



The Historian

A Publication of the Three Village Historical Society



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Volume 45 Issue 4

Autumn 2008

Celebrate 30 Years Around the Neighborhood

This year's Candlelight House Tour is a celebration of the past thirty years of touring some of our community's most historical, beautiful and interesting homes. This house tour has grown from a grassroots fundraiser that offered a tour of historic homes with candles in the windows and greens sprinkled about, to a massive production that relies on an army of volunteers and decorators who are willing to spend months of preparation and weeks of time working in homes selected months in advance.

After being involved for over ten years with this event I am unsure if many outside of the immediate core group of volunteers have an understanding of what it takes to put on an event of this scale. Each year I know I learn something new. As this year's Event Co-Chair I learned that 'elves' don't actually make and bring the cookies and hot cider for Saturday's hospitality area. "Who does this?" was one of my most frequently asked questions

It occurred to me that if after all of these years there are still some areas of this production that remain a mystery to me, that many of our members have very little knowledge of the workings of this, our Three Village Historical Society's largest fundraiser.

We have committee chairs, house chairs, office staff, docents, traffic control and our very creative and tireless decorators who all play a crucial role in producing this annual event.

Our committee chairs work tirelessly on their individual parts of the tour, making endless phone calls and sending out Emails looking for sponsors, and yes at times, "begging" for donations. We want to thank all of the sponsors for their continued support, and the restaurants and caterers, who even in this economic down-turn continue to offer us delicious food for our Friday night tour.

A very special thank you goes out to Fratelli's Market Place in Stony Brook, who this year not only donated the food for our Friday night

celebration but included their wait staff as well.

In addition I want to thank the members of our community who have opened their homes this year and in years past, for the most generous of all donations: their beautiful homes. Year after year these homeowners open their houses to close to 1500 people. Thank you all, because without your ongoing generosity there

would be no Candlelight House Tour.

Perhaps this year as you walk through the beautifully decorated homes and have a taste of wine or some hot cider you might take just a moment to say thank you to a docent who has been talking for hours about the history of the house and pointing out items of significance to tour goers, or compliment the decorators for their creativity and attention to



The Three Village Historical Society is honored to dedicate its 30th Annual House Tour to our neighbor and partner, the Setauket Neighborhood House.

Continued on page 7

Building and Grounds

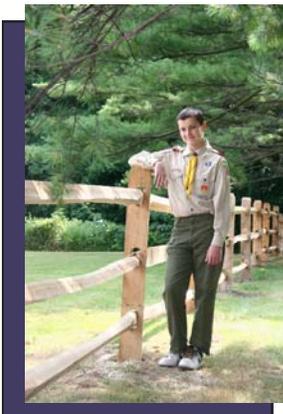
***Stay connected.
Receive event
reminders and
updates on
volunteering
opportunities.
Send us your
email address!
info@tvhs.org***



From left to right: Bench and fence photos courtesy of the Krause Family. Shed construction photo courtesy of Pat Kunder.

John Kruse Jr., has completed his Eagle Scout projects for the Three Village Historical Society. The new section of fence was installed by hard working volunteers under his supervision . The new fence replaced one that was time and weather worn. The benches along the field side are a

welcome addition to the Society grounds. John held many fundraising activities to acquire the construction materials for these projects. Our thanks to him and his volunteers for this gift to the Society. Congratulations on a job well done, John!



Our newest Eagle Scout project is well underway, thanks to the hard working volunteers led by Scout Brendan Yantz. Donations are still being accepted for the shed project, which will provide much needed safe storage for the Society's materials that are used for member programs.



TVHS Calendar of Events

The Historian

Is published quarterly by the Three Village Historical Society.

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

newsletter@tvhs.org

In the subject line please include:
The Historian.

The deadline: for our next issue is December 15th.

Acting Editor: Pat Kunder
Layout: Dianne Trautmann

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Friday, December 5th and Saturday Dec. 6th: 30th Annual Candlelight House Tour. This year's house tour will focus on homes, churches and buildings around the Setauket Village Green and the hospitality of the Setauket Neighborhood House. Friday Night Tour/Champagne reception (\$70 member/\$75 non-member), Saturday Breakfast at the Three Village Inn and Tour (\$50 member/\$60 non-member) and Saturday Tour Only tickets (\$30 member/\$35 non-member). Tickets available for purchase/pickup November 29th, 10am-Noon at Society Headquarters (93 North Country Rd, Setauket), or Saturday Dec. 6th from 8:30-3:00pm at the Setauket Neighborhood House. Tickets may also be purchased by phone/fax- see website for order form.

Monday, January 19, 2009, 7:00pm: Annual Meeting and Monthly Lecture Series. Election of Officers and Trustees will take place prior to the night's speaker. **Telling the Story: "The Artwork of Katherine Floyd Dana"**. Mary Laura Lamont, Park Ranger for the William Floyd Estate on Fire Island, will give a presentation on the artwork of Katherine Floyd Dana: artist, author and the great-granddaughter of William Floyd, signer of the Declaration of Independence. Dana's artwork gives a glimpse into life on Long Island during the mid-1800's. Meeting takes place at the Setauket Neighborhood House, 95 Main St., Setauket. 7:00: reception, 7:30 Member's Meeting, 7:45-9:00 Speaker.

Save the Date: March 16, 2009 : Annual Awards Dinner



The winners of the 19th Annual Long Island Apple Festival apple pie contest: First prize went to Dan Buzzanca (left) of Setauket and Kyle Craig (center) of Port Jefferson. Second place winner Gabrielle Lofaso of Belle Terre, is on the right. A very wet weekend didn't dampen the spirits of Event Chair Christie Radke and organizers Betty Domino and Pam Crum, who with help from Donna Higgins brought an army of 100+ volunteers together to make the festival a great day for the families that came to partake in the festivities presented by TVHS, SPLIA and Homestead Arts.

Photo courtesy of SPLIA.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of our Winter Events help is needed for the Candlelight House Tour, Monthly Lecture Series and Annual Dinner. Contact Donna Higgins at 751-5177

President's Message

Dear Friends,

Each September we look forward to the Society's major annual activities; first, our partnership with Gallery North's Art Fair, followed by the annual Apple Festival sponsored by TVHS, Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities (SPLIA) and Homestead Arts, known by most as Benner's Farm.

In October we were visited by the Spirits of the Three Villages and this December will be the 30th anniversary of our renowned Candlelight House Tour. In addition, many other activities are planned, from major publications, monthly meetings, in-school programming, walking tours of our historic districts, membership mailings and newsletters.

At the heart of all these activities are our volunteers. They play a vital role in determining the scope of what we can offer and have a significant impact on the success of this organization. More and more, it's difficult for families to find enough time to sit down together for dinner, yet all of our volunteers give their time selflessly for organizational meetings in the evenings and on Saturdays to provide our community with educational programs that "bring history to life".

This past September the Board made a commitment to ensure that the experience for all our volunteers is positive, to help new volunteers get acquainted with the organization, and to provide a forum where volunteer leaders can contribute their knowledge and ideas to guarantee the future growth of the Society.

I hope all our members and friends will continue giving their much appreciated time and talents to "bring history to life", and I look forward to welcoming many new members who will support our efforts to preserve our shared heritage. On behalf of the Society I would like to wish all of our members and friends a healthy and happy holiday season!

Patricia Kunder
President

Education Program In Full Swing

By Elizabeth Kaplan
Director of Education

The new school year is well underway! Once again, teachers from Suffolk and Nassau Counties are requesting our popular in-school presentations on local history and field trips to Setauket. Our in-school offerings include American Indians on Long Island and in New York; Growing Up Long Ago on Long Island and in New York; Long Island and New York During the American Revolution and our newest program, Spies! in which students write with quill pens and "invisible ink." Meanwhile, back in Setauket, our own Bev Tyler, dressed in costume, leads students on his fascinating field trip, Walk Through History With Abraham Woodhull, Farmer and Revolutionary War Spy.

Would you enjoy taking part? We would welcome your call.

EDUCATORS WANTED

Qualified presenters needed to bring the Three Village Historical Society's programs on local history into Suffolk County classrooms. Teaching background preferred but not required. Successful candidates will receive training. Generous per diem pay. Interested? Kindly send email, expressing your interest with your name and contact information, to info@tvhs.org or leave this information on our voicemail at 751-3730, extension 37.

History Close at Hand

by Beverly C. Tyler
Historian
Three Village Historical Society

Of the 19 or so spirits on the Three Village Historical Society's 14th Annual Spirits Tour, one was my grandmother Edith Florence (Griffin) Tyler. Edith Griffin was born in 1879 in Brooklyn, New York. In 1911, she traveled out to Setauket by train, probably with her sister Caroline, and stayed at the Lake House (now the Setauket Neighborhood House) run by my grandfather Beverly Swift Tyler. The following year my grandfather, at the age of 58, twice widowed, and with a 31 year-old daughter Carrie from his first marriage, married Edith Griffin, age 32. My grandmother cooked and ran the kitchen at the Lake House for the next five years

My father, Beverly Griffin Tyler, was born in 1915. Edith and Carrie became close friends and my father was basically raised by both ladies as well as by my grandfather's two unmarried sisters Aunt Corinne and Aunt Annie, who ran the general store and post office on the corner just north of the Lake House. Annie was postmaster from 1897 until 1915. Corinne and Annie ran the general store until 1931, when Corinne was 73 and Annie was 68. My grandmother ran the kitchen at the Lake House from 1912 until they sold it to Eversley Childs in 1917 and moved into the buildings where the Setauket Post Office and part of the Frank Melville Memorial Park is today. The front of that building, known as the Setauket House, was a store which had first functioned as Setauket's post office between 1885 and 1889 when M. Belle Bates, daughter of Dr. John F. Bates, was postmaster. The Setauket House had been purchased by my grandfather in 1905. At the time he was married to Augusta Elderkin and the couple ran the Lake House. Augusta (Gussie) Elderkin died in 1908.



The spirit of Edith Tyler portrayed by Kathy Weisinger at the 14th Annual Spirits Tour. Photo courtesy of Beverly Tyler.

My grandfather died in 1926, and my grandmother went to work for Lewis Selleck who was Setauket's postmaster from 1926 until 1931 when he became ill. The National Archives lists Edith F. Tyler as "Acting postmaster, October 2, 1931; Confirmed as postmaster February 10, 1932."

When Ward Melville and his mother Jennie built the Frank Melville Memorial Park, part of the land was purchased from my grandmother. The old barns and the Setauket House that functioned as a post office and store were torn down and replaced by a modern house and post office, built to my grandmother's exact specifications with the further agreement to move it down the street when Melville got ready to build his new post office.

A note in my grandmother's diary gave the first definitive date for moving the house. "Moved Edith's house May 21, 1941."

Edith Tyler's house and post office was moved down Main Street to a new location to make way for the Greek Revival Setauket Post Office built by Ward Melville at the entrance to the Frank Melville Memorial Park. Edith Tyler was postmaster until she resigned on February 5, 1936. She was replaced by Miss Anna Fallon who was

appointed on June 20, 1936. However, my grandmother continued to work at the post office for the next few years.

Early in 1945, Martha Basten, librarian at the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library became ill and my grandmother substituted for her until Basten retired in May, 1945.

I always fondly remember walking up to the library where my grandmother worked and sitting on the window bench and reading the latest book she recommended. In the late '40s and early '50s only an occasional person came into the library in the afternoon so it was very quiet. The only noise was the creaking of the wooden floor as my grandmother got up from her desk to select or replace a book.

On January 1, 1958, after twelve years of service to the library, Edith Tyler was named librarian emeritus

My grandmother died in 1963 at the age of 84. She is buried in the Caroline Church graveyard next to her husband of 14 years and close by the graves of step-daughter Carrie and sisters-in-law Corinne and Annie, as well as many other community residents she came to know and love, and who knew and loved her.

14th Annual Spirits Tour



14th Annual Spirits Tour

Our thanks to Patricia Yantz and Frank Turano, Co-Chairs of this year's Spirits Tour, along with all of our volunteers that helped with the set up, refreshments, traffic, and guides. This year our spirit interpreters were: (clockwise from top left) **Frank Turano** as *Charles E. Jayne*, **Tim McNamara** as *Lt. Henry Hackett Slatterly*, **George Tuchosch** as *Leslie Irving Jayne*, **Chuck Glaser** as *Edward L. Tinker*, **John Broven** as *Abraham Woodhull*, **Kathaleen Ash** as *Emma S. Clark*, **Al Meyer** as *Francis Hawkins*, **Margaret Olness** as *Mary Slatterly Rowland*, **Nellie Edwards** as *Hanna Sells*, **Doug Harrington** as *Zopher Hawkins*, **Joan Yelland** as *Millie Heinz*, **Phyllis Tedesco** as *Verna Eikov*, **Stephanie Carston** as *Mary Swift Jones* and **Caroline McNamara** as *Carolyn Hendrickson Strong*.
 Photos courtesy of Bev Tyler.



From the Archives

By Karen Martin
Archivist
 Three Village Historical Society

When you think of an archives do you think only of centuries old documents or perhaps old faded photographs or crumbling old newspapers? Our Society collects a large range of material that documents the history and everyday life of the Three Village area from the past to the present day. This includes photographs, documents, maps, ephemera, artifacts (for example: textiles, paintings, clothing, tools, household items, etc.) and many other diverse objects.

Every artifact or document has a story to tell. Our collections are used for exhibits and referenced by the public and for Society programs. Most recently they played a vital role in researching the stories behind our "Spirits". In upcoming newsletters we will focus on an object or objects in the collection and tell its story.

Hopefully this will get our members and the public thinking of what may be tucked away in their attics or basements. Recently, in reviewing both the archives and artifact collections we noticed we are lacking material from what we consider the

more recent past. We are asking you to help us expand the base our collections. Check your attics and basements for items from the WWII era through the 20th Century. Of course we are always looking for objects from any time period in Three Village history and please consider contacting us before your next yard sale or before listing that item on Ebay



What is this?

Answer: a
 wheelwright's
 traveler



A Tribute to Our Veterans

From the collections of the Three Village Historical Society

“The parade will form at the dock in East Setauket at 2:30 p.m. Labor Day and will proceed from there promptly at 3 o’clock to the new park, where simple ceremonies will be held to dedicate it in honor of the men from Setauket and East Setauket who served in the Army and Navy.” The date was Sept. 1st, 1919. The event the “Our Hero Parade” which formally welcomed local boys home from the World War and paid tribute to two local boys who gave their lives in service to their country.

A parade complete with dignitaries, fraternal organizations, music, and decorated cars and carriages included one float titled “Birds of the Park” upon which Verna Baldwin (later Eikov) rode. The new park on the



Birds of the Park float from left to right: Ada R. Jones (Young), Verna Baldwin (Eikov), Vivien Edwards, and Laura Hawkins.

corner of Shore Road was dedicated and the march proceeded to the Village Green where the main ceremonies were held.

A memorial to Raymond Wishart and Harry Golden *“who sacrificed their lives to the cause”* was dedicated on the Green and still stands there today. There was a *“presentation of medals to the service men of Setauket and East Setauket, in token of the honor in which their villages hold their Army and Navy men.”*

The front of the medal pictures an eagle and the words “They did not



pass 1917-1918”. The reverse reads “Presented by the people of Setauket, N.Y. in grateful recognition of patriotic service in the World War 1917-1918”. (The medal pictured was recently purchased by TVHS from a dealer on Ebay.)

The day’s festivities ended with a dinner and vaudeville show and dance held at Mechanic’s Hall (This hall is now part of the Setauket Methodist Church building).

Setauket and East Setauket
WELCOME
THEIR SOLDIERS & SAILORS
Labor Day, Sept. 1st, 1919

The parade forms at 2.30 at the Dock in East Setauket. Automobiles and carriages form in Bay View Avenue.

ORDER OF MARCH

1. 42nd Infantry Band	6. Fraternal Organizations
2. Grand Army of the Republic	Mechanics of Setauket
3. Service Men of Setauket of Port Jefferson of Stony Brook	Odd Fellows
4. Red Cross of Setauket of Port Jefferson of Stony Brook	Kebekehs
5. School Children	Golden Rule
	Daughters of Liberty
	Euxine Star
	7. Fire Departments of Setauket of Port Jefferson of Stony Brook
	8. Decorated cars and carriages.

LINE OF MARCH

The parade leaves East Setauket Dock at 3 P. M. sharp and proceeds along the Shore Road to Main Road, where

THE NEW EAST SETAUKET PARK WILL BE DEDICATED IN HONOR OF THE MEN FROM SETAUKET AND EAST SETAUKET WHO SERVED IN THE ARMY AND NAVY

The dedication ceremony will be conducted by the Rev. Dr. A. Y. Holter and the flag will be raised "mid the singing of

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER
(One verse and Chorus)

The parade will resume march to Setauket, passing the Village Green to Mill Pond, where it turns left and passes around and returns to the Village Green, where

THE VILLAGE GREEN CEREMONIES
 will be held.

1. AMERICA will be sung by all.
2. Rev. Dr. T. J. Elms will open the meeting with a prayer.
3. Judge Watson will introduce the speakers of the day.
4. Admiral Niblack, U. S. N., will deliver an address.
5. A rock will be dedicated to the memory of Raymond Wishart and Harry Golden, who sacrificed their lives to the cause. The dedication ceremonies will be conducted by the Rev. Dr. T. J. Elms.
6. The Community Chorus, led by Mr. and Mrs. William H. Stewart, will sing a patriotic song.
7. Address by an Army Officer.
8. The presentation of medals to the service men of Setauket and East Setauket, in token of the honor in which their villages hold their Army and Navy men. Ceremony to be conducted by the Rev. Dr. Chas. H. Livingston.
9. Benediction by Rev. Father John Roex.
10. Star Spangled Banner.

All Setauket, East Setauket and visiting service men will then proceed to Mechanic's Hall, where a dinner will be tendered them, to be succeeded by a vaudeville show and dance. Among others, Mrs. Mark Murphy, Mr. J. Kern Brennan and Mr. Bert Bate have kindly offered their services to aid the entertainment.

In case of rain the Ceremony will be held in the Setauket Presbyterian Church
 PORT JEFFERSON ROAD FRONT



The Heroes of World War I. pictured in the Setauket Memorial Park. All photos and items on this page: The Rhodes Collection.

Celebrating 30 Years Around the Neighborhood

Continued from page 1

details that were all put in place to delight you. Think about the many other volunteers behind the scenes that made this a wonderful day or evening for you, your friends and family. Perhaps you will even think about joining us next year. If you see Pat or myself, you might ask us our favorite question: ‘How can I help or be a part of this next year?’.

We extend our personal invitation to all of you to come out on December 5th or 6th and enjoy the festive homes, the Frank Melville Park and Mill

complete with an art show, the choirs singing and the Caroline Church’s symphonic bells ringing as you stroll along the Village Green on Friday evening. The community churches that are located near or around the Setauket Village Green will be open Friday evening, and on Saturday some of the churches will be serving lunch as part of their own fundraisers. Come out and enjoy the wonderful community we call the Three Villages.

Pat and I want to thank all of our volunteers, office staff and the

members of this wonderful and generous community. You of course, make all of this possible. We hope to see you all on the tour “Celebrating 30 years around our Neighborhood.”

Happy Holidays!

Christine Petrone & Pat Vitale

Co-Chairs
30th Annual

Candlelight House Tour

30th Annual Candlelight House Tour– Order Your Tickets Now

Friday Tour: December 5, 2008 6:00pm-9:00pm with a champagne reception following from 8:30-11:00 pm at the Setauket Neighborhood House, 94 Main St, Setauket. Tickets are \$70 for members/\$75 for non-members. A \$5 donation will be made from the proceeds of each Friday Evening Tour Ticket to the Setauket Neighborhood House Restoration Fund, commemorating “30 Years Around the Neighborhood”. The Greenery Boutique, hosted by the Three Village Garden Club will be open on Friday to evening tour ticket holders only.

Saturday Breakfast Tour: December 6, 2008 8:30am-10:00 am at the Three Village Inn, Stony Brook. Houses open an hour early for Breakfast tour ticket holders: 10:00 am–5:00 pm. \$50 members/\$60 non-members. Greenery Boutique is open to the public at the Setauket Neighborhood House.

Saturday Tour Only: December 6, 2-008 Houses open 11:00 am– 5:00 pm. Greenery Boutique is open to the public at the Setauket Neighborhood House.

Ticket Pickup: Saturday November 29th from 10:00 am– Noon at the Three Village Historical Society History Center/ Headquarters, 93 North Country Rd., Setauket, NY 11733. Tickets will also be available at TVHS Headquarters on Dec 1-3 from 11:00 am-2:00pm and Dec. 4th from 11:00-12:00 Noon. You may also pick up tickets for Saturday on the day of the tour at the Setauket Neighborhood House from 8:30 am–3:00 pm.

Name: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Master Card Visa Check

Card #: _____

Exp Date: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Make check payable to: Three Village Historical Society
Mail form to: Three Village Historical Society
93 North Country Road-PO Box 76 Setauket, NY 11733

All tickets must be picked up on Nov. 29th or at our headquarters the week before the tour. Tickets cannot be mailed.

**For more information call: 631-751-3730
or visit our website: <http://www.tvhs.org>**

FRIDAY EVENING: Tour & Reception			
Ticket Type	Price	QTY	Total
Member	\$70.00		
Non-member	\$75.00		
SATURDAY: BREAKFAST & TOUR			
Member	\$50.00		
Non-member	\$60.00		
SATURDAY: Tour Only			
Member	\$30.00		
Non-member	\$35.00		
Tickets purchased after Nov. 29th, add \$5.00 fee per ticket.			Total Amount:

Three Village Historical Society
PO Box 76
East Setauket, NY 11733-0076

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U.S. Mail
Permit No. 88
E. Setauket, NY
11733



All members are entitled to Basic Benefits:



10% Discount on all Gift Shop Purchases
Subscription to The Historian newsletter
Nine Monthly Member Meetings
Discount and Advance purchase on all
of the Society's programs

Suggested Membership Levels:

- Individual: \$30
- Dual/Family: \$50
- Patron: \$100
- Benefactor: \$250
- Major Contributor: \$500
- Founder: \$1000

Rates Reflect Annual Dues,
Renewable January of Each Year

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

<http://www.tvhs.org>

The Three Village Historical Society Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Payment:

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

OR

Credit Card: MasterCard or Visa:

Name on Card: _____ Exp. _____

Account Number: _____

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