns are to be greatly commended for their efforts,"

said President Monck.

Tom Kuehhas, Director of the Oyster Bay Historical Society, then presented Mr. Glenn with the Society's "Historic Preservation Award" and stressed the great importance of preserving landmarks such as these for future generations.

For further information, visit the Oyster Bay Historical Society at 20 Summit Street, or go to OYSTERBAYHISTORY.ORG.

SOCIETY PLANS FALL EXHIBITION AND

EVENTS ON REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The Oyster Bay Historical Society's headquarters, the Earle-Wightman House Museum, has been designated as a site on the State's Revolutionary War Heritage Trail, one of only three such sites in Nassau County.

Through a New York State grant, the Society's interpretation of Oyster Bay's Revolutionary War role will be enhanced by two professionally designed and historically accurate phenolic resin signs and custom built display cases for key artifacts. The Society's Fall exhibition will include an exceedingly rare uniform coat worn by an Oyster Bay Loyalist during the war, a period musket and bayonet, an inscribed powder horn owned by another Oyster Bay Loyalist, period cannonballs, and assorted documents and smaller objects. Period illustrations will also be included in the exhibition.

Information on Long Island Loyalists in general, and Oyster Bay and Queens County Loyalists in particular (estimated at up to eighty percent of the population), will be included; their story, and the part they played in

the Revolutionary War, together with the rare artifacts detailed above, is available nowhere else.

Visitors of all ages will be able to handle authentic reproductions of all the artifacts on display (and much more) that Revolutionary War soldiers wore and carried, as well as try on a uniform and equipment.

All those with an interest in this fascinating period of Oyster Bay's history should visit this ground-breaking exhibition scheduled to open on Sunday, November 18.

SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Over 900 visitors came to Sagamore Hill's Fourth of July Celebration to see the Rough Riders, hear Jim Foote speak as TR and enjoy the Oyster Bay Community Band directed by Steve Walker.

Members of the Navy Construction Battalion (SeaBees) replaced over 200 boards on the Eel Creek Bridge.

FARMINGDALE-BETHPAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This year the Society's Annual Meeting was combined with the

Strawberry Festival and held at Jones Beach on Sunday, June 10. The meeting was enlivened by a talk given by John Hanc whose recently published book, *Jones Beach: An Illustrated History*, was available for sale.

COW NECK PENINSULA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society's 42nd Annual Fair was held on Saturday, September 15th at the Sands Willets House, 336 Post Washington Blvd. Included was their very own "Antiques Roadshow" giving informal, expert appraisals of items brought by visitors as well as art, antiques, bakery, books, crafts, farmstand, flower stationery, and a yard sale.

HUNTINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The "Ladies of the Attic," a dedicated group of members, has been diligently working to record, organize, catalog, photograph and preserve the Society's huge collection of historical costumes and personal items. Aided by a computer program called "PastPerfect," a makeshift studio and the assistance of a few volunteers the project is a work in progress.

Saturday, September 8, author Robert T. Farrell held a special signing of his book, *Our Veterans Brave and Noble*, at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building. There was a temporary exhibit of Civil War artifacts on display.

At 7pm on Wednesday, September 26, Dorothy Dougherty will present a lecture entitled "Family History Research Within the Custom House Records

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

and Other Underutilized Sources at the National Archives – New York” at the Huntington Public Library.

On Wednesday, Oct. 31 at 7:00pm at the South Huntington Public Library at 145 Pidgeon Hill Road, Dr. Stephen P. Morse will give a lecture entitled “One Step Web Pages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools” to celebrate Family History Month.

**MALVERNE HISTORICAL
&
PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

Housed in the Joseph T. Landers Memorial Restoration building at 369 Ocean Avenue, this home is open Sundays from noon to 3pm or by appointment by calling (516) 792-1910. Information and photographs are available on their website www.malvernehistoricalsociety.org.

Upcoming events are: Sun. Oct. 14, 12 – 3pm, Historical House Tea (516-593-6726), Friday Nov. 30, 7:30pm, Annual Holiday Gala (792-1910), Sat. Jan. 19, 2008, Classic Movie (516-599-5356), Sun. Feb. 24, 2008 Brunch at Cork'n Board (516-593-6726).

**NEW YORK
TRANSIT MUSEUM**

The City-owned and operated Independent subway system opened for operation in 1932 after years of planning and con-

struction. Many special events and tours are scheduled to celebrate the occasion's 75th Anniversary. Call (718)694-1867 or visit www.mta.info/museum. The Museum is located at the corner of Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street in Brooklyn Heights and the NY Transit Museum Gallery Annex & Store is in the Shuttle Passage, adjacent to the Stationmaster's Office, in Grand Central Terminal at 42nd Street and Park Avenue.

**UNDERHILL SOCIETY
OF AMERICA**

The Society has moved from the Townsend Society's house to the basement of the Masonic Hall on West Main Street in downtown Oyster Bay. The 2007 Annual Meeting will be held in Fort Worth, Texas, on October 12 and 13. Contact: dinberry@hotmail.com or call (817)267-7928 for details and further information.

Until a replacement is found for their now-retired archivist, the Society's collection will not be available to researchers. They are encouraged to check the Society's website at: <http://Underhill-Society.org>.

**TOWNSEND SOCIETY
OF AMERICA**

The Townsend Society will be holding their annual meeting on October 27 at 2 p.m. in their new offices at 225 Townsend Square, Oyster Bay. Immediately following the meeting, members and guests are invited to tour the Society's new office and research center and participate in interactive demonstrations of new data-

bases and databases in development. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by October 23 to (516) 558-7092.

**THE L. I. LIBRARY
RESOURCES COUNCIL**

As part of its 12th Annual Archives Leadership Conference, the L.I. Library Resources Council will present “Dying to Know: Cemeteries as Archives” on October 26 from 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. at Old Westbury Gardens.

The Keynote Speaker will be historian and author Gene Horton, who will discuss notable and historical cemeteries, grave-stones, and persons buried in Long Island cemeteries. Presenters will include Susan Olson of Woodlawn Cemetery, Dr. Rhoda Miller, and John Hewlett.

For more information contact Virginia Antonucci-Gibbons, Regional Archivist of the L.I. Library Resources Council at 631-632-6656, or via email at vantonuc@lilrc.org.

**JONES FAMILY MEMOIR
TO BE PUBLISHED**

Readers can learn more about the Jones family who lived in Laurel Hollow in Mary Gardiner Jones's forthcoming memoirs, *Tearing Down Walls: One Woman's Triumph*. The first

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.

chapters will be of most interest to Long Islanders. Jones entitles her chapter about her Jones, Gardiner, and Short ancestors, "My 'Mayflower' Family." The seventeenth-century progenitor of the Jones family in America was Major Thomas Jones, a privateer, for whom Jones Beach was named. A chapter is devoted to her Aunt Rosalie Jones, whose suffrage activities are related in my article in this issue.[See p. 3] (Rosalie and her mother Mary

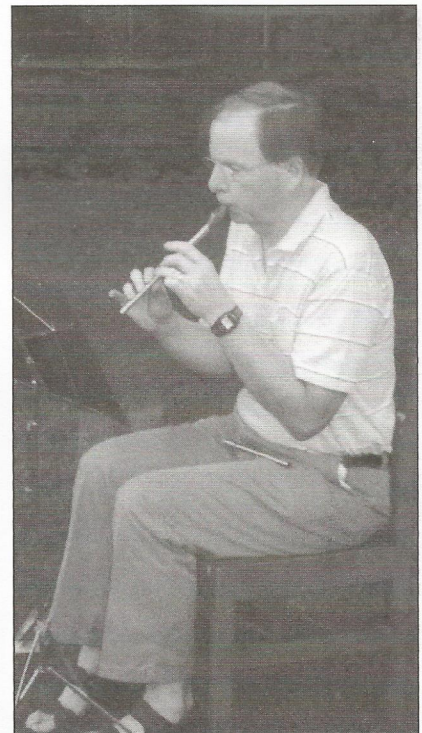
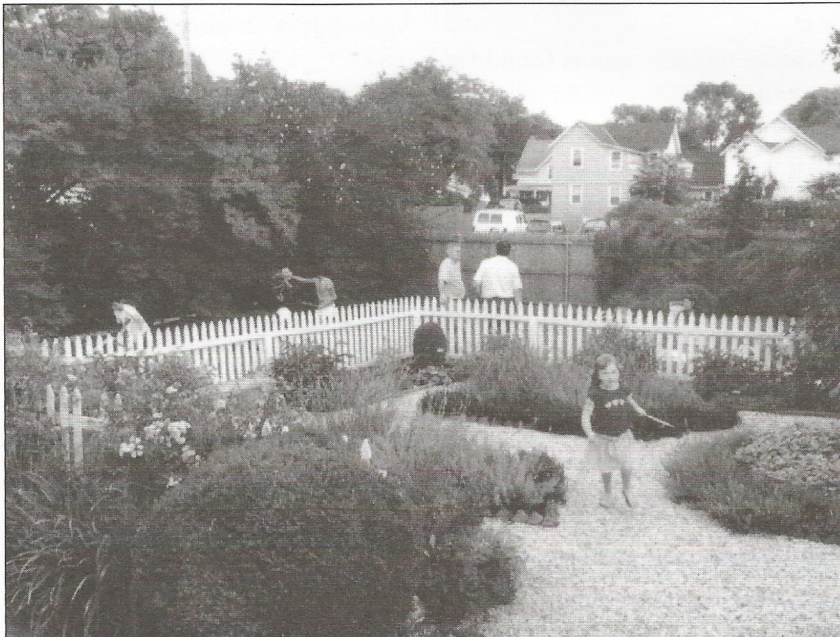
Elizabeth Jones, paternal grandmother of the author, are the subject of Judith Ader Spinzia's first "Women of Long Island" article in the Spring 2007 *Freeholder*.) The chapter, "Growing Up a Jones" is most revealing about family dynamics, including the important role of the German governess, and summer life in their home on Cold Spring Road. Subsequent chapters deal with her education (Wellesley College and Yale Law School) and career (including difficulties as a woman in being hired by a New York City law firm in the late 1940s). Appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to be the first woman on the Federal Trade Commission, she served from 1964-1973 and became an advocate of consumer protection. She continued this interest later in the corporate world and as a volunteer in her "retirement" years.

Mary Gardiner Jones's sister,

Ann Livingston Jones, lived in the 1783 family homestead in Laurel Hollow; longtime Oyster Bay residents will remember her as Ann Watkins, later Ann Crooker. After Ann died in 1994, her four sons sold the property which had been in the family for more than two centuries. Mary's nephews and their families, as well as her sisters, Ann and Betty, are mentioned throughout the book.

Though the author of *Tearing Down Walls* spent most of her adult life in New York City and Washington, D.C., her book provides an interesting portrait of an old Long Island family of the landed gentry. It is a frank and very readable memoir which will be published in the winter of 2007 by University Press of America.

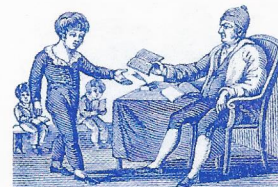
[Contributed by Natalie A. Naylor]



For once the weather cooperated as the Society hosted its annual Neighborhood Night on Tuesday, August 28th. A blooming garden and cool evening beckoned young and old alike to participate in period games and tours of the museum, while entertainment was provided by Trustee Steve Walker playing jaunty airs on his tin whistle.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



The Busy "B"

We list for you ten people famous enough to appear in encyclopedias, all of whom have surnames that start with B. If you can determine the identities of more than half of them, we will award you, not a B but an A plus. If you choose a B name we haven't listed but that matches our description, your choice overrides. Best of luck!

Name	Clue
_____	1. An American choreographer of foreign birth
_____	2. A Norwegian-American aviator
_____	3. A twentieth century black American novelist and essayist
_____	4. The founder of an Oxford University college that is named for him
_____	5. An American stage and movie actress of the 20th century noted for her uninhibited conduct
_____	6. An early Dutch Arctic explorer
_____	7. An American showman and circus impresario
_____	8. A famous actress, daughter of a famous acting couple, and sister of two famous actors
_____	9. The organizer of the American Red Cross
_____	10. The not so famous partner of Phineas T.

Answers will be found on p. 19.



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.

The Woodward "Murder"

by Walter Karppi

While researching the Woodward estate for the article on Cin-erama which appears elsewhere in this issue,[p. 8] I came across one of the most sensational and bizarre Long Island murder cases ever.

In 1955, Mrs. Woodward, mistaking her husband for a burglar, shot and killed him. Although acquitted of the murder charge, some people still doubted her innocence. Sadly, due to this doubt perhaps, she committed suicide in 1975. The case was the subject of a book by Truman Capote and a television movie, "The Two Mrs. Grenvilles."

Once a structure whose main purpose was recreation, this estate included an indoor tennis court, with houses constructed along its length, culminating at the front of the mansion. The night began for the Woodwards with a glittering party in honor of the duchess of Windsor. It ended with a blaze of gunfire -- an act of violence that would fascinate the nation for weeks and inspired two best-selling novels.

William Woodward Jr., 35, was the handsome, dark-haired owner of the top-rated racehorse Nashua and a member of a renowned racing family that had saddled three Kentucky Derby winners. His wife, Ann, four years his elder, was a beautiful blond former actress and model who had transformed herself from a Kansas farm girl into a sophisticated

socialite. Woodward's mother, Elsie Ogden Cryder Woodward, was regarded as the reigning figure in New York society. So it hardly seemed surprising that William and Ann Woodward would be among the 58 guests invited to the party honoring the Duchess of Windsor on Oct. 30, 1955, at the Locust Valley estate of Edith Baker, widow of a wealthy banker. One subject of discussion at the party was a wave of burglaries sweeping North Shore mansions.

Guests at the party would say later that the Woodwards seemed in good spirits. William Woodward had only a few drinks. His wife, a teetotaler, drank nothing. They left about 1 a.m. After driving to their 43-acre Oyster Bay Cove estate, they retired to separate bedrooms across a corridor on the first floor of their mansion. Because of the recent outbreak of burglaries, they had taken to sleeping with weapons beside their beds. William Woodward had a revolver; his wife had a double-barrel, 12-gauge shotgun.

About 3 a.m., Ann Woodward said, the barking of her dog and what she took to be the sound of a prowler awakened her. She would give this account of the ensuing events: Hearing the



William Woodward, Jr., and his wife, Ann.

noise, she turned on a night-light, grabbed the shotgun and ran to the door of her room. She threw open the door and spotted a figure in the doorway of her husband's room. Without a word, she fired the shotgun across the corridor -- cutting loose two blasts almost simultaneously. And then, too late, it dawned on her that the figure in the doorway was not a prowler.

"Almost immediately, I realized it was my husband," Ann Woodward told police. "I ran to him and fell on the floor beside him." She picked up a telephone and shrieked for help. A telephone operator could not make out what she was saying, but called the

police. When officers arrived, they found Woodward dead near the doorway to his room. He was nude. Woodward had been struck in the head and face by one blast of No. 7 shotgun pellets, ordinarily used for duck hunting. The other blast had struck the bedroom door.

Ann Woodward told police her husband must have heard the same noise that roused her and must have arisen to investigate. But the officers discovered he had not taken his revolver. They found the gun in a table near his bed. The Woodward's children -- William III, 11, and James, 7 -- had slept through the gunfire. They were taken to their paternal grandparents' home. Ann Woodward went to Doctors' Hospital in Manhattan, where she was described as unable to answer further questions.

The news media jumped on the Woodward story. It had all the elements of a juicy scandal: glamorous, socially prominent people with headline names, wealth, power, violent death and, above all, mystery! Had Woodward's shooting really been an accident? Or was it murder? If it was murder, a possible motive soon surfaced -- adding the titillating element of sex to the brew. A private detective, hired by Ann Woodward to shadow her husband periodically for seven years to see if he was cheating on her, went to the police. He said she provided him with the names of a dozen women she suspected of trying to wreck her marriage. Police began tracking down the women.

Concurrently, society figures circulated reports that William

Woodward's relatives had opposed his marriage to Ann. Those reports were bolstered when the family hired a private detective to conduct his own investigation of the shooting. Conflicting stories surfaced on how much money Ann Woodward would receive from her husband's fortune, but the family lawyer said she would get millions.

When Ann Woodward emerged from the hospital, after missing her husband's funeral, she was questioned by detectives and told she would be called before a grand jury. While she was waiting to testify, police came upon a witness who supported her prowler story -- a burglar who reported being in the Woodward mansion at the time of the shooting and hearing the shotgun blasts. "His name was Paul Wirths," says Edward Curran, then a Nassau detective and now president of the state retired police officers' association. "He'd been driving us crazy. We knew his M.O., we knew what crimes he was committing, but we just couldn't catch him."

Wirths was arrested in a Suffolk case. "The police out there turned him over to us," Curran says. "We wanted to talk to him, as well as other burglars, about the Woodward case. We took him to the Woodward house. He told us: 'I was in the house. I heard the shots.'" Wirths said he immediately fled and took refuge in a barn. Police were skeptical at first, but Wirths told them he had broken a tree limb while climbing into a mansion window and had hidden briefly in a closet containing a safe. "We checked and

found the broken tree limb, the closet and the safe," Curran says. "You couldn't do much better than that."

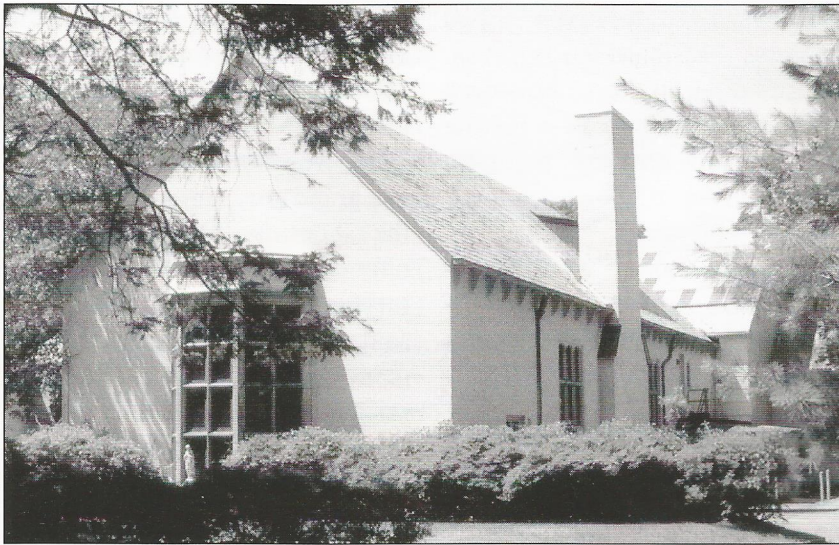
Ann Woodward appeared before the grand jury three weeks after the shooting. She testified for only 25 minutes, and the grand jury quickly cleared her. Some said she received preferred treatment because of her station, but others contended Wirths' story assured she would walk. After a suitable mourning period, she resumed her participation in the social whirl. Years later, her story provided the underlying themes for two novels -- Dominick Dunne's *The Two Mrs. Grenvilles* and Truman Capote's *Answered Prayers*.

The questions about her husband's death never faded. In 1975, friends say, she was shown an advance copy of *Esquire* magazine excerpts from Capote's forthcoming book. In Capote's version of the story, the character based on Ann Woodward was guilty of murder. Not long afterward, the same year, some say because of anguish over Capote's account, Ann Woodward killed herself in her Park Avenue home. She took with her the answers to any lingering questions about just what happened at her North Shore mansion on the night of that glittering party honoring the Duchess of Windsor.

Hollywood on the Bay

continued from p. 9

while in a stationary position. The difficulty is increased if the target is moving. The problem is compounded exponentially if both the shooter and the target are moving at the same time. Man-



This indoor tennis court was once part of the Woodward estate; currently it is the home of "The Society of St. Pius V."

fred von Richtofen, the famous "Red Baron" of World War I days, did not score his 80 victories solely by virtue of his airplane handling. Although a capable and competent pilot, it was not his flying skill alone that made him such a deadly foe. His success came from his youthful experience of hunting wild game while mounted on horseback in the forests of his Prussian birthplace. For most of us the logical tendency is to aim at the target. Aerial combat requires aiming at an imaginary point where the target will be at some future time. Pilots and gunners failing to master this skill had relatively short careers! The Gunnery Trainer gave the novice aerial gunners a chance to develop and practice their deadly skills prior to facing actual combat conditions.

At war's end Waller took up the challenge of creating a three-dimensional projector for civilian use. One might, at this point, ask how all this is connected to Oyster Bay.

In what can only be called a for-

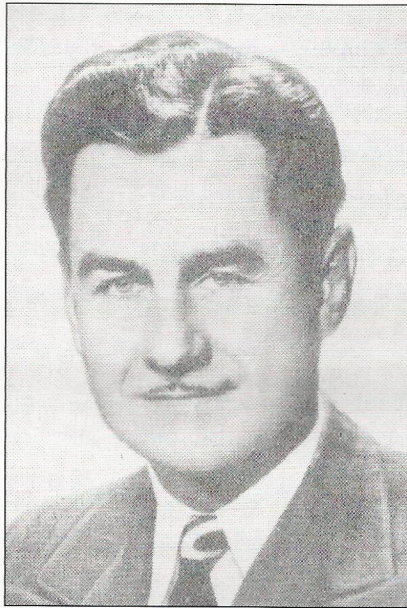
tunate coincidence, noted local historian and author Monica Randall telephoned the Society on an unrelated matter. The question of the mysterious tennis court was posed to her. She promptly replied that yes there was indeed an indoor tennis court once used for motion pictures and it was located on the former, infamous Woodward Estate. She kindly furnished directions on where it was sited and how to locate it.

Finding the building revealed that it was not currently a tennis court nor was it being used for anything connected with motion pictures. The well-maintained building is currently the home of "The Society of St. Pius V," a traditional Roman Catholic congregation that celebrates its masses in Latin. This, at that time, unused indoor tennis court was once part of the late William Woodward estate, known as "The Playhouse." Built in 1927, this estate was the site of one of the most sensational and bizarre murder cases of the day. [Ed. Note: See related story on p. 16.]

When filming of the initial Cinerama shows was completed, the former tennis court was selected for the necessary dubbing. As with almost all movies, motion pictures were filmed without sound - voices, music and effects are added, post-filming, in the studio. This was especially true in Cinerama's case as it was vital for the sound to be as overwhelming to the ears as the picture was to the eye! Upon the completion of the filming of the first Cinerama opus, the producers searched to find a location where sound could be incorporated into the newly edited completed film. The long vacant tennis court building was found to be suitable by the subsidiary Cinerama Laboratories of Oyster Bay, Long Island. The additions consisted of sound effects, a musical score and narration by Lowell Thomas.

In the fourth Cinerama production, "Search for Paradise," filmed mostly in Pakistan and India, the musical score was provided by four-time Oscar winner Dmitri Tiomkin. He scored such classics as *Giant*, *The Guns of Navarone*, and *The High and the Mighty* as well as many other famous films. He applied his considerable talents to adding music to this latest work.

Alas, the complexities and expense of this new technology doomed it. Requiring a 75 foot wide screen, three enormous projection booths, and an elaborate sound system restricted it to theaters reconstructed specifically for it. Also the proliferation of television and the development of color TV added further nails to Cinerama's coffin. The fourth,



Lowell Thomas

and final epic, was the end of Cinerama as originally designed. It was, however, the seed from which its wide-screen and stereophonic sound replacements grew. Bearing such names as "Cinemascope," "Vistavision," Panavision," etc. they were simpler and cheaper to produce and exhibit.

The demise of Cinerama also brought an end to the dream of Oyster Bay as Long Island's own "Hollywood on the Bay."

Sources:

New York Times Aug. 13, 2005

"This is Cinerama" program

"Cinerama Holiday" program

Michael Dorman is a freelance writer. Copyright © 2005, *Newsday*, Inc.

The Mansions of Long Island's Gold Coast. Revised and Expanded by Monica Randall (Paperback - January 17, 2004)

General Rosalie Jones

continued from p. 7

(p. 5); and John H. Jones, *The Jones Family of Long Island* (New York: Tobias A. Wright, 1907).

2. Judith Ader Spinzia, "Women of

Long Island: Mary Elizabeth Jones and Rosalie Gardiner Jones," *Freeholder* (Spring 2007): 3-7; Raymond E. and Judith A. Spinzia, *Long Island's Prominent North Shore Families: Their Estates and Their Country Homes*, 2 vols. (College Station, TX: VirtualBookworm, 2006), 1:418-24; and Robert A. Caro, "The Mansion of Hope," *Newsday*, March 2, 1961.

3. The Stanton home and other sites in Seneca Falls and Waterloo in the Finger Lakes region are now part of the Women's Rights National Historic Park. See Natalie A. Naylor, "In Deeds of Daring Rectitude': Winning Votes for Women in Nassau County and the Nation," *Nassau County Historical Society Journal* 50 (1995): 30-44. Although many more specialized studies have been published in recent decades, the classic account of the suffrage movement is Eleanor Flexner, *Century of Struggle: The Woman's Rights Movement in the United States*, 1959, rev. ed. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1975).

4. The social notices can be accessed in on-line editions, although the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* is thus far available electronically only to 1902. For her tours of the United States and Europe, see Ruth Schier, "Rosalie Jones Has Spent Most of Life Clashing with Authority," *Long Islander*, September 16, 1948.

5. Ibid.

6. Jane Mathews, "'General' Rosalie Jones, Long Island Suffragist," *Nassau County Historical Society Journal* 47 (1992): 24. Alva Belmont was a wealthy suffragist with country homes in East Meadow, Sands Point, and Newport, Rhode Island.

7. *Hempstead Sentinel*, June 20, 1912, p. 8. Elisabeth Freeman (1876-1942) came to the United States as a small child and returned to England in 1905, where she was involved with the Woman's Social and Political Union as an organizer and speaker. She returned to the United States

in 1911 and worked with the New York City Suffrage Party.

8. *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, December 10, 1912 and December 14, 1912.

9. *Long Islander*, December 10, 1912; see also *New York Times*, December 10, 1912.

10. The hike received extensive newspaper coverage. Quotes are from the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, December 16, 1912, and ad passim. Harriet Laidlaw had a country home in Sands Point. Her husband, James, was active in the National Men's League for Woman Suffrage. The Port Washington Library displays a suffrage banner their daughter donated.

11. *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, December 30, 1912.

12. *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 21, 25, 27, 1913; *New York Times*, March 1, 1913.

13. *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, March 4, 1913.

14. *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 28, 1913; *New York Times*, June 26, 1913; Mathews, "'General' Rosalie Jones," pp. 29-31; *Hempstead Sentinel*, September 4, 11, 1913 (also *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, September 5, 7, 1913).

15. *New York Times*, Oct. 16, 17, 1913; January 2, May 10, November 8 and 14, December 7, 1914; June 26, September 26, October 29, 1915; Mathews, "'General' Rosalie Jones, Long Island Suffragist," pp. 29-30.

Answers to Test Your Knowledge from p. 15

1. George Balanchine
2. Bernt Balchen
3. James Baldwin
4. John de Baliol
5. Tallulah Bankhead
6. Willem Barentz
7. Phineas T. Barnum
8. Ethel Barrymore
9. Clara Barton
10. James A. Bailey

Part II

by Robert L. Harrison

Poets of the Revolution

Long Island was blessed, so far as I can find, with not one but three American poets who wrote noted poetry about our independence. The first was Philip Freneau (1752-1832), a New Jersey native who was called, "The Poet of the Revolution."¹ Freneau developed his poetic talents early and had written poems before entering Princeton College in 1768. During his senior year Freneau collaborated with Hugh Brackenridge on an epic poem called "The Rising Glory of America."² After graduating from Princeton in 1771, Freneau made his short mark on Long Island soil to try his hand at teaching in the small town of Flatbush in Brooklyn. Later Freneau wrote a letter and poem to his friend (and future President) James Madison about his experience teaching Long Island children-

Long Island I have bid adieu
With all its brainless brutish crew.

The youth of that detested place
Are void of reason and of grace.
From Flushing hills to Flatbush plains,
Deep ignorance unrivall'd reigns.³

Freneau soon left Long Island forever and in the American Revolution served as a sea captain. He was later captured and imprisoned in one of the infamous British prison ships. After being released Freneau wrote many poems about the Revolution and by 1790 had two collections of poetry in print. Freneau's later years were spent in his home state of New Jersey writing articles, editing a newspaper and overseeing his family farm.

Our next bard of the Revolution was a true Long Islander. Benjamin Young Prime (1733-1791) was the son of Ebenezer Prime, a famous preacher in the First Presbyterian Church of Huntington for fifty years (1730-1780).⁴ Prime and his father were proud Patriots. Prime had written poetry about both the French and Indian Wars and the American Revolution and, like Philip Freneau, graduated from Princeton College. Prime, besides being a patriotic poet, was a lifetime physician in New York City and the Huntington area.

The Prime family had to flee Huntington during the Tory takeover of the area and the British so hated his father that they built their fort over the cemetery site where he was buried. The commandant of the fort, Benjamin Thompson, placed his tent in front of Ebenezer Prime's tombstone just so he could say, "Every time I come out of my tent I can step on the --- old rebel's head."⁵

Prime's poem "Song for The Sons of Liberty" was the best known of his poems during his lifetime. Prime's lyrics were a response to the Stamp Act and most likely were sung. Here are some of the lines that inspired the Sons of Liberty in 1766-

In story we're told,
How our fathers of old
Brav'd the Rage of the winds and

the waves,
And crossed the deep o'er, to this
desolate shore,
All because they were loathe to
be slaves: Brave Boys,
All because they were loathe to
be slaves.
Yet a strange Scheme of late has
form'd by the state
By a knot of political knaves,
Who in Secret rejoice that the
Parliament's voice
Has condemned us by law to be
Slaves: Brave Boys
Has condemned us by law to be
slaves.⁶

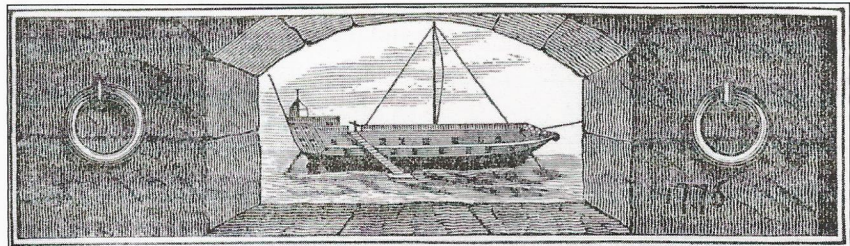
Prime returned to Huntington after the war and continued to tend to his patients and write about every aspect of the American Revolution. One of his last long poems before he passed away in 1791 was a eulogy (Columbia Glory) about George Washington.

The British occupation of Long Island was a long and oppressive one but even they caught the fever of the Island's muses. Colonel John Simcoe of the Queen's Rangers had his winter encampment in Oyster Bay in 1778 and on Valentine's Day in 1779 sent the following written inscription to Sally Townsend of that hamlet.-

Fairest Maid! Where all are fair:
Beauty's pride and Nature's care;
To you my heart I must resign.
O choose me for your Valentine!

And ends-

"Fond youth," the God of Love



19th c. woodcut of one of the infamous prison ships in Wallabout Bay

replies,

"Your answer take from Sarah's eyes."⁷

Both Freneau and Prime wrote about the famous incidents of the American Revolution, but what about the day to day encounters with the British on the home front? In East Hampton, which the British also controlled, a story about a conflict with the British grew into the legend of Pudding Hill. This story has been written about and orally passed down as part of East Hampton lore to the present day.⁸

If Boston has its Paul Revere forever engraved in our minds from Longfellow's poem, then we should remember the heroine of Miss Fanny Elkins' poem, whose patriotic spirit denied the British what they thought was due them. Fanny Elkins (b. 1843) was a lifelong school teacher from Brooklyn whose father bought the Pudding Hill property in the 1870s. Elkins must have heard about the legend at this time and was inspired enough to write her poem about the incident.⁹ The original poem might have been printed in the Brooklyn papers in the 19th century and later was put into song with other folk tunes about Long Island.¹⁰ Without her poem the legend of Pudding Hill might by now be just a rumor. Here it is as printed first in the papers-

Pudding Hill: A Revolutionary
Legend of Long Island
by F. E.

Scorn not the simple tale I tell
Of humble sacrifice;
Souls true in little things are true
When great occasions rise.
Full many a village picturesque,
On green Long Island's shore,
Recalls the English yeomen free,

That settled it of yore.
Home-sick, they gave their new-
found homes,
Familiar English names;
East Hampton, irid the rest, such
sires
And such a baptism claims.
Here lived in days of '76,
A certain stirring dame,
Whose name and lineage have
been lost
From the roll of fame.
It happened that, one summer
day,
Like England's "Goodly King"
She made a pudding; but for
plums
She put fresh berries in.
That day, along the quiet road,
From old Bridge Hampton town,
Some British soldiers, foraging,
To this same house came down.
The door was closed that faced
the south,
Because the day was hot;
And o'er her blazing fire intent,
The good dame heard them not.
"Hurrah, boys!" Said the leader
bold,
"We're just in time! Come on!"
The tableau was a charming one,
For any looker-on.
The astonished dame, in home-
spun garb,
With eyes that flamed with ire-
Her cheek in part with anger
flushed,
In part burned by the fire.
A group in tarnished uniforms
Of scarlet and gold lace;
Blue sky seen through the open
door,
Green trees that shade the place-
"Oh, no you're not," she made
reply
Then seized the boiling pot,
Ran with it through another door,
And threw it, blazing hot,
Pudding and all, down the hill,
And left it in the sand,
Amid the curses, loud and deep
Of all the hungry band.
The thing was naught, perhaps,
beside

What patriots daily do.
And yet the spirit that inspired
Was freedom's spirit, too.
The place and tale are widely
known.
Fresh is the legend still,
And all of East Hampton vil-
lagers
Are proud of Pudding Hill.

The identity of this heroine has never been fully ascertained, but the poem lives on to this very day.¹¹ Fanny Elkins and her sister Ida were both school teachers and together patented a type of fan in 1878. It is also known that she sold her family home in Brooklyn in 1914 and it is now preserved as an historic site because of its architecture. These poems only represent a fraction of our Long Island poets' output during those troubling times. Many poems were written into long lost letters or were read to family and friends and never put into print.¹²

Notes

1. "Philip Freneau," *Brooklyn Eagle*, March 12, 1883. p. 4. Freneau has also been called "The Father of American Literature" for a work of prose fiction he co-wrote with Hugh Brackenridge at Princeton.

2. Leitch, Alexander. *A Princeton Companion*, Princeton University Press, 1978. Biographic information written by Emory B. Elliott, Jr.

3. McDermott, Charles J. "History in Verse, For Better or Worse," *New York Times*, Nov 21, 1976.

It must be said that Freneau lasted only thirteen days as a teacher to our children and never went back to teaching for the rest of his life.

4. Long Island Obituary Record, *Brooklyn Eagle*, Feb 20, 1898, p. 105.

5. Long Island Obituary Record, *Brooklyn Eagle*, Feb 20, 1898, p. 10.

10. This obituary was about Benjamin Prime's nephew who owned

continued on p.24



HIRAM CHEEPE

Dear Hiram,

I hope you can help me with information on this small bird carving.

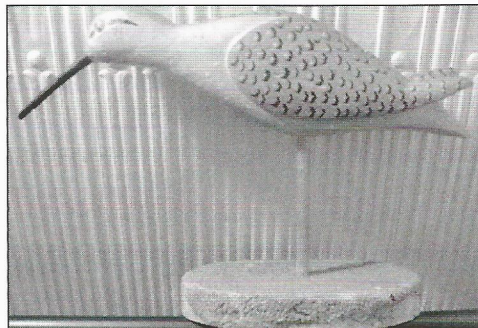
It has been in my family since the 1920s at least, but nobody in my family can recall anything about it, particularly the type of bird. It is primarily grey with black highlights and a yellow pole and measures about 10" from beak to tail.

On the bottom the following is written in pencil, "E.R. Steck-Carver O.B.L.I."

The eyes are not glass but seem to be painted tacks of some kind.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Steve S.



Dear Steve,

First it is our pleasure to assume the writing, O.B.L.I. stands for Oyster Bay, Long Island! Now to the type of bird. It seems to Ol' Hiram, who combines an interest in the ornithological with his other passions, that it is what was/is generally known as a "Yellowlegs," a type of shorebird once very popular from Shelter Island to our own Oyster Bay. There were many varieties of this, such as the "lesser yellowlegs," "greater yellowlegs," "Shelter Island yellowlegs," and of course "Oyster Bay yellowlegs."

The somewhat primitive, folk art-like style, along with the use of painted eyes in place of glass ones, simply adds interest and a certain folk art aesthetic.

My advice would be to contact our friends at the Long Island Decoy Collectors Association (they are on the web) and also The Long Island Museum (at Stony Brook) who have a most comprehensive display of early decoys and shore bird carvings.

Best of luck in discovering the mysterious E.R. Steck, but the above-mentioned organizations will doubtless be of much help.

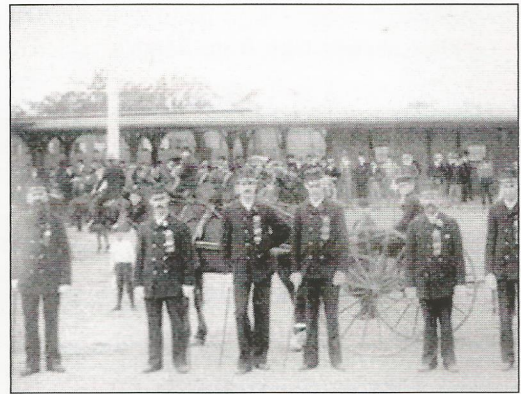
Very good example of Long Island folk art,

Hiram

Dear Mr. Cheepe,

I picked up this neat old photo at a garage sale in Baldwin recently.

It's in great shape and is about 7 by 9 inches in an original frame, I guess.



It's got firemen with the words HOSE 1 on their caps and there's a hose reel along with what looks like a train station, with a traincar behind it(?) Do you think it's American?

Sincerely
Vinnie S.

Dear Vinnie,

Another Long Island piece? I would not be surprised.

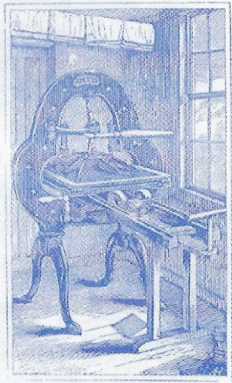
A cursory and strictly diletante search reveals that there indeed was a Hose 1 company on Long Island; in fact they are still active! Now, you obtained this in Baldwin? Well, Hose 1 was founded in 1894 as an adjunct to the Freeport F.D.

The R.R. station in the background may indeed be Freeport, certainly the construction of the station, in addition to the attire worn by the good folks in the photo, indicate an early enough date.

My suggestion would be that you show it to the Freeport Historical Society as well as Hose 1 headquarters, as I understand they have their own archives and pics going back to the early days. This is a wonderful picture and I wish you the best of luck in your quest for identification.

Cheers from Ol' Hiram

Blocklyn's Books



Book Reviews by Philip Blocklyn

Levittown: The Way We Were.

By Susan Kirsch Duncan. Huntington (NY), Maple Hill Press, 1999. 101 pp. B&W photography. \$10.95.

Americans love a frontier. Most of us have never spent a minute anywhere near one, but we love the idea of somewhere new and fresh, innocent and undeveloped, where we have a chance to do everything right, from the start. Such a place never existed, but we don't care. We love the idea. Little houses on the prairie—who can resist them?

Levittown was a frontier, almost sixty long years ago now, and Susan Kirsch Duncan's memories are a frontier memoir framed as a personal account of her life growing up in Levittown from 1955 to 1967. Her narrative has all the elements of the genre as dissected in *Frontier Lit* 101. There is the Grave Illness, as a difficult childbirth threatens the lives of the author's mother and newborn brother. There is the Memory Of Home, as the Kirsch family relives happy days at Coney Island on the sands of Jones Beach. There is the Doughty Breaker Of The Plains,

as Mr. Kirsch renovates his Cape's kitchen, bath, and bedrooms. There are Little School-houses (Laurel Lane, Northside Elementary, St Bernard's) and the General Store (the Village Green drugstore overseen by a dead ringer for Abraham Lincoln) and the Country Doctor (Dr Jesse Karter DDS). This could go on forever. How about the library Bookmobile? Is it so different from the traveling libraries of, say, the 1890s in South Dakota? Even the photographs Duncan provides of lonesome Cape and Ranch with their "minimal landscaping" might remind us of the hardy sod dwellings of windswept Nebraska. Just beyond these humble homes lay the fearful Terra Incognita of the Lot - a LILCO right-of-way dreaded at night and pitted with dangerous sumps and cellar holes.

Those of you who want to cause trouble may remind us that personal narratives often make good stories and bad history, that memory colors all such tellings, making them a reflection of how we see things now rather than a record of how things actually were. All true. Still, the service Duncan provides her readers is the reminder that our relation to our own personal histories is always emotional at heart, that memory unlike history is not a social science, and that the record of our lives is not evidence as much as it becomes testament.

Duncan, of course, offers more than just gauzy memory. She provides useful information on daily life in first-generation Levittown, including many telling details of housing construction and expan-

sion, consumer fads, reading habits, retail outlets, television viewing, religious training, and neighborhood socializing. One moment is particularly effective:

We would stop first at the Franklin National Bank so Mom could cash a check. As a young girl, the bank reminded me of the Prince's palace in Cinderella, with its expanse of black-and-white checkerboard floor and a huge crystal chandelier hanging way up on what seemed like a two-story vaulted ceiling. One day, while waiting for my mother to have her turn at the teller's wood-caged window, I began to hum a waltz and dance around. The long drapes hung at the windows like elegant stage curtains, and all at once I was a prima ballerina putting on a show.

Anyone who has spent any time in the "lobby" of a local bank branch knows how inconceivable such a memory is today.

Does this mean that we have passed so far beyond the Levittown Frontier? Today, your reviewer sits on the stoop of his no-longer-recognizable-as a Spiegel-house home in Hicksville, Levittown's sister city of sorts. Up the sidewalk of Oxford Place races a towheaded boy who catches his breath a second at the corner before veering onto Nevada Street. Next door, bounding children holler at one another on their trampoline. Meanwhile, over and across a dozen little streets, the ice cream truck plays and replays its loopy, digitally enhanced rendition of "Turkey in the Straw," as if calling us to testify that for so many Long Islanders, housing developments, like Philip Larkin's days, are where we live.

Dead Poets

continued from p. 21

one of the largest thimble factories in the world, based in Huntington. The obituary also mentioned that Youngs was Benjamin's middle name and he later dropped the "S." In Huntington today there is a Prime Avenue by the Heckscher Museum and across from the museum is one of the Prime family homes, built around 1840. At the Old Bethpage Restoration Village stands one of the buildings from the thimble factory.

6. In 1842, Rufus Griswold called this poem "Superior to any other patriotic lyric written before the Revolution." Wheelock, Webster C. "The Poet Benjamin Prime," *American Literature*, Vol 40, No 4, 1969 pp. 459-471.

7. Yeager, Edna H. "Long Island's Unsung," *Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine*, Oct. 1975. (under Sally Townsend) p. 913.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 18, 2:30 p.m.

Exhibition Opening

The Society's Fall exhibition on Oyster Bay's role in the Revolutionary War will include rare artifacts and documents as well as an opportunity to try on a reproduction

uniform and equipment.

Please call the Society at 922-5032 for more information.

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 8, 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 deco-

rated 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.

A concert at the AME Zion Church by its choir will precede the Society's party at the Earle-Wightman House.

8. Articles about Pudding Hill include- "To Improve Town Pond," *Brooklyn Eagle*, 12/08/1895 p. 8; "Janet Nida's Pudding Hill," *East Hampton Star*, 11/04/1932; and Yeager, Edna H. "Long Island's Unsung" *Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine*, Oct, 1975, p. 910.

9. Today there still is a Pudding Hill Lane in East Hampton.

10. Ransom, Stan. *My Long Island Home*, The Connecticut Peddler, 1997. On side B is the "Ballad of Pudding Hill."

11. According to the footnotes on *My Long Island Home* the woman was Mary Sandford Miller. According to the Osborn family genealogy, it was Rosanna Dorch who later married Joseph Osborn, a Revolutionary War patriot.

12. Special thanks for the information on Fanny Elkins and her poem to Elizabeth Call of the Brooklyn Historical Library, Yuan-Shung Constance Hsi of the Queens Library and Marci Vail of the Long Island Collection at the East Hampton Library.

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OYSTER BAY, N.Y. 11771-0297

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*The "Father of our Country"
commands your presence at the Society's
exhibit opening on November 18th!*

THE FREEHOLDER SUMMER 2007