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**BMSHS**  
Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough  
Historical Society

Website  
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## 2013 Summer Newsletter

*Dear Members and Friends -*

*It's been quite the summer, hasn't it? Would it help to remember that in early Briarcliff days there was no air-conditioning? Maybe it helps -- maybe it doesn't!*

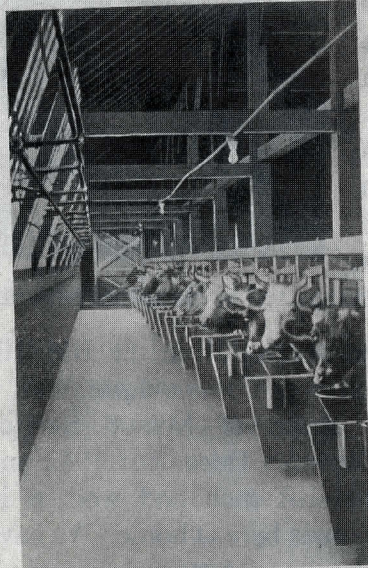
*But we've been busy every day as we continue to go through boxes and files to clarify the holdings of BMSHS and to determine how best to preserve and share them. Fortunately, almost each piece of paper or photograph is an interesting treasure.*

*Karen and Jan, Co-Presidents*

### ANTIQUE POSTCARDS

**Postcards**, as you might imagine, are easy to work with. We have over 200 picture postcards. They depict early Briarcliff Manor, parades and bands, businesses and village offices, schools, Briarcliff Lodge, Farms and Laundry and houses of worship.

**We invite you to come see them sometime over the summer.**



Interior of a Dairy Barn at Briarcliff Manor, N. Y.



No. 10—One of the barns at Briarcliff Dairy Farms, Briarcliff Manor, N. Y.



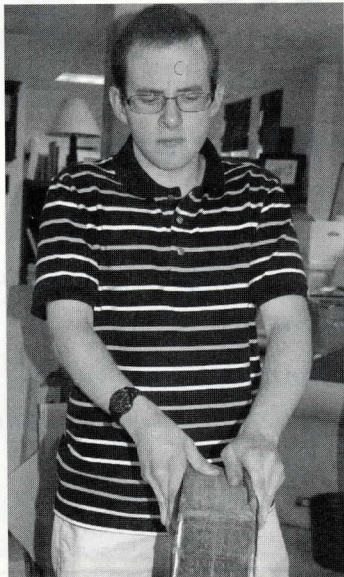
MIRROR VIEW OF HIGH SCHOOL,  
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, N. Y.



Briarcliff Manor, N. Y., All Saints Church.

Vast amounts of other paper are being "processed" (to use the official word in archival language) and organized in flip-top archival boxes. Categories include original photographs, people, Hudson River maps, houses of worship, W. W. Law, Briarcliff Lodge, historical societies in the area, historical buildings, homes and businesses, historical locations nearby and Briarcliff Manor histories -- so far. **Please come on down to see what we have in the boxes.**

Our spring newsletter mentioned our need for H-E-L-P with this work. **Alexander Vastola**, of 278 Law Road, and a recent graduate of Vassar, responded to our call and his help has been invaluable. Alex's studies emphasized medieval and renaissance studies and art history. Can you imagine his delight and ours when he started exploring what had simply been identified as "portion of a Very Old Bible." He carefully examined it at length and was thrilled to find it to be an 1803 Durrell Edition of the Bible with over twenty engravings. The final page had family records of the Fox family, Jeremiah, 1768, Sarah, 1769, Maryann, 1807 and Elizabeth, 1809. Fortunately Alex will continue to investigate aspects of our very valuable Bible. Unfortunately the Bible is in a very fragile, somewhat incomplete state.



University in Houston. Koelsch went to the Scarborough School and lived on Linden Circle with his mom, dad and two brothers. After his father died, Jack's home base was with his godfather, George Weeks, while attending The Choate School and Princeton.

Jack was on rescue pilot duty off the coast of North Korea when his helicopter was downed under intense enemy fire. He, his co-pilot and the pilot they were rescuing were taken captive before they could reach safety.

Jack died in a North Korean POW camp about three months later. He was 27 years old. For his "conspicuous gallantry, intrepidity, and heroic spirit of self-sacrifice," Lt. (j.g.), U. S. Navy was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He has belatedly been honored at Lasdon Park in Katonah and at a memorial in Mount Pleasant, but his service has not yet been recognized in Briarcliff Manor.



**Stephen Smalley**, of 111 Orchard Road, is helping with an in-depth search on the background of **John Kelvin Koelsch, 1923-1951**. Stephen is accessing archival records from the Koelsch family papers held at the Fondren Library, Rice



We gleaned details of his service from the BMSHS collection of *Communiques*. *Communique* was a monthly newsletter of Briarcliff Manor Service News published locally between December 1942 and September 1945 for Briarcliff men and women in service and for their loved ones here at home. We have a complete collection of these newsletters.

**We'll keep you up to date with news and next steps re: John 'Jack' Koelsch.**



## NEW ACQUISITION FOR BMSHS

We want to express our appreciation for the gift of a **wonderful map given to the BMSHS by the Spetter family**, Ruth and Job. Their father, Dr. Matthew Ies Spetter, who lived at 139 Todd Lane, died in December 2012. The Spetter family gave us on his behalf a large, framed map of Briarcliff Manor ca 1928. It is beautiful and it shows details of the Briarcliff Lodge and Briarcliff Farms that we have not seen before. **We would like to show you the map.**

# 'ROCKLEDGE' -- HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Taking a page from the Ossining Historical Society and Museum's, *Spring 2010 Newsletter* – "Mansions Lost"



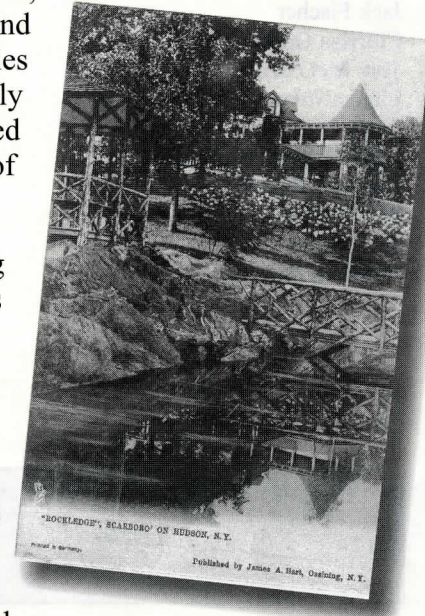
Photo Credit – Ossining Historical Society & Museum

A number of mansions have been lost over the years. These structures were, for the most part, built in the nineteenth century in the grand style by well-to-do individuals. They were staffed by live-in servants who worked long hours to keep the households functioning. As time progressed, these estates became burdens to subsequent heirs and owners. Taxes increased, maintenance became costly and employing staffs to keep the mansions operational was very difficult. (In some cases) decisions were made to demolish the buildings to make way for replacement structures. Whatever the reason for the demise of these mansions, it is certain that the beauty, craftsmanship and creativity of past generations has (physically) been lost.

**"Rockledge"**, the Dr. & Mrs. Harry E. Lewis mansion, was built in 1901 on Mount Murray in Sparta. The mansion was designed by the former owner, Clinton Arnold, an architect. It had electric lighting and many of the state-of-the-art improvements available at the turn of the century. But the building burned to the ground in March of 1927 as the result of a fire supposedly started by cinders from a locomotive on the railroad below

the cliff. The fire is considered one of the worst in Ossining's history. Along with others, the Briarcliff fire department's pumper truck was called for, but all efforts were futile because water pressure was low at Mount Murray and 70 mph gale winds were fanning the fire. Herculean efforts to save the building failed. However, almost all of the contents of the mansion, valuable art and antiques, were rescued by firemen. "Of special note was when two husky fire fighters came slowly forth, with funeral tread, bearing between them a large glass case, quite like a casket, bearing several live and uncomprehending species of goldfish. Carefully the procession moved forward until a place of safety was reached."

The site has long been famous for its magnificent view. The site is a promontory point where the Hudson bends providing a broad view across the river. One can also see down the southern length of the river. A beautiful, vast Hudson River panorama is on view.



**And what is there now? The Scarborough Manor Apartments and a very popular restaurant named "Goldfish".....**

**The Village of Briarcliff Manor, NY seal.** A colored version is on a blue flag as well.



## ONE MORE THING OF INTEREST

**"Harry Langton Addis Memorial Window"**

Dedicated 1968 at All Saints' Episcopal Church -- which features the Village seal.

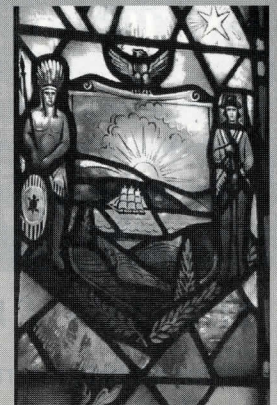
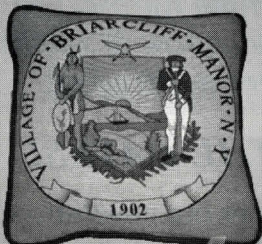


Photo by Mark Sadan

**"Briarcliff Manor Centennial Pillow."**

The Village seal has been woven as a tapestry on the front panel. The BMSHS has the pillow for sale for \$25.



# BMSHS

Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough  
Historical Society

P.O. Box 11, Briarcliff Manor, New York 10510

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Mark Your Calendars!*

***2PM Sunday, September 15 at the Library.***

***Patrick Raftery, Author and Westchester County Historical Society Librarian, will present a program on Westchester County's cemeteries, with particular emphasis on cemeteries near Briarcliff Manor.***

He'll touch on speculation as to why Walter W. Law DIDN'T make plans for a cemetery here. The material will be drawn from his award-winning three-volume set of books. The Briarcliff Library will co-sponsor this event with BMSHS.

## ***NEW DATE***

**The month, date and place of our dinner that we announced in our spring newsletter has changed.**

***6PM Sunday, October 20 at Sleepy Hollow Country Club.***

***BMSHS will celebrate the Second Annual Harvest Wine Dinner, which will honor Connie Curran and Carmino Ravosa, two stalwarts of our community who have given so much. It will be a spirited event we know you'll look forward to attending.***

***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, Facebook, our website [www.briarcliffhistory.org](http://www.briarcliffhistory.org) and the Briarcliff Library announcements bulletin board.