

November 17, 2016 Bay Shore Historical Society Meeting Notes

Barry called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Barry welcomed everyone. He thanked JoAnn and MaryAnn for the refreshments. There has been a steady stream of visitors to the House. As a reminder, the Snowflake and Bake Sale is December 3 and includes a visit from Santa. The Potluck Dinner is December 15. Kelly read the minutes of the October 20, 2016 meeting. Priscilla reported on community events that were discussed at the Summit Council meeting including: The Student Exchange Program is sending 44 students to Denmark; The Lions Club is hosting a coat drive for children; The YMCA is celebrating it's 25th anniversary in Bay Shore; The Interfaith Council is holding a service November 20 at St. Patrick's; November 26 is Small Business Saturday and Winterfest at the band shell; December 11 is Light the Night; 750 wreaths were being hung in town; The Lions Club donated 100 turkeys to soup kitchens. JoAnn reported that current membership is 321. Joe reported expenses were \$633 and income was \$1,788.

The guest speaker was Janet Demarest. She presented "Women in Long Island Legends: the Trollop, the Witch, and the Brokenhearted".

Goody Garlick was a nasty gossip. Elizabeth Gardiner, the daughter of Lion Gardiner, became sick with a fever and was delirious. Elizabeth told her mother that she saw Goody Garlick at the foot of her bed. When Elizabeth died Goody Garlick was arrested and put on trial. Lion Gardiner intervened to defend Goody Garlick. Her case was sent to the General Court of Connecticut where she was declared not guilty. Goody Garlick and her husband returned to Lion Gardiner's plantation where they lived for the rest of their lives.

Princess Ronkonkoma. Princess Ronkonkoma was a Native Indian princess who's beloved was killed. It's believed she waded into Lake Ronkonkoma with heavy stones tied to her. Before she drowned she uttered a curse vowing to take one male life for every year that the lake has water in it.

Country House in Stony Brook was owned by the Williamson family. When the family had to return to New Jersey, 16-year-old Annette Williamson stayed behind to protect the house. British soldiers took occupancy of the house. Annette Williamson swung a poker at a General and he ordered her to be hung in the house for being a loyalist. Her ghost now haunts the old building. People say they see the image

of a young woman peering out the window at night. People also say they see candles relight themselves, lights flash at the bar, orbs (thought to be spirits) appear in photographs and one child insisted he was playing with the 'pretty girl'.

Raynham Hall in Oyster Bay was home to the Townsend family during the Revolution. One British officer living at the house was Lieutenant Colonel John Graves Simco who fell in love with Sarah Townsend. It was to Sally that Simcoe wrote the first Valentine poem. Sally Townsend overheard Major John Andre talking with Simcoe about the Benedict Arnold plot to surrender West Point to the British. Simco was furious of the spy activity and told Sally he no longer loved her and left.

George Kelsey made an attempt to visit Julia Smith. As he approached the house a group of masked men grabbed him, removed his clothes, hot tarred and feathered him. When he was released Kelsey ran away naked into the dark. Kelsey was never found. The following year the bottom half of a male body was found with tar and feathers covering the legs. This became known as the Kelsey Outrage of 1873.

The Harbor Mist in Cold Spring Harbor was once the Van Ausdall Hotel which was a tavern with a brothel upstairs. Wives of whalers often turned to prostitution when money ran out and they where lonely while their husbands were away. Van Whether, a whaler, returned home early and stopped at the tavern for a drink. He found out that his wife was working upstairs and he strangled his wife and her client to death.

Barry thanked Janet for her presentation and invited everyone for refreshments.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Zebro