

Newsletter, vol. V, no. 1, November 18, 2005

## President's Report

### Notes, Narration, and Natter *from Gerri Gibney*

People make an organization. People of like-mind, with a common purpose, who have enthusiasm and dedication, and a willingness to go the extra mile make a great organization, and that's the kind of people who are our Society's Executive Committee.



Figure 2: Bart Talamini, retiring as Society Treasurer

Let me give you a little background as to how two of those people were "recruited" to serve our then fledgling organization about four years ago. Knowing that we needed officers and committee chairs to get the Society up and running, I called **Bart Talamini** to ask if he would be willing to serve as Treasurer. Now as we all know, the Treasurer's job is not for everybody, but knowing a little about Bart, I thought I'd take a shot at asking him. I knew he was a very busy and involved man, dedicated to his family, and deeply involved with various volunteer organizations, including sports for kids. I had it all laid out, I'd tell him; I have an opportunity for you, take your time, think about it, I know your love of history, and more. To my surprise and astonishment, I asked, and he said "yes, sure." I should have known. Bart brought to our Committee a level-headedness, kindness, and especially his love of people that won't soon be forgotten. Yes, Bart has decided to move on, and although we understand, we will sorely miss him.

Now, let me tell you about our other "recruit" who has decided to take a hiatus in her leadership role as Membership Chair. **Lorraine Wolfangel-Hall** came to our very first meeting, and I just knew that her interest and her enthusiasm were there for our newly invigorated Society. Although I did not know Lorraine, there are those people who you just know are "right." "Right" is not nearly right-enough to describe Lorraine and her passion for the Society. Although she was a busy Mom, a volunteer for all things H.P., and a faithful servant of her church, when I asked, she too said "yes." She would accept a position, as long as she could do it properly. Well, properly she did, and then some. We can

credit Lorraine's dedication to our substantial growth in membership. She made the calls to remind folks of meetings, to please pay their dues (always with a smile), to come out and support our fun functions and our fundraisers. She also brought lots of good ideas to keep our Society growing. We will miss her zest and gusto for the Society, and her good and kindly humor on the Board, and especially her wit. We know we have not heard the last from Miss Lorraine, we know she's just bursting with new and fresh ideas for the Society.

Four very big shoes to fill, but filled they have been. We'd like to welcome the new members of our team. First, let me introduce **Michelle Ryan** as our new Membership Chair. And, second, not really a new member of the Board since she now serves as Vice-President, **Regina Potter**, who will also serve as Treasurer. We thank them for so readily and willingly taking on these responsibilities. Both these gals are involved and active in various volunteer, civic, and church-related activities and we know they will bring their experiences and drive to enhance our organization as well.

So far the Society year has been an exciting and productive one. We've had great and varied speakers; from Basil Kio, W.W. II veteran and President of the S.S. Ling Association, Thomas Casey, Rockland County Historian, and Abigail Adams portrayed by Kim Hanley of the American Historical Theater. Each one brought their expertise and love of subject to a grateful audience. In December we will travel north to the '76 House in Tappan for our Holiday Outing. Many people have told me this occasion, for them, is the kick-off event for their holiday festivities. This year we have a Holiday Concert, which will feature Ridley and Ann Enslow who perform in period costumes with violin and dulcimer. The concert will feature songs, humor, and stories of Early America. I have heard one of their CD's, and I can tell you they are fantastic. The '76 House promises to make our victuals for the evening fantastic too! Lots of hors d'oeuvres and nibbles, and a sweet, too, along with coffee and tea. Adult beverages, you are on your

own - it will be a cash bar. The date is Monday, December 5th. If you are planning on attending,



*Figure 3: Lorraine Wolfangel-Hall in memorable Memorial day costume [2004]*

please call me at 201 768-2615 right away. The cost is \$20.00 members (if you have not sent in your dues, now is a good time to do it), and \$25.00 non-members. Be sure to invite friends, neighbors, and relatives - this is a night for all! Just a thought - if you are undecided about a Christmas gift, why not invite that someone to the concert as your guest - what a super present! Plan to be at the '76 House by 7:15 P.M. to check-in. This is a reservation only event, so don't delay, call me.

I'm happy to report that an additional \$310.50 was added to the fund for the preservation of the "Old Burying Ground" as a result of "The Ghosts of the Old Burying Ground" presentation. A great big thanks goes out to **Charlie Kruger**, writer and director of the production; to the ghost actors; **Anne Kruger, Michelle Ryan, Regina Potter, Charlie Jack Kruger, and Jacob Jubilee Kruger**; to our greeter, **Clare Gorek**, and for his historical contribution, **Davis Ross**. And to all the others who answered the call as actors to help at this event - a

sincere thanks. If you missed this great success, put on your calendar right now the last Sunday in October - they'll be back...

While I am speaking of the "Old Burying Ground" and its preservation, I am delighted to report that we have \$2100.00 dedicated to the Cemetery Fund. We will be having some tree pruning and work at the cemetery most likely in December, and we'd like to thank Dino and Marcello of the Roman Café for giving us permission to access the cemetery site from their property. The next time you are enjoying the delicious food at the Roman Café be sure to



*Figure 4 A recent heavy branch blown down, fortunately missing nearby head- and foot stones.*

thank them for their help.

I'm sure you have noticed by now that we have a new masthead for our newsletter. This new design was developed and designed by **Mr. Andrew Oakes**. Isn't it terrific! This is the new look of the Society, and we just love it. Thank you, Mr. Oakes. And, if our cup hasn't overflowed enough with Mr.

Oakes' design, we now welcome **Clare Gorek** to the newsletter, who will be putting together the layout and mechanics of this publication. Clare, with her good humor, said "sure" I'll be happy to help. Thanks!

Story boards depicting accounts and letters taken from "The Bugle," the W.W. II publication of the American Legion, sent to all Harrington Park men and women who served, will soon be on display in the Harrington Park Library. The Committee responsible for this outstanding exhibit is **Caryl Block, Inge Nebel, and Ethel Johnson**. Be sure to take the time to view this fascinating and memorable exhibit.

You might have noticed that members receive a discount on many of our special events. And that brings me to the last subject of this column - dues. If you have mailed your dues, we thank you sincerely. BUT, if you have not mailed your dues in yet, please do so. The dues (fully tax deductible) are as follows:

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Youth	\$ 5.00 (17 or

under)

Make your check payable to the Harrington Park Historical Society and mail to P.O. Box 105, Harrington Park, New Jersey, 07640.

We have not increased the dues, and they are certainly a bargain for all the benefits you receive:

- ★ Discounts on Special Events
- ★ Historical Society Newsletter
- ★ Free Monthly Lectures - September through June
- ★ Priority Invitation to Cocktail Reception (fundraiser) as well as our Holiday Outing
- ★ Marching in the Memorial Day Parade
- ★ Members' Potluck Picnic in June
- ★ Souvenir" Membership Card
- ★ Being Involved in HP History - Past and Present

*Your faithful servant, Gerri Gibney*

**Old Burying Ground** [Davis Ross 768-3621 - [ross05@optonline.net](mailto:ross05@optonline.net)]

Over the Summer and Fall much has been accomplished:

- ★ Member **John Mager** has almost single-handedly kept unruly foliage at bay; he has cleaned most of the headstones with a mild detergent Photoflo solution; and he has reset several foot stones which had been dislodged over the years. Member **Greg Evanella** has assisted in removing stumps and saplings which had encroached onto the site.
- ★ The DPW – under **Mark Kiernan's** supervision – has sprayed the area to restrict the spread of poison ivy, making the site safer for clean-up workers and visitors.
- ★ The Society's Executive Committee authorized **A Long-Term Planning Committee for the Cemeteries**. That committee -- chaired by **Davis Ross** with members **Joyce Cornell, Gerri Gibney, John Mager, and Larry Sunden** – has met and begun the process of developing a master plan for the 2 burial grounds. We hope to create guidelines for preservation and maintenance of the sites. We will report back to the Executive Committee as well as make interim reports to Society members.

**Revolutionary War veterans:** We have obtained copies of the pension files for 2 of the veterans of the American Revolution who were buried at the Old Burying Ground. The records of the two – brothers Harman (1761-1852) and Frederick Blauvelt (1764-1828) – contain interesting information about the men and their families. As an example here's an extract from an affidavit sworn by Harman Blauvelt, dated September 27, 1833:

*“[T]he deponent enlisted the latter part of June for six months until the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan. 1781 according to the*

*requirements of the legislature. Besides Colonel Shreves Colonels Ogden Debaut[?] and Barber of the N. Jersey line were with the army when he joined them. General Wayne with his command lay near them; when they went to Tappan General Washington was with them; he had his headquarters at the house of Frederick Blauvelt the uncle of deponent in Tappan; while they lay there Major Andre was captured and hung: LaFayette (called by the army Gen. Le Marquis) was with them also at Tappan and was quartered at a farm house nearby. Baron Steuben was there also instructing the army in tactics and superintending the drills[. D]eponent has often been drilled under his direction. [H]e would sit on his horse and give his views through the officers of the regiment in French or broken English. From Tappan they marched to West Point the Army amounting to about 18,000 men; the deponent then recollects in repairing Fort Putnam and redoubt No. 4 which Arnold had dismounted and dismantled. [A]fter leaving West Point they marched to Pompton and went into winter quarters there. [H]e assisted in building the huts; at the expiration of his time he was solicited to enlist during the war but declined, whereupon the Colonel granted discharges to those who had enlisted until the 1st Jan. 1781. [O]n the last day of December when he left the army and came home, and was engaged there at his trade (a weaver) during the winter; shortly after he left the army there was a mutiny in the Jersey line.”*

Harman was awarded a pension of \$33.33 per year; he collected that amount at least until 1846 and possibly until he died at age 91.

**Society By-Laws** [Davis Ross] The previously circulated by-law revision was adopted at the Society's June 6, 2005 membership meeting.

## Members' Corner

***New members*** A warm welcome to our newest members: **Alberto Caballero [5 Hazel Street, HP 07640-1305, 201-784-6310]; John Gibbons [25 Hazel Street, HP 07640-1305, 201-768-6766]; and Michelle Ryan [15 Oak Street, HP 07640-1107, 201-767-8544]**

Please add their names & addresses to your membership lists, and introduce yourselves at upcoming meetings and events:

***Returning members:*** Also thanks to **Marianne & Louis Apa, Jennifer Arbolino, Caryl C. Block, Lynne Block, Barbara & John Budinich, Carol & Dominic Carini, Mary Carley, Joyce & David Cornell, Marie D'Amico, Dot Durbec, Greg & Susan Evanella, Gerri & George Gibney, Clare & Gerard Gorek, Anne & Tom Hackett, Ethel Johnson, Ellen King, John & Virginia Mager, Sue McKaba, Jen & Joel Miller, Ingeborg & Hans Nebel, Silvia & Toros Papagian, Davis & Esther Ross, The Schaff Family, John X. Vigna, Anne Waldron, Dr. & Mrs. Edward Zajkowski**

### ***Upcoming Events***

**Monday, December 5, 2005, Holiday Outing:** Colonial Music Performed by Anne and Ridley Enslow and Reception at the '76 House, Tappan, NY. Reservation only [Call Gerri at 201 768-2615]. Plan to be at the '76 House by 7:15 P.M. to check-in

**Monday, January 2, 2006, General Meeting. Quantmeyer Room, Library, 7:30 PM.** Topic "Women of the Hermitage"; Speaker: Phyllis Geraghty, Museum Educator, The Hermitage, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ

**Monday, February 6, 2006, General Meeting. Quantmeyer Room, Library, 7:30 PM.** Topic "Bergen County in the Revolutionary War"; Speaker: Dr. Henry Bischoff, Director of Historical Studies, The Hermitage, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ

**Monday, March 6, 2006, General Meeting, Quantmeyer Room, Library, 7:30 PM.** Topic "Governor Livingston, I Presume;" American Historical Theatre First Person Living History Presentation

**A friendly reminder:** If you have not renewed your 2005-2006 membership, please take a moment to do so now. Thanks to all of you

#### ***Officers of the Society:***

**Gerri Gibney, President (768-2615)  
Regina Potter, Vice President /Treasurer (784-9628)  
Michelle Ryan, Membership Secretary (767-8544)  
Davis Ross, Recording Secretary (768-3621)**

#### ***Other Members of Executive Committee:***

**Andrea Betancourt, Fund Raising (750-3330)  
Caryl Block, Hospitality (768-2468)  
George Gibney, Public Relations (768-2615)  
Ethel H. Johnson, Archives (768-6357)  
Ingeborg Nebel, Archives (767-1521)**