



# Union Landing Historical Society

Quarterly Newsletter  
Volume 5 Issue 3  
Available at Brielle Borough Hall,  
the Curtis House and mailed to U.L.H.S.  
members each Feb/May/Aug/Nov

August 2011

www.briellehistory.org

Editor: Suzanne J. Shea

The conservation or replacement of the Glimmer Glass Drawbridge at the end of Fisk Avenue has been a hotly contested topic for the last several years. The junction of Brielle Road in Manasquan and Fisk and Green Avenues in Brielle has been popularly known as “The Three Bridges” for many years. In addition to the moveable span on Brielle Road, there are two fixed span bridges on Green and Fisk Avenues. When they were first built the Fisk and Green spans were wide open bridges that freely allowed water (and small boats) to pass underneath. Those spans were eventually converted to simple culverts that allowed a minimal amount of water to pass under and all but closed both to maritime traffic. The Brielle Road span has remained relatively unchanged since it was originally installed some 74 years ago. Before 1936 the present bridge was in operation at another location. When the need for a moveable span was seen at the Glimmer Glass, the bridge was disassembled and rebuilt at the present location.

All three bridges are now owned and maintained by Monmouth County. In recent years a need was seen to either repair and rehabilitate the bridge or replace the span entirely. When the County began exploring these options around the year 2003, the State Historical Commission stepped in and brought to the attention of the County Engineer’s Office the unique status and features of the Bridge (see the Borough Historian’s article on p.2). They also opposed any plans to replace the existing bridge. Shortly thereafter, a group of conservation minded local citizens formed a “Committee to Save the Glimmer Glass Bridge”, headed by Eloise Knight,

## Saving a Piece of Local History



*Brielle Drawbridge by Paula Kolojeski*

Owner of Eloise’s Café. This group, along with the State Historical Commission championed the cause for preservation of the bridge and through funding of studies by historical architects and preservationists they were able to accelerate the listing of the bridge on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

With those designations in place it is highly unlikely that the bridge will be demolished and replaced and as such the County Engineer’s Office is pursuing alternatives for repair and restoration of the bridge that will insure that its unique design and structure will be preserved for future generations to enjoy. Along with the preservation of the bridge itself, these plans will also insure the preservation of the salt-marsh wetlands region surrounding the bridge.

### Society News

by Ray Shea

FILM UPDATE - Brielle Day Movies

As many of you are aware, thanks to the generosity of Bob and Marilyn Sauer, the society is now the proud owner of some 12000 feet of 16mm film shot in and around Brielle from the 1940’s through the 1970’s by Harry Sauer, Bob’s father and founder of Sauer Electric. This footage is irreplaceable and we are actively engaged in converting it to a digital form which we can then edit and combine with other film and video footage to create a video history of Brielle. After our successful Movie Night last Spring, we have decided to focus this year’s Brielle Day exhibit on these films and will be screening select footage from the Sauer films in the Curtis House on Brielle Day. Although it will be rough footage for now, it will offer viewers a rare glimpse into Brielle in earlier times. The rough edits are yet not completed but we expect the “loop” that will be running will be about 25-35 minutes in length and will repeat throughout the day. Please plan to join us and view this visual treasure.

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Squan Village Historical Society  
~~Bailey-Reed House Museum~~  
105 South Street, Manasquan, NJ 08736  
732-223-6770  
squanvillagehistoricalsociety.org

July 2011

Union Landing Historical Society  
PO Box 473  
Brielle, NJ 08730

Dear Friends,

We would like to again invite you to the annual picnic for the Squan Village Historical Society to be held in the Bailey-Reed House Barn. We know it is still summer, but this will give you time to mention the picnic to your members.

The date is Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm and reservations are necessary. Please call the Museum phone of 732-223-6770 or my home phone of 732-223-1733 to let me know how many will be attending and what covered dish you would like to bring. We always want to be sure we have enough tables and chairs for all those who attend.

We look forward to sharing the evening with you.

*Calling all volunteers!*

**BRIELLE DAY**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH  
ANNUAL ONE DAY BRIELLE MUSEUM  
& ANNUAL SARSPARILLA SALE!**

COME TO THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 7:30 PM  
BOROUGH HALL MONDAY 8.29.11 OR CALL 732.528.7432

# 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](mailto:info@briellehistory.org) and watch for your answer in an upcoming U.L.H.S. Newsletter!

**Q** What is the historic significance of the Glimmer Glass drawbridge at the end of Fisk Avenue?

**A** The Glimmer Glass Bridge, as it is popularly known is thought to be the last surviving example of a cable lift bascule bridge in New Jersey. "Bascule" is the French word for 'seesaw' or 'balance' and refers to the use of a counterweight to assist in the raising and lowering of a moveable bridge's span. Many bridges today utilize a counterweight for mechanical advantage in operation - the railroad bridge over the Shark River in Belmar is one local example. It has a large concrete weight attached to one side of the span by a lever arm. Many bridges spanning the Chicago River are also variations of the bascule design, too. What makes the Glimmer Glass Bridge unique is the use of rolling counterweights on a curved guide track. The weights are attached to the opening end of the span by heavy wire cables. This design was popular in the 19th century, but has since been replaced by more advanced designs. This bridge has been placed on both the NJ State and National Registers of Historic Places.

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

**Monday, August 29th - 7:30pm** at the Borough Historian's Office - Brielle Day organizational meeting

**Monday, September 5th - 9-11 Memorial Annual Program**, contact Mr. DuPre for more details

**Saturday, September 10th - Annual Brielle Day Old Fashion Soda Sale & One Day History Museum**

**Wednesday, September 14th - 6pm - SVHS Covered Dish Barn Dinner**

**Saturday, October 15th - ULHS is an exhibitor at Archives Day 9am-3pm**, Monmouth County Library Headquarters, 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan  
[Http://www.visitmonmouth.com/page.aspx?id=37149](http://www.visitmonmouth.com/page.aspx?id=37149)  
*Details forthcoming for these annual events...*

**November - Fall Dinner & Jersey Shore Prohibition Program**

**December - Holiday Breakfast**

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

## Historical Osborn Graveyard

By John E. Belding, Project Coordinator

The May 2011 Decoration Day Program held at the historic Osborn Family Graveyard took as its theme the War of 1812. The War of 1812 is notable in that it was the first armed conflict by the United States against the United Kingdom, from whom we had seceded in 1776 and that Col. James Osborn, who is interred in the Holly Hill Road graveyard, fought in that conflict. Most of the action in the vicinity of present day Brielle during the War consisted of efforts by the British to disrupt channels of maritime trade. Naturally with our wharf at the foot of Union Lane being a center of coasting trade, the Brielle area was profoundly affected by the War.

Our program for the day was based on research into the War of 1812 by society member Dr. Jean Wilson. Another highlight of the program was the recognition of the ULHS 2011 Scholarship award winner Griffin Smyth, a graduating 8th grader from Brielle. This year the Society introduced an essay contest to compete for the Society's annual scholarship. Entries were open to any graduating 8th grader who resided in Brielle. The topic of this year's essay was "How did the Union Landing Historical Society acquire its name". Congratulations to Griffin for his winning essay. We were also joined by Karl Fritsche from Historical Military Impressions who provided us with a rifle volley in the uniform of an American Marine in the War of 1812. Thanks again to HMI for participating in our program!

## 9-11 Memorial Garden

By E. David DuPre, Project Coordinator

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and Flight 93 that crashed in Western Pennsylvania. Locally we will conduct this observance at the South Monmouth Memorial Site on Riverview Drive at Birch Drive in Brielle.

The trustees originally opted to have the observance on September 11th but with the number of families electing to go to the New York observance it was felt that we should continue our local neighborhood observance as we have in the past a few days before 9/11. Accordingly we have designated Labor Day, September 5th for the ceremony which will begin at 10:30 am.

This year we will be honoring the family of Alfonse Niedermeyer, a Police Officer with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, who gave his life as a first responder at the scene of the collapsing towers.

In connection with the program, it is to be noted that the Rte. 70 bridge across the Manasquan River in Brielle has been named by the State of New Jersey as the 9/11 Memorial Bridge and included in its structure are two pairs of stanchions, one pair each on the east and west sides of the bridge. On each stanchion can be found a plaque. One acknowledges the dedication of the bridge to the honored memory of the victims, the other lists the names of all the victims who had made their home in either Monmouth or Ocean County.

For those wishing to see the name of their loved one on the plaque it will be necessary to find parking off the highway at either end of the bridge since parking on the bridge is not permitted.

The Necrology List at the South Monmouth Memorial Site contains only names of South Monmouth victims from Spring Lake Heights, Spring Lake, Sea Girt, Manasquan, Brielle and South Wall.

The length of the memorial program is not expected to be longer than twenty-five minutes. Those attending should consider bringing a folding chair from home with them.

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

**Keep up with ULHS on facebook!  
<http://www.facebook.com/briellehistory>**