Dear Members and Friends,

As we look back, the Historical Society has had a very busy year and we have much to be thankful for. It will be a pleasure to welcome you to our Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Edith Macy Conference Center, 550 Chappaqua Road at 2PM on Sunday, May 5th.

2012

Board to New-York Historical Society
In early March the BMSHS Board had a field trip to the newly renovated New-York Historical Society on Central Park West. They’ve done such a good job, you should go see it. You can never tell who you will run into.

Annual Meeting at Law Manor
Our 2012 Annual Meeting was held, Sunday, April 29th at the historic Law Manor House currently owned by Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bogoni who have restored it to magnificence. Bob Little gave detailed guidance on researching home property records at the Westchester County Offices, new BMSHS officers were elected and everyone enjoyed refreshments and Bogoni wine in their incomparable home.
Exhibition of Historic Maps
From the spring until the fall BMSHS was displaying an exhibition of historic maps. The earliest map showed the positions of the British and George Washington’s troops as they prepared to engage at White Plains, October 28, 1776. An original portfolio of W. W. Law’s yielded two maps showing the location of safety features in the Briarcliff Lodge and another marked water and fire-fighting facilities in the Village. We still miss having on the walls several especially interesting maps, loaned to us by generous BMSHS members.

Membership & Archives
During the summer a huge effort was underway to transfer membership data to our new software, PastPerfect, the state-of-the-art software for historical societies and small museums. We also began inventorifying the historical material that had been collected and arranging for proper archival storage. Many century-old gowns are being stored temporarily at the Westchester County Historical Society’s vault in Elmsford.

Village Community Events Banner
We didn’t want you to forget us during the summer, so the Village has been kind in keeping up our banner to remind you that we’re here!

First Annual Harvest Wine Dinner
Good membership data was vital to our outreach for the Harvest Wine Dinner, Sunday, September 30th honoring Mimi Boe, Tom Vincent, past BMSHS Co-Presidents, and Mayor Bill Vescio. The historic Haymount House has been restored to high gloss by a new group, and Hudson House entertained 150 guests for this beautiful and successful fund-raising dinner. We exceeded our goal and deposited almost $14,000 in the bank. We were able to purchase our archival scanner and printer! Thanks again to everyone who came that evening. Your support was fantastic!

BMSHS Historical Center

Belle Epoque Gown

Graduation Dress
Ca. 1905

Haymount House

Honorees Tom Vincent, Mimi Boe and Bill Vescio

Spring 2013 Newsletter
Books Given to Schools
We decided that it would be wonderful to get the excess books from the 2002 Briarcliff Centennial that we had into the hands of families so we gave 140 Family Albums to Briarcliff High School incoming freshmen. We gave 160 to a Girl Scout book sale at the Library (and received many thank-yous), and we gave Todd School Kindergarten children, 1st and 2nd graders, 220 copies of the BMSHS coloring book picturing local historical points. We didn’t forget to enclose a letter and a membership envelope.

Eggnog & Book Chat
It has been a blessing to have our Center in the Library. Some fortunate, serendipitous visitors have come to us because of this proximity.

In the summer of 2012 the granddaughter of William Woodward Baldwin, Patricia Andrews, and her grandson Robert Oehrig from Baltimore, were drawn to us by our sign on Pleasantville Road. We talked that summer afternoon and pulled out all kinds of books and information that might be useful as she completed the book, WWB: 1862-1954: An Era Immensely Simplified. Patricia, Robert and Robert’s mother, Jane, returned on January 6th for our Eggnog and Book Chat Party. Their presentation to a standing-room-only audience gave us details about WWB and his relationship as a lawyer to Walter W. Law, our village founder. Who knew that these two men started their relationship over “asparagus, roasted chicken and strawberries grown on the place,” according to Law, and that they drank champagne, which Law did not claim had been prepared “on the place”?

Steamboats on the Hudson
March 21st the Briarcliff Library and BMSHS sponsored “Steamboats on the Hudson,” a presentation by the author and artist, William Ewen, Jr. A large, inquisitive audience came to hear him describe these beautiful ships and to see a parade of magnificent steamboats on slides. Steamboats used to be an everyday sight at Scarborough Park Point. In the mid- 1880’s there could have been as many as 35 passing by each day. Who knew? Not so many as know now!
Croton Dam & Aqueduct Walk & Talk
April 7th was our date with Carl Oechsner, author and expert on the Croton Dam and Aqueduct. A fortunate and intrepid group of forty BMSHS members and friends walked and talked with Carl as he gave us, once again, the history of this significant landmark in our backyard, which is known only spottily.

Annual Meeting - The Macys
Now for the 2013 Annual Meeting. As speaker we have none other than Judge Walter Schwartz, Ardsley Village Historian, and author of the monograph on Valentine Everit Macy, one of our turn-of-the-century prominent men, printed in the Winter 2013 Westchester Historian, published by the Westchester Historical Society. V. Everit Macy was a businessman, philanthropist and social reformer who lived here in Briarcliff at his estate named “Chilmark.” His wife, Edith, was also a woman of note and Judge Schwartz will shed a spotlight on her and her accomplishments.
2 PM, Sunday, May 5th at the Edith Macy Conference Center Great Hall.

These pictures tell you, as words cannot, what has been going on for months at the BMSHS Center. We have removed about half the boxes we have in storage, inventoried the contents, photographed or scanned each piece, and replaced each in ARCHIVAL boxes and with ARCHIVAL tissue – and are in the process of entering detailed descriptive information on our computers. When we finish with this material, we’ll go back for the other boxes of “unprocessed” material.

“The Good”
“The Bad”
“The Ugly”
Treasures from the Archives
We are learning what treasures we have and we’re learning how to optimally take care of them. For example, we have three beautiful American flags, each with a different number of stars in the blue field as well as the school bell reportedly rung every day by George H. Todd, Jr., first principal of Todd School.

Admiral John L. Worden
Looking forward, we have our hopes up for the loan of a wonderful exhibition created by the Quaker Hill & Pawling Historical Society about Admiral John L. Worden, born here in Briarcliff in 1818. In 1862 he commanded the Union Monitor in the Civil War against the Confederate Merrimack – the first battle of ironclad ships at Hampton Roads, Virginia.

We are exploring creating some local oral histories, especially of our most venerable, senior members. Details to come.

Additionally, we continue to be in active correspondence with the New York State Educational Chartering Office Board of Regents as we strive to be eligible for our Absolute Charter.

Next steps? More and more, and with your help, we’ll get there and have a wonderful party to celebrate.

With many thanks for your support and encouragement and with great appreciation,

Karen Smith & Jan Wagner, Co-Presidents

BMSHS 2012-2013 Officers

Board of Trustees

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Karen Smith & Jan Wagner, Co-Presidents
______________, Vice President
______________, Secretary
Allan Miller, Treasurer

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Bill Sharman
Larisa Wayne-Paulmeno

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**Members 2012**

**Life Member**
Mary Cheever, Carol Haddad, Steve McQueeny, Bill Sharman, Eileen O’Connor Weber

**Benefactor**

**Patron**
Michael & Clorissa Gioscia, David & Siegrun Kane, Dan & Josie Molino, The Club at Briarcliff Manor, Chip & Jan Wagner, Morton Williams & Gazia Girod

**Donor**

**Sponsor**

**Family**
**Individual**

Bob Cerrone, Jinx Chapman, Priscilla Ewing, Wallace Forbes, Barbara Gilbert, Joan Glascott, Bruce Graves, James Hershberger, W. Jean Horkans, Robert Kelderhouse Jr., Barbara Lewis, Carolyn Lynch, Martha Mesiti, M. Louisa Myers, Grant North, Ruth O’Connell, Maxine Olson, Marilyn Remy, Ruth Schwab, Rob Smith, Larisa Wayne-Paulmeno, Kathleen Zawacki, Barbara Zinke, Dan Zuchi

**Senior**


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**IN MEMORIUM**

**Eileen O’Connor Weber**

1918-2012

The Briarcliff community lost one of its biggest cheerleaders this past year.

Eileen will forever be remembered for her bright spirit, her wonderful hats and her never ending love of Briarcliff Manor.

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Thank you to those who have renewed your membership for 2013. We truly appreciate your support! If not a member yet, please join us with the enclosed membership envelope to receive our newsletter and other benefits.

We continue to need your support for our mission to collect, preserve and communicate the unique history of Briarcliff Manor and Scarborough.

We are also always looking for volunteers. If interested, give us a call (914)941-4393 or e-mail us at mail.briarcliffhistory.org

We hope to hear from you!

Check out our updated website.

We’ll keep you posted.

www.briarcliffhistory.org
2013 Annual Meeting at the Edith Macy Conference Center

Sunday, May 5th
2-4 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS
Mark Your Calendars!

Second Annual Harvest Wine Dinner

6 PM Sunday, September 15, 2013

Pleasantville Country Club
110 Nannahagan Road, Pleasantville

Unique Affairs, Guy DeMeo

Look for BMHS information in your emails, on the Village Community Events Banner, our newsletters, The Gazette, the bulletin board outside the EOCW Historical Center, Facebook, our website www.briarclifffhistory.org and the Briarcliff Library announcements bulletin board.