



# Union Landing Historical Society

Quarterly Newsletter  
Volume 2 Issue 3  
Available at Brielle Borough Hall,  
the Curtis House and mailed to U.L.H.S.  
members each Jan/Apr/July/Oct

July 1st, 2008

www.briellehistory.org

Editor: Suzanne J. Shea

## From the Holmquist Files...

By Natalie R. Holmquist

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, people found pleasure in simple things. They walked more than we do today and had a chance to appreciate the beauties of nature.

The woods around Schoolhouse Road were called "The Little Butters," and the larger woods around Old Bridge Road were called "The Big Butters". Here were located many butternut trees, and people harvested the nuts in the fall.

Off of Old Bridge Road going north, down in a gully, there used to be a beautiful pond. In the summer it was filled with pond lilies, and in winter it was always the first place to freeze, as it was protected from the salt air. People came from all around this area to enjoy ice skating all winter on this lovely pond.

Bicycles were used extensively as a means of transportation, and shortcuts were welcome by those who walked. School

## SIMPLE PLEASURES

children from the west side of Highway 70 used a shortcut called the "Old Buffalo Road". It cut across Brown's cow pasture (now Greenwood Cemetery) through "The Big Butters" and "The Little Butters" to the school on Schoolhouse Road.

At home people gathered around the parlor piano for a "sing along" and for socializing. On Saturday nights, many people, especially the young, enjoyed going to dances at the Crestdale Hotel, which was a favorite spot with the locals as well as with the hotel guests.

Many were the boating parties on the Manasquan River. The island in the river, called Osborn Island and later Treasure Island, was a delightful place for picnics and clam bakes. Fishing and crabbing were also greatly enjoyed.

As we have seen, citizens of this time were able to enjoy themselves without television, video games and the internet.



The Crestdale, Brielle, N. J.

The Crestdale was a Brielle hotel that hosted dances for guests and locals.

Submitted by Janice Wurfel

*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.*

*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

There is continued "good news" regarding our ongoing work at the Osborn Burial Ground. If you attended our Third Annual Decoration Day service there, you should have noticed a new concrete and wood bench. It is a welcome addition to the site and was constructed "from scratch" for us, by Miles Shea with some assistance from his dad and grandfather. We are very pleased and appreciative of this project undertaken by Miles. It was his own idea.

Also, following up from our last newsletter, the Shade Tree Commission did come through with a weeping Japanese cherry tree for us. It is planted in the center of the graveyard, and should be a thing of beauty for years to come. And more! You will recall we were able to prevail on folks to install a water connection for us as a gift to the Society. Of course with a spigot, we needed a hose and nozzle. I am pleased to report the Department of Public Works has supplied us with those items and we are now able to conveniently water the new trees and flowers.

### History Book Committee

By Raymond F. Shea, Chairman

We are continuing work on the revised edition of Union Landing Revisited and have targeted Brielle Day 2009, September 12th for a release date. This will coincide with the 90th Anniversary of the incorporation of Brielle.

We are currently seeking a publisher to work with us who will handle the production and distribution aspects of the project at the very least. A publisher may also provide financial backing for the project, but for a "limited audience" book like ours they may be unwilling to invest their own money. To that end we are exploring various grant options available to us from government and private sources.

Summer Book Committee Meeting Schedule, Borough Hall:

**JULY:** Tuesday morning July 15th 10am - please bring all written materials to date or provide on disc or emailed to rfshea@briellehistory.com - we will discuss potential book formats and confirm chapter outline.

**AUGUST:** Tuesday morning Aug 12th 10am - presentation of what we have thus far and discussion of what still needs to be written

**SEPTEMBER:** Tuesday Sept 9th, 10am resume regular Tuesday morning meetings. Additional Sept meetings Tuesday 10am on the 16rd & 30th. Monday evening Sept 22nd, 7:30pm.

### 9-11 Memorial Garden

By E. David DuPre, Project Coordinator

The Union Landing Historical Society's 9/11 Memorial Site became the location for Brielle's First Annual Flag Day Ceremony on the eve of Flag Day, June 13, 2008. The site was chosen because of its potential to accommodate such an event. The lawn had been freshly mowed and a new post and rail fence, erected by Eagle Scout candidate James Mulligan of Brielle, which separated the open field from the memorial site plantings, seemed to form the perfect stage for the event. The weather was ideal. The sun had just dropped below the trees to the west and provided some cool shade for the Cub Scouts, their Leaders, family and friends. This joint effort with Cub Scout Pack 63 and American Legion Post #432 was a very successful program. Hugh Nolan, a Cub Scout Den Leader was the coordinator and acted as the Master of Ceremonies for the event. Commander Keith Kology of the American Legion Post brought a flag incinerator and lessons were taught in proper flag folding and flag disposal. It was a wonderful evening for all which concluded with refreshments for all attending.

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

## YOUR HISTORY QUESTION ANSWERED CONGRATULATIONS

### Your History Question Answered by John Belding, Borough Historian

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

*From time to time folks have wondered about the origin of certain street names in town, especially those with family names. Here's a brief summary for some of them.*

In no particular order, Fisk Avenue, which was formerly Park Avenue was renamed in 1919 in honor of Capt. Clinton Fisk who died in World War I. Higgins Avenue, formerly Bridge Avenue, was also so designated. Borrie Avenue named for developer/builder landowner who was active there. Brainard Place named for major landowner in that area, who owned an estate where The Kings Path is now located and all the land to that street which was previously First Street. Howell Drive laid out on the land owned by John Howell from Essex County who had purchased the old house there on Schoolhouse Road up against Route 35 just prior to WWII. A local man farmed his land for a while. Brown Street named for Captain T.S.P. Brown a sailing captain who later built a summer hotel on the river at the end of that street. Green Avenue was so named after sea captain James Green through whose land this road was constructed and where lots were first sold in 1879. Susan Lane, William Drive, Aileen Road and Jeanne Drive named by Gene Rathjen for his children. The William is Bill Rathjen currently building houses on North and South Tamarack Drives. Legg Place named after the Legg family, George Legg was first police chief in town. Rankin Road so named as it ran through the old Rankin farm which ran from there to Union Lane through the area now occupied by the school.

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

August 17th, 2008 - General Meeting, 2pm, Curtis House, Brielle Day preparation. Sign up to sell Sarsaparilla!  
September 6th, 2008 - Brielle Day, Annual Sarsaparilla Sale and Brielle Museum  
September 10th, 2008 - We have been invited to Squan Village Historical Society's Annual Picnic, Bailey-Reed House, South Street, Manasquan  
September 13th, 2008 - 9-11 Memorial Observance at the

9-11 Memorial Garden on Riverview Drive, 10am  
October 11th, 2008 - Archives/History Day at 125 Symmes Dr, Manalapan 10am - 3pm. Free & open to all.  
October 19th, 2008 - General Membership Mtg and Annual Harvest Home Dinner covered dish social 4:30pm Curtis House  
November 23rd, 2008 - Special Program - details to be announced, 2pm at the Curtis House



On June 2nd, 2008, ULHS members, Sam and Alexandra Lugiano, were honored by the Monmouth County Historical Commission and the Board of Chosen Freeholders for their excellence in restoring "Boxwood Cottage", circa 1920. We have been interested in this building for many years and were anxious to see it preserved. At one time members may recall the house was promised to the ULHS by a previous owner and we had planned to create a museum there. That never came to fruition. We are so pleased that the Lugiano's are working so hard to have this building authentically restored undoing the damage that the previous owner had inflicted on the home.

### ★ 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.

<p><b>ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:</b></p> <p>Student.....\$7.00          Individual.....\$10.00          Family.....\$35.00          Sponsor.....\$100.00          Corporate.....\$300.00          Life Membership.....\$500.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.briellehistory.org">www.briellehistory.org</a></p>	<p>NAME _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____</p> <p>CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____</p> <p>PHONE _____ EMAIL _____</p> <p>CREDIT CARD #: _____ EXP _____ SEC CODE _____</p> <p>Mail along with your check or credit card information to:  <b>Union Landing Historical Society, Inc.</b>          P.O. Box 473          Brielle, NJ 08730</p>
<p><b>MEMBERSHIP DRIVE</b>          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!</p>	
<p><b>Thank You!</b></p>	