



Robert Hawkins House
P.O. Box 111
Yaphank, NY 11980-0111
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

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YAPHANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Historic Yaphank - Where the Past Greet's the Present

JANUARY – MARCH, 2019



Just Published

Mary L. Booth

THE STORY OF AN EXTRAORDINARY
 19TH-CENTURY WOMAN

by
 TRICIA FOLEY

Mary Louise Booth, author, editor, translator, women's rights advocate, and abolitionist was an esteemed figure in the worlds of publishing in America and Europe in the 19th century. This is her story.e

The Author Tricia Foley, Yaphank Historical Society Historian and Trustee, noted author of ten life-style books and co-author of *Images of America—Yaphank*, has just published her beautiful new book, *Mary L. Booth: The Story of an Extraordinary 19th-Century Woman*. Tricia notes that this book, the result of many years of research, tells us the incredible life story of a truly accomplished woman from her birth in Yaphank “to her adolescence in Brooklyn, through the Civil War, to the international publishing world during the Gilded Age, Booth created a life of her own, accomplished and lauded as a successful writer and independent woman. Her writings about the abolitionist movement, women's rights organizations, and publishing as well as her work in the arts and sciences, have left an imprint in 19th-century literature that is her legacy and gives us an insight into the life of an extraordinary woman.”



Visit the website (www.marylbooth.com) for more information about Mary L. Booth, as well as publishing information. The book is available from Amazon, Kindle, and the Yaphank Historical Society.

Letter from the President

I want to wish all of our members and friends a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. I want to thank my board for putting up with me and working with me to make this year another successful year for the Yaphank Historical Society.

The Homan House is nearing completion. The interior is done. The walls and ceilings are painted, the floors are also done. Doors have been hung and the locks have been installed. We have also begun to place the furniture that we have in the rooms.

I want to thank all of the inmates and corrections officers who work on this project for us. I also want to thank the contractors who worked on the Homan House project: Jeremiah McGiff, H B Millwork, and Mitrani Plasterers.

We have to wait for good weather to finish the paint on the exterior and to do the landscaping. As part of the landscaping, we need to put large stone steps at the doors, build a handicap-accessible walkway from the parking area to the house and grade the property. We also want to plant some Locust trees which were there before; these trees are visible in the old photos that we have of the house. We also would like to rebuild the front porch that was on the house, but we need money to do that construction. We are looking into getting a grant for the funding.

The Society resurrected our original Christmas play (*An 1855 Christmas at the Hawkins House*) this year and held performances for two days, December 8th and 9th. We first performed that play in 2011. The play was in the Hawkins House and it was a huge hit. The Hawkins House was decorated for the holidays and members of the "Hawkins family" and the "local domestic help" were in five different rooms talking about the politics of that long-ago time and also covering the family gossip. A good time was had by all who attended. I want to thank Curtain Up Entertainment for supplying all of the actors and miscellaneous staff that helped to make the play the success that it was.

The Swezey House was also open both days and decorated for the holidays. There was hot chocolate, hot cider and homemade cookies for all who visited. Tours of the Weeks exhibit rooms, Kovarik room, and library were conducted throughout both days. On Sunday afternoon, there was live music supplied by our good friends the TWO DON'S AND SUSAN. Special thanks to the Cerce's for their great music and ongoing support.

The Swezey Park has also gotten a new look for the New Year. We have a new handicap-accessible boardwalk that goes from the Swezey House to Willow Lake and the spillway area. We have a new spillway and a fish ladder has also been installed. We also have all new plantings along the boardwalk, at the spillway and around the Swezey House. Special thanks to Eddie Morris and his staff for doing all of the work and taking care of the property.

Robert Kessler

Welcome New Members

- Ryan Moore, Yaphank, NY
- Whitney McGill, Yaphank, 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 2018-2019 membership year. Please see member types and dues rates on page 5. 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 dues, your payment is much appreciated, thank you.

Camp Upton Historical Marker Dedication

On a chilly December morning, a new sign commemorating Camp Upton was dedicated on Longwood Road. The William G. Pomeroy Foundation provides funding for these signs which mark historic sites across New York State. Although there has been a marker on William Floyd Parkway since the 1970s, this new marker is in a location that is easier to read and is in a place where school children will pass by for years to come. Suzanne Johnson and Gail Lynch-Bailey applied for the grant last summer and the sign was installed exactly 101 years after the official opening of the camp, which was built to train 40,000 draftees. From 1917 through World War I and World War II, nearly 600,000 soldiers passed through Camp Upton until it was dismantled in 1946. Brookhaven National Laboratory was established on the site in 1947, utilizing many of the World War II barracks and other structures.

At the dedication and installation, two volunteers from the Long Island Living History Association stood solemnly on either side of the sign for those who assembled for the unveiling. State Senator Ken LaValle spoke briefly as did Brookhaven Town Councilmember Michael Loguercio. Community members and school district personnel paid tribute to this important site where Sgt. Irving Berlin penned "Yip Yip Yaphank". Students from Longwood High School performed the musical in November to sell out crowds and standing ovations. With the publication of two recent books about the camp, the 100th anniversary was proudly celebrated throughout our town.



L. to R.: State Senator Ken LaValle, John Gallagher, Longwood High School, Jim Lennon, Brookhaven Councilmember Michael Loguercio, Gail Lynch-Bailey, Suzanne Johnson, Jim Michaud

CAMP UPTON

WORLD WAR I ARMY CANTONMENT
1917-1921 77th DIV. TRAINED
HERE. REBUILT FOR WORLD WAR II
BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LAB
ESTABLISHED NEARBY IN 1947.



Spring Community Yardsale

Saturday, May 18th, 9:00am—4:00pm @ The Hawkins House

(rain date, Sunday, May 19th)

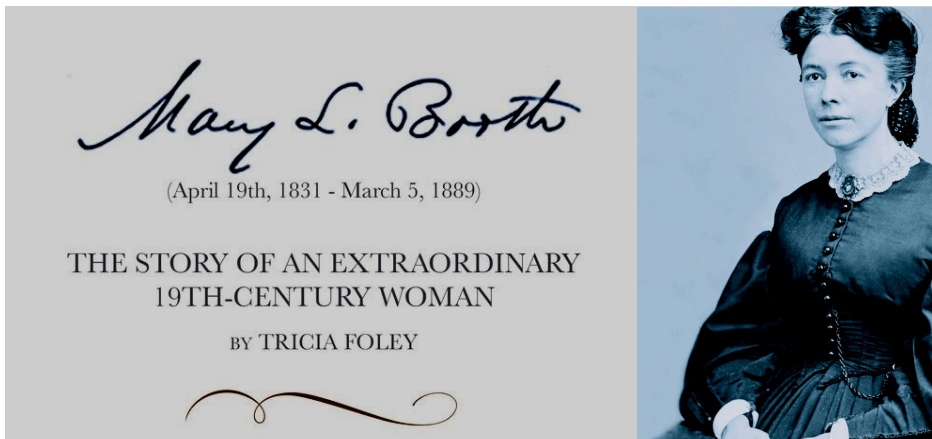
Please join us--- Donation: \$10 per vendor.

No Reservations Required.

From the Editor:

At our January 2019 Executive Board Meeting, it was agreed that the Yaphank Historical Society Newsletter will be published quarterly, beginning with this issue (January, February, March 2019). This is a change from the publication of six issues per year.

Save the Date — Special Book Signing Celebration



**The Yaphank Historical Society
Invites you to a book signing with the author
and birthday celebration for Mary L. Booth
April 20th, 2019, 3-5PM @ The Mary L. Booth House Museum
East Main Street, Yaphank
rsvp: webmaster@yaphankhistorical.org**



Spring Victorian Tea

**Saturday, April 27th, 2:00—4:00pm
Hawkins House**

Donation: \$30 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.**



In Good Company—Thomas Jefferson and Tea

We aren't the only ones who love tea parties. Early Americans shared many British traditions, including the love of tea, and tea often played an integral role in the daily lives of our earliest citizens. In both America and England, the beverage was the traditional focus of the evening meal (often referred to as "supper" or "tea"). A famous early American, our third U.S. President, Thomas Jefferson, clearly enjoyed following tea traditions. He annually purchased about twenty pounds of tea and preferred the green teas (Hyson) from China.

Jefferson continued a tradition of tea for important guests visiting Washington all during his Presidency. While at Monticello, Jefferson enjoyed tea as part of his daily routine. The beverage was served during breakfast and after dinner, either in the special "tea room" or dining room. These tea breaks were both enjoyable and provided a familiar structure to Jefferson's days. Our Victorian Teas are following a long-held tradition.

YAPHANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

March General Meeting

Thursday, **March 21st, 7:30pm**, Swezey-Avey House
 Guest Speaker will be **Richard Welch**,
 Author and Board of Directors,
 Suffolk County Historical Society
Program: "Over Here & Over There:
 Long Island and World War One"
 Refreshments will follow the program.

April General Meeting

Thursday, **April 18th, 7:30pm**, Swezey-Avey House
 Guest Speaker will be **Bill Bleyer**
 Prize-winning staff writer for Newsday and author of
 several Long Island history books (The History Press).
Program: "Sagamore Hill: Theodore Roosevelt's
 Summer White House"
 Refreshments will follow the program.

Mary L. Booth Book Signing & Celebration

Saturday, **April 20th, 3:00—5:00 pm**
 Booth House Museum
 (Main St., Yaphank)
 Meet the author
 Books available at the special Society price,
 \$25 (tax included).
 Light refreshments will be served.

Spring Victorian Tea

Saturday, **April 27th, 2:00—4:00pm**, Hawkins House
Donation is \$30 per person
 Always a sold-out event, so **please reserve soon.**
Reservations: call Marie Desch, 631-874-9265

May General Meeting

Thursday, **May 16th, 7:30pm**, Swezey-Avey House
 Guest Speaker and Program to be announced.
 Refreshments will follow the program.

Spring Community Yard Sale

Saturday, **May 18th, 9:00—4:00pm**
(Rain date: Sunday, May 19th)
Donation: \$10 per vendor.
 Set up on the Hawkins House lawns.
 No reservations necessary.
 Call 631-924-4803 with questions.

Bank of the River Gift Shop at the Hawkins House

Hours: Thursday Afternoons, noon—4:00pm
(weather permitting)
Phone: 631-924-3401

Keep current with all our events and projects. Visit our
 website—www.yaphankhistorical.org

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

Please enroll me as:

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

Name _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____ E-Mail: _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Homan-Gerard House Restoration—In the News

Our restoration of the Homan-Gerard House in Yaphank has been recognized by Preservation Long Island and featured in their recent newsletter *Preservation Notes*. The group, in partnership with the Yaphank Historical Society and Suffolk County Parks Historic Services hosted a behind-the-scenes tour at the House on April 14, 2018. The tour highlighted recent renovation work at the property. Their newsletter cover showed before (1962) and after (2018) pictures of the Homan-Gerard House. Several other pictures of the House and the tour group also appeared in the issue.



The Homan-Gerard House, May 1962.
(Photo from Preservation Long Island's archive)



The Homan-Gerard House, October 2018.

Thank You To Our Supporters

If you are interested in having your business card printed in the Yaphank Historical Society newsletter, you may do so for a \$50 donation per year. Please leave a phone number message at the Swezey-Avey House, 631-924-4803. Our members support our local businesses.

YAPHANK CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 1

YAPHANK, NY 11980-0001

For grave sales and questions, please call
Steve Trusnovec, Administrator

631-924-9042

Jeremiah G. McGiff

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Yaphank, NY 11980
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Sunday Services: 8:30 & 10 A.M.
Sunday School at 10 A.M. Service