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Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough
Historical Society

Website
www.briarcliffhistory.org

2019 Fall Newsletter

Letter to our BMSHS members and friends –

Days and weeks have flown by and we have several things to mention to bring you up to date.

- We are renewing our newsletter to show and tell you what's going on.
- We've been working all-summer-long organizing the vast amount of material we have in a manner in which it can be easily retrieved and used. Now the end is in sight, but we're not there yet, and could use additional helping hands and volunteers.
- Our website needs attention and we're working on an update.
- We have tasked ourselves to do everything we can as quickly as possible to finally satisfy the New York State Education Department and the State Historian by fulfilling all requirements necessary to be judged as an historical society worthy of an Absolute Charter. We know the BMSHS is and has been a valuable asset of the Village for 45 years and we're determined to obtain this important credential.

And now the commercial announcement: Our membership has dwindled somewhat this year, as you can see on a following page. Perhaps you haven't been able to renew or join from www.BriarcliffHistory.org. We have recently been made aware of the situation and hope to have it corrected as soon as possible. Meanwhile, if your name is missing, we INVITE YOU to join us as Caretakers of Our Heritage in the old-fashioned way via a membership form (on the last page of this newsletter), a stamp and envelope addressed to P.O. Box 11, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510. Won't you please join us for the first time or renew your membership for 2019? We NEED YOU.

With all good wishes and confidence in our future.

Karen Smith

**In this Issue: KKS letter – p. 1; Gift of W.W. Law Stone Lantern – p. 2;
Suffragist Catt & PBS – p. 3; Community Day Talk & Walk – p. 4;
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W. W. Law Stone Japanese Lantern - Gift to BMSHS



A landscape. In addition to preserving the historic buildings of Briarcliff Lodge resort, the Kings College maintained the general landscape design of the campus, including architectural elements such as Walter Law's Japanese lanterns.

(photo by Hank Winters, courtesy of King's College.)
Images of America: Briarcliff Lodge, Rob Yasinsac

We're delighted to report that one of W. W. Law's magnificent stone lanterns has been offered to the BMSHS as a gift. The five known lanterns were given to W. W. Law by Christian missionaries in gratitude for his support of their efforts. Three are on the grounds of the

Briarcliff Congregational Church now and one is in private hands.

This fifth lantern is presently on private property as pictured. The property was formerly part of the Briarcliff Lodge grounds. The owners will be moving soon and have decided that the beautiful eight-foot lantern should remain in Briarcliff. Now we are working with Mayor Steve Vescio and the Village to make this transfer successful. We look forward to its being placed in Law Park which will enable the community to view, enjoy and appreciate all aspects of this treasure. We are so grateful for this gift.



**Carrie Chapman Catt, Ardent Suffragist
(1859 – 1947)**



Carrie Chapman Catt, a very prominent suffragist, lived for about ten years at “Juniper Ledge,” Ryder Road – in what is laughingly known as “disputed territory” claimed

by Ossining, Chappaqua as well as Briarcliff Manor. Recently, an Iowa PBS documentarian and videographer team sought our help with pictures and the history of Catt’s time here. We were very happy to be of service.

Next year, 2020, will be the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to guarantee women’s right to vote. Catt was president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, the leading group campaigning for it, and succeeded Susan B. Anthony as its president in 1900.

One of our beloved BMSHS members, Carmino Ravosa, his wife, Claire, and the Feist family worked tirelessly to get recognition of “Juniper Ledge” on the National Register

of Historic Places in New York in 2004. Carmino also honored Catt and her work with an original music composition heard in Carnegie Hall and Seneca Falls.

Catt said, “I am in love with [Juniper Ledge]. It is isolated, quiet, restful, and gives promise of fun. There isn’t much of any level land; God designed it for tired nerves not profit.”

Catt herself named the property for its juniper trees. In addition to founding the League of Women Voters, Catt also campaigned for Prohibition, like many suffragists. When *The New York Times* covered a League picnic in 1921, Catt told guests that she had bought Juniper Ledge to prevent its juniper berries (a primary ingredient in gin) from being used to make alcohol.



Community Day, September 7, 2019

Talk & Walk

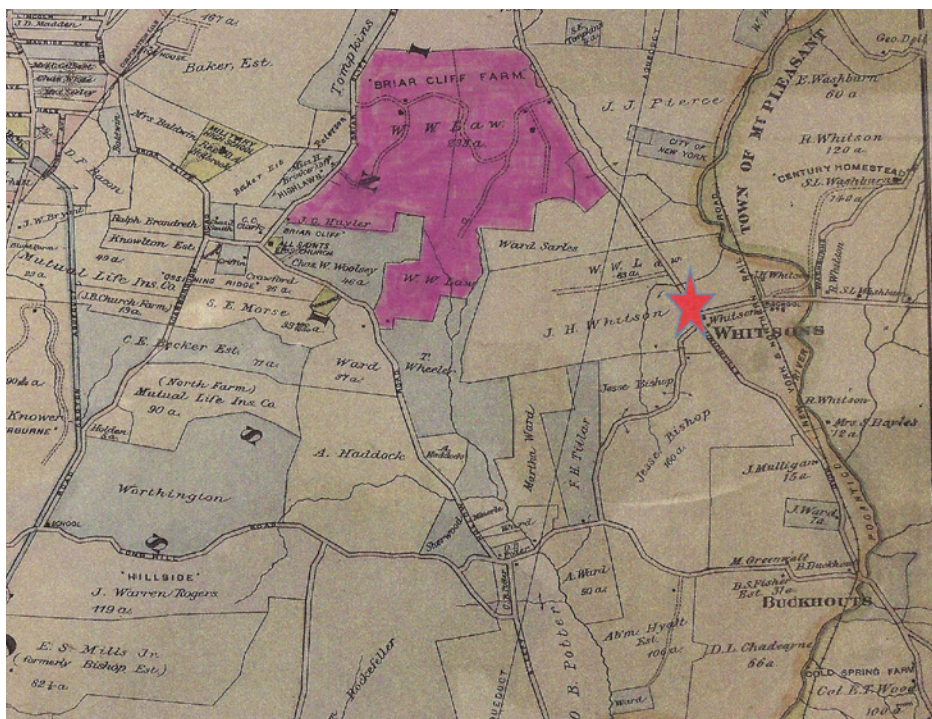
The Talk & Walk featured a PowerPoint series of historical & contemporary photographs and a walk around Law Park to “cement” the information recently seen and heard. If you missed it, and would like us to repeat it, please call and we’ll try to do it on a Saturday or Sunday before it gets cold.

**Factory operated
from 1877-1942**

Alexander Smith & Sons Carpet Company

W. W. Law was in charge of the wholesale side of this giant carpet factory for 30 years.

Yonkers, New York



Picture of the 1891 Map of Whitson’s Corner (note where the red star is). By the turn of the century, this area had become Briarcliff Manor. The area colored pink is the first purchase of land that Law made – 233 acres. The property had been owned by James Stillman, President, First National City Bank. Within ten years, or so, Law had accumulated 5,000 acres of land in Westchester County. He was the largest land owner in the county for some time.

2019 Membership to date

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Sally Scudo
Hank Stroobants
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Rosalyn Beck
George Behling
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Florence Brenneman
Bob Cerrone
Roseanna Chervokas
Shirley Dahlgren
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Ragnhild Holmquist
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Cheryle Miluszewicus
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Rhoda Peterson
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Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough
Historical Society

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Kathleen Zawacki

Executive Director

Karen Smith

Dear Members and Friends – Please show your support for the BMSHS’s mission by becoming a member or renewing your membership for 2019 (our fiscal year is the calendar year). Your support is vital to us as we share our history through the newsletter, offer notice of special programs and reach out to you through our website. Please drop by the Center whenever you can. Our email address is mail@briarcliffhistory.org & our phone number is 914-941-4393. Let us see you or hear from you.



MEMBERSHIP TYPE New _____ Renewal _____

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ Email Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

Benefactor \$1,000 _____ Patron \$500 _____ Sponsor \$250 _____ Family \$100 _____ Seniors (2) \$50 _____

Senior (1) \$25 _____ Individual \$50 _____ Scholarship \$ _____ Extra Donation \$ _____

Additional contributions always welcome.

Please make your check payable to BMSHS and mail to PO Box 11, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510

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, Facebook, our website and the Briarcliff Library bulletin board.