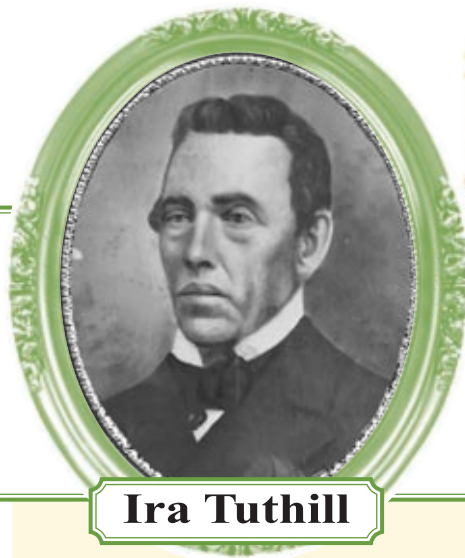




# Mattituck-Laurel Historical Society

## Newsletter

Spring 2025



**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.*

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Charles Gueli

### UPDATES

Joe O'Brien and I have worked on a document to submit to the NYS Historic Preservation Office asking to create a **Mattituck Historic District**. The proposed district would run along the Main Road from Pacific Street to Cardinal Drive and along New Suffolk Avenue from the Main Road to Marratooka Lake. Property owners have no restrictions with the National/State Registers. The purpose is to increase tourism and prevent the "modernization" of these core areas in the future. We want to preserve what we have.

We are having our second annual **Mattituck History Day** on Saturday, May 17th. There will be two seatings of traditional MLHS teas, talks in the 1760 schoolhouse, and tours through the Tuthill House. Tickets are \$30 for non-members, \$20 for members, and children 10 and younger are free. A flyer will be sent out soon.

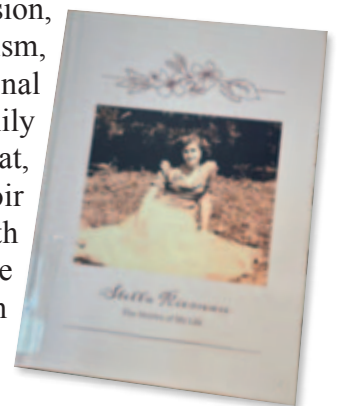
Send me an email if you want to know more about these subjects.  
Thank you for your continuing support.

Charlie  
mlhsm11952@gmail.com

## Mattituck-Laurel Historical Society Member Writes Personal History STELLA KIERNAN - THE STORIES OF MY LIFE

With a granddaughter's encouragement, MLHS & M member Stella Kiernan has thoughtfully provided a perspective on her life and times. Born in 1927 to Polish immigrants, Stella recounts the stories of her early schooling at the two-room Laurel schoolhouse during the Great Depression, her marriage and family, a life committed to volunteerism, and retirement at her Mattituck cottage. This personal memoir was only meant to inform her immediate family and descendants, so we are pleased Stella has agreed that, even in its question and answer format, her memoir would be of historical interest and worth sharing with others. Thanks to the interest and cooperation of the Mattituck-Laurel Library, you can find Stella's story on their shelf in their Biographical section.

Joe O'Brien, February 26, 2025



# CURATING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

By Emily and Erich Cramer



Through the cold months of January and February, we have been working quietly behind the scenes in both the Tuthill House and the New Egypt Schoolhouse. We seem to be on the path of widening our holdings to include more paintings of North Fork artists from the early 1900's.

We now have a grouping of five stunning landscapes by North Fork female artists on display. Ellen Sawicki is researching their history and how these paintings fit into the overall tradition of a vibrant artist colony on the North Fork. Ellen is also creating the signs for these paintings.

We have also acquired a significant painting of the Mattituck Presbyterian Church. David Tuthill gave this painting to his wife Leslie, and now Leslie has donated the picture to us in fond memory of her husband. Leslie remembers that this painting for years hung in the dental office of Ellen's cousin, Dr. John Sawicki, and Ellen now intends to research the painting further.

Brenda Momente, with help from our part time helper, Michael Boward, has also been very busy on a number of improvement projects. She has led the effort to clean up the attic in the Tuthill House and catalog what is worth keeping and what needs to be discarded. For the first time in decades, the attic floor is now clean. (Michael washed it with tried and true Murphy's oil).

So we can consider going to the next step: installing shelving for more orderly storage of essentials like holiday decorations. Brenda has also spearheaded the reorganization and upgrade of the Military Room. Now the military outfits are on mannequins Brenda found languishing in the attic.

In April, Emily anticipates another visit by Wendy and Richard Best from Seattle. With the help of Brenda and myself, they organized the MLHS Tool Exhibit in the Carriage House on their last visit. This time they will help envision the re-purpose of the second floor of the Carriage House. Since 2014, Richard has been the prizewinning (for innovative school design) Director of Capital Projects for the Seattle Public School system. Richard and his



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



*Painting of the Mattituck Presbyterian Church donated by Leslie Tuthill*



*In the New Egypt Schoolhouse, Brenda has taken it on herself to redecorate to honor the change of seasons and special holidays. St. Patrick is now being honored, and Spring, Easter, and Memorial Day are up next.*

*Continued on next page*



wife Wendy are longtime hobbyists in the restoration and preservation of historic buildings. We are really excited to see what magic Richard and Wendy will work this time.

As you can see, we are now a very active and talented assemblage of curators here at the Historical Society. We are self-taught; we learn as we work on our improvements, and it turns out that we actually have a lot of fun.

*If you are interested in joining in this kind of continuing, very necessary and very educational aspect of museum improvement, please contact us via any of the media on the front page of this newsletter.*



Wendy and Richard Best in the MLHS Tool Museum



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## MATTITUCK 8TH GRADE ESCAPE

by Erich Cramer

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May Maroni sent us the following item about one of her Dad's adventures in September, 1942:

8th GRADE ESSAY There's something like a breath of Spring in a composition that won recognition in Mattituck School's eighth grade recently. George "Doc" Savage is the author, but there's a little bit of every American boy in it, and every American and his sister will get a kick out of reading it. It was published in the Mattituck High School's monthly news sheet.

### "FOR THE HONOR OF THE SCHOOL"

On a Thursday after school, Pete, Bud, Eddie, and I were talking about school and "stuff". While talking, someone suggested that we play "hookey" the next day. As we are very good boys, we didn't want to do it at first but after a while we decided to try it.

We woke up as usual, made a big lunch, and got ready. I stopped at Bud's house, Pete and Ed came to the Post Office at eight-thirty, and we started out. We went down Bay Avenue, as it was in September it was still warm so we went swimming in the channel all morning, we ate our lunch there and went for a ride on our bikes. We went down Bay Boulevard and who do you think we ran into? That's right --- the truant officer! Were we scared! He was a mean guy, a big brute who probably never went to school himself. He grabbed us and said, "Where are you guys goin'?" We didn't answer. He said, "get on those bikes and get to school." He followed us up in his car. When we got to school, we had to go to the office and explain ourselves. We had a hard job and I do mean hard. When we got through Mr. Garelle asked us "Why did you come back?"

We all said at once, "We did it for the honor of the school!". "Doc" Savage

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# ORIGIN OF STREET NAMES IN MATTITUCK & LAUREL

Taken from the Research of Norman Wamback  
and Compiled by Charles Gueli



Until 1640 it's doubtful there were any roads on the North Fork. Visitors came by ship. The first mention of the Kings Highway was in 1661 when Mattituck was divided with allotments of land given to 52 men from the Southold colony. This first road twisted its way from Orient to Mattituck, across open fields that Native Americans had cleared before the arrival of Europeans in the 1640s. There is no doubt that it then continued westward through Riverhead and beyond.

Now called Route 25, this road had many curves and has been straightened considerably through the years. With increasing population, other roads were created. Here are a few examples of roads in the Mattituck-Laurel area.

**Aldrich Lane** was laid out in the mid 1700s and named Crops Road. Later it became Aldrich Lane, named for Gilbert Aldrich and his brother, Charles Aldrich, who owned the farms along the north side of the road.

**Bayer Road & Grand Avenue** were laid out on land purchased by Gustav Bayer in the early 1920s. Coming from Brooklyn, about 1917, he bought the large house on the east side of the old Long Creek bridge from Kenneth Fischer. On the land he purchased a few years later, on which Bayer Road and Grand Avenue (south of Wickham Avenue) are located, he sold building lots and called the area, Mattituck Heights. Later the name of Howell Road was changed to Grand Avenue, which was opened in 1866 from Long Creek, north to East Mill Road, through the land of Isaac R. Howell.

**Bay Avenue** was a way to the Peconic Bay in the late seventeenth century. It was laid out in the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century offering public access to Peconic Bay from Mattituck center. Isaiah T. Reeve had a horse drawn bus which took guests from Mattituck's three hotels and several boarding houses during the summer, to and from the Bay Avenue beach.

**Bray Avenue** got its name from Frank Bray who purchased land from Route 25 to the bay, circa 1900. He built his summer home on the bay front. The property was eventually sold and developed.

**Camp Mineola Road** was originally a wagon path through the Reeve farm that terminated at their berry field and apple orchid. In 1922 Judge Leon D. Howell of Mineola bought the berry field and apple orchid along Great Peconic Bay and started selling building lots for summer homes to his friends connected with the Nassau County Court House in Mineola. He called his private community Bayaire. As about ninety percent of the buyers were from Mineola, he decided to change the name to Camp Mineola. The Reeve farm path leading from New Suffolk Avenue to the entrance to the private enclave of Camp Mineola was paved about 1946 and called Reeve Avenue. In the early 1950s it was officially named Camp Mineola Road.

**Cox Neck Road** was laid out shortly after 1661 as a driveway to the homestead of Thomas Mapes on Mapes Neck, now call Cox Neck. Richard Cox bought the Neck prior to 1820 and built the grist mill on Mattituck Creek in 1821, now the Old Mill Restaurant. Cox Neck Road was opened to the public in the 1860s.

**Elijah's Lane** became a public road in 1860. It had been the driveway from the Main Road through the farm to the Elijah Tuthill farm house.

**Factory Avenue** was made a public road in 1890 when Otto P. Hallock and Peter Harvey Duryea built a fertilizer factory on the northeast corner of the railroad tracks and the road.

**Knollwood Lane** was named by Robert Muir, Robert Preston and Kenneth Monsell in 1951. They bought the nineteenth century Fairy Land Cottage summer boarding house on Mattituck Creek, along with its 16 acres of land. The land and boarding house had belonged to Captain Benjamin G. Tuthill and his wife, Hannah E. Dayton.

**Love Lane** was a path in the late 17th century to Mattituck Creek, created by the Hubbard family. It was opened from Route 25 to the railroad tracks in 1853, after the railroad had come through in 1844, and called Railroad Avenue. North of the railroad tracks to Mattituck creek was a wagon path through the property of Samuel Brown. Young people used to take their wagons at night and park at the creek. This portion of the path began to be called 'Lovers Lane'. In 1866 Samuel Brown opened it, and it became a public road in 1885. About 1910 the name of Railroad Avenue was changed to Love Lane.

**Locust Avenue** was originally the driveway from the Main Road to the 18th century farm house of David Gardiner. In 1820 the farm was bought by Isaac Conkling. In 1827 George L. Conkling owned the farm, when the first mention of the house is made. The next owner was John Wells in 1841 and later Henry Gildersleeve. Frank Zeleski bought the farm in the late 1940s and laid out Deephole Drive, Theresa Drive, Donna Drive and Richard Street, selling building lots.

**Maiden Lane** from Mattituck Creek south to the railroad tracks was also laid out in 1866 by Samuel Brown at the same time as he laid out Love Lane. Maiden Lane terminated at its south end at a road that ran along the north side of the railroad tracks, no longer in existence. Maiden Lane never became a public road.

**Marlene Lane** was laid out in the 1950s By Edward Abitz who had bought Judge Haggerty's property from Route 25 to Peconic Bay, including the mansion at the bay. Mr. Abitz put a road down the middle of the property, naming it for his daughter, and sold building lots.

**Marratooka Road** was laid out by Charles Worth Wickham, along with Park Avenue and Bungalow Lane, in the late 19th century when he sold building lots along his Great Peconic Bay water front and called it Marratooka Park.

**Mill Lane** was opened in 1826 from Mattituck to the tidal mill built in 1821. It ended on what is now East Mill Road which was laid out in 1736 and called Wines Highway. Wines Highway was built to connect Barnabus Wines' farm with his son's farm to the east.

**New Suffolk Avenue** was laid out in 1888 as a quicker way to get to New Suffolk from Mattituck.

**Ole Jule Lane** was named by Julius Zabrawski of Southold in the late 1940s when he bought the acreage from Leslie Bermingham and laid out Ole Jule Lane, and Kraus Road, selling building lots along them.

**Pacific Street** was laid out in 1868 by Thomas Hallock through his property, where he sold building lots.

**Peconic Bay Blvd.** Was opened from Jamesport to Mattituck circa 1890, enabling the farmers to sell their bay front property for summer homes.

**Pike Street** was dedicated as a public road in 1860 by Barnabus Pike who owned the land from Wickham Avenue to Westphalia Avenue.

**Sigsbee Road** got its name from Rear Admiral Charles Dwight Sigsbee of the U.S. Navy who purchased the property circa 1900 which ran from Route 25 to Great Peconic Bay. He never built his summer home there. The land was eventually sold and building lots were sold along the road that was named Sigsbee Road.

**Westphalia Avenue and Westphalia Road** - the Avenue runs between Sound Avenue and Pike Street and was laid out in 1855, but not named until 1885, when the Road was opened from the railroad tracks north to Cox Neck Road. Both the Road and the Avenue got their names from a family from Westphalia, Germany who had settled at the north end of the road. They raised pigs and made wurst.

**Wickham Avenue** was originally a driveway from the Main Road to the Henry D. Wickham house and farm. It was opened as a public road in 1868, and extended north to Long Creek. In 1870 Captain Ellsworth Tuthill extended Wickham Avenue from the old Long Creek bridge, past his house, to Mill Road. In 1873 Wickham Avenue was continued east to become Middle Road, now Route 48, running to Southold.





# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

## MARCH 29TH POTLUCK PARTY - 5 PM IN THE NEW EGYPT SCHOOLHOUSE

Join us for an evening of delicious food, great conversations, and wonderful company. Bring your favorite dish to share.



## APRIL 5TH BOARD GAME DAY - FUN FOR ALL AGES!

1pm to 4pm in the New Egypt Schoolhouse

These are some of the games which will be available on Game Day. Notice the game "Perspective" in which the participants try to figure out which event in history came first. This game was developed by Emily's friend Linda Romero with her son. Come out and have fun!



There will be a wide variety of games to play.

## MAY 17TH MATTITUCK HISTORY DAY

There will be tours of the museum from 2pm to 6pm, two Teas - 10 am and 2pm, and several lectures on local history from 2pm to 4:30 in the 1760 schoolhouse.

We are planning many other events this year including several fairs, vendor events, and lectures. They will be announced when the dates are set. **Check our website for updates and follow us on Facebook.**

## LOCAL MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS

### *Thank You For Your Support.*

Often said, but hardly ever do you get a gift back for your support. But we want to show appreciation with savings that our local stores and restaurants are kindly offering.

Your **MEMBERSHIP CARD** will get you **DISCOUNTS** at the following local establishments:

### **10% OFF**

at A Mano, The Taco 105, Good Food, Mattituck Florist, North Fork Doughnut Co., North Fork Fiber Arts, North Fork Pool Car, Orlowski Hardware, Primavera Pizza, and Village Cheese Shop.

### **\$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.

# VOLUNTEERING AT THE MUSEUM

If you have a little time on your hands and would like to give back to your community in a very meaningful way, please consider joining our outstanding group of volunteers. We have lots of fun and interesting opportunities including helping with events, conducting museum tours, gardening, groundskeeping, and administration. We have no paid staff and rely entirely on volunteers. Any time you can give us will be greatly appreciated! If you are interested, please contact us at [mlhsm11952@gmail.com](mailto:mlhsm11952@gmail.com) or [etuthillbest@gmail.com](mailto:etuthillbest@gmail.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](http://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 MARCH, 2025

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

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| <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 \$ _____ |  |

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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"/> Edit 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 |
- 