



THE YEOMAN

Farmingdale-
Bethpage
Historical Society

Mildred Johnston, President

James McCullagh, Vice-President

December
2008

Program on "Vanderbilt Cup Races" Attracts Capacity Audience

The historian and author Howard Kroplick kept the interest and attention of the hundred or more attendees at the Society's November 16th meeting with a dynamic and highly informative program on the "Vanderbilt Cup Races." Drawing on his collection of 20,000 images of the races and the Long Island Motor Parkway, the speaker was able to focus on the Central Park/Bethpage and Old Bethpage area in his illustrated presentation. For more information about these historic races, be sure to visit Howard Kroplick's website, www.vanderbiltcupraces.com.

FBHS Trustee Eric Goldschrafe, a master modeler, provided a fascinating display of racing cars from the century following the Vanderbilt Cup era, and also conducted a "Did You Know?" segment which briefly traced the history and popularity of auto racing in more recent years.

JoAnne Bihary and the Hospitality Committee prepared well for the large turnout with an attractive array of pastries to accompany the after-meeting coffee, all presented with a harvest-time motif. In addition to Ms. Bihary, baked goods for the social hour were provided by Madeline Bondiotti, Gail Goldschrafe, Mildred Johnston, and Maria Zito.

Holiday Lighting of Tricentennial Tree Tuesday, December 2

The 20th annual holiday lighting of the Village of Farmingdale's Tricentennial Tree will take place on Tuesday, December 2 at 6:00pm on the Village Green. The Colorado blue spruce which is the centerpiece of the event was presented by the community organizations which participated in the Tricentennial of Settlement commemoration in 1987. This observance recognized the arrival of Thomas Powell, the area's first settler, in 1687.

In addition to the Village of Farmingdale, the other sponsors of the Tree Lighting are the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society, the Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce, and the Kiwanis Club of Farmingdale. The Kiwanis Club will provide refreshments in Village Hall following the program.

Brad DeMilo, director of the Village Pops for the last 26 summer concert seasons, will be the "emcee" of the program. Choral selections will be provided by the Northside School Junior Chorus (Grade Three) under the direction of Judy Feuss. The Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce will again sponsor the participation of the South Shore Brass Ensemble as it has for all 20 years.

Community residents of all ages are invited to be part of this festive traditional event which heralds the holiday season in Farmingdale!



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On this day in history...

- **12/2/2001** - Enron Corporation files for bankruptcy.
- **12/3/1947** - "STELLA!!" A Streetcar Named Desire opens on Broadway.
- **12/6/1884** - Washington Monument completed.
- **12/7/1941** - Pearl Harbor attacked by Japanese; United States drawn into World War II.
- **12/8/1980** - John Lennon is shot and killed by an obsessed fan in New York City.
- **12/10/1901** - The first Nobel Prizes are awarded in Stockholm, Sweden, in the fields of physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, and peace.
- **12/11/1936** - Edward VIII abdicates the throne to be with the woman he loves.
- **12/14/1911** - Norwegian Roald Amundsen becomes the first explorer to reach the South Pole.
- **12/20/1957** - Elvis Presley is drafted.
- **12/21/1988** - Pan Am Flight 103 from London to New York explodes over Lockerbie, Scotland.
- **12/23/1970** - The North Tower of the World Trade Center is completed.
- **12/27/1932** - Radio City Music Hall opens.
- **12/31/1999** - Panama Canal turned over to Panama.

Source:

- www.history.com

Winter Lecture Series Schedule for 2009

Mark your **2009** calendar now so you don't miss any of the Society's upcoming "Winter Lecture Series"! We open with the program on the history of the Grumman Corporation presented by Lois Lovisolo on Sunday, January 11 at the Bethpage Public Library at 2pm. Please see separate article in this issue of THE YEOMAN.

The following two programs will also be held on Sundays at 2pm, but at the Farmingdale Public Library:

- * Sunday, February 15 - "William Floyd, Signer of the Declaration" (with Gene Horton)
- * Sunday, March 8 - "New York State in the Civil War" (with Robert W. Arnold) (A program sponsored by a grant from the New York Council for the Humanities)

A presentation noting the 175th anniversary of the Long Island Rail Road will close the Winter Lecture Series. The date for this program will be announced early in 2009.

Program on Grumman January 11 as 80th Anniversary Nears

Lois Lovisolo, director of the Bethpage Public Library and former historian-archivist of the Grumman Corporation, will present a joint program for the Central Park Historical Society and the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society on Sunday, January 11, 2009 at the Bethpage Public Library, 47 Powell Avenue, Bethpage. The title of Ms. Lovisolo's presentation is "Grumman: An Historical and Personal Look Back."

This first program of 2009 is most appropriate, as the new year marks 80 years since Leroy Grumman founded his aircraft company in 1929. The firm grew to become one of Long Island's largest employers during World War II and the ensuing Cold War, in addition to playing a significant role in the beginning of the Space Age. The Grumman firm, widely known for the excellence of its aircraft, merged with the Northrop Corporation in 1994.

Lois Lovisolo experienced first-hand the later years of the Grumman Corporation. Don't miss this opportunity to hear her informative presentation. Mark your new calendar now!

The parking field for the Bethpage Library is directly opposite the library on Powell Avenue. Please cross Powell Avenue at the designated crosswalk.

Auditor Wanted

It is time for the Society's financial records to be audited. If you are a Certified Public Accountant who can undertake this endeavor, or if you can recommend one, please contact FBHS president Mildred Johnston at 516-249-3099, or treasurer Frank Bondietti at 516-420-0716.



ASCHS Fall Meeting Held in Huntington

The Huntington Historical Society hosted the autumn meeting of the Association of Suffolk County Historical Societies (ASCHS), of which the FBHS is a member, on Saturday, October 25. A comprehensive tour of historical properties of the host society was presented, including the David Conklin House, the Daniel Kissam House, the Colonial Arsenal, and the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building. The tour also visited the offices of the Town Clerk and the Town Historian. The luncheon and business meeting were held at the Crescent Club.

It was announced at the meeting that there would be no Winter Meeting, with the next meeting scheduled for April 2009.

THE YEOMAN thanks Adrian Post and Barbara Post for representing the FBHS at the fall meeting.

FBHS Exhibit: "Collecting - A Popular Pastime"

Our collections say a lot about us. They reflect our traditions and heritage, hopes and dreams and childhood memories, just to name a few things. The Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society's newest exhibit at the Farmingdale Public Library displays a wide selection of mini-collections from members of our community. Collections exhibited range from Nutcrackers to Medieval Miniatures to Matchbooks and Teacups to Sports Memorabilia. A number of the collections include keepsakes from the local area.

The collections are located on the lower floor display area and in the cases on the main floor. "Collecting - A Popular Pastime" may be viewed through Spring 2009.

An End-of-Year Appeal

The final weeks of the calendar year are a traditional time for the giving of gifts. As you draw up your gift list this holiday season, why not consider your historical society? There are increasingly more expensive costs involved with providing programs including printing, postage, speaker fees, and occasional newspaper ads, not to mention less obvious expenses such as insurance, organizational memberships, and archival storage supplies. Membership dues alone do not cover all these items.

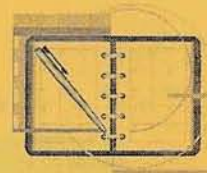
If you are able, please send an end-of-year donation to the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society, P.O. Box 500, Farmingdale, New York 11735-0500. In doing so, you'll be helping the Society, and perhaps lowering your liability for state and federal taxes as you prepare your 2008 return (please consult your tax advisor). FBHS is a not-for-profit corporation organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Thank you very much.



Executive Board Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the officers and trustees of the Society will be on Thursday, December 4, 2008 at 7pm at the Farmingdale Public Library. Members are reminded that they are always welcome to sit in on meetings of the executive board and, with prior arrangement with the president, to address the Board on matters of concern. Subsequent meetings will be held on the traditional first, non-holiday Thursday of the month: January 8 and February 5, 2009.





Candlelight Evenings Set for Holiday Time at "OBVR"

Old Bethpage Village Restoration is always a special place to visit at any time of the year, whether to view the historic buildings moved from various Long Island communities, to attend an oldtime "base-ball" game, listen to a brass band or choral concert, or attend the Long Island Fair. For many families it has become a holiday time tradition to visit the Restoration on one of the Candlelight Evenings, when the darkness and frosty temperatures can help to bring one to a greater sense of the past.

The schedule for the Candlelight Evenings in 2008 are Saturday and Sunday, December 20-21, and Friday through Tuesday, December 26-30. The hours are 5:00 to 9:30pm on these special evenings. Following this event, the Restoration will be closed December 31 through February 28, reopening on March 1, 2009.



American Civil War Veterans Project Update

The following was submitted by Patrick Looney of Boy Scout Troop 261. Patrick is currently working towards attaining the rank of Eagle Scout by conducting a project involving the identification of local veterans of the Civil War through New York State and Federal documents, locating their gravesites, and rehabilitating those graves. THE YEOMAN has invited Patrick to provide periodic updates of his project.

* * * * *

On Veterans Day at 9:00 pm I went with Assistant Scoutmaster Richard Maurice and my father to the Lyceum Cemetery to take photographs of Alfred and Cornelius Walters' tombstones. I tried a different technique in order to read the inscriptions on the tombstones of the Walters brothers. We used a flashlight at different angles to create shadows in the lettering on the tombstones. Mr. Maurice then took digital photographs of the inscriptions. The photos are being downloaded into software that I hope will enable us to read the inscriptions.



In local cemeteries we have located 17 Civil War veterans from the following regiments: 56th, 90th, 119th, 127th, 145th Regiments New York Infantry; United States Navy; 18th Regiment Massachusetts Infantry; 17th Regiment Michigan Infantry; 1st Regiment New Hampshire Infantry.

I met with Ms. Brochu and Mr. and Mrs. Johnston and received additional Civil War records. With their help I hope to ultimately locate all of the men from Farmingdale who served with the Walters'. We also discussed setting up Civil War exhibits at the library in 2009.

Next weekend I am going to purchase the tombstone for Alfred Walters at Wellwood Memorials. The gravesite looks barren now, but it should look great when the plants bloom in the spring.

Once again, thanks for your support.



The officers and trustees extend warmest good wishes to
all members and friends of the Society for a
Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!





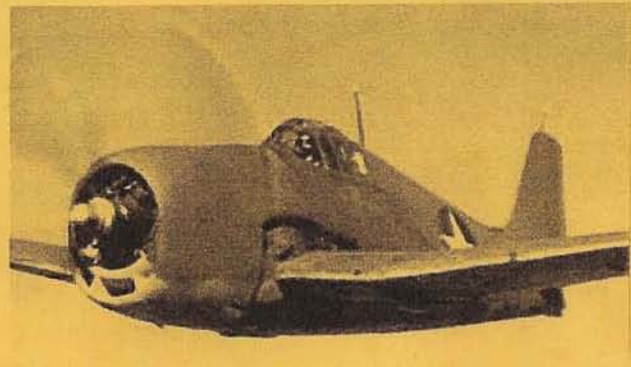
A Cooperative Program of the
CENTRAL PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
and the
FARMINGDALE - BETHPAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



GRUMMAN

A Presentation by
LOIS LOVISOLO

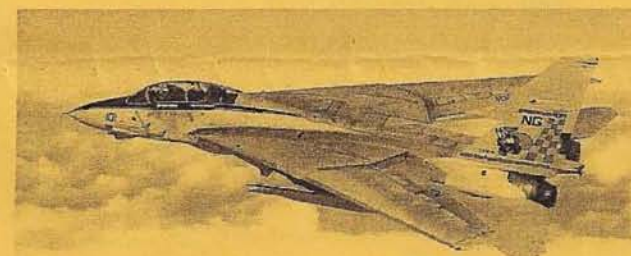
Director, Bethpage Public Library
Former Historian and Archivist, The Grumman Corporation



SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2009, 2:00pm

BETHPAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

47 Powell Avenue, Bethpage



In 1929 Leroy Grumman started a small firm which grew to become an aeronautical giant and a major factor in the economy of Long Island, Its aircraft became synonymous with the highest standard of quality during World War II and the Cold War, and its contributions to the early Space Age gave the U.S. unchallenged leadership.

Attend this free program to learn more about the story of the Grumman Corporation, a proud chapter in Long Island history!



**Farmingdale-Bethpage
Historical Society**

Box 500
Farmingdale, New York 11735

www.fdale.com

"We hold fast to the elements that
are dear to us."
- Jesse Merritt

The Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society was founded at a meeting in historic Powell House, Merritt Road, Farmingdale, on April 12, 1964. It is chartered as an incorporated non-profit educational and cultural organization by the University of the State of New York.

Executive Board

Mildred Johnston —President; Membership
James McCullagh—Vice President
Gail Goldschrafe—Recording Secretary
Jeanne M. Buck—Corresponding Secretary
Frank Bondiotti—Treasurer; Collections Committee
JoAnne Bihary—Trustee; Hospitality; Collections Committee
Serena Brochu—Trustee; Newsletter Editor; Collections Committee
Nancy Cinque—Trustee
Eric Goldschrafe—Trustee
William J. Johnston—Trustee
JoAnn Krapp—Trustee; Exhibits Coordinator
Pierre Lehmuller—Trustee
Dolores McAfee—Trustee
Seymour Weinstein—Trustee; Website
Nancy White—Trustee
Maria Zito—Trustee
Lawrence R. Jorgensen —Ex-Officio Immediate Past President

**Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical
Society**

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