



The Barn Museum News

The Newsletter of the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society

Bellport, New York 11713



Volume 11 Number 3

September 2009

Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society General Membership Meeting

Sunday, November 15, 2009

3:00 p.m.

Brown Building

12 Bell Street

Bellport, New York 11713

John Deitz
Guest Speaker

Brookhaven Hamlet resident John Deitz will give a multimedia presentation entitled

“Brookhaven Hamlet Cultural Heritage 101”

From the late 19th century to well into the 20th century, Brookhaven Hamlet was home to many artists - literary, performing and visual. The small but vibrant artists' colony that came to the Hamlet, whose roots were from New York City, added their imprint to Brookhaven's 200-year history of farming and fishing by creating a change of character that is still with us today. John's program will portray many of the Hamlet's earliest artists. These include visual artists Malcolm Fraser, Mary Aldrich, Walter Clark, Frederick Kost, William Glackens, Raymond Perry, Gardner Rea, Rea Irvin, Ida Haskell, Alice Boughton and Claire Avery. Also included are literary artists James L. Ford, Margaret Anderson and Jane Heap and performing artists Ellen Learned, Emily Wagner and Carol Robinson.

Folks who may have original works by these artists are encouraged to bring them for a show-and-tell. John also encourages feedback on other Brookhaven artists he may not be aware of and corrections to his information.

Bell Buys Land in 1829 and 1830

Most stories about Bellport start basically the same way – the Bell brothers were “wrecking” a ship nearby, fell in love with the area, and bought land. But who sold the land to the Bells? Let’s go back to 1820 when Charles Jeffrey Brewster died and left the Brewster estate (Map 1) to his three daughters.

Mary, who was married to Gilbert Smith Mount, sold the eastern section to Charles Osborn in 1827.

Anna, the wife of Colonel William Howell, sold her part to Henry Gardiner, who then resold it to Solomon Livingston (sale dates to be researched).

Catherine, widow of William Rose (see *Death of William Rose*, page 11), split her property, selling the eastern half to Polly Woodruff and the western half to Mathew E. Woodruff and Henry Hulse (shaded area of Map 2).

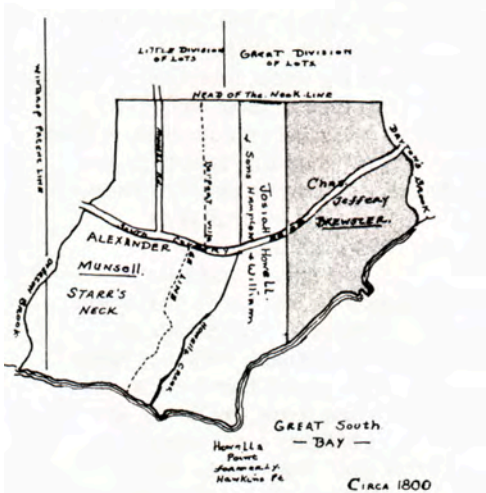
Mathew and Hannah Woodruff and Henry Hulse then sold their land to Thomas Bell. Note that only Thomas Bell’s name is on the deeds.

Mathew and Hannah Woodruff to Thomas Bell – May 1, 1829

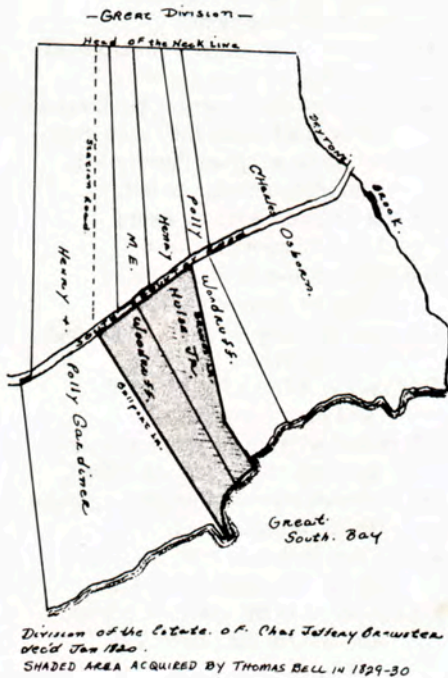
Liber 30, pgs 335-336

This Indenture made this *first day of May one thousand eight hundred and twenty nine* between *Mathew E.*

Woodruff and *Hannah* his wife of the first part and *Thomas Bell* of the second part all of Brookhaven in the County of Suffolk and State of New York witnessed that the said party of the first part in consideration of *eight hundred dollars . . .*



Map 1



Map 2

We Can Help!

Ms Rachael Anderson of Hartford, CT was looking for information about the Bellport Corwin family, and her inquiry came to the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society via John Deitz of Brookhaven.

Her request: gravestone photographs of her great, and maybe even great-great grandparents (all Corwins from Bellport) buried in Woodland Cemetery. As Ms. Anderson mentioned, "I had been living abroad for the past few years, but am back home now and gleefully digging my heels into genealogy again. I have been trying to learn of the parentage of Salem Corwin since 2001." Could the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society help? Yes we could!

Ginny Waterman photographed many of the Corwin headstones in the Woodland Cemetery and sent them, via the Internet, along with a copy of Salem's obituary which appeared in the May 17, 1884 edition of the Advance. She also put Rachael in contact with Schulyer "Bud" Corwin. As Ms Anderson said, "it was great to read Bud's story (Barn Museum News, June 2006, page 4). Wilbur R. Corwin was Salem's son. Wilbur R. also named one of his sons Salem, and that'd be Bud's Uncle Salem. I've attached a PDF file to make it all a little clearer. Feel free to share it! I've included myself, my mother, and Bud is on there too (much to my surprise after I read his story and learned of his true name). We are the only living family listed to my knowledge.

Dick Baldwin, who has been working with the genealogical section of the BBHS for many years remarked: "The Society is extremely happy to receive a copy of the Corwin family tree for our files," and, he added: "I would be glad to receive (and file) any genealogical information regarding other Bellport/Brookhaven families."

So, if you haven't started working on your family tree, do so now, while those who still remember are still here!

Thanks, Rachael.

It's Called Provenance

When donating photographs or any type of artifact to our museum or to anyone or anywhere for that matter, please make sure that all of the information about the item is attached to it and is correct.

For instance, a picture of two people in front of a house comes in. Years from now, no one will remember who Aunt Bessy and Uncle Jake are sitting in front of the homestead. In fact, for the most part, once a generation has passed, even the relatives don't recognize their relatives.

All names should be listed in full (pets too), and, in the case of a married woman, her maiden name. Dates of birth and death are always valuable information.

All structures should be identified, i.e., Smith family home and barn at corner of Smith Street and Jones Lane, Bellport, NY. The caption should tell the entire story. And don't forget to date the picture. It is far more relevant to know that a photograph is from September 1907 than guessing an approximate date. This will greatly help the museum staff when cataloging donations.

I know we are all guilty of assuming future generations will remember us, but they don't. Take a few minutes to make your memorabilia count.

BBHS EXCHANGE SHOP

12 Bell Street, Bellport, NY

OPEN LATE

Friday evening, September 25, 2009

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Joins local Bellport shops and galleries in Village-wide art show

"The Bellport Art Scene"

Captain Thomas Bell Dead at 84

“Capt. Thomas Bell, the founder of this village of Bellport now in his 84th year is hale and hearty and though deaf, his memory is retentive and bright as ever. His tales of coast wrecking are spicy and interesting.”

Patchogue Advance , April 26, 1879

And then, on July 11, 1880, Bell was gone. His obituary describes his life.

Captain Thomas Bell (1796-1880)

We doubt very much if there is a person in this vicinity who was better known. The name is as familiar in every household hereabouts, as the family names of each individual household. It is a name that must of necessity be connected with all historical sketches of Bellport. Those who knew him best appreciated his many good qualities most. Although it should not be so, yet nevertheless, the words of Antony at the death of Caesar are often times too true. “The evil that men do live after them, the good oft interred with their bones.” So it will probably prove with Capt. Bell.

Of the earlier part of his life all that is positively known is what he has told at different times. He was born in Islip on the 3rd day of August 1796, and was the son of Ira Jacob Bell. [1] When Thomas was about 10 years of age, his father bought the tract of land from the place now owned by Mr. Augustus Rice [2] down to the bay and moved on the place about that time. When Thos was about 21 years of age his father built him a packet [3] and put him in charge, telling him that as soon as the vessel paid for itself, he might have it and with his characteristic energy he soon had it clear. In a very few years (about 1830) having, by his industry, accumulated quite a fortune from a sea faring life and in company with his father [4] bought what was then the wilderness but what is now our beautiful village.

They proceeded to lay it out with streets, etc and named it Bellville by which name it was

known for a few years until it was changed to its present name Bellport. We will state that just previous to this when about 22 years of age he was one of the pioneer movers in establishing the Richmond and Virginia line of packet ships and was Capt of one of the first to run in the line, after which he came to Bellport, [5] and being of a wonderfully intuitive mind he was constantly inventing something or other of more or less value many of which however, became known throughout the land although the credit was given to others. He became quite noted for raising sunken ships, etc., the principal operation being the saving of a crew of 7 men that was wrecked on the Jersey Coast. This was a notable affair as all the efforts of those on shore had proved futile and he by his inventive mind devised a means for their rescue. For his skill and bravery on this occasion, the underwriters presented him with a beautiful set of silverware and an elegant gold watch. He succeeded to raising the packet ship “Swatara” which was wrecked off the coast of Maryland and was deeply imbedded in the sand. It had been given up and he succeeded in accomplishing his objective by a most ingenious invention, namely, by enclosing the whole ship in an immense sack.

He was generous to a fault being wonderfully considerate for other’s feelings even at the sacrifice of his own inconvenience and expense. Master Charlie Henry Bell, son of Capt. Joe Bell and nephew of Capt. Thomas, has now a miniature ship that is a wonderful piece of mechanism which he received under peculiar circumstances. A prisoner lay in Richmond Prison, convicted of privateering, and, as there were many mitigating circumstances, Capt. Thomas Bell became inadvertently acquainted with the facts and from his generous heart he most ardently and earnestly interacted in his behalf and succeeded in getting him pardoned by the Governor, and in gratitude to his deliverer the man presented him with this ship that he had made while in prison. [6]

Favored financially, he, out of his private purse almost reared and educated his wife's [7] brother's family which consisted of several children. By his generosity and peculiar circumstances he became reduced financially and many that were his friends before, were friends no more. Yet he leaves a large circle of devoted friends and the calm voice of reflection will decide that Bellport has lost one to whom it owes a debt of respect and reverence.

At his special request he was buried in his brother Capt. Jos. H. Bell's lot. [8] The funeral over Capt Bell was preached on Monday last in the Presbyterian Church, by Rev Lee, Sr of Yaphank to a large concourse of friends and relations from all quarters, the substance of which carried the impress of thoughtfulness with it. Mr. C. E. Rose aided the friends in every way possible, while Undertaker Price had the last "little necessities" carried out in a very satisfactory and becoming manner.

Patchogue Advance, July 17, 1880

[1] His mother was M. Ann Perry (Jacob Bell's first wife). Bell Family Tree on file in the BBHS.

[2] Being researched

[3] A packet was a ship that transported passengers and mail.

[4] Only Thomas Bell's name appears on the deeds. See Bell Buys Land, pg 2 in this issue.

[5] A little confusing because the obituary states when Bell was about 10, his father bought land in what is now Bellport.

[6] This ship can be seen in the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society Museum, 31 Bellport Lane, Bellport, NY

[7] Bell's wife was Amelia Victoria Agnes Huleu Bell.

[8] Woodland Cemetery, Bellport, NY.

Capt. Thomas Bell and Capt. Israel J. Merrit

A Note of Thanks

I extend my sincere thanks to Mr. John I Merritt, great-great grandson of Capt. Israel J. Merritt and Rev. Christopher Renz, great-great-nephew of Capt. Israel J. Merritt for a

continuing dialogue and exchange of information, via email. Both men have been researching Capt. Merritt for years, but were not aware of any Thomas Bell connection.

Not only have they provided the BBHS with information about Capt. Merritt and his family, but thanks to John (Jim), the Society now has a 23-page family tree of the Merritt family, together with extensive footnotes providing background information, including wills, cemetery records, and other documentation.

I am grateful for their enthusiasm and willingness to share their thoughts about a fascinating man (who also owned property in Bellport). The December 2009 issue of the Barn Museum News will continue the story of Capt. Bell and Capt. Merritt. —Ginny Waterman

* * * * *

Israel John Merritt (1829-1911)

What Thomas Bell's obituary (pg 4) does not include is any reference to Israel J. Merritt, the young man that Capt. Bell met on the NY docks and took "under his wing." Merritt went on to become the owner of the most famous salvaging company known, Merritt-Chapman and Scott. The stories that are handed down are what make any type of research interesting. Here are a few variations of how the two met.

Story #1

This is the commonly told story in the Bellport area. "Captain Bell befriended an orphan boy he had found on the docks of New York, who was homeless and nameless. The Captain brought the boy to Bellport, had him educated and taught navigation at the Academy. Because the boy showed ability and merit, Captain Bell gave him the name Merritt. In 1860 at the age of 20 the captain's protegee was given the command of a marine salvage schooner, and the wrecking company Merritt and Bell was formed." [1]

Champagne Reception - June 13, 2009



Chris Joinnides
Mary Knowles
Ed Knowles



Jermiah McGiff
Mary Knowles
Ed Bleser
Dan O'Connor



Dr. Joseph & Tara Graskemper



Drs. Ed & Carol Bleser



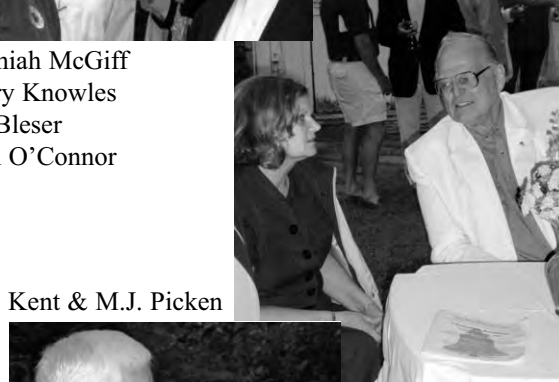
John & Lori Tuthill



Bob Duckworth



Ginny Waterman
Jean Pokorny



Kent & M.J. Picken



Judy Hope
Dr. Ed. Schultheis



Tom Cornell & Dr. Jan Harting-McChesney



Colleen Butler Herd
Mary Butler Person



Dr. Ira Hayes
Dr. Carol Bleser



Mike & Lynn Ierardi
Colleen Herd
Ken Budny



Jacqueline Cantwell
Veronica Cantwell

Thank you to everyone who supported the Champagne Reception with your attendance and donations. The Society was able to raise more than \$18,000 which is a good start toward this year's expenses. Please continue to support this worthwhile organization with your donations and memberships. It is never too early or too late to give or to become a member!

If you would like to become more active in the Society, please contact Jan Harting-McChesney at 31 Bellport Lane, PO Box 47, Bellport, NY 11713 or leave a voice mail at 631-776-7640 or send an email to president@bbhsmuseum.org.



Dr. John Renninger & Victor Principe

Story #2

Another account is written by Capt. Wilbur A. Corwin. “Captain Tom Bell took a small boy off the docks in New York City. The child could not talk well and did not know his own name. (These humans who lived out of trash boxes and barrels were known as “Dock Rats.”) By feeding him well the captain finally tamed him, then found out from the derelict men on the docks that the boy’s parents were dead from a plague (smallpox). So Captain Tom shanghaied the boy and brought him to his own home in Bellport. There he was sent to school, finally educated and taught navigation in the old Bellport Academy.

When that boy left Captain Tom for a life at sea, qualified by education . . . told the following story. “When I first took you to school I told your teacher, when she asked your name, ‘Merit.’ Teacher then asked, ‘first name’? I answered. ‘I. J.’ and then said, “Boy, you have always been a big help to me, obey your teacher.” Now, that name Merit I gave you because since I picked you up, you have always merited everything I have done for you, and I threw in the I. J. for a handle to the good name I gave you on your first voyage to Bellport with me . . .” [2]

John I Merritt Comments

“How do these stories start? My great-great grandfather may have been a ‘dock rat,’ but census and other primary sources make clear that he was not a nameless orphan. While his father, Hamilton, indeed died when Israel was a boy, his mother, Elizabeth, died in 1848, when she was 52 and Israel was 28. Thomas Bell sounds like a fascinating character who presumably was a father figure to Israel, but as far as I know there is no mention of him in any family document.”

Christopher Renz Comments

“One of the cardinal rules of genealogy is ‘never discount a family story, no matter how bizarre it may seem. There is always a kernel of truth in it.’ In the case of Israel J. Merritt, it is clear that he was not an orphan. It is also clear that by 1850 he was living in New York City with and supporting his widowed

mother. What happened beforehand? Well, that is – at least until new extant records are discovered – where fact ends and the ‘story begins’ and you, the reader, get to decide which version you like best.”

Story #3

A third account says: Merritt, Israel John, wrecker, was born in New York City, Aug 23, 1829, of revolutionary stock, his grandfather having served with honor in the war of independence. In early life, young Merritt was a driver on a canal, but tried various other avocations as opportunity occurred, until he had reached the age of fifteen, when he secured employment with a “wrecking captain.” [3]

Story #4

And the fourth account, says: “Aug. 23, 1829-Dec. 13, 1911, wrecker, inventor, eldest child of Hamilton and Elizabeth Merritt, was born in New York City. His father, seventh in descent from Thomas Merritt who came to America in the seventeenth century, was a merchant in moderate circumstances and had every intention of giving his son a good education, but in 1841 he was lost at sea and the boy was compelled to find work in order to help support his widowed mother and her family of children. After doing a number of odd jobs, including driving mules on a canal, Merritt went to sea until he was fifteen, then became associated with Capt. Thomas Bell salvaging wreckage from Long Island Sound and the waters about Manhattan Island. At age 20 he obtained command of a coasting schooner . . . In 1860 he became the general agent of the Coast Wrecking Company . . .” [4]

Board of Marine Underwriters

A word about the Board of Marine Underwriters -- It seems that “on the East Coast, seamen seemed to operate under their own “law of the sea” and salvage rules. Although its wintry, rocky environment discouraged sailing around in search of wrecks, this region had its problems with wreckers. In 1860, the Board of Marine Underwriters of New York City decided to solve the problem of mounting shipwreck losses and the unorganized, amateurish state of salvage along the Atlantic seaboard. The underwriters formed the Coast Wrecking Company and placed the

Shades of the Past - Hermus Boatyard

The watercolor of the Hermus Boatyard was painted by Jody Love, a Bellport artist, in 1970. The historical site data sheet described the property as: A small marina on Beaver Dam Creek which was founded about 1931 by Clinton M. Smith of Brookhaven. It was sold about 1956 to Tim Hermus and is now owned by Fred Hildebrandt.

The painting has evoked many memories. If you have a story about the Hermus boatyard that you would like to share, please send it to Ginny Waterman, ginny@howellspoint.com.



Courtesy of Waterman Collection

The Right to Ring!

MUST MUFFLE CHURCH BELL, Health Officer of Brookhaven Town Also Limits its Use.

Dr. C. W. Baker, health officer of Brookhaven Town, has notified the Trustees of the Bellport Methodist Episcopal Church [1] that they must stop the excessive ringing of the church bell on Sunday mornings. Under the order of the town health officer, the bell ringer must not strike the bell more than twenty strokes for each of the three services, morning, afternoon, and evening, and, in addition to the limited number of strokes, the bell clapper must be wrapped with a felt covering to deaden the noise.

On week days the bell must not be struck more than twenty times for the services. The Trustees of the church were given five days in which to comply with the order of “felting” the bell. The complaint against the bell was made by Frederick T. Quick, [2] a New York stock broker, whose home is near the church. He has not been in the best of health, and he says the prolonged ringing of the bell has a bad effect upon him.

The members of the congregation are highly indignant at the order of the health officer, and the Trustees of the church say they will not obey it. If necessary they say they will take the matter into the courts. Postmaster H. E. Corwin, who is a brother of Trustee Corwin, said: “It is one of the worst outrages that ever happened in a civilized community. However, no one proposes to pay any attention to the order, and the bell is going to be rung just the same as it has always been.”

The New York Times, September 3, 1905

[1] The Bellport Methodist Episcopal Church was located on the corner of Maple Street and Rector Avenue (now Browns Lane). It was sold to a Methodist Group and moved by barge to Massapequa Park in 1945. Services are still being held in the church to this day.

[2] Mr. Quick’s home was located on the east side of Rector Avenue, about two lots south of the Church. (See map in [Images of America, Bellport Village and Brookhaven Hamlet](#), Victor Principe, Arcadia Publishing, SC, 2002, pg. 16-17

That Crazy Thing Called English

There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.

The wind was too strong to wind the sail.

Save the Date
Holiday Party
Sunday,
December 6, 2009
Information to follow

mustached sea captain, Israel J. Merritt of New York, as its head. Merritt's goal was to save a vessel from sinking, and if he and his crew couldn't, then he would salvage as much of the ship and its cargo as possible. " [5]

Conclusion?

No one disagrees that, about 1860 at age 31, Merritt headed up the Coast Wrecking Company. Merritt's career is well documented from 1860 on. Unfortunately there is very little written before 1860 that confirms any interaction between Bell and Merritt.

It does seem reasonable that Bell would have befriended a young man from the docks. His obituary states how generous he was, so it is very possible that his generosity extended to Merritt. Merritt was also about the same age as Bell's own son John Thomas, who was born a deaf mute. Many of the Academy students stayed at the Bell House, but there are no records found (so far) to indicate where Merritt stayed in Bellport or if he did indeed attend the Academy.

An unsettling point, I find, of Capt Merritt's story is that Capt Thomas Bell is rarely mentioned in articles about Merritt. And yet, according to Bellport's lore, Bell had a great influence on Capt Merritt's destiny.

I was gratified to find one story in which both are mentioned. W. A. Graue, Amityville tells the following story: ". . . I believe that it was on such a sloop that Capt. Merrit . . . served as a cabin boy for Capt. Bell. Invariably as the sloop passed Whitestone, young Merritt would tell Capt. Bell that was where he was going to live some day. And he eventually did." [6] I want to believe that Merritt and Bell were in contact with one another. Unfortunately there are no early newspapers that substantiate any relationship between the two men – did Bell attend Merritt's wedding (1853) or have any contact with Merritt's six children. We may never know.

What we do know is that, a few years before

Bell's death, Merritt purchased Bell's Bellport property (deeds on file in BBHS) for a total cost of \$6 (six dollars). Of course the sale price does not reflect the actual value of the property. In fact, according to the 1870 census, Bell's property was valued at \$20,000.

The End

The irony of the stories of Capt. Bell and Capt. Merritt is the ending -- a complete reversal of circumstances.

As a young man, Thomas Bell was wealthy by all accounts, but, at the time of his death, was living with the Tooker [7] family in Brookhaven as a boarder, and, as his obit states, "reduced financially."

Merritt, on the other hand, who had started his career on the docks of NY, died in 1911 leaving an estate of over \$1,000,000 [8] and living in "a most elegant residence on Long Island (Whitestone)."

Dreams Come True

But despite the "riches to rags" and "rags to riches" story, I believe there is a happy ending. Merritt's dream of living in Whitestone came true, and Bell's dream of establishing his village of Bellport came true. Both men spent their lives around ships and the sea, which they loved, and both men will be remembered for the role they played in history.

[1] Bellport and Brookhaven, A Saga of the Sibling Hamlets at Old Purchase South, compiled by Stephanie Bigelow, Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society, NY, 3rd Ed, 1885, pg 20.

[2] Capt. Wilbur A. Corwin, Long Island Forum, April 1959, pg. 77.

[3] The National Cyclopedia of American Biography, James T. White & Co., NY, Vol. V, 1907, pg 131.

[4] Dictionary of American Biography, Charles Scribner's Sons, NY, Vol. VI, 1933, pg 571.

[5] Taking the Sea, Dennis M. Powers, American Management Assoc., NY, 2009, pg. 29.

[6] Long Island Forum, February 1956, pag. 42

[7] 1880 US Census

[8] In 2008 dollars, the estate would be worth \$22,036,810 (www.westegg.com/inflation).

lying in Brookhaven afsd [aforesaid] and bounded on the north by the South Country Road, on the west by the land of William Howell, [1] on the south by the South Bay and on the east by the land of Henry Hulse containing by estimation eighteen acres . . .

Recorded Jan 24th 1839 at 3/4 past 12 O'clock PM
Nathl [Nathaniel] Smith, Commissioner
Per Geof. Phillips, Clerk

[1] The land shown on Map 2 as Henry and Polly Gardiner's was still owned by Anna and William Howell at the time of the Bell sale, hence the west boundary "being the land of William Howell." The sale must have taken place shortly thereafter, because there is a deed between Gardiner and Bell dated April 4, 1830 which gives Bell "a pass way to and from the Bay, 20 rods back from the Dock road to the South Country Road . . ."

Henry Hulse to Thomas Bell – February 4, 1830

Liber 30, pgs 336-337

This Indenture made this ***fourth day of February one thousand eight hundred and thirty*** between ***Henry Hulse and Thomas Bell*** both of Brookhaven in the County of Suffolk & State of New York witnesseth that the said Henry Hulse for & in consideration of ***seven hundred dollars . . .***

lying in Brookhaven aforesaid & bounded on the south by the South Bay, on the east by the lands of Polly Woodruff, on the north by the South Country road & on the west by the land of the said Thomas Bell containing by estimation eighteen acres . . .

Recorded Jan 24th 1839 at 3/4 past 12 O'clock PM
Nathl [Nathaniel] Smith, Commissioner
Per Geof. Phillips, Clerk

Deeds on File

The Office of the County Clerk, Riverhead, NY holds land records dating back to the mid-1600s. The original Bell deeds, referenced above, are on file and accessible in the Historical Documents Library in Riverhead; copies of the deeds are on file in the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society.

The Death of William Rose - 1814

. . . . Eleven men, namely, William Rose, Isaac Woodruff, Henry Homan, Charles Ellison, James Prior, John Hulse, Daniel and Lewis Parshall, Enjamin Brown, Nehemiah Hand, and James Homan went off South Beach in their small boat to fish. According to the tradition, the men landed on the sand bar several hundred yards off shore, which at low tide is above water, to shake the sea-weed out of their nets, and hauled their boat upon the sand.

They carelessly failed to anchor it, with the result that in the darkness they did not see that the rising tide was washing around it and lifting it, until finally a wave carried it off the bar. When they made the discovery that their boat was gone, and felt the tide rising about their feet, they began to shout so loudly that they were heard across the Beach and Great South Bay by people on the mainland at Brookhaven.

It was a beautiful, calm night. One woman went to her neighbor's and remarked that she thought that something was wrong at the Beach as she was sure she had heard her husband's voice . . . All eleven were drowned, and the next morning there were eight widows in the parish of South Haven"

George Borthwick, Long Island Forum, March 1943, pg 54

Missing Bellport Festival Day Posters

Ms LuAnn Thompson is on a quest to locate all of the Bellport Festival Day posters printed since 1982. Says Ms Thompson, "As best can be determined, the first poster was printed in 1982. I do have copies of 16 posters, including 2009. The missing years are: 1984-86; 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000-02, and, I am told, not every year had a poster. So, if you, by chance, have a poster for one or more of the missing years, please contact me at iframe@optonline.net or 631-803-6076. I really appreciate all help I can get. Thanks."

Kids Camp – July 2009

It is always a delight to show off the Barn Museum and grounds to the Bellport Kids Camp. This year was no exception as we welcomed the CITs (counselors in training) and 2nd and 3rd grade boys and girls on July 23, 27, and 28.

Each group was given a brief history of Bellport, the Bell brothers, and a tour of the Museum complex buildings (Boat House, Blacksmith Shop, and Milk House). In the Barn Museum, each child was given a "Hunt and Find" questionnaire. They were then asked to add questions that they would include on the questionnaire. Here are some of their responses.

What did you like most about the Museum?

With the boys, of course, it was the guns. And their ideas for questions reflected that: *How many guns are there? What year were the guns made?* There was also a lot of interest in the "Candleabra" pine. *How old and how tall is the tree? Could we climb it? Where is the inlet that the ships sank in on the map?*

Now the girls' interests lay in the wedding dresses and the dollhouse. However, their questions reflected a wide-range of interest throughout the Museum. *What was your favorite*

decoy and how many are there? When was Mr. Bell born? What is the design on most of the plates (tinware) and how many are in the Museum? How many dolls in the Museum. What is the oldest thing?

What would you like to see at the Museum?

The CITs' general concensus was – more hands-on activities.

Our thanks to Margaret Munson, Dorry Tooker, and Ginny Waterman for their help and expertise. It is a very gratifying experience to see interested youngsters enjoy the Museum. After all, that is why we are here!

Please call 631 776 7640 to
arrange a tour for your school
class, scout troop, or
organization.

BELLPORT-BROOKHAVEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

31 Bellport Lane, Bellport, NY 11713

631-286-0888 • 631-776-7640

www.bbhsmuseum.org

President:	Jan Harting-McChesney
First Vice President:	Carol Bleser
Second Vice President:	Victor Principe
Recording Secretary:	David Cleaves
Corresponding Secretary:	Robert Duckworth
Treasurer:	Jonathan Pokorny
Curator:	
Archivist:	Margaret Munson
Dir. Exchange Shop:	Robert Duckworth
Dir. Building & Grounds	Joseph Doran
Legal Counsel:	Lee Snead
Newsletter:	Ginny Waterman

Trustees: Carol Bleser, Ken Budny, Kate Carmel, David Cleaves, Joseph Doran, Robert Duckworth, Francis Fosmire, Ed Knowles, Jan Harting-McChesney, Philip Munson, Jonathan Pokorny, Victor Principe, Alonzo Rand, Jim Sanford, Dorry Tooker, Ginny Waterman
Trustees Ex-Officio: Jean Pokorny, Lawrence Cummings