

Westhampton Beach Historical Society

Serving the
Communities of
Westhampton Beach,
Westhampton Dunes,
Westhampton, Quogue,
Remsenberg, Speonk
and Eastport



Post Office Box 686
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

Phone: (63) 288-1139
Website: www.whbhistorical.org
Email: WHBhistorical@optonline.net

Editor: Stephanie Davis

Newsletter

Spring 2017

Foster-Meeker Heritage Center—Progress Report

In 2016 the Society received a matching grant from the **Robert D. L. Gardiner Foundation** to fund the reconstruction of the 18th century chimney and bake oven complex in the Foster-Meeker Heritage Center. We combined the grant funding with several very generous matching donations from our members, which enabled construction to get underway in February this year. The accompanying photos show the progress as of mid-March. We are now nearing completion and the fireplaces look wonderful!

The chimney and bake oven complex is located in the center of the building and includes three fireplaces, one in each of the three main rooms on the first floor. A beehive oven for baking is incorporated into the east-facing fireplace and a warming oven is incorporated into the west-facing fireplace. Each fireplace is equipped with a forged crane used to hold cooking pots and other utensils over the fires. As of early May, the chimney had been extended through the roof of the Foster-Meeker Heritage Center. When construction is completed, small fires will be burned in each fireplace to complete the masonry curing.

Peter Moore and his son, Kristian, of **Peter Moore Masonry** from Pawlet, Vermont are doing all of the masonry work using both vintage and modern materials. The vintage materials, which will be visible on the completed project, include thousands of original bricks salvaged from a demolished 1780s Vermont house. The bricks have a lovely warm and worn patina and come in slightly different sizes and shapes. The different shapes were used to define different parts of each fireplace, with the wider bricks used for the hearths and the longer bricks for the walls. Modern materials, including insulation and concrete block, have been used on the inner portions of the chimney and oven complex, where they will not be visible. Use of these materials helps with structural stability, fire protection, and cost control.

The Moores have been working six days a week on this project and have welcomed drop-in visitors who wanted to see the work in progress. We are very excited to be nearing completion of the fireplace complex and hope to be able to demonstrate our hearth cooking skills soon!



Left: Peter Moore working on the west fireplace. The dome on the left side of the photo is the exterior of the bake oven. Right: The completed east fireplace with the bake oven and crane.

Historical Society “Comes Together” to Take Prize at St. Patrick’s Day Parade!!

The Westhampton Beach Historical Society took the Third Place Prize in the Community Float category at this year’s St. Patrick’s Day parade!! For those of you who missed us (and there were likely many due to the cold and wet weather), this year’s entry “Generations Coming Together Through History” featured adults and children dressed in historic costumes spanning the 18th to 20th centuries, a goat, a vintage courting carriage pulled by none other than our Vice President, Bob Murray, and marchers from the Third New York Regiment from the East End of Long Island. The Regiment periodically startled all of us by shooting off their guns; one volley even unleashed a small avalanche of snow on Main Street!



Left: Courting carriage. Above: Costumed marchers and goat (not in costume!).



We all had a great time despite the weather and are pleased to continue our streak of award-winning parade entries.

We want to extend a sincere “Thank You” to all who contributed to this event, including Dawn Ladu, who organized the younger marchers, Bob Murray for his tireless carriage-pulling, Liz Max who kept the marchers’ metabolic fires burning with food and drink, and Jon Stanat for organizing the event and staying on top of the activities. Thanks again to all participants - we hope to go for first place in 2018!!

Wisteria Summers Exhibit Will Open Soon!

Preparation for this summer’s exhibit is well underway and it promises to be a good one! Drawing on our extensive collection of historic photographs, accounts, and artifacts of the late 1800s to early 1900s, our exhibit entitled **Wisteria Summers** will focus on the historic development of our local perennial summer colony. Several aspects of this phenomenon will be explored, including the early years when travel via stagecoach was the only way to reach our area, the impacts of Long Island Rail Road extensions, and the explosive growth during the Boardinghouse Era.

The exhibit will first open in the early evening of June 16, following the traditional cocktail party at Starr Boggs. There-

after, the museum will be open on Saturdays from 10 AM to 1 PM. Please **watch for our announcement of the Starr Boggs cocktail party** and plan to make a visit during the summer to see this new exhibit!

The Society is also planning to have **Colonial craft demonstrators** onsite every Saturday when the museum is open. Crafts to be demonstrated include blacksmithing, quilting, rug hooking, wool spinning, bee keeping, and others. Please plan to stop by for some first-hand experience with these historic (and current!) crafts!



American Revolution on the Great Lawn in July!

The Westhampton Beach Historical Society will be sponsoring an **Encampment of the Third New York Regiment** on the Village's Great Lawn on **July 22 and 23** this summer! The original Third New York Regiment was authorized under the command of Colonel James Clinton in June 1775 for service in Canada with the objective of taking Canada from British control. Although the attempt to take Canada had failed by July 1776, the history of the Third New York Regiment lives on in the detailed accounts of the Canada campaign written by Major Henry Livingston, Colonel James Clinton, and Anthony Clarke.

The current Third New York Regiment is a group of reenactors who have chosen the American Revolutionary War as their hobby. Their mission is to faithfully re-create the daily lives of Revolutionary War soldiers, soldier's wives, families, and camp followers using the Canada campaign accounts as a guide. Visitors to the Encampment can expect to see members of the Regiment in authentic dress going about their daily lives as they would have in the campaign period of June 1775 to July 1776, including cooking food over open fires, mending clothing, cleaning their equipment, marching, practicing their marksmanship, and other typical camp activities. This will be a



Reenactors from the Third New York Regiment marched with the Historical Society for the St. Patrick's Day parade.

wonderful opportunity to learn about the history of the American Revolution and to participate in the action!

Please watch our website (whbhistorical.org) for more information about this event. We hope that you can join us for this hands-on opportunity to become immersed in re-created New York State history!

2017 Membership Drive Underway

The Westhampton Beach Historical Society's 2017 Membership Drive has been underway for a couple of months and all folks on our mailing list should have received a 2017 membership form like the one at right. We hope that you have responded promptly, as your membership contributions are a very necessary component of our operating budget.

Your contributions enable the Society to pursue the "big stuff", such as our educational, historic preservation, and community outreach efforts, and also to take care of the "little stuff", like keeping the lights and heat on in our campus buildings.

You may renew your membership using the mailed form, using the printed form at right, or using PayPal on the Society's website: whbhistorical.org (click on Support and then Membership). Please renew today – every membership is important to us!

My membership contribution.

- ☐ \$25.00 Individual
- ☐ \$50.00 Family
- ☐ \$100.00 Sustaining
- ☐ \$100.00 Business
- ☐ \$250.00 Sponsor
- ☐ \$500.00 Patron
- ☐ \$1,000.00 Benefactor

All donations are tax deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

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E-mail _____

Make checks payable to:

Westhampton Beach Historical Society
P.O. Box 686
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

631-288-1139

www.WHBHistorical.org

Membership

Your contribution makes possible the Society's educational programs for youth and adults, community outreach, preservation of important historic buildings and artifacts.

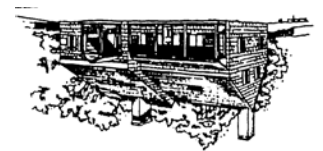
Members receive all mailings and newsletters, invitations to "Members Only" events, and reduced admission to special receptions and parties.

*Please join
or renew today!*

**Support our efforts to preserve
the rich heritage of the Greater
Westhampton area.**



Westhampton Beach Historical Society
P.O. Box 686
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978



2017 CALENDAR *for* **The WHB Historical Society**

We have a lot of events planned for 2017, including several exciting new events! Please watch for mailings and check our website (whbhistorical.org) for announcements!

**Museum Opening Cocktail Party
at Starr Boggs**
June 16

**Summer Exhibit—"Wisteria Summers"
and Colonial Crafts Demonstrations**
June 16–September

**Yard Sales at the
Foster-Meeker Heritage Center**
June and September

Revolutionary War Encampment
July 22 and 23

1938 Hurricane Lecture
July 29

**Quiogue House Tour
and Cocktail Party**
August 5

Pot Luck Supper
October 15

Holiday Party
December 3



* Westhampton Beach Historical Society Museum • 101 Mill Road • Westhampton Beach