



Union Landing Historical Society

Quarterly Newsletter
Volume 1 Issue 4
Available at Brielle Borough Hall,
the Curtis House and mailed to U.L.H.S.
members each Jan/Apr/July/Oct

October 1st, 2007

www.briellehistory.org

Editor: Suzanne J. Shea

From the Holmquist Files...

By Natalie R. Holmquist

Early Waterways

In earlier days, the streams in this area were much deeper and wider than they are today. Judah Creek in Squan Village was deep enough for boats to go up as far as the present PNC Bank drive-in in Squan Plaza. It is Judah Creek, not Judas Creek, as it is sometimes mistakenly called. It was named after Judah Allen, one of the early settlers in this area, who owned large tracts of land in Union Landing and Squan Village.

Sea going vessels were able to navigate Glimmer Glass Bay and tie up at docks along what is now Main Street in Manasquan.

Before the three bridges over Fisk Avenue, Green Avenue, and Brielle Road were rebuilt circa 1950, Longstreet Creek, or Debbie's Creek as it is popularly called, was much deeper than it is today. The original three bridges were made of wood on wooden pilings. Water could circulate freely under them. When they were rebuilt, dirt embankments were placed at each end of the Green Avenue bridge, and a solid foundation was used on the Fisk Avenue bridge with only a culvert left open. The circulation of water was greatly reduced resulting in heavy silting.

Helen Holmquist, author of The Brielle Story and mother of Richard Holmquist, had a great interest in local history, which inspired her daughter-in-law, Natalie Holmquist, to start collecting newspaper clippings, articles and notations from various sources about the early days in this vicinity.



This postcard is of the 3 bridges connecting Brielle and Manasquan via Fisk and Green Avenues and Brielle Road. Note the wooden deck. It was mailed from Manasquan on August 5, 1929 with a one cent stamp to Mrs. RB French at 132 Central Avenue in Westfield. The message is, "Have been here six weeks and spent a few hot days, but always comfortable nights. Hope your neuritis has gone by this time and you are alright. It is very cool here today and a strong west wind blowing. Went to Church this A.M. and heard a fine sermon and it was the first service after a fire last Feb. and a large congregation." It was signed by Anna Bedford. Submitted by Janice Wurfel

Thanks to this issue's contributors:
John Belding, Raymond Shea, David DuPre, Natalie Holmquist and Janice Wurfel.

U.L.H.S. Standing Committee Updates:

Historical Osborn Graveyard

By John E. Belding, Project Coordinator

Can anything be "new" at a historic graveyard? Well, yes it can if it pertains to the Osborn Family Burial Ground. Those of you who pass by that way have noted the improvements we have accomplished in the past years. We had a gaslight installed near the gate last year. We continue to plant a number of trees, shrubs and flowers but watering them requires carrying filled pails from nearby homes. Fortunately, our neighbors there are most gracious but it is a bit of a chore lugging filled water pails. Therefore, we are now looking at having a water line installed. We are hoping that Mark Woszczak may wish to tap into the water line on Holly Hill Drive at no charge as a service to the Society, as well as the Borough of Brielle. If Mark may be reluctant, we believe the charge would not exceed \$2,000 and we feel it is possible that the Borough of Brielle may be willing to handle this cost for the Society. Once the line is installed, we will seek help from the Department of Public Works to install a secure spigot inside the fence. Following that, those in charge at the Department of Public Works indicate they could install a sprinkler system for the lawn by the road, as they did for the new tree plantings up at the end of Holly Hill Drive by Route 70. The official Borough people have always been most supportive of our efforts to establish and maintain an attractive site.

9-11 Memorial Garden

By E. David DuPre, Project Coordinator

During the summer Al and Cynthia Veltri of Brainard Place decided to build a new patio area on the northeast side of their property. To accomplish this three large evergreen plants had to be removed. At this point the Veltris elected to donate these beautiful evergreens to the 9/11 memorial site and accordingly directed their landscaper to dig them out, wrap the roots in burlap and make them ready for transplanting. The Department of Public Works then picked up the trees, transporting them to the 9/11 site where they replanted them just beyond the semi-circle of shrubs previously planted by Eagle Scout Andrew Mulligan of Riverview Drive as part of his Eagle Scout qualifying project. This past weekend Gary Pstrak, also of Riverview Drive, added additional evergreens, interspersing them with the three previously transplanted to form a concentric border. The site is now truly becoming the memorial garden it was intended to be.

On Labor Day the ULHS held the fourth memorial ceremony at the 9/11 site. Dawn Connolly of Allenwood, Wall Township was selected to present the floral tribute during the ceremony. Dawn's husband, John, perished in the World Trade Towers. Dawn was accompanied by her family. To show their respect Wall Township's South Wall Fire Company joined the Brielle Fire Company in reading the names of the area victims. After the ceremony families of other victims who were present at the site expressed their appreciation for the dignity of the ceremony and beauty of the 9/11 site in Brielle, saying they loved to come there to spend a few quiet moments with their loved ones and to meet the families of other area victims.

History Book Committee

By Raymond F. Shea, Chairman

It has been an eventful quarter for the book committee. After anxious weeks of waiting we received a preview copy of *Images of America - Brielle* from our publisher. The entire committee was quite pleased with the end product and it was very gratifying to finally see our months of hard work as a finished product.

Brielle Day was our big book release. Our cover girl, Mrs. Janice Wurfel was available with pen in hand to personalize each and every book we sold. I was very happy to sign as well, as the chairman of the committee. Best of all - we recreated our book cover! Thanks to an idea by Candace Moore, black and white Polaroid souvenir pictures were taken of patrons who wanted to say they caught the big shark that graces our book cover. It was a very successful and fun addition to our Annual Old Fashion Soda / Sarsaparilla sale.

Pre-sale orders were very strong prior to Brielle Day and with our sales on Brielle Day we nearly sold out of our first shipment! We have purchased a second shipment of books. If you do not have your copy yet - you are welcome to call 732.528.1079 to arrange your purchase or stop into Mr. Belding's office in Borough Hall. The funds from books purchased from the society will help us fund future projects. In fact, the committee is turning its attention back to the second edition of *Union Landing Revisited*. Please see the note in the calendar section on the reverse side of this newsletter. *Join us and provide information!* Thanks again to all who participated in the creation and sale of this new book. We sincerely hope that *Images of America - Brielle* will be on the book shelf of every Brielle resident past and present!

Union Landing Historical Society
P.O. Box 473, Brielle, NJ 08730

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS SPECIAL THANKS TO... JOIN US FOR THE REST OF ULHS' 2007 EVENTS

The Union Landing Historical Society is happy to welcome the following new members and members who have recently renewed their membership: Brian Arnott, The Bixbys, The Entwistles, The Harmans, The Heinrichs, The Holmquists, Alex Knapp, Alex Liberatore, Nancy Heinrich Mattson, Diane Miller, Brendan Nolan, The Reynolds, Barbara Westergaard and Dr. Jean Wilson. Thank you for your support and enjoy!

All current ULHS members will receive a membership card with this newsletter's mailing. Please note the date when your membership expires. If a membership card is not included in this mailing - then either your membership needs to be renewed or you are welcome to join the Society!

everyone who made Brielle Day and our book release such a wonderful success! Our Society members led by Mrs. Candace Moore worked very hard to make this a very special day for all. Thanks also to our Sarsaparilla Sellers - our children volunteers, the Hegna's, Brielle Junior Troop 1740 and Cub Scout Pack 63, Den 6, Chris Arnold, our Picture Takers, David Wurfel and Sign Artist, Dina Petrucci. Help us start planning next year's events!

Standing Book Committee Meetings at Borough Hall: weekly meetings Tuesday mornings at 10am. Beginning October 15th we will start a monthly evening meeting on the third Monday of each month at 7:30pm. We hope this will accommodate even more contributors. Please join us and share your information! Since September of 2005, we have requested your information by posting a sign in Borough Hall, through our website, newsletters, brochures, the Borough's newsletter, through advertisements and articles in the Coast Star, Journal and Asbury Park Press, as well as on the sign outside of Borough Hall. If you have something you wish to contribute - we have the time, meeting place and contact information for you to submit it! We will not be able to include your historic home, artifacts or wonderful stories in the second edition of *Union Landing Revisited* if you do not come forward to record them! *Work with us to help preserve the history of Brielle!*

Your History Question Answered
by John Belding, Borough Historian
Please tell us about the Mystery Mansion on Rankin Road...

Have your question answered! E-mail to info@briellehistory.org and watch for your answer in an upcoming U.L.H.S. Newsletter!

Well, maybe not actually terribly mysterious, but nonetheless there are a couple of rather interesting circumstances. First of all, there is local lore that the large red brick house at the top of the hill, where Rankin Road meets Schoolhouse Road, was built by a sea captain. Not true, it was built by Charles L. Fraser in the 1920's. He was a building contractor in New York City. The father-in-law of Rankin Road resident Anita Sweeney was a plumbing contractor who worked with him. Further, many of the rooms in that house were never finished off until the 1980's, which in itself does seem a bit mysterious. However, this was probably owing to economic conditions as by the mid 1930's Fraser's business failed due to the Great Depression and no doubt his house construction funds ran dry. Also, note that the "front" of the house with the large columns actually faces away from the river and ocean. A sea captain would probably have oriented this house toward the east, to face the ocean. Finally, false stories have been told regarding that older house half way down the hill on the same side of Rankin Road. Fraser built this house in 1930, not for a mysterious lady friend as had been suggested, but A) either for two relatives believed to be two maiden lady sisters or two maiden lady aunts or B) a daughter. The white brick house next to the larger "mansion" was originally constructed for the "help" but is now a private home.

Borough Historian's "It Was Only Yesterday" collection of historical vignettes: <http://www.briellehistory.org/archive.htm>

October 13th, 2007 - Archives/History Day at Monmouth County Library, 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan 10am - 3pm. Free & open to all.

October 21st, 2007 - General Membership Meeting/Harvest Home Dinner covered dish social. Welcome ULHS members, our friends from Squan Village, our helpers from Brielle Day and all who receive this newsletter! Invitation enclosed with mailing.

November 14th, 2007 - Joint meeting with the Squan Village Historical Society at the Bailey-Reed House, Manasquan

November 18th, 2007 - General meeting with a presentation by Charles Bello on the Brielle Archeological dig, 2pm presentation then 3:30 - 5:00pm *Images of America-Brielle* Book Sale open to the public, autograph session, free holiday gift wrap! Makes a great gift!

December 2nd, 2007 - *Images of America - Brielle* Book Sale at BES PTO Candy Cane Café / Holiday Shoppe & Brielle Christmas Tree Lighting

★ **RENEW Your Membership or JOIN the Union Landing Historical Society** ★

Yes! I would like to assist the Union Landing Historical Society, Inc., a non-profit educational corporation, with its programs and events by becoming a member. Enclosed is my check to the Union Landing Historical Society, Inc. for \$ _____. Your contribution is tax deductible. Membership includes a quarterly newsletter and membership card.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: Student.....\$7.00 Individual.....\$10.00 Family.....\$35.00 Sponsor.....\$100.00 Corporate.....\$300.00 Life Membership.....\$500.00 www.briellehistory.org	NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____ CREDIT CARD #: _____ EXP _____ SEC CODE _____ Mail along with your check or credit card information to: Union Landing Historical Society, Inc. P.O. Box 473 Brielle, NJ 08730	MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ULHS is doing a lot of great projects for our community. Please ask your family, friends and neighbors to join today! We need your support to continue and grow our programs!
	Thank You!	