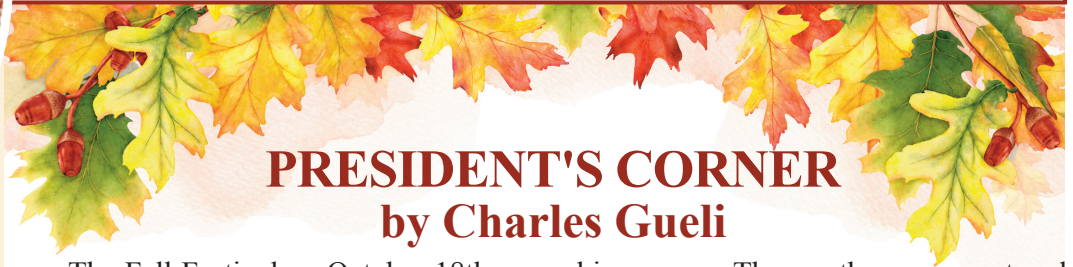


Mattituck-Laurel Historical Society

Newsletter

Fall 2025



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Charles Gueli

The Fall Festival on October 18th was a big success. The weather was great and there were plenty of children who participated in the activities. Face painting was very popular, as was pumpkin painting. There were a few kittens and puppies that got adopted and TP Tony showed people how some of the early American crafts were done. There were several tours given through the Tuthill house as well. All of the folks who worked hard to put this together did a great job.

Great news! The vote for community support succeeded in providing our organization financial stability for the foreseeable future. A big THANK YOU goes out to all those who voted to support us.

More Good News - it looks like the 2-year effort to create a History Club including high school age students has finally taken effect. Thanks to the efforts of three students (Hannah Gebbia, Rachel Haas, and Jessica Garbarino) and Janine Ruland, who will be guiding the meetings. The first meeting took place in October.

This is the last newsletter where I will address you as president. I want to say that it has been wonderful to work with our outstanding Board of Trustees. They are all hard-working, and generous with their time and energy. I believe we succeeded in getting the organization to be better recognized throughout the community. Lastly, I thank all the members who have shown support and given me encouragement throughout the past 3 years. Our officers for the upcoming year are: Brenda Momente, President; Ellen Sawicki, First Vice President; Emily Tuthill Cramer, Second Vice President, Susan Brewster, Secretary; Erich Cramer, Treasurer.

Charlie, mlhsm11952@gmail.com

TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS IN MATTITUCK

The Proposition Passed!



We will be able to continue to maintain our museum house. We will be able to continue to put on our events, like our historical lecture series, our graveyard tour, Fall Festival, Christmas Tree lighting and Hampton's Flea Market.

We will be able to continue our programs for students.

We will be able to provide tours, and make our resources available for your historical and genealogical research.

And you are welcome to join our board or volunteer so you can help us do more, and steer the organization in a direction that you would want to see it go.

You have enabled us to receive funding in a way that most historical societies on Long Island and in New York have started to be funded.

All this, just in time for our nation's 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence!



Ira Tuthill

631-298-5248

P.O. Box 766

Mattituck, NY 11952

18200 Main Road (Rte 25)

at Cardinal Drive

Mattituck, NY

***Our mission is to
preserve, protect, and promote
the history of this special
area of the North Fork and
its people, from earliest times
to the present day, for current
and future generations.***

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Charles Gueli
mlhsm11952@gmail.com

Vice President Erich Cramer

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Historian Erich Cramer

Historic Researcher Joe O'Brien

Curating Committee Lead

Emily Tuthill Best Cramer

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Brenda Momente

Ellen Sawicki

Sandra Zaremba

Peter Zegler

CURATORS CORNER

with Joe, Ellen, Brenda, and Emily



Curating Committee members Joe O'Brien, Ellen Sawicki, Brenda Momente, and Emily Tuthill Best Cramer



SCHOOLTEACHER'S DESK

In August, the Curating Committee was contacted by Janine and Peter Ruland about a schoolteacher's desk they wished to donate. The 1760 Schoolhouse on MLHS grounds was originally on the Ruland Farm and was moved from there to MLHS in 2010. Although it is not clear that the desk used to reside in the 1760 schoolhouse (there are still two additional schoolhouses on the former Ruland Farm), the Curating Committee decided to accept the desk and place it into the 1760 Schoolhouse where it now resides.



OUTDOOR BELL

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide a home for these important relics from the Mattituck property that was farmed by the Wines and Ruland families continuously from 1736 to 2021.

A few years ago, after the Ruland Farm was sold, Peter's mother, Linda Ruland, donated a large outdoor bell to MLHS that had been found in the barn of the Ruland farm.



BIRD BATH

Donated by Sandra Zaremba. This granite bird bath now sits in front of the Jesse Tuthill house. It was donated by Sandra in fond memory of Teepee Ted.

We are honored to have this new addition to our front yard.



LEN LLEWELLYN – HURRICANE OF 1938

By Emily Tuthill Best Cramer

Len Llewellyn and his wife, Marjorie, were long-time members of MLHS. In our abundant files in the drawers of the Tuthill library, I came across this article written by Len Llewellyn, "Cooperative Observer" with the National Weather Service. The title: THE HURRICANE OF 1938 AKA THE LONG ISLAND EXPRESS/NEW ENGLAND HURRICANE. With hurricane season approaching and with all the Llewellyn connections to MLHS we felt this was worth reprinting. Len Llewellyn was also a prominent member of the Mattituck Fire Company for 53 years, at one time being Chief. His wife Marjorie held offices in MLHS. Marjorie

was a prominent and enthusiastic member of MLHS for many years. When Marjorie died, Len planted a tree in her memory on the MLHS grounds. It is thriving there today. Len, in his later years, rode around Mattituck on his three wheeled bike. Len would sometimes stop in at the Museum just to chat. He was a Mattituck native and filled with stories and historical facts about many Mattituck subjects, including MLHS. Unfortunately, in the summer of 2023, Len was crossing the Main Road at the Mattituck Library to go to the Fire Station on a call and was struck by a vehicle and killed. We are reprinting this article in tribute to Len Llewellyn.

THE HURRICANE OF 1938 AKA THE LONG ISLAND EXPRESS/ NEW ENGLAND HURRICANE

By Len Llewellyn Cooperative Observer National Weather Service

The hurricane season for the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico is from June 1 November 30th. The most likely time for this area to be affected by hurricanes is during the months of August, September, and October.

Wednesday, September 21, 1938 started out like any other day; sending the children off to school, doing household chores, fishermen getting ready for another day of fishing, and people getting ready for work.

As dawn approached, there was a yellow glow in the sky indicating a storm at sea. The weather report for the day called for SW winds, cloudy skies, muggy conditions, and showers. Little did they know that a monster storm was beating down on them. They were not informed and unprepared for what was to come.

The hurricane of 1938 was born in the Sahara Desert region of then French West Africa. On September 4th a French meteorologist reported a disturbance. It moved in a westerly direction forming a storm off the Cape Verde Islands on the west coast of Africa. Then it moved in a westerly direction. Two weeks later the hurricane was reported near Puerto Rico. A ship at sea reported a very low barometer reading. This information was then passed on to the Weather Bureau. Upon receiving this information, storm warnings were issued to all ships at sea.

September 19th, the Weather Bureau issued a storm warning for Jacksonville, Florida with the storm heading north. The residents took the warning and boarded up their homes and businesses. Then they evacuated the area. The storm missed Jacksonville and headed north. The Weather Bureau at this point was forecasting the storm to take a track out to sea. It is interesting to note that 24 hours before the storm hit Long Island a junior meteorologist predicted not only the track but that

Long Island was in the bull's-eye and would be hit. Due to the fact that there were no senior meteorologists on duty, the Weather Bureau did not issue any warnings. After passing Cape Hatteras it took seven hours to reach Long Island. When the storm reached the coast of New Jersey, a warning went out for gale force winds, but it was too late, the storm would soon reach Long Island. At 2:30 P.M. a barometer reading was reported at Bellport of 27.85 inches with winds of 125 miles per hour. The storm was so intense that seismographs 4,000 miles away in Siska, Alaska felt the effects.

The summer of 1938 was very hot, muggy, and very humid. The Long Island Express came at the worst time. It was during the Fall equinox when the sun and the moon are in alignment with the Earth, resulting in extra high tides.

New York City and the Bronx were on the western edge of the storm with 65 mph winds, downing power lines. The beach areas of Long Island's south shore received winds of 135 mph. As the eye of the storm passed over, the winds died down and the ocean appeared to be a yellow color. People came out of their homes to see what damage the storm had done, not realizing that the eye of the storm was over them; but 20 minutes later the wind shifted direction, and the storm came back with vengeance. Of 179 homes along Dune Road 153 were destroyed. The hurricane caused 600 deaths, mostly due to flooding. The hurricane's eye was so large that it covered an area from Bellport to Mattituck.

After leaving Long Island the storm headed north across Long Island Sound. Traveling at a speed of 30 mph plus, it headed for Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont; before entering into Canada near Montreal the next day as a tropical low-pressure system starved of the warm water it needed to feed on.

Continued on next page

Due to a week of rain the week before ground had become soft and trees were uprooted and poles blown over. Communication with the outside was cut off, so New England was not warned of this deadly storm. The weather service, after studying photographs and speaking to survivors of the storm, have classified the storm as a category 3 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. This scale is named for Herbert Saffir, an engineer, and Robert Simpson, a former director of the National Hurricane Center, and has been used since 1979. Category 3 has a barometer reading of 945-964 millibars of mercury or 27.91-28.47 inches of mercury, with wind speeds of 111-130 miles per hour and a storm surge of 9-12 feet with extensive damage.

Hurricanes were later named by the phonetic alphabet. This practice came to an end in 1953. From 1953-1978 women's names were used to name hurricanes. In 1979 both men and

women's names were used for the first time and continues today.

During the last 70 years there have been many advances in weather forecasting; beginning with the use of radar and electronic digital computers in the 1940's, the use of satellites in the 1950's, and the use of air force hurricane hunter planes since 1946.

In closing, it is possible to have another category 3 hurricane, but when it will happen nobody knows. We can only prepare for such an event.

Sources:

Times Almanac 2006 and 2007 editions

The Nature Company "Guide to Weather" 1996 edition

Hurricane Familiarization Booklet April 1993 NOM

Long Island Museum at Stony Brook "1938 Hurricane

Exhibit" World Book Vol 21 1992 Edition

Mattituck - Laurel
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\$1 OFF A \$7 PINT, \$2 OFF A \$12 FLIGHT

at Eastern Front Brewhouse.

5% OFF FOR ONE OR MORE BOTTLES, 10% OFF FOR A CASE

at Rich Harvest Wines and Liquors.

In addition, MLHS&M offers **25% OFF** their Conducted Walking Tours.

SUMMER & FALL EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

Board members and volunteers representing MLHS at the Fourth of July Parade



We had another **Hampton Vintage Vendor Event** on July 19th. It was a beautiful summer day and we had many visitors who enjoyed all the interesting vintage, handmade, and unique items.

The Museum was also open all day for tours.

We appreciate all the work our volunteers did to make it a fun day.

Continued on next page

SUMMER & FALL EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM



We had a beautiful day on Saturday, October 18th for our Fall Harvest Festival. Events included a Bake Sale, Harvest foods, kids games with Teepee Tony and an art lecture.

As always, our amazing volunteers worked tirelessly to make it a great event.



The North Fork Animal Welfare League participated in our event with puppies and kittens for adoption.



OPPORTUNITIES AT THE MUSEUM

We have a lot of fun and interesting volunteer opportunities including helping with events, conducting museum tours, gardening, groundskeeping, and administration. Whether you would like to help occasionally with events, or become actively involved on a regular basis, you would be making a valuable contribution to the museum and our mission to preserve the history of our community. If you are interested, please contact us at mihsm11952@gmail.com, or etutthillbest@mail.com, or (631) 298-5248.

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**ALL DONATIONS ARE
GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

Mattituck-Laurel Historical Society & Museums

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MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP

The Historical Society now has the capability to receive donations via credit card. If you go to our website at www.mlhistoricalsociety.org, you will find a link on the first page marked "Support the Museums, click to donate".

MATTITUCK-LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUMS MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM OCTOBER, 2025

Enclosed is my check payable to Mattituck-Laurel Historical Society & Museums for the membership category checked:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ _____ | |

Name _____

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Here are some items for which we need your help, please check at least one:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keep Track of Membership and Correspondence | <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct Guided Tours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oversee Refreshments for Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with Public Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contribute to Newsletters | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist the Pres/VP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canvas Local Businesses for Donations | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Grounds/Gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plan and Schedule Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Prepare for, Conduct, and Clean Up After Major Events |