



The Historian

A Publication of the Three Village Historical Society



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The Founding of Our Local Fire Companies *By Karen Martin*

With the renovated and expanded main house of the Setauket Fire Department nearing completion, let us reflect on the founding of our local departments, Stony Brook and Setauket, both founded in 1909.

Bayles' Lumber Mill Fire Spurs the Formation of Stony Brook Engine Company No. 1

BAYLES' MILL BURNED
Big Fire at Stony Brook on New Year's Night.

Fire totally destroyed the lumber and planing mill of Thos. Bayles late Friday night, causing a loss estimated at \$80,000. One lumber shed was destroyed with the mill, but the sheds on the west and south sides of the mill were saved, as was the Stony Brook Hotel which was considered in danger.

The fire broke out in the northeast corner of the mill from some unknown cause shortly before midnight and had gained considerable headway before it was discovered. There is no fire department in the village and the only means of preventing the spread of the flames was by the use of buckets. A lake full of water at the edge of the property furnished an abundant supply, and as practically every man in the village turned out there was a force of about 300 men on the bucket lines. In this way a large amount of valuable property was saved.

The fact that there was no wind was wonderfully helpful to the workers, and enabled them to save the Stony Brook Hotel and other near-by buildings, which were only scorched. Had a gale been blowing the entire village would have been endangered.

Port Jefferson Echo Jan. 9, 1909

The January 1, 1909, fire at Bayles lumber and planing mill in Stony Brook village awakened the community to the need for a local fire department.

"There is no fire department in the village and the only means of preventing the spread of the flames was by the use of buckets...there was a force of about 300 men on the bucket lines..." (*Port Jefferson Echo*, Jan. 9, 1909)

Thomas N. Bayles thanked the community for their help in fighting the fire "I have never seen better work done with the only apparatus they had to do with, which were fire pails. We have good, fighting fire boys in Stony Brook. Why not all help to organize a fire company and prepare for such conflagrations that might occur in the future." (*Port Jefferson Echo*, Jan. 9, 1909)

"As a result of the big fire in this place measures are being taken for the formation of an up to date fire department. The Odd Fellows have offered the use of their hall for meetings and entertainments and active steps are being taken to secure the necessary apparatus." (*Brooklyn Daily Eagle* Jan. 15, 1909)

Cont. on page 8

Chicken Hill: Journey to the Past *By Tara Ebrahimian*



The original Rubber Factory in Setauket with many of its employees

"Chicken Hill: A Community Lost to Time" is perhaps a somewhat hidden treasure of the Three Village Historical Society (TVHS). The nationally recognized exhibit, conceptualized and curated by Dr. Frank Turano, shares, from the American Association for State and Local History, an "Award of Merit" with the 9-11 Museum in New York City. It offers a comprehensive, interactive journey into the history of the Three Village's working class, multi-racial, multi-ethnic community, which existed in three incarnations between 1857 and 1960.

The exhibit is a portal into the past, and the abundance of primary source materials, including personal accounts, pictures, documents, clothing, and other artifacts, enables a visitor to be immersed in the

Cont. on page 11

President's Message



Stephen Healy
President, TVHS

Dear Friends and Members of the Three Village Historical Society,

Welcome to 2019! The Three Village Historical Society board and staff are excited about the prospects that this new year brings us, and we look forward to continued success and growth. With our eyes set on growth, I'm proud to announce that I will continue on as president for a second term.

Over the past year, the Society expanded its education department and added a new team member, Tara Ebrahimian, as Education & Volunteer Coordinator, to manage growth and help foster new ideas for school programs. Another exciting addition to our programming took us beyond the Three Village area with bus trips to Philadelphia, PA and Fairfield, CT. Keep an eye out for more bus trips coming in 2019. Our first trip, May 11th, is to visit Fraunces Tavern Museum in NYC, with Margo Arceri of Tri-Spy Tours as our guide. On November 2nd, there will be a bus trip led by Bev Tyler to Litchfield, CT.

Our annual events, which are always run for the pleasure of our community, continue to be the biggest draw. We welcome thousands of patrons to learn about our local history and support our mission. If you haven't recently attended one of our events, be sure to mark your calendar for the 5th annual Culper Spy Day. It tells the story of the Revolutionary War and pays homage to the everyday people who risked their lives to join a covert spy ring that was overseen by George Washington. It will be held on Saturday, September 14th, at multiple participating locations throughout the Three Village area and beyond.

If you're a music lover like me, you won't want to miss our 3rd annual Prohibition Night, which is a collaborative event held at The Jazz Loft in Stony Brook. Enjoy an evening filled with history, jazz, and spirits (not the ghostly kind!) on Friday, June 21st. One of my favorite events (when I get to put on my actor's hat) returns for its 25th year – the annual Spirits Cemetery Tour. Join us, if you dare, for an exciting, educational retelling of history as we travel by lantern through the Setauket Presbyterian and Caroline Church cemeteries on Saturday, October 19th.

Finally, the always popular and forever festive Candlelight House Tour is on Friday, December 6th, and Saturday, December 7th. Planning is already underway, and we hope that you'll consider volunteering and/or attending this great event. This past year, we celebrated 40 years of this honored tradition that rings in the holiday season for the Three Village area. It was one of our most successful years yet, with Patty Cain and Patty Yantz at the helm, and the assistance of hundreds of volunteers. These are just a few of my favorite events to look forward to this year, and I hope to see you there.

Our monthly lecture series, a collaborative event hosted by the Setauket Neighborhood House, is shaping up to be very entertaining. Take a look at the website to learn about the many great speakers that are already booked.

TVHS has grown into the great organization it is today with the help of our past presidents, board members, staff, and dedicated volunteers. The biggest thanks must be given to the Three Village community for supporting our events.

As an education based non-profit, the Three Village Historical Society depends on the support of the executive board, trustees, volunteers, and members to provide such enriching programs. If you're interested in becoming a member and learning more about our community, please visit www.tvhs.org.

The Historian

Is published bi-annually by the Three Village Historical Society.

Suggestions for articles are welcome. Please send all articles, photos, feedback and ideas to:

OfficeManager@tvhs.org

In the subject line please include: **The Historian**.

Editors:
Sandy White, Mari Irizarry, Tara Ebrahimian, & Karen Martin

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Three Village Historical Society

Stephen Healy

Four West Brothers Who Served in World War One - 100 Years Ago - We Remember!

By Bev Tyler



Blacksmith Samuel West, holding his twins Hazel and Harvey, is pictured with 7 of his 10 children. Three of his four sons who served in WWI are shown: Harvey, Ernest, seated far left, and Percy, in the highchair. The three youngest children: Mary, George, and Ida have yet to be born.

“Victory and Peace,” the headline proclaimed, “War Ends--Fighting Ceased at 6 a.m. Monday.” It was November 11, 1918, and the World War had come to an end for the Americans fighting in Europe. In a railway car in the French Forest of Compiegne, at 5 a.m. the German delegates accepted the strict terms of the Armistice and at 11 a.m. the World War came to an end.

That morning, President Wilson issued a proclamation that said, “My fellow countrymen. The Armistice was signed this morning. Everything for which America fought has been accomplished. It will now be our fortunate duty to assist by example, by sober friendly council and by material aid in the establishment of just democracy throughout the world.”

soldiers were treated and released back into civilian life with or without continued care. Many soldiers never recovered from their wartime experiences.

The men and women who served in “the war to end all wars,” were coming home. Many of the soldiers were suffering from what they called “shell shock.” Today we know it as post-traumatic stress disorder or simply PTSD. Other World War soldiers were suffering from the effects of being gassed. In many of these cases, soldiers came home without revealing their need for help. In other cases,



West Brothers who served in WWI, left to right: Harvey, George, Ernest, & Percy

Muriel Hawkins, of East Setauket, daughter of Clinton West, remembered how her uncle Ernest West, who was a ship's carpenter in the Navy, made seven trips across the Atlantic and back during the war. Ernest was one of four brothers who served during the war. The other three, George, Harvey, and Percy were in the Army. All four were the sons of Setauket blacksmith Samuel West and all four returned, in some cases with mental and physical scars that would last the rest of their lives. They had a great deal of support from their father and extended family who helped West raise the children after his wife died following the birth of their 10th child.

Percy Hulse West was born July 18, 1889, and enlisted in the U.S. Army on April 13, 1917. The War Department telegram, written October 21, 1918, to his father says, “Deeply regret to inform you that it is officially reported that Private Percy H. West, Infantry was severely wounded in action about August twenty-eight [actually July 10th]. Department has no further information. Harris, Acting The Adjutant General” Over the next few months, Percy was transferred to a number of different Army hospitals including Army Hospital No. 3, Rahway, NJ.

Cont. on page 7

Save the Date!!! 3rd Annual Prohibition Night to be Held on Friday, June 21st!



Photos: Staff, Board, and Volunteers at The Jazz Loft for Prohibition Night, 2018



We hope that you'll once again “boogie-woogie” with the Three Village Historical Society for our 3rd annual Prohibition Night, an exciting fundraiser in collaboration with The Jazz Loft in Stony Brook, featuring LIVE music, from the always entertaining Tom Manuel. What better way to raise money than with live music, tasty libations, and great outfits?!

Veterans History Project *By Orlando Maione*



MAIONE, O.M. PVT.

Everything the Three Village Historical Society and the public know about the Culper Spy Ring is a result of information obtained through written documentation and personal letters from family, friends, colleagues, comrades in arms, and written diaries of the military leaders during the Revolutionary War. Like in that period, history needs to be recorded in order to be preserved. It needs to be preserved so that future generations can learn and understand what happened before, why it happened, and hopefully avoid the mistakes that caused it to happen.

That is why in 2000 the United States Congress created the Veterans History Project (VHP) as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. VHP's "mission is to collect, preserve, and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war" and military life from first hand accounts.

Here in the Three Village area we are fortunate to have the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library in Setauket, which has partnered with the Library of Congress to help preserve our community's rich history as created and experienced by our veterans. Instead of individuals requesting a "Field Kit" on their own that provides instructions of how to record a story, forms to fill out, and information on how to forward information to the Library of Congress for its permanent collection, the Emma S. Clark Library makes it easier to participate in this unique program. It seeks out U.S. Military veterans, from any conflict, who are willing to share their experiences and stories, and leads them through the process. The library has a dedicated staff person, Nancy McCaffrey, who provides copies of the easily completed background information form, supplies two pages of questions that are used as a guiding script, sets up the interview appointment in the library, and video records the

complete interview. She takes care of submitting the end result to the Library of Congress and provides the veteran with a DVD copy of the entire interview. The entire process usually takes about an hour depending on the number of the veteran's experiences and stories.

Many veterans for various reasons do not, and have not, shared their military experiences with family and friends. But those experiences, the good, the bad, and the ugly, should be shared by those veterans who, as a matter of honor and duty, served their country. There are lessons to be learned, emotional mine fields to be avoided, feelings to be shared, and mental wounds that could possibly be healed. This project is an opportunity to record a veteran's snapshot of history that otherwise would be lost to future generations and researchers.

Ms. McCaffrey can be reached at 631-941-4080. For further information on the VHP, visit www.loc.gov/vets.

Note: The author is a member of the Three Village Historical Society Board of Directors, and a U.S. Army Military Intelligence veteran having served during the Cold War. He was interviewed in mid November.

Annual Antiques & Yard Sale FUNDRAISER

ANNUAL ANTIQUES + YARD SALE:

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH

A fundraiser to benefit the
Three Village Historical Society.
Free and Open to the Public.

DONATIONS Spring cleaning?

Our yard sale depends on your donations. Start saving your gently used household items! For more information, visit www.tvhs.org or call 631-751-3730.

WANT TO BECOME A VENDOR?

Looking for artisans, food vendors and others.
\$50 fee (non-members),
\$40 fee (members). 10'x10' spaces available.



40th Annual Candlelight House Tour Recap *By Patty Yantz & Patty Cain*

On November 30th and December 1st 2018, the Three Village Historical Society hosted its 40th annual Candlelight House Tour. This year's tour, entitled "40 Years Honoring A Sense of Place," attracted a record number, just shy of 1,300 people. In keeping with the original concept of the first tour, this year's tour was once again centered on the Old Setauket Historic District. All the homes were previously on the tour during the first decade, and although most of the homeowners have changed through the years, the historical integrity of the houses has not. The tour served as a history lesson of life as it was around and near the pond, while also appreciating the area as it is today. A highlight of the tour was having the first house tour chairs back with us again, serving as decorators on Lake Street. This year's tour, as with all past tours, owed its continued success to the people who made it happen. These individuals include the homeowners who demonstrate their gracious hospitality, the generous sponsors, and at the heart of it all, our kindhearted volunteers who give of their time and talent to make this event come to life. On a final note, a sincere thanks to our incredible staff, without whom the tour would not be such a continued success, and our wonderful Three Village community that makes living here wonderful!

Wishing you all the best in 2019, and our sincere thanks for your continued support. We hope that you consider joining a committee or sign up as a volunteer for our 2019 Candlelight House Tour, scheduled for Friday, December 6th and Saturday, December 7th!



Patty Yantz, Steve Healy, & Patty Cain at Old Field Club Reception



Peter Bond, serving complimentary wine on the Friday night tour



A "Nantucket" view of Conscience Bay from the Old Field Rd. cottage



Front door at the TVHS History Center



A cozy view of the Johnson home on Main Street



Dining room at Maureen Mitchell's home on Old Field Road



Inside the Setauket Mill House



Detailed dining table at Eva Glaser's home on Lake Street



Candlelit Dining Room at Michael O'Dwyer's home on Main Street



LEFT: Patrons enjoying breakfast at the Old Field Club before the Saturday tour.

RIGHT: Patrons taking a complimentary Tri-Spy Walking Tour for the Saturday tour.



Photos taken by Pam Botway and Bev Tyler.

See more photos at www.tvhs.org/photo-gallery

Membership Corner

As a member of the Three Village Historical Society, I hope you had an opportunity to enjoy the fantastic offerings we had this year! Culper Spy Day, the Candlelight House Tour, and our walking tours are just some of the programs that were once again big hits. Our events could not be as successful without support from members like you.

When your membership renewal approaches, I'd like to remind you not only of those events above but also the other highlights of the Society. Our annual Spirits Tour is an amazing community event that grows every year in popularity. Our educational historical lectures and the recent addition of the historical bus trips provide opportunities to expand your knowledge on a variety of topics. All of these events are either **free-of-charge or discounted** with a TVHS membership.

If you feel like shopping, members enjoy a 10% discount in our gift shop, filled with fun and educational items to consider. If you know someone who might appreciate a membership as a gift, visit our website at www.tvhs.org/membership for the different levels and benefits we offer.

As a reminder, membership renewal notices will be sent to your email so you can enjoy the ease of renewing online. Your continued support enables the Society to expand and enhance its historical education and preservation programs, to maintain and restore historic buildings, like our circa 1800 Bayles-Swezey house and rebuild the circa 1850 Dominick-Crawford Barn, which was dismantled and saved from ruin in Old Field.

Thank you for continuing to support the society and for spreading the word! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Holly Griesel,
Membership Chair

Save a tree! Visit our website, www.tvhs.org, to make a secure online payment for your membership!

2019 Three Village Historical Society-Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

10% discount on gift shop purchases, subscription to The Historian Newsletter, free entrance to our exhibits, nine monthly Member Meetings, discount, and advance purchase on many society events and programs.

Volunteering Interests: _____

- Exhibit Docent Gift Shop Spirits Tour
- Yard Sale Candlelight House Tour Culper Spy Day
- Administrative Education Special Events

Suggested Membership Levels:	
Individual:	\$40.00
Dual/Family:	\$50.00
Patron:	\$100.00
Benefactor:	\$250.00
Major Contributor:	\$500.00
Friend of the Barn:	\$750.00
Founder:	\$1,000.00

Check payable to: **Three Village Historical Society**

Name on Card: _____ Exp. ____/____ CVV Code: _____

Account Number: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Mail application to: **Three Village Historical Society, 93 North Country Rd. Setauket, NY 11733**

OR save a stamp and renew online at www.tvhs.org/membership

I would like to make a Gift Membership to: Name _____

Address _____

For a complete list of benefits for each level of membership please visit our website: www.tvhs.org

Four West Brothers Who Served in World War One - 100 Years Ago - We Remember!

By Bev Tyler (Cont. from page 3)



Ernest West is second from right, front row; George West is second from right, fourth row; Harvey West is third from left, third row. (Note: Percy did not pose.)

On November 5, 1918, Clinton West, Percy's brother and Town of Brookhaven Justice of the Peace, wrote to Major Fayermather at the hospital requesting information "regarding the revoking of the furlough of my brother Private Percy H. West. Father was quite upset as this was Percy's only furlough since his enlistment in May, 1917. He being the first of our local boys to return from active front line service and crippled, we had planned to give him a good time and a chance to visit his relatives and friends..."

On November 18, 1918, Samuel West wrote to Capt. Sellers to request "that Percy might be allowed a little time to see his people [in East Setauket] after the service he has rendered his country." Additional letters from Selah Strong and H.G. Rogers were received at the hospital with the same requests.

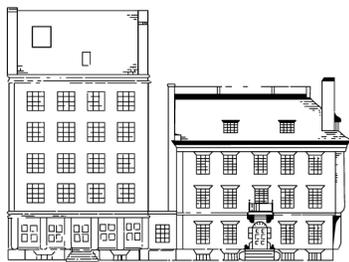
Percy did return after he was discharged March 3, 1919; he is pictured in the photo of the celebration on the Setauket Village Green on September 1, 1919, as well as in a family photo taken the same day with his father and his other three brothers who served in the war.

The following year, the 1920 census lists Percy as living at "Matteawan State Hospital, Beacon, Dutchess County, NY." In the 1930s census report, Percy was living as a boarder with Fred & Lydia Bartoo (or Barton) in Oxford, Chenango, NY, where he was working at a golf course. Percy died July 6, 1957. Percy's brother Ernest West returned to East Setauket and continued working here as a carpenter until his death in 1966. Percy's brother Harvey West was a patient in 1930 in the Middletown State Homeopathic Hospital in Orange County, NY. He later went to live with his brother George, and Elsie West, in Stratford, CT. He died in 1967. George West moved to Connecticut in 1920 with his sister Hazel West Jayne and her husband Robert Jayne. After his marriage to Elsie in 1922, he made his home in Stratford, CT. He died in 1975, after moving to Florida.

"World War I was the first 'modern' war. Industry enabled weapons and explosives to be manufactured in vast quantities that brought death and destruction on a scale never previously experienced by mankind and which affected all combatants. On Sept. 18, 1918, American Sergeant Charles S. Stevenson wrote: 'This is the seventh day of the St. Mihiel drive and I find myself sitting in a thick, muddy forest, with my knees and a gas mask as a table, writing to you. It was some drive. Small, in comparison to many operations, to we rookies it was a real battle. Machine guns, rifles, shells, aeroplanes, and tanks — everything you read about — I saw 'em all. We followed the first line (the attacking party) for twelve hours and ours was a sort of 'after the battle' review. I saw all kinds of German trenches, barbed wire entanglements, busted houses, burning trees, deep shell holes, torn-up railroad tracks, peaceful gardens, dynamited bridges. All kinds of German prisoners passed me on the way back.' " (Exhibition "Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace: The Doughboys 1917-1918" - National World War I Museum, Kansas City, MO). This exhibit is now touring the world and was last at the Navy Pier in Chicago, IL.

Join us for Our NYC Bus Trip—Saturday, May 11th with Tri-Spy Tours

ESTABLISHED 1907

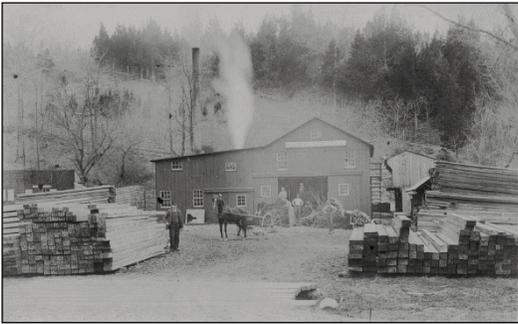


FRAUNCES TAVERN® MUSEUM

Hop on the bus and join Margo Arceri of Tri-Spy Tours as our guide, to visit Fraunces Tavern Museum in NYC. Tickets are \$75 per person, and cover roundtrip transportation, entrance into the museum, and a private walking tour with Patriot Tours NYC. For more details, and to purchase tickets, go to www.tvhs.org.

Fraunces Tavern Museum is registered as a National Historic Landmark with the United States National Park Service. The building was originally built in 1719 as an elegant residence for the merchant Stephan Delancey and his family. In 1762, the home was purchased by tavern-keeper Samuel Fraunces, who transformed it into one of the most popular meeting places of the day. Though it is best known as the site where Washington gave his farewell address to the officers of the Continental Army in 1783, the tavern also played a significant role in pre- and post-Revolutionary activities. After the war, when New York was the nation's first capital, the tavern was host to the new government's offices of the Departments of War, Treasury, and Foreign Affairs.

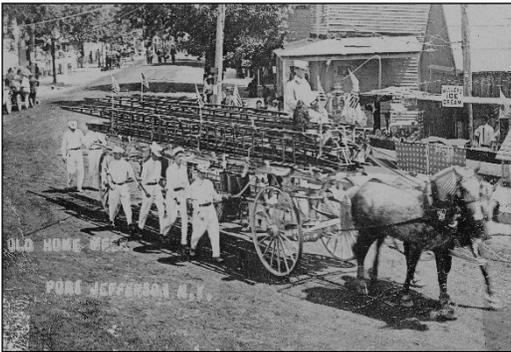
The Founding of Our Local Fire Companies *By Karen Martin (Cont. from cover)*



Bayles lumber & planing mill was located on the grounds of the Long Island Museum's visitor's center & history museum.

Within a week, Stony Brook Engine Company No. 1 was formed with forty members and \$500 was subscribed toward the purchase of a chemical engine. The February 23rd edition of the Brooklyn paper reports "There was great rejoicing in Stony Brook yesterday over the arrival of the new hook and ladder truck which was bought from the College Point department for \$425...The sum of \$1,315 has been raised by the citizens toward equipping the new local department...A chemical engine with two 35-gallon tanks, to cost \$650, has been ordered. The village has been stirred to action as the result of a big blaze several months ago that destroyed a large part of the business section."

"The hook and ladder truck arrived here Friday from College Point...Monday afternoon a large number of men and boys pulled the truck, which was elaborately trimmed with flags, through the village to show it to the people, and tested the ladders on several large buildings." (*Port Jefferson Echo*, Feb. 27, 1909) On April 20, 1909, the new hook and ladder was called into action to extinguish a fire in the attic of the Stony Brook Hotel.



Stony Brook's Hook and Ladder on parade in Port Jefferson



1920 firehouse Christian Ave.

In July 1909, summer resident C. Temple Emmet offered use of his three story storage building (on Main St. near Mill Rd.) for the fire department headquarters. A new fire department building was built in 1920 on Christian Ave. (later remodeled by Ward Melville for the Suffolk Museum and now occupied by The Jazz Loft) and the current main firehouse in the Stony Brook Village Center was dedicated Sept. 1, 1941.

The East Setauket Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 is Formed:

August 11, 1909, a meeting was held and the East Setauket Hook and Ladder Company was established.

"The East Setauket Hook and Ladder Co., No. 1, lately organized, is to incorporate. The company numbers 50 men. The Long Island Railroad Co. has offered to donate a locomotive driving tire for an alarm..." (*Suffolk County News*, Oct. 1, 1909)



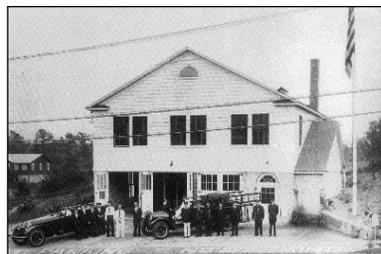
East Setauket Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, c.1924

On October 29, 1909, a supper and dance were held to benefit the company. "The East Setauket Hook & Ladder Co. are very enthusiastic workers. During the few weeks since their organization they have certainly been busy; the list of members now numbering 75, and their fund for equipment is likewise increasing, so that it will soon look like a hose cart, etc." (*Port Jefferson Echo*, Nov. 20, 1909)

The fire department's new hook and ladder truck was put to the test when a fire nearly destroyed a row of buildings from the Methodist Church northward. The *Port Jefferson Echo* issue of Oct. 21, 1911, reports "Morning Fire in Setauket. A fire which broke out in Melville Bryant's house, next to Isaac Golden's, about 1:30 o'clock Wednesday morning, gave the East Setauket Hook and Ladder Company a hurried call after trying out their new apparatus only a few nights previous. That the new equipment is all right was soon proven...The ringing of the fire-bell received a ready response by about twenty members of the company. When they reached the building flames were coming through the roof, but these were soon extinguished by a good flow of water. That the company should receive credit for saving about \$15,000 of property was given as an estimate today..."



Shore Rd. "truck house"



New firehouse

Henry Rakow was the first chief of the company, and by 1921, his former blacksmith shop on Shore Rd. became the first firehouse. In 1965, the building was given to the Society for the Preservation of Long Island (Preservation Long Island) and now stands on the grounds of the Sherwood-Jayne House.

As the East Setauket company grew, a new firehouse was needed. In 1930, the Village of Old Field contracted for fire coverage at the cost of \$200 per year. The new firehouse on Main St. was dedicated July 13, 1935. The East Setauket Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 changed its name to the Setauket Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 and in 1937 turned the firehouse and equipment over to the Setauket Fire District.

Calling All Volunteers!



Volunteer training session at headquarters

Three Village Historical Society strives to not only preserve, but keep alive, our local history through museum exhibits, educational programs, and special events. To do this, we need your help! We are currently seeking volunteers in all capacities, especially for the museum exhibits, gift shop, and Candlelight House Tour. Sign up with a friend as a way to spend meaningful time together, or use this as an opportunity to meet people and forge new relationships. As a volunteer you give back to this community that provides us with such beauty and opportunity, while enriching your own life.



Volunteers at the 4th annual Culper Spy Day

For more information, and to register online, visit www.tvhs.org. If you prefer, you may also call 631-751-3730 or email education@tvhs.org. We hope to see you soon!



Left: Volunteers at the 40th Candlelight House Tour

Right: Volunteers at the 2018 Prohibition Night



CONGRATULATIONS

At the November 2018 Awards Banquet, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Long Island Chapter awarded board member, Orlando T. Maione, its Life Time Achievement Award. (In 2017 he received the AIA New York State Life Time Achievement Gold Metal).

Thanks to Linda Johnson, the Three Village Artisan and Farmers Market at the Three Village Historical Society has become a place of healthy healing, not only through its fresh produce but because of the fellowship and friendship it offers. For her hard work and dedication to reinventing the market, Times Beacon Record News Media named Johnson one of its People of the Year.

CONDOLENCES

The Three Village Historical Society would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Edmund A.C. Stewart, long time member of the Society. His wife Norma was a Candlelight House Tour House Chair for over 25 years and won the Kate Wheeler Strong Memorial Award from TVHS in 2012.

Currently accepting nominations for the 42nd annual Awards Dinner!!
Visit www.tvhs.org to nominate your favorite history lover today!

Please Join Us For Our 42nd Annual Awards Dinner



Wednesday, March 27, 2019 6-9 pm
The Three Village Inn, Stony Brook

Dinner and Raffles
Awards Ceremony
Cash Bar

Visit www.tvhs.org to order tickets and donate to our Scroll of Honor.

TICKETS:
\$60/Members
\$65/Non-members

Scroll of Honor listing in the Awards Program
Gold Level \$100
Silver \$50
Bronze \$30

“The Fickle Finger of Fate” 2018 Spirits Tour *By Frank Turano*

We have all experienced a turning point in our lives. At some point we were faced with two choices, one was chosen and the other ignored. But how would our lives have been different had the other path had been chosen? The “Fickle Finger of Fate,” among the best tours of the recent past, represented that choice of paths for eleven former Three Village residents. Each of the eleven characters, knowingly or unknowingly, were faced with such a crossroad. Some choose wisely and others did not.

The tour was introduced by Karin Lynch at the Presbyterian Church, then attendees went to the cemetery to meet the spirits. Henry Hackett Satterly, played by Frank Turano, met his fate in Mexico in 1847, and lies in an unmarked grave. He was followed by Eleazer Hawkins, played by George Overin, whom fate allowed to encounter a “ghost ship.” William Sidney Mount’s interest in the occult was outstandingly portrayed by Sahil Sangwan. Maria Williamson made her appearance in the person of Stephanie Carsten. Maria’s life changed when a run-away wagon took the life of her son Jedediah. The ironic fate of Mary Swift Jones was explained by Tara Ebrahimian. Mary sailed with her merchant captain husband, but he never expected her to live through the voyage. She survived it, only to pass away in NY shortly after their return. Roaming among the characters was Steve Healey in the guise of FBI Inspector Earl Connelly investigating the disappearance of Alice Parsons. Art Billadello also roamed among the characters as an itinerant grave digger.

Across the Village Green in the Caroline Churchyard, the tour encountered an angry patriot wife, Mary Muirson, played by Holly Griesel. She pleaded for the restoration of the family fortune of her Loyalist husband. Dr. Ferdinand Bates, in the person of Mort Rosen,

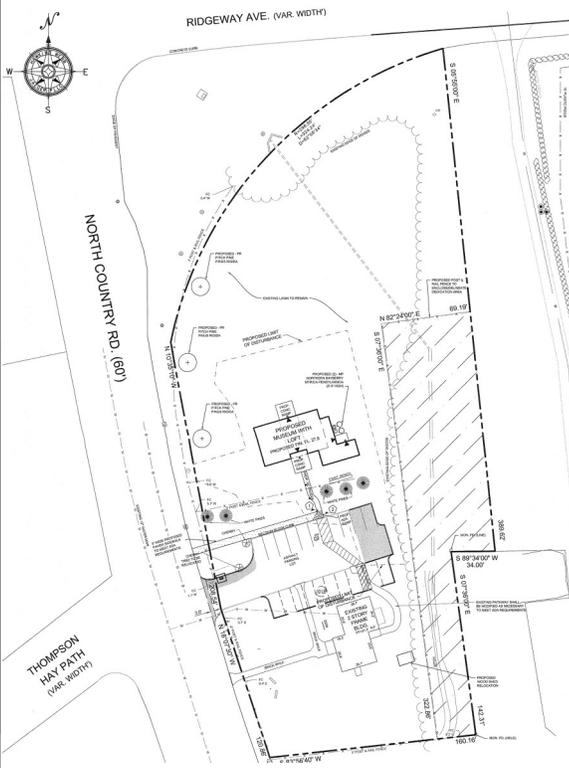


Actors from L to R: Art Billadello, Steve Healy, Stephanie Carsten, Robert Ogden, Holly Griesel, Tim Adams, Mort Rosen, Tara Ebrahimian, Sahil Sangwan, Karin Lynch, Donna Smith, Michael Tessler and George Overin

explained the times of a local doctor. Adelaide Sells, a backup singer for the ill-fated R & B crooner Johnny Ace, was played by Bonnie Duval. Michael Tessler ably played the person of George Dominick, the builder of the barn presently being restored by the Three Village Historical Society. The final character was Alice Parsons, portrayed by Donna Smith. An open murder investigation marks the disappearance of Alice under strange circumstances in 1937.

Fate was kind to some: Eleazer Hawkins found gold, William Sidney Mount found fame, and Ferdinand Bates became a successful physician. On the other hand, a cruel fate awaited Maria Williamson and her son, Edward Pfeiffer’s enlistment ended in tragedy, and Mary Muirson’s life was controlled by international events. More stories await you at the 25th Spirits Tour on October 19th, 2019. Check our website, www.tvhs.org for details.

Dominick-Crawford Barn Update *By Steve Hintze*



We are rounding the corner for our final requirements for the Town of Brookhaven permit and are on target to start the project in summer/fall of 2019!

Although the race has been long, the finish line is in sight. When we started this process, the Town of Brookhaven had different health codes and septic system requirements. We were grandfathered into some of the updated regulations, however lingering issues inherited from the previous owners delayed the progress. We corrected the erroneous covenant and improperly filed certificate of occupancy, but unfortunately a delay in one aspect of planning delays all other aspects of planning. We will also be putting in a new septic system at the Bayles-Swezey house, our current headquarters, as per Board of Health stipulations.

TVHS recognized that it needed more space to better fulfill its mission to educate the public and share the riches of our local history. It decided to repurpose the Dominick-Crawford barn for this endeavor; the building will be used for rotating displays, educational programs, and historical events.

We eagerly await the conclusion of the planning and permit stage, so that we may break ground and fulfill the potential of the barn. We thank all of you for your continued support and patience.

Chicken Hill: Journey to the Past *By Tara Ebrahimian (cont. from cover)*

abundant lore of Chicken Hill. A microcosm of the diversity of America, Chicken Hill was only one mile in diameter, but home to many different people, including Native Americans, Eastern and Western European immigrants, and African Americans. At its most robust, hundreds of people lived on Chicken Hill. Throughout its history, Chicken Hill hosted a piano factory, a rubber factory, a public school, and a talking crow. At the center of this community, was the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, a cultural landmark on Christian Avenue.

Brothers Robert and William Nunns were very successful piano manufacturers, who operated a factory in New York City. Robert Nunns moved to Setauket in 1857, and built a factory on Chicken Hill. A relatively small team of employees, including members of the Hawkins and Steinway families, annually produced hundreds of pianos. This operation ran successfully for years, until the start of the Civil War. The biggest market for these pianos was in the South, so the Civil War had an adverse effect on the business; Robert Nunns had to file for bankruptcy, and the factory closed in 1867.



Rubber Factory Fire, October 1904.

It remained unoccupied until 1876, when the Long Island Rubber Company opened. The rubber factory mainly employed Irish immigrants who came from the Lower East Side; it eventually evolved into the L.B. Smith Company. In 1888, one of the workers decided to form a union; subsequently, the workforce was terminated, and the business filed for bankruptcy. The owners then reincorporated and created the Brookhaven Rubber Company. They repeated this process for the rest of the 19th century and into the 20th century. In 1895, the factory became the largest employer in Suffolk County, employing over 500 people, including many Eastern European Jewish immigrants. It closed in the early 1900s, after a number of damaging fires (at least two of which were of somewhat dubious origin.)

After the fire in 1904, most of the workers left Chicken Hill but the merchants remained. Hymie Golden, the owner of Golden's General Store, was among other things, a trainer of trotter horses, a racing enthusiast, and the adopted father to a fledgling crow named Jake. Jake imprinted on Hymie, who taught him how to speak. He was such a coveted companion, he was actually kidnapped and spirited away to Brooklyn. Luckily, Jake escaped and flew home to Hymie. The incident was reported in at least one New York City newspaper.

Among the population that resided on Chicken Hill, was Adelaide Sells, a singer at the A.M.E. Church. She won amateur hour twice at the Apollo Theater, and went on tour with an up and coming rhythm and blues singer, Johnny Ace. Carlton "Hub" Edwards, a talented baseball player, pitched for the varsity baseball team as an eighth grader; in eleventh grade, he pitched for both the varsity team and the local semi-pro team. In 1950, his three no-hitters won him the attention of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Shortly thereafter, he and his brother got two draft notices each: one from the Brooklyn Dodgers and one from the United States government.

The occupants of Chicken Hill created and maintained an industrious society, rich in a shared sense of place. Most of the residents rented their houses, however, and following the suburbanization influx of 1960, they had to find new homes. Their departure facilitated the establishment of the commercial district.

Chicken Hill's three different eras had a lasting effect on the community at large, both culturally and economically, and its impact was felt throughout the Three Village area. The exhibit, curated by Dr. Turano, and Karen Martin, Society archivist, illustrates this influence, featuring a Nunns piano, artifacts from the rubber factory, historic photographs, and recorded interviews with former residents of the diverse community.

The Chicken Hill exhibit is open on Sundays, from 1pm-4pm, and is free for members. Admission for children and students is \$5, and admission for adults is \$10 (prices include both Chicken Hill and Spies! exhibits.) Private tours are also available by appointment.

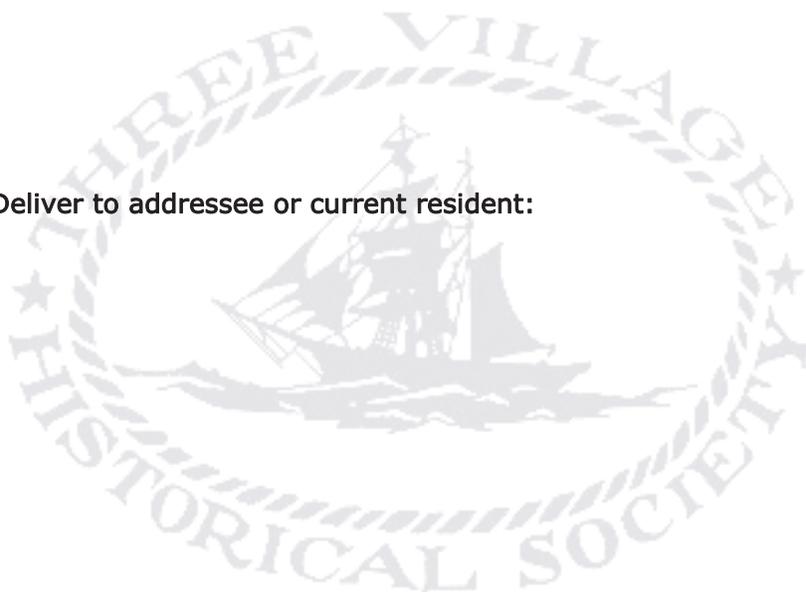


*Setauket Baseball Team, c. 1951,
with Hub Edwards centered in the front row.*

Three Village Historical Society
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TVHS Calendar of Events

Tea with a Spot Of History:

Members Only Held at our History Center at
93 North Country Rd, Setauket at 2:00 pm*

Feb. 27th: **George Washington and the Arrival of the French Fleet**
w/ Bev Tyler

Mar. 6th: **Margaret Fuller: The Legend-The Woman** *w/ Frank Turano*

April 10th: **"TURN"ing to the facts** *w/ Art Billadello*

June 19th: **Two Local Families-WW1** *w/ Bev Tyler*

Lecture Series:

Setauket Neighborhood House, 95 Main Street, Setauket.
Free to members, \$5 for non-members. 7pm-9pm

Feb. 18th: **The Swashbuckling History of Women in Long Island Piracy** *with Tara Rider*

April 15th: (begins at 6pm): **Annual Pot Luck Supper**
The Pollack-Krasner House in Spring, NY *with Helen Harrison*

May 20th: Speaker To Be Announced

June 17th: **Long Island and the Sea** *with Bill Bleyer*

Sept. 23rd: **Lecture & recital of harpsichord music** *with Kyle Collins*

Oct. 28th: **Historic Haunts of Long Island** *with Kerriann Flanagan Brosky and Jose Giaquinto*

Nov. 18th: **Diving into Long Island History** *with Brett Curlew*

SPECIAL EVENTS

Annual Awards Dinner: Wednesday, March 27th

NYC Bus Trip: Saturday, May 11th

Annual Antiques & Yard Sale: Saturday, June 8th

3rd Annual Prohibition Night: Friday, June 21st

5th Annual Culper Spy Day: Saturday, September 14th

25th Annual Spirits Tour: Saturday, October 19th

Litchfield, CT bus trip: Saturday, November 2nd

41st Annual Candlelight House Tour: December 6th & 7th

TVHS WALKING TOURS *

Down the Ways: The Wooden Ship Era: April 13th, Sept. 8th, Oct. 26th

Walk Through History with Abraham Woodhull: May 18th, June 15th, July 14th, Aug. 18th, Oct. 13th, Nov. 11th

Explore & Discover Setauket's Revolutionary History Tour: May 25th, July 13th, Aug. 10th

Admission: \$15 (\$10 for TVHS Members) *Please check the Society's website at www.tvhs.org for complete descriptions, location and starting times for all of the Walking Tours or contact the office at (631)751-3730. All walks start at 2:00 pm unless otherwise noted.



Tri Spy Tours, April- November. Purchase Tickets at www.tvhs.org. Dates subject to change.

Tri Spy Walking Tour: March 30th @1pm, April 13th @1pm, May 18th @10am, June 8th @10am, July 21st @9am, Aug. 25th @9am, Oct. 19th @10am, Nov. 29th (Turkey Trot) @1pm

Tri Spy Biking Tour: May 4th @10am, June 9th @10am, July 20th @9am, Aug. 24th @9am, Oct. 20th @10am

Tri Spy Kayak Tour: June 23rd@3pm, July 14th@9am, Aug. 3rd@2pm, Aug.18th@1pm



Exhibit Hours: Open Sundays from 1-4 pm

Chicken Hill: "A Community Lost to Time"

Spies! How a Group of Long Island Patriots Helped George Washington Win the Revolution.

Admission: \$5 Children/Students, \$10 Adults. **Members Free.**

