



**Robert Hawkins House**  
 P.O. Box 111  
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[www.yaphankhistorical.org](http://www.yaphankhistorical.org)

631-924-4803 -Swezey-Avey House  
 Main Office

Meetings: Third Thursday of the  
 Month; 7:30pm, Swezey-Avey House.

**Newsletter Editor: Peggy Judd**

**Inside this issue:**

President's Message	... 2
Mary L. Booth in Paris	... 3
Homan-Gerard Celebration	.. 4,5
Upcoming Events	... 6

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# YAPHANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

*Historic Yaphank - Where the Past Greet's the Present*

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2020



## Spring Victorian Tea

Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2:00—4:00pm  
 Hawkins House

**Donation: \$35 per person**

Enjoy meeting with friends for an afternoon, sharing a cup of tea,  
 scones, tea sandwiches and pastries.

After tea, visit the Society Gift Shop, always a great way to end a  
 pleasant afternoon.

Our Spring Tea is always a sold-out event, so **please reserve soon.**

**For reservations please call: Marie Desch at 631-874-9265.**

## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES SECOND GARDINER GRANT**

The Yaphank Historical Society recently learned that the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation has approved a grant request of \$20,000 as partial funding for "building capacity". The grant will allow the Society to create an interactive visitor guide for use by docents and attendees at the recently restored Homan-Gerard House and Mill Complex on Yaphank Avenue in Yaphank. The ultimate goal is to create a visitor center for the entire Yaphank Historic District which extends from the Mary Louise Booth House on the east end of Main Street to the Swezey-Avey House on Middle Island-Yaphank Road, located at the west end of Main Street. Currently the Society is in the process of applying for National Register status for the entire Yaphank District, thanks to a grant from Preserve New York.

The Society is grateful that the Gardiner Foundation has recognized the past successes of funding by their organization, which included a \$300,000 grant to the Yaphank Historical Society in 2017 to finish the interior of the Homan-Gerard House. Funding for the restoration of the house was matched by Suffolk County, which owns the house. The Society held a grand opening of the house on October 26th. We expect the new software program to be up and running when the house is open for tours next summer.

**Special thanks go to Suzanne Johnson, Society Historian, for all of her research and documentation in applying for this new grant.**

## Letter from the President

Here we are at the end of another busy and successful year for the Yaphank Historical Society. We look forward to a busy and successful 2020. This past year we have been completing work on the Homan-Gerard House. This project has been underway for the last seven years as we worked to save this National Register house. We have finally gotten it done and had our grand opening in October, 2019. We were lucky to have others who understood the historical importance of this house. The project was a collaboration between Suffolk County, the Yaphank Historical Society and a considerable number of volunteers.

First, Suffolk County stepped up and stabilized the house, making it safe for workers and they also produced required architectural drawings. The project then stopped for a couple of years due to funding. The Society applied for and received a grant from the Gerry Foundation to help us restore the windows. Most windows were saved; others were replicated. The Society was also able to secure a \$300,000 Grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, which required matching funds from the County. This matching grant enabled us to address much of the restoration. However, all these monies were less than the estimated cost to finish the house, but with volunteers and using Society funds, we were able to complete the restoration.

There are some people I would like to thank for helping us get this project done; County Executive Steve Bellone for stepping up and getting us the initial money to get the project started; Richard Martin and Eric Crater from Suffolk County Historical Services who have sat through endless meetings on this project and have given us the assistance and expertise we needed to do the project; the Sherriff's inmate vocational training program and all of the dedicated correction officers who work with them, without whose help we could not have finished the project. I also want to thank all of the dedicated volunteers and my Board Members who worked tirelessly on this restoration.

Several major projects are on our "to do list" for the new year. We plan to finish the Homan House entry portico, based on early pictures of the house. We will also research the possibility of restoring the old shed that stands behind the house. As mentioned in earlier Newsletters, the Yaphank Historical Society has received a grant from Preserve New York to research having the Yaphank Historic District listed on the National Register. We will be working with Zachary Studenroth on this project. Yaphank is already designated as a Town of Brookhaven Historic District. In addition, we recently received another grant from the Gardiner Foundation which will help us improve our information technology capabilities. Special 2020 work also includes repair and painting of all the historic fencing, maintenance of the Nature Trail, and some repair and painting at the Hawkins House. I want to give special thanks to the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation and to Kathy Curran for supporting the Yaphank Historical Society, without whose help we would not have been so successful in our ongoing restoration efforts.

*Robert Kessler*

### Welcome New Members

- Betsy Bloomer, Holbrook, NY
- Thomas & Luciann Adams, East Meadow, NY
- Judith Lockman, Yaphank, NY
- Joan Koob, Brookhaven, NY
- Ilene Gelfer, Patchogue, NY
- Daniel Gelfer, Patchogue, NY

**Funds for this newsletter  
were provided by  
the Suffolk County Legislature,  
Rudy A. Sunderman,  
3rd Legislative District.  
Thank You !**

## Renewal Dues Reminder

Your membership is important to us. Dues are currently payable for the Yaphank Historical Society 2020 membership year. Your membership will be active from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Please see member types and dues rates on page 6. Please include your current email address when you send in your dues. We look forward to hearing from you soon. If you have already submitted your 2020 dues, your payment is much appreciated. Thank you.

## Mary Louise Booth Recognized in Paris Exhibit

Le Musee' des Arts Décoratifs  
107-111 Rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris, France

The Museum of Decorative Arts, located in Paris, is opening a special exhibit, *The History of Harpers Bazaar Magazine*, running from February 28, through July 14, 2020. The following selected excerpts (translated and edited) are from the Museum's website:

"This exhibition is the first devoted to a style magazine not limited to a simple presentation of photographs: it undertakes the question of artistic direction, and impact of graphic design and photography on the role of women and men who have created the concept of projecting style and ideas of fashion. In a museum which is about fashion, this show tells the history of a fashion magazine from the earliest issue, which is the vehicle for sharing its knowledge of style and fashion from a unique perspective.

Launched in 1867 in New York, by Harper & Brothers, *Harper's Bazaar* addressed women on style, society, art and literature. Written in the tradition of European style journals, its presentation was committed to women's rights. Its first editor, Mary Louise Booth was a suffragist, abolitionist, and supporter of the Union cause during the American Civil War. Her love of all things French was reflected throughout the history of the magazine.

The course of this work tells the story of the history of style periodicals since the 19th century. Mary L. Booth, first editor-in-chief in 1867, introduced the designs of Charles-Frederick Worth who was much appreciated by his fortunate American clients. The magazine takes part in introducing the evolution of style of art Nouveau,

Orientalism, and then the new epoch of the aesthetic of photography."



Cover of first issue, November 1867.

Tricia Foley, Historical Society Trustee and author of *Mary L. Booth: The Story of an Extraordinary 19th-Century Woman*, has been asked to send materials for the exhibit. Many of these materials are currently in the archives of the Yaphank Historical Society. The exhibit will feature a curated display of books, letters, magazine issue(s), and photos. Mary L. Booth will be recognized for her important intellectual role of the time, her ability as historian, her political opinions on the Union cause, abolition, and suffragist effort, her artistic abilities, and her affinity for French culture.

### In Memorium

We note with sadness the recent passing in October, 2019, of our dear friend, Reverend Richard Chapin (1929—2019). Father Chapin served as pastor and spiritual leader of St. Andrews Episcopal Church, starting in 1972 until retiring as Vicar of the Church in 1995. Following retirement, he and his wife Jean moved to Montrose, Pennsylvania, but they kept in close contact with the Church, the Historical Society and their many Yaphank friends. Fr. Chapin's most recent visit to Yaphank was to attend the Weeks Family Legacy and Reunion, an event hosted by the Historical Society in June, 1918, where he was a special guest of honor, warmly welcomed and surrounded by many friends. He will be missed by many.

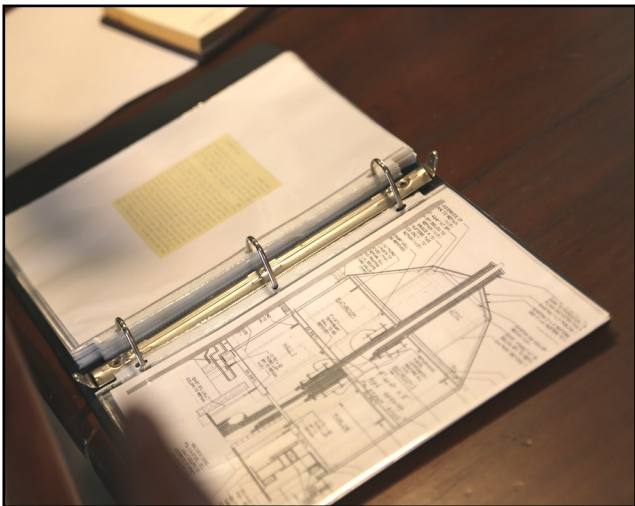
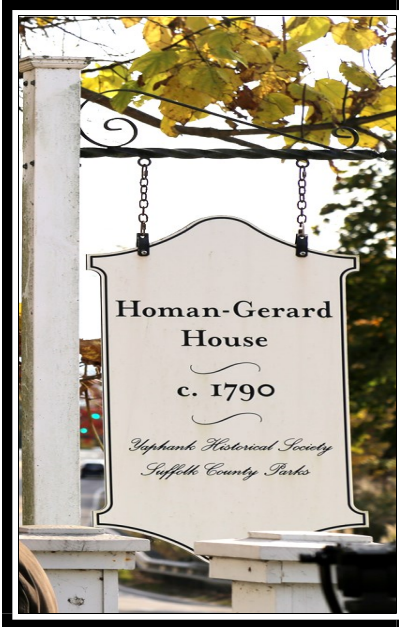
Reverend Chapin was the author of *Little Susy's Church*, which is a comprehensive history of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, built in 1853 in Yaphank, NY. On the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Fr. Chapin presented his book as a gift to the congregation. This book presents a history of our Yaphank community, our early residents, and the lifestyle and culture of our early hamlet. The book has become an important historic reference resource.



## Homan-Gerard House Restoration, Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Some Celebration Pictures

The Yaphank Historical Society welcomed close to 200 visitors who came to our open house to celebrate the successful restoration of the Homan-Gerard House in the Yaphank Historic District. We enjoyed perfect weather for our celebration. Representatives from both Suffolk County (Executive Steve Bellone, and Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services) and Brookhaven Town (Supervisor Ed Romaine) presented congratulations and noted the importance of saving significant historic landmarks such as this beautiful early Long Island home, an integral part of the history and culture of Yaphank.







The man holding the sketch is Dennis Hogan, who with his two elder brothers, Hugh and Matt, were raised on the Suffolk County Farm. His father was Harry Hogan, the manager of the Farm for many years. All three brothers went to the white schoolhouse on Main Street in Yaphank. Mr. and Mrs. Hogan purchased this sketch of the Homan-Gerard House from the artist L. G. Chapin in 1973, as is noted on the sketch. Until Dennis generously agreed to loan the sketch to the Yaphank Historical Society, the sketch that his parents purchased hung in the living room of his home in East Moriches. The sketch can be now seen hanging over the fireplace in the Dining Room in the Homan-Gerard House.

**YAPHANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2020 — UPCOMING EVENTS**

**March General Meeting**

Thursday, **March 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm**, Swezey-Avey House  
 Guest Speaker will be **Bill Bleyer**, author and retired prize-winning Newsday reporter.

**Program:** "Long Island Whaling" a comprehensive program covering whaling on Long Island from Native American days through the gold rush days, Civil War era, and the discovery of oil.

Refreshments will follow the meeting.

**April General Meeting**

Thursday, **April 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm**, Swezey-Avey House  
 Guest Speaker will be **Antonia Petrash**, President of the Long Island Woman Suffrage Association and noted speaker.

**Program:** "Woman Suffrage Movement on Long Island and throughout the United States".

Refreshments will follow the meeting.

**Spring Victorian Tea**

Saturday, **April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2:00—4:00pm**, Hawkins House

**Donation is \$35 per person.**

Always a sold-out event, so please reserve soon.

**Reservations: call Marie Desch, 631-874-9265.**

**Spring Community Yard Sale**

Saturday, **May 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am—4:00pm**

**(Rain date: Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>)**

**Donation: \$10 per vendor.**

Set up on the **Hawkins House** lawns.

No reservations necessary.

Call 631-924-4803 with questions.

**May General Meeting**

Thursday, **May 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30pm**, Swezey-Avey House

Guest Speaker will be **Max Elfenbein**, entertainer and reenactor.

**Program:** "Civil War Music and Stories"

Refreshments will follow the program.

**Bank of the River Gift Shop at the Hawkins House**

**Hours: Thursday Afternoons, 12:00-4:00pm. Weather permitting. Phone: 631-924-3401**

**Yaphank Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 111**  
**Yaphank, New York 11980-0111**

Please enroll me as:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Active Member</b>       | <b>\$20.00/person - \$17.50/Senior Citizen (62+)</b> |
|   | <b>\$25.00/couple - \$22.50/Senior Couple (62+)</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Contributing Member</b> | <b>\$50.00</b>                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Life Member</b>         | <b>\$100.00/person - \$75.00/Senior (62+)</b>        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Patron Member</b>       | <b>\$300.00</b>                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Benefactor Member</b>   | <b>\$500.00</b>                                      |

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