
40th Anniversary Year of Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society 1974-2014

Spring Newsletter 2014

The 2013 Annual Report Issue

Dear Members and Friends -

Now where did we leave off when we sent our last letter?

We just celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society 1974-2014 at our Annual Meeting March 30, 2014, at the "Beechwood" ballroom and library. What a glorious space in which to celebrate! Gray Williams, New Castle Historian, and deeply knowledgeable speaker, gave us the highlights of the Vanderlips, their friends the Hardens, as well as a history of the estate back to the early 1800's. We were thrilled to announce that BMSHS will be inventorying the books, manuscripts and blueprints of "Beechwood" as a first step towards archiving them.

January 12, 2014 we opened the New Year with our Eggnog and Chat Party. Rev. Sandra Seaborn of St. Mary's Episcopal Church was with us in celebration of the 175th anniversary of the creation of Briarcliff's first school. We watched the 1937 black and white, silent movie "The Birth of St. Mary's." Wearing charming costumes and "acting" in old-fashioned style, the actors dramatized the story.

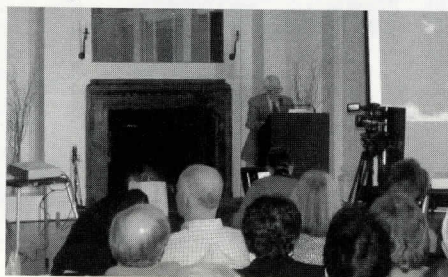
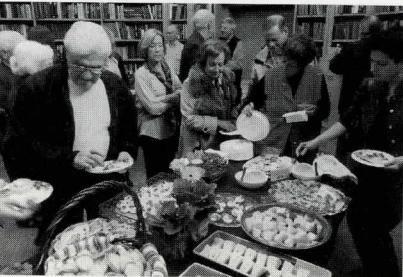
March 18, 2014, Scott Craven packed the Crandall Room of the Library with over 80 guests as we learned about the significance and the history of Croton Point. Scott has an inimitable, friendly manner and we love having him as a speaker. The event was sponsored with the Library.

1. BMSHS is very eager to increase its membership.
 2. BMSHS had 273 "founding memberships" in 1974
 3. BMSHS had 227 memberships at the end of 2013
 4. Let's aim for 300 memberships in 2014 in celebration of this important anniversary!
- We're moving toward the application for the Absolute Charter. Numbers matter.

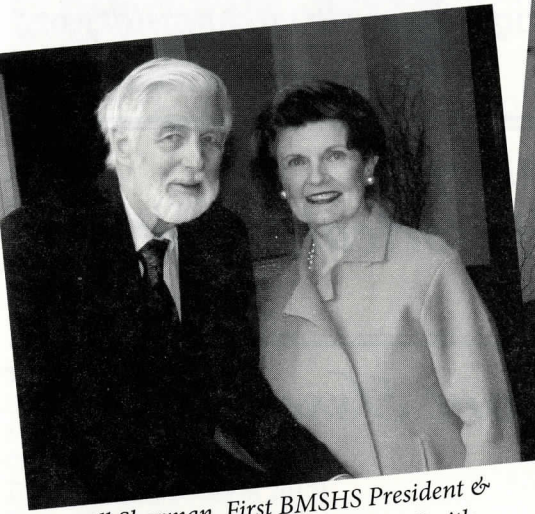
With great appreciation,

Karen and Jan, Co-Presidents

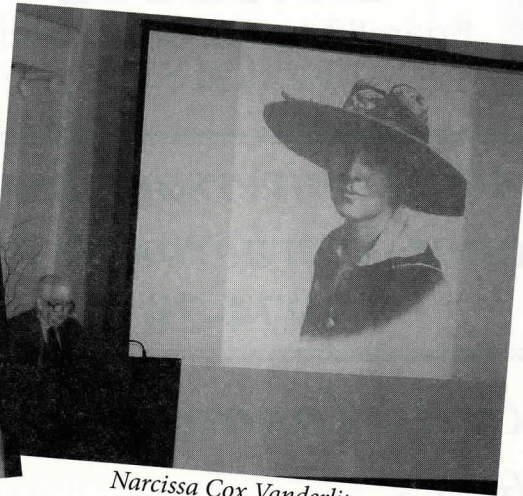
Here are a few pictures to remember the afternoon.



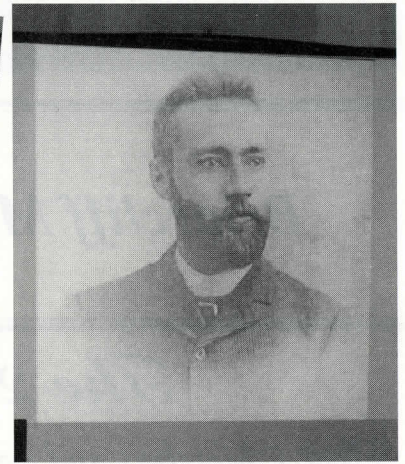
Pictures of the Annual Meeting at "Beechwood"



Bill Sharman, First BMSHS President & a current Co-President, Karen Smith



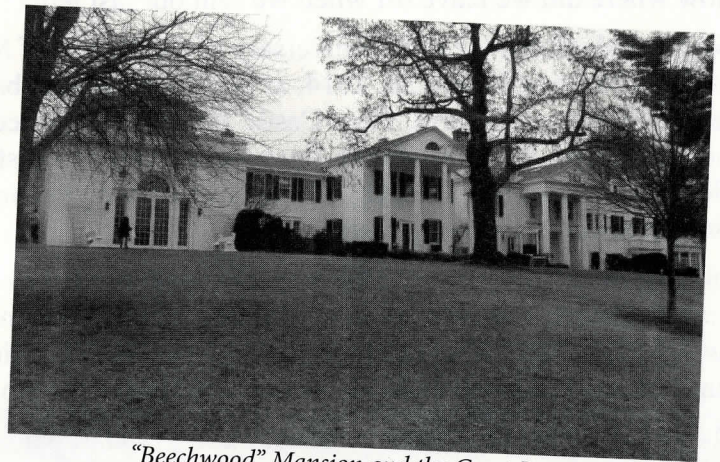
Narcissa Cox Vanderlip



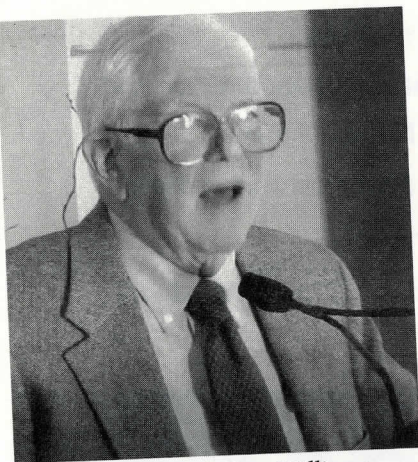
Frank A. Vanderlip



Trustee Mimi Boe and her sister Germaine Hugue



"Beechwood" Mansion and the Great Lawn



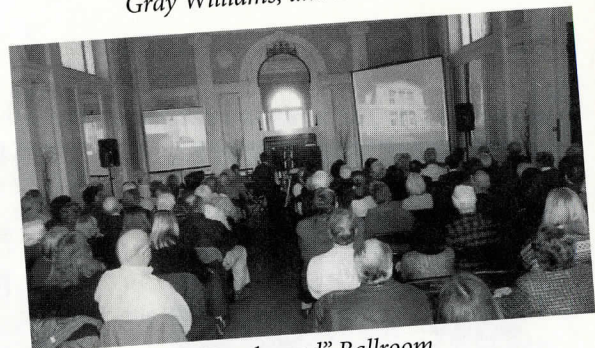
Guest speaker, Gray Williams, New Castle Historian



Stephen Smalley



Warner Rush, Jan Wagner, Karen Smith, Gray Williams, and David Cartenuto



"Beechwood" Ballroom

Thanks to Robert Little for his great pictures.

2013 Highlights of our Annual Meeting held March 30, 2014

In 2013 we published three issues of a BMSHS newsletter: 2013 Spring Issue (including 2012 Annual Report), 2013 Summer Issue and 2013 Holiday. The newsletter has been a big hit!

In January, Patricia Baldwin, and her grandson, Robert Oehrig, came from Baltimore to tell us about her grandfather William Woodward Baldwin, who was Walter W. Law's attorney. They sifted through information from Baldwin's diaries and personal records and gathered them in a book, *W. W. Baldwin: 1862-1954: His Era Immensely Simplified*. We were all mesmerized.

In March, William Ewen, Jr. gave us "Steamboats on the Hudson" -- great slides and commentary from an era long-gone and from a true old sea-dog.

In April, Carl Oechsner walked and talked with a large group at the Croton Dam & Aqueduct -- with a second outing coming up this year, Sunday, June 22, 2014. We can't learn enough about the Dam, or have a better teacher than Carl!

In May, Walter Schwartz, Ardsley Village Historian, spoke at our 2013 Annual Meeting held at the Edith Macy Great Hall about V. Everit Macy. It was Macy who purchased the land the Girl Scout Center is on and built the Great Hall in honor of his wife who had recently died. Macy has a huge legacy not only here in Briarcliff at his estate "Chilmark," but throughout Westchester County.

During the summer and since we organized, researched and archived many objects, photographs, books, and pieces of information with the help of people such as Steve Smalley and our intern Alex Vastola.

In September, Patrick Raftery, Westchester County Historical Society Librarian, enlightened a large crowd about the graveyards of Westchester.

In October the Second Annual Fall Harvest Dinner was held at Sleepy Hollow Country Club, which honored an outstanding two-some, Carmino Ravosa and Connie Curran. They received heartfelt tributes. The dinner was a sensation. It was beautiful. And with your support, it was outstanding.

A small booklet was discovered in our possession pertaining to our search for information about "Jack" Koelsch: "Membership List Parent-Teacher-Faculty Directory of the Scarborough School Association 1930-1931." His parents, Mr. & Mrs. Henry A. Koelsch are listed as well as *John Koelsch 2nd grade*, his brothers Philip 4th grade and Peter 6th grade. Lt. (j.g.) John "Jack" received the Medal of Honor posthumously. We look forward to honoring him in Briarcliff Manor for his valor.

A Sampling of our Acquisitions & Purchases in 2013

Catherine Figart watercolor of fall maple tree -- gift from Audrey Graham

Westchester Heritage Map -- gift from Westchester County Historical Society

1911 Plate 23 from *Bromley's Atlas of Westchester Maps -- Part of the Towns of Ossining and Mount Pleasant* -- purchased by BMSHS from Westchester County Historical Society

Photographs from the 1930's with explanatory notes -- gift from Jeffrey DVM & Betty Moyer, Briarcliff Manor Animal Hospital

Spring Cleaning?

BMSHS would welcome items for our collection -- diaries, letters, pictures, scrapbooks. We stand ready to be the Caretakers of Briarcliff History. And if you have a small old TV and/or a DVD player, we could use either or both to great advantage.

Important Thank You's

Trustees who retired as of this Annual Meeting were Susan Code, Josie Molino, Betsy O'Leary, and Carmino Ravosa. The following is but a brief tribute to them and to all they contributed to making the Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society as strong as it is today.

Susan Code is stepping down this year after being a Trustee and very involved with the historical society for many years. Susan's involvement will be missed as we could always count on her for valuable ideas, support and help with historical society events.

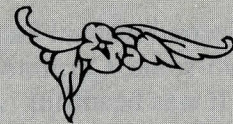
Josie Molino is retiring as a Trustee. We thank Josie for her involvement, even though it was only for a couple of years. We still appreciate the time and work she gave to the historical society.

Betsy O'Leary has been a long-time Trustee. We want to thank her for all that she has done to improve, help and promote BMSHS. Some of you might have had the pleasure of listening to her detailed narration on a bus tour or enjoyed her musical talent at special events.

Carmino Ravosa is a special guy. He is our Village's Pied Piper, drawing adults and children along with his music and spirit. Carmino has been a wonderful contributor of his talents to the society. Carmino was honored at our annual fundraiser dinner last year, so many of you thanked him in person.



IN MEMORIAM



MARY CHEEVER (1918-2014)

Mary Cheever, widow of the writer John Cheever, died April 7. Among many other things she was a Life Member of the BMSHS. Commissioned by the Society in 1985, she agreed to begin research to write *The Changing Landscape: A History of Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough*. 1990 the book was published to acclaim. We have always proudly thanked and acknowledged her for her meticulously researched, professionally produced and delightfully readable history of our community.

During the 1950's Mary and her husband, John, lived in our community. Their home was on the "Beechwood" property and they named their house, "Beechtwig." Many of John's short stories were set in "Shady Hill" and readers were left to speculate on whom and what of Briarcliff and Scarborough was being thinly disguised in these stories. Later they moved to Cedar Lane in Ossining.

Mary was a teacher at Briarcliff College, the school that followed Mrs. Dow's School on Elm Road, where she taught composition and creative writing for ten years. She is survived by her daughter, Susan, her two sons Benjamin and Federico, her brother William Winternitz, and seven grandchildren.

We are so glad we have her beautiful book, *The Changing Landscape*, as her legacy to us.

2013 Membership List

Life Members

Bill Sharman
Steve McQueen
Carol Haddad

Benefactor

Carl & Mimi Boe
John & Connie Curran
Ed & Elaine Nolan
John & Betsy O'Leary
Ed & Claire Payne
Matthew & Nina Quigley
Jim & Kathy Rittinger
William & Elizabeth Straight
Eugene, Anna & Alex Vastola
Lawrence & Tina Waterhouse, Jr.

Patron

Ed & Anna Filardi
Michael & Clorissa Gioscia
David & Siegrun Kane
Greg & Joan McGinty
Brian & Heather McVeigh
Daniel & Josie Molino
Chip & Jan Wagner
Mark & Denise Wilson

Sponsor

Jeff & Mary Dale Allen
Robert & Donna Arminio
Barry & Midge Bosak
Oren & Mary Jo Bramson
Ted & Helen Buerger
David & Jelane Caspar
Howard & Susan Code
James & Caroline Crowley
Cesare & Beatrice DeRose
Jim & Mimi Donius
Peter & Mickie Eschweiler
Arnie & Carine Feist
Bruce & Didi Garrison
Barbara Gilbert
Germaine Hugue
Michael & Arlene Leichtling
Tom & Rachel Leihbacher
Bob & Mary Little
Tom & Meg McGarrity
Eric & Hillary Messer
Allan Miller & Hannah Berkowitz
Van & Barbara Mow
Tom & Shannan Myers
Calvin & Phyllis Neider
Norman & Mary Nichols
Larry & Kathleen Pedowitz
Bob Peterson
Cal Reynolds
Warner & Nancy Rush
Tony & Rosena Sammi
Mark & Adeline Santiago
Karen Smith
John & Marti Stewart
Carroll Stoianoff

Sponsor Cont.

Dru van Hengel
Richard & Beverly Verardo
Jay & Gayle Waxenberg
Dan Zucchi

Family

Stu & Bev Aisenbrey
Mary Alenstein
Leslie Allen
Cynthia Altman
Mark & Veronica Austin
Charlie & Amy Banino
Byron & Deb Barkley
Bill & Ani Barnes
Michael & Linda Bassett
Tyler & Brooke Beebe
George & Elaine Behling
Bob & Joan Beicke
Frank & Janet Bianco
Chris & Elizabeth Bogart
Norm & Janet Braun
Brian & Amanda Carcaterra
Peter & Carol Carini
David & Christina Cartenuto
Christopher & Georgine Chalsen
Gerald & Millie Citron
Steven & Linda Cohen
Jess & Jane Collen
Peter & Gillian Corfield
Lefakis & Lucia Demetrios
Dumitru & Otilia-Liana Dumitrescu
David & Gwen Feher
Richard & Sara Geyer
John & Sue Glascott
Stanley & Alice Goldstein
Alan & Michelle Grant
Barbara Guthoff
Stuart & Stacy Halper
Doug & Gina Hill
Sidney & Lana Hiller
Stuart & Rhoda Holzer
Tom & Lynn James
Ken & Ivy Kail
Stan & Barbara Kostman
David & Anita Kraft
Robert & Helen Krasnow
Carl & JoAnn LaBruzzo
Demetrios & Lucia Lefakis
Martin & Pauline Leitzes
Eric & Trish Lindemann
Parry & Gerald Lins
John & Lisa Manuele
Albert & Francine Mayas
Tom and Barbara McGrath, Jr.
Andrew & Mary Merryman IV
John & Carol Mickel
George & Mirla Morrison
Richard Naclerio
Mal & Joan Nechis
Jay & Arlene Neveloff
Allen & Myrtle Nichols

Family Cont.

Thomas Odell
Paul & Annemarie Patella
Gene & Mary Lynn Potente
Matthew & Laura Price
Carmino & Claire Ravosa
Patrick Reilly & Sally Scudo
James Rinzler
Patricia & Robert Sacchi
Kenneth & Judith Sagat
Steve & Shelley Saper
Stephen & Marilyn Schultz
John & Monica Shanahan
Frederic & Barby Siegel
Si & Motoko Spiegel
Carl & Twilia Towbin
Steve & Mattie Varvaro
Bill & Marion Ventura
Tom & Barb Vincent
Lou & Barbara Wachtel
Dennis & Bernadine Wasiczko
Steve & Lynn Watson
Chris & Virginia West
Robyn & Alex Wild
Buddy & Penny Wolf
Jeffrey & Barbara Wood
Bob & Kathleen Zawacki
Bryan & Rori Zirman

Individual

Phyllis Amicucci
Sandra Austin
Marie Carpentier
Bob Cerrone
Jinx Chapman
John & Maria Cryan
Priscilla Ewing
Barry & Patricia Feathers
Anne Fitzgerald
Joan Glascott
Bruce Graves
Christopher & Heidi Henshaw
Jim & Mary Hershberger
Terence Heslin
Robert Kelderhouse, Jr.
Bobbie Lewis
Carolyn Lynch
Cathy Mackey
Michael & Alison McCarville
Carol McGuire
Franco & Martha R. Mesiti
Ed & Tina Messina
Grant North, Jr.
Bill & Larisa Paulmeno
Marilyn Remy
Ruth Schwab
Frank Siegel
Sheila Tralins
Bob & Yvonne Whitson

Senior

Patricia Andrews
Ruth Baer
Rosalyn Beck
William & Carole Bendlin
Ruth Bergman
Kaye Blockley
Florence Brennemann
Phoebe Carter
Roseanna Chervokas
Tom & Beatrix Comiskey
Senior Cont.

Joan Cosgrove
Barbara Cunningham
Trudy Daly
Frances DiMase
Doris Dubac
Robert & Lori Fetonti
Mary Jane Florent
Charles Gentile
Meryl Golden
Audrey Graham
Jean & Rudolph Gualtiere
Ann Hofstedt
Wilma Jean Horkans
Helene Isaac
Larry Kiel
Bruce & Marie Kotter
Jeff & Deb Kotter
Larry & Barbara Kwiat
William Limongelli
Marnie Martin
Audrey June May
Eva Marie McGinnis
Sandy Mirsky
Bonnie Mitelman
Louisa Myers
Andonios Neroulis
Carl & Joanne Oechsner
Rhoda Peterson
Henrietta Porter
Diane Rapp
Sharon Richter
Shirley Ross
Aurelia Semisa
Todd & Mary Springer
Lore Strauss
Hank Stroobants
Jack Swally
Jerome & Adele Trupin
Sy & Elinor Yuter
Cathy Zilay
Tony & Edith Franco
Ed & Dolores Jusko
Thomas & Alice Laurenson
John & Mary Maguire
Sheldon & Doris Satlin

Student

Noah Berger
Carolyn Chapman



Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough
Historical Society

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Officers

Karen Smith - Co-President
Jan Wagner - Co-President
Vice President - Open
Secretary - Open
Treasurer - Open

Trustees

George Behling (Class of 2015)
Mimi Boe (Class of 2016)
Clorissa Gioscia (Class of 2016)
Tom McGarrity (Class of 2017)
Elaine Nolan (Class of 2015)
Larisa Wayne-Paulmeno (Class of 2017)
Bill Sharman (Class of 2016)
Alexander Vastola (2015)
Tom Vincent (Class of 2015)
Kathleen Reilly Zawacki (Class of 2017)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, May 6 and Tuesday, May 13 from 6:30PM to 8PM

Genealogy Workshops co-sponsored with the Briarcliff Public Library

Sunday, June 22 at 2PM

Walk & Talk with Carl Oechsner – Part II about the Croton Aqueduct, the Weir & Double Arch

Sunday, October 5

Third Annual Fall Harvest Dinner

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES!

Look for BMSHS information in your emails, on the Village Community Events Banner, our newsletters, The Gazette, the bulletin board outside the EOCW Historical Center, like us on Facebook, our website www.briarcliffhistory.org and the Briarcliff Library announcements bulletin board. And we welcome your phone calls to us at 941-4393 and email at Mail@briarcliffhistory.org