

THE CART

VOL XIII, Issue 2

Newsletter of the Tottenville Historical Society

December 2016



*We wish you a
Happy Holiday Season
and a peaceful and prosperous
New Year!*

A BIT OF BUSINESS

At the Society's quarterly Board of Trustees meeting in October, the following trustees were installed: Linda Cutler Hauck (Director); John Leary; Carol Per Lee Plumb; Patricia Salmon; Diane Schaming.

A review of governance and ethics policies was completed this fall. Redevelopment of the Board to meet the changing needs of the organization for the future continues.

The next Board meeting, followed by an open meeting for all members, will be held in January. Details to come.

Please contact us in writing if you have any questions about our programs or procedures.

In This Issue

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WE HONOR OUR VETERANS

We continue to update our website's **Veterans Honor Roll** and our in-house, paper copy database. Earlier this year we expanded the geographic boundaries to include all the men and women who served from Great Kills, Annadale, Huguenot, Pleasant Plains, Prince's Bay and Rossville; in other words, the database now includes all veterans from Great Kills to Tottenville. Most of the information comes from the families or friends of those who served; some comes from our archival files. Several newspaper articles from the *Staten Island Advance* and *South Shore Star* helped us add more than three dozen names.

ORPHAN SOLDIERS BURIED.

Services for Scaber Brothers at Mount Loretto Home, Staten Island.

Funeral services were held yesterday at the Mount Loretto Home, Pleasant Plains, Staten Island, for Corporal Raymond Scaber, who was killed at the River Ourcq July 28, 1918, and for his brother, Stephen Scaber, who died while in Public Health Service in South Carolina.

Mount Loretto Home is for destitute children, and the Scaber boys were orphans. Raymond enlisted from the home with Company K, 106th Infantry, Beauvals Post, American Legion, of Tottenville, sent a firing squad which went to the grave in the Mount Loretto Home Cemetery. The Rev. John J. Sheridan, Chaplain of the 308th Infantry, Seventy-seventh Division, and the Rev. William Burke assisted at the mass which was celebrated by the Rev. M. J. Fitzpatrick, rector of Mount Loretto Home. Six hundred boys of the home attended the services with their band.

New York Times, April 5, 1922

One archived item in particular, an article that appeared in the *New York Times* on April 5, 1922, needed more attention as we have been unable to locate any information on "Corporal Raymond Scaber."

After searching through pages and pages of military lists and other resources online, we finally learned the identity of the brothers mentioned in the article. **Corporal Raymond A. Staber**, a resident of Mount Loretto, was killed in action in France, in 1918. He was just 20 years old. His brother **Stephen**, died two years later, in 1920, while serving in the military. He also was just 20 years old. How could the *Times* misspell their name, we thought. Corporal Staber gave his life for his country.

Father Francis P. Duffy, chaplain, served with Corporal

Staber and wrote about his bravery in a book that published in 1919, *Father Duffy's Story: A Tale of Humor and Heroism, of Life and Death with the Fighting Sixty-Ninth*. He referred to Staber as "the heroic son of Mount Loretto."

We visited the Mount Loretto cemetery recently to pay respect to the Staber brothers. Their headstone and gravesite are well cared for.

Sleep well young soldier, your job is done....

Veteran forms can be requested by email or phone or downloaded from our website at http://www.tottenvillehistory.com/images/VeteransWarYears/database_form_2016.pdf



WE HONOR OUR VETERANS

Anthony B. Manifold

On August 17, 1942, Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Anthony B. Manifold, a member of the U.S. Naval Armed Guard, was on board the merchant ship Louisiana when it was torpedoed by a German U-boat and sank. Forty-one Merchant Mariners and eight Naval Armed Guardsmen were lost at sea.

On May 4, 2016, Bradford Avenue, Prince's Bay, the street on which Anthony Manifold resided with his family, was co-named in his honor at a ceremony arranged by the Heritage Club of Tottenville High School and others.

Anthony's sister, Irene (Renie) Wuethrich of Tottenville, received the American flag in his memory. She is pictured here (gray hat) with members of Beauvais-Hudson American Legion Post 126.



Right: Renie Wuethrich is presented with a replica of the sign placed at the corner of Bradford Ave. and Foster Rd., Prince's Bay in memory of her brother.

FLASHBACK

In 1923 ground was broken in Bay Ridge for what was supposed to become a subway tunnel connecting Brooklyn and Staten Island. The project was cancelled. Later proposals to complete the tunnel also failed. Mention of the tunnel has surfaced recently in discussions about solving Staten Island's traffic woes.

Several years ago, Jane Schaaff Cole (1927-2012) shared with us her memory of the tunnel which at the time stirred great excitement in Tottenville. In fact, Jane learned the following song in 1932 in her kindergarten class at P.S. 1 and remembered the words and melody nearly eighty years later!

Ten Minutes to Broadway

Only Ten Minutes to Broadway
 From Dear Old Staten Island
 Ten Minutes Across the Bay
 Hip Hip Hooray! We're on Our Way!
 The Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Manhattan
 Have Tunnels and Subways, too
 Mr. Mayor, It's Up to You
 To put Our Tunnel Through

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

OPEN HOUSE NEW YORK (OHNY)

October 15 and 16

More than 100 people visited the Ward-Leven House, 96 Satterlee St., during OHNY weekend, a city-wide program. A display of vintage, and some very unique, architectural elements were on display in the house. Local resident Robert Sindle, master woodworker, was available on Sunday to answer questions and talk about his experiences working with older houses.



WARD-LEVEN HOUSE

November 2



Ron, Linda, John

John Kilcullen, director of Conference House Park, and I had the opportunity to meet with NYS Assemblyman Ron Castorina at the Ward-Leven House to talk about future plans for the house. Ron posted the following on his Facebook page:

There is some great work being done here at the Ward-Leven House and Conference Park by the Parks Department and the Tottenville Historical Society. I am excited to see what the future has in store for this historic building!

FOLK HISTORY

November 6

A group of seven members of the historical society met at the Visitors Center, Conference House Park, as a first step toward addressing the lack of written folk history (stories handed down or eyewitness accounts) and the challenges of the digital age for the future. Thank you Sharon Heule, Jim and Nancy Burri, Carol Joline, Beverly Vroome, and Bob Wilson for sharing your ideas and insights. More information about the Folk History project will be mailed in January.



We also want to thank the following who have previously submitted written narratives that provide information about everyday life in our community's past: Eileen Hulnick, Robert P. Ford, Renie Wuethrich, Elias Kusulas, Ted Wood, Bob Wilson with Norma Friedman, Nancy (Ryan) Williams, Carol-Lynn Rossel, Diane Schaming, Arnold Kroeger and others.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Tottenville Historical Society & NYC Parks



Working in partnership with the Parks Department and with the approval of the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), plantings were added to the new planter box and town sign at the foot of Bentley St. Oyster shells (what else?!) from the beachfront were added to protect the roots from the winter weather. This beautification project will continue next spring, when the box will be aglow with sunny daffodils.

*Working together for the betterment
of the community*

L to R: Diane Schaming (THS); John Kilcullen (Parks); Linda Cutler Hauck (THS)

TOTTENVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 70185, Staten Island, NY 10307-0185
 info@tottenvillehistory.com \ 718-887-9125

**Gift memberships— a perfect
idea for the holidays!**



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Gift recipient(s) will be notified by mail.



Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Tottenville Historical Society

P.O. Box 70185

Staten Island, NY 10307-0185

Happy Holidays!

THANK YOU!

We welcome the following newly subscribed members and thank them or their gift sponsor:

Ashley F. Mullen, South Amboy, NJ

Maria Saputo, Staten Island, NY (Gift of Virginia Buonviaggio)

Adele (Urbanczyk) O'Hara, Parlin, NJ

PATRON SPONSOR RENEWALS

Margaret Biller, Staten Island, NY

Mr. and Mrs. James O. Burri, Staten Island, NY

Dennis Sheheen, Staten Island, NY

John Snee, Salisbury, MD

Barbara L. Solan, Tinton Falls, NJ

Nancy Tierney, Staten Island, NY

To everyone who has renewed recently,
we say "Thank you!" for your continued support.

THE CART

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Linda Cutler Hauck, Editor

718-887-9125

info@tottenvillehistory.com

Visit us online at
www.tottenvillehistory.com.

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