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A Publication of the Three Village Historical Society



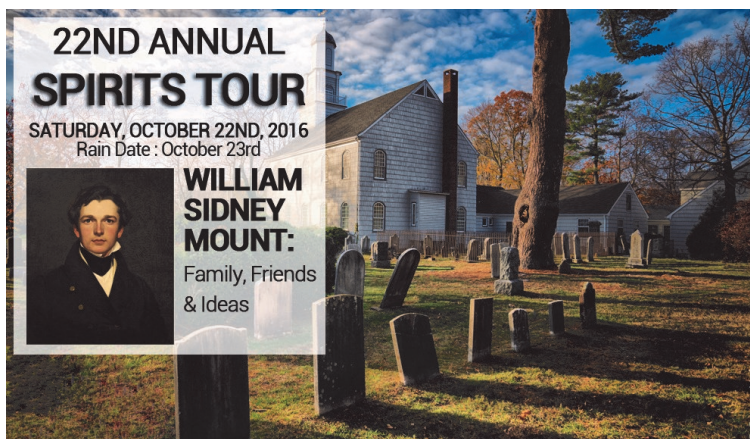
Volume 53 Issue 2

Summer 2016

The 22nd Annual Spirits Tour : William Sidney Mount

The 22nd Annual Spirits Tour will celebrate the contributions of William Sidney Mount (1807-1868) and his family to the Three Village Community. He lived most of his life in the "Three Villages" and was inspired by people, places and things he encountered. Among his most important influences were his family, especially his brothers, his friends and acquaintances. He painted the rural life of his time and thereby

immortalized many people and their activities. On **October 22, 2016**, the players of the Three Village Historical Society will try to bring Mount, his family, his friends and some of his paintings to life. Please join us! Tickets are available via secure online purchase at **www.tvhs.org**.



The 38th Annual Candlelight House Tour



SAVE THE DATE! DECEMBER 2ND AND 3RD

again showcase local homes beautifully decorated in seasonal decor.

The members only pre-sale will begin November 1st.

If you would like to be a part of this wonderful event, please call the Society at 631-751-3730.

Patty Yantz, Patty Cain: Co-Chairs, Candlelight House Tour

On Friday, December 2nd and Saturday, December 3rd the Three Village Historical Society will hold it's 38th annual Candlelight House Tour! This year's tour "Visions of Setauket" will center on the historic district of Setauket. Not a museum, a historic district is a living neighborhood that has an added interest in the past. While it is important to protect outstanding historic structures, neighborhoods of surviving structures in their original setting can express the characteristics of other eras and provide an added cultural and historic dimension to a community in ways that individual landmarks cannot. This year's tour will once

President's Message



John Yantz
President

Dear Members & Friends of the Three Village Historical Society,

So much is happening here at the Three Village Historical Society that it is hard to know where to start. Our various tours and our exhibits at the History Center have taken off with at least a twofold increase in attendance. Even requests for private group tours have increased drastically. Most of this increase is attributable to the success of TURN, the series on AMC, about the Culper Spy Ring which operated from Setauket, as well, as various articles which have appeared in the local newspaper, Newsday and The New York Times promoting our tours and exhibits.

- **Culper Spy Day** was a huge success! We experienced a significant increase in attendance despite the intense heat!
- Plans are fully underway for our **22nd Annual Spirits Tour** in October which will revolve around William Sidney Mount and his family.
- **The 38th Annual Candlelight House Tour** chairs are well into their plans for this year's event and are booking houses now. If you are interested in having your house on the tour in Setauket, becoming a sponsor or making a donation, give the office a call.
- Progress on our barn movement and reconstruction is moving along well and we expect to start rebuilding the **Dominick-Crawford Barn** in the Spring.

Please support our events by attending them or encouraging others to do so. Remember, we are a small society which operates in the red each year and relies on the generosity of the public to keep alive the history of the area.

Please consider making a donation to help us in this effort.

Thank you,

The Historic Crawford Barn

The Three Village Historical Society's "Dominick-Crawford Barn" is moving along nicely. The re-purposing of the barn is now in the site plan stage. We are working with John Cuniffe and Matt Crane to expedite the site plan through the Town of Brookhaven. The position of the barn as well as cesspools and parking has been finalized on the site plan.

The barn is a historically significant local building that will be re-purposed into an Educational Resources Center for the Three Village Historical Society. The center will provide expanded space for the society to fulfill its mission to preserve and educate the public on local history.

The slab for the barn should be poured in the early spring of 2017.

Donations to the barn project can be made through **www.tvhs.org** or in person at the History Center.

Barn Chair,
Stephen Healy



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 and
Mari Irizarry

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Historical Society

The 39th Annual Awards Dinner on March 23rd



L-R: Kara Hahn Suffolk County Legislator, Sherman Mills Young Historian Award Winner Sahil Sangwan and Brookhaven Town Historian Barbara Russell



L-R: Maggie Gillie Memorial Award Winner and Past President Steven Hintze, Board Members : Holly Griesel and Patty Cain



L-R: Community Recognition Award Winners Dan and Merri Laffitee, Crawford Barn Chair Stephen Healy



L-R: Suffolk County Legislator, Kara Hahn, Community Recognition Award Winners James & Shirley Shung Suazo, and Board Member Michael O'Dwyer

The 39th Annual Awards Celebration and Dinner was held on March 23rd at the Old Field Club, featuring music from the Ward Melville High School Jazz Ensemble.

The Maggie Gillie Memorial Award was awarded to Stephen Hintze, for all his work with the Society, including the Crawford Barn, grant writing, research and a committed volunteer.

The Gayle Becher Memorial Award was awarded to Anne Healy for all her work with the Society's many activities—House Tour, Apple Festival, Spirits Tour and a dedicated volunteer.

The Kate Wheeler Strong Award was presented to Christopher Matthews PhD, Historical Archaeologist, for researching the history and archaeology of the mixed heritage Native and African American community in Setauket.

Gelinas Junior High School student, Sahil Sangwan, was awarded the R. Sherman Mills Young Historian Award for outstanding contributions to the Society by a young person.

The Three Village Historical Society Community Award was given to the North Shore Jewish Center which has been part of the fabric of the community for over 100 years.

Community Awards were presented to The Suazo Family for the restoration and ongoing maintenance of the historic John Bayles Homestead, their 8 Terrell Lane Stony Brook home and the Lessing and Laffite families for the maintenance and seasonal plantings at the historic Three Village Inn.

The Dedicated Volunteer Award was presented to Karin Lynch for exemplifying the true spirit of volunteering for the Three Village Historical Society.

Photos by: Bev Tyler



L-R: TVHS Volunteer Barbara Lynch, Gayle Becher Memorial Award Winner Anne Healy, Fred Bryant Founder/Member and Awards Committee Co-Chair

Barbara Gottfried, Janette Handley, Janet McCauley, Millie Mastrion and Patty Yantz
- 2016 Awards Dinner Committee

Janette Handley, Fred Bryant, Stephen Healy, Karin Lynch, Millie Mastrion, Janet McCauley, Michael O'Dwyer and Barbara Russell
-2016 Awards Committee

More Photos on Page 7

Stony Brook at the Dawn of the Roaring Twenties By Daniel Kinney

The Society is always pleased to hear from our members and extended community by sharing research they have done or writing about their memories of the Three Villages. We were pleased when Daniel W. Kinney contacted us and provided us with a fascinating article about a "Hollywood" family that called Stony Brook home. Space does not allow us to print his article here in its entirety so with permission enjoy this edited version. To read Mr. Kinney's complete article and learn more about Stony Brook's connection to Hollywood visit our website at www.tvhs.org.

Stony Brook at the Dawn of the Roaring Twenties: A Hollywood Connection

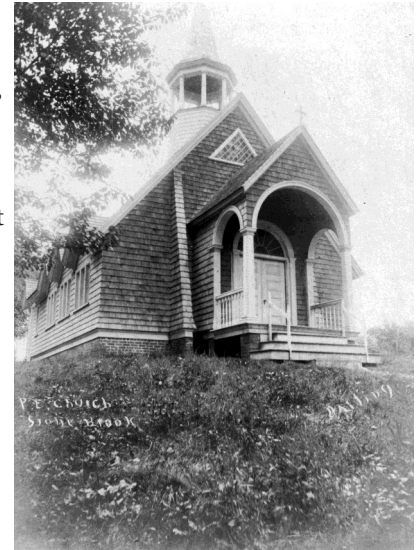
The Hollywood of the Silent Screen Era came to the quiet village of Stony Brook when, as the *Port Jefferson Echo* of July 3, 1920 reported, a "wedding of interest to the literary and screen world took place at the little [All Souls] Episcopal Chapel" on Sunday, June 27, 1920. The bride was Stony Brook resident Agnes Christine Johnston (1896-1978), a screenwriter whose career would span from silent films to early television. The groom was Frank M. Dazey (1892-1970), a screenwriter and playwright with an equally distinguished and long career. The article mentions that Agnes Christine Johnston had become famous for her adaptation of *Daddy-Long-Legs* (1919) for Mary Pickford and that her latest work was her screenplay for *Homer Comes Home*, which starred Charles Ray. The reception was held at the Johnston residence, the Holly Tree House, which remains a familiar landmark on Christian Avenue. After the reception the bridal couple left in a "motorcar" for the Catskills.

Agnes Christine Johnston began writing for films around 1915. According to her obituary published in the August 9, 1978 issue of the *Three Village Herald*, her first screenplay, for which she was paid \$40, was for *Tried for His Own Murder*. The *Internet Movie Database* (IMDb) confirms that during the decade of the 1920s, Johnston collaborated on a number of silent films, including *Forbidden Paradise* (1924), which starred Pola Negri, Adolphe Menjou, and Pauline Starke (Clarke Gable, who was not listed in the credits, played a soldier in the czarina's guard); *The Tower of Lies* (1925), starring Lon Chaney and Norma Shearer; *The Enemy* (1927), starring Lillian Gish; and *The Patsy* (1928), starring Marion Davies. She was the author of the screenplay for 1925's *The Denial*, starring Claire Windsor. She continued to have a successful career after the introduction of the "talkies," writing for films in the 1930s and 1940s that featured such notable film stars as Hattie McDaniel, Anthony Quinn, Alan Hale, Jackie Cooper, Lon Chaney, Jr., Jean Harlow and other big Hollywood stars. She also wrote for several of the *Andy Hardy* films produced between 1941 and 1944, starring Mickey Rooney with Judy Garland (in *Life Begins for Andy Hardy*, 1941), Donna Reed (in *The Courtship of Andy Hardy*, 1942), and for the film that introduced Esther Williams, *Andy Hardy's Double Life* (1942).

The groom was the son of playwright Charles T. Dazey (1858-1938). Frank Mitchell Dazey was born in Quincy, Illinois. He was a member of the Harvard class of 1914 and served as a first lieutenant in World War I. The article in the *Echo* mentions that he produced *Manhattan Madness* (1916) for Douglas Fairbanks. Frank Dazey and his father were writers for John Ford's film *The Prince of Avenue A*, which was released in January, 1920. He was the screenwriter for *Polly of the Storm Country*, starring Mildred Harris (Charlie Chaplin's wife), which was released in April 1920. His last film during the Silent Screen Era, for which his father is listed as a co-author, was a 1925 remake of *Manhattan Madness*, which served as the film premier of prize fighter Jack Dempsey. Frank Dazey worked on "talkies" as well, including *Klondike Annie*, which he co-wrote with Mae West in 1936. Paul Robeson, Fredi Washington, Judith Anderson, and Frank Keenan were among the actors who appeared in Dazey's two Broadway plays. He also wrote short stories that were published in the *Saturday Evening Post* and other magazines.



Stony Brook Union Free School



All Souls Episcopal Church, Stony Brook

After they were married, Agnes Christine and Frank Dazey would work together on several films in the 1920s and 1930s and coauthored *Sweet Stranger*, a play produced on Broadway in 1930, which starred Ralph Morgan and Linda Watkins. In an article entitled "Mixing Careers and Marriage" published in the March 22, 1925 issue of the *Los Angeles Times*, Grace Kingsley refers to them as "The Gold Dust Twins of Screen and Stage." Agnes Christine and Frank Dazey visited Stony Brook while they were living in Santa Monica. Their last documented screenplay was for an episode of the television series *Lux Video Theatre* televised in 1954. The Dazeys lived in a village outside of Guadalajara, Mexico from 1956 until 1968, where according to the obituary in the *Three Village Herald*, they helped found a medical clinic.

Stony Brook at the Dawn of the Roaring Twenties... *(continued from page 4)*

The Stony Brook community would benefit from Agnes's literary talents even after she became famous. Agnes wrote and directed plays for the Stony Brook Union Free School's annual Christmas entertainments that were presented in Firemen's Hall. On December 19, 1929, grades 4 and 5 presented her play *The Burglar's Christmas* and her play *Pirate's Christmas* was presented by the grade pupils on December 18, 1930. The Dazeys had three children Ruth Margaret (1921-2005), Mitchell (1922-2005), and Frank, Jr. (1926-2008).

The bride was given in marriage by her mother Isabel M. Johnston (1862-1933), who was a Stony Brook resident for 25 years and a screenwriter as well. In an article by John Pascal published in *Newsday* on May 5 1972, her younger daughter Isabel describes how Isabel M. Johnston came to reside in Stony Brook: "We were living in the city and my mother...got on a train and asked somebody where was a nice place to live. They said Stony Brook. So my mother stayed on the train to Stony Brook and got out and bought a place."



Agnes playing in the snow



Agnes, pictured on the right with friends

England writing movie scripts, which she described to Pascal as a "terrible business" and added, "I wasn't too good at it so it didn't last long." He describes her as "a beloved institution in Stony Brook." Johnston herself said, "I guess I'm something of a town character." According to Pascal, Isabel Johnston was also famous in Stony Brook as the only elderly lady who went everywhere by bike. Pascal wrote, "Her bicycling has made her a special favorite with the neighborhood children."

The article goes on to describe Agnes's sister Isabel (1898-1981) at age 73 and still living in Stony Brook as "a remarkable and lively woman" who wore her white hair short, walked around in sandals and "smoked an alarming succession of Parliaments between cups of ebony sludge she insisted was coffee." She worked for the *New York Evening Journal* in the 1920s and afterwards for a paper in California. She later spent a couple of years in

Dogwood Hollow By Jessica Giannetti



The quiet woods of Stony Brook were once the location of the **Dogwood Hollow Amphitheater**. Located behind All Souls Episcopal Church and the current Market Square Shops, the Amphitheater opened in the summer of 1947, holding concerts, movies and was eventually the home of the Stony Brook Music Festival for fifteen seasons. During that time big performers such as Theodore Bikel, Carlos Montoya and Louis Armstrong could be seen for just a few dollars by anyone who traveled to the quaint location.

Designed by architect Richard Haviland Smythe and supported by The Suffolk Improvement Company, the Amphitheater was built for the community to have a place to relax and be entertained. Dogwood Hollow was nestled in a natural ravine, which allowed for the picture-perfect location of an outdoor venue. The stage was built against the steeper slope which gave a flawless view for the seats which were arranged along the gentler slope and could hold up to five hundred people. The additional slopes of the ravine were landscaped and could hold an extra five hundred people either sitting on the ground or standing. Lighting was installed for the stage, as well as, for the paths leading down into the amphitheater. The picturesque outdoor venue was the perfect place to catch a summertime show.

Sadly, the lights dimmed in Dogwood Hollow for the last time in the summer of 1970. Come the following summer the amphitheater was forced to comply with a cease and desist order brought forth by a disgruntled neighbor. Upon receiving the order it was discovered that the theater did not have the proper zoning variances and in order to obtain them, significant updating would need to be done. After factoring in the length of the summer season and the money involved with updating, it was decided that Dogwood Hollow would not open for the 1971 season. In spite of the attempts to try and reopen the venue, the area has remained abandoned. The ruins of the once great venue can still be found in Stony Brook buried under the nature which has once again taken it over.

All photos : Three Village Historical Society Archives

In Memoriam Bruce McCauley—A tribute by John Yantz

It is with profound sadness that I write of the loss this past year of one of our members and personal friend. Bruce McCauley and I worked together as Co-Chairs of Traffic after the untimely death of Vinnie Mordeno. Vinnie's shoes were difficult to fill and it took both Bruce and I to do it. Together however we did one of the best jobs ever and were both rewarded with the Gayle Becher Memorial Award in 2007. Bruce also worked tirelessly as Building and Grounds Chairman. Bruce will be sorely missed. He was wonderful to work with and had many good ideas. He was reliable and liked by all who knew him. He has been missed, ever since his bad health took him away from volunteering for the Society, and his legacy lives on with his lovely wife Janet who has been a Board Member for a number of years.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

The Three Village Historical Society (TVHS) continues to strive to expand its programs and offerings to the community. We hope that you will be able to take part in one or more of the many exciting events that we are offering this year and experience firsthand the pride we take in supporting our cause.

The mission of the TVHS is to work within the community to explore local history through education. We believe that a sense of history enables diverse components of a community to achieve a shared heritage and enhances the overall quality of life. This mission is as important today as it has ever been. In order to meet our mission we rely on the generous support, both in time and money, of individuals and businesses. Without the assistance of community minded individuals just like you, we would not be able to serve the community each year.

So far in 2016 we have added 27 new members to our ranks. Our total membership numbers approximately 375 individuals. The long term success of the Society is tied directly to our ability to attract new members. It is my personal belief that every person residing in the Three Village Community should want to support our organization and its mission. That support can take the form of a monetary donation to help pay the costs of our programs. Individual membership starts as low as \$35.00 per year. Support can also take the form of donating time as a volunteer.

Please take a few minutes and visit the membership section of our website. Read about all of our fantastic programs. Browse through the pictures from prior events. Check out our events calendar. And please spread the word. ***Give this newsletter to a friend and encourage them to join!*** Thank you all again for your ongoing support.

2016-2017 The Three Village Historical Society-Membership Application

10% Discount on all Gift Shop Purchases,
Subscription to The Historian Newsletter, Free
Entrance to our Exhibits, Nine Monthly
Member Meetings, Discount and Advance
Purchase on Society Special Events
and Programs

Suggested Membership Levels:

Individual:	\$35.00
Dual/Family:	\$50.00
Patron:	\$100.00
Benefactor:	\$250.00
Major Contributor:	\$500.00
Founders:	\$1000.00

**Rates Reflect Annual Dues,
Renewable January of Each Year**
For a complete list of benefits for each
level of membership please visit our
website:
www.tvhs.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Volunteering Interests: _____

Payment:

Check payable to: ***Three Village Historical Society***
or
Credit Card: MasterCard or Visa

Name on Card: _____

Account Number: _____

Exp. Date : _____

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

EVENT PHOTOS—Annual Awards Dinner



L-R: Kara Hahn Suffolk County Legislator, Volunteer Award Winner Karin Lynch and Brookhaven Town Historian Barbara Russell



L-R: Kara Hahn Suffolk County Legislator, Kate Wheeler Strong Award Winner Christopher Matthews, PhD (accepted by Alice D'Amico) and TVHS President John Yantz



L-R: Andy Polan, North Shore Jewish Center and Frank Turano, Board of Trustees



Three Village Historical Society President, John Yantz with The Ward Melville High School Jazz Ensemble

EVENT PHOTOS—Founders Day, April 20th & 21st, 2016



A Story From The Heart By Karen Martin

"It is sometime later in 1949, (I am 7 years old) and the horrific surprise my grandmother experienced when she walked down the aisle of the local store and looked up and saw a package advertising "instant, ready to use corn bread mixture" on the shelf. My grandmother fell to her knees, in the middle of the aisle. With teary eyes she finally saw the proof, of what she was afraid of. They had stolen her idea, her product, and her DREAM!"—Darlene Treadwell



L to R Grace Sells, Dwayne Kerr, Darlene Treadwell

On Sunday, July 3, friends and family gathered at the Society's headquarters to share an afternoon with author Darlene Sells Treadwell. Darlene has recently published *The Bittersweet Taste of the American Dream*, a memoir about her grandparents Charles and Emma (Calvin) Sells of Setauket. Several touching passages from the book were read by family members Dwayne Kerr (Darlene's brother-in-law) and Grace Sells (Darlene's Aunt).

Darlene, the daughter of Kenneth and Edith Sells, was born at Mather Hospital and grew up in Setauket, attending the local schools and graduating from Port Jefferson High School in 1959. Her family lived on Christian Ave. and later lived in Grandpa Charles Sells' house on the corner of North Country Rd. and Thompson Hay Path (now the Checkmate Inn).

Currently residing in Georgia, she wanted "to convey her genuine admiration for her two grandparents, who were entrepreneurs ahead of their time, with this story and a legacy for the family and the world." Grandma Em, the original creator of the Ready-to-Use Corn Bread Mixture,

developed unique recipes, including one that, as Darlene says, "Was literally stolen by a major food/baking company." The book tells of her grandmother's efforts to get her recipes accepted and her undying love for her husband Charles.

Darlene had grown up hearing the stories until one day....

"My dad, Kenneth, came to me and gave me this old, tattered, faded light blue, hatbox. He said, "This belonged to Grandma Em, maybe now that you have retired, you will do something with it". When my son, Kyle and I sat on the floor to explore the contents of Grandma Em's faded blue hatbox, I almost expected to smell the fragrance of my grandma's cookies when I opened that hatbox. But alas, the only scent was a damp, dusty odor, emitting from the old papers, recipes, letters, documents, hidden under layers of dust, representing years of disappointments and memories. Among grandma's carefully stored papers, I found some of the answers to my questions and burning desire to know what really happened."



Ted Gutmann & Treadwell Treadwell

Darlene has retold her grandparent's story using the self-publishing company CreateSpace. With the help of family members and friends this heartfelt, personal story was written, published and can now be shared. In just 82 pages a unique story has been told. The book includes reproductions of photographs, correspondence, and recipes along with photos and excerpts from Grandma Em's journal. We hope Darlene's book and love for her family will inspire others to tell and share their unique family stories which could otherwise be lost to memory and time.

Ms. Treadwell presented copies of her book to the Three Village Historical Society Archives and to Ted Gutmann, Director, Emma S. Clark Memorial Library.

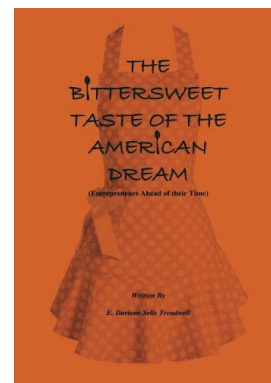
The Society is pleased to be able to offer Ms. Treadwell's book for sale in our gift shop. For those interested in local history, those with a dream like Grandma Em, and many others, this story will touch your heart.

"Hanging around Grandma Em's house, I'd watch her stirring simmering bowls, while smells filled the air and made me eager to devour her tasty samples. When I was growing up, I thought she could have been the Black/American Indian, Julia Childs. No doubt, she was ahead of her time."

Photo on Left : Back row: (left to right) Frank Turano, Lauren Vaughan, Regina Hunt, Dwayne Kerr, David Tapley, Darlene Sells Treadwell. Front row (left to right) Ted Gutmann, Janice Sells Kerr, Jacqueline Sells Tapley, Peggy Sells Vaughan, Grace Sells, Linda Scott.



Grandma Em



History Close At Hand—A Gift of History By Beverly C. Tyler



"A tailor spyin' on the British government! I take their measurements, information and then I smuggle it!" (Hercules Mulligan, HAMILTON Act I)

We laughed, we cried, we cheered, we groaned, and we left the theater emotionally drained but also intellectually invigorated. We had just been a part of a new fast-paced, almost non-stop hip-hop musical that chronicles Alexander Hamilton's life. Hamilton is portrayed by Lin-Manuel Miranda, who also wrote the script, music and lyrics. The historically accurate musical, adapted from the book of the same name by Ron Chernow, takes us from Hamilton's rise from poverty to a position of power during the Revolutionary War close to his commanding General George Washington. It then moves to the forming of a new nation with Hamilton, the other founding fathers, and the people closest to him. The musical also includes his Royal Majesty King George III, portrayed magnificently by Jonathan Groff. "You say the price of my love's not a price that you're willing to pay. . . When you're gone I'll go mad, so don't throw away this thing we had. Cuz when push comes to shove, I will kill your friends and family to remind you of my love."

Only the swift tempo of rap speech could transport us through the myriad of historical events, social situations, and the love-hate relationships that existed between these men and women, some well-known and many deserving to be better known. From the start of the Revolutionary War, to the duel between Aaron Burr and Hamilton that resulted in his death, and his elevation to a revered position in American history, we are transported, along with the cast, feeling more like a congregation than an audience, through the triumphs and tragedies of Hamilton's life. A brief part of the story includes his relationship with Hercules Mulligan, a patriot and Revolutionary War spy who gathered information on British activity in Manhattan and forwarded the intelligence to Hamilton and General Washington through Robert Townsend (alias Samuel Culper Jr.) and the Culper Spy Ring.

My grandson and I saw HAMILTON on Wednesday, April 6, 2016. I have never been to a Broadway show where the audience was more a part of the production. Everyone was constantly on the edge of their seats, hanging on every word and anticipating the next. We felt that the actors were talking directly to each of us. A number of times the actors encouraged the audience to join them in a song, in a phrase, and the audience responded like fans responding to cheerleaders at a sporting event. As we left the theater, everyone around us were talking to each other as if they were old friends at the end of a successful party. It was a special afternoon that I am anxious to repeat.

HAMILTON has deservedly been playing to sold out audiences since it opened last year at the Richard Rogers Theatre in Manhattan. If you are looking for advance sale tickets, consider purchasing them now for next spring or summer. I saw the show on April 6th with tickets I purchased at the theater box office last July.

Now the drama of the Revolutionary War and the Setauket-based Culper Spy Ring continued on AMC cable (channel 43 in this area) beginning Monday, April 25th and ending after ten episodes on Monday June 27th. Lacking the historical accuracy and dramatic impact of HAMILTON, TURN still had us watching the drama of ordinary Long Island men and women, working behind enemy lines, to free us from the domination of the British empire. Watch TURN and then come and learn the real, and equally dramatic, story of the actions and the lives of the people connected with the Culper Spy ring as detailed at the Three Village Historical Society exhibit SPIES! The exhibit and society headquarters is at 93 North Country Road, Setauket. The exhibit, free for Society members, is open every Sunday from 1-4 PM. Walking tours that include the spy story are also conducted every month. Check the web site: www.tvhs.org for dates, times and locations.

Now the important part.

I have spoken to a number of youth who have seen HAMILTON and a larger number who are anxiously waiting for the opportunity to see this phenomenal production. In every case they have listened to and memorized the cast album. They know it word for word. In at least one case, my 16 year-old grandson, he has a knowledge of the life history of Alexander Hamilton that goes way beyond the facts presented in the play. This enthusiasm for our history is breathtaking. We now have a production that inspires, that has youth saying, as one 4th grader said after participating in our April Founders Day program, "I don't like history but I love this."

If you want to do something to help inspire our youth to love history here is the perfect opportunity. Give a gift of future tickets to HAMILTON to a student, to more than one if you can. We in the historical society have an obligation to bring history to our community. Right now there is no better way than to introduce our youth to this wonderful New York City based production. Manhattan, as the home of Alexander Hamilton and the first capital of the United States, is also a significant part of the production, and it is the final resting place for our only urban founding father.

GIVE A GIFT OF HISTORY THAT INSPIRES!



Rhodes Trip : From The Archives of The Three Village Historical Society



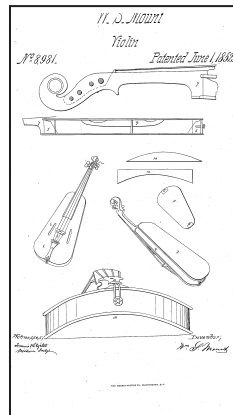
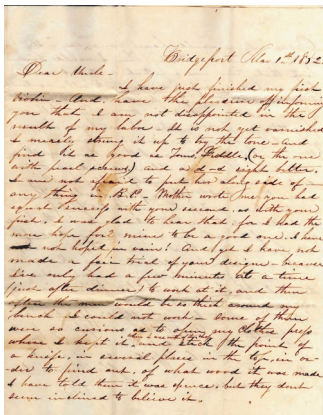
This year's Spirits Tour pays tribute to local artist **William Sidney Mount**. Mount was not only a talented artist but an accomplished musician as well known for his fiddle playing at local concerts and dances. Musicians, performances, and those partaking in the entertainments were the focus of much of his artwork.

From the society's collections is William Sidney Mount's sketch of Ole Bornemann Bull (1810–1880) a popular Norwegian violinist and composer. Bull toured throughout Europe and the United States. He lived for a time in the U.S., purchasing property in Pennsylvania for a planned Norwegian/Americana Utopian community.

Mount's attention to detail - "*The position of Ole Bull- while playing the violin at the Park Theatre_ The wrist of the bow hand bent upwards.*"

"Mount's fiddle performances for country dances convinced him that there was a need for a violin that would project its sound loudly enough for it to be heard over the noise of a number of dancers...He also intended the violin to be made with fewer parts...so that it could be efficiently and cheaply manufactured (perhaps even mass produced)" (*Catching the Tune : Music and William Sidney Mount*, p. 13). To this end W. S. Mount invented a violin with a concave back called the *Cradle of Harmony* patented in 1852.

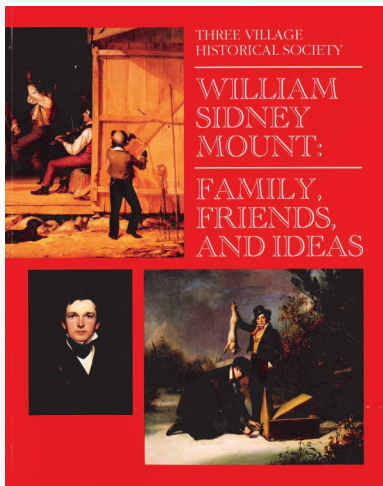
In a letter to uncle William Sidney Mount, dated Bridgeport, March 1st 1852, nephew John H. Mount discusses his success and pleasure having completed his first violin and questions the patenting of Mount's violin design. Note that William Sidney Mount's violin patent is dated June 1, 1852, three months later.



Dear Uncle

I have just finished my first violin. And, have the pleasure of informing you that I am not disappointed in the result of my labor. It is not yet varnished. I merely strung it up to try the tone. And find it as good as Toms, Fiddle, (or the one with pearl screws.) and a d-d sight better. I am not afraid to put her along side of any thing in B.P. Mother wrote me you had equal success with your second, as with your first, I was glad to hear that, for I had the more hope for mine to be a good one. I have not hoped in vain! And yet I have not made a fair trial of your designs, because I've only had a few minutes at a time (just after dinner) to work on it, and then often the men would be so thick around my bench I could not work. Some of them were so curious as to open my clothes press where I kept it when I was out of the shop and stick the point of a knife, in several places in the top, in order to find out, of what wood it was made I have told them it was spruce, but they dont seem inclined to believe it.

Occasionally I would hear someone say, "I'll make me one like that" Then I would kinder hint that there was a patten on it. Several have asked me if I made them to sell, no doubt I could sell them if I tried. And I would if you had a patten on them. You talked of getting a patten when I was home, have you thought of it since? I have, and the more I do, the more I think them worth a patten. If I was able, and had your consent I would do it myself. If for nothing more than to tell (those fellows (who will make them unless they are patented) to stop. I don't want to see that, instrument in the hands of every fellow who can use a chisel, and, scrape cat gut. And there are several such in our shop. It is now late, or I could write more. Remember me to all my friends. And give my best wishes to those who peophicied a total failure in my attempt to make a violin, and tell them I hope they will be agreeably disappointed at my success. Accept this an appology for a letter this time, and believe me ever
Your Truly Affectionate Nephew John H. Mount

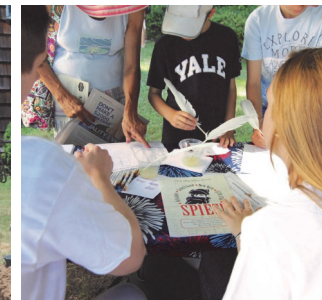


Interested in learning more about **William Sidney Mount** and his music? Buy your ticket for the 22nd Annual Spirits Tour on October 22nd, 2016 and get your copy of *The Three Village Historical Society book, William Sidney Mount: Family, Friends, and Ideas* (On sale for \$3 at the 2016 Spirits Tour)

July 23, 2016

Photography by :
Anthony White, Karen
Curtiss & Mari Irizarry

CULPER SPY DAY *Our Revolutionary Story*



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TVHS Calendar of Events

Tea with a Spot Of History:

Oct. 5th: **Along the Erie & Barge Canals** *w/Bev Tyler*
Nov. 15th: **The Parsons Case** *w/F. Turano & K. Martin*
Dec. 12th: **Underfoot & Overlooked, Gems of Long Island Natural History Hidden in Plain Sight** *w/F. Turano*

Lecture Series

Setauket Neighborhood House, 95 Main Street, Setauket.
Free and open to the public. 7pm

Sept. 19th: Elizabeth Kaplan: **9 First Ladies from NYS**
Oct. 17th: Josh Ruff: **Long Island in the 60's**
Nov. 21st: Jennifer Anderson: **Sugar Barons of LI**

Volunteer Fair:

October 8, 2016, 10am—2pm
Emma Clark Library

22nd Annual Sprints Tour William Sidney Mount
October 22, 2016

Rain date: October 23rd

38th Annual Candlelight House Tour
Dec. 2nd & 3rd, 2016



Chicken Hill:
"A Community Lost to Time"



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

Exhibit Hours: Open Sundays from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Admission: \$5 Children/Students, \$8 Adults. Members FREE

Walking Tours

Down the Ways: The Wooden Ship Era: Sept. 25th

Walk Through History with Abraham Woodhull: Sept. 17th, Oct. 9th, Nov. 11th* (Veterans are free)

Setauket Village Green Tour: Sept. 10th, Oct. 1st, Nov. 5th

Tours start at 2:00 pm. Admission: \$8 **Please check the Society's website for location and starting times for all of the Walking Tours or contact the office at (631)-751-3730.*

Tri Spy Tours— See website for dates/pricing
WWW.TVHS.ORG