



# The Historian

*A Publication of the Three Village Historical Society*



**Volume 55 Issue 1**

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## The Three Village Historical Society

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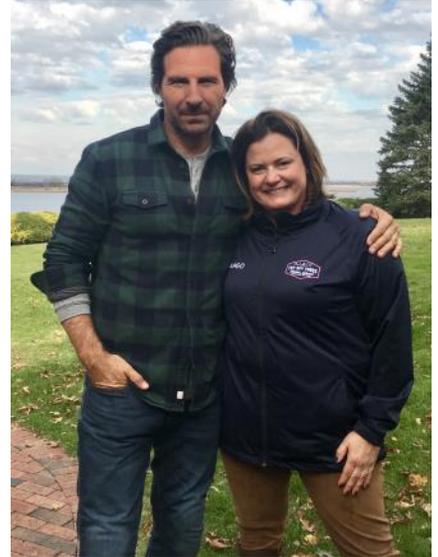
**Mari Irizarry**  
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## Find Tri-Spy Tours on the Travel Channel

After a very successful first time Turkey Trot tour, Tri-Spy Tours was selected for the pilot episode to be featured on a new Travel Channel series starring Ed Quinn tentatively named, "Ed Quinn Deciphers the World". The Culper Spy Ring and mystery lady 355 were part of the episode and Tri-Spy Tours is very excited to be a part of this special new series. Air date late February/early March to be announced.



Travel Channel Host, Ed Quinn and Tri-Spy Tours Founder, Margo Arceri

This winter Tri-Spy will be taking the show on the road with visits to West Point and The Revolutionary War Museum in Philadelphia.

**The 4th Annual Culper Spy Day will be Saturday, September 15th 9-4pm.** We have extended our participant base to include Fairfield Museum & History Center and possibly Fraunces Tavern Museum in NYC! Look for more details to follow in the coming months.

Take a look at the calendar section of this newsletter for upcoming Tri-Spy Tour dates beginning in April.

## Margo Arceri of Tri-Spy Tours—Woman of the Year

*Featured in the Times Beacon Record by Rita Egan*

With the help of those who appreciate history, events of the past have a chance to live on. Margo Arceri is one of those history lovers, and her passion has inspired others to learn more about their local landscape.

Arceri didn't need the AMC series "TURN" to discover how instrumental the members of the Culper Spy Ring were in the Colonies winning the American Revolutionary War. While growing up in Strong's Neck, she learned about the Setauket spies directly from Kate W. Strong herself. The great-great-granddaughter of Anna Smith Strong would tell stories of the patriot who used her clothesline to send messages to her fellow spies, and through those tales, Arceri

developed a deep curiosity for history and the local intelligence group.

Three Village Historical Society historian Beverly Tyler said Arceri's passion is so strong her car features "Culper" license plates.

"She loves the Revolutionary War," Tyler said. "She loves Anna Smith Strong, and the whole idea of the spy ring."

A few years ago, Arceri, a former vice president and past secretary of the Three Village Historical Society, created Tri-Spy Tours, where participants follow the footsteps of the spies by walking, biking and/or kayaking through the area.

Steven Hintze was the president of the society when Arceri came to him with the

idea of the tours. He said he liked the concept and discussed it with the board members.

Hintze said it was while conducting Tri-Spy Tours that Arceri realized there was more to share about local history, so she developed Culper Spy Day, an annual event that sponsors a self-guided tour where attendees visit various structures and museums in the area to learn how the Setauket spies assisted President George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Hintze said the day, which marked its third year in September, has greatly grown in popularity, attracting history lovers from all over the tristate area. According to historical society records, the

*(cont. on page 9)*

## President's Message



Stephen Healy  
President, TVHS

Dear Friends and Members of the Three Village Historical Society,

Welcome to 2018, so many exciting new events and projects are happening here! Last year we hosted some great tours and events and we look forward to expanding those and adding some new ones.

The Farmers Market is a local collaboration, which brings local farm fresh food and crafts to our Society's grounds.

AMC's "Turn" series has ended, however we have had the production company donate over two dozen items to the Three Village Historical Society. Additionally, we're proud to have the actual farmer's outfit worn by Abraham Woodhull (played by Jamie Bell) on display at the History Center. Stay tuned for an auction of several of these priceless items taking place on June 14th!

The Three Village Historical Society served as Associate Producer on "One Life To Give", a feature prequel to AMC's "TURN" this summer. We look forward to the theatrical release later this summer, especially since you can spot many TVHS staff and board members playing parts in the production. We love the opportunity to talk about Benjamin Tallmadge, Abraham Woodhull and George Washington, and Setauket's impact on the Revolutionary War.

Culper Spy Day was a major success in 2017 thanks to the efforts of Margo Arceri, our staff, board, and many other fine organizations throughout Long Island. We look forward to growing this event outward from its base in Setauket.

Our annual antiques & yard sale is one of the summer's hottest events, which relies on donations from our community. Every year we grow this event to include BBQs, local vendors, food trucks and plant sales. It's a great event in which we meet our local neighbors and explain what TVHS does.

Our Lecture Series has a full slate this year, with some great speakers. We kicked it off in January with a recap of our Candlelight House Tour and talk about the year ahead.

Founder's Day is always an exciting event. This annual event is chaired by Bev Tyler and Donna Smith from our education department working in conjunction with the Three Village Central School District and other districts across Long Island to promote our local history and education.

The Spirits Tour is a great fall event in which we focus on local people who created an impact in Three Village, taking place on the Village Green using both historical churches and their cemeteries.

Finally, 2018 marks our 40th anniversary of the Candlelight House Tour! This is by far our largest event and we look forward to seeing what's in store for this marquee event. Patty Cain & Patty Yantz, the co-chairs for the event have already begun working on this year's event. Call the office if you're interested in becoming a sponsor of this great event. This will sell out, so buy your tickets early.

The Three Village Historical Society is an education based non-profit that serves its community. We are blessed to live in an area that is rich in history. We count on the support of our members and volunteers. Look at our website for upcoming events and if you're not a member—we hope you consider joining our organization.

### 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](mailto:OfficeManager@tvhs.org)

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

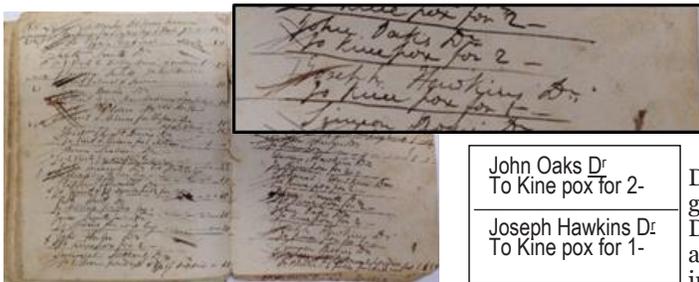
Editors:

Sandy White,  
Mari Irizarry & Karen Martin

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Historical Society

## Digitizing Long Island History By Karen Martin

The Three Village Historical Society is participating in a program designed to help historical societies preserve local historical documents. The Palmer School of Library & Information Science at LI University has received a grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation for the digitization of selected materials from historical societies on Long Island. The initial 2016 two year \$500,000 grant was recently increased by \$1 million and expands the Digitizing Long Island History project to 80 historical societies over four years.



Approximately 1 cu ft. of documents were selected from the TVHS archives and brought to the Palmer School Lab for scanning in Dec. 2017. Taking advantage of the state of the art equipment at the Palmer School Lab, the availability of an overhead scanner (resembling a photographic copy stand) would allow our more fragile journals and account books to be scanned without damage to their bindings and with minimal handling. Scanning of these items from our archives will not only help to preserve the originals, but also give researchers access to these fragile materials in digital form.

Among the items selected were the account books of two local physicians Dr. George Muirson (dating from 1749-1758) & Dr. Joel Griffing (dating from 1815-1817). These books document the patient's name, illness, treatment and fees. These records are a wealth of untapped information relating to the early medical history of the area,

including the treatment of small pox, family history research, documentation of people of color, etc. Dr. Muirson (b.1705-d.1786) married the daughter of Col William and Martha Smith of the Manor of St. George. Because of his active support of the British and "the aid and comfort" given to it during the Revolution, Dr. Muirson's property was confiscated and he went to CT. His lands in Old Field consisted of about 150 acres including his dwelling and a hospital. Drs. Muirson & Griffing were administering small pox (later kine pox)

inoculations which would give the patient a light case and protect them from disease. The town records of 7 December 1761 grant permission to Dr. Muirson to administer inoculations to Mr. Nelson and Mrs. Muirson. It also states that "Mr. Muirson, Do likewise agree not to inoculate for ye future in ye Town without consent of Trustees..."

Several early account books from the 1760s-1850 were also selected for scanning. The account books of Thomas Shepard Strong (b.1765-d.1840), son of Selah and Anna (Nancy) Strong, dating from 1795-1850 include financial information as it relates to his various business interests including shipping, the farm, household accounts, and contains names of individuals, etc. The Joseph Denton account book contains the accounts of local residents for saddlery, leather work, etc. for the period 1762-1802.

Several items profiled in the society's exhibit and book *The Sailing Circle* including Mary Satterly Rowland's journals (Oct. 1855-Feb. 1857 & Jan. 1867-July 1867) and the 1875 diary of Ellen Elizabeth Evans Jones (wife of Captain Benjamin Jones, kept while sailing from New York to Peru) were also

selected. They tell of their experiences sailing with their ship captain husbands. Also included is the log of the Bark *Mary and Louisa* (27 Sept. 1862-8 Oct. 1863).

Kathryn M. Curran, Executive Director of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation states the "Foundation's mission is to promote our regional history. The artifacts and archives of historical societies are untapped treasure troves for researchers and scholars. It is our hope that this award will make these collections available as vital part of local historic study. The Palmer School is our region's leading institution to offer the expertise and resources to accomplish this goal."

"The Gardiner Foundation's grant will allow us to preserve Long Island's history and ensure that the next generation of archival professionals has the skills to preserve history in the digital age," said Dr. Gregory Hunter, Professor of Library and Information Science and head of the doctoral program at the Palmer School. The grant provides fellowships for master's and doctoral students. "Gardiner Fellows" will spend 120 hours digitizing historical images according to the highest industry standards and benefit through professional training and experience and receive a fellowship for 6 credits of tuition. Portable digitization units allow students to scan materials on-site at the historical societies while fragile, oversized, and bound items are brought to the Palmer School's Lab for scanning on a large DT Atom tabletop digitization platform.

<http://www.liu.edu/palmer>  
<http://palmerblog.liu.edu>  
<https://www.newsday.com/long-island/history/history-scholarships-gardiner-foundation-1.15670524>  
 Shaw, Osborn, "Brookhaven Town's Tory Doctor", Long Island Forum, July 1948 p. 133-134.

## TVHS Board Updates—New Trustee

### WELCOME DOROTHY MILLER

Dorothy was born and raised on Long Island, attended the Comsewogue School District and went on to get her Bachelors and Masters Degree in Education from Stony Brook University. Dorothy taught for 35 years in the Longwood School District and taught Math even though her true interest was history. In 2009 she wrote a pictorial history book called

"New York City in the Great Depression, Sheltering the Homeless". She began researching New York City's Great Depression after the discovery of her grandfather's archive of photographs documenting the Municipal Lodging House, where he was the Superintendent. She retired 5 years ago and she looks forward to working with the Three Village Historical Society team.



Peach Cobbler Recipe from Alyne Darling of Stony Brook By Barbara Russell



Photo Credit Newsday article of May 27, 1957

Alyne Snover Darling was a schoolteacher and principal in the Stony Brook Union Free School, retiring in 1957 after 35 years. She married Ralph Wheeler Darling in 1923, and they lived on Erland Road. The following is her recipe for Peach Cobbler.

1 c. flour	Drop peaches into boiling water, then peel, core, and slice. Arrange in a buttered baking dish, dot with 1 tbs. butter, and sprinkle with cinnamon.
1 tsp baking powder	
1/8 tsp salt	In a bowl, stir together dry ingredients. Cut in the butter. Set aside.
1/2 c. sugar	
1/4 c. + 1 tbs. butter	In a 2 <sup>nd</sup> bowl, beat egg until thick and ivory colored. Stir in milk and vanilla. Then add it to the flour mixture; stir only until smooth. Spread batter over the peaches. Bake at 375, about 35-40 minutes. Serve hot with whipped cream or ice cream.
1 large egg	
3 tbs. milk	Serves 6
1/2 tsp vanilla	
3 c. sliced fresh peaches	



On the steps of the Stony Brook Union School ca.1922



Alyne Snover Darling

# Please Join Us For Our 41st Annual Awards Dinner



Wednesday, March 21, 2018 6-9 pm  
The Three Village Inn, Stony Brook

Music! Dinner! Raffles!  
Awards Ceremony  
Cash Bar

Visit [www.tvhs.org](http://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

### 39th Annual Candlelight House Tour Recap By Patty Yantz & Patty Cain

On December 1st & 2nd, 2017 the Three Village Historical Society held it's 39th Candlelight House Tour. This year's theme was "Visions of East Setauket: Then & Now" which featured some homes located in and around the Dyer's Neck Historic District and Poquott. As in past years, the Tour was a huge success, with a record number in attendance at the Friday evening reception at the Saint James Parish Center. The homes were beautifully decorated in holiday décor by extremely talented and dedicated decorators. The Candlelight House Tour has grown over the decades from humble beginnings with a handful of volunteers to an army of volunteers paired with many months of preparation. Without the house chairs, docents, traffic people, sponsors and restaurants this event would not be possible. There are so many people who we would like to thank for all the kindness, especially our wonderful homeowners who graciously shared their beautiful homes with our community. They are: Bob & Martha Stansbury, Cameron & Nicholas Bilotti, Dave & Betsy Cannon, Susan Malkin, The Rosenfeld family & St. James R.C. Church. A heartfelt thank you also goes to Express Catering for the Friday evening reception and Blue Salon for sponsoring the Saturday breakfast at the Old Field Club. The weather was picture perfect both Friday night, with a full moon, and a sunny, warm Saturday to help make this a wonderful community event.



Steve Healy with Homeowners & St. James RC Church Clergy



David Prestia & Steve Healy

On a final note, a big thank you to our fabulous staff, Sandy White, Susie Roberts, Mari Irizarry & Karen Martin! Their dedication, work ethic, and can do spirit was the glue that made this year's tour the success that it was! Looking forward to our 40th Candlelight House Tour in 2018!



Debbie & Fred Bryant



The Stansbury Home



The Rosenfeld Home



Patty Yantz, Patty Cain, Dave & Betsy Cannon



The Malkin Home



The Bilotti Home



Festive Sweatered Guests



The Cannon Home

Photos taken by Bev Tyler & Karen Curtiss

### MEMBERSHIP CORNER

At the end of 2017, our membership reached 455 members. We are very excited to help spread the word of the wonderful offerings the Society has to experience and increase that number significantly in 2018.

Moving forward, a few changes will take effect this year. First, our **Individual membership price will increase** \$5 from \$35 to **\$40 annually**. This increase will help offset the many operating costs associated with bringing our educational programs to the public. All other membership levels will remain the same. Please refer to the website for details on each level and the offerings they provide. The most significant change will be that memberships will become annual (365 days), no matter when you join. All memberships are eligible for advanced and discounted ticket offerings to all events for the duration of your membership.

*Note: Purchase of Candlelight House Tour tickets at member rate only valid for the year you joined.*

If you have any questions or would like to lend a hand, please let us know!

Holly Griesel and Janette Handley  
Membership Co-Chairs

**Visit our website: [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org) to make a secure online payment for your membership!**

### 2018 Three Village Historical Society-Membership Application

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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteering Interests:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### 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
- Founders: \$1000.00

- Exhibit Docent
- Gift Shop
- Spirits Tour
- Yard Sale
- Candlelight House Tour
- Culper Spy Day
- Administrative
- Education Assistant
- Social Media

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

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

CVV Code : \_\_\_\_\_

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

**OR**  
**save a stamp and do it online at [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org)**

For a complete list of benefits for each level of membership please visit our website:

**[www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org)**

I would like to make a Gift Membership to :

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## The Historic 2001 NY YANKEES POSTSEASON in a 3 part series by Bob Lauto



Looking forward to warmer weather and the potentials of spring-training baseball, I reflect back to a historic baseball postseason of 2001. The 2001 baseball postseason was uniquely dramatic and historic because this was the year of the attack on America. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, the World Trade Center had collapsed in the attack on the United States, and baseball, after a 2 week layoff, had only resumed shortly before the postseason started. New York City was again playing host for the postseason, this time crippled from the recent attack.

By 2001 I was a Yankees season ticket holder for a few years and this postseason felt different than the rest. Due to the nature of the country and of the city, people were in shock. Attending large venues was worrisome as they were thought to be targets for terrorists. Should we enjoy ourselves? Was that acceptable, with the city still at work in the rubble in downtown Manhattan? President Bush had told America to go out and continue life as usual. Anything otherwise was letting the terrorist win. With no one interested in the postseason tickets I had to offer, I attended all the first round games myself. If the baseball players would play, I would go. It was our duty as Americans, as American baseball fans, to stand together in the face of terrorism. It was our small part to play, and we had no idea of the history we were about to witness.

Even though the Yankees won the last three World Series, the recent attack made this one unlike any other. The old stadium in the Bronx still stood, but now it was a target for those who wanted to damage our way of life. The New

York Yankees having won the American League Eastern Division with a record of 95 wins and 65 losses finished thirteen and a half games above the second place Boston Red Sox. They were to play in the Division Series, against the Oakland Athletics, the Wild Card winners.

At home in a somber and quiet stadium, the Yankees lost the first two games of the five game series by scores of 5 to 3 and 2 to 0. Chances looked dismal for the New York team heading to Oakland, they needed to do something that never had been done before and win three straight starting on the road. They started off with a 1 to 0 lead in game three behind pitcher, Mike Mussina. With an Oakland runner on first and a shot into the right field corner, the lead was miraculously maintained by none other than Derek Jeter. The relay to home plate had been overthrown, cut off by Derek, and flipped to catcher, Jorge Posada for the out at home plate. Derek had ranged way out of position near the first base line to retrieve the throw. This kept the 1 run lead intact and the Yankees went on to win game three, 1-0 and then game four by a score of 9 to 2. This became known as the famous *Derek Jeter 'Flip play'*!

With the decisive game five back in New York City, the damaged World Trade Center Flag flying over Yankee Stadium, the Yankees had one more game to win to move on. The pregame was filled with more excitement than most with the stadium buzzing about Jeter's play out in Oakland. After a rousing National Anthem, the Yankees had Phil Rizzuto and Yogi Berra throw out the first pitch of game five. With both of them on the mound to throw out the first pitches, Yogi Berra threw his first pitch to Joe Girardi and the two Yankee greats walked off the mound toward the Yankee dugout. But Phil Rizzuto didn't throw his ball to Jorge Posada who was still waiting at home. Sure enough, Phil Rizzuto, jogging at about the first base foul line turned over his shoulder, looked at home and flipped the ball to Jorge Posada in homage to Derek Jeter. The stadium immediately erupted with cheering. The excitement was so palpable there was no way the Yankees would lose. And they didn't, winning 5 to 3, securing the next playoff round now against the 116 win Seattle Mariners!

2001 American Championship Series to follow...

## Dominick-Crawford Barn Update



The Crawford Barn is in the planning department now, we are finalizing the site plan and septic. The Barn will then go to the building department and health department. We are planning for groundbreaking by summer 2018.

The Barn project will bring the TVHS much needed storage and exhibition space. The repurposing of the barn from Old Field will be an exciting project to see unfold. The barn was originally built between 1840-1860. Stay tuned for upcoming fundraisers.

## A REVIEW – Spirits of the Three Village Cemetery Tour by Bev Tyler

Transport yourself to Setauket in the Roaring 20s and take a walk with the Spirits of the Prohibition: Flappers, Farmers & Bootleggers, Oh My!



Michael O'Dwyer, Steve Healy, Michael Tessler & Max Golub

The 23rd annual Spirits Tour was more than just a opportunity to meet Three Village residents from the 1920s; it was a total immersion into the time of speakeasies, stills and moonshine. In 1917, Congress passed the 18th Amendment with all but two states adopting it by January 1920 when enforcement began under the Volsted Act. The 20s was also the decade of women's suffrage. The 19th Amendment to the Constitution was enacted in August 1920 and gave women the right to vote. The 1920s also saw the first radio broadcast of a baseball game, the Charleston became a dance craze, and Gertrude Ederle became the first woman to swim the English Channel.

In September the Society presented a Prohibition Night at the Jazz Loft in Stony Brook featuring Tom Manuel and his Firehouse Five. This was a night to bring the 1920s to life as a preview for the upcoming Spirits Tour and Prohibition Exhibit.

"Spirits of the Prohibition: Setauket in the Roaring 20's" provided the overall theme for the Three Village Historical Society's 23rd Annual Spirits Tour in the graveyards of the Setauket Presbyterian Church and Caroline Episcopal Church this past October.

Locally in the Three Village area, in the 1920s, life went on somewhat as usual. The spirits of William Washington Bryant, Kate Wheeler

Strong, George Thomas Vingut, Etta Sherry, Robert Cushman Murphy, Sarah Ann Sells, Harry Golden, Eversley Childs, Ellsworth Buckingham, Celia Swezey Hawkins, John Ward Melville, Eugenio Goncalves DeTeixeira and Anne Rensselear Tinker made their appearances and delighted tour-goers with their stories. These were not the stories of gangsters flaunting the law and filling a need nor of young women flaunting convention, conduct and dress; these were ordinary people going about their daily lives while all around them the world as they knew it was transforming.

"My family was traditionally Episcopalian but my father, Melville Havens Bryant had become a rabid prohibitionist and the Methodist Church embraced temperance so we changed affiliation. Father was so committed to the cause that he would cross the street rather than walk in front of a saloon." (George Overin as William Washington Bryant, 1859-1937)

More than 300 tour-goers followed guides that took them on a walk to meet fourteen colorful, but deceased local residents who entertained them with stories of their lives and the people in the Three Village community. Guided tours began at five P.M. and a new group of tour-goers stepped out from the Setauket Presbyterian Church social hall every fifteen minutes through 7:45.

In addition to the tours through the cemeteries, tour-goers were treated to an exhibit on prohibition with many artifacts and visuals from the Long Island Museum prohibition exhibit "Midnight Rum" on view in the Setauket Presbyterian Church social hall. The exhibit featured Trommer's Brewery pre-prohibition beer keg which in 1933 Trommer pressed into service to help satisfy its large number of beer orders.

Tour-goers were also treated to an evening of jazz in the hall by the Ward Melville Honors Jazztet with Andrew Cavese, Max Lieberman, Miles Bruno and Jared Gozinsky providing the delightful jazz on bass, sax, guitar and drums.

"It was a court room, meeting hall, lecture hall but most notably what it was used for was square dancing and late at night if the spirit got my papa you would see some fancy footwork at the Stone Jug." (Holly Griesel as Etta Sherry, 1855-1956 talking about the Old Stone Jug in Stony Brook - now the Jazz Loft).

Stony Brook was also celebrated with stories about Robert Cushman Murphy. He and his wife Grace Barstow Murphy are actually buried in Rhode Island, but Murphy was here as a visiting spirit along with life-long Stony Brook resident Etta Sherry, who is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Stony Brook.

"Suffolk County, right here where you are, was the very first county in the entire world to have DDT banned in 1956 and Grace and I spearheaded that effort with some other people." (Art Billadello as Robert Cushman Murphy, 1887-1973)

Setauket's Kate Wheeler Strong, historian, teacher and story teller who is buried in the Smith-Strong Cemetery on Strong's Neck wrote articles on Long Island local history for the Long Island Forum from 1938 until 1976. She also put her articles into a series of booklets she called "True Tales."



Donna Smith as Kate Wheeler Strong

"My love of history came from my father who knew every story about the family and the local people living here. He's the one who inspired me to write about "True Tales."" (Donna Smith as Kate Wheeler Strong, 1879-1977)

Cont. on pg.11

## Margo Arceri of Tri Spy Tours—Woman of the Year *(cont. from cover)*

event attracted twice as many people in 2017 than it did the year prior.

Hintze said he isn't surprised how popular it has become through Arceri.

"She's one of those people who has a great personality, she's friends with everybody," Hintze said. "She knows a lot of people, and she knows how to put them together."

Tyler agrees that Arceri has done a wonderful job, especially in getting various organizations involved in Culper Spy Day. Arceri reached out to local groups such as The Long Island Museum, The Ward Melville Heritage Organization and Drowned Meadow Cottage in Port Jefferson, which once was owned by the Roe family, members of the ring. The happening has also grown to include organizations outside of the Three Village area, such as Raynham Hall Museum in Oyster Bay and Ketcham Inn in Center Moriches. Tyler said Arceri is working with a historical society in Fairfield, Connecticut, to take part next year.

"I think it's very important to the area," the historian said. "It's starting to bring in people."

Steve Healy, the Three Village Historical Society's current president, said when it comes to questions he may have about local history, in addition to Tyler and Town of Brookhaven historian Barbara Russell, he considers Arceri one of his go-to

people.

"It's difficult in today's environment to dedicate time to history, and she seems to have found a good mix with history and with [her] work," he said.

Arceri has a knack for getting people to think about history, Healy added, saying it's apparent during both the Tri-Spy Tours and Culper Spy Day. He said the history buff connects with people by allowing them to ask questions and have a dialogue. She's known for asking participants: "What do you think happened? What do you think are the elements that drove this situation?" because she doesn't see historical events in black and white.

"Margo likes to engage people, and that's one of her strong points, too," Healy said. "She has many, but one of them is to engage people in a situation where they can have an honest, educated discussion."

Healy believes the future looks bright for Arceri and her Culper spy ventures.

"I think she's found a great niche where she can introduce local history to people and grow that further, because she's always looking to grow," Healy said. "That's one of the things that I really like about her. She'll have a conversation with me and say: 'Steve, I want to expand. I want to get more people involved in this. I want to teach more people to let them know what happened here.'"

## CONGRATULATIONS!

The Bethel Christian Avenue Historic District and Old Bethel Cemetery have been listed on the New York State and National Register of Historic Places.

Congratulations to all those who worked tirelessly to get the Bethel Christian Avenue Community the recognition it deserves!

Catherine Tinker, who shared the story of Annie Rensselaer Tinker at the May 2017 Tea with a Spot of History and inspired Annie's spirit to visit Setauket during the annual Spirits Tour has published a very interesting paper *Annie Rensselaer Tinker (1884-1924) of East Setauket and NYC: Philanthropist, Suffragist, WW1 Volunteer in Europe* in the latest issue of Long Island History Journal.

[www.lihj.cc.stonybrook.edu](http://www.lihj.cc.stonybrook.edu)

Board member, Orlando T. Maione of Stony Brook has received the James William Kideney Gold Medal Award from the American Institute of Architects' New York State Chapter in recognition of his "lifetime of notable contributions to the profession, the professional society and the community."

Those who attended the November lecture on the Alice Parsons case met Steven C. Drielak, a detective with the Suffolk DA's office when the Parsons case was in the news in the 1990s. His latest book *Murder Season in the Hamptons* has been released through Amazon. The sinking of the RMS Republic and its mysterious cargo sets the stage for this murder mystery with the Canoe Place Inn at the core of the story along with Stony Brook and the disappearance of Alice Parsons. Steven will be our speaker at the November members meeting.

## Annual Antiques & Yard Sale FUNDRAISER

**ANNUAL ANTIQUES +YARD SALE:  
SATURDAY, JUNE 9TH | 9AM—3PM**  
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! Contact us for any large items you wish to donate.

Visit [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org), email [info@tvhs.org](mailto:info@tvhs.org) or call 631-751-3730

**WANT TO  
BECOME  
A VENDOR?**

Looking for artisans, food vendors and others.

\$40 fee (non-members),

\$35 fee (members). 10'x10' spaces available.

Visit [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org) for more info.

## BRUSH, A most extraordinary American Family By John Yantz

While growing up in Greenlawn, Long Island, two close friends of mine were the brothers, Brian and David Brush. Once, while in high school, Brian made a casual comment that his family goes back a long time here on Long Island.

Having been interested in genealogy since about 1990 and having done many family trees for myself and others I recently decided to look into the family of my old friends from Greenlawn.

It wasn't long before I found out that Huntington was founded in the mid-1600's by brothers, Thomas and Richard Brush, from England and that my friends were direct descendants of Richard Brush. I also found that my friends were related to historical figures like Walt Whitman; were direct descendants of Edmund Doty, a passenger on the Mayflower and are also related by marriage to Richard "Bull" Smith, the founder of Smithtown, Lion Gardiner of Gardiner's Island and William P. Van Ness, who was Aaron Burr's second at his famous duel with Alexander Hamilton.

It was about then that I discovered that Stuart C. Brush had authored a book on the Brush Family of Huntington with the collaboration of Russell B. Brush, the uncle of my friends. The book is done in genealogical fashion listing all the descendants in each of thirteen generations since Thomas and Richard. The entire book is over 900 pages and accessible online. There are more than 13,400 people mentioned with over 5,800 having the surname of Brush. Each person mentioned has all the available vital statistics followed by the names of their children and most times a short synopsis of his or her life.

After reading the entire book and transcribing all the information onto the Family Tree Maker program, I came to realize that the Brush family was no ordinary American family.

Starting from Huntington some moved to other parts of Long Island including Stony Brook and Setauket, while some remained in Huntington. Over the years they migrated to New York City, all over upstate New York, New England, Canada, all points west and south and even outside the United States.

While very few were unsuccessful in life and died in poverty, most had occupations like farming, teaching, merchants, railroad workers, etc. that helped to build this great land over the 350+ years since the founding of Huntington.

Many also became outstanding and even somewhat famous in their endeavors such as politics, religion, industry, higher education, military, banking, medicine, newspapers and even sports. Many of these successful Brushes attended the best schools, such as Greenwich, Phillips and Andover Academies. They attended all the major colleges and universities including the Ivy League schools as well as the finest engineering schools like RPI and MIT and all the best schools in all the states that they

moved into.

Some who fall into this category of success are people like:

- Alexander Brush-three time mayor of Buffalo, New York.
- Graham Manvel Brush- founder of Sea Train Lines and a pioneer, inventor and expert in the field of freight transportation.
- Edwin Charles Brush- Baptist minister and missionary in India for thirty years.
- Louis Herbert Brush- who with a partner bought the Marion Star newspaper from President Harding and developed a chain of newspapers and radio stations across the Midwest.
- Jared M. Brush- Mayor of Pittsburgh from 1869 to 1872.
- John Tomlinson Brush- after owning several minor league baseball teams he bought the New York Giants and won the first world series. The Polo Grounds was originally called Brush Stadium.
- Dr. Charles Henry Brush- pioneer in psychiatric rehabilitation and clinical director of Kings Park Hospital for twenty-seven years.
- Alanson Partridge Brush- founder of Oakland Motor Car Co. in Pontiac, Michigan which was later to become the Pontiac Division of General Motors.
- Elizabeth Hinckley Brush- direct descendant of William Bradford, first governor of Massachusetts.
- Katherine Brush- writer for Cosmopolitan, Good Housekeeping, Colliers and Saturday Evening Post. Some of her stories were made into movies.
- Charles Edward Brush- worked at NASA and was involved in the training of Astronaut Edwin Aldrin who was second to walk on the moon.
- David Linsley Brush- collaborated with Richard Rogers on Variety Show.
- Colonel Henry Brush- elected to Congress in the early 1800's.
- Elijah Dewey- who took part in the Battles of Ticonderoga and Bennington in the American Revolution and was the husband of Eunice Brush.
- Elijah Brush- early Mayor of Detroit served under William Henry Harrison in War of 1812. Friend of Commodore Perry.
- And lastly, George Washington Brush of Huntington who was an officer in the Civil War and commanded a unit of "colored troops". He was with them at the siege of Fort Wagner which was the subject of the movie "Glory". He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for rescuing 400 of his men stranded on a steamboat and under fire from Confederate artillery.

If you would like to learn more about this most interesting family simply google "The Descendants of Thomas and Richard Brush of Huntington, Long Island: a source book" and read all about the individuals mentioned above and many, many more.

A REVIEW – Spirits of the Three Village Cemetery Tour by Bev Tyler (cont. from pg. 8)



Karin Lynch

Tour-goers, especially those who took the early tours before dark, were treated to a view of the restored Caroline Church Carriage Shed adjacent to the church parking lot. Built in 1887, it is a unique example of a seven-bay carriage shed that was an important feature in the community during the era of the horse and buggy.

This year's Spirits Tour was also special for the beautiful weather and starry skies that made for a pleasant, fun and informative event for everyone who participated.

Congratulations are in order to Brian Cea event chair, Frank Turano script writer, Janet McCauley operations; Robert Lauto, George Fear, Andrew Galambos and Boy Scout Troop #377 safety; Ann Robitsek tour coordinator; Scott Cain, Pam Crum, Tara Ebrahimian, Barbara Gottfried, Anne Healy, Richard Melidosian, Jasmine Okeefe, Greg

Philipps, Jackie Pickle, Bev Tyler and Cassie Voulo guides and runners; Mort Rosen, Steve Healy, Donna Smith, Robert Ogden, Stephanie Carston, Art Billadello, Michael Tessler, Max Golub, George Overin, Karin Lynch, Bonnie Duvall and Holly Griesel actors; Nan Guzzetta costumes and props; Patty Cain luminaries; Barbara Lynch and Barbara Tyler registration and tickets; Bonnie and Rebecca Fear volunteer refreshments; Anthony White photography; and music by Ward Melville Honors Jazztet.

The total of more than 50 volunteers, not all mentioned here, is a tribute to the enthusiasm of Society members and friends. We also thank the Caroline Episcopal Church and Setauket Presbyterian Church for hosting, Printing Plus



Art Billadello, Mort Rosen, Holly Griesel, Robert Ogden, Bonnie Duvall, Donna Smith & George Overin

Graphic Design, Inc. for donating the program printing, Stony Brook Beverage for donating the birch beer, and The Long Island Museum for loaning exhibit items from their prohibition exhibit "Midnight Rum."

All Spirits Tour photos taken by Anthony White

I-Spy "TURN" Auction and Tours

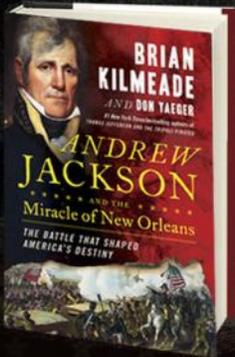
**JOIN US!** Saturday, May 19th  
12-5pm

- AUCTION of items from the AMC Series "TURN"
- Abraham Woodhull Walking Tour
  - Tri-Spy Bike Tour
  - Culper Spy Ring Exhibits
- Spy themed demonstrations

More Information at [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org)



**Three Village Historical Society**  
Monthly Lecture Series Presents



ANDREW JACKSON

AND THE  
MIRACLE OF NEW ORLEANS

THE BATTLE THAT SHAPED AMERICA'S DESTINY

ANDREW JACKSON

AND THE  
MIRACLE OF NEW ORLEANS

THE BATTLE THAT SHAPED AMERICA'S DESTINY

**BOOK SIGNING and Q&A**  
at The Setauket Neighborhood House

Fox & Friends Host

BRIAN KILMEADE

Pre-registration required at [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org)

ENTRY FEE + ANDREW JACKSON BOOK (to be signed)  
\$30 TVHS Members | \$40 Non-Members

ENTRY TO LECTURE ONLY (no book included)  
FREE for TVHS Members | \$10 Non-Members



Space is Limited!

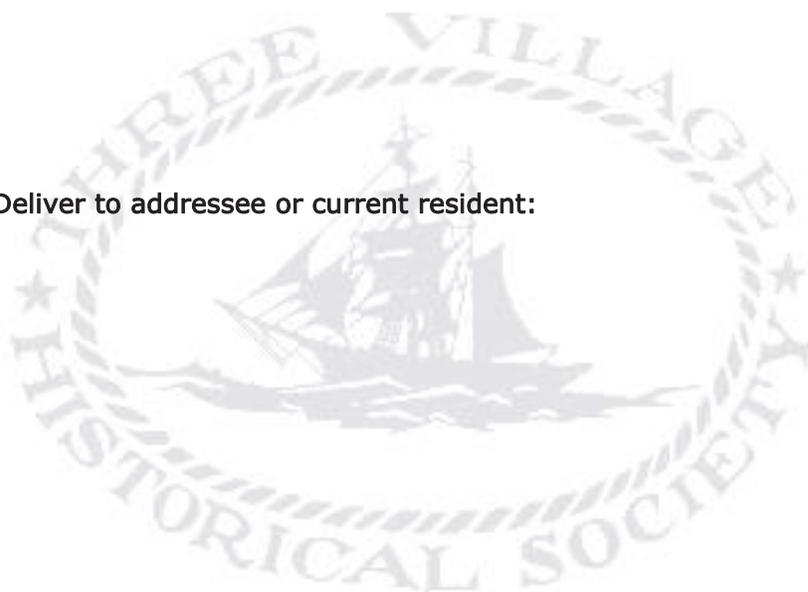
Monday, February 26th

Space is limited! Register at [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org) 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Three Village Historical Society  
PO Box 76  
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Be sure to see page 6 for NEW Membership Information! Renew Today!

Clip and save. ....

## TVHS Calendar of Events

### March 21, 2018: Annual Awards Dinner

Three Village Inn, 150 Main St., Stony Brook, 6-9 pm

### Tea with a Spot Of History:

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

Feb. 28th : **Battle of Setauket, Patriots, Loyalists & Culper Spy Ring**  
w/ Bev Tyler

Mar. 28th : **History of Tableware** w/ Frank Turano

April 18th : **TBD** w/ Frank Turano

May 16th : **Born in Brookhaven** w/ Barbara Russell

June 13th : **The Wooden Ship Era & Life around Setauket Harbor**  
w/ Bev Tyler

### Lecture Series:

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

**Feb. 26th: Author, Brian Kilmeade, Book Signing: Andrew Jackson**  
(Pre-Registration at [tvhs.org](http://tvhs.org) Required!)

**April 16th:** (begins at 6pm): **Annual Pot Luck Supper**, Larry Swanson  
& Malcolm Bowman, **Stony Brook Harbor Dredging Effects**

**May 21st:** Tara Rider: **Thar She Blows, Whaling In New York**

**June 18th:** Mike Russell: **Vietnam, 49 Years Later**

**July 16th:** Kristen Nyitray: **George Washington Letters**

**Sept. 17th:** Michael Solvarezza: **Exploring Shipwrecks**

**Oct. 15th:** Kristen Nyitray: **Life & Legacy of Eversley Childs**

**Nov. 19th:** Steve Driellak: **Murder Season in the Hamptons**

**I-Spy, "TURN" Auction + Tours: May 19th**

**Annual Antiques & Yard Sale: June 9th**

**Prohibition Night: June 14th**

**Culper Spy Day: September 15th**

**Spirits Tour: October 20th**

**Candlelight House Tour: November 30th + December 1st**

## TVHS WALKING TOURS \*

**Down the Ways: The Wooden Ship Era:** April 28th, June 9th, Sept. 23rd

**Walk Through History with Abraham Woodhull:** May 19th, June 16th, July 14th,  
July 22nd, Aug. 18th, Oct. 6th, Nov. 11th (Veterans Free)

**Explore & Discover Setauket's Revolutionary History Tour:** TBD

Admission: \$10 \*Please check the Society's website at [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org) or  
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](http://www.tvhs.org)  
\$25 per person for each tour

**Tri Spy Walking Tour:** April 21st @1pm, May 20th @10am, June 10th @10am,  
July 21st @9am, Aug. 11th @9am, Oct. 20th @1pm, Nov. 23rd @1pm

**Tri Spy Biking Tour:** May 19th @10am, June 9th @10am, July 14th @9am,  
Aug. 4th @9am, Sept. 15th @11am, Oct. 13th @10am



**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.**

