



Union Landing Historical Society

Quarterly Newsletter
Volume 4 Issue 4
Available at Brielle Borough Hall,
the Curtis House and mailed to U.L.H.S.
members each Feb/May/Aug/Nov

November 2010

www.briellehistory.org

Editor: Suzanne J. Shea

From the Holmquist Files...

by Natalie R. Holmquist

The U.S.S. Sequoia Visits Brielle

In July 1986 Brielle was host to a very distinguished visitor. The Presidential Yacht U.S.S. Sequoia entered the Manasquan Inlet and tied up at the Brielle Yacht Club dock. The vessel was on a nation wide tour after its restoration and modernization project.

The yacht's captain, Commander Michael J. Ferro, and others on board were welcomed by James G. Yacenda, chairman and chief operating officer of Yacenda Enterprises, developer of the Brielle Landing Marina Complex. Mr. Yacenda entertained the visitors for dinner at the River Watch Restaurant, now called The River House.

The Sequoia was built in 1925 and served all presidents from Herbert Hoover on until President Jimmy Carter sold it to a private individual in 1977. It was purchased by the Private Presidential Yacht Trust in 1980. This was a non-profit group of politicians and business men.

The Sequoia home port is the Gang Plank Marina, 6th and Maine Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C.



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.

Society News

by Ray Shea Archives Day 2010

The ULHS exhibited at the Monmouth County Main Library's Archives Day on October 9th. In keeping with the County Archive's focus on WW II, this year's exhibit featured some Brielle photos along with road and tax maps of the Borough from the early 1940's. The exhibit was well attended but an added attraction was not part of the exhibit - a bound, hard cover book of fire maps from 1890 published by Scarlett and Scarlett we brought along to show the archives staff. For the readers who are unfamiliar with fire maps, these are detailed property maps, much like tax maps, but with the addition of details showing buildings and other structures. This information was used by insurers to evaluate risk of fire and flood. Our volume contains maps of the Monmouth County coastline from Deal south to Manasquan and Wall, including parts of the northern end of

present day Brielle. Remember, back then Brielle did not yet exist as an independent municipality.

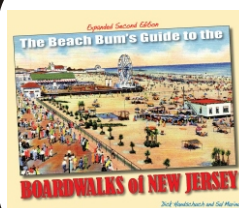
We brought the book along in the hope that the archives staff would be able to assist us in scanning and digitizing the map pages in order to allow us to easily duplicate them and share them with the rest of the world. With some support from County Clerk Claire French and Freeholder Director Lillian Burry we were able to do just that.

The story of our acquisition of the map book bears mentioning here too. One afternoon last month two of our Public Works staff brought the volume to the office of Borough Historian John Belding. They asked if he really meant to throw out the book. Apparently someone left the volume at the paper recycling trailer at the recycling center! We're quite fortunate to have Borough employees with an eye for history, wherever it might be found!

Available now in our Booklet Series....
The Union Saltworks, by the Holmquists
\$3.00/donation

Upcoming....
**Walking Tour of ULHS Plaques, Osborn Family Graveyard,
Southern Monmouth County 9/11 Memorial, and
MAPS - the 2010 Brielle Day Exhibit**

New! ULHS' eBay identity is "briellehistory". Our books, note cards, and postcard reprints will be available for sale and shipment on eBay starting very soon! We also have had other items donated to the society with the intention to be sold for direct benefit to the society. This is a wonderful way to raise money for our organization. If you have any items you would like sold on ebay with 100% profits being donated to ULHS, contact John or Ray.



**THE BEACH BUM'S GUIDE TO
THE BOARDWALKS OF NEW JERSEY**
AUTHORS SAL MARINO AND RICHARD HANDSCHUCH
PRESENTATION 7:30PM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH, 2010
CURTIS HOUSE, 644 UNION LANE, BRIELLE

YOUR HISTORY QUESTION ANSWERED

U.L.H.S. CALENDAR

Your History Question Answered

by John Belding, Borough Historian

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

Q I have heard there was a neighborhood or resort area known as "Bradley's Bungalows". Can you tell me what or where this was.

A Bradley's Bungalows was a resort development located on Debbie's Creek dating from the early 1920s. This resort consisted of about 14 small one room cottages located along both sides of a lane on Chester Bradley's property. In addition to being on the water the property boasted a couple of tennis courts and row boats for the guests. They also advertised their proximity to ocean bathing and the nearness to Asbury Park and Lakewood. The bungalows were eventually converted into very small year round homes or razed and larger homes erected on the site. The roadway on which they were located became East Woodland Avenue. Chester Bradley's home, circa 1885, still stands on Fisk Avenue. Both Chester Avenue and Bradley Avenue were named for this early resident entrepreneur.

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

Tuesday, November 30th, 2010 - Presentation: The Beach Bum's Guide to the Boardwalks of New Jersey by Dick Handschuch & Sal Marino, Curtis House, 644 Union Lane, Brielle at 7:30pm

Friday, December 17th, 2010 - ULHS Holiday get together Dutch-Treat breakfast - Starting Point Grill, 500 Arnold Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, 8:15am

Monday, January 10, 2011 - Borough Historian's Office, nominations for 2011 officers and Annual Organization Meeting, 7:30 pm - bring ideas!

Tuesday, January 18 - Borough Historian's Office, Boro Hall, confirm 2011 officers, and "mini-book" series meeting, 10 am.

Winter 2011 - Movie Night!

Mark your calendar for these annual events!

March - "Mystery History Tour"

April - Annual Road Show, Curtis House

May 29th - 6th Annual Decoration Day Program, War of 1812

June 14th - 4th Annual Flag Day Ceremony

September - Brielle Day Sarsaparilla Sale, 9-11 Memorial program, SVHS Covered Dish Barn Dinner

October - Archives Day & Fall Dinner

MORE events are in the planning stage! Add your name to our email distribution list, email: info@briellehistory.org

Historical Osborn Graveyard

By John E. Belding, Project Coordinator

Just Possibly a mystery may be solved! You will recall that during the rehabilitation of the graveyard we discovered a foundation in the center of the burial ground. It measures 2' x 2' x 3' in depth. It is constructed of brick and mortar, the bricks being of a size common to the mid 19th century. It is apparent the foundation had been somewhat higher but had been sliced off with a pick and buried under more than a foot of soil till discovered by us. We suspect it was the beginning of some sort of monument that was about to be constructed or perhaps had been built and was torn down by person or persons unknown to us. It probably would have been something simple, not a statue or marvelous edifice. A possible prototype of the plan may be on the order of the Meriwether Lewis burial site located on the Natchez Trace Parkway in Hohenwald Tennessee. This is a simple truncated pyramid of eight rows of large squared stones with a simple pedestal on top with a plain cylindrical column about the height of the pedestal base. It is an unadorned dignified structure. A local mason would have had no problem in the construction of something like this. A memorial was obviously planned here and we continue to be alert for clues. We will share any information with you as soon as discovered. In the meantime Google for the Meriwether Lewis Memorial to see what you think.

9-11 Memorial Garden

By E. David DuPre, Project Coordinator

During the summer the South Monmouth 9/11 Memorial site became the victim of record high temperatures and a lack of rainfall. Two dogwood trees which we received from the Brielle Shade Tree Commission were planted in a shady area along Riverview Drive. Since this area was remote from our source of water at the monument area, the new trees had to be watered by hand-carried buckets of water. Even though both dogwoods received the same watering one did not survive. The same was true of the two azalea bushes planted at the 9/11 Memorial Site sign. One did not survive. Three rose bushes planted along the post and rail fence also did not make it despite plentiful watering with a hand-held hose. The crabgrass however did remarkably well. We need to explore the possibility of a water sprinkler system installation for next year.

Despite all this, the annual 9/11 observance held on Labor Day proceeded well. With retired Fire Chief Jack DiCastro of the Sea Girt Fire Company and Chaplain Gary Pstrak of the Brielle Fire Company reading the necrology, the Boy Scouts of Brielle Troop 63 presented a rose at the monument as each name was read. Then Dr. Edward Brennan of Sea Girt presented a floral piece and "Taps" was played by Sean Tobin of Manasquan High School. At the conclusion of the ceremony Sea Girt Mayor Mark Clemmensen presented the Brennan family with the flag that was flown over the 9/11 Site during the past year. Msgr. Sean Flynn of Sea Girt gave the final Benediction.

Thanks to this issue's contributors:
Mrs. Holmquist, Mr. Belding, Mr. DuPre & Mr. Shea

Keep up-to-date: <http://www.briellehistory.org>