



Mattituck - Laurel Historical Society

Spring/Summer Newsletter 2010

Hello Fellow Members and Friends!

It was a long winter for all of us, but in spite of the snow and cold the "1760 Schoolhouse" restoration is almost completed. Our contractor, N E Barns, Inc., and other local businesses, who donated services, made this feat possible.

Our Board of Directors, Trustees and Committee members (mostly the same faces) are as dedicated as ever, however there are too few of us to do all the work. In our winter news letter annual appeal we asked, "Where will we find the people and funds needed to preserve our history?" **You are still our first best hope!**

We look to you, members and potential members, to volunteer time, services and funds to help the Society to continue to serve the community. Thank you to all who have already renewed their membership. If you have not yet paid your 2010 dues, please do so now. **Each of us can make a difference!**

Please note our schedule of programs and events set for this year. We will do our best to entertain and inform you, while you spend time with friends.

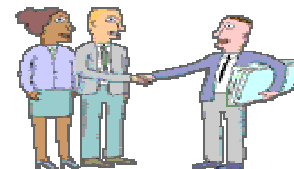
We are tremendously pleased to have received two "Specific Donations" from members of the Tuthill Family; Mr. Calvin Tuthill, who lived in the Tuthill house until the early forties, \$5,000 for maintenance of the house and Mrs. Emily Tuthill Best Cramer, Daughter of Philip Tuthill, \$10,000, in his name, to refurbish the reference Library for use by the community. Donations of this nature are critical to the repair, maintenance and improvement of facilities.

However, even though we are a **100% volunteer organization**, we must still raise the funds necessary to cover the Museum's operating expenses; insurance (over \$10,000 per year) heating, LIPA and yes the cost of sending this message to you.

Please help us so we can continue **"Making History Together."**

Thank You,

Frederick Smith, President



Curator's Corner-

By-Norman Wamback

There is much excitement in Mattituck over the discovery and rescue of Mattituck's first schoolhouse, having been reassembled on the historical society property. I am currently putting together a written and pictorial exhibition of the history of Mattituck schools from circa 1760 to present. This exhibition will be held in the 1760 schoolhouse and will open July 1st. In the mean time here is a little history of our first school system.

In the second half of the eighteenth century, the villages on Long Island were required to tax themselves to provide tuition free schools every two miles for their children. The villages were assigned School District numbers and most villages having two or more schools. Mattituck was divided into District 9 and District 10. The two schools to be built were done so in 1760/1780 and the second in 1792.

The school year was divided into two sessions of four months each. The first session was from December through March which was attended by the older children. They were working on the family farms from April to November. The second session was from May through August. This session was for younger children from four to eight years of age. This age group was too young to help with chores around the farm.

The school teachers were usually between the ages of seventeen and twenty-five. They generally only had a district school education themselves.



Did You Know:

In 1880 the first undertaking establishment was opened in Mattituck by Sidney P. Tuthill and G. Clarence Cooper at Westphalia Avenue and Sound Avenue. The building is still standing. The hearse they purchased was the finest east of Jamaica, costing \$600. Caskets cost from \$10 to \$400. (The same year they also opened a coal business on the same property. Have fun with that one!)



Gardening Corner:

Welcome Spring at last! It's so nice to see some warm dry weather after our cold, snowy winter. I marvel each day as new bulbs emerge from their long sleep to brighten our streets and homes.

As many of you know it's time to get those beds ready for planting. It's also time to check that you have the proper tools for gardening. I have created a brief list for you below.

Tools and Supplies

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| *Cultivator | *Garden Fork/Trowel |
| *Gloves | *Hose/Nozzle/Sprinkler |
| *Hoe | *Label/Markers |
| *Pail | *Wheel Barrow |
| *Rake | *Watering Can |

Start the Season Right!-Weed/Mulch/and feed those bulbs!

Please Cut at the Dotted Line and Mail with your CHECK to:
MATTITUCK-LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 766, Mattituck, NY 11952



MATTITUCK-LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUMS

MEMBERSHIP AND OR DONATION FORM

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

category checked: Active Membership, Individual \$20

Active Membership, Family \$30

Patron Membership - \$100

Life Membership - \$500 Donation \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please Print *First* *Last*

Phone#: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

I am interested in the following Committees: Membership Refreshments Nominations Newsletter
 Donations Programs Guided Tours Public Relations Events/Fundraising Grounds/Gardening

4 Mattituck-Laurel Historical Society Newsletter – Spring 2010

SAVE THESE DATES!

April 25th (Sunday)-1760 Schoolhouse Program- 2pm Mattituck-Laurel Library

Presented by Fred Smith and Norman Womback

May 25th (Tuesday)- Powerpoint on the Civil War- 7pm at New Egypt Schoolhouse

Presenter- Judy Hallock and Tom Crowley

June 22nd (Tuesday)- Indians of Long Island- 7pm at New Egypt Schoolhouse

Presenter-Dr. John Strong

July 3rd (Saturday) Raindate July 4th- Lawn Sale at the Mattituck Historical Society Site-Main Road, Mattituck

July 27th (Tuesday)- History of Scallops- 7pm at New Egypt Schoolhouse

Presentor- John Holzapfel

August 14th (Saturday)- Antique Show & Sale- Mattituck High School

Mattituck-Laurel Historical

Society & Museums

PO Box 766 Mattituck, NY 11952

www.mlhistoricalsociety.org

Trustees-

Alice Armheim

Elyse Borak

Dorothy Boyle

Victor DiPaola

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Edward Marlott

Terry McShane

Jerry Minogue

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Norman Wamback, Curator/Historian

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