



BMSHS

Briarcliff Manor Scarborough Historical Society

News

Volume 1, Issue 1

P.O. Box 11, Briarcliff Manor, New York 10510, (914) 941-4393

April 1999

DID YOU KNOW

☞ Sint Sinck or Sinck Sinck (and various other spellings) was the name of the Indian tribe that lived here. The land was referred to as Sinck Sinck because of the tribe in residence. After its purchase in 1685 by Frederick Philipse, the village was later called Sing Sing, another version of Sinck Sinck.

☞ Civil War General Alexander Stewart Webb and Major-General George Webb Morrell resided in Scarborough.

☞ Four writers who lived in Briarcliff Manor served as WWII correspondents: Carroll B. Colby; Albert Q. Maisel; John Hersey; and, E.J. Kahn, Jr.

☞ The details above were sourced from *The Changing Landscape*, by Mary Cheever. This fine book is available through the Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society.

Words From Our Co-Presidents

We are pleased to present our first issue of *BMSHS News*, the bi-annual newsletter of the Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society. We hope to promote a greater awareness of historical preservation and its value to our unique village. We welcome this opportunity to share our mutual interest and knowledge of local history with members and village residents, past and present.

BMSHS was established in 1974, during the past 25 years we have collected a variety of historical memorabilia that we want to share with our community. For example, we currently have a circa 1930 varsity baseball uniform with photographs of the ball team of that year, on display at the Briarcliff Manor High School. Many more displays of our artifacts are planned for the near future.

Our history book, "The Changing Landscape" and our woven afghan depicting scenes from Briarcliff Manor and Scarborough continue to be sought after items. 25th year, especially as gifts.

The generosity of members and friends of BMSHS encourage and inspire us in our efforts to maintain and advance the goals of the Society. Thank you, each and everyone. You are the key to our success.

Carol J. Haddad Joyce M. Kiley
Co-Presidents

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BMSHS Tours

The BMSHS provides historical bus tours of the Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough area every year in May. For the past 3 years, we have had a waiting list. To accommodate these people and others, we decided to repeat the tour in October. It is a lovely introduction to the history of our village, and is appropriate for ages 10 and up.

Eileen O'C. Weber is greatly responsible for the popularity of these tours. She is a very knowledgeable and entertaining lecturer and has such a wealth of information and stories that she cannot possibly fit it all into a mere 2.5 hours. Because of this, no 2 tours are ever totally the same. Questions are always welcomed by Mrs. Weber and she has seldom, if ever, been at a loss for answer.

This year the tour will leave from the Briarcliff Congressional Church parking lot promptly at 2PM on Sunday May 2. Reservations must be prepaid. \$10.00 for members and \$12.00 for non-members. Call (914) 941-4393 for reservations.

The BMSHS also offers a tour of Ellis Island & the Statue of Liberty every other year, and will be offered again Fall 2000. This includes transportation, a continental breakfast, a box lunch, and cold drinks for the return home. All tickets are purchased in advance by BMSHS, so that much of the waiting in line is avoided. We have made this trip on an exceptionally beautiful day and a cloudy, damp day with the same enthusiastic results from all attending.

If you are interested in any of these tours, you may register your name, phone number and number of possible attendees with BMSHS. This information will be kept on file until the requested tour is finalized, at which time, you will be telephoned by a member of BMSHS to confirm your attendance. Prepayment would be requested at that



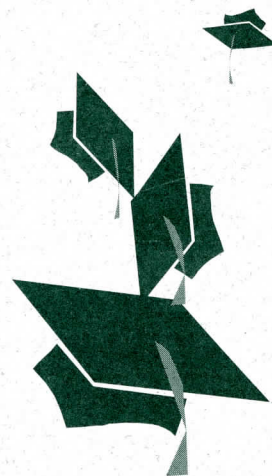
*Ms. Eileen Weber,
conducting our May
1997 Village Tour,
arrives at Sleepy Hol-
low Country Club.*

The Weber Scholarship

Each year BMSHS offers a \$500.00 Scholarship to a carefully selected graduating senior from the Briarcliff Manor High School. This selection process is decidedly difficult when each candidate that applies is impressive in his or her own right. Since we established this scholarship in 1994, every recipient has justified our selection.

The BMSHS is proud to offer this scholarship in honor of Eileen O'C. Weber. Mrs. Weber is a special woman who has done so much to improve and move forward the ideals and purpose of the Society. Friends and members of BMSHS contribute the dollars to make this scholarship possible, and we hope more people will add their support to the Eileen O'C. Weber Scholarship Fund.

Applications for this scholarship will be available through the Guidance Office by mid April of 1999. In past years, we asked the Guidance Officer at the Briarcliff Manor High School to give BMSHS a status report on each of the previous recipients, and the staff in the Guidance Office has been very helpful in preparing that information for us. This information is presented in *About Our Scholarship Honorees*.



Tales & Truths

Excerpts from *The Changing Landscape*, by Mary Cheever:

In September 1944, some 365 villagers from a population of little more than 1,800 were in the armed forces. Of these ninety-six were commissioned and seventy noncommissioned officers. Some fourteen women volunteered, half of them for service in the navy, others in the Army Signal Corps and Nurse Corps. The percentages of residents in the services and of officers among them were well above the national average.

The war effort and other village history from November 1942, to September 1945, is recorded in great detail in "Communiqué: Briarcliff Manor Service News." This monthly newsletter was mailed to all villagers in the armed forces and paid for by civilian subscriptions. Each eight-page issue contained an editorial; a report on a special event or an oversea station; news of the Fire and Police departments, of Civilian Defense, of the schools, and of the American Legion. Full reports on Briarcliff High School athletic teams and events.... social notes.... a column of humor.... excerpts from letters from service people.... and a sprinkling of jokes and appropriate verses. The overall tone of "Communiqué" is affectionate, humorous and fervently supportive. Response to the newsletter was enthusiastic. Some recipients reported that their buddies from other parts of the country enjoyed reading it almost as much as they did. It was felt that Briarcliff Manor did more for its service people than any other town in the United States.

Eleven men of the Village of Briarcliff Manor were killed in World War II: Second Lieutenant W. Sherman Burns, Jr.; Second Lieutenant Charles H. Matthes; Seaman First Class, USN, John F. Schrade, III; Lieutenant Percy Meredith Hall, Jr.; Lieutenant George T. Fountain; Lieutenant Paul Barr Zuydhoek; Sergeant Benjamin C. Dunn; Sergeant Arthur J. Quinn, Jr.; Lieutenant, USN, Daniel Fletcher Currier; and, Corporal Edward White, Jr.

The Village of Briarcliff Manor honors all those killed in action. Some of our village roads are named for those who gave their lives for the cause of liberty.

Preservation Fund *a* Special Request

A handful of volunteers from BMSHS have been spending time at the storage facility where our artifacts, etc., are housed. In systematically going through each box, a number of items have been found that are in need of attention from professional preservationists. Some of the required attention is fairly minor. Other items, such as clothing and valuable photographs, need knowledgeable care.

For the purpose of giving our artifacts the special care they need and deserve, we have established a Preservation Fund to address this problem. Please note the added line on the 1999 Membership Form. All contributions, large or small, will be greatly appreciated.

About Our Scholarship Honorees

We take pride in the efforts and successes of graduates of Briarcliff Manor High School. We wish all graduates prosperity and happiness in their continued endeavors, as we acknowledge those having received our Eileen Weber Scholarship.

1998 Honoree: Ms. Christine Song is currently attending Cornell University.

1997 Honoree: Ms. Denise Gentile has transferred from Iona College to Westchester Community College and is interested in Social Work.

1996 Honorees: Ms. Sara Zampino is attending Johns Hopkins University.
Mr. Jeff Margolies has the distinguished ranking of Dean's List while attending Tufts University.

1995 Honoree: Ms. Michelle Gentile has graduated Manhattanville College early with Honors, January 1999. She is pursuing graduate work at Manhattanville College, majoring in psychology and elementary special education.

1994 Honoree: Ms. Nancy Lee has graduated Cornell University and is currently working on Wall Street.

Thank You Gilardi and Trump

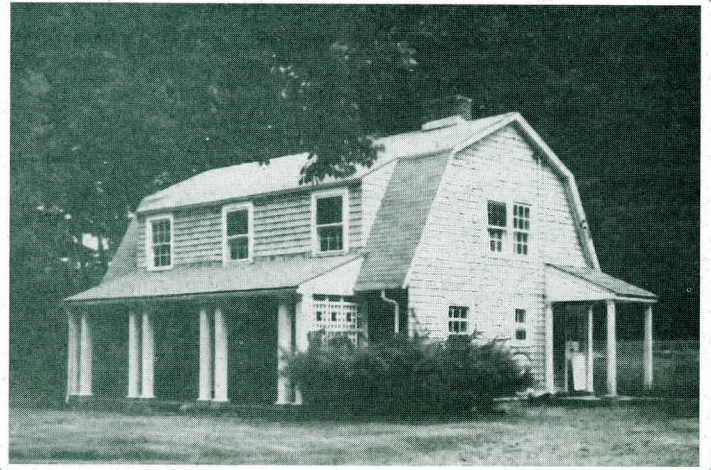
House hunting has been a major occupation for BMSHS during the past year. We have been extremely fortunate in being given the opportunity to inspect a number of buildings on the demolition list of local developers.

Mr. Michael Gilardi was first in line by offering us the Butler house on the corner of South State Road and Long Hill Road West. Willard Restoration did a fine job in appraising the house, authenticating the date it was built (1846), and presenting us with a complete breakdown of the costs involved in moving and restoring the house. Given the age of the structure, it is in excellent condition and the Butler family have obviously treated it kindly over the years.

Mr. Donald Trump offered us 2 houses on the Briar Hall property in Briarcliff Manor, and an interesting variety of 5 structures on the Seven Springs property in Bedford.

Every one of the buildings had possibilities. The main problem was that even the smallest could not be moved intact. All would have to be taken apart piece by piece and reconstructed. The Butler house had historic interest only because of its age and good condition. Grants and other preservation funding are difficult to obtain for those properties. BMSHS is looking into various ways of financing such a move.

Regardless of the outcome, the fact that we were offered these opportunities speaks well for those developers who would rather give away a usable structure than turn it to rubble. We greatly appreciate the thoughtfulness of Messrs. Gilardi and Trump. We thank them both for their kind concern and generosity.



This dutch style dwelling resides at Trump's Seven Springs property. It is only 1 of many generous offers.

Our Executive Board and Trustees

We welcome interested residents to join us at one of our meetings. We appreciate recommendations, comments, and active support from community residents. If you would like to become an active member of our Board, please call (914) 941-4393.

We currently have 6 members of BMSHS serving on the Executive Board, and an additional 6 members comprise the Board of Trustees.

Executive Board:

Co-President, Mrs. Carol Haddad.

Co-President, Mrs. Joyce Kiley.

Vice President, Mrs. Germaine Hugue.

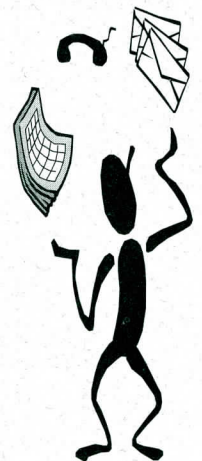
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Rosemary Jordan.

Recording Secretary, Mrs. Mimi Boe.

Treasurer, Mrs. Mary Ellen Von Ancken.

Board of Trustees:

Mrs. Cyndy Altman, Mrs. Sheila Bilder, Mrs. Maureen Fee, Mrs. Anita Hegarty, Mrs. Deb McEntee, and Mrs. Janna Ross.



In Memoriam

Alpert, Leonard
1930-1999

Mr. Alpert lived in this community for 42 years and was a familiar part of a visit to Images Art Gallery, always with a welcoming smile and greeting. The Alperths have been loyal supporters of the Society since 1984. The BMSHS wishes to express its sympathy to Mr. Alpert's extended family, and especially to his wife, Marie.

Smidinger, Arthur
1913-1999

The BMSHS wishes to extend its sincere condolences to the family of Arthur "Bud" Smidinger. Born in Ossining and a resident of Scarborough for the past 50 years, he was an active part of the life of this community. The Smidingers joined BMSHS as charter members in 1974, and have been generous supporters for the past 25 years. We had the pleasure of their company on many occasions over the years; most recently when Mr. & Mrs. Smidinger joined our group on the trip to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty last October. Our memories of him are happy ones.

Delivery of the Briarcliff Rose

In celebration of our 25th year, we will be bringing the Briarcliff Rose back into local gardens. (Former residents of Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough have ordered the Briarcliff Rose so that wherever they live, a bit of this area will be with them.) Two years ago, a nursery was chosen to propagate this rare and beautiful pink rose, exclusively for BMSHS. The Briarcliff Rose was developed and propagated in 1926 in the greenhouses located on Fountain Road which were owned and operated by Paul M. Pierson and F.R. Pierson. This rose once flourished on the hillsides and in the gardens of this area, and there are approximately a dozen of these roses still grown here. Together with its beauty and history, the Briarcliff Rose will be returned in great numbers to the soil from which it came.

Five hundred rose bushes will arrive in 2 shipments, one in late spring and one in late summer. The 2 shipments are necessary to allow nursery stock to recover from the severe storms experienced in the past year. Each propagation required approximately 18 months. After their initial growth in the greenhouse, all of the rose bushes were planted out of doors so that only the strongest possible stock will be selected for shipment. All orders will be acknowledged by post card within the next 2 months. Pick-up dates will be published in local newspapers or you may call BMSHS in late April or early May. The rose bushes will be distributed based on the date the order was received.

A point of interest regarding the Briarcliff Rose: Those familiar with the rose and its history, say the proper nomenclature is The Rose Briarcliff. However, as it is listed in the Rose Register as the Briarcliff Rose, we will use that name.

A Work In Progress

The BMSHS is very pleased with our enhanced logo and newly designed stationery. An official post card has also been designed for our continual use in mailings, and will be used very soon as the promised acknowledgment card for all the orders for the Briarcliff Rose. *BMSHS News* was also a project that we have been planning for the past year.

These 3 projects are a small example of the outstanding contributions being made to BMSHS by Trustee Janna Ross. The logo alone involved countless hours at the computer to bring our treasured symbol into clearer, cleaner focus to facilitate imprinting on a wider variety of items. Previous attempts to enlarge the logo resulted in blurred images. Formatting the *BMSHS News* was also a personal project of Janna's. Whereas the name of the publication may change, the format basically will remain the same.

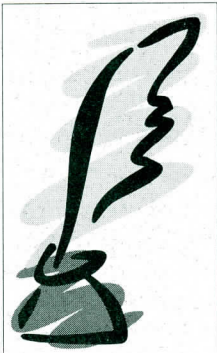
The BMSHS welcomes the contribution and suggestions of the Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough community in naming our bi-annual newsletter. Please send your recommendations, along with your name and telephone number, to BMSHS, P.O. Box 11, Briarcliff Manor, New York 10510. If your suggestion is selected by our Board, we will be pleased to announce your name in our newsletter and present you with a \$25.00 award.



BMSHS

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*In the making
of history.*

In This Issue...

In our 25th year, BMSHS presents our bi-annual newsletter.

GIFT IDEAS

AVAILABLE THROUGH
BMSHS

Our Historical Images Afghan is unique to our village, depicting a series of 12 historical buildings, artifacts and symbols that chronicle the highlights of our village. The afghan is 50" x 65" and is custom woven of the highest quality three-ply cotton (machine wash and dry). Combination of cranberry-red and hunter-green on a cream background, blends with most decors. Available for \$47.50, plus shipping and handling.

"The Changing Landscape" is a handsomely designed and beautifully produced volume in an unusual 8.5"x10" format, containing over 200 illustrations. Commissioned by the BMSHS, and written by Mary Cheever, "The Changing Landscape" was honored with an award for historical publications. Available from BMSHS for \$35.00, plus shipping and handling.

Oral Histories

The BMSHS would like to promote and preserve the oral histories of senior residents who have resided in Briarcliff Manor for a substantial period of time. Oral histories, or personal accounts, are unique perspectives and personal insights of life and time. They are similar to auto-biographies, journals, and memoirs. However, when histories are presented in personal oral form, they impart an enriched and more intimate account.

Oral Histories: A Personal Account Of Life As Lived In Briarcliff Manor - Scarborough

Oral histories are a very personal contribution to the community. The telling of the history is itself a fulfilling experience. Oral histories given by grandparents and parents to their children and grandchildren are sources of fundamental sustenance. The experience of those before us, and our understanding of those experiences, shape us as we are today. The preservation of oral histories should become a tradition for every family. The availability and ease of video cameras provide a practical method of recording such narratives.

If you, or someone you know, is a long-time resident of Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough, and would like to be interviewed for the purpose of providing BMSHS with an oral history, please call us at (914) 941-4393.