

Westhampton Beach Historical Society

Serving the
Communities of
Westhampton Beach,
Westhampton Dunes,
Westhampton, Quiogue,
Remsenburg, Speonk
and Eastport



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Newsletter

Spring 2018

American Civil War on the Great Lawn in August!

The Westhampton Beach Historical Society is sponsoring a **Civil War Reenactment** on the Village's Great Lawn on **August 4!** The original 67th New York Volunteer Infantry, also known as the Brooklyn Phalanx or First Long Island Volunteers, was mustered into service on June 24, 1861 following the attack on Fort Sumter and President Lincoln's call to arms to quell the Southern rebellion. The men from Brooklyn who answered the call camped at South Brother Island in New York Harbor, trained at Fort Schuyler, and moved briefly to Fort Hamilton before departing to the South under the command of Colonel Julius Adams and Lt. Colonel Nelson Cross. There followed four years of marches, battles, sieges, and other warfare.

Association is a group of reenactors who have chosen the American Civil War as their hobby. Their mission is to faithfully bring the Civil War Era to life to educate the public and preserve its history. Visitors to the Reenactment can expect to see members of the 67th New York Volunteer Infantry in authentic dress going about their daily lives as they would have in the campaign period of August 1861 to July 1865, including cooking food over open fires, mending clothing, cleaning their equipment, marching, practicing marksmanship, and other typical camp activities. We also hope to have a **skirmish between Company K and the Southern rebels!** This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Civil War and participate in the action!

The current **Company K, 67th New York Historical**

There will be a **fundraising cocktail party that evening on the Great Lawn**

with Company K reenactors in attendance! What a wonderful way to support our Society and help preserve our collective history!

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 **immerse yourself in New York State Civil War history!**



Company K of the 67th New York Volunteers at rest during an encampment.

Westhampton Beach, NY 11978
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Westhampton Beach Historical Society 2018 Calendar of Events

We hope you made it to our 2018 Winter Lecture Series at the Westhampton Library – this year's theme was transportation and we had some great speakers who focused on the history of Long Island's aviation, railroads, and Vanderbilt Cup races. Looking forward, we have the following events scheduled for the rest of 2018. We will be sending out notices of many of these events, so watch your snail mail and email for further announcements!

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|
| June 8..... | Season Opening Cocktail Party at Starr Boggs Restaurant (4 to 6 PM) | August 4 | Civil War Re-Enactment and Skirmish on the Great Lawn And Civil War-Themed Cocktail Party Fundraiser on the Great Lawn |
| June 30..... | Yard Sale at the Foster Meeker Heritage Center on Mill Road | August 25 | Yard Sale at the Foster Meeker Heritage Center on Mill Road |
| June 30 - Sept. 29... | Halcyon Days and 1938 Hurricane Exhibit at the Tuthill House Museum on Mill Road (Saturdays 10 AM to 1 PM) | September (date TBD)..... | Remsenburg Walking Tour |
| June 30 - Sept. 8..... | Craft Demonstrations at the Foster Meeker Heritage Center (Saturdays 10 AM to 1 PM) | October 14..... | Pot Luck Supper |
| | | December 9..... | Holiday Party |



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

Meet Our New Collections Manager: JAIME KARBOWIAK!

As our Society's artifact collection has grown over the years, so has the job of properly managing it. Accepting, researching, archiving, and maintaining our artifacts can be a time-consuming process and should be performed by folks with experience and adequate training. We were fortunate to have volunteers manage our collection for many years and we are deeply grateful for all of the time and effort they put in. However, as we have grown it became apparent that we needed to find a permanent collections manager. After a diligent search, in late 2017 we hired Jaime Karbowski to manage our artifact collection on a part-time basis.

Jaime comes to us with a strong educational background, including a BA in English from Dowling College, an MA in History from LIU, and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Archives and Records Management also from LIU. Her experience includes Archives Internships at the Sagamore Hill National Historic Site in Oyster Bay, the Oyster Bay Historical Society, the Long Island Maritime Museum in West Sayville, and the American Museum of Natural History. At present, in ad-

dition to her work for our Society, she works as a Museum Volunteer at the Long Island Maritime Museum and as a Museum and Library Assistant at the Suffolk County Historical Society Museum in Riverhead. All of this experience is of great benefit to our Society!

At present, Jaime works on our artifact collection at the Museum one day a week. Her responsibilities include accessioning artifacts, maintaining and conserving the existing collection, improving our storage capacity and quality, updating our collections management policies, reviewing the collection when the need for deaccessioning becomes apparent, assisting with artifacts for exhibits, and related tasks. Our staff who work with Jaime report that she is actively addressing our accessioning backlog, bringing in new ideas for collections management, spearheading a digitizing effort, helping to update our 2018 exhibit, and generally bringing our collections management procedures into the 21st Century!

Jaime is a real find for our Society and we are very pleased to have been able to hire her. We want to thank you, our Members, for making this possible through your support of our Society through your memberships and donations. We could not have taken this step forward in managing our artifact collection without the financial resources to sustain a part-time professional. If you are near the Museum on Mondays, please feel free to stop by and meet Jaime. Her improvements are already evident!

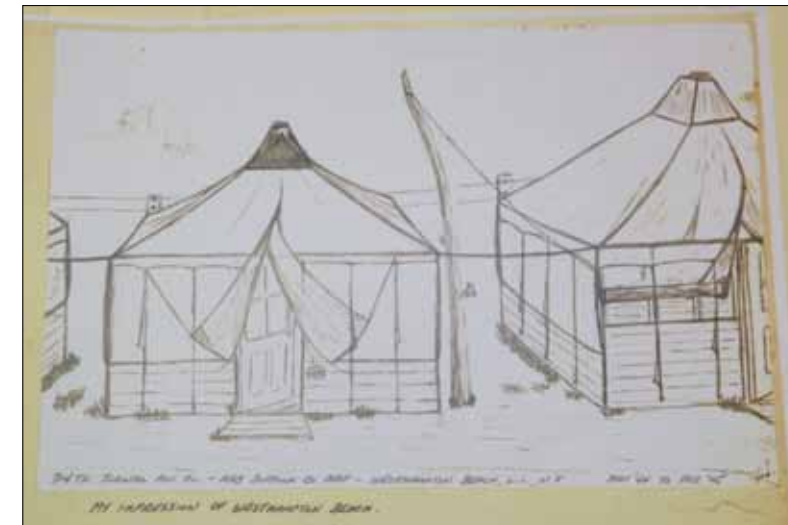


Jaime Karbowski working with some of our paper archives.

An Artifact with an Interesting Story!

Our Society is regularly offered artifacts for our collection, often when someone is cleaning out the attic or has to move from a family home and finds items that might be of historic interest. However, occasionally we are offered an artifact that someone has gone out of their way to acquire for us, recognizing that the item may be of interest and we would not otherwise acquire it. If they document the history of the artifact, that is even better! This is the story of one such item....

What we now know as Francis S. Gabreski Airport was originally constructed in 1943 as the Suffolk County Army Air Field (AAF). It was affiliated with the larger Mitchel Field in Nassau County and was used for gunnery and bombing training. The 714th Signal Aircraft Warning Company (AWC) was activated on December 1, 1942 at Drew Field in Tampa, Florida and from May 1944 to February 1945 participated in defense exercises at the AAF. The AWC men were housed in a tent camp on Station Road in Westhampton near the north end of the cemetery. A 1947 aerial photo that depicts the former location of the tent camp (red arrow) is shown at right.



One of the AWC men kept a scrapbook in which he made pencil sketches, including one of the tent camp that he titled "My impression of Westhampton Beach", a copy of which is also shown at left. The 714th Signal AWC was disbanded on August 29, 1945 shortly before the Suffolk County AAF was declared surplus by the Army Air Forces (predecessor of today's Air Force) and conveyed to Suffolk County.

Local resident Don Metcalf recently purchased the scrapbook page on eBay and donated it to the Society after conducting research on the fate of the tent camp. He discovered that after the War, the wooden tent frames were salvaged and incorporated into rental cottages at 496 Dune Road in Westhampton Beach, now known as the Beehive Bungalows (photo below). To top it off, he wrote the story of his acquisition and research on paper that came from the former Tanners Neck School (now a private residence on Montauk Highway), thus rendering even the transfer document into an artifact!

We very much appreciate Don's efforts in acquiring the scrapbook page and then taking the time to research and document its history. This background information breathes life into the artifact, making it much more valuable than just an ordinary pencil sketch on paper. Thank you Don!

