



Preserving & Promoting
Southold's History

54325 Main Road
PO Box 1
Southold NY 11971

631.765.5500
FAX 631.765.8510
sohissoc@optonline.net
www.southoldhistoricalsociety.org

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SOUTHOLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2014



BAINBRIDGE SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are now being accepted through February 27, 2015 for the Bainbridge Memorial Internship - application instructions can be found on the Society's website under the heading "Bainbridge Memorial Internship." The internship honors a former board member and supporter of the Historical Society, Mildred Bainbridge (1907-1992). Born in Brooklyn, Long Island, Mildred Bainbridge was the daughter of Ella (1882-1954) and Henry C. Bainbridge Jr. (1882-1956). The Bainbridge family were the proprietors of the Charles T. Bainbridge & Co., founded in 1867, who were noted for their artists materials, including "Bainbridge Board." At the time of Mildred Bainbridge's death in 1992 she left her large estate, valued at over five million dollars, to a variety of charities on the North Fork, including the Southold Historical Society. The Society honors her generous gift through the annual awarding of the internship in her name. Please visit the Society's website for application information!

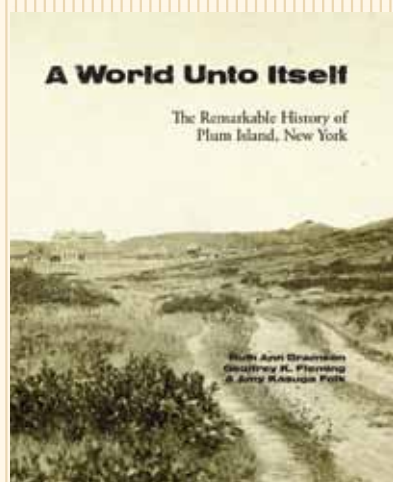
2015 UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

JANUARY 26, 5pm – ANNUAL MEETING – Join us for the annual meeting and dinner at Founder's Landing. Hospitality Chair, Walter Jackson will put on a great buffet dinner to be followed by a special presentation by Joshua Ruff, chief curator of The Long Island Museum of Art, History, and Carriages.

MARCH 10, 5:30pm – POT LUCK SUPPER – Once again Jeni's Main Street Grill will host this winter time favorite. Please bring a main course or dessert.

Coming up in APRIL – Spring Photography Exhibit "Hobbling through Southold Village," and the ever popular April Showers Dinner on April 16, 2015.

Coming in 2015 – VINTAGE COUTURE AND DESIGNER CLOTHING SALE to benefit the Collections Committee of the Southold Historical Society. Please consider donating your vintage and designer clothing and accessories to benefit this sale. Watch for more info and please contact us at 765-5500 if you have something to donate to the sale!



A great holiday gift!
GET YOUR COPIES TODAY!

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

A thoughtful gift.

I was in the office not long ago when a phone call came in from a supporter of the Society who resides in the southwest of the United States. The caller wanted to speak with me about the 2013 annual report which they had received. They were concerned with the state of the Society finances and wanted to know more about what was going on. I was happy to oblige and described the recent cuts to our trust income, lower fundraising results, as well as rising costs. After having a meaningful discussion on the topic, the caller closed noting we do such good work in Southold and that they "were going to try to find some money for us." I thanked the caller, and we bid our adieus.

Many organizations like us get phone calls or letters from individuals who want to help out, though most of the time either there is no result or a small donation is made to help the group in question. About two weeks later we picked up the mail and found an envelope postmarked from the state in which the supporter lives – and the return address on the envelope was a bank. I opened the envelope and was enormously surprised to find an "anonymous" gift to the Society totaling \$30,000.

To say I was shocked really does not cover the range of emotions I was feeling. Very quickly that feeling of shock turned to an overwhelming sense of pride and happiness that this supporter – who does not live locally and has only been a donor for a few years – made such a generous gift to us. It just goes to show when you provide a quality of service that is valued, you never know what might come of it.

Have a very Happy Holiday and Joyous New Year!

Geoffrey K. Fleming, *Director*

Consider Planned Giving:

You can become a part of the Southold Historical Society's legacy by including the Society in your estate plans. Giving opportunities include outright bequests of cash, securities or property. We recommend that you discuss your estate plans with your own legal and financial advisors.

Kindly notify the Society at 765-5500 if you are considering a bequest or if you have any other questions. Planned Giving is fundamental to the long-term success of the Society.

**SOUTHOLD
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OFFICERS & TRUSTEES**

2014

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Next deadline for the newsletter:
March 1st for April, & June 2015

The Society Office will be CLOSED
between Christmas and New Years,
re-opening on Monday, January 5th.

The office will also be closed
Martin Luther King Jr. Day - January 19,
and President's Day - February 16.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Recently a friend gave me a book that described the celebration of the 1915 (275th) anniversary of the founding of Southold. For many reasons this set off my reflections of past celebrations and the fact that next year Southold celebrates its settlement 375 years ago.

There is nothing profound to be said. Both the 1915 and 1940 celebrations had as a principal element – a pageant. These represented the early history of our town. I know that I was present for the 1940 pageant but have no current memory of it other than it was a source of enjoyment. These pageants were amateur productions involving an incredible number of people.

As I look back, I am startled to feel that I have known or dealt with more people or their families that participated in the 1915 show. It's too bad that pageants are out of date, because they afforded so much opportunity to so many people willing to volunteer. In 1990, I attended the parade and saw on a float a boyhood friend and his wife who just retired here. They were so happy and beaming at their participation that it has become a permanent memory.

I just hope that others appreciate Southold as they did and I do.

To All, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Herb Adler Jr., President

BYLAWS REVISION: The Society is proposing a large revision to our Bylaws. The revision will be posted as a downloadable PDF file on our website by mid-December. Anyone wishing to receive a hard copy may do so by requesting one to be mailed to them by calling the office at 765-5500. The revision will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Did you send your check into the ANNUAL APPEAL? There is still time!

FUNDRAISING

First, let me offer a warm "Thank You" to those of you who have quickly responded to the Annual Appeal with an increased donation this year. Your recognition that the Society needs the additional support is deeply appreciated.

For those who have not yet responded (or lost the Annual Appeal letter in the pile of other appeal letters), there is still time to offer your support. For me, the flood of national and local appeals encourages some priority judgments, and I choose to support LOCAL organizations where I know the contribution is fully utilized to support critical needs in my community. I hope you do the same.

Please consider increasing your support of the ANNUAL APPEAL. If the letter is lost, just send a check to the Southold Historical Society, PO Box 1, Southold, NY 11971. All we need is your name and address so we can respond with a "thank you" and record your contribution. Both the Board and the Fundraising Committee are doing everything possible to keep costs under control, but the financial challenges ahead are considerable and your support will both be well used and deeply appreciated.

Best wishes for the Holiday Season.

— John E. Barnes, Fundraising Committee Chair

THE TREASURE EXCHANGE AND MUSEUM SHOP

Shop Locally!



The Exchange is full of great merchandise this holiday season, including an extensive selection of fine and costume jewelry. (Open Tues. - Sat, 10-4 through Dec. 20th.) The Museum Gift Shop has a great new group of gifts, including some bright and colorful knit socks and hand-blown glass wine stoppers. (Open Mon. - Fri. 9am-3pm and most Saturdays from 11am to 3pm.) You can also place orders over the phone or via our website.



COLLECTIONS CORNER

A pair of portraits. One of the fun things about working here is that there is always an opportunity for me to learn. Recently, I got to learn more about the Cleveland family of Southold, when the historical society received a gift of two portraits. The portraits are of Parnell Conklin Cleveland (1772-1857) and Nathaniel Hubbard Cleveland (1834-1922). They join the portrait of Moses Conklin Cleveland which was donated to the Society in 1987. Parnell, the mother of Moses, was painted by Sylvester Genin, a painter whose family started out in Southold



then moved west to Ohio. Genin came back to the area for a visit between 1840 and 1841, and while he was here, he noted in his diary that he painted a number of portraits on the North and South Forks. Nathaniel Hubbard Cleveland was Moses' son and was painted by Orlando Hand Bears. Painted as a young boy, he cradles a kitten in his arms. The artist, Bears, lived in Sag Harbor and is well known for his portraits as well as folk art of the area. In fact, Bears also painted Moses Conklin Cleveland in 1837 and could have painted Nathaniel about the same time, or a year or two later. The location of a portrait of Mrs. Moses Cleveland – which must have also been painted – remains unknown. So, search your attics and garages! If we can find Moses Conklin Cleveland's wife we will be able to reunite the whole family. — AMY FOLK

FROM THE ARCHIVES

My Hat's Off to Him ... Frankly Speaking!

Peconic resident Frank Davis Smith was a tailor who was also known as the "Man Milliner of Eastern Long Island." His hat shop was one of the unique places for more than half a century. As you entered the shop on Peconic Lane, you stepped into the front room, which was rather dark, with glass cases filled with trimmings and other things needed by his customers, and chests of drawers filled with more of the same. All around on stands were hats on order in various stages of completion. Then you headed into the back room where you would find Frank and his niece Geneva Sayre busily at work. Frank and his wife Minnie Terry Smith were married for 42 years. To many, they were "Uncle Frank and Aunt Minnie." He died July 11, 1942 and is

buried in the Southold First Presbyterian Church Cemetery. A pulpit was dedicated at the Southold First Universalist Church in loving memory of Frank Davis Smith in August 1943 as he was a very special member who served as trustee. For 40 years, he was superintendent of the Sunday School and also formed the Young People's Society. Among some of the items in the Society's 2001 Hidden Treasures Exhibit was a collection of 24 fine and decorative hats by the milliner. — DAN MCCARTHY

Dan is at the Archives Tuesdays 9AM to 3PM. Reach him by e-mail at southoldresearch@gmail.com or by calling 765-5500.

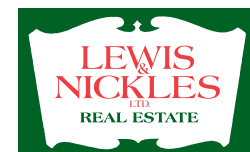


HORTON POINT LIGHTHOUSE



The lighthouse will re-open May 23, 2015 (Memorial Day weekend) and we hope to see you next summer. If you are interested in volunteering at the Lighthouse, please contact Jill Wilson at (631) 477 4174.

Cara Wells, REALTOR-ASSOCIATE®, CBR
Licensed Real Estate Broker



P.O. Box 877 • 57200 Main Road • Southold, New York 11971
Office: (631) 765-3416 • Cell: (631) 833-4512 • Fax: (631) 765-4096
cwells@lewisandnickles.com • www.lewisandnickles.com