Southampton Town

1640 - 1990

350th Anniversary

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THIS PUBLICATION IS PUBLISHED BY THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY. ITS PURPOSE IS TO SHOW WHAT SOUTHAMPTON WAS LIKE IN 1990, ITS 350TH BIRTHDAY.

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Foreword

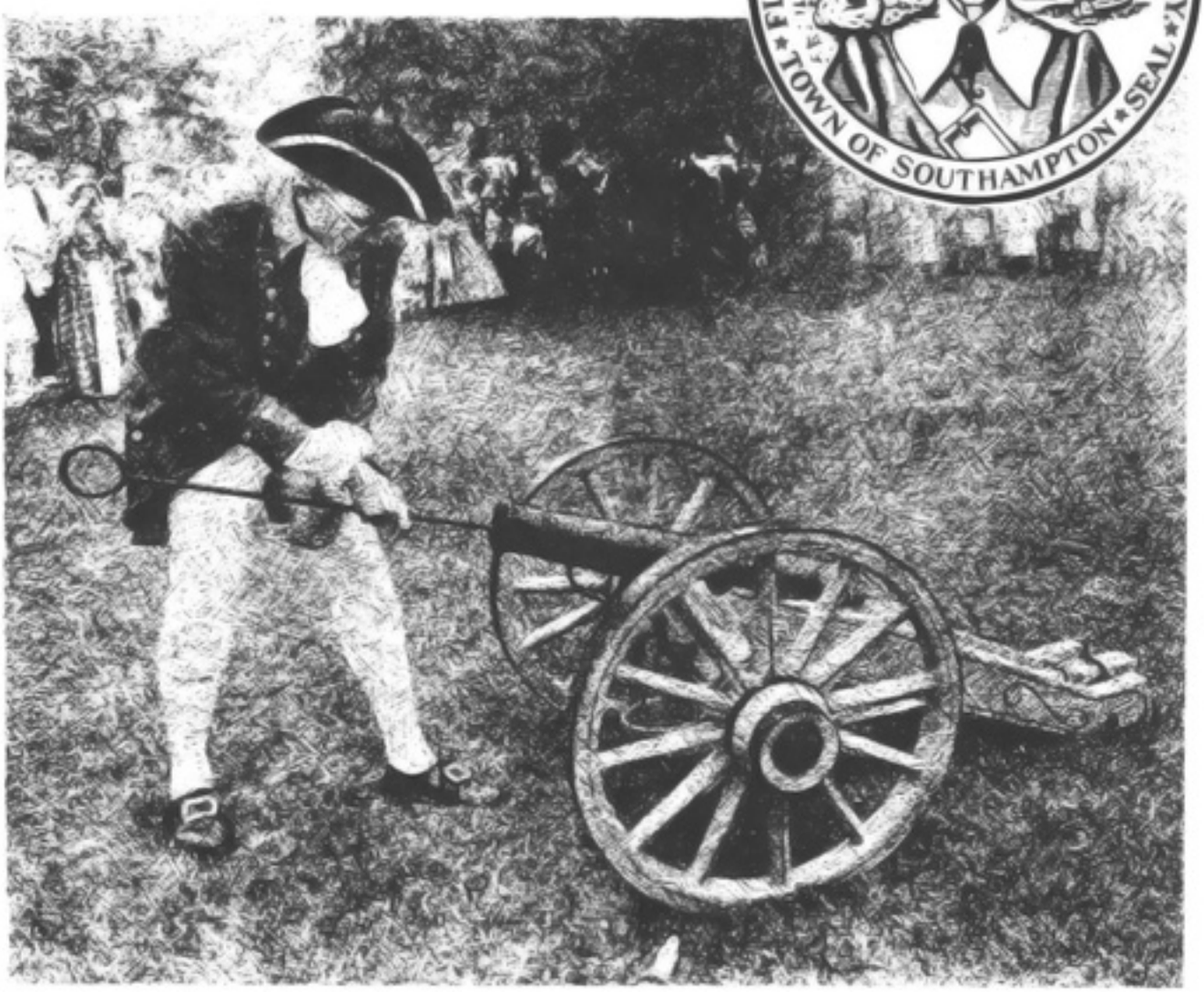
This book is published as part of the 350th Anniversary of the Town of Southampton. In the past, in 1915, 1940, and 1965, the celebrations included a book. In 1915 the book was predominately of what took place that year, the 275th Anniversary of Southampton, with emphasis on a huge pageant held in Agawam Park, near where the World War One Memorial is located today. In 1940 a book was published and it was made up of photographs of historic buildings and locations, along with photographs of people and places in Southampton at that time. In 1965, the 325th Anniversary of Southampton was held and a book was published consisting of short biographies of the villages and hamlets in the Town, along with reproductions of letters that had been sent to the Town from distinguished Americans, including the President of the United States. It also included many historical photographs, etc.

This book, which is published to commemorate this year's Anniversary, has a somewhat different theme. Its main purpose is to portray Southampton as it is, or was, in 1990, the 350th birthday of the Town of Southampton. It is hoped that in the year 2040, when the people of Southampton celebrate their 400th Anniversary, they will be able to look at this book and see just what their Town was like in 1990.

Robert Keene
Town Historian

SEATED: Patricia F. Neumann, Councilwoman, George S. Stavropoulos, Supervisor, Marietta M. Seaman, Councilwoman.
STANDING: James J. Needham, Councilman, Kenneth H. Thommen, Town Clerk, Patrick J. Heaney, Councilman.
SOUTHAMPTON TOWN OFFICIALS - 1990

SOUTHAMPTON at 350



For years they've had the powder and the cannon ready for the big blast. Now it's here, a summer-long celebration of three and a half centuries of Southampton living.

The Honorable George Stavropoulos
Supervisor of the Town of Southampton
1989

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 13, 1990

To the Citizens of Southampton, New York:

You have my warmest congratulations as you celebrate your 350th anniversary.

As you well know, Southampton is more than a collection of buildings, it is more than a place on the map. From its earliest days, it has nurtured the lives and accomplishments of countless individuals -- individuals united through the years by a common love for the place they call home. That deep sense of community, of responsibility toward one's neighbor and the common good, resonates through all cities and towns across America. It is one of our nation's greatest strengths.

This milestone gives you a splendid opportunity to reaffirm that community spirit, taking just pride in the past and rededicating yourselves to the promise of a bright future.

Barbara and I send you best wishes for a joyous celebration. God bless you.

George Bush

State of New York

Executive Chamber

C I T A T I O N

This year marks the 350th anniversary of the Town of Southampton, New York.

New York's many communities, with their unique characteristics, each contribute to the greatness and diversity of the Empire State. The celebration of community heritage through historical observances will serve to preserve the past for the enjoyment and inspiration of future generations.

On behalf of the State of New York, it gives me great pleasure to extend congratulations to the citizens of the Town of Southampton as they celebrate this historic milestone.

Mario M. Cuomo
Governor

June 8, 1990

City of Lynn

Office of the Mayor

Citation

Be it hereby known to all that:
The Honorable Albert V. DiVirgilio, Mayor
hereby offers his sincerest congratulations to:

TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK

in recognition of

YOUR 350TH ANNIVERSARY

The entire city extends its very best wishes
and expresses the hope for future good fortune
and continued success in all endeavors.

Given this 12TH day of JUNE 1990
at the Mayor's Office, Lynn, Massachusetts

by: Albert V. DiVirgilio

Albert V. DiVirgilio
Mayor

Offered by: CITIZENS OF LYNN

Proclamation

Whereas: The Town of Southampton was first settled by English Settlers in 1640, thus creating one of the oldest towns in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS: many celebrations are being held this year marking the Town's 350th Anniversary. One such ceremony is a parade down Main Street in Southampton Village; and

WHEREAS: over one hundred local organizations including the Fire Department, Police Department and the combined Veterans Organizations are participating in this celebration of Long Island history; and

WHEREAS: Suffolk County is once again honored to join with the residents of Southampton in marking their 350th Anniversary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that I, Edward P. Romaine, Clerk of the County of Suffolk, do hereby join in honoring the Town of Southampton by declaring this twenty-fifth day of August, nineteen hundred and ninety

SOUTHAMPTON DAY IN SUFFOLK COUNTY.

Edward P. Romaine
County Clerk

JOHN L. BEHAN
2nd Assembly District

The Plaza
P.O. Drawer R.R.R.
Montauk, New York 11954
(516) 668-5656

Room 719
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248

(518) 455-5997

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Veterans Affairs
Ranking Minority Member
Environmental Conservation
Labor

Legislative Task
Force on the Disabled

Contact:
☐ Albany Office
☐ District Office

June, 1990

Mr. Robert Keene
Town Historian
Town of Southampton 350th Anniversary Celebration
Town Hall
116 Hampton Road
Southampton, New York 11968

Dear Mr. Robert Keene,

I wish to extend a message of greetings and best wishes upon the 350th celebration of the founding of the Town of Southampton. I am certain that my colleagues in the New York State Legislature will join me in observance of this special occasion.

Southampton has for generation after generation been influenced by the natural beauty of its lands and waters. From those early days when only a handful of staunch settlers came to our shores to today when thousands of visitors revel in the surf and sand, Southampton has enjoyed and protected its heritage.

As Southampton celebrates the founding of the oldest English settlement in the state of New York, let us pay homage to the constant and unswerving spirit of the people of Southampton Town who honor their past and remember the legacy of those founding fathers 350 years ago.

Sincerely,

JOHN L. BEHAN
Member of Assembly

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

THOMAS M. REYNOLDS
Member of Assembly
Erie and Wyoming Counties

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Committee on Housing

COMMITTEES
Banking
Corrections
Transportation

June 1990

Mr. Robert Keene
Town Historian
Town of Southampton 350th Anniversary Celebration
Town Hall
116 Hampton Road
Southampton, New York 11968

Dear Mr. Keene,

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes upon the 350th anniversary celebration of the founding of the town of Southampton.

As the oldest English settlement in the state of New York, I wish the best to you and the people of Southampton in honoring the past and remembering the town's founding fathers.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Reynolds

Thomas M. Reynolds
Member of Assembly

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 543, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248, (518) 455-5741
DISTRICT OFFICE: 268 Main Street, East Aurora, New York 14052, (716) 652-8845

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

ROBERT C. WERTZ
Assemblyman 6th District
Suffolk County
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER
COMMITTEES
Health
Mental Health
Rules
Consumer Affairs & Protection

ALBANY OFFICE
Room 404
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248
(518) 455-5185

DISTRICT OFFICE
Hillside Village Plaza
Suite 202
50 Route 111
Smithtown, New York 11787
(516) 724-2929

March 27, 1990

Mr. Robert Keene
Town Historian
Town Hall
116 Hampton Road
Southampton, NY 11968

Dear Mr. Keene:

In 350 years, the world has undergone incredible transformations and turmoil. But in the eye of the tempest is always the same human heart. It is this same heart that is the foundation of the communities we live in, and the 350th anniversary of the founding of Southampton stands as testimony to the good faith and strong will of its people. I am honored to extend my congratulations and admiration on such a special occasion.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Wertz
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

JOHN W. McCANN
Assemblyman 111th District

ALBANY OFFICE
Room 919
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248
(518) 455-4807

DISTRICT OFFICES
601 Lakeport Road
Chittenango, New York 13037
(315) 687-3781

41 South Main Street
Oneonta, New York 13820
(607) 432-5524

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Racing & Wagering

COMMITTEES
Agriculture
Local Governments

Subcommittee on Child Abuse

Task Force on Volunteer Firefighters

March 29, 1990

Mr. Robert Keene
Town Historian
TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON 350TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Town Hall
116 Hampton Road
Southampton, New York 11968

Dear Mr. Keene:

It's a pleasure for me to extend my best wishes and warmest congratulations to the Town of Southampton upon the 350th Anniversary of its founding. I join my colleagues in the New York State Legislature in observing this special milestone in the history our our great state.

As the oldest English settlement in the State of New York, Southampton marked the beginning of the creation of towns throughout the State. Much of New York State owes its beginnings to the founding fathers of Southampton Town.

As a resident and representative of Central New York, I believe that the spirit of the people of Southampton is reflected by citizens across the State and that we should all help Southampton celebrate its historic founding.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. MCCANN
Member of Assembly

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247

CHRISTOPHER J. MEGA
SENATOR, 23RD DISTRICT
CHAIRMAN
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

June, 1990

Mr. Robert Keene
Town Historian
Town of Southampton
350th Anniversary Celebration
Town Hall
116 Hampton Road
Southampton, New York 11968

Dear Mr. Robert Keene:

It is my distinct pleasure to join the many people who will extend their congratulations to the Town of Southampton and its outstanding citizenry upon the occasion of the 350th Anniversary of the founding of this fine community.

The Town of Southampton has long stood for the beauty and rich heritage inherent to this Great State and Nation. As the oldest English settlement in the State of New York, it continues to shine as a beacon of the fortitude and uplifting spirit manifested by the founding settlers all those years ago.

I commend the Townspeople upon this auspicious occasion, and honor those who have come before them, for I am confident that your profound legacy will carry you far into the future.

With every best wish for a most Happy 350th Anniversary Celebration to the Town of Southampton, I am

Sincerely yours,

CHRISTOPHER J. MEGA
State Senator

CJM:cc

Congressional Record

CELEBRATION OF THE SOUTHAMPTON SESQUITRICENTENNIAL

HON. GEORGE J. HOCHBRUECKNER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 1990

Mr. HOCHBRUECKNER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored and priviledged to address my colleagues on the occasion of the 350th birthday of the town of Southampton, NY. Today, I join thousands of Long Islanders and New Yorkers in honoring and celebrating the sesquitricentennial of the town of Southampton, one of the original settlements in New York.

This occasion is particularly significant because the town of Southampton is known as the first English settlement in New York. On June 12, 1640, a small group of English settlers arrived at Long Island at what is now known as North Sea. The original deed indicates that the group of settlers possessed a small tract covering several square miles. This area covered, generally, all the land from what is now Sagaponack to the Shinnecock Canal, and from Peconic Bay to the Atlantic Ocean.

The community of Southampton has grown and diversified throughout its 350 years. The Southampton community was first sustained by a rich and fertile farmland. However, soon abundant fishing and whaling industries established it as a major seaport town. With the passing of the whale ships and the seaport era came the first railroad, which brought visitors in great numbers, mostly from New York City. Local historian Robert Keene states, "They came to see and enjoy the unspoiled beauty of the magnificent beaches and to rusticate in an atmosphere of unsurpassed rural beauty and unique native hospitality."

Mr. Speaker, while Southampton no longer holds the unclaimed rustic flavor that it once possessed, it still contains the unique, small-town qualities which appealed to its earlier inhabitants, and which continue to draw visitors from around the world. Today, I join the people of Long Island and New York State in celebrating the heritage of the town of Southampton.

Variety of programs set

Town hears kick-off of 350th anniversary

By Tim Gannon

Southampton Town Historian Robert Keene officially "kicked off" the town's 350th Anniversary celebration at the Tuesday, January 9, town board meeting. Keene says Southampton is the oldest English settlement in New York State.

The town will host a variety of programs to celebrate the anniversary, Keene said. Among these is a re-dedication of Conscience Point in North Sea on June 12. Conscience Point is the area where these first English settlers are believed to have landed on June 12, 1640. Keene said he expects "distinguished speakers and descendants of founding families" to be present at the event.

There will also be a new plaque commemorating the event drilled onto the large boulder that sits at Conscience Point. There had been a plaque on that boulder since June 12, 1910. However, the plaque was stolen last summer and never returned. The new plaque is being donated by the local Masonic Lodge, according to Keene.

Keene said there are also plans for an anniversary parade on August 25, as well as for the making of new commemorative coins and 350th Anniversary town flags which will be available to the public. In addition, he said, individual hamlets throughout the town will be invited to make special presentations of their own for the ceremony. The plans also call for a June 10 service and dedication ceremony at the First Presbyterian Church of Southampton, which is considered to be the first Presbyterian congregation to come to New York.

350TH ANNIVERSARY--Southampton Town Historian Robert Keene has begun making plans to celebrate the town's 350th Anniversary. Southampton is the oldest English settlement in the state, according to Keene. Photo by Tim Gannon. (MH/HT S104F)

The January 9 town board meeting was chosen as the kick-off for the event, Keene said, because it is the first board meeting of the anniversary year.

The claim of being the "oldest English settlement in New York State," is a disputed one, Keene said. The Town of Southold is also celebrating its 350th anniversary and historians up there claim Southold is the first English settlement in the state. Keene said he is hoping this will not become a major issue as it did for the 300th anniversary of the two towns in 1940, when there was much fighting between the two towns about who came first. Southampton was officially recognized as the first English settlement by New York State in 1910.

from Suffolk Life 1/17/90

Town of Southampton

ROBERT KEENE, HISTORIAN

SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK 11968
(516) 283-6000 Ext. 271
(516) 283-1612

February 13, 1984

Mr. Martin Lang, Supervisor
Town of Southampton
Town Hall, Hampton Road
Southampton, N. Y. 11968

Dear Mr. Lang:

I have requested to appear before the Town Board in my capacity as Southampton Town Historian.

This year, 1984, is the 344th year after the settlement of Southampton in 1640.

Six years from now, in 1990, will be the 350th anniversary of the founding of Southampton, the first English settlement in New York State.

As Town Historian, it is my duty and obligation to inform the Town Board, the governing body of Southampton, of this coming anniversary, and to request their assistance in making plans for a major celebration of the 350th anniversary of our town.

I believe it is important that plans for such a celebration be initiated this year, 1984, and, by 1985, committees should be formed, and work begun on the first phase of a celebration.

It has been traditional in Southampton to celebrate its major anniversaries, each 25 and each 50 year period. In 1890, the 250th anniversary, a major celebration was held. In 1915, the 275th anniversary celebration was held. In 1940, the giant celebration of the 300th anniversary took place. A smaller, but substantial, celebration was held in 1965 to cover the 325th anniversary.

The 50 year anniversary has always been a truly giant affair, being year-long, and climaxed by one full day during the summer.

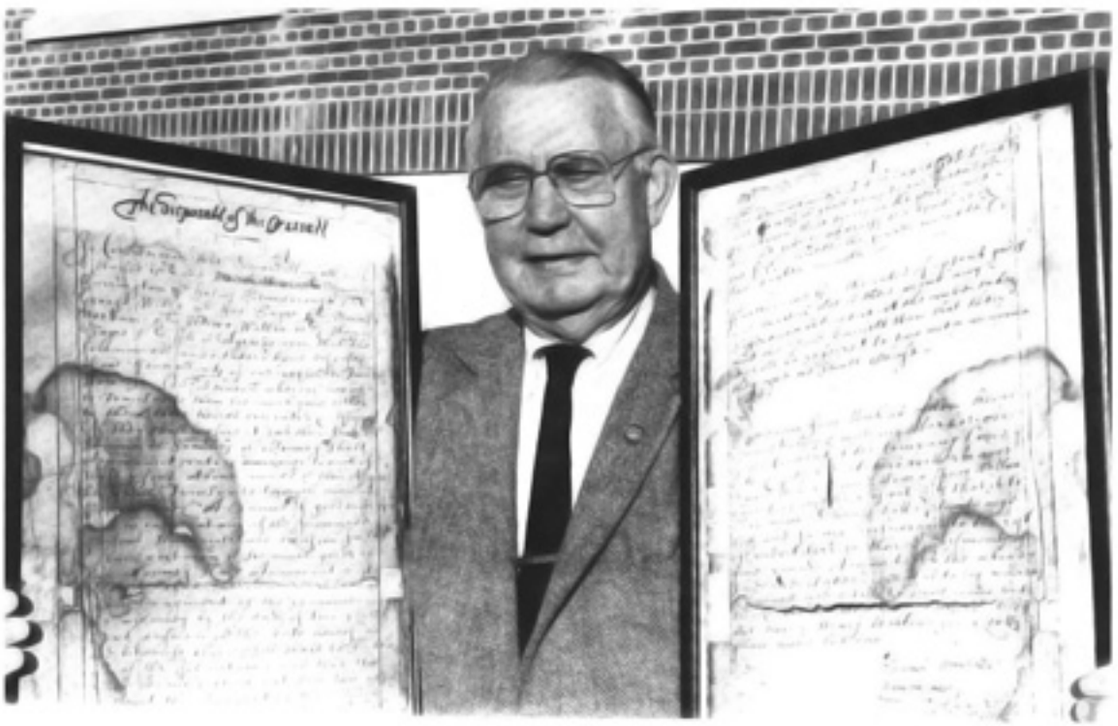
The Historian's office has on file the complete paperwork of the 1940 celebration. I have taken the liberty of enclosing with this letter a letterhead of the Executive Committee of the 1940 celebration. This will give the Town Board some idea of how extensive that celebration was, and give some idea of what we will have to do if we proceed for a 1990 celebration.

I hereby request permission to read this report at the first available time at a Town Board meeting. I would like to do this to place it on the record and, hopefully, initiate interest for the year 1990 celebration.

Most respectfully submitted,

Robert Keene
Town Historian

copies to: Members of
the Town Board



Southampton Town Historian Robert Keene with "The Disposall the Vessell," the 1640 document that makes the first mention of the eastern Long Island settlement that was to become Southampton.

Southampton Aeroservice Photo

Big Celebration Upcoming

Town Preparing for 350th Anniversary

SOUTHAMPTON—Here it is only 1988, and yet plans are already in the works to celebrate the town's sesquitricentennial in 1990, a little more than a year from now.

Sesquitricentennial?

Yes: the 350th anniversary of the founding of Southampton, that is.

Beginning with a modest ceremony on January 1, 1990, the celebration will continue throughout the year as the town remembers and honors the little group of men and their families who arrived on eastern Long Island on June 12, 1640, to establish Southampton, the first English settlement in what was to become the state of New York.

Town Historian Robert Keene talks enthusiastically about the series of events that will mark the town's significant birthday, including appropriate observances on June 12—"The real kick-off," he says—and a giant parade at the end of the summer.

Mr. Keene envisions a committee of 100, with two representatives from every village and hamlet in the town which will be asked to participate in the various events. Southampton Village Historian Richard B. Foster and North Haven/Sag Harbor Village Historian George Finckenor will play active roles in the celebration, as will the Southampton Colonial Militia.

Mr. Keene notes that the First Presbyterian Church of Southampton, the first church in the old settlement and the first of that specific denomination in the state, has already named a committee to work on the celebration, and is organizing a float to be entered in the 1990 parade.

William A. Frankenbach, chairman of the well-known annual July 4 parade, has agreed to take charge of the town's anniversary parade as well, agreeing with Mr. Keene that there will be no conflict nor overlapping between the two events in the summer of 1990.

In 1940, when the town celebrated its tricentennial—300th anniversary—Mr. Frankenbach's father, the late William Frankenbach, was in charge of both the July 4 and anniversary parades.

The 1940 observances included also a mammoth pageant written by the then Town Historian Abigail Fithian Halsey, directed by Francis H. Markoe, and staged on the Stanley Howard estate in North Sea. The late William K. Dunwell, who succeeded Miss Halsey as town historian, was secretary of the event, and Mr. Foster was the stage manager.

Mr. Foster recalls that the 1940 pageant had "everyone involved, the local people and the summer people." The Southampton Village Historian also took part in the town's 1915 anniversary celebration, on its 275th birthday: "I was in the front row," he says.

In preparation for 1990, Mr. Keene has looked again at the historic early documents in his care that substantiate the area's legends. The earliest of all, he says, "talks about the 1640 settlement. It is 'The Disposall of the Vessell,' " the agreement between the first settlers and the captain of the ship that brought them to eastern Long Island.

According to Mr. Keene, the settlers, all religious Puritans, had left central England earlier for Lynn, Massachusetts, but were disappointed in the new land and decided to head farther south.

So the settlers, or "undertakers," bought a tract of land on the East End from James Farrett, acting as agent for the Earl of Stirling who had owned Long Island since King Charles I had made him a present of it in 1636. The purchase price was about 400 English pounds, or about $2,000, in those days a not inconsiderable sum.

Continued - over

350th Anniversary

The tract was "eight miles square, not eight square miles, as erroneously reported in the local papers in 1940. There's a big difference," says Mr. Keene. The purchase included all that land between the ocean and Peconic Bay from what is now the Town Line at Wainscott on the east to Canoe Place, where the Shinnecock Canal is today, on the west.

The nine original undertakers who formed a company to relocate on Long Island were Edward Howell, Edmond Farrington, Edmond Needham, Thomas and Job Sayre, George Welbe, Henry Walton, Josias Stanborough, and the ship's captain, Daniel How, "not 'Howe' " says Mr. Keene.

Eleven other men—Allan Bread, John Cooper, Thomas and John Farrington, Thomas Halsey, William Harker, Philip and Nathaniel Kyrtland, Thomas Newell, Richard Odell, and Thomas Terry—joined the company before the first group set sail, to bring the total to 20 men and their families.

The 20 signed an agreement to sell the ship to Captain How if he would make three trips a year for two years in order to bring the rest of the group to Long Island from Massachusetts, Mr. Keene says.

It was on June 12, 1640, that the first little band of settlers, consisting of eight men, a woman, and a child, sailed into Peconic Bay, first anchored off Homes Hill, and then found a small inlet into what later became North Sea Harbor, to set foot on dry land. Legend tells us that the woman, as she stepped ashore, said, "For conscience sake, we're on dry land!" and that ever since that spot has been known as Conscience Point.

To their great fortune, the early colonists found the resident Indians friendly and helpful. Following an Indian guide, they traveled south over an old Indian trail—later named North Sea Road—to the site of their first settlement at Olde Towne.

Here they established their first homes, described as "cellars" or holes dug in the ground perhaps seven feet deep, lined with timbers and floored with planks, their ceiling covered with bark or green sod. They remained there for eight years until moving the community to the Main Street area.

The settlers allotted lands among themselves, says Mr. Keene; "each received four acres for a home and four for gardens, and a large share of the plains for their cattle. They also got an equal share of the woodlands to the north" which is now Hampton Park, he says.

Of the first company, only six stayed permanently in Southampton: Edward Howell, Thomas Sayre, Thomas Halsey, John Cooper, Josais Stanborough, and Job Sayre, for whom Jobs Lane is named. Thomas Terry moved to Southold, the Farringtons to Flushing; Daniel How went to East Hampton, and the others returned sooner or later to New England.

According to the late Town Historian Abigail Halsey, the name "Southampton" is first applied to the area the Indians called Agawam in April, 1641, in a record of the first town meeting. Such records, Mr. Keene says, are among those carefully preserved in Town Hall, including the Disposall of the Vessell and the Declaration of the Company. Also preserved, he says are 8 mm films of the 1940 pageant and a remarkable Pathe News film of the 1915 celebration in Agawam Park.

Both films, which together run about 30 minutes, can be screened through a movie projector, and may be rented to interested persons and groups.

Southampton's celebration of its sesquitricentennial will be "a yearlong, townwide event," said Mr. Keene, as he urged businesses to use the 350th anniversary as the theme for that year.

He said the town will probably have a special flag and probably strike a bronze commemorative medal in honor of the occasion.

Noting that "Things and time have changed since the 1940 anniversary celebration and even since 1965" when the town marked its 325th birthday, Mr. Keene said, "I hope anyone with an idea for some special event will come forward and let us know. We want 1990 to be really special.

"Great plans are under way to make it that," he said.

—Portia Flanagan

SOUTHAMPTON
FOUNDED FOR FREEDOM
1640

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Southampton, Long Island, New York

350TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

(1640 - 1990)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

January

UNCOVERING OUR ANNIVERSARY SIGN celebrating 350 years of Christian service.
Sunday, January 7 (after worship)

February

ON SALE: 350TH ANNIVERSARY POSTERS
SIGNED PRINTS OF THE CHURCH by James Seeman

GUEST SPEAKER SERIES: Chief Oren Lyons, Chief of the Onondaga Nation and International Diplomat and Faithkeeper of the Iroquois Confederacy of Six Nations. Topic: "Keepers of the Earth"
Thursday, February 22, 1990, 7:30 p.m. Southampton College.

March

CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES. These Directories contain **A History of the First Presbyterian Church** by Dr. Hugh Halsey. (Additional copies of this history will be available). **Abigail Halsey History.** This history has been updated by Dr. Hugh Halsey and reprinted. (Copies available)

April

GUEST SPEAKER SERIES: Dr. Harry Stout, Professor of History and Religion at Yale University. Topic: "The World the Puritans Made."
Saturday, April 22, 1990, time to be announced. Parrish Art Museum
(Dr. Stout will also be a part of worship on Sunday, April 23)

May

LAUNCH THE 350TH FINANCIAL CAMPAIGN to raise $350,000 in our 350th year. This money will be given over a three-year period for Missions, area social needs, and church improvements.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY GOSPEL CHOIR IN CONCERT. This outstanding choir from Howard University will be with us for a concert in the Sanctuary in May at a date and time to be announced.

June

GUEST SPEAKER SERIES: Dr. Randall Balmer, Associate Professor of Religion at Columbia University in New York City. Topic: New York State Colonial History.
Saturday, June 9, 1990, time to be announced. Southampton College Fine Arts Theater.

FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION.
Dedication of the Church Garden and Flag. Presentation of the 350th Historical Quilt.
Sunday, June 10, 1990, 10:00 a.m.

HISTORICAL OBSERVANCE AT CONSCIENCE POINT. Dedication of a new Historical Plaque.
Tuesday, June 12, 1990

MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND. We host the Presbytery in this historic year.
Tuesday, June 26, 1990

July

HISTORIC FLOAT IN THE 4TH OF JULY PARADE.
Come and participate in the work nights prior to the parade.

August

HISTORIC FLOAT IN THE 350TH CELEBRATION PARADE
Saturday, August 25, 1990

September

GUEST SPEAKER SERIES: Dr. Henry Bowden, Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Religion at Rutgers University. Topic: "Native American Studies."
Saturday, September 30, 1990, time to be announced. Southampton Cultural and Civic Center

October

HARVEST HOME OBSERVANCE. Art Show and Program by David Martine.
Sunday, October 14, 1990. Colonial Dinner in the Church Dining Room.

November

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE OF THANKS TO GOD for 350 years of Christian Ministry and for God's guidance and blessings in the years ahead.

December

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 1990.

Officiating at the unveiling of the First Presbyterian Church of Southampton's 350th Anniversary sign Sunday morning were, from left, the Reverend Holly Haile Smith, parish associate; Theodore E. Squires, anniversary committee chairman; the Reverend William M. Johnson, pastor; and the Reverend William R. Grimbol, youth consultant.

Southampton Aeroservice Photo

Celebration Is Under Way

'Oldest Church' Marks 350th Birthday

SOUTHAMPTON—The sparkling white sign, its bright gold lettering outlined in black proclaiming the 350th Anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Southampton, was unveiled in brief ceremonies before some 200 parishioners and friends on the crisp but sunny Sunday morning of January 7.

The unveiling, in front of the church at the southeast corner of Meeting House Lane and South Main Street, officially launched the church's year-long celebration of its founding in the spring of 1640 by a small, hardy band of Puritans from Lynn, Massachusetts, who stepped ashore at Conscience Point in North Sea to found the Town of Southampton on June 12 of that same year.

In presiding at the ceremonies Sunday, the Reverend William M. Johnson, pastor, said that the church is celebrating its 350th Anniversary not only to remember its past but also to think of, and to look ahead to, its future.

Plans for the celebration have been in the making since October of 1988, when a committee of church members headed by Theodore E. Squires of Water Mill began work on a schedule of events. Some of the events will coincide with and be a part of those initiated by the town in its own anniversary festivities.

Not surprisingly, four major activities are scheduled for the month of June, beginning with a talk on New York State Colonial History by Dr. Randall Balmer, associate pro-

Continued - over

The Oldest Church

Continued from Page 1

fessor of religion at Columbia University, on Saturday, June 9, at the Fine Arts Theatre of Southampton College.

On Sunday, June 10, the church will celebrate Founders Day two days early, and will formally dedicate the church garden and flag. There will also be the presentation of the 350th Historical Quilt.

A highlight of the anniversary celebration—for the town and the Southampton Colonial Society as well as for the church—will be the rededication of the refurbished Conscience Point at North Sea on Founders Day, Tuesday, June 12. A new plaque marking the historic site will also be dedicated, the original commemorative plaque having been stolen in March of last year.

To round out the month, the church will serve as host to the Presbytery of Long Island on Tuesday, June 26.

Serving with Mr. Squires on the church's anniversary planning committee are Myron Teter, vice chairman, and Evelyn Hansen, secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Hansen is also the church's liaison to the town and Southampton Village committees that also are sponsoring anniversary observances.

Other committee members include Mrs. Katherine Mades, Marilyn Brunjes, Beulah Street, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Halsey, Richard Fowler, Dr. Hugh Halsey, William Sickles, Bruce McGowin, and David Martine.

On the church schedule for February is the first event in the Guest Speaker Series. Chief Oren Lyons, Chief of the Onondaga Nation and International Diplomat and Faithkeeper of the Iroquois Confederacy of Six Nations, will discuss "Keepers of the Earth" on Thursday, February 22, at 7:30 p.m. at Southampton College. The church will also offer for sale 350th anniversary posters, signed prints of the church by James Seeman.

In March, church pictorial directories containing "A History of the First Presbyterian Church" by Dr. Hugh Halsey will be available, as will copies of Abigail Halsey's history, "In Old Southampton," which Dr. Halsey has updated.

In April, the second guest speaker in the series will be Dr. Harry Stout, professor of history and religion at Yale University, who will discuss "The World the Puritans Made" on Saturday, April 22, at the Parrish Art Museum, at a time to be announced. He will also be a part of the worship at the church the following day.

In May, the church will launch an intensive campaign to raise $350,000 for the anniversary, the money to be devoted to missions, area social needs, and church improvements over a three-year period. In addition, the Howard University Gospel Choir will be heard in concert in the Sanctuary on a date to be announced.

In July, the church will enter a special historic float in the annual July 4 Parade, and will also participate with its float in the town-village 350th Celebration Parade scheduled for Saturday, August 25.

Dr. Henry Bowden, professor and chairman of the Department of Religion at Rutgers University, will be the fourth guest speaker in the series, following Dr. Balmer, when he discusses "Native American Studies" on Saturday, September 30, in the Southampton Village Cultural and Civic Center on Pond Lane.

October will feature the Harvest Home Observance, an art show and program presented by David Martine on Sunday, October 14. There will be a colonial dinner in the church dining room.

In November, the church will sponsor a special Thanksgiving "Service of Thanks to God for 350 years of Christian Ministry and for God's guidance and blessings in the years ahead." And, to wrap up the year's activities, the church will have a Christmas Celebration 1990.

The Reverend Johnson, who came to Southampton two years ago this month from the Lebanon, Ohio, Presbyterian Church which he served for 16 years, shares his church's—and the community's—enthusiasm for the area's historic past.

He also knows of the rivalry between the two towns of Southold and Southampton for the distinction of being known as "The First"—a friendly rivalry that has extended to the Presbyterian Churches in the two towns as well.

Some historians have pointed out that in the early days the Southampton Presbyterian Church was an English Puritan congregation organized by the Reverend Abraham Pierson in Lynn, Massachusetts, on March 10, 1640. It was this small congregation from Lynn that established the first white settlement in Southampton, and also the First Presbyterian Church, in June, 1640.

On the grounds of the Southampton church, a few yards to the south of the newly-erected sign, is a large granite boulder that has a bronze plaque embedded in its face. Engraved in the plaque are these words:

"The congregation of this church was gathered and constituted according to the minde of Christ in the spring of 1640. The first church was a rude thatched building which also served for court and town meetings, and was located about one mile east of this spot. Successor church structures were built in various locations on 'Ye Main Street' in 1653 and 1707. This house of worship was erected in 1843. With roots in the Reformed tradition, and distinguished 'by name of stile of Presbiterians' as early as 1707, this is considered by some historians to be the oldest Presbyterian congregation in America."

And the inscription on the brand new sign reads in full: "First Presbyterian Church of Southampton. 350th Anniversary. The Oldest Presbyterian Church in America. 1640-1990." —Portia Flanagan

The Committee of One Hundred
For The Celebration of the Sesqui-Tricentennial
of
The Town of Southampton

This year, 1990, we are celebrating the 350th anniversary of The Town of Southampton, the first English settlement in New York State, having been founded June 12, 1640.

It has been the custom in past anniversary celebrations to ask the religious bodies of the Town to recognize, in their own way, this celebration.

The First Presbyterian Church of Southampton, the church of the original settlers, has put together a series of events to honor the 350 years. It is hoped that other houses of worship in the Town will also recognize this occasion.

If there are any questions, or if you would like to discuss the anniversary with me, I would be most happy to do so. Also, any plans you make, such as special sermons, speakers, or events sponsored by you can be listed on our special calendar of events which we publish from time to time.

It will be most appreciated if you and your congregation will consider taking part in this anniversary.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert Keene, Chairman
350th Anniversary Committee

KENNETH H. THOMMEN, TOWN CLERK
SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK 11968
(516) 283-6000 EXT. 214

January 11, 1989

Robert Keene
Town Historian

Dear Mr. Keene:

Please be advised that the Town Board, at a meeting held on January 10, 1989 adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Historian form a town-wide committee to make plans for the celebration of the 350th Anniversary in the year 1990, of the founding of Southampton Town.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth H. Thommen
Town Clerk

vdm
pc: Supervisor DiPirro

LONG ISLAND TRAVELER-WATCHMAN

Committee Named For Historic Project

SOUTHAMPTON—A ten-member committee charged with planning and implementing the restoration of Conscience Point in North Sea—the spot where the first English settlers set foot in 1640 to found the Town of Southampton—was named at a special meeting of the Southampton Colonial Society's Board of Trustees last Thursday.

Appointed were Mrs. Carl Hansen, Southampton Village Historian Richard B. Foster, Henry W. Babcock, Roy L. Wines Jr., Mrs. Walter Kluge, Mrs. Elliot Smyzer, Foster H. Corwith, Wilbur H. Behler, James W. Neighbors, and Robert G. Keene.

The rededication of Conscience Point, according to Mr. Keene who is Colonial Society President as well as Southampton Town Historian, will be the centerpiece of the town's year-long celebration of its 350th anniversary next year. The actual rededication ceremonies will take place at the site on Tuesday, June 12.

The major phase of the restoration project will be the replacement of the heavy bronze plaque marking the site of the first settlers' landing on June 12, 1640. Last March vandals ripped the plaque from the 20-ton granite boulder where it had remained for nearly 80 years.

The Colonial Society has assumed responsibility for spearheading the Conscience Point project because it was that organization that bought the land—a long, narrow peninsula off the east side of North Sea Road—for $75 in 1910 and installed and dedicated the commemorative marker there. The property is owned by the Society, which also maintains it.

In addition to replacing the plaque, plans call for beautifying and landscaping the area with attractive plantings, sprucing up the setting for the huge boulder, and possibly installing a wrought iron railing or tasteful fence around the historic site to help protect it.

To complete such work, the Society must depend upon voluntary donations from interested residents. Several persons have already expressed an interest in contributing to the cost of the replacement plaque, which is expected to be in excess of $1,000. No public funds will be applied for, or used, according to the committee.

As its first act, the committee announced the opening of a public fundraising drive. Those who would like to contribute are requested to make checks payable to the Southampton Colonial Society, to mark them expressly for the "Conscience Point Fund," and to send them to the Society at P.O. Box 303, Southampton, N.Y. 11968.

Also at last Thursday's meeting, the Trustees present agreed to hold two separate fundraising events next summer, at the Society's Southampton Historical Museum. They are the traditional Country Fair, set for Saturday, July 21, and a cocktail party on Friday, August 17. In the past, the events have been sponsored on alternate years.

The Conscience Point rededication is only one historically important event already scheduled for next year. Others include a special service at the First Presbyterian Church of Southampton on Sunday, June 10; the rededication of the stately linden tree that was planted in Agawam Park on June 12, 1940, to mark the town's 300th anniversary; and a gala parade set for Saturday, August 25.

Plans are also under way to upgrade the Old Town area in the Village of Southampton, site of the first English settlement. In addition, communities throughout the town will be asked to create their own observances of the town's significant anniversary coming up next year. —**Portia Flanagan**

I cordially invite you to join me at the opening ceremony of Southampton Town's 350th anniversary to be held on the 12th of June, 1990 at 4 p.m. at Conscience Point, the landing site of our founding fathers from Lynn, Mass.

1640 1990

Town Begins to Plan For 350th Anniversary

Southampton Town Historian Robert Keene met with the Town Board last Friday morning to start laying the groundwork for the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the town's founding two years from now, in 1990.

Mr. Keene described how he hopes to establish a year-long series of festivities including a parade in Southampton Village and individual celebrations in each of the town's hamlets.

He said that William Frankenbach, who runs the Fourth of July parade in Southampton Village, has already agreed to run the special parade in 1990, and that the Town Board has already allocated about $12,000 to $13,000 to help get the project off the ground.

Town Board members said that Mr. Keene had their full support and that he could go ahead in planning the festivities.

"We are looking for your direction," Town Councilman George Stavropoulos said. "You have the complete support of the board, and if there's anything we can do, just let us know."

The public is cordially invited to the opening ceremony of Southampton Town's 350th Anniversary to be held Tuesday, June 12th, 1990 at 4 p.m. at Conscience Point, the landing site of the first settlers, from Lynn, Mass.

George Stavropoulos

Supervisor
Town of Southampton

from Traveler-Watchman

$1,000 Boost for Historic Site

SOUTHAMPTON—The Southampton Colonial Society's ongoing campaign to refurbish and beautify Conscience Point in North Sea got a good boost this week when it received a $1,000 donation from a resident.

The check was presented to Colonial Society president Robert Keene during brief ceremonies in Southampton Town Hall Monday afternoon by Klaus Kirstein of Wooleys Drive, Southampton. On hand for the presentation were Town Supervisor George Stavropoulos and Town Trustees president Edward Warner.

Mr. Kirstein is a partner in KGR Realty Associates, owners of the Conscience Point Marina adjacent to the historic North Sea site where the first white settlers stepped ashore in 1640 to found the Town of Southampton.

In a prepared statement, Mr. Kirstein said that he and his partner, Gerd Greiner, are very conscious of the fact that their marina is so close to the Conscience Point historic site where the first settlers landed 350 years ago.

"We want to be good neighbors," he said, adding that they had heard of the Colonial Society's efforts to restore the site and beautify the nearby landscape, and "We decided to lend our support by giving this contribution" to the project.

In congratulating town officials and the Society "for keeping alive the traditions of Southampton," Mr. Kirstein said, "My family and I have a residence in Southampton. Making this contribution makes me feel that I am acting as a good member of the Southampton community."

The Conscience Point restoration is the centerpiece of the Town of Southampton's 350th celebration this year. Plans call for the replacing of the bronze plaque marking the site of the Puritans' landing which was stolen last year, and removing the macadam road that leads to the site on the tip of the peninsula and replacing it with a natural pathway.

Conscience Point will be rededicated in ceremonies set for next June 12, the 350th anniversary of the Puritans' landing in 1640. Numbers of officials as well as descendants of the original settlers are expected to take part in rededication. —**Portia Flanagan**

Hamptons' Heritage

History isn't exactly a hot topic among the villages and hamlets of Southampton. Despite the town's colonial roots and all the 17th, 18th and 19th century buildings that survive among the shopping centers and bauhaus beach houses, this town doesn't dwell on the distant past. Most of its visitors and many of its residents don't even know that this old town predates the State of New York and the United States of America.

The 350th anniversary of the town's settlement, which is being celebrated this year, is a time for residents and visitors alike to take a break from all the distractions and diversions of late-20th-century Southampton. Here's a chance to learn about and relish the charms of a town whose settlers were Englishmen with buckle shoes and blunderbusses.

This special supplement to The Southampton Press and the Hampton Chronicle-News—published to appear in time for the town's 350th anniversary parade in Southampton on Saturday, August 25—offers an introduction to those first settlers, what they found here, what they did here, and what they left behind. In an extensive article by Southampton College professor John Strong, it also offers insights into the Native American culture that existed here for thousands of years before the English came.

There has been a lot of talk in recent years that Americans seem to know less than ever before about the world around them and the past. That kind of ignorance leads to cultural destruction. Southampton has escaped that so far; despite its tremendous growth in recent years—and a certain lack of awareness of its heritage—it remains a town charmed by tradition. As long as we strive to appreciate its character by understanding its history, Southampton will continue to survive. —PBB

The Southampton Press

NEAR THIS SPOT
IN JUNE 1640
LANDED THE COLONISTS FROM LYNN, MASS.
WHO FOUNDED SOUTHAMPTON
THE FIRST ENGLISH SETTLEMENT
IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

LONG ISLAND TRAVELER-WATCHMAN 5/24/1990

On hand to mark the installation of the new bronze plaque at Conscience Point last week were, from left, Southampton Town Historian Robert Keene; Cyril Martin, Master of the Old Town Lodge of Masons which donated the marker and the installation; and Mardooni Vahradian, a major donor to the Conscience Point Fund. Southampton Aeroservice Photo

Conscience Pt. Plaque Is Back

SOUTHAMPTON — It's back: A handsome bronze plaque once again marks the historic spot at Conscience Point in North Sea where the first English settlers stepped ashore 350 years ago to found the Town of Southampton.

The new plaque, embedded firmly in its huge granite boulder, replaces the 80-year-old original plaque that was ripped from the stone by vandals sometime in mid-March of last year. That marker was never recovered, nor have the thieves yet been identified.

The plaque's wording remains the same: "Near this spot in June 1640 landed the Colonists from Lynn, Massachusetts who founded Southampton, the first English settlement in the State of New York."

The new plaque, as well as its installation, is the gift of the Old Town Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, of Southampton. A simple ceremony was held at the site Thursday afternoon, May 17, but the formal rededication of the plaque and of the completely refurbished narrow Conscience Point peninsula that extends into North Sea Harbor will take place at 4 p.m. Tuesday, June 12, the actual 350th anniversary of the Puritan settlers' landing.

With Town Supervisor George Stavropoulos serving as master of ceremonies, the rededication will include a reenactment of that original landing when eight men, a woman, and an eight-year-old boy first set foot on what was to become Southampton.

Local legend has it that the woman, Eleanor Howell, exclaimed as she stepped ashore, "For conscience sake, we're on dry land!," a remark that was to give the area its name.

Supervisor Stavropoulos will introduce the numbers of officials, guests, and celebrities and present the Mayor of Lynn, Massachusetts, who has pledged to attend. There will also be music and a color guard participating in the celebration.

The theft of the original bronze marker in March, 1989, virtually on the eve of the town's 350th anniversary, shocked the entire town when it was discovered by local baymen who regularly launch their small boats into the harbor nearby, and who nofitied the police.

Almost immediately, Robert G. Keene, president of the Southampton Colonial Society which owns the "upland and meadow acreage" at Conscience Point and which installed and dedicated the commemorative boulder and marker 80 years ago, pledged that "One way or another. . .there will be a bronze plaque marking the historic Conscience Point spot when we celebrate our 350th anniversary on June 12, 1990."

Shortly thereafter Mr. Keene, who is also the Town Historian and in charge of the year-long 350th anniversary celebrations, announced that the Colonial Society in addition would undertake a complete upgrading and beautification of the entire site. He and Village Historian Richard B. Foster, the Society's vice president as well, head the committee in charge of the restoration project.

The Conscience Point peninsula lies off the east side of North Sea Road about a half-mile north of its intersection with Noyac Road. Its entrance, marked by a State Education Department sign, is slated for a general sprucing up, with new attractive plantings indigenous to the area. Security will be tightened, maintenance stepped up, and access limited as well.

Plans also call for tearing up the narrow asphalt-topped road leading to the Point itself and replacing it with a natural pathway, a project that reportedly has the blessing of the State Department of Environmental Conservation. Access to the Point will be limited to pedestrians and wheelchairs; cars and trucks will be barred.

Vehicular parking will be available in the large lot abutting the Point's entrance.

Early records reveal that the Colonial Society, organized before the turn of the century, voted on March 23, 1909, to "put a marker at Conscience Point," and on November 30 of that same year to "install a boulder and plaque there."

In May of the following year the Society paid Charles Reeves $75 for his upland and meadow, and finally, on June 23, 1910, the boulder and its inscribed plaque were formally dedicated, the 20-ton boulder "of native stone" having been dragged from a nearby meadow by teams of horses and placed approximately 25 feet from the actual spot where the small band of hardy Puritans landed in 1640.

Present at Last Thursday's small ceremony marking the new plaque's arrival were, along with Mr. Keene, Cyril Martin, Master of the Old Town Lodge of Masons, and Mardooni Vahradian, a major contributor to the Conscience Point Fund.

—Portia Flanagan

LONG ISLAND TRAVELER-WATCHMAN

For The Celebration of the Sesqui-Tricentennial
of
The Town of Southampton

Supervisor
Hon. George S. Stavropoulos

Town Council
Hon. Patricia F. Neumann
Hon. Marietta M. Seaman
Hon. Patrick J. Heaney
Hon. James J. Needham

* * * *

Hon. Kenneth Thommen
Hon. Mercator Kendrick

* * * *

Hon. Mardythe DiPirro
Hon. Antonio Gil

* * * *

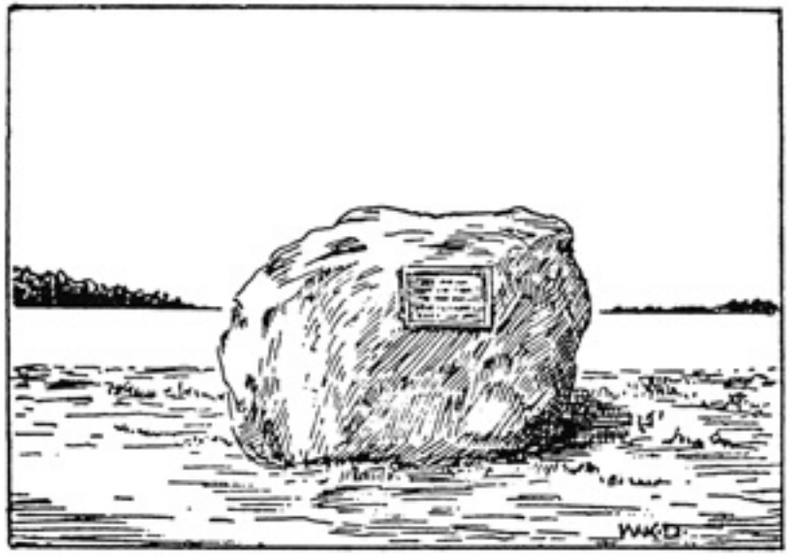
Courtland Smith
Steven Kenny
George A. Finckenor, Sr.
Donald Brennan
Timothy McCulley
Kathleen McLauchlen
Edward H. Warner
William H. Bennett
Frank L. Smith
Paul W. Parash
William T. Frank
John Bennett
Beatrice Marcks
Richard B. Foster
Donald Behnke
Roy L. Wines, Jr.
Philip Elliston
Marvin Dozier
Dr. Emma L. Bellows
Helen M. Wetterau
Paul Van Arts Dalen
Blair McCaslin
Marlene E. Haresign
James S. Burnett
William A. Frankenbach
Mrs. Wilbur F. Behler
Thomas B. White
Mrs. Eugene A. Sandford
Mrs. Havens Tuttle
Margaret B. Perry
Patricia D. Shuttleworth
Harry K. Williams
Stan Herman
Theodore E. Squires
Carol Stull
Mrs. Robert Magowan
Alberta A. Shippen
Henry Keller

John Howe Crocker
Cynthia Tuckerman Gay
Gertrude O. Berglund
Paul Corrigan
Henry W. Babcock
Joseph F. Markowski, Jr
Mrs. Robert Ratcliff
Mrs. Rodman Wanamaker
Mrs. Henri Z. Lake
Mrs. James S. Burnett
Theodore B. Conklin, Jr
William H. Elliston
Arthur Palma
James Allan Cameron
Cyrus W. Jagger
Albert J. Halsey
Ed Courville
Kelsey Marechal
Joan Raynor
W. L. Button
Mrs. Kenneth H. Halsey
Mrs. Franklin O. Canfield
Thomas F. Halsey
J. Couper Lord
Robert H. Pelletreau
Noah T. Simmons
Edna Jackson
Allyn F. Jackson
Raymond Wesnotske
Mardooni Vahradian
Richard S. Spooner
Herbert McCarthy
Eugene Dombrowski
Foster H. Corwith
Gerald T. Adams
Benjamin H. Foster
William T. Bates
Paul H. Fordham
Mrs. Grace Terry
Mrs. Gertrude Jagger Neville
Mrs. Anita Howell Fordham
Helen Bishop White
Morley A. Quatroche
Gilbert Foster
Charles H. Halsey
Abigail Halsey Van Allen
Edna Elliston Griffin
Edna Lee Potter
Helen Howell Godbee
William B. Howell
Malcolm White Terry
Thomas W. Phipps
Charlotte Rogers Smith
James McCulley
Evelyn Corwith Hansen

REDEDICATION OF CONSCIENCE POINT

JUNE 12, 1990

The 350th Anniversary of the Founding of Southampton



Conscience Point • Southampton, New York

PROGRAM
for
Rededication of Conscience Point

June 12, 1990

WELCOME..... George Stavropoulos
Supervisor

INTRODUCTION OF
DIGNITARIES.....George Stavropoulos
Supervisor

ESCORTS.....Southampton Town Militia

INVOCATION.....Rev. William Johnson
First Presbyterian Church, Southampton

SHORT HISTORY OF SETTLEMENT.....Robert Keene
Town Historian

COMMENTS.....Hon. Albert V. DiVirgilio
Mayor,
Lynn, Massachusetts

LANDING OF THE
FIRST SETTLERS.....North Sea Fire Department

HISTORY OF THE MONUMENT.....Robert Keene
Town Historian

BENEDICTION.....Rev. Jack King
United Methodist Church, Southampton

COLOR GUARD.....American Legion and
Veterans of Foreign Wars

ODE.....William H. Elliston
Read by Mrs. William H. Elliston

Landing at Conscience Point Re-Enacted

By Douglas P. Love

Hundreds of residents gathered under blue skies at Conscience Point in North Sea Tuesday to witness a re-enactment of the landing there 350 years ago, on June 12, 1640, of eight men, one woman and a small boy from Lynn, Massachusetts, who were the first Colonial settlers to reach what is today Southampton Town.

The hour-long event, which was attended by town and county politicians and dignitaries, marked a highlight in the town's ongoing 350th anniversary celebrations.

Descendants of the original settlers, including members of the Halsey and Howe families, took part in the ceremonies on the small peninsula jutting out into North Sea Harbor. So did members of the Shinnecock Indian tribe, whose ancestors extended a polite greeting to the small party that came ashore three and a half centuries ago.

The landing Tuesday was carried out much the same as it had been 350 years ago, although there were a few subtle changes. There were 11 settlers this time around, not 10, and they paddled ashore in a small white rowboat; the original settlers came to Conscience Point aboard Daniel Howe's sloop. Tuesday's group wore tall black hats made of paper, and some of the settlers wore high rubber boots—a good deal more practical at the beach than the leather shoes favored by the original settlers.

Standing there to greet the settlers Tuesday was Wayne Red Dawn, a Shinnecock Indian dressed in special garb for the occasion. "We welcome you, we welcome you," he said. "We cherish the land and we expect you to cherish it, too."

Town Historian Robert Keene helped rededicate the large stone monument honoring the original settlers at Conscience Point under the watchful eyes of Southampton's "Colonial Militia," led by Town Planning Board Chairman Roy L. Wines Jr. Carrying a sword, the planner was addressed as "Colonel."

Shinnecock Indian Wayne Red Dawn offers a peace pipe to settlers during a re-enactment Tuesday of the colonists' landing in 1640. —*Gary Mamay Photo*

A bronze plaque on the side of the 20-ton monument was stolen last year by vandals. The rededicated monument bore a replacement, donated by two local residents.

For many, the re-enactment of the landing marked a time to reflect on the events of the past 350 years and to look with hope toward the future.

Arthur T. Williams, a ruling trustee for the Shinnecock Tribe for more than 30 years and one of several who offered brief speeches, recalled how the Indians and settlers had once worked side-by-side in "peaceful coexistence" to grow food and ward off attacks from outsiders. Later, the white man obtained control over most of the Indian's land, save for their reservation in Shinnecock Hills and a tract in the Red Creek section of Hampton Bays.

"I do not come before you with resentment, but we cannot rewrite history or condone the misdeeds of those who came before us," Mr. Williams said, adding that now is the time to look toward a renewed spirit of cooperation between the white man and the native. He said he was "overjoyed" by the discovery of an Indian fort in Shinnecock Hills that was used when the first Colonial settlers arrived, and that he now looks forward to a combined effort by town officials and the Shinnecock Tribe to preserve the site.

Former Town councilman Thomas Halsey, a descendant of one of the 10 original settlers, reflected on the monuments that have been constructed throughout Southampton in memory of those who gave their lives in the fight for freedom. He called on his contemporaries not to forget their sacrifices or give up their fight.

"One of my ancestors was bounced out of town meetings because of his outspoken opinions," Mr. Halsey said, urging people to continue to speak out and let their opinions be heard.

In addition to the ceremonies at Conscience Point, Southampton's birthday was honored on the floor of the House of Representatives by Congressman George Hochbrueckner.

In a brief speech before his colleagues, the Long Island Congressman recalled Southampton's rich past and spoke of how the community has grown throughout its 350 years.

"While Southampton no longer holds the unclaimed rustic flavor that it once possessed, it still contains the unique, small-town qualities which appealed to its earliest inhabitants and which continue to draw visitors from around the world," Mr. Hochbrueckner said.

from Southampton Press

INDIAN WELCOME--Members of the Shinnecock Indian Tribe participated in the re-enactment of the settler's landing at Conscience Point. The re-enactment took place on June 12. The settling took place in 1640. Photo by Tim Gannon

Wednesday, June 20, 1990 SUFFOLK LIFE NEWSPAPERS

Again, Colonists Land On Southampton's Shore

By Dele Olojede

English colonists landed again in Southampton yesterday, welcomed with straight-forward advice by the Shinnecock Indians soon after they paddled ashore in North Sea harbor.

"We respect our land and we expect you to respect it," said Wayne Red Dawn, who led the Shinnecock welcoming party at 4:30 p.m. "Welcome to our land."

And with handshakes and a scattering of cheers from a crowd of 300, Shinnecock and colonist alike re-enacted the coming of the first party of eight Englishmen, a woman and a boy to Southampton exactly 350 years ago.

Amid much pomp and circumstance, and a skirting of delicate issues in the relationship between settler and Indian, the ceremony got under way in late afternoon at Conscience Point, where the first settlers from Lynn, Mass., landed in 1640.

Among the guests of honor were a representative of the mayor of Lynn, who brought a city flag and proclamation; Shinnecock tribal leaders, who tried their best to not make everyone feel uncomfortable; town officials, who emphasized that their ancestors were welcomed by friendly Indians, and descendants of the original settlers, who photographed the proceedings.

"We are all so proud of our history," Supervisor George Stavropoulos said in opening the ceremony. "Our heritage, both from our first settlers and from Native-American Americans who greeted them, is something to be proud of."

Yesterday's re-enactment was the high point of a year-long celebration of the sesquitricentennial of the first English settlement in New York State — a historical note disputed by neighboring residents of Southold, so far without incontrovertible proof.

In good faith, Jeff Horton, whose ancestor Barnabas Horton led the first English settlers to Southold, attended the ceremony.

"Despite what Bob Keene [Southampton historian] says, we were the first," said Horton, who added that the good people of Southold were working on getting the proof that they were there a year ahead of the Southamptonians.

Not in dispute, of course, was the presence of the Indians long before anyone else.

A delegation of the Shinnecock tribal leaders sat quietly with town officials through the speeches, and when his turn came, Harry Williams, ceremonial chief of the Shinnecock, offered only gentle criticism of the settlers his forefathers welcomed warmly centuries ago.

Noting only that the white man now holds virtually all the deeds to the land (barring about 300 acres of the Shinnecock reservation), Williams nonetheless said it was better to look to the future.

"I do not come before you with resentment, but we cannot rewrite history or condone the misdeeds of those who came before us." Sacred Indian grounds have been paved and otherwise developed, he said, but added that he was encouraged by steps being taken by town officials to preserve the remains of an ancient Shinnecock fort and village discovered three weeks ago.

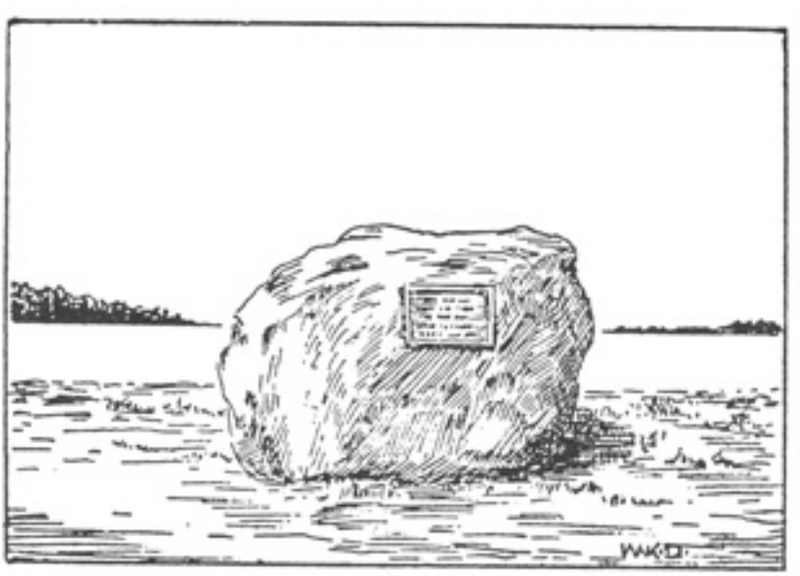
Still, much of the day was for fun.

James Andrews, who represented Mayor Albert DiVirgilio of Lynn, Mass., said the emigration to Southampton so long ago "was the first time people left the city for the suburbs."

The dignitaries made their speeches and parents, carrying their children on their shoulders, snapped pictures of the imitation settlers stepping ashore.

It was as close to the original as could be, down to offering a gift of a cigar to one of the Shinnecock, who turned it down.

"Tobacco is not good for your health," Red Dawn said.



Conscience Point • Southampton, New York

from Newsday

ODE

FROM THE SHADOWS

We've been watching from the shadows
  Since those dear old days of yore.
And today, Good Folks, you're standing
  Where we landed years before.

As we listen to the speakers
  A tear comes to our eye.
Yes, we, too, loved Conscience Point
  In those dear old days gone by.

That day, the sky was a perfect blue;
  How fresh the gentle breeze;
Geese, ducks and swans flew overhead.
  The birds sang from the trees.

Beautiful wild flowers graced the share.
  We viewed them all with care.
Wild turkeys, deer and fox ran by.
  Clams, oysters and scallops were there.

Eight men, one woman and one boy
  Were in the boat that day.
"For conscience sake! We're on dry land!"
  We heard the woman say.

The Shinnecock Indians were friendly
  As we arrived that morn.
They guided us to fertile soil
  And taught us to plant corn.

We settled first in the Olde Towne,
  A section near the sea.
We built our homes and meeting house
  And became a colony.

How quickly all the years have passed.
  Landing seems like yesterday!
Now, as we view the present age
  To you we'd like to say:

"May the Good Lord bless and keep you.
  May he guide you in what to do.
On the next celebration at Conscience Point
  From the shadows you'll watch with us, too."

William H. Elliston

For The Celebration of the Sesqui-Tricentennial
of
The Town of Southampton

1640

1990

THE COMBINED VETERAN'S ORGANIZATION

The Combined Veteran's Organization, usually called the CVO, put on the 350th Anniversary Parade on August 25th. It was a most beautiful parade, with emphasis on the three and a half centuries of Southampton.

The CVO also put on their annual Independence Day parade on July 4th. That, too, had historical emphasis on the 350th Anniversary of Southampton.

Having attended several meetings of the CVO in preparation for our own parade, I learned considerable about what they do for Southampton. The CVO is a dedicated organization, and without it Southampton would not be the same place. Under the leadership of William (Bill) Frankenbach, the CVO deserves full credit for our parade this year, the 350th Birthday of Southampton.

Robert Keene, Chairman
350th Anniversary Committee

Flag Sales to Fund Parade

As plans for the Southampton Town's 350th Anniversary parade on August 25 in Southampton Village are being finalized, Town Historian Robert Keene, who is in charge of the town's birthday festivities, said this week funds are needed to pay for the event.

He said he needs to raise $10,000 to pay marching bands from western Suffolk County and Nassau County to participate in the parade. The money will pay for transportation for the units, he said. Twelve bands are expected to attend.

Although Mr. Keene is overseeing the fundraising for the event, the Combined Veterans Organization is organizing the parade, which will take the same route as the July 4th parade, starting at the railroad station, marching down Main Street and Jobs Lane and ending at Agawam Park.

Mr. Keene sent out letters to town residents requesting funds for the parade last week. So far, $3,000 has been raised through donations, he said.

Town Supervisor George Stavropoulos said the town intends to make up the difference if the $10,000 mark is not met through donations.

This week Mr. Keene also unveiled a limited edition, three-by-five-foot royal blue and white 350th Anniversary flag. One hundred banners, bearing the town's insignia, were made. They are $50 apiece. Profits from the sale of the flags will go to pay for the parade, Mr. Keene said.

The Southampton Press

A Jagger Is Grand Marshal

John Jagger settled here in the 1650s and set up his home and his farm on land that is now smack in the middle of Southampton Village.

Jagger Lane, where his land was located, is one of the few remaining legacies of that original settler. Cyrus Jagger, who is 96, and lives on West Neck, is another.

Mr. Jagger was chosen to serve as grand marshal of Southampton's 350th anniversary parade on Saturday because he is the oldest member of an original settler's family, according to Town Historian Robert Keene.

For the Jagger family, this weekend's event will serve to celebrate the Southampton Jagger name. The celebration is especially poignant because the name will die out here after the next generation. Mr. Jagger's only son, James M. Jagger, who lives in Massachusetts, does not have a son. "I'll be the last with a Jagger name in Southampton," Cyrus Jagger lamented this week.

Mr. Jagger has invited his son and his daughter, with her children, to visit this weekend. "I wanted to have a family reunion," he said of the eight family members who plan to attend. "I want them all to see this."

The only other descendants of John Jagger are Mr. Jagger's first cousin, Glena Jagger of Southampton, and Gertrude Neville of Southampton, another cousin. Mrs. Neville, who was a Jaggar (her father changed the spelling of the name to end with "ar") before she married a Neville, was also asked to serve as grand marshal alongside her cousin. But because of failing health, Mrs. Neville, six months younger than Cyrus, had to decline, Cyrus Jagger said. Glena Jagger is just too young for what the organizers have in mind.

The whole Jagger clan grew up in two houses on North Main Street. For years the family farmed land just east of there. Much of it has now been developed.

Cyrus Jagger was born in 1894 before the age of cars and before Southampton was anything more than a small farming and fishing community, with a few summer visitors. During World War I, he enlisted in the Navy and rose to the rank of ensign on a cruiser that was doing convoy duty between the United States and the French coast. "Back then it was a long trip on coal burning boats," he said. "We had to stack coal high on the decks to make it round trip without getting more coal, and we didn't have a choice."

He returned to Southampton in 1920 as a member of the Naval Reserve and married a descendent of an early settler, Margaret Edwards. She died four years ago, 12 days before their 66th anniversary.

After spending most of his professional life as an engineer for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and living in Brooklyn, he retired and he and his wife moved to Southampton in 1967. They built a house on family land on West Neck, on the water north of Southampton. "We wanted to be back in Southampton where we were born." —B.D.

Grand marshal of the 350th anniversary parade this Saturday, Cyrus Jagger.
—Biddle Duke Photo

Kenneth P. LaValle, State Senator, Fred Thiele, Jr., County Legislator, Bill Masterson, Supt. Town Highway Dept.

Southampton Intermediate School

Southampton Village

BILLY NICHOLS

The 1990 Parade was Billy Nichols 50th Consecutive parade in which he rode a horse...

A FOUNDING FAMILY - - - 1640

THOMAS HALSEY alk. CHAMBERS (AGE 46) - ELIZABETH WHEELER HALSEY (AGE 42)

THOMAS JR.-AGE 14 - ISAAC-AGE 8 - ELIZABETH-AGE 5 - DANIEL-AGE 3

SOUTHAMPTON
COLONIAL
MILITIA

SAG HARBOR
COMMUNITY BAND
ORGANIZED 1857

TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON
1640
1990
350th ANNIVERSARY

SALUTES
SOUTHAMPTON
EAST END
TOWING
HAS BEEN ON THE MOVE

COSE BELLE

Everyone Loves a Parade

Support your

CVO

with a contribution

Veterans of Foreign Wars

American Legion

Polish Legion American Veterans

COMBINED VETERANS ORGANIZATION INC.
P.O. Box 856, Southampton, N.Y. 11968

Southampton

In

1990

❧ ❧ ❧ ❧

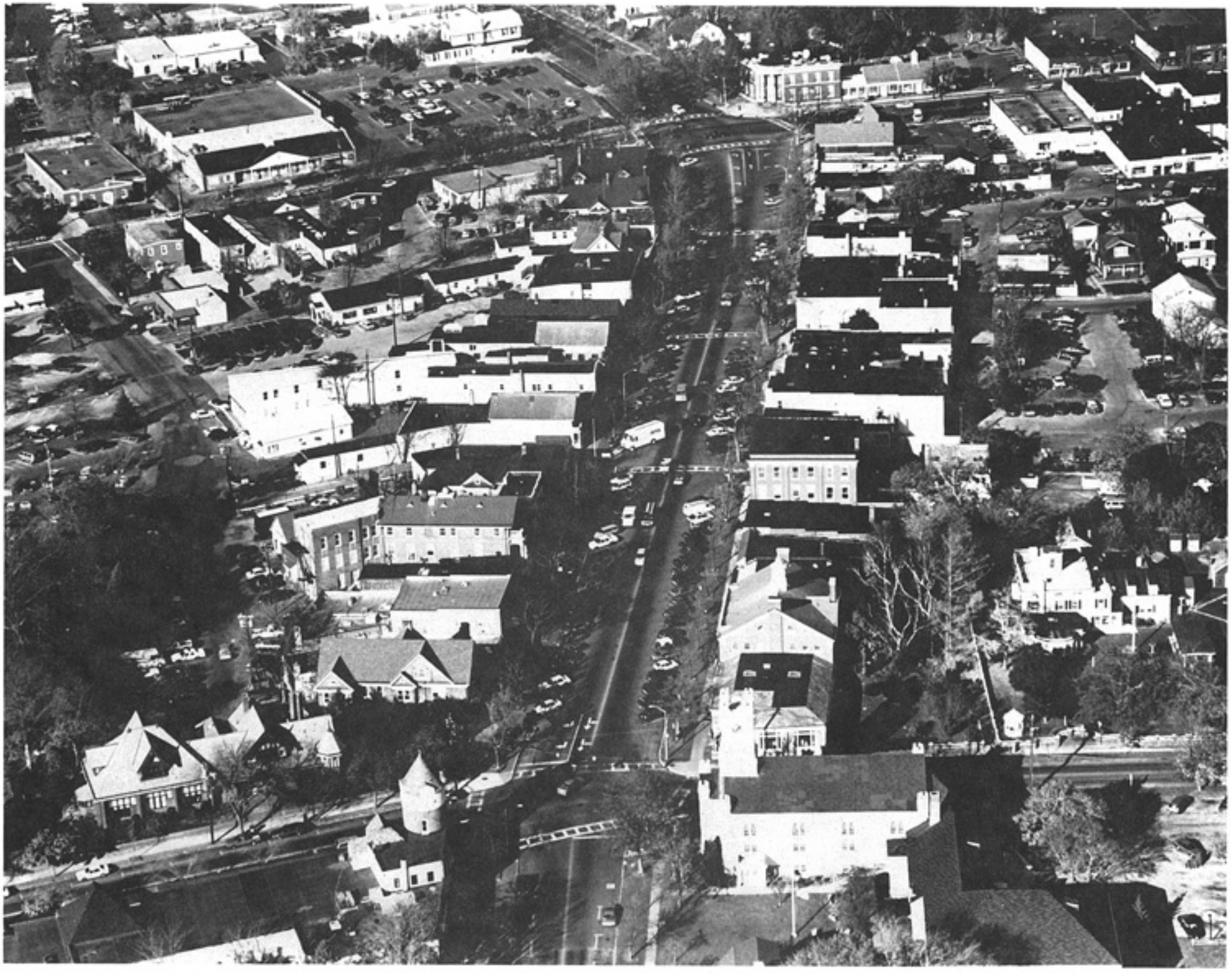
How It Looks From The Ground And From The Air

Irl Flanagan

Old Town Memorial Park, as it appeared in 1990, after being upgraded and beautified through the efforts of the Village Improvement Association of Southampton

The Thomas Halsey farm shown from the air. Note the Happy 350th Southampton, which is a special planting by Mr. Halsey.

photo by Southampton Aeroservice

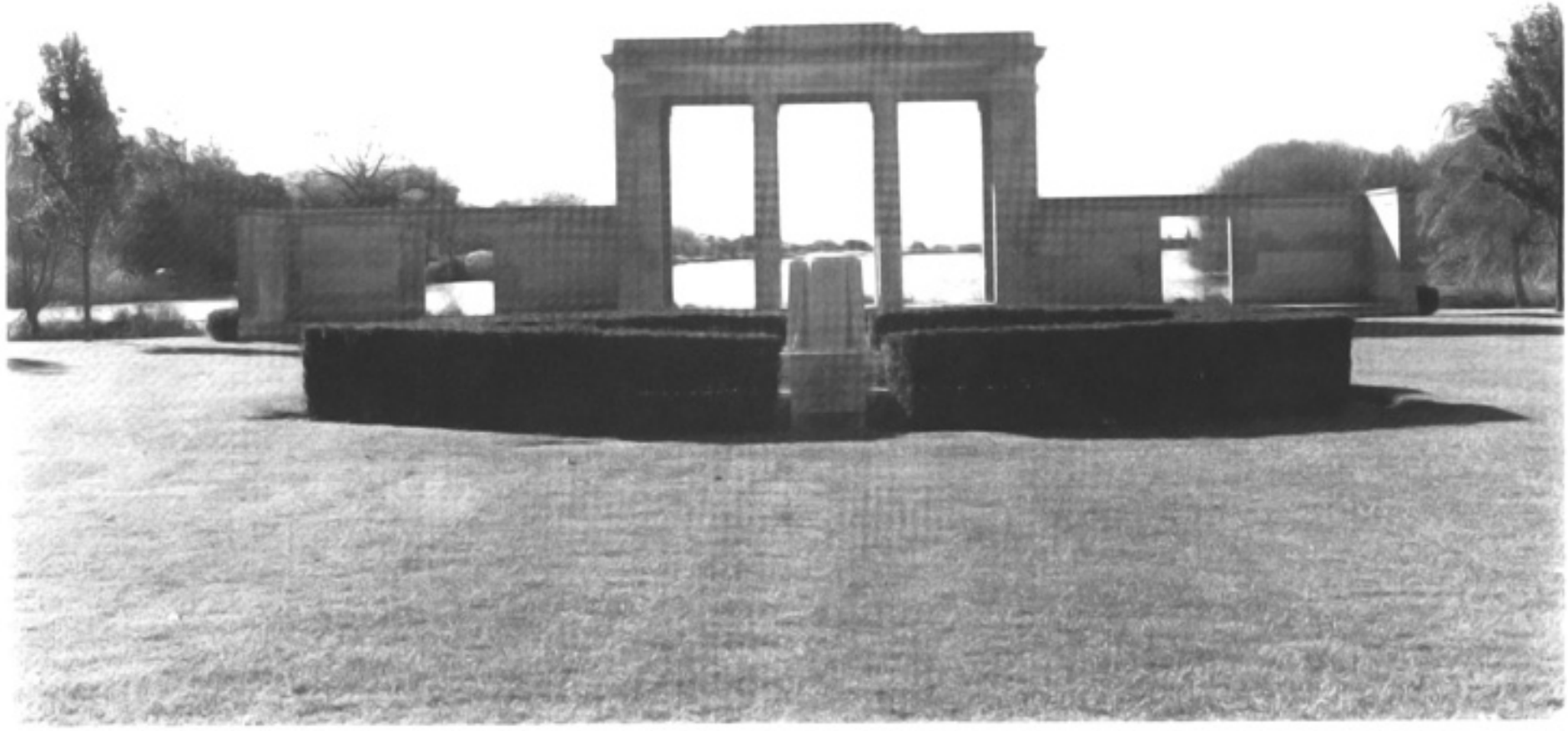


Main Street, Southampton Village

Southampton Aeroservice

Aerial view of the Village of Southampton

Southampton Aeroservice



The War Memorial on the south end of Agawam Park. In the foreground is a second War Memorial, a fountain, which is for those of the Korean War and World War Two.

HILDRETHS – opened in 1842.

HILDRETH'S ... the oldest retail store in the United States, still in the same business, the same location, and the same family... opened in 1842.

One of the landmarks of Southampton's Main Street is E.A. & H. Hildreth, Inc. Department Store. In 1992 Hildreth's will be celebrating its 150th anniversary of doing business at the same location on Main Street and with the fifth generation of Hildreths, Henry, Jr. and Abbie, very actively carrying on the business.

The original store, according to Lewis Hildreth's first ledger, started October 28, 1842. The store had a frontage of 30 feet on Main Street and was 40 feet in depth; it is now the front half of the House Furnishing Department.

Lewis carried quite a varied stock in his inventory. All his merchandise came by ship to Sag Harbor because the railroad did not go through until 1870. Because there was no refrigeration Lewis Hildreth brought in soda biscuits, large wooden boxes of cheese, bags of salt, buckwheat flour, barrels of apples, sweet potatoes, tea, and coffee. To outfit the kitchen there was a variety of pots, jugs, pitchers, jars, and churns. For the ladies there was a supply of yarn, flannel, sewing necessities, gum drops, mints, and patent medicines. For the men there were cigars, hardware items, nails, hammers, locks, horse shoes, buggy whips, and buffalo robes.

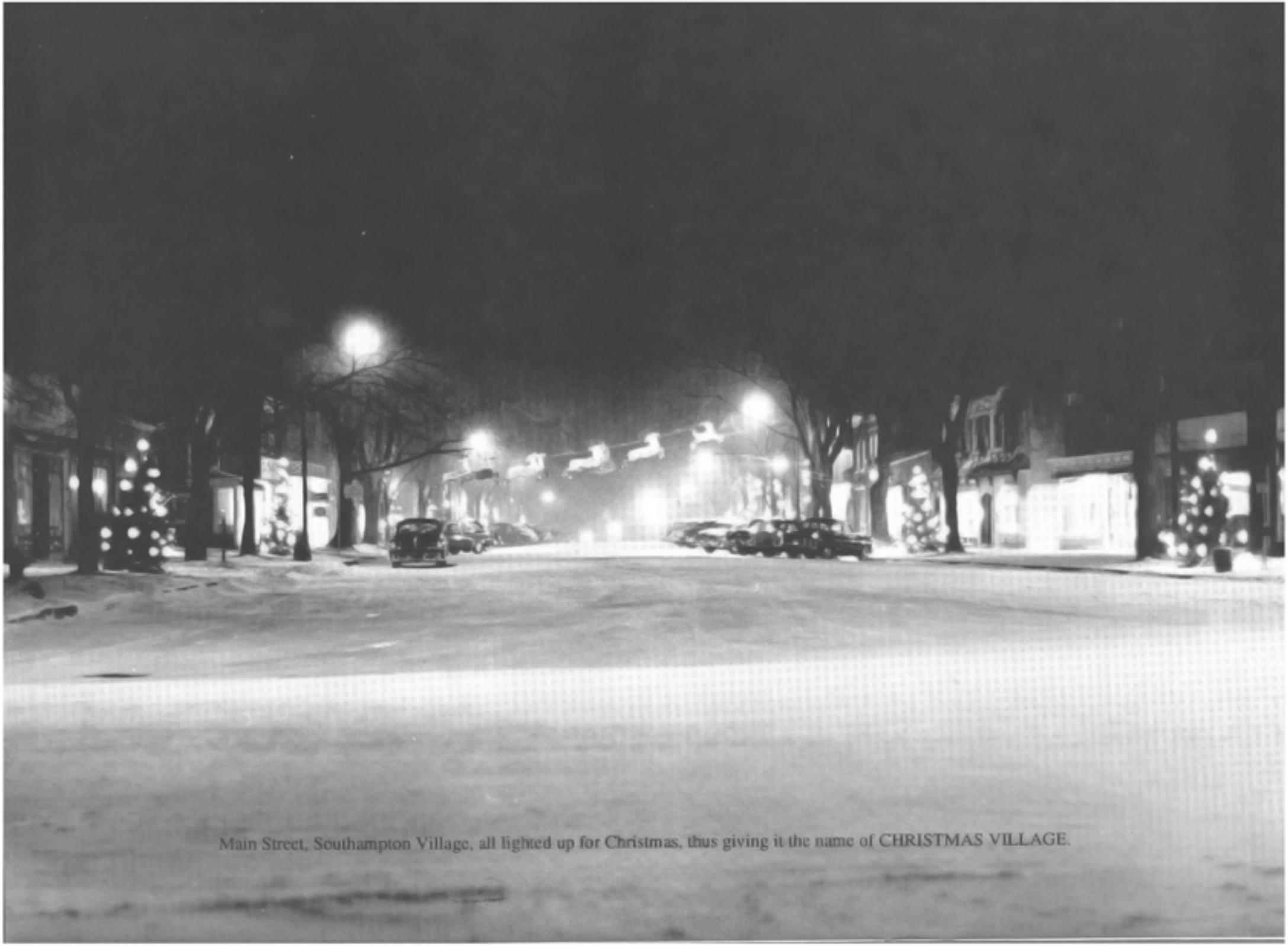
In 1870 Lewis Hildreth went to New York to do his spring buying of merchandise. He contracted smallpox and died very suddenly. Under the guardianship of their mother, Amanda Hildreth, the two eldest sons, Edgar, 18 years old, and Henry, 15 years old, carried on the business; thus the business became known as E.A. & H. Hildreth.

At the turn of the century, as Southampton grew, Hildreth's decided to double the size of the original store and it was then that the store became departmentalized with the introduction of Furniture Department, Housewares Department, Dry Goods Department, Men's Department, and Grocery Department.

In 1984 E.A. & H. Hildreth, Inc., undertook a major renovation project under the very capable supervision of Henry, Jr. By this project the annex warehouse was converted into more showroom selling space which has doubled the Furniture Department's display area.

In 1989 Hildreth's Outdoor Patio showroom was enclosed, making a very attractive indoor display for summer furniture which has given the Patio a much longer season for selling.

As we look forward to our 150th anniversary the store logo seems even more appropriate, "The store where your grandmother's grandmother shopped."



Main Street, Southampton Village, all lighted up for Christmas, thus giving it the name of CHRISTMAS VILLAGE.

Marine Midland Bank
cordially invites you to a reception
in celebration of
The 350th Anniversary of Southampton Town
at Marine Midland Bank
25 Nugent Street, Southampton, New York
Thursday, August 23, 1990
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

R. S. V. P.
(516) 752-4505

On hand for a preview of videos of town anniversary celebrations last Thursday at the Marine Midland Bank in Southampton were, from left, Southampton Town Supervisor George Stavropoulos, Branch Manager George Schwab, Assistant Manager Louise Gould, Area Manager Vincent Cangiano and Town Historian Robert Keene. The bank funded the transfer of films of the 1915 and 1940 celebrations onto videotape and will complete the anniversary library with a video of last weekend's parade. Mr. Keene provides the narration for the three tapes, which he will make available to the public. *—Alix Biel Photo*

THE EDWARD HOWELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION
met in Southampton during the summer of 1990. They planned their annual reunion to coincide with the celebration of the 350th Anniversary of Southampton.

Past and present officers of the Edward Howell Family Association whose members convened in Southampton this month are, from the left, seated, Treasurer Olive Thompson of Pennsylvania, new President Ruth Howell Thomson of California, outgoing President Barbara Howell Calhoun of South Carolina, and 1st Vice President Miriam Howell Petraeus of New York; standing are 3rd Vice President Mary Jane Kahao, Louisiana; Genealogist David G. Faris, M.D., Pennsylvania; 4th Vice President Ellen Pacchetti, California; 2nd Vice President Hampton P. Howell Jr. of Virginia and Westhampton Beach; former Secretary Jane Howell Brooks, New Jersey; and new Secretary Marjorie Howell Burnell, Michigan.

Southampton Aeroservice Photo

Reunion of A First Family

Howells Hear Report of 'Wicked Fellow'

SOUTHAMPTON—More than 100 members of the Edward Howell Family Association came together in Southampton on the first weekend of this month for their annual reunion and to share in Southampton Town's year-long 350th Anniversary celebration. States from California to New York were represented.

That they chose Southampton as the location for their reunion and annual meeting in 1990 was hardly a surprise, for most of the members are descendants of First Settler Edward Howell, who was one of the small band of hardy English Puritans from Lynn, Massachusetts who came ashore at Conscience Point in North Sea 350 years ago on June 12, 1640, to found the Town of Southampton.

While here, Association members renewed their ties with family members, saw the sights, elected a slate of officers, visited local landmarks, enjoyed a splendid banquet and luncheon, and heard a guest speaker knowledgeable about their forebears reveal a secret or two—one, he said, worthy of publication in the National Enquirer.

The weekend activities began on Friday afternoon, October 5, when the organization's Steering Committee met at the Hill Street home of member William Howell. After dinner at John Duck's restaurant, there was a reception for the group at the Colonial Society's Historical Museum on Meeting House Lane.

Saturday was the busiest day of the three, starting with a coffee hour in the morning at the First Presbyterian Church—also celebrating its 350th Anniversary this year—followed by the annual business meeting and luncheon.

In the afternoon, Town Historian Robert Keene addressed the group, first outlining the various historical events the town has celebrated over the years and explaining the differences between the town's 225th Anniversary activities in 1865 and those taking place this year, for its 350th.

Then Mr. Keene, a well-known raconteur, undertook to describe three Howell ancestors he said he believed some of them knew little about, primarily one Nathan Howell of Massachusetts who was Edward Howell's grandson.

Mr. Keene said that he had learned about Nathan Howell from the diary of Samuel Sewall, an early English Puritan minister who was a friend of Cotton Mather. In the diary, published in 1973 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, is a long footnote detailing "how Cotton Mather took full credit for the demise of Nathan Howell," Mr. Keene said.

The story is this, according to Mr. Keene:

Nathan Howell was born December 24, 1681, the son of Col. Nathaniel Howell and Mary Halsey, who was the daughter of Thomas Halsey. He died at the age of 35 in 1717.

In Boston in 1708, Nathan Howell married Katherine George, who was the only daughter of the woman who, after her husband's death, became Cotton Mather's third wife. Samuel Sewall wrote in his diary on May 2, 1716, that Howell had died at Oldham, Massachusetts. And under that entry, the book's editor comments, "In an astonishing passage in his [own] diary on May 6, 1716, Cotton Mather took full credit for bringing about Howell's demise."

He quotes Mather, who wrote: "A wondrous thing is come to pass. My wife's only daughter had a husband who proved one of the worst of men; a sorry, forward and exceedingly wicked fellow. His life would have killed the child [Nathan's wife] and have utterly confounded not only her temporal interest, but my wife's also. I was a witness of their anguish."

Mather continued: "Almost a year ago I began to have some irradiations of my mind, which I

communicated unto them, that before a year came about they should see a deliverance." He could not bring himself to act until "towards the beginning of the winter" when "I kept three days of prayer, in every one of which a principle errand unto Heaven was to put over this wicked creature into the hands of the Holy God, that...the poor child might be delivered from his unsurmountable tyrannies;" or, failing that, that Howell might become "a new creature."

Mather prayed "with a proper spirit of charity towards the miserable man...And my wife often went up with me to my library to keep me company. Well, I had no sooner kept my third day [of prayer] but God smote the wretch with a languishing sickness, which nobody ever knew what to make of."

He continued: "He was a strong, lively, hearty young man a little over thirty, but now he languished for six months, nor were any of our physicians, though he employed no less than five of them, able to help him.

"In this while, our faith, our love, our patience, and our submission to the will of God underwent many trials more precious than gold. But on the last Wednesday the glorious God put a period unto the grievous ways of this wicked man," the entry concluded.

As a footnote of his own, Mr. Keene added that Cotton Mather was an executor of Nathan Howell's estate, and that after her husband, Nathan, died, his widow, Katherine, was married again—to Samuel Sewall's nephew.

Mr. Keene went on to speculate that perhaps the pious Mather's interest in his step-daughter's welfare might not have been totally unselfish, an assertion not disputed by anyone present.

Another Howell about whom little is known, said Mr. Keene, was Arthur, the son of Edward Howell who was the leader of the first English settlers who came to Long Island in 1640. Historians agree that those settlers included eight men, one woman, and an eight-year-old boy; the woman was Eleanor, the second wife of Edward, and the boy was Arthur, their son, who was, therefore, the first English child to come to Long Island, he said.

That same year, he continued, Lion Gardiner's daughter, Elizabeth, was born on Gardiner's Island, the first English child to be born in this area. And, he said, when Arthur was 25 and Elizabeth was 16, they were married, the first English couple to be joined in matrimony here.

Howells were leading figures in Sag Harbor's shipping history as well, Mr. Keene said, noting that the family's ship Argonaut was, in 1817, the first Long Island whaler to take whales in the Pacific Ocean.

"Up in Oakland Cemetery in Sag Harbor, the Broken Mast Monument memorializes the death of the many young shipmasters who lost their lives in 'actual encounter with whales,' as the inscription on the monument reads," he said, adding that the memorial was erected by the Howell family in memory of a younger brother whose name heads the list of whalers inscribed there.

After Mr. Keene's address, Association members either remained at the Church "for an informal time for visiting and sharing" or took a caravan tour of their choice to places of interest. Saturday evening they enjoyed a social hour at John Duck's followed by a banquet featuring fish, prime ribs, and duckling. The three-day reunion concluded on Sunday, after a "no host" members' breakfast.

Active membership in the Association, which was incorporated in 1978 and now has more than 400 members, is open to all persons who are descendants of Edward Howell and their spouses; associate membership is open to any other person interested in the genealogy of Edward Howell and who supports the organization's purposes but is not an Edward Howell descendant.

Among its purposes are to promote broader interest in the study and development of genealogical information on Howell's descendants; to conduct and/or sponsor research on Howell's direct descendants and closely related families; to publish periodically the results of that research; and to "identify, restore, and preserve any artifacts, manuscripts, diaries, or real property of historical interest related to the Edward Howell family and his descendants."

Should the Association ever be dissolved, all of its net assets, after payment of all obligations, will go to the Suffolk County Historical Society, based in Riverhead.

—Portia Flanagan

THE EDWARD H. HOWELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION
Named for the leader of the first settlers to come to Southampton, on June 12th, 1640. Its members are from all over the United States.

Irl Flanagan

George Stavropoulos, Supervisor of the town of Southampton,
raising the first flag on the new flagpole at the Presbyterian Church.

A scene at Agawam Park during the festivities put on by The Southampton
Culture Center, following the 350th Parade on August 25th, 1990.

The most colorful and most dramatic event of the year 1990 was the flying of the Rushmore Flag at Tuckahoe School on May 19th.

As can be seen by the pictures taken on that day it was a most beautiful and a most touching affair, with many a catch in the throat and tear in the eye.

The Rushmore flag was flown at Tuckahoe School as the contribution of the school's participation i the 350th Anniversary Celebration. It was to be the first time the Flag has been flown in the State of New York.

Tuckahoe Common School District

Board of Trustees
Robert E. Grisnik, Chairman
Harald G. Steudte
Robert L. Gerbereux

Dr. Robert Moraghan, Superintendent

Town of Southampton
George Stavropoulos, Supervisor
Council Members
Marietta Seaman
Patricia Neumann
Patrick Heaney
James Needham

Robert Keene, Town Historian

Southampton Town

The Town of Southampton was the first English settlement in New York. It was founded on June 12, 1640, when eight men, one woman, and an eight year old boy came ashore at North Sea harbor.

Today, the place where they landed is named Conscience Point, because legend tells us that the woman, being the first to step ashore, said, "For conscience sake we are on dry land."

The founders came from Lynn, Massachusetts, where they had purchased eight miles square of land on Long Island. The agreement was dated March 10, 1640. A deed was given to the group called undertakers, and was dated April 17, 1640, and a second deed was dated after the landing, June 12, 1640. These documents still exist today in our Town Hall.

Southampton became the first English settlement in New York.

Eastern Suffolk Printing was very proud to print this book for The 350th Anniversary of The Town of Southampton.

The Rushmore Flag being held by 200 people and 185 children underneath.

TUCKAHOE COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Southampton, New York 11968
516-283-3550

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Robert E. Grisnik, Chairman
Robert L. Gerberew
Harald G. Steudte

Dr. Robert Moraghan, Superintendent
Carmen J. Pizzarello, Clerk
Kathleen Kampf, Treasurer

February 14, 1990

Dear Mr. Keene,

The Tuckahoe School is planning to fly the Mount Rushmore Flag on Saturday, May 19, 1990 as part of the Town of Southampton's 350th Anniversary celebration. For your information I have enclosed a brief description of the Mount Rushmore Flag.

The ceremony involved in flying the Mount Rushmore Flag is quite elaborate. We plan to involve many of the Southampton community organizations in the ceremony and hope that your organization will join us. Our first planning meeting is scheduled for March 8, 1990 at 3:00 p.m. here at the Tuckahoe School. We hope that you or a representative of your organization will attend. Please call my secretary Grace, at 283-3550 to confirm your attendance.

I look forward to meeting with you on March 8, at 3:00 p.m., as we plan for this historic event.

Sincerely,

Robert Moraghan

Robert Moraghan, Ed.D.
Superintendent

RM/cmm

Enclosure

Magee St., Southampton, New York 11968 516-283-3550

TUCKAHOE SCHOOL TO HOST 300 POUND FLAG

Dr. Robert Moraghan, Superintendent of the Tuckhaoe Common School District in Southampton, has announced that a flag is coming to the Tuckahoe School in Southampton as part of the 350th Anniversary of the Town of Southampton. Not just any flag, but a 300 pound flag that measures 45 by 90 feet. This American Flag takes a 100 ton test rope to fly it, a bar weighing a ton and a half to hold it, and 400 people to fold it.

The Mount Rushmore Flag is an official exhibit of the National Park Service under the Department of Interior's national "Take Pride in America" campaign. The stripes are three and a half feet wide and the stars measure two and a half feet from point to point.

In 1987 the nylon Flag was sewn together in Massachusetts for the 50th anniversary of Mount Rushmore, where it was placed over Lincoln for a grand unveiling ceremony. It has since traveled thousands of miles on a continuous national tour.

The Flag is stored in the USS Constitution at the Boston National Historical Park. It lies in a 900 pound chest made of cherry wood. There are 13 raised panels on the chest to signify the original colonies.

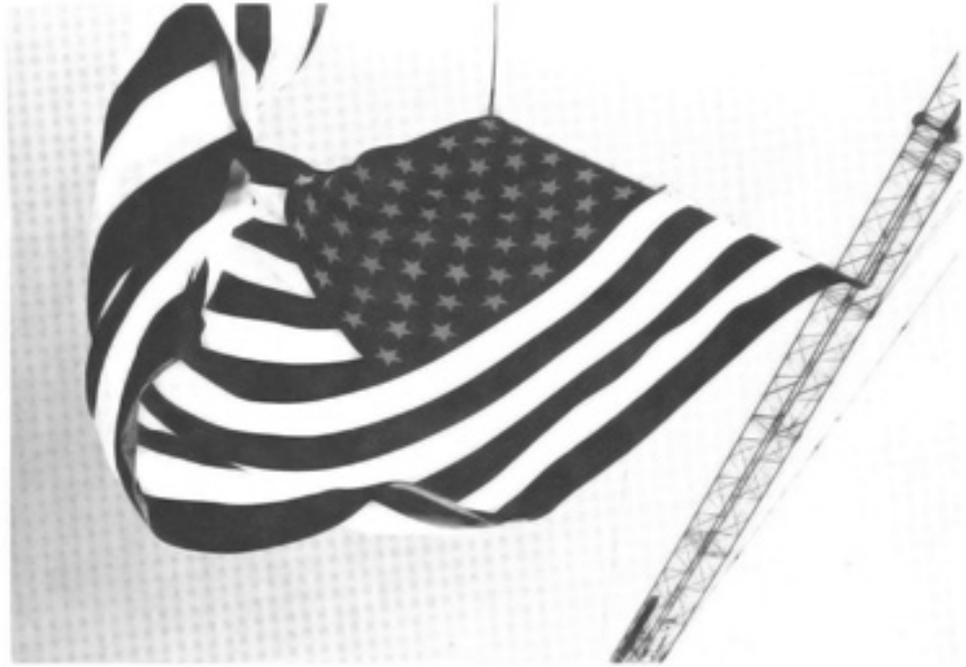
The Tuckahoe Common School District is planning to fly the Mount Rushmore Flag on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 19, 1990 as part of the Town of Southampton's 350th Anniversary celebration. The 300 pound flag will be flown at the Tuckahoe School on Magee Street in Southampton from 12:00 noon to 3:00 P.M.

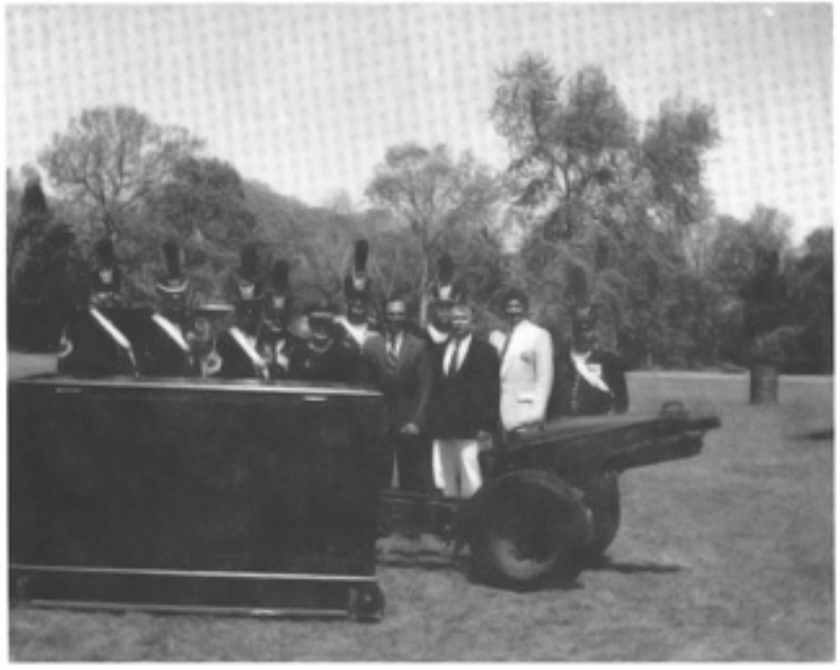
"The Flag is a very special blessing of good will" said the keeper of the flag, Marc Valentine. "The flag belongs to the American people, and as the citizens of Southampton honor it and send it off to its next location they will be sending it off with the good will of the Town to its next destination".

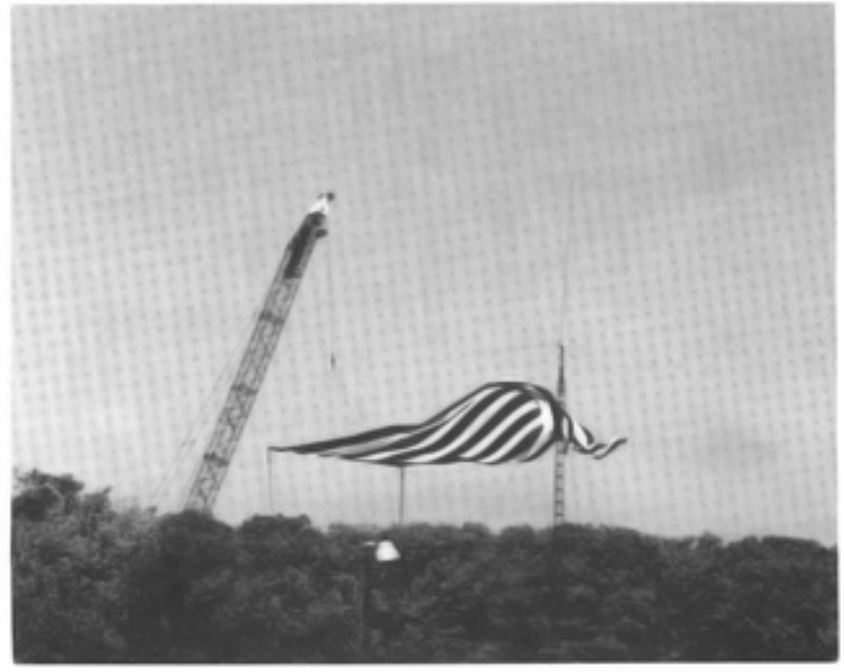
"The presentation of the Mount Rushmore Flag is designed to bring a renewed appreciation of the flag to people all across America - it is a hands-on type of exhibit. It will continue to tour the country stopping at major celebrations and other events".

Although the raising of the flag is always a special event Valentine says, "that people will be amazed at the electricity it generates from place to place as it is raised to "My Country 'Tis of Thee".

SOUTHAMPTON







Huge Flag to Fly at School

Tuckahoe School officials will bring an enormous American flag onto school grounds in two months to kick off the celebration of Southampton Town's 350th anniversary. The event is expected to draw thousands of spectators.

The flag, which measures 45 feet by 90 feet, will be flown over the school on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 19, as part of the town's birthday celebrations, school superintendent Robert Moraghan announced at a press conference last week.

Upwards of 5,000 spectators from throughout Southampton Town are expected to attend and Town Police are making plans for handling the crowds around the small grade school on Magee Street.

Known as the "Mount Rushmore Flag," this oversized version of the stars and stripes is an official exhibit of the National Park Service under the U.S. Department of Interior's "Take Pride in America" campaign. The flag is made available to a limited number of municipalities.

Weighing 300 pounds, the flag is so large that it must be flown from a 3,000 pound steel bar. Its red and white stripes are two and a half feet wide and its blue stars measure two and a half feet from point to point.

The nylon flag was sewn together in Massachusetts three years ago for the 50th anniversary of Mount Rushmore, where it was placed over Abraham Lincoln's carved visage for a grand unveiling ceremony on July 4, 1987. Since that time, it has traveled thousands of miles on a continuous national tour designed to bring a "renewed appreciation" of the American flag, according to the Park Service's Marc Valentine, one of those who attended last week's press conference.

The idea of bringing the Mount Rushmore Flag to Tuckahoe School came about only by chance, the school superintendent explained.

It all began when one of the teachers in the school, Maureen Steigerwald, heard last fall that the flag was supposed to be flown at Sagamore Hill, Theodore Roosevelt's home in Cove Neck, about 70 miles away. She decided to take her fourth-grade class there to see the flag but was forced to cancel the trip after officials at Sagamore Hill couldn't obtain a crane big enough to fly the flag.

"I started thinking about it, that maybe Tuckahoe could do it here," Mr. Moraghan said. He found Mr. Valentine's name on a flyer describing the Mount Rushmore flag and called him at his office in Boston last September.

The Park Service receives hundreds of requests from villages, towns, and cities nationwide, the vast majority of which are turned down for scheduling reasons. But Mr. Moraghan was lucky; his proposal fit perfectly into the Park Service's calendar, and the May 19 date for Tuckahoe was set, Mr. Valentine said.

"Luck and good fortune made it happen," according to Mr. Valentine, the official "keeper of the flag."

The Mount Rushmore Flag was flown in Washington as the official "Flag of the Day" at President George Bush's inauguration. It has also been used at various affairs of state and for celebrating a wide range of other events throughout the United States including town and village birthdays, Mr. Valentine said. The event in Tuckahoe would mark the first time that the flag has flown anywhere in New York State.

Because of the flag's size, it must be flown from a heavy-duty crane standing 154 feet tall. The school superintendent said a local contracting firm, Chesterfield Associates of Westhampton, has already promised to provide a crane at no cost to the school. Montauk Bus Company in Hampton Bays has agreed to sponsor the event, Mr. Moraghan said.

School officials plan to fly the flag over school grounds beginning around 10 a.m. and ending shortly after noon. Coast Guard color guards and a contingent from the Air National Guard are expected to participate in the ceremonies along with many of the children from Tuckahoe School, local fire departments and community service groups.

Hundreds of residents will be asked to take part in the ceremony to lower and fold the flag, Mr. Moraghan said. Dozens of "VIP's" including elected officials at the town, state, and federal levels have been invited to attend. —DOUGLAS P. LOVE

Doug Love, Southampton Press

Tuckahoe School

Super Flag to Soar in Southampton

By Dele Olojede

Hundreds of schoolchildren and parents will help unfurl a gigantic Stars & Stripes next weekend at the Tuckahoe school in Southampton and, if the wind is right and the day clear, the 100-foot-long flag could be seen for miles around, school officials said.

In its first trip to New York State, the Mount Rushmore Flag, sewn for the 50th anniversary of the national landmark, will be flown for three hours at the school as part of activities marking the 350th anniversary of the arrival of English settlers in Southampton.

There may be bigger flags flown in the United States, but it hasn't come to the notice of the keeper of the Rushmore Flag, which was sewn two years ago to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Mount Rushmore. The 50-by-100-foot flag weighs 300 pounds, takes a 100-ton test rope to fly it, a three-ton beam to hold it, and 400 people to fold it. Each stripe is more than 3 feet wide and each star measures 2½ feet from point to point.

"We thought it would be an appropriate symbol for our children to see," Tuckahoe school superintendent Robert Moraghan said yesterday.

Moraghan said the school hit on the idea after a scheduled visit by the schoolchildren to see the flag at Sagamore Hill ended in disappointment. The flag exhibit by the National Park Service at the Oyster Bay birthplace of Teddy Roosevelt did not take place as planned, and school officials decided that if the children could not come to the flag, surely the flag could come to the children.

Moraghan contacted the Park Service, requesting that the flag visit as part of the 350th anniversary of Southampton Town.

"We think that's wonderful," said town historian Robert Keene, who is coordinating the year-long celebration that also involves other school districts and hamlets in the town. "It is by far the biggest project for the whole year."

The flag is stored in a 900-pound cherry wood chest aboard the USS Constitution in the Boston National Historical Park. Elaine Wissel, who works for flag keeper Marc Valentine, said the flag is transported in a truck as it wends its way around the country. It is hoisted by crane to at least 147 feet.

To the tune of "My Country 'Tis of Thee," the flag will fly from noon until 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 19, when it will be folded by volunteers and sent on its way to New Hampshire.

"We're planning on having all of the children and parents to participate," Moraghan said. Also on hand will be members of the Air National Guard based in Westhampton Beach, as well as the U.S. Coast Guard and the Veteran Corps of Artillery.

Keene said as part of the anniversary, Conscience Point in Southampton, where the first English settlers landed, will be rededicated. To recreate that first landing 350 years ago, a small float will bring in eight men, one woman and one child, the same number that had first arrived from Lynn, Mass., whose mayor has also been invited.

By year's end, a time capsule — including the Dec. 31 edition of Newsday — will be buried for the next 100 years.

Take Pride in America!

This land of ours is big, and our responsibility as Americans to preserve and improve it is even bigger. There are 700 million acres of public lands in this country. These mountains, prairies, rivers, lakes and parks are owned by all of us. They are ours to care for. That's a big responsibility.

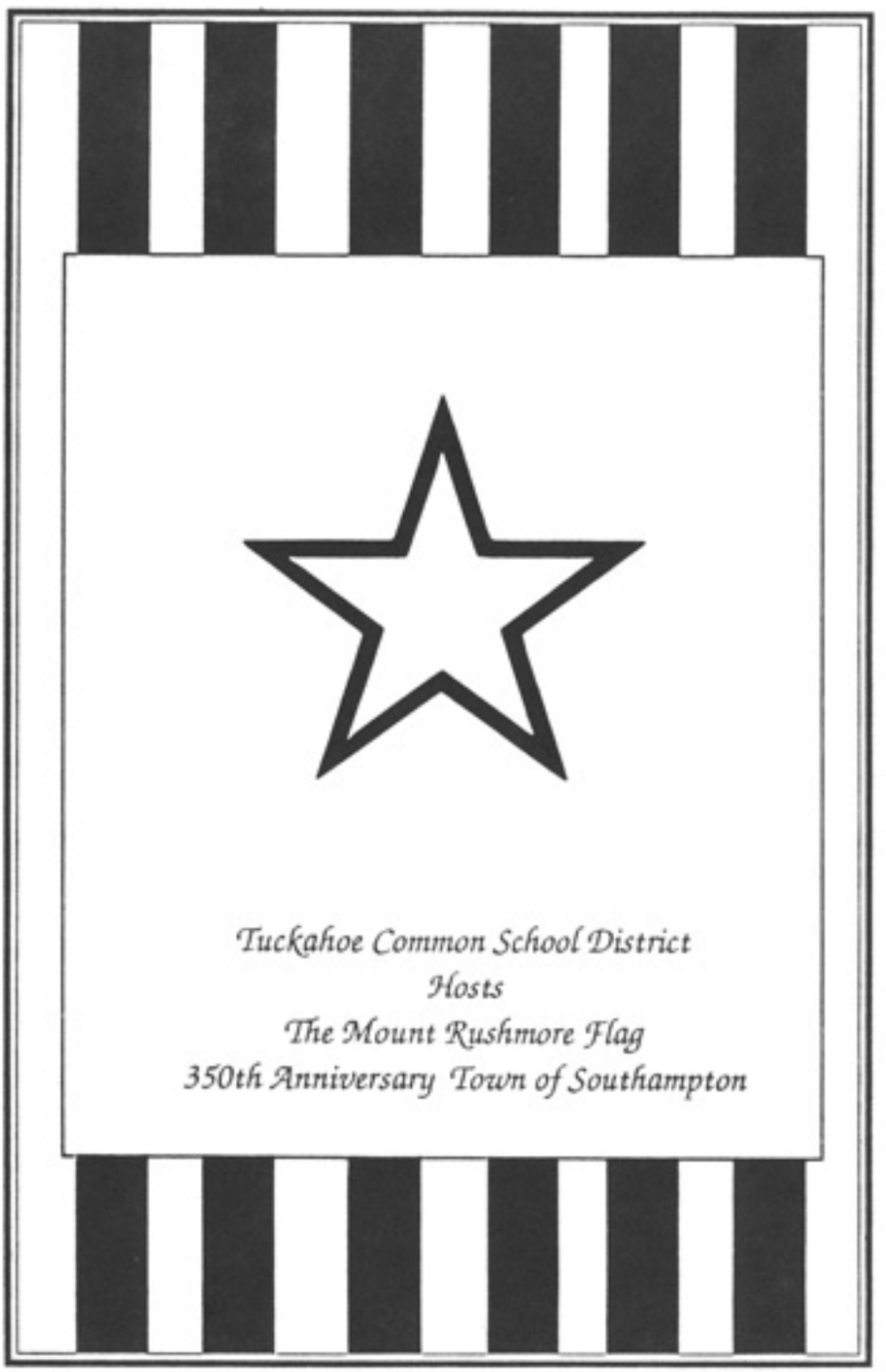
Perhaps that is why the Mount Rushmore Flag and the Take Pride in America campaign are such natural partners. They are as big as the nation they represent, and they symbolize the patriotic duty we all share: to leave our public lands better for future Americans.

Like the Mount Rushmore Flag, our public lands require care, attention and a lot of work. Without it, they both become tattered and worn. You wouldn't want your flag or your country to look like that.

What can you do? Get involved!

Take Pride in America is a nationwide campaign to encourage the wise use of our natural and cultural resources. Americans all over the country are cleaning up litter along beaches, planting trees in city parks, improving hiking trails and teaching kids the proper use of parks, forests and wildlife refuges.

Each year Take Pride in America awards those projects which made a difference in their communities and states. For two consecutive years, the award ceremony has been held in Washington, D.C., with President Reagan and then-Vice President Bush participating.


Tuckahoe Common School District
Hosts
The Mount Rushmore Flag
350th Anniversary Town of Southampton

PROGRAM

12:00 noon May 19, 1990

Welcome - Robert E. Grisnik & Robert Keene

Presentation of Gettysburg Peace Flags - Children of Tuckahoe
& Community Groups

Invocation - Msg. Edward Trench, Sacred Hearts Church

The Mt. Rushmore Flag - Marc Valentine, Department of Interior

Remarks - Guests of Honor

Blessing of the Flag - Rev. Michael Smith, Shinnecock Presbyterian Church

Raising of the Flag - U.S. Coast Guard, Veteran Corps of Artillery
New York Air National Guard

Fly Over - New York Air National Guard

Dismiss the Colors

3:00 P.M.

Lowering of the Flag - the people of Southampton Town

Benediction - Rev. Marvin Dozier

Sponsors

Chesterfield Associates
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Tuckahoe Common School District
Southampton Town 350th Anniversary Committee

Mount Rushmore Flag

Mount Rushmore is our National Shrine to Democracy.

Mount Rushmore is dedicated to the founding preservation and growth of our country as embodied by these four men who never lost sight of the simple concept by which our country was founded. . . and that is that man has the right to be free and to be happy.

The Mount Rushmore Flag was first used to cover the Lincoln Figure on Mount Rushmore. On July 4, 1987, in gusty mountain winds, it was unfurled off the craggy visage of Lincoln in ceremonies marking his 50th anniversary.

The Mount Rushmore Flag was sewn together and dedicated at the Kennedy Library in Boston. It is based at the Boston National Historical Park, the "Freedom Trail", and is stored on board "Old Ironsides", the U.S.S. Constitution.

Weighing 300 pounds, it takes 100 ton test ropes to fly it. . . a bar weighing one and a half tons to hold it and 400 people to fold it. It measures 45 feet by 90 feet.

Touched by thousands of Americans, it is on a continuous national tour and brings with it a very special blessing of "good will."

The Mount Rushmore Flag left the U.S.S. Constitution on Father's Day 1988 for Gettysburg. Here it was flown on the Battlefield, in honor of the 125th anniversary of the battle, as a symbol of our Nation's recommitment to the search for Peace.

Tuckahoe Common School District
Southampton, New York 11968
516-283-3550

Dr. Robert Moraghan,
Superintendent

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Robert L. Gerberew, Chairman
Harald G. Steudte
Robert E. Grisnik

Dear Citizens of Southampton Town,

On Saturday, May 19, 1990 the Board of Trustees, the students and staff of the Tuckahoe Common School District were honored to host the Mount Rushmore Flag and the Gettysburg Peace Flags. We are proud to have presented this historic program as Tuckahoe's contribution to the 350th Anniversary of the Town of Southampton.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for celebrating with us. We would like to thank Marc Valentine and the National Park Service for providing us with direction and guidance. Thanks to Chesterfield Associates for providing us with the crane and our crane operator, Bob Swanson. A special thanks to John Mensch and the Montauk Bus Company for sponsoring the event. Our thanks to all the Town agencies, especially the police department, highway department and the Town Board for their support and cooperation. We would like to thank the clergy, all the veteran, civic, community and fraternal organizations who joined with us in presenting the Mount Rushmore Flag. A special salute to the Coast Guard, the Air National Guard and the Veteran Corps of Artillery. Last but not least, a heart-felt thank you to the students and staff of the Tuckahoe School.

The people of Southampton Town can be proud of their history. The Tuckahoe Common School District is part of that history and we were pleased to participate in the 350th Anniversary of the Town of Southampton.

Sincerely,

Robert Moraghan

Robert Moraghan, Ed.D.
Superintendent

A Flag Flies in Tuckahoe

Cheers Greet Mt. Rushmore Standard

SOUTHAMPTON—Amazing. Inspiring. A magnificent event. The greatest thing to happen in Southampton in 40 years. Almost like a religious ceremony.

"It was so affecting. There were tears in my eyes; I cried," said one mature woman, not easily impressed.

These were some of the comments about the flying of the giant Mount Rushmore Flag from the Tuckahoe School grounds under a bright blue sky on Saturday afternoon, May 19. Not one of the more than 2,000 adults and children who were there will ever forget the day.

The ceremonies were arranged for and sponsored by the Tuckahoe School District's Board of Trustees and School Superintendent Dr. Robert Moraghan as the school's contribution to the town's year-long 350th Anniversary celebration. The flag is an official exhibit of the National Park Service under the Department of the Interior's "Take Pride in America" campaign.

Weeks before the big day, many community components were working closely together to ensure that everything would be ready. Town Highway Department crews swept through the entire area in a massive clean-up program; the Town Parks Department provided trash receptacles; the Town Police devised traffic control plans that included closing off Sebonac Road and North Magee Street during the crucial times and setting up a command post at the school.

The Fire Department and ambulance services provided equipment and personnel at the site, in case of emergencies—which never occurred.

Everything went off on schedule without a hitch.

On Saturday the Southampton Elks Club provided free parking on its large North Highway field, and the Mensch transportation company of Hampton Bays furnished free busing from the field to the school. Chesterfield Associates of Westhampton Beach contributed a 170-foot-high crane, with a 1.5-ton bar that, attached to the flag's 45-foot-long edge, drew the huge 45x90-foot flag slowly from its 900-pound cherry wood chest at the designated time. Bob Swanson was at the crane's controls.

The ceremonies began at 12 noon with brief welcoming addresses by Robert E. Grisnik, chairman of the Tuckahoe School District's Board of Trustees, and by Robert G. Keene, Town Historian and chairman of the town's 350th Anniversary celebration.

Following their remarks, there was a parade of Tuckahoe School children who marched along North Magee Street and Sebonac Road to the school grounds, carrying nine 1863 American flags, the 20x30-foot "Gettysburg Peace Flags" that flew over the famed Civil War battlefield on the battle's 125th anniversary two years ago. The youngsters were accompanied by community groups.

After Monsignor Edward Trench of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church asked the Invocation, Marc Valentine of the Department of the Interior spoke about the Mount Rushmore Flag which was first used to cover the 60-foot-high face of Lincoln carved into the mountain in the Black Hills of South Dakota that is a national monument to four Presidents.

On July 4, 1987, in gusty mountain winds, it was unfurled from the craggy Lincoln face in ceremonies marking the sculpture's 50th anniversary. Saturday was the first time that the giant flag, weighing, it was said, some 420 pounds, has been flown in New York State.

Before the flag was drawn from its cherry wood chest, the Reverend Michael Smith of the Shinnecock Presbyterian Church delivered the "Blessing of the Flag." As the chest was opened, with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Veteran Corps of Artillery, and the New York Air National Guard as Honor Guard, the Coast Guardsmen hooked "Old Glory" to the crane's bar.

Mr. Valentine requested Town Supervisor George Stavropoulos, Deputy Supervisor and Councilwoman Marietta Seaman, Mr. Grisnik, Mr. Keene, and Dr. Moraghan to join him in inspecting and reviewing the flag. The six touched the nylon standard, in what was described as "a touching, silent, solemn moment."

The six then stepped back to join the many community groups who were lined up on the ends of the field, among them the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Rotary Club, Girl Scouts, the Colonial Militia headed by Roy L. Wines Jr., North Sea Lions "Early Settlers, the Fire Department resplendent in red coats, and the Combined Veterans Organization headed by William Frankenbach.

Mr. Valentine gave the orders to crane operator Swanson to lift the flag slowly from its sturdy chest. As it was raised about six to eight feet into the air, it began to fly horizontally, from west to east in the strong winds, taking only a few minutes to reach the height.

And so it flew until 3 p.m., "just like a huge tablecloth over our heads; it stayed level," said one participant. "It cast a huge shadow on the ground."

At intervals during the afternoon there was music, Mr. Valentine explaining to the crowds that it is always inappropriate and impolite to applaud or cheer after the "Star Spangled Banner" is heard. When that selection ended, there was not a sound from the thousands present.

The Veteran Corps of Artillery, the oldest independent command in the country having been founded in 1790 by veterans of Washington's Revolutionary Army, fired four French 75 millimeter cannons many times, the neighbors having been warned in advance of the blanks' noise.

Also during the three-hour period, Supervisor Stavropoulos and Mrs. Seaman presented to Mr. Valentine an official Southampton Town flag, which will be stored in the Mount Rushmore archives. Among those who spoke briefly were Mr. Stavropoulos who gave a short special greeting, ending with "God Bless America;" Mrs. Seaman, who praised the splendid cooperation the sponsors had received from all quarters; County Legislator Fred W. Thiele Jr.; Dr. Moraghan; and Deputy County Clerk Laura Masterson, who presented a proclamation from the county.

Once the flag was flying, Sebonac Road was reopened to traffic, and numbers of spectators left the school grounds temporarily. But more than 600—especially hosts of children—returned later to be on hand for the concluding ceremonies when the flag was to come down.

At precisely 3 p.m. Mr. Valentine gave the order to begin lowering the flag. He told the children to stand underneath it and the adults present to stand on all four sides ready to seize it when it came within reach.

As one of the 400 or so adults participating in the flag-folding explained it, "We grabbed it on the end, the edge. Everyone grabbed a piece of it. We were finger to finger. Marc Valentine ordered a man on one side to walk toward Sebonac Road, to walk it out to the middle of the flag.

"Then men and women on the opposite side did the same in the other direction...Coast Guardsmen folded it in the opposite direction just like a rug. Six of them carried it on their shoulders, walking between hundreds and hundreds of laughing, delighted children and adults.

"There was music, and everybody applauded. Others wanted to touch the flag, and they did." After the flag was lowered, the Reverend Marvin Dozier of Southampton delivered the Benediction, and the flag was funneled into the big chest and loaded onto a flatbed truck.

The truck and its precious cargo left Tuckahoe at 5 p.m. to catch the ferry at Orient Point on their way to Hampton Beach, N.H., for still another ceremony. Next year they return to Mount Rushmore.

—**Portia Flanagan**

The names listed on the following pages made

the publication of this book possible.

Without their financial assistance it could

not have been done. The committee wants to

thank each and every one for their

consideration and generosity.

Conscience Point • Southampton, New York

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TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON
1640
1990
350th ANNIVERSARY

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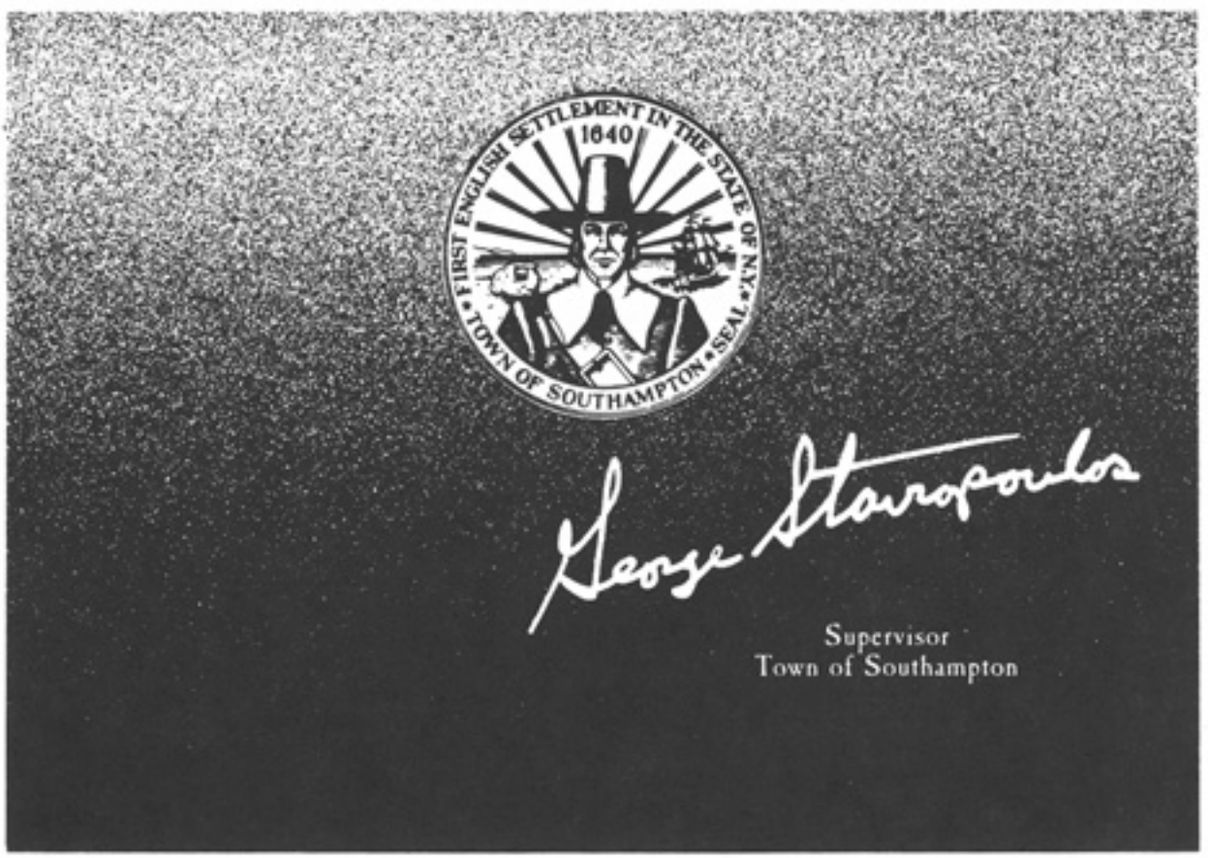

FIRST ENGLISH SETTLEMENT IN THE STATE OF N.Y.
1640
TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON • SEAL •
George Staropoulos
Supervisor
Town of Southampton

JUNE 12, 1990

The 350th Anniversary of the Founding of Southampton

GRAND HISTORICAL COSTUME BALL

The Grand Historical Costume Ball was held in the beautiful auditorium of the Southampton Town Hall. Music was supplied by Lester Lanin, and was continuous from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The auditorium where this Ball took place was beautifully decorated by a committee of women in the Town Hall, headed by Sandy Sullivan.

The Southampton Colonial Militia and the Combined Veteran's Organization were both present at the affair, with the militia adding much color with their attractive, authentically appropriate uniforms.

George Stavropoulos, Town Supervisor and the Town Historian, Robert Keene, both offered a few words of thanks and appreciation to those who put on and participated in this most colorful affair.

At midnight the orchestra played God Bless America, with Colonel Roy Wines and his militia acting as color guards, as the audience joined in to sing along with the music.

For The Celebration of the Sesqui-Tricentennial
of
The Town of Southampton

1640 **1990**

GRAND HISTORICAL COSTUME BALL

Celebrating the 350th Anniversary of Southampton
at
The Southampton Town Hall Auditorium
on
Saturday, November 24th, 1990 9 to 1
LESTER LANIN'S ORCHESTRA
Historical costume or Formal Attire
*
Tickets on sale at Southampton Town Clerk's Office
Call 283-1612
for additional information

from Southampton Press

GALA COSTUME BALL

Tickets are now on sale for the next gala event celebrating Southampton Town's 350th Anniversary: The Grand Historical Costume Ball set for Saturday, November 24, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday in the spacious auditorium of Town Hall on Hampton Road.

Guests will wear costumes representing some period in the town's history—from Colonial times to the present—or, formal attire. The Lester Lanin Orchestra will provide music for dancing, and there is a strong possibility that Mr. Lanin himself will be there in person. There will be an open bar and special refreshments.

Tickets may be purchased in the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Additional information is available from Town Historian Robert Keene at 283-1612.

from Traveler-Watchman

Costume Ball Caps Celebration

Anniversary Panel Promises 'Elegant' Evening

SOUTHAMPTON—With less than two months remaining before the end of the year, a special committee is hard at work planning for a major event celebrating the 350th Anniversary of the Town of Southampton.

The event is the "Grand Historical Costume Ball" that is set for Saturday, November 24, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the spacious auditorium of Town Hall. It is the latest in a series of activities staged throughout the year that have included the flying of the giant Mount Rushmore Flag in May, the rededication of historic Conscience Point in June, and the mammoth Anniversary Parade in August.

The committee in charge promises patrons an unforgettable evening featuring dancing to the music of the renowned Lester Lanin Orchestra, delicious catered hors d'oeuvres, and three bars, all in an elegant setting.

Supervising the decorations are Sandy Sullivan and Veronica Webb, who have planned the decor around a white and red theme. There will be hundreds of red poinsettias; the graceful chandelier in the center of the high ceiling will provide the only lighting, aside from the tasteful white candles on the tables which will be covered by gleaming white cloths.

Tiny white lights will sparkle from tall trees placed around the room's perimeter. Yards of white tulle will be draped across the stage, where the orchestra will provide continuous music.

Before the party, all furniture and equipment suggesting a place where town business is conducted will be removed from the auditorium, according to Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Webb. The result will be an authentic, beautiful ballroom—"elegant," to use their word.

Serving with the two women on the special planning committee, which has been meeting weekly with Town Historian Robert Keene who is in charge of the year-long 350th Anniversary celebration, are Roy L. Wines Jr., Ben Babcock, Evelyn Hansen, Richard B. Foster, and William A. Frankenbach. Tickets, at $50 each, may be obtained from any one of them and at the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Many other persons are helping to make the Grand Historical Costume Ball a success, among them Mardooni Vahradian who is donating all the table-cloths, and the various churches and service organizations such as the American Legion which are lending the chairs.

Anniversary Chairman Keene said that plans are also in the works to have at the party a 350th Anniversary cake, large enough to serve 350 people and with the official town seal decorating its top. He also said that a coat rack is being built to hold 350 coats; the cloak room will be set up in the western part of the Town Hall's lobby, and staffed by two men and two women.

Valet parking will also be among the amenities provided as a convenience for guests, he added.

Mr. Keene also extended a special invitation to Southold residents to come and share the evening's festivities with their Southampton neighbors and friends. Any disagreements about which of the two towns was "the first" to be established—disputes that surfaced briefly over the summer—should be dismissed as inappropriate and unimportant, he said.

For his part, he said, the issue is dead and forgotten; the gala ball should close the book on any such dissension.

Attire for the party is either formal dress or historical costumes. One prospective patron called Town Hall recently to inquire if he could attend dressed as "the Conscience Point Rock"—the commemorative boulder which marks the spot at Conscience Point in North Sea where the first English settlers landed on June 12, 1640.

"I said, why not? It's historic," smiled Mr. Keene. —**Portia Flanagan**

from Traveler-Watchman

Grand Historical Costume Ball

Celebrating the 350th Anniversary of Southampton

SOUTHAMPTON TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM
NOVEMBER 24th, 1990 – 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

LESTER LANIN'S ORCHESTRA

$50.00 per person — only 350 tickets

HISTORICAL COSTUME OR FORMAL ATTIRE

Town Hall Gets Ready for a Grand Ball

By Renee Schilhab Gordon

Valet parking and bathroom attendants are coming to Southampton Town Hall, but the luxuries won't be the result of a municipal budget gone wild. They're part of the Grand Historical Costume Ball set for this Saturday in the Town Hall auditorium on Hampton Road.

As one of the events that will cap this year's 350th anniversary celebration of the founding of Southampton Town, the affair will feature an eight-piece Lester Lanin orchestra, catered hors d'oeuvres and dessert, an open bar and ballroom dancing.

In what organizers are calling an elegant and "high-class" affair, potted trees will glow with tiny white lights, tables will be decorated with candles and tablecloths and a stage will be draped in yards of tulle. An ornate chandelier that remains from the hall's former life as a high school auditorium will sparkle above the heads of dancers—all clad in costumes or "proper attire"—evening gowns, black tie and dark suits.

Organizers, led by the town historian and 350th anniversary committee chairman, Robert Keene, say they hope the affair will be an appropriately festive and celebratory highlight of this year's set of events that has included the Anniversary Parade in Southampton Village in August, the rededication of Conscience Point in North Sea in June and the flying of the National Park Service's enormous Mount Rushmore Flag at the Tuckahoe School in May. The last event scheduled for this year is the burial of a time capsule off Old Town Road, where the first settlement was located near Southampton Hospital, on December 31. The capsule will include such 1990 artifacts as copies of The Southampton Press, Newsday and the New York Times and a copy of a book that the town plans to publish about the 350th anniversary activities.

World-renowned bandleader Lester Lanin, who Mr. Keene says is 82 years old, hopes to attend and may lead the band through a four-hour program of selections from the 1950s, according to Mr. Keene. A resident of New York City, Mr. Lanin used to play drums in a band at the now defunct Herb McCarthy's restaurant and he retains affectionate memories of the area, Mr. Keene said. Mr. Keene said Mr. Lanin learned of the anniversary party through a newspaper article and that he called Mr. Keene and informed him of his desire to conduct a band at the celebration.

"He said, 'Bob, I want to,' " Mr. Keene recalled, stressing that Mr. Lanin would not commit himself to conducting personally for health reasons. Mr. Lanin last conducted one of his orchestras last summer, when he performed for Queen Elizabeth aboard the QE2 yacht, Mr. Keene said.

"When you're on that dance floor with a girl and that band plays, you have to dance. You just glide across the floor," said Mr. Keene, adding that the event will be broadcast live on WLNG radio.

While organizers this week were working feverishly on last-minute preparations and the red, white and green decorations for the ball, some organizers on Monday said they are worried that they won't be able to sell enough tickets to fill the cavernous auditorium.

Mr. Keene has said he would like to sell 350 tickets— the hall can legally hold 350 people and the number would symbolize the town's anniversary—but that 150 or 200 would make the party a success, he said. The ball is not a fund-raiser. Ticket sales will be used to pay for the event; profits, if any, will be donated to the town.

Ticket sales must generate a minimum of about $4,000 to pay for the event, the cost of which is being covered by private donations to the 350th anniversary committee sought over the year by Mr. Keene and other committee members. The orchestra, which is one of the primary expenses, will cost about $4,000. The price of the catered food will be based on the number of people who attend; the cost of alcohol and soft drinks will depend on quantities consumed, Mr. Keene said. Volunteers will provide services like valet parking and act as bathroom attendants. Some items are being offered to the committee at a discount or will be donated. Hampton Arrow Laundry's Mardooni Vahradian will donate tablecloths. Tables are being borrowed from local churches and Southampton Hospital.

Mr. Keene said the affair has been promoted through an advertisement in The Southampton Press, public service announcements on WLNG radio, through stories in the media and simply through "talking about it for the last year." He said that most people already know about the party because he said it has been mentioned in the press many times.

Committee member William A. Frankenbach on Monday morning said that only about 100 of the $50 tickets have been sold so far. But Mr. Keene said Tuesday that ticket sales started picking up Monday afternoon when people heard that black-tie dress was no longer required. The Town Clerk's office began getting more calls and some committee members informed Mr. Keene that they had sold their original allotment of 10 tickets apiece, Mr. Keene said.

"There was a little resistance at first. People thought that if they had to rent a tux, it would be big bucks," Mr. Frankenbach said.

The party was originally promoted as a black tie affair. In an attempt to draw a larger crowd, the dress code has been relaxed to allow dark suits and ties. Mr. Keene, however, insisted this week that the dress code was never intended to be black-tie only and that he had made "a mistake" when he called for formal dress. He said he had meant all along to call only for "proper attire"; his intention was never to exclude anyone

There also has been some confusion about what kind of costumes should be donned for the affair, said Mr. Keene, who said he will wear a tuxedo. He said most people assumed they must wear historical costumes relating to Southampton's settlement in 1640. That assumption isn't true. Although one person has inquired about the appropriateness of dressing as the Conscience Point rock, people can wear costumes relating to any period throughout the last 350 years, including the Civil War and Vietnam War and flapper era, Mr. Keene said.

There has been some confusion about what should be donned for the affair...

Organizers said they hope that more people will buy tickets on the day of the affair, when tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets are also available at the Town Clerk's office, which on Monday morning said it had sold only seven, and through committee members including Mr. Frankenbach and Mr. Keene, Planning Board Chairman Roy L. Wines Jr and Richard Foster, the Southampton Village Historian.

Mr. Keene rejected the idea that the location of the party at Town Hall might discourage some people from attending. "It's the most beautiful ballroom in New York State!" he exclaimed proudly. "It's the most glamorous place in town. Anyone who went to high school there would know that.'

Mr. Keene said he hopes that a wide range of Southampton residents will attend, including summer residents who may be familiar with Mr. Lanin and his orchestras. So far, most tickets have been purchased by "people who are active in the community," he said, like Mr. Frankenbach and Mr. Wines. Among those who have bought tickets are Southampton Town Supervisor George Stavropoulos, Town Justices Edward P. Sharretts and Mercator C. Kendrick, Town Highway Department Superintendent William Masterson, Southampton Village Tax Receiver Betty Micallef and Village Historian Mr. Foster.

from Southampton Press

Final event planned in 350th celebration

By Tim Gannon

The celebration of Southampton Town's 350th anniversary--or sesqui-tricentennial, if you prefer--will come to a close on Saturday, November 24, with the final event in the year-long celebration, a "Grand Historical Costume Ball."

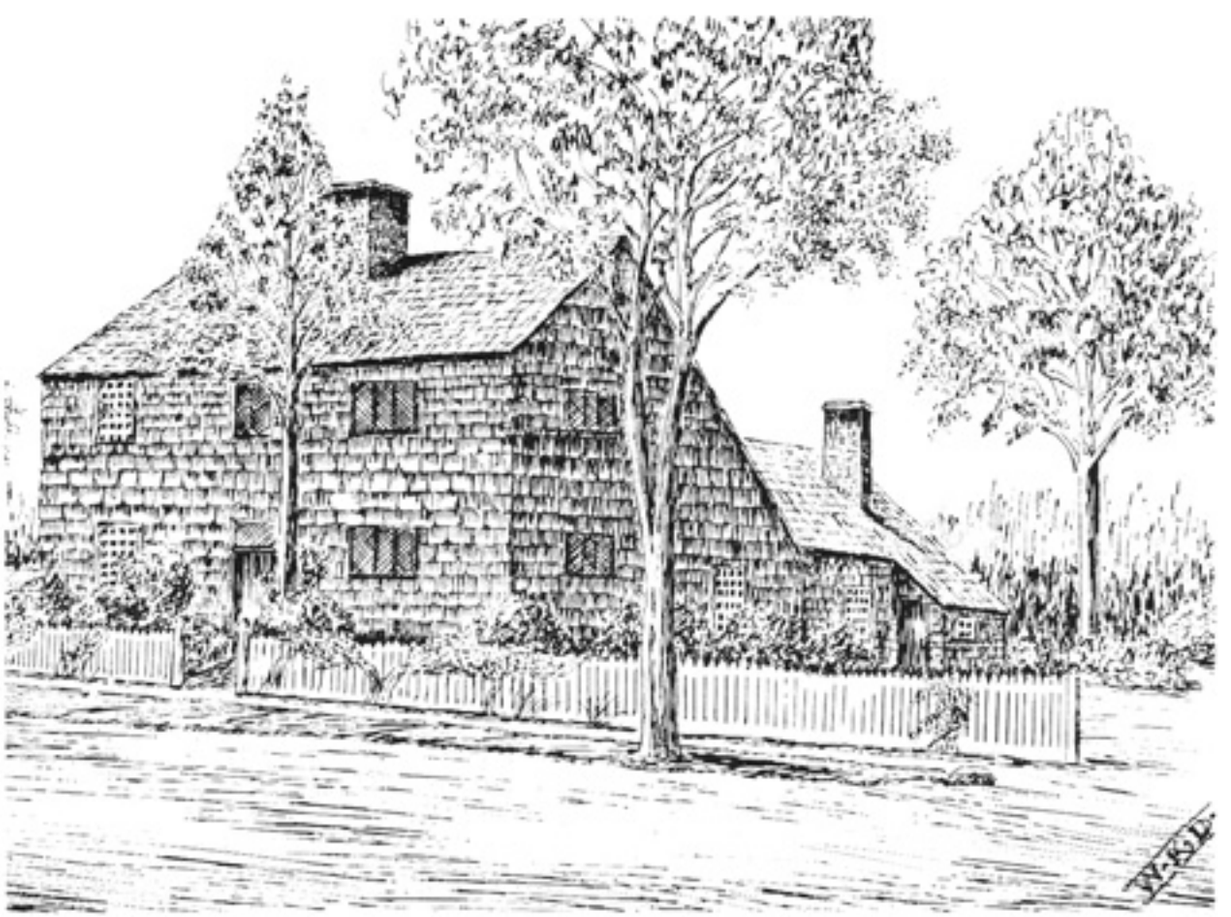
The event will take place from nine p.m. to one a.m. in the auditorium of Southampton Town Hall on 116 Hampton Road, according to Town Historian Bob Keene. Music will be provided by the Lester Lanin Orchestra, a popular group in the 1940s and 1950s who have "performed all over the world" according to Keene. Tickets to the event are $50 each, and only 350 will be available.

Keene said some people may have been intimidated by the dress requirements listed in press releases publicizing the event, which urged "historical costumes or formal attire." Keene said the cost of renting a tuxedo can approach $100 and added that simple "formal dress" will suffice.

The celebration of the town's 350th anniversary has been marked with numerous events during the year. Among these were: the flying of the Mount Rushmore flag (believed to be the largest in the country) over Tuckahoe; a re-enactment of the settlers' landing at Conscience Point; and a special parade commemorating the sesqui-tricentennial.

Southampton is recognized by the state as being the oldest English settlement in New York State, according to Keene, who said it was founded by settlers from Lynn, Massachusetts who landed at Conscience Point in 1640. Southold Town was also founded in 1640, which has led to many debates between the two towns as to which was actually founded first. Anyone seeking more information is urged to call Keene at either 283-6000 or 283-1612.

from Suffolk Life



The Old Halsey House

There'll Be Dancing as Well as a Parade

THE 350TH anniversary parade will be held in Southampton next Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. There will be more than 50 historical floats, each depicting an event or place in the 350 years of Southampton Town. The parade also will include 15 bands and several marching units. The parade is being put on by the Combined Veterans' Organization for the Town of Southampton and its 350th Anniversary Committee, and is expected to be a landmark affair.

On Saturday, Nov. 24, there will be a Grand Costume Ball in the auditorium of the Southampton Town Hall. Costumes must be of some historical period of the past 350 years or formal (black tie) dress.

For more information, call town historian Robert Keene at 283-1612.

There will be several additional events throughout the town and, as more information becomes available, it will be announced. Those interested in the town's history may want to visit some of the historic sites, including the oldest wood-frame building in New York State, the Old Halsey Homestead on South Main Street in Southampton. It's open daily except Monday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until Sept. 12.

from Newsday

Rare Affair

The big hearing room in Town Hall on Saturday night will be twinkling with candlelight and throbbing to the beat of Lester Lanin's dance band. For months, the town's 350th Anniversary Committee under the leadership of Town Historian Robert Keene has been planning the upcoming costume-or-black-tie ball as a grand event in the town's celebration of its founding in 1640. Now the ball is almost here and a good supply of tickets remains to be sold.

The ball and its organizers deserve a last-minute rush of ticket takers; it would be tragic to let a well-intentioned but somewhat disorganized promotional effort keep a lid on what should be a memorable and downright delightful event. A famous band, candlelight, an array of twinkling white lights like stars, hors d'oeuvres from the Post House, open bar and the finest of everything will make for a great and unforgettable evening.

Call Town Clerk Ken Thommen at 283-6000 for information and tickets. Some tickets also will be available at the door, which opens at 9 p.m. on Saturday, November 24. A historical costume or formal wear is no longer required, it was announced this week, but men should wear a dark suit. Tickets are $50 each, a bargain for an evening of dancing, refreshments and fun.

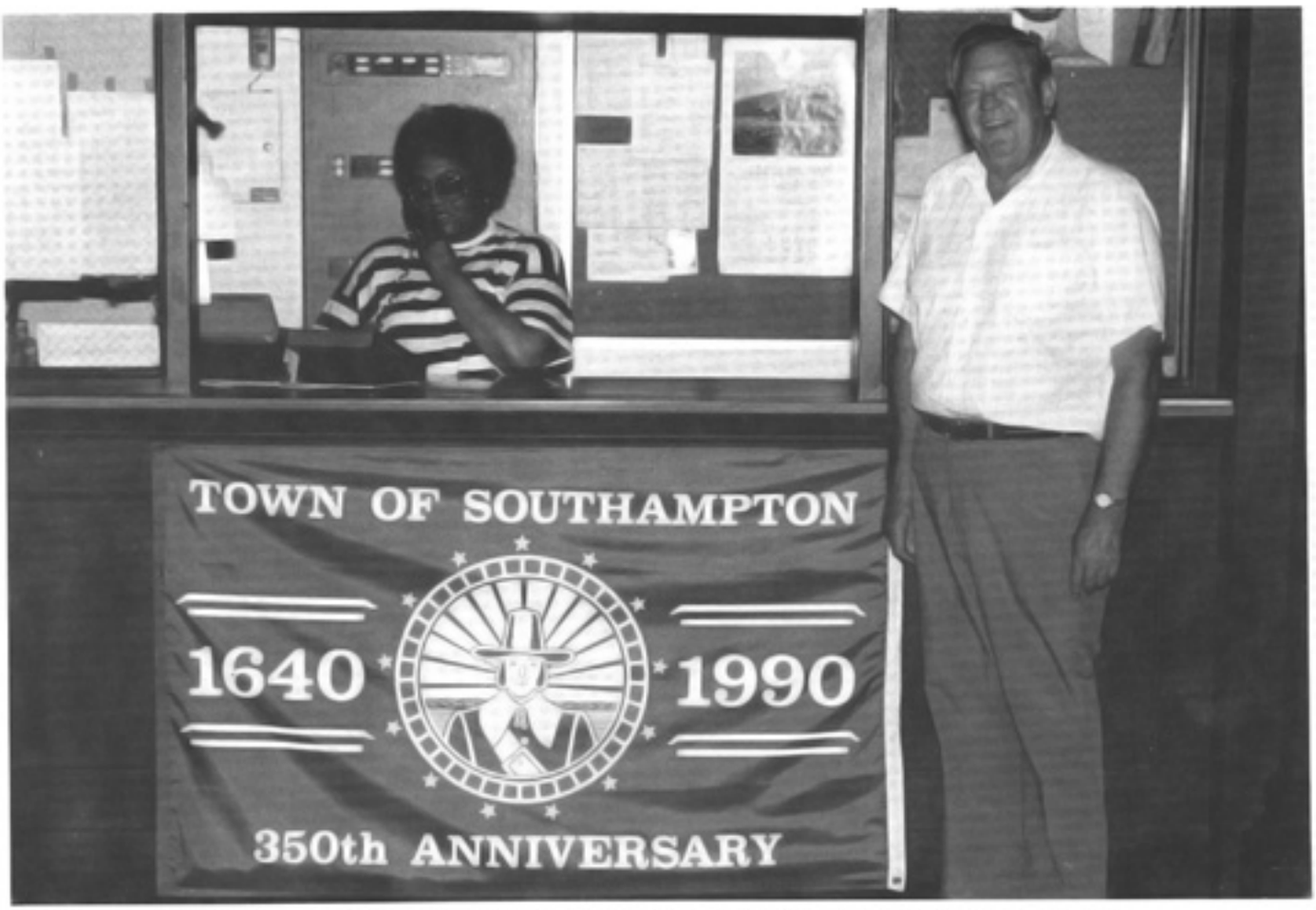
Come on, put on your dancing shoes. How many chances do you get to go to a ball around here? Come celebrate your town's past and make a little history in the process.

left to right, Richard Foster, Southampton Village Historian, Jennifer Foster, John Foster, Robert Keene, Town Historian, and Mrs. John Foster at the Historical Costume Ball. —Irl Flanagan photo

The Southampton Colonial Militia, with Colonel Roy Wines at far left. Note William Frankenbach holding microphone at far right, on the stage, as everyone sang "God Bless America." —Irl Flanagan photo

Robert Keene, Town Historian and George Stavropoulos, Town Supervisor, greeting the audience at the Historical Costume Ball. —Irl Flanagan photo

Gloria Johnson at the Historical Costume Ball. —Irl Flanagan photo



Betty Gilliam at the Information Booth at the Town Hall, with Town Clerk, Ken Thommen at right. —Irl Flanagan photo

Gloria Johnson and the Town Historion at the entrance to the Town Auditorium, during the Historical Costume Ball.
—Ted Curry photo

Chris and Jennifer Stress, Mark and Linda McLain, and Joe and Sandy Raynor in Colonial garb at the Historical Costume Ball
—Ted Curry photo

Southampton's History

by Robert Keene

The Town of Southampton was the first English settlement in New York. It was settled in 1640 by a small group of men and women from Lynn, Massachusetts, who arrived at what is now known as North Sea on June 12th of that year.

What is now New York State was controlled by the Dutch at the time this group from Lynn arrived in Southampton. They had not, at first, settled on the eastern end of the Island. When the small boatload of settlers left Lynn to come to Long Island to find a new home, they landed first in a place called Cow Bay, near what is now Manhasset, on western Long Island, on the Sound. After going ashore they immediately commenced constructing shelters. They were there only a short time when the Dutch authorities, having been notified by local Indians of the intruders, demanded that they leave.

The group then went to New Haven, in Connecticut, a leading English colony. After staying there for several weeks, they again set sail in their small boat (pinnace) and this time went directly to North Sea where they landed on June 12th. Historians have reason to believe that the abortive settlement in Cow Bay was not an accident, but was planned by those who arranged for the Lynn group to come to Long Island. It was most likely an attempt to sound out the Dutch to see just how close to Manhattan they could get without being molested.

The settlers who landed first totalled less than a dozen. According to legend there were eight men, one woman, and one child. It was this one woman who was reputed to have said, "For conscience sake, we are on dry land." Because of what the woman is supposed to have said, that spot near the landing place is called Conscience Point.

When that small boat landed on June 12, 1640, the people in it were the first white people who had come to Long Island to stay. For over 100 years prior to that time the many European explorers, who had discovered and mapped most of the east coast of America, had become acquainted with Indians. Indians of the north and east and others from the vicinity of the Virginia settlements had known and passed on their knowledge of the white people coming to their lands. Also, a year before the landing in North Sea, Lion Gardiner had established his little colony on the island a few miles away that was to bear his name. And, as early as 1633, Governor Winthrop of the Plymouth Colony had made a voyage to Long Island to seek out possible settlement sites and most likely not only landed near the future Southampton but met and became friendly with some of the Indians.

There were, in 1640, 13 tribes on Long Island, of which the Shinnecocks were one and, by far, not the largest or most powerful of the tribes. The leader of the Long Island Indians at that time was Wyandanch of the Montauket tribe near what is today Montauk. In general, all the Long Island tribes were peaceful. They needed the protection and friendship of each other because to the north and east were the Narragansetts and the Pequots, who often extorted tribute from them. It was undoubtedly this sense of needing protection that prompted the Shinnecocks to show instant friendship to the settlers.

The entire recorded history of the Indians on Long Island is one of friendship toward the white people who continued to arrive. Furthermore, it is almost certain that from the very first, when one treaty after another was made with the Indians, that they had no concept whatever of what land ownership was. The relationship between the whites and the Indians were very little different on eastern Long Island than they were in other parts of the country. That the Indians were duped out of their lands unfairly by the greed and avarice of landowners and speculators, there is no doubt. Little by little, from total ownership in 1640, the founders and their descendants took more and more, by treaty and in other ways, until the last straw, in 1859, when the Shinnecock Indians were shunted off to what is now known as the Shinnecock Reservation in exchange for giving up all their rights to the entire Shinnecock Hills forever. This was all done with State approval and with the State's blessing. The only redeeming factor is that the Shinnecocks actually own their reservation, now an extremely valuable piece of choice land. The land is theirs and all income derived from it is divided among the members of the tribe. Today, the Shinnecock tribe is the only large size group left of the original 13 but, in 350 years, they have lost practically all the ancestral lands they had held for centuries. The story is familiar but the fact that it happened in Southampton somehow makes it seem even more unfair.

The Indians had been helpful from the very first moment of contact with the little group of settlers and proceeded to assist them in many ways; showing them how to get to the ocean, how to find the best and sunniest locations for their shelters, and then assisting them in planting their few crops. The spot to which they led the settlers is today called Old Town. The location of the spot is known almost exactly and the area of the original shelters can still be seen. Located just adjacent to Old Town Road, only a few hundred yards from the ocean and protected on the west and north by the forest, the Old Town faced east and south, thus receiving any advantage of sun and mild weather.

The original deed or warrant from James Farrett indicated that the original group of settlers was to have eight miles square of land between bay and ocean; not eight square miles, which is considerably less. This area covered, generally, all the land from what is now Sagaponack to the Shinnecock Canal, and from Peconic Bay to the Atlantic Ocean.

The first winter was spent at Old Town in shelters the settlers literally dug out of the small hill or bank on the west side of the site. They apparently enlarged these holes and caves with logs, branches, brush, and whatever else they could use. But, as primitive as they were, they carried the settlers through eight winters while they were slowly building their permanent homes about a mile away on what is now known as Main Street, then called "Ye Towne Street".

During their first summer, the settlers planted what crops they could, probably corn, wheat or a similar cereal, and flax, along with a few green vegetables. They subsisted on the plentiful fish, shellfish, birds and waterfowl, and the small animals, such as rabbits, that were everywhere. The Indians showed them the best ways to plant corn (maize), and the proper way to trap the animals, and how to harvest the sea and the bays. It was part of the agreement made by the agent, Farrett, that the Indians were to receive a certain amount of corn, along with other items, in payment for the eight miles square of land they "set downe on".

In 1648, or thereabouts, the settlers began to move to their permanent homes in the area of Ye Towne Street, with homes bordering on Town Pond (Agawam Lake). With the church having been erected near the site of the present hospital on Meeting House Lane and Old Town Road, and the first burial ground on what is now Little Plains Road, the founding of the future Town of Southampton was begun. From then on the community was organized, laws were made and enforced, and the foundation of the first English settlement in New York State was well established.

When the first lots were laid out and allotted to heads of families and the first houses were built, the breakdown was as follows:

To each head of a family: 3 acres for a house lot
12 acres for cultivating
34 acres for grazing lands plus shares in common woodlands, primarily north of the present site of Southampton Village.

The people supplied their own needs for the most part in those first years. Being almost entirely self-sufficient, they made their own clothing, their hardware, their medicines and home remedies; they tanned their animals' hides for leather, raised flax and wool for cloth and clothing, and made their own utensils out of wood and pewter. They depended little on the outside world for their everyday needs. All the time the building of the permanent settlement was going on, more and more families were arriving and, by 1698, a census showed that the population of the town was as follows:

389 male Christians
349 female Christians
40 Negro men
40 Negro women
152 Indians and 2 merchants.

During the American Revolution Southampton was, for practically the entire conflict, occupied by British troops. Long Island being lost to the British early in the war and with very little actual military activity taking place, the residents settled down and carried on the best way they could, with a couple of exceptions.

A fairly large number of families on eastern Long Island, especially in Southampton Town, refused to knuckle down under British military rule and subsequently moved over to Connecticut which was not under British occupation. For the most part, they all returned after the Revolution and carried on as before.

The commanding officer of the British troops in Southampton was General Erskine and his subordinate in Bridge Hampton was a Major Cochrane. History has recorded General Erskine to be a gentleman and a fair and understanding enemy but Major Cochrane has come down through history as a tyrant of sadistic and brutal habits. But, in general, the occupation by the British was not too much of a hardship for the residents of Southampton except that they were forced to feed the occupation troops and supply fodder, grain, and other foodstuffs and British men-of-war came into Sag Harbor for that purpose.

One outstanding military action on eastern Long Island was Colonel Meigs' raid on Sag Harbor. In 1777 an expedition consisting of 170 men, mostly from Long Island, sailed across Long Island Sound from Connecticut in whaleboats. They landed briefly near East Marion where they dragged their boats across the narrow neck, then continued across the Bay and landed just west of Sag Harbor, undetected under cover of darkness. They managed to destroy 12 British ships anchored in Sag Harbor and destroyed, by burning, a very large amount of forage and foodstuffs which the British troops were shipping to other places. They also killed six men, captured 90 prisoners, and never lost a man, returning to Connecticut within 25 hours of their initial departure. It was a tremendous morale booster for the American troops, not only in New England but throughout the American armies.

Following the end of the American Revolution and for nearly a century thereafter Southampton continued its normal growth with farming, fishing, and whaling, all contributing to the economy and welfare of eastern Long Island. Families, as in all America at that time, were large and by this time most children received a basic education, going to school at least through the primary grades where they learned to read and write and figure. A great many of the young men went off to sea, first in coastal trading vessels, and later on the many whalers sailing out of Sag Harbor. Returning from these voyages, some of these young men, seasoned in the ways of the outside world, were content to settle down on the old homestead again but, for others, their travels had awakened an even deeper thirst for knowledge and, one by one, they went on to higher learning; some to secondary schools and others to college to become lawyers, doctors, etc. and, by the middle of the 19th century, Southampton already had several men of distinction including judges, highly respected attorneys, and doctors.

Whaling was begun in Southampton almost immediately upon the arrival of the first settlers. Prior to their coming the Indians, particularly the Shinnecocks, were already greatly adept at catching whales near the shore. The first white settlers in Southampton joined them and, on learning the art of catching whales, built their own boats. Within a short time several groups, known as whaling companies, were formed. A continuous watch was kept and, on the first signal of "Whale Off", a boat was launched and the pursuit was on.

It has been generally acknowledged that whaling in America began in Southampton with those first whaling companies operating close to shore. The art and craft spread rapidly and the whalers found it necessary, as time went on, to go farther and farther out to sea in order to catch whales. Then, gradually, and by the end of the 18th century, Sag Harbor whalers were sailing out of that port to the far oceans of the world to come back with hundreds of barrels of oil and thousands of pounds of bone, often making the captains and owners wealthy men.

Sag Harbor, a natural seaport, soon became known the world over as a major whaling port and Sag Harbor ships and their whalers were known in every port. Soon the Village of Sag Harbor, which is situated half in Southampton Town and half in East Hampton Town, became a thriving seaport town. It had a customs house dating from 1788 that had made it a port of entry. It continued to grow as a port and a major whaling center until 1850 when the gold discoveries in California became more enticing than the search for whales; many Sag Harbor whaling vessels were abandoned on the California waterfront because their crews had caught gold fever. Then, shortly after, oil was discovered in Pennsylvania and after that the demand for whale oil diminished drastically. Whaling, and Sag Harbor, carried on for a few more years but the past glory never returned.

However, Southampton would not wait another 200 years before further changes came. Almost simultaneously with the passing of the whale ships and the great seaport era of Sag Harbor came the first railroad to the east end. By 1870 it had reached Bridge Hampton and, shortly after, a spur was extended to Long Wharf in Sag Harbor. Subsequently extensions were to go further east to East Hampton and to Montauk, thus completing the link from Brooklyn to the east end of Long Island.

Once the railroad arrived in Bridge Hampton, it brought visitors in great numbers, mostly from New York City. They came to see and enjoy the unspoiled beauty of the magnificent beaches and to rusticate in an atmosphere of unsurpassed rural beauty and unique native hospitality.

From one end of Southampton to the other, and from Peconic Bay to the Atlantic Ocean, rooming houses, boarding establishments, and small summer hotels were springing up everywhere. Families with a spare room and space at the table were "taking in" boarders by the day, week, and season. Thus it was that the Southampton that had been more or less dormant for some 250 years had for the first time, with the exception of the fame of Sag Harbor, become known beyond its boundaries. And, by the time another hundred years had passed, it would be fully established as one of the great summer resorts of the world and its name would be synonymous with quality, beauty, famous people, and the very rich. The entire coastline from Sagaponack in the east to Westhampton Beach in the west, and beyond, was to become host to countless thousands of summer visitors and a permanent year-round home for thousands more. The population was to increase over and over again in every decade for the next century. No longer was farming and other rural pursuits to be the major industry and product of Southampton.

Not only did the resort villages in Southampton continue to grow and prosper after the end of the 19th century but so did the smaller hamlets and settlements throughout the Town. Each and every one of them, from Flanders to Noyack, played a very important part in the growth and expansion of the Town as a whole. Some had small resort communities of their own.

Actually the year 1895 is regarded as the great turning point in physical Southampton. It was at that time, give or take a year or two, that the large public buildings, libraries, museums, banks, etc., large estates, business establishments, and larger local homes were started and/or built. It was during this period that the golf clubs, private clubs, bathing stations, and the churches were being set up and built.

The first phase of Southampton's growth, having lasted from 1885 until 1913, ended when the first federal income tax went into effect. Following almost immediate on the heels of that bad news for the very rich came the beginning of World War One. Then, until the boom days of the twenties, Southampton more or less marked time.

The 1950's were still closer to the past than the present in Southampton, with a smattering of the original summer colony still around, they having been children at the turn of the century. By this time the fourth generation of the original summer families were grown and a great many of them were still coming to Southampton in the summer. But it was in the fifties that the crack in the door to the outside world began to open wider and wider and, by the time the

sixties arrived, along with the "great society", a whole new scene was being played on the streets and on the beaches of Southampton. The tourists, of course, found their way here in droves and so did movie stars, the Broadway crowd, the literary set, and the art world. Then, by the 70's, there was very little of the old days and ways left to remind one of the way things were. The big money was here, along with its foreign investors who brought in condominiums, housing developments, giant double-decked motels, New York restaurants, bars, and exotic night spots. Celebrities were a dime a dozen and famous writers and movie queens were common sights on the streets of all the Hamptons.

Today, with all this, Southampton is still one of the fine resort areas left on the east coast. With Newport a year-round city, and Bar Harbor only a tourists' paradise, and Saratoga and Tuxedo mere shadows of their grand pasts, only the Hamptons remain and act as a giant human magnet that attracts the rich and famous.

Celebration

To the Editor:

On this 350th birthday, I celebrate Southampton.

I celebrate the pristine beaches that I can walk alone after the summer people have fled; the star-studded sky that is clearly visible most nights (exclusing foggy ones).

I celebrate the hominess, the coziness, the friendly faces of the local merchants eager to please; the low crime rate, the lack of other nasty aspects associated with city life, like congestion and homelessness.

On this day, I celebrate Southampton...its peace, its beauty, its uniqueness. There is no place on earth quite so lovely as here, as here at home.

Happy Birthday, Southampton!

Sincerely,
DIANNE MORITZ
Southampton

A letter that appeared in the Southampton Press
on November 11th, 1990...