



### Inside this issue:

Annual Spirits Tour	Pg 1
President's Message	Pg 2
Diaries of Etta Doane	Pg 3&7
Recreating History	Pg 4-5
Culper Spy Day	Pg 6
Crawford Barn	Pg 6
Tri-Spy Tours	Pg 7
Membership	Pg 8
Photos	Pg 9
GW Letters	Pg 10
Emma Clark	Pg 11
Anniversary	

### The Three Village Historical Society

#### Governing Board

**Stephen Healy**  
*President*

**Robert Lauto**  
*Vice President*

**Patty Cain**  
*Vice President*

**Christina Klug**  
*Treasurer*

**Cathy White**  
*Recording Secretary*

**Carol Lane**  
*Corresponding Secretary*

**John Yantz**  
*Past President*

#### Trustees:

**Margo Arceri**  
**Paul Gold**

**Barbara Gottfried**

**Holly Griesel**

**Ron LaVita**

**Orlando Maione**

**Janet McCauley**

**Ed Miller**

**Michael O'Dwyer**

**Greg Philipps**

**Jeffrey Schnee**

**Frank Turano**

#### Staff:

**Beverly Tyler**  
*Historian*

**Karen Martin**  
*Archivist*

**Donna Smith**  
*Director of Education*

**Sandy White**  
*Office Manager*

**Suzanna Roberts**  
*Office Assistant*

**Mari Irizarry**  
*Creative Services*

**Steve Hintze**  
*Grants Administrator*

**Marcia Seaman**  
*Bookkeeper*

# The Historian

*A Publication of the Three Village Historical Society*



**Volume 54 Issue 2**

**Summer 2017**



**BY BRIAN CEA**

This year's event is sure to be the bee's knees as the sounds of hotsy-totsy jazz and tasty stories of the Roaring 20's fill the air at our annual Spirits Tour- The Spirits of Prohibition: Setauket of the roaring 20s! Join us down memory lane as we weave through one of our history's most exciting chapters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Meet with spirits who recall the days of bootlegging, women's suffrage and speak-easies from what was still considered rural America. But don't think the townsfolk of Setauket were a bunch of lollygaggers content on farming or working at the local rubber factory! Meet with millionaire big timer Ward Melville who was determined to change the shape of the town of Stony Brook, or another big cheese, Eversley Childs who after making plenty of "kale", bought and donated West Meadow Beach and the Neighborhood House for all to enjoy! Not to be outdone, there is even Count Eugenio Teixiera, Setauket's own royalty and another live wire, Annie Tinker who was a leader in the woman's suffrage movement as part of the Right to Vote Liberty Club. Riding on the temperance high horse, was the bluenose Mrs. Bryant who is sure to chastise those who got zozzled with locally brewed gin juice like "O.B. Joy" made in the illegal bootleg swills that dotted the landscape around Setauket. The spirit of Judge Ruhland may have something to say about that as well, sitting on the bench as a judge fulltime and part time harboring crates of illegal whiskey from across the Sound. You'll get to know everyone's

onions from WWI soldiers Harry Golden and Nelson Coombs and more familiar names like scientist Robert Cushman Murphy and the burlap sack wearing bearcat, Celia Hawkins! Don't be left holding the bag and join us on **Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>** for what is sure to be the cat's meow of a night at the **Setauket Presbyterian** and **Caroline Church Cemeteries!** So grab your clams and purchase tickets for sale starting September 9<sup>th</sup> for Members Only and September 14<sup>th</sup> for General Sales at [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org) or call (631) 751-3730.

### The Three Village Historical Society

Presents The 23RD ANNUAL

# SPIRITS TOUR

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST, 2017**

**RAIN DATE : OCTOBER 28TH**

[www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org) for tickets

## President's Message



Stephen Healy  
President, TVHS

I have held the position of President for the past seven months. They have been busy as well as rewarding. This year the society has offered exciting events and programs with more to come. Our annual events remain as popular as ever and we have been able to implement and cultivate more recent events such as Culper Spy Day, The Farmers Market, Tri-Spy Tours and an upcoming collaboration with the Jazz Loft. We will finish out 2017 with our annual Candlelight House Tour, chaired by Patty Yantz and Patty Cain.

The Candlelight House Tour will be celebrating its 39<sup>th</sup> year presenting a selection of homes in the Setauket Harbor area. This annual event continues to be our largest fundraiser. The evolution of this event and its sustainability is a testament to the dedicated volunteer base of the Three Village Historical Society, the talented men and women in this community, our sponsors, those who attend this event, and two of our most talented chairs. For many it is an annual tradition that begins the holiday season and for all it is an event steeped in history offering period and architecturally interesting homes, as well as elegant holiday decor.

Coming in September is "Culper Spy Day." This event has become increasingly popular with more and more organizations across Long Island joining The Three Village Historical Society to bring this weekend long event to the community. The Times Beacon Record will be offering a full-page ad outlining the weekend festivities. Many thanks to Margo Arceri for her work and dedication to this event.

"One Life to Give" will be screened during Culper Spy Day weekend. The TVHS staff, and many of our board and members were directly involved in its filming, a prequel to "TURN." TVHS was given the honor of Associate Producer on this project. We are all looking forward to the screening during Culper Spy Day weekend on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, at a venue to be announced, many thanks to Michael Tessler and the Times Beacon Record Newspapers. TVHS is grateful to the 4 seasons of "Turn," which has highlighted a period in time in which our community is most proud. This series is loosely based on the Setauket Spy Ring. It takes place in New York and brings to light the work of Benjamin Tallmadge, Abraham Woodhull and their affiliation with George Washington as well as Setauket's contribution to the war. The 4<sup>th</sup> and final season has ended and we were able to acquire the Abraham Woodhull costume, which is now on display at our SPIES! Exhibit. Additionally we acquired over 20 items from the set that will be up for auction. Stay tuned!

On the heels of Culper Spy Day is our annual Spirits Tour, chaired by Brian Cea, with help from Janet McCauley and Frank Turano. This fundraiser is a community favorite held on October 21st at the cemeteries and church grounds surrounding the Village Green in Setauket. During the evening Spirits visit to share their firsthand accounts of the events of the time. This year we are celebrating more recent history, 1920's Prohibition! We will hold a pre-Spirits tour event at The Jazz Loft, September 14<sup>th</sup> with Prohibition as the theme. We are happy to announce that Montauk Brewery is sponsoring this event. Contact us for more information.

Our annual Yard Sale fundraiser was a great success. The contributions this year far surpassed prior years. Ed Miller, TVHS Trustee, donated signage that was instrumental in promoting this event to the community. Every year Trustees and Members participate in the yard sale. Dennis Manarino (of the Old Field Club) positioned his food truck for the day making refreshments and food accessible to volunteers, vendors and shoppers. Each year Mike O'Dwyer has embraced the task of meticulously pricing the items for sale, antiques and household goods alike. We would like to thank all the volunteers that make this fundraiser a success. A fun day was had by all.

"Founders Day" was an exciting event. This annual event is chaired by Bev Tyler and Donna Smith. Held at the Setauket School on Main Street. This event, popular with our youth, introduces our students to the history of the community in which they live. We would like to acknowledge Paul Gold, Trustee, and the Three Village School District for their efforts in introducing an itinerary for a course involving local history working in conjunction with the Three Village Historical Society. This is an exciting program offering high school students the opportunity to register for a class that will introduce them to our local history. TVHS is looking forward to the implementation of this course.

Our Lecture Series continues. These series are informative and free, bringing past and current topics of interest to our membership. Please review our website to view upcoming speakers, lecturers and topics.

Margo Arceri's Tri-Spy Tours have been well received offering kayaking, walking and biking through the past of the Three Villages. Bev Tyler's and Art Billadello's walking tours continue to be popular and present local history as well as current events to the Long Island community and beyond.

The Dominick Crawford Barn is moving along through the planning department, we anticipate that the foundation will be poured late fall or early spring 2018 with framing to follow. Contact the office for ways to become involved in this milestone project.

The weekly Farmers Market has proven to be a staple, which has been embraced by the community. It is every Friday evening from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m through September offering fresh fruits, vegetables and other items.

The Three Village Historical Society has gone mobile, enabling our community to purchase membership, gift shop items, sweatshirts, event tickets, etc. The implementation of "The Square" makes processing payments convenient and accessibility to our events easy. TVHS will be putting into motion a membership drive that will span the upcoming year from 9/1/2017 to 9/1/2018. Please review our website, board members, events and other information and join. You can contact our office at any time to obtain membership.

*Stephen Healy*

## The Diaries of Etta Doane by Barbara Russell

Etta Frances Doane was born on March 11, 1866; the daughter of Mary E. Jayne and George Doane. Known as Etta, she grew up in Port Jefferson, but her mother being a Setauket native, had many relatives nearby in East Setauket. Her maternal grandparents, Micah and Elizabeth Jones Jayne, lived on "the Main Road" in the house that is now number 351 Route 25A. Her Uncle Scudder Jayne and his wife Susan Jones Jayne lived at number 339 Route 25A, and her Uncle Benjamin and his wife Hannah Corwin Jayne lived in the house that is number 87 Shore Road. Etta became a schoolteacher, first in Setauket and later in Patchogue, before she married Ernest Tooker in 1894 and moved to Riverhead. I have extracted portions of her diary to illustrate the life of a schoolteacher locally in the late nineteenth century.

Etta's diary begins in January 1883 when she is 16 years old. She mentions doing various activities after school with friends in Port Jefferson and being a regular attendee at church and "S.S." (which seems to be an abbreviation for Sunday School.)

**Saturday 27.** Mr. Webster [Clergyman] called in P.M. & told me I was to take Mamie Jones' Sunday School class.

This is the first indication of her teaching, but it is a Sunday School class.

**Sunday 28.** A rainy day, but I went to church with Mame Norton, and to S.S. There was only twenty there and Mr. Webster taught the whole.

**Sunday 4. (February)** Taught my class for the first time. Four present.

Etta makes many references to studying, especially over the summer months.

**Thursday 5. (July)** Very warm. Studied & sewed.

**Friday 6.** Studied & sewed. Very hot.

**Tuesday 10.** This A.M. I was examined with some teachers at the school house by Com. Conklin. In P.M. carried my ruffling down to Mrs. Tuthill's.

It's not clear whether she was already teaching at 16, or if she was now able to qualify for a teaching exam, having turned 17 in March.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> (August)** Rained all day. Went up to Setauket in the 5 P.M. Factory stage. Went down to Auntie's. In ev'g right after tea Mr. Frank Corwin of Brooklyn drove me up to Mr. Wheeler's the trustee of the school. Then as the cars hadn't got in we thought we'd take a drive. We didn't know the way to Stony Brook but as he had never been there we thought we'd go. We followed a man up there. Then inquired the way back at the hotel. It began to sprinkle & we didn't know whether we were on the right road or not. By making many inquiries we finally reached S [Setauket] in safety. Retired soon after getting home.

Could the Factory stage be a vehicle that brought the local factory workers back and forth? The entry indicates that she is pursuing a teaching profession, as she made a point to meet with Mr. Wheeler, the school trustee. I included the entire paragraph here, because they did not know the route from Setauket to Stony Brook. Etta mentions in her diary several times taking the boat to Bridgeport, and even taking it to its second stop at New Haven where they walked around Yale College. Yet, travelling to Stony Brook was a new adventure.

**Thursday 30. (August)** Went to Setauket to see about board at Aunt Betsy's. Ate dinner at Susan E's & tea at Aunt B's. Went down to Auntie's in P.M. Came home in the factory stage. Ben. (?) Bryant hired me to teach yesterday.

Teachers often boarded with local residents if possible. From Etta's diary, it doesn't seem that she boarded all the time with her Aunt Betsy. The schoolhouse is likely the one on the corner of 25A and Coach Road; it is now an office building. Auntie is probably Hannah Corwin Jayne.

**Saturday September 1st.** Swept in A.M. Saw Lizzie Roses baby for first time. Then called on Addie Brewster (possibly Adie Brewster, 17 years old of Port Jefferson). The new school teacher Mr. Bennett was there & I was introduced. Addie & I stopped for Miss Penney & then went up to the schoolhouse but couldn't get in.

**Monday 3.** The Public school began here to-day.

The school that Etta taught in is probably the one located on the corner of 25A and Coach Road. According to the September 1990 edition of the Three Village Historian, this building was erected about 1866. Subsequent entries don't detail school days, but do record a Friday excursion to Bridgeport with a friend.

**Sunday 9.** Charles drove me up to Setauket with Brewster O's horse. The Principal came at tea time.

Charles could be her half-brother, Charles Roe, who in the 1880 census was living in Port Jefferson



Portrait of Etta Doane



## Helping to Recreate History by Orlando Maione



Actors in costume, on set

Three Village Historical Society board members, family and friends answered a call to volunteer to assist in reenacting history in a new feature film set and filmed in our historic area. A script co-written by Times Beacon Record, Director of Media Productions, Michael Tessler and the film's director "Benji" Dunaief is a "prequel" to the recently ended "TURN" TV program. This story fills in some of the blanks in the exciting history of the Revolutionary War as it evolved in our Three Village backyards. The title is "One Life to Give".

Produced by the Times Beacon Record News Media (with the Three Village Historical Society listed as an Associate Producer). It is directed by professional film director "Benji" Dunaief, grandson of the publication's Editor and Publisher, Leah S. Dunaief. Filming started in mid-June and ended on the evening of July 2, completely filmed in and around the Three Village area using historic buildings and landscapes. The director's mother, Rachel, was an attentive and caring "set Mom" making sure everyone had enough food and water to keep all healthy and happy. The production used professional actors for the major roles and production crew. A casting call was put out to local historical groups to assist with supplying volunteers for the numerous additional "background" people needed to make the scenes look real. The Three Village Historical Society (TVHS) responded and participated in five of the major scenes.

In the actual filming of any script, scenes are not usually filmed in chronological order and that was the case for "One Life to

Give." On Father's Day, June 18, the rain stopped and the clouds parted at the Sherwood-Jayne House and Farm (1730-1790) on Old Post Road, East Setauket in time for filming the reenactment of Nathan Hale's hanging. The well maintained buildings, and grounds of the historic landmark offered numerous opportunities for the film crew to preselect varied locations for filming. Prominent in the hanging scene, were TVHS President, Steve Healy, his son Patrick and board member Orlando T. Maione. Adding to the realistic atmosphere were volunteer reenactment military professionals from the 5th Connecticut Regiment and military and civilian members of the 5th New York Regiment.



Stephen Healy and Son in costume, on set

It became vividly obvious that members of reenactment groups are passionate about historical reenactment and historical accuracy.

Volunteers representing the various military groups in the filming were impressive in the care and details everyone created and used in their uniforms and costumes. Almost all weapons and "gear" were authentic or reproduced according to historic documentation and obtained by the members over the years through auctions and swap meets nationwide. Uniforms and civilian costumes were usually hand made by the reenactors themselves or members of their family and friends paying meticulous attention to authentic details. Some costumes were purchased through a thriving business of authentic reproduction

*Cont. on next page*

## JOIN US for PROHIBITION NIGHT at THE JAZZ LOFT ON SEPTEMBER 14TH!

THE THREE VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
in conjunction with THE JAZZ LOFT present  
**PROHIBITION  
NIGHT**  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.THEJAZZLOFT.ORG](http://WWW.THEJAZZLOFT.ORG)  
THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 | 7:00PM-9:30PM

### FUNDRAISER TICKETS

\$20 ADULTS  
\$15 SENIORS  
\$10 STUDENTS

### MUSIC

FEATURING  
TOM MANUEL &  
HIS FIREHOUSE FIVE

### RAFFLE ITEMS

PROVIDED BY MONTAUK BREWERY

### ANNUAL SPIRITS TOUR TICKETS

ON SALE NIGHT OF!

### TICKETS AT

[WWW.THEJAZZLOFT.ORG](http://WWW.THEJAZZLOFT.ORG)

SPONSORED BY MONTAUK BREWERY

## Helping to Recreate History by Orlando Maione (cont. from page 4)



TVHS Office Assistant Suzanna Roberts, President, Stephen Healy, Board Member Cathy White and niece in costume on set.

houses available online and nationwide.

Beginning Monday, June 26th, through the generosity of the Benner family, the historic 1750's fifteen-acre farm on Gnarled Hollow Road, East Setauket was used extensively for the next few days of filming. A historic revolutionary battle camp was provided

and erected by reenactors of the Kings Brigade of Guards complete with tents, camp furniture and camp fire equipment. Real food and simulated hard liquor was added for an exterior bar scene atmosphere. The extensive scene was created to culminate in the betrayal of Nathan Hale by local Loyalists in the bar. Costumed "serving wenches" were portrayed by two members of the Suffolk County Historical Society, Riverhead. TVHS background actors in the camp scene in period costumes included, Cathy White and her niece Katie, Sandy White, Susie Roberts, Ed Miller, Steve Healy and Orlando Maione.

On Friday, June 30th a different remote portion of the Benner's Farm was used to create a Field Hospital where Patty and Scott Cain and Maryanne Vigneaux donned costumes and spent most

of the day adding background characters to the scene's filming.

On Saturday, July 1st another portion of the extensive Benner's Farm was used to create John Chester's Camp where Steve Healy again appears in background shots.

The final day of shooting was on Sunday, July 2nd which was designated as "Battle Day" and the Battle of Long Island was recreated. Reenactors from the 5th New York Regiment, the 1st Massachusetts Regiment participated. The 2nd Continental Artillery provided not only the full nine man firing team needed, but their own three pound light cannon that was actually fired during the battle. Unfortunately history tells us the colonials lost. Steve Healy, Orlando Maione, Michael O'Dwyer and his daughter, Kathryn were in scenes as colonial militia and camp civilians. An actual combat trench was dug, protected by jutting 10 foot pointed poles, used most of the day for battle scenes between the "Redcoats" and the Colonial Militias. All the muskets and the cannon fired live rounds but no projectiles adding an early fire works sound to the neighborhood.

Filming and a traditional end of shoot "wrap" ended in the early evening with the cast and crew witnessing the marriage proposal between Larry and Ciny of the 5th New York Regiment. It will take several weeks for the editing crews to finish the technical portion of the film, but the producers are looking for an early Fall premiere and several locations have expressed an interest in hosting the event.

## Mark your calendars for the 39th Annual Candlelight House Tour!



# SAVE THE DATE | 39TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT HOUSE TOUR 2017

VISIONS OF EAST SETAUKET : THEN AND NOW

A THREE VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRADITION | DECEMBER 1ST & 2ND, 2017



### 3rd Annual Culper Spy Day is Saturday, September 16th!



Members from 3rd New York  
Regiment at Culper Spy Day 2016

On Saturday, September 16 from 9AM to 4PM the Three Village Historical Society and Tri-Spy Tours in Setauket and the Long Island Museum and the Ward Melville Heritage Organization in Stony Brook will host a day of spy related tours and activities for the 3rd Annual Culper Spy Day.

Throughout the day you can take part in many Culper Spy Day activities, including the Three Village Historical Society's interactive Culper SPIES! Exhibit and a book signing with award winning novelist and nonfiction author Selene Castrovilla. Visitors will also enjoy invisible ink demonstrations and Anna Strong's famed clothesline, used for sending signals to Culper spies working off Long Island's shores. The Brookhaven Militia will be doing reenactments on the field. The Long Island Museum will host a lecture at 2PM with Dr. John Staudt, Adjunct Assistant Professor of History at Hofstra University. Staudt will present *The Terrible Force of War: Eastern Long Island in The American Revolution*. In addition, blacksmith demonstrations will be ongoing from 10AM to 3PM and Revolutionary War artifacts will be on display. Ward Melville Heritage Organization will host colonial cooking demonstrations and tours of historic structures that served as home bases for several spy ring members. Stony Brook University's Special Collections department will display original letters written to Benjamin Tallmadge from George Washington. The 3rd New York Regiment will reenact musket firing and marching drills on Setauket's Village Green. The Country House Restaurant will offer a spy-themed lunch. The Ketcham Inn of Center Moriches will host a guided tour and dinner at the home of noted spy Benjamin Havens.

Organizations participating in the Culper Spy Day event include Three Village Historical Society, Tri-Spy Tours, The Long Island Museum, Ward Melville Heritage Organization, Stony Brook University Special Collections, Emma S. Clark Memorial Library, Frank Melville Memorial Park, Three Village Community Trust, Caroline Church of Brookhaven, Setauket Presbyterian Church, Incorporated Village of Port Jefferson (Drowned Meadow Cottage), History Close at Hand, Country House Restaurant, Times Beacon Record Newspapers, Raynham Hall, Smithtown Historical Society, Discover Long Island, Ketcham Inn of Center Moriches, and Sagtikos Manor in Bay Shore.

Beat the lines and reserve your tickets ahead of time at [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org). Wristbands and maps with all event listings can then be picked up (with proof of ticket purchase) at the **Three Village Historical Society at 93 North Country Road** in Setauket from September 11 – 15 between 10AM to 3PM or on September 16th starting at 9AM. Tickets are good for admission to participating organizations for Saturday and Sunday, September 16 and 17. Additional fees may apply. For a full list of Culper Spy Day activities please visit [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org).

### Dominick-Crawford Barn Update

**The Historian**  
Is published bi-annually by  
the Three Village Historical  
Society.

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

[officemanager@tvhs.org](mailto:officemanager@tvhs.org)

In the subject line please  
include: **The Historian**.

Editors:  
Sandy White,  
Mari Irizarry & Karen Martin

©2017, Three Village  
Historical Society



The Crawford Barn Project continues to move along at a steady pace. The Planning Department is in the process of reviewing the site plan, along with the Building Department. The site parking and barn position have been finalized. The architectural plans, by John Cuniffe, have been submitted. The timeline to pour the slab is October/November 2017 or early Spring 2018. The framing should proceed quickly after that. Stay Tuned...

The Barn Committee

## The Diaries of Etta Doane by Barbara Russell (cont. from page 3)

with his mother, Mary and Etta.

**Monday 10.** Commenced to teach school at Setauket this morning. 16 pupils present in my room. Mr.[ Crusaz] made a short speech. Messrs. Bryant & Wheeler were there.

**Friday 14.** After school walked down home with Beulah Davis. By "down home", Etta means down the hill from Setauket to Port Jefferson.

She mentions going to church in Port Jefferson on Sunday, then walking toward Setauket, where her Uncle Scudder met her and drove her the rest of the way.

**Monday October 1.** Quite cool. Drove up with Philip. We went way up past Sylvester Hulse's.

Indicates they came from Port Jefferson via Old Post Road.

**Tuesday 2.** Rained hard all day. Was real chilly. I had a fire over to the school-house.

**Monday 8.** Stayed an hour after school to hear Henry's spelling, then went down to Auntie's.

**Monday 22. (October)** Had an entertainment in P.M. at the school house. 'Twas a wooden model of Washington's tomb and the surroundings.

**Thursday 25.** Worst day I've had yet. Things got behind hand.

**Tuesday 30.** Lovely day. Stayed an hour after school with Henry Jones

Seems that Etta got through almost two months of school without any noted discipline problems, but...

**Wed 31.** Carrie R. told me Mrs. E. had an old head and I a young one today in school.

**Thursday November 1.** Went down and had a talk with Carrie R's mother after school

**Wed. 7.** Whipped Nellie C. to-day for not minding me & was awful sorry afterward. Poor little thing.

The weather in December affected the school census. Follow a record of cold and snow on Sunday the 16th;

**Mon. 17.** Uncle S came after me & I got up to sch. in time. Had 7 pupils.

**Tues 18.** Snowed a little in A.M. had 9.

**Wed. 19.** Snowed all day. Had 7.

**Fri. 21.** Snowed in A.M. Cleared off nicely in P.M. Scuddie brought me home. Lovely sleighing.

## Tri-Spy Tours with local historian, Margo Arceri



Well into our 4th tour season and the walking, biking and kayak tours are already a huge success! We brought the kayak adventure to an entirely new level as we teamed up with Paumanok Tours to present a unique historical look at marine life and history in the Three Village area. Experience the beauty of Setauket Harbor and learn about its role in George Washington's spy ring, all from the seat of a kayak. Kayak, paddle and life vest provided with purchase of kayak tour ticket.

Look for the announcements of all new bike tours scheduled for this Fall. The Three Villages : a look on how one family impacted an entire community with their philanthropy.

Joe Reboli : From Revolutionary War ties to today. The history of the family and the legacy of a man who was an American painter based in Stony Brook known primarily for his oil paintings of local landscapes and subjects from the Three Village area.

Give the gift of history and book a private tour!!! Our private tours are custom fit to fill your needs. Whether you walk, bike or kayak we can customize a unique and different way to give that special gift for birthdays, anniversaries, and family gatherings.

Margo Arceri, Founder of Tri-Spy Tours

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

2017 is here and it's time to think about the year ahead and renew your membership with the Three Village Historical Society or maybe even purchase a gift membership. Please encourage friends who might share your interest in the history and culture of our beautiful area to become members.

Individual dues are only \$35 and Dual/Family dues are \$50. Both levels entitle members to Basic Benefits: 10% discount on many Gift Shop Purchases, the newsletter: *The Historian*, and discount and advance purchases on many of our programs and events. You're able to attend our Member's Only event: Tea with a Spot of History and gain free entrance to our exhibits. Patron dues are \$100 and along with basic benefits you will receive 2 complimentary walking tour tickets. Higher categories of membership bring additional benefits, such as complimentary tickets to the Candlelight House Tour and the Spirits Tour. You can see a full description of member benefits on our website, as well as, all the events and programs we have planned this year: [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org)

Thank you for your support,  
Janette Handley, Membership Chair

**Visit our website: [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org) to make a secure online payment for your membership!**

### 2017 Three Village Historical Society-Membership Application

10% discount on gift shop purchases, subscription to The Historian Newsletter, free entrance to our exhibits, nine monthly Member Meetings, discount and advance purchase on many Society events and Programs.

#### Suggested Membership Levels:

Individual:	\$35.00
Dual/Family:	\$50.00
Patron:	\$100.00
Benefactor:	\$250.00
Major Contributor:	\$500.00
Friend of the Barn:	\$750.00
Founders:	\$1000.00

**Rates reflect annual dues,  
renewable January of each year**

For a complete list of benefits for each level of membership please visit  
[www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteering Interests:** \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit Docent | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Shop              | <input type="checkbox"/> Spirits Tour   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yard Sale      | <input type="checkbox"/> Candlelight House Tour | <input type="checkbox"/> Culper Spy Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative | <input type="checkbox"/> Education Assistant    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media   |

Check payable to: **Three Village Historical Society** or  
MasterCard or Visa

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**OR**  
**save paper and do it online at [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org)**

I would like to make a Gift Membership to :

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



TVHS Photos of our members, board and friends at a few special events



Annual Awards Dinner



Annual Awards Dinner



Annual Awards Dinner



Annual Awards Dinner



Tri-Spy Walking Tour



Memorial Day Parade



Annual Yard Sale



Annual Pot Luck Dinner



Founder's Day



Abraham Woodhull Walking Tour



Pot Luck Dinner & Lecture



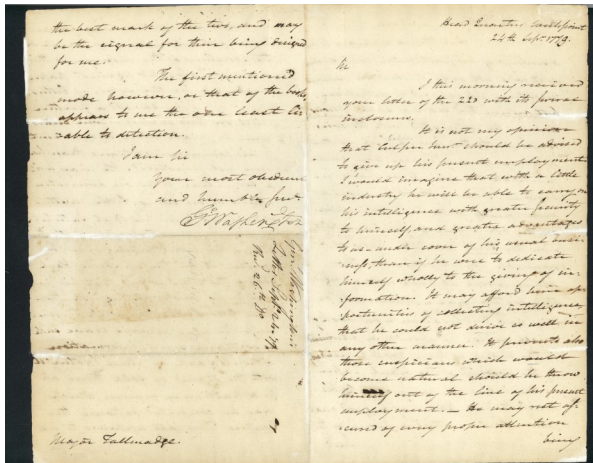
Annual Awards Dinner



## View two of George Washington's letters in person at Stony Brook University!

Special Collections at **Stony Brook University** acquired two exciting American Revolutionary War-era letters authored by **George Washington** that document spy activities in Setauket, NY during 1779 and 1780. Three Village Historical Society was so pleased that Stony Brook University was able to acquire these letters. At the time, TVHS was so adamant that these letters end up in the right hands, the society pledged their endowment for the purchase, but was not needed. Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Henry and Marsha Laufer, the letters laid the foundation for the establishment of a Long Island Historic Documents Collection. The collection includes primary and secondary source material on the history of Long Island from the earliest settlers through the present, with a strong emphasis on the period of the American Revolution through the War of 1812 (1764-1812). The letters can be viewed online (link available at [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org)) or in person by appointment. This is a true treasure and a must see for any Three Village resident!

### George Washington letter, September 24, 1779 (pictured below)



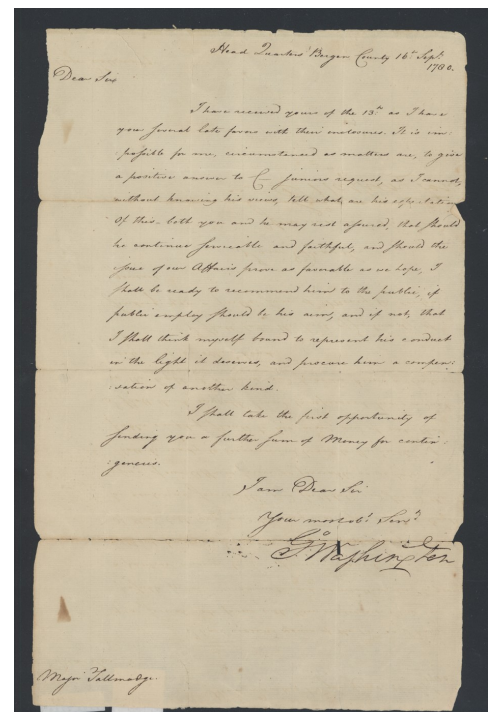
Transcript: Head Quarters Westpoint 24th Sept. 1779. Sir, I this morning received your letter of the 22nd with its several enclosures. It is not my opinion that Culper Junr. should be advised to give up his present employment. I would imagine that with a little industry he will be able to carry on his intelligence with greater security to himself, and greater advantages to us — under cover of his usual business, than if he were to dedicate himself wholly to the giving of information. It may afford him opportunities of collecting intelligence, that he could not derive so well in any other manner. It prevents also those suspicions which would become natural should he throw himself out of the line of his present employment. — He may rest assured of every proper attention being paid to his services. One thing appears to me deserving of his particular consideration, as it will not only render his communications less exposed to detection, but relieve the fears of such persons as may be entrusted with its conveyance to the second link in the chain — and of course very much facilitate the object we now have in view. — I mean that he should occasionally write his information on the blank leaves of a pamphlet — on the first second &c. pages of a common pocket book — on the blank

leaves at each end of registers for the year — almanacks, or any new publication — or book of small value. He should be determined in the choice of these books, principally by the goodness of the blank paper as the ink is not easily legible unless it is on paper of good quality. Having settled a plan of this kind with his friend, he may forward them without risque of search, or the scrutiny of the enemy — as this is chiefly directed against paper made up in the form of letters. I would add a further hint on this subject. Even letters may be made more subservient to his communications, than have been yet practiced. He may write a familiar letter on domestic affairs, or on some little matters of business to his friend at Satuket or elsewhere, interlining with the stain his secret intelligence, or writing it on the opposite blank side of the letter. — But that his friend may know how to distinguish these from letters addressed solely to himself — he may always leave such as contain secret information without a date or place (dating it with the stain); or fold them up in a particular manner, which may be concerted between the parties. This last appears to be the best mark of the two, and may be the signal for their being designed for me. The first mentioned mode however, or that of the books, appears to me the one least liable to detection. I am Sir Your most obedient and humble servt. [signed] Go. Washington

### George Washington letter, September 16, 1780 (pictured right)

Transcript: Head Quarters, Bergen County, 16th Sept. 1780. Dear Sir, I have recd. yours of the 13th: as I have your several late favors with their enclosures. It is im: possible for me, circumstanced as matters are, to give a positive answer to C-- juniors request; as I cannot, without knowing his views, tell what are his expectations. Of this, both you and he may rest assured, that should he continue servicable and faithful, and should the issue of our Affairs prove as favorable as we hope, I shall be ready to recommend him to the public, if public employ shall be his aim, and if not, that I shall think myself bound to represent his conduct in the light it deserves, and procure him a compen: sation of another kind. I shall take the first good opportunity of sending you a further sum of Money for contin: gencies. I am Dear Sir Your most ob.' Servt G. o Washington Major Tallmadge

Mark your calendars for a very special lecture on these letters from SBU Special Collections Director, Kristen Nyitray on July 16, 2018.

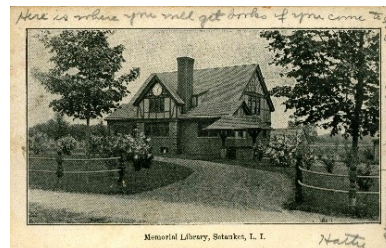


## Emma S. Clark Memorial Library Celebrates 125 Years of Serving the Community

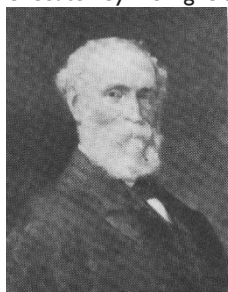
By Karen Martin

*"Our neighbor and friend, Mr. Thomas G. Hodgkins, has erected this building and dedicated it to the purposes of a library as a memorial of his lamented niece, the late Miss Emma S. Clark. In doing this it has been his purpose to perpetuate the memory of a good woman...by an institution... which shall be a means of pleasure and culture for all time to come...Reading, when it becomes a habit, is the greatest resource against idleness and ennui that the world offers to an intelligent being, as well as furnishing the only antidote of ignorance. It creates a thirst for knowledge, the lack of which is one of the most melancholy facts of daily life. It is the deficiency most marked in the rising generation...exact knowledge is obtained only by study and reflection, and to encourage these is the main purpose of books and libraries."* (John Elderkin at the opening of the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library on October 3, 1892)

The dedication marked the anniversary of the birth of Hodgkin's niece in 1836, Emma having passed away August 2, 1889. In 1891 Mr. Hodgkins purchased three acres of the former Ebenezer Bayles property for \$2,400 for a library. He spent about \$12,000 on the grounds, building, fixtures, books, and an endowment of \$16,000. The Queen Anne style library was designed by architects Rossiter and Wright of New York. The stained glass window, representing the archangel Michael, was executed by Heinigke and Bowen of New York.



"Here is where you will get books if you come to live"



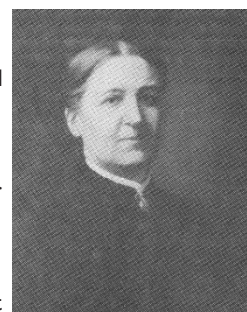
Thomas G. Hodgkins

Thomas Hodgkins early life is a story fit for a young boy's adventure novel. Born in London in 1803 he was three when his mother died. Sent to France he received a gentleman's education in the classics and arts. Returning home at fifteen, life with his stepmother was unbearable forcing him to leave against his father's wishes. He joined the crew of a merchant ship bound for India which wrecked near the mouth of the Hooghly River. Penniless and ill in a Calcutta hospital, he was told he had only six months to live. Determined, he made up his mind that he would live, acquire a fortune, and donate it to large and philanthropic ends. He recovered and prepared a petition to the Governor General of India asking for aid to return to England. Ragged and barefoot he asked for an audience with the ruler of India. Persistence paid off. He was even offered a position in the governor's household. Thomas refused the honor saying that if they filled his cap every morning with gold pieces, he would not stay in India. Thomas returned to England and eventually married. He came to New York with his wife about 1830 and started a small candy store on Greenwich Street which in time grew into a million dollar business.

In 1875, now widowed, he bought Brambletye Farm comprising more than 100 acres in Old Field. When word came from England that his two nieces Annie and Emma Clark were orphaned Hodgkins brought them here to live. Emma never married, living her life out at Brambletye. Annie married, but after leaving her husband, returned to Brambletye with her daughter.

Hodgkins was a large contributor to many charities. He was a strict believer in the importance of fresh air to one's health and well-being. While riding the railroad he wore a tube over his mouth with the end outside the car window so that he could breathe fresh air.

In 1891 Hodgkins gave the Smithsonian Institution \$200,000 (plus an additional donation of \$50,000 after his death), stipulating that the income of one half of it should be devoted "to the increase and diffusion of more exact knowledge in regard to the nature and properties of atmospheric air in connection with the welfare of man". The Hodgkins Medal and Fund were established in 1893.



Emma S. Clark



Mr. Hodgkins was unable to attend the dedication of the new library due to illness and died at his Old Field estate on November 25, 1892. He is buried in the Caroline Episcopal Churchyard next to Emma Clark. His funeral was unpretentious and attended by his intimate friends.

Congratulations and appreciation to the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library from the Three Village Historical Society on serving our community for 125 years!



Hodgkins medal

### Sources

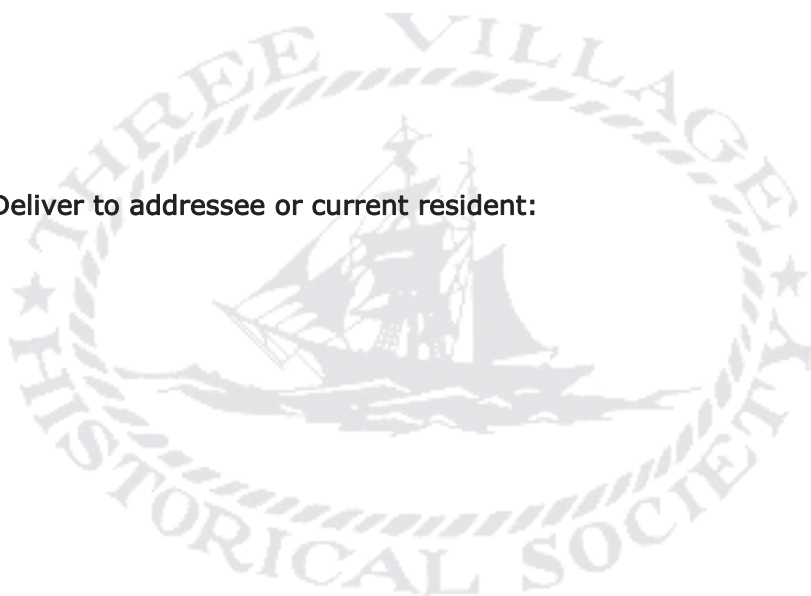
- Address made October 3, 1892, at the Opening of the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library, Founded by Thomas G. Hodgkins, Esq., at Setauket, L.I. by John Elderkin
- Barnwell, Edith, "Notes on Emma Clark and Thomas Hodgkins as told to me by Emma Clark Bills (Mrs. Francis Tweddell), who was my mother", January 1975. (typescript)
- "Emma S. Clark Memorial Library", *Three Village Historian*, December 1991
- Emma S. Clark Memorial Library website
- Goode, George Brown, *The Smithsonian Institution 1846-1896; the History of its First Half Century*, City of Washington 1897.
- Smithsonian Institution website
- Strong, Kate, "Thomas Hodgkin's Adventures", *Long Island Forum*, June 1954



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

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage Paid  
E. Setauket, NY  
Permit No. 88

Deliver to addressee or current resident:



Clip and save. ....

## TVHS Calendar of Events

### September 14, 2017: Prohibition Night at The Jazz Loft

[www.thejazzloft.org](http://www.thejazzloft.org) for tickets

### September 16, 2017: Culper Spy Day

[www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org) for tickets

### October 21, 2017: Annual Spirits Tour

*The Spirits of Prohibition : Setauket of the Roaring 20's*

[www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org) for tickets

### December 1 & 2, 2017: Candlelight House Tour

*Visions of East Setauket : Then & Now*

[www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org) for tickets

### Tea with a spot of history:

*Members Only\* Held at TVHS History Center :*

93 North Country Rd, Setauket at 2:00 pm

Sept. 12th: **The Impending Fuel Crisis : Suffolk, 1850** w/ Frank Turano

Oct. 11th: **Community & General Stores** w/ Bev Tyler

Nov. 6th: **Transportation Over Four Centuries** w/ Bev Tyler

### Lecture Series

Setauket Neighborhood House, 95 Main Street, Setauket.

Free and open to the public. 7pm start unless otherwise noted.

**Sept. 18th:** Timothy Green: **WWI Camp Upton, 100th Anniversary**

**Oct. 16th:** Bill Bleyer: **Long Island and the Civil War**

**Nov. 20th:** Frank Turano: **The Parson's Case**



**Exhibit Hours:** Open Sundays from 1-4 pm

**Chicken Hill:**  
"A Community Lost to Time"



**Spies!** *How a Group of Long Island Patriots Helped George Washington Win the Revolution.*

**Admission:** \$5 Children/Students,  
\$10 Adults. **Members Free.**

### Walking Tours \*

**Down the Ways: The Wooden Ship Era:** Sept. 23rd at 3PM, Oct. 1st

**Walk Through History with Abraham Woodhull:** Oct. 7th, Nov. 11th  
(Veterans Free)

**Explore & Discover Setauket's Revolutionary History Tour:** Sept. 23rd

**Admission:** \$10 *\*Please visit [www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org) for complete descriptions, location and starting times for all of the Walking Tours or contact the office at (631)-751-3730.*

*All walks start at 2:00 pm unless otherwise noted*



**Tri Spy Tours**  
**April- November**  
See website for dates/pricing  
[www.tvhs.org](http://www.tvhs.org)