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**BMSHS**  
Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough  
Historical Society

Website  
[www.briarcliffhistory.org](http://www.briarcliffhistory.org)

## *2013 Holiday Newsletter*

*Dear Members and Friends -*

The big news for the Society has been the Second Annual Fall Harvest Dinner at Sleepy Hollow Country Club, Sunday, October 20. It was a sensation and it was beautiful!

When the heartfelt tributes were given to Carmino Ravosa and Connie Curran, weren't you proud to have such an outstanding, talented two-some in our Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough community? BMSHS was very proud to honor them.

And because of YOU, we had a full house, very enthusiastic raffle ticket purchases, many gracious, complimentary ads in our dinner journal for our honorees and a record-breaking 107 ads obtained by the BMSHS board from local businesses.

Thank you all for making such an evening possible. Your efforts and contributions are deeply appreciated. BMSHS is in great shape for upcoming projects and everyone went home with an afghan woven with depictions of historical sites in Briarcliff Manor and Scarborough – tired and happy.

*Karen and Jan, Co-Presidents*

*Here are a few pictures to remember the evening.*

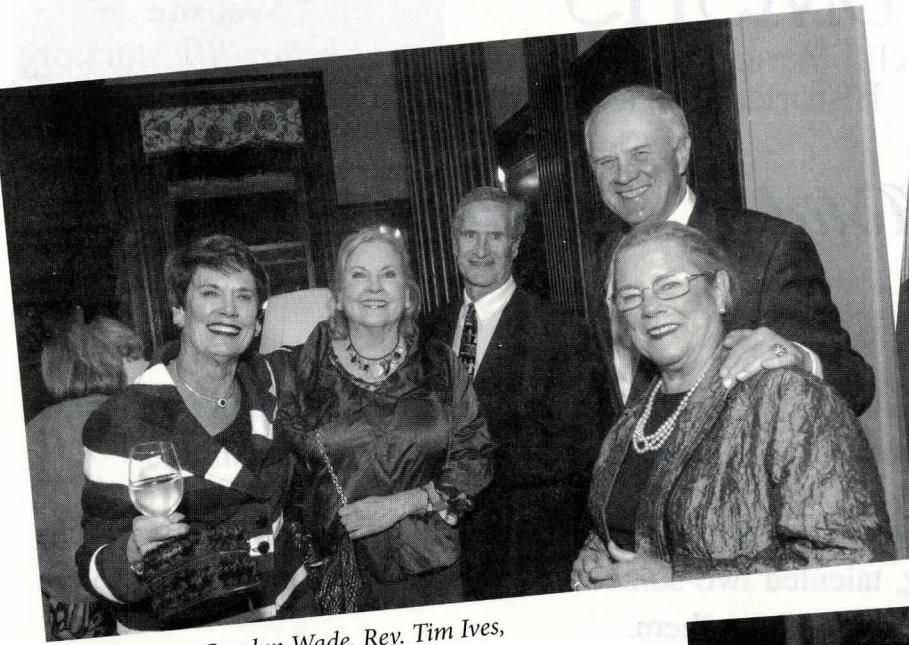


*left to right is Siegrun Kane, Carl Boe & David Kane*



*left to right is Larisa Wayne-Paulmeno & Josie Molino*

# Second Annual Fall Harvest Dinner



Claire Payne, Carolyn Wade, Rev. Tim Ives,  
Ed Payne & Jinx Chapman



Alex Vastola & Karen Smith



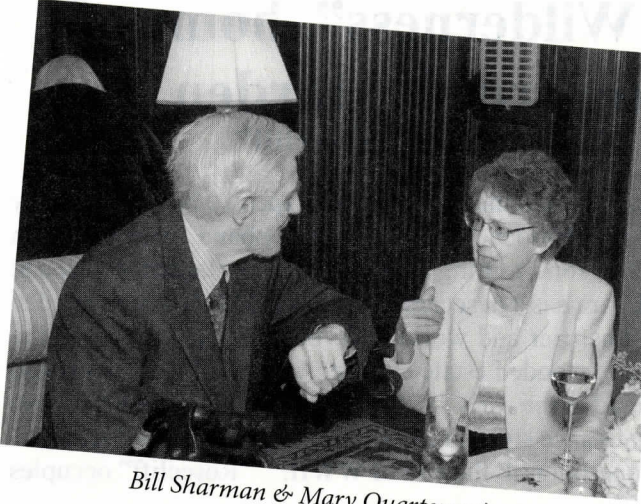
Connie Curran & Clorissa Gioscia



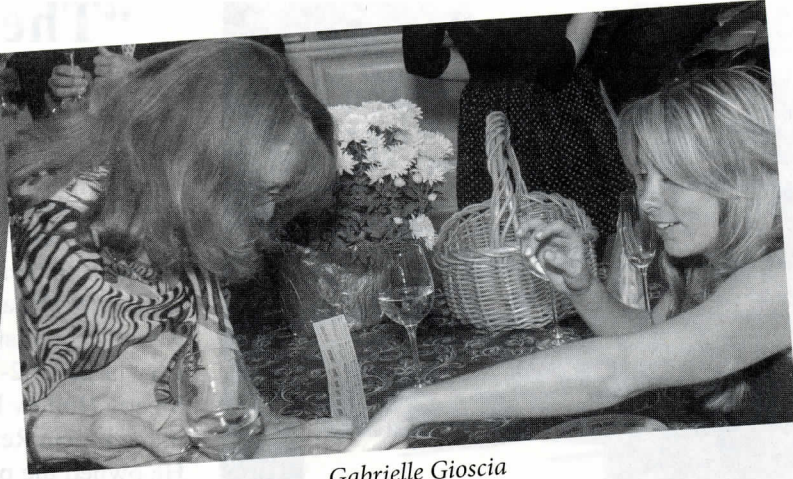
Connie Curran, "Witch of Briarcliff"



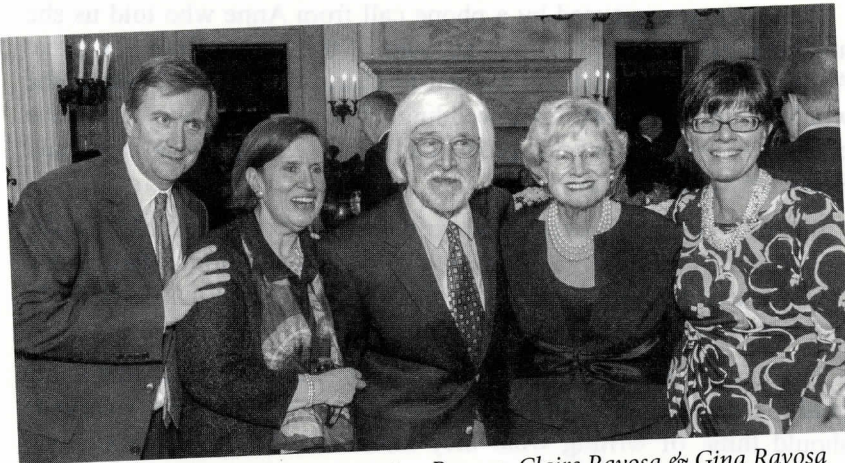
Lucy Engelhardt, Andrew & Mary Beth Merryman



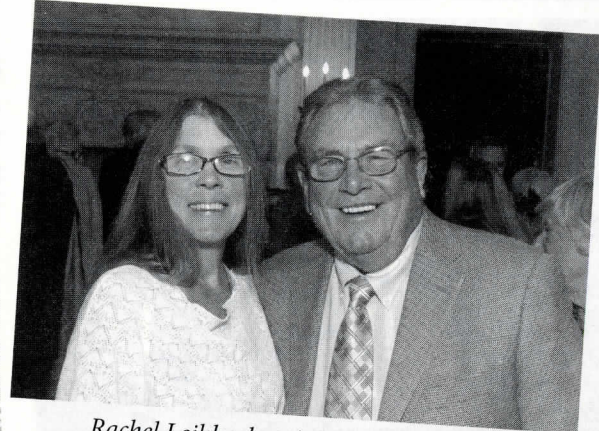
*Bill Sharman & Mary Quartermain*



*Gabrielle Gioscia*



*Dean Ravosa, Carine Feist, Carmino Ravosa, Claire Ravosa & Gina Ravosa*



*Rachel Leihbacher & Martin Engelhardt*

**We have blue tapestry pillows with the Village Seal and copies of *The Changing Landscape* for holiday gifts.**



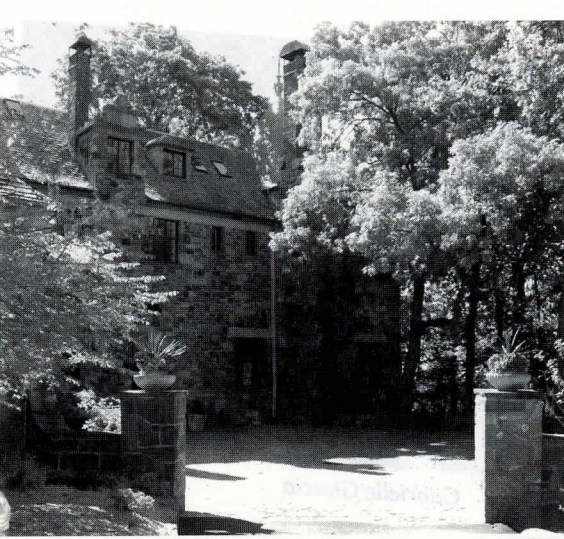
*Chris Cowie, Warner Rush & Susan Cowie*

*Holiday Greetings  
from the  
Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough  
Historical Society*

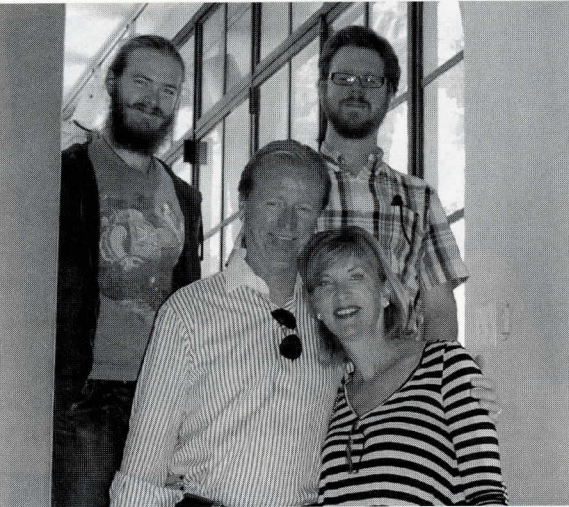


# “The Wilderness”, home of Edward W. Harden

Now known as “Rosecliff”



In late September we had the opportunity to spend a beautiful, sunny afternoon with Anne Harden Nelson & her husband, who reside in Tampa, and their two sons, touring Briarcliff and the Harden mansion at Wilderness Road. Anne is a descendent of Edward W. Harden. Harden was a journalist, financier and world-wide traveler. He purchased the very large, 152-acre, wooded estate between Long Hill Road West and Sleepy Hollow Road in the early 1920's. Harden built a stone mansion in the Italian Renaissance style and named the estate “The Wilderness.” He owned the property until the end of WWII. “Rosecliff” occupies the area now.



This visit was initiated by a phone call from Anne who told us she had been given a hand-written account of the family from her Great Aunt “Char”(lotte) that she wanted to share with BMSHS when she would be in New York for a wedding. It's a detailed account of the people, the dispositions and predilections of the Hardens, an important Briarcliff Manor family.

BMSHS had unattributed, hand-written notes about the Harden family in our archives, written by someone who worked with the family and “chauffeured the family about on the chauffeur's day off.” BMSHS was happy to share these notes with Anne.

The hand-written records we have of the Hardens, and others, are **gold** to our historical society, as we're sure you can imagine. Everyone should think of writing what they know about the history of their property, what they know of earlier owners, and so on – and family histories. These kinds of records are **invaluable** in helping us create a full, lively record of Briarcliff Manor and Scarborough.

Won't you think about doing this? We stand ready to help, if we can.

PS Anne, in her thank you note, said “I think Mr. Law created the perfect town. I can see why it's such a wonderful place to live. I loved visiting ‘The Wilderness.’ It was a dream come true after hearing all the tales my father had to tell me when I was a child.”



# Early Days Edward Walker Harden and Frank A. Vanderlip

Edward Walker Harden and Frank A. Vanderlip were both self-made men who pulled themselves up by their bootstraps. They were also friends from their newspaper days in Chicago and later, brothers-in-law and Scarborough neighbors.

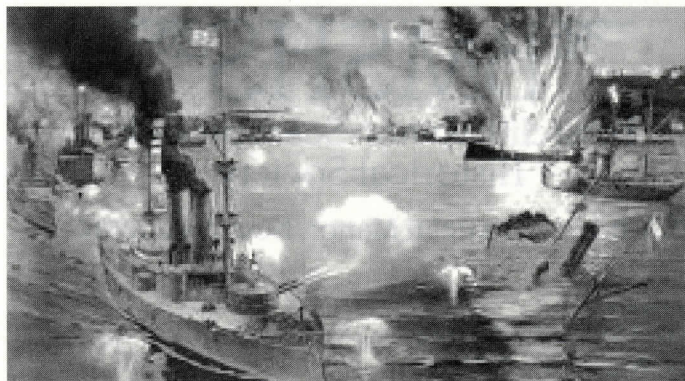
Harden succeeded Vanderlip as financial editor of the *Tribune* and volunteered as a war correspondent with the Navy for his newspaper, the *Chicago Tribune*, and the *New York World*. When Vanderlip became Assistant Secretary of the U. S. Treasury, he helped Harden to be embedded with Admiral George Dewey to cover the abbreviated Spanish-American War in the Asiatic region along the China coast in 1898.

Harden craftily achieved the scoop of Dewey's victory over the Spanish fleet and bested his compatriots, Joseph L. Stickney and John T. McCutcheon, with his cable dispatch.

*Admiral Dewey has destroyed the Spanish fleet at the Battle of Manila Bay. Eleven Spanish ships destroyed; eight Spanish ships captured; four hundred Spaniards killed; Spanish supplies lost and captured to the amount of \$5,000,000. As for the Americans: eight men slightly wounded, \$1,000 damage.*

*The fighting began at 5 o'clock in the morning. The Spaniards surrendered at 12:40 in the afternoon.*

The back story is somewhat convoluted but amusing. Admiral Dewey had imposed restrictions on what and from where the three embedded reporters could send information to their papers. "Send no cablegrams which might reveal the plans of the fleet." And six, wordless days transpired



*USS Olympia, famous flagship of Commodore George Dewey at the Battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War in May 1, 1898.*

between Adm. Dewey's success in Manila Bay and the fleet's return to Hong Kong where telegrams could be sent.

When they arrived in Hong Kong it was Harden who won a rickshaw race with Stickney of the *New York Herald* to the Hong Kong dock-side telegraph office to file a report of the victory; but Stickney's 3,000-word report, followed strict protocol, and was ruled to have been the first dispatch to be transmitted. Harden protested, and then resorted to **bribery and brevity**. "I will pay for my dispatches in cash...at a rate **three times** the commercial rate and **nine times** the press rate."

Harden's abbreviated but pithy bulletin of the battle (forty words) arrived in the U.S. with its great news between 3-4 A.M. (hours ahead of every else's), just in time to make the morning editions." Lyons, Louis M. (1970), Massachusetts Historical Society.

According to Mary Cheever in The Changing Landscape, an editor of the *Tribune* telephoned the White House at four-thirty in the morning and got President McKinley out of bed to tell him of the victory.



We continue to research details of the life of John "Jack" Koelsch, 1923-1951. He lived in Scarborough, and went to the Scarborough School. For his heroism and valor in the Korean War, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, which is given "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty." As we said in our last letter, "he was belatedly honored at Lasdon Park in Katonah and at a memorial in Mount Pleasant, but his service has not yet been recognized in Briarcliff Manor." We are working with our American Legion Post, the Ossining Historical Society, and the Westchester County Historical Society to fill in as many details of his life as is possible. If this is something that interests you, please let us know and we would be very glad for your help.



*Just FYI – the U.S. Postal Service is now issuing a special folio of stamps for the "Medal of Honor: World War II," in case you're interested.*

# BMSHS

Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough  
Historical Society

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Mark Your Calendars!*

***Sunday, January 12, 2014 at 2PM at the Briarcliff Library.***

**Eggnog & Chat with Rev. Sandra Seaborn, St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Scarborough to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the creation of the first school in our area.** We'll show "The Birth of St. Mary's," a SILENT FILM created in 1937 by the Ossining Historical Society with parishioners as actors. Rev. Seaborn will also give us the historical background. Desserts from early days.

***Sunday, March 30, 2014 at 2PM, BMSHS Annual Meeting***

**Mr. Gray Williams, New Castle Historian, free-lance writer, editor and photographer, will be our guest speaker. He will share his deep knowledge of the life of Frank A. Vanderlip and his home, "Beechwood."**

*Picturing Our Past: National Register Sites in Westchester* is his gorgeous 480 page work: 615 illustrations, 360 in color (including "Beechwood".) The book has been described as being "dazzling," and it is. Mr. Williams is also a frequent contributor to the *Westchester Historian Magazine*.

***BMSHS will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary Year - 1974-2014. Please join us as a member.***

Look for your 2014 membership renewal envelope in the mail in January or on-line at our website [www.briarcliffhistory.org](http://www.briarcliffhistory.org)

***YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS EITHER. 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](http://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](mailto:Mail@briarcliffhistory.org)