



Rocky Point Historical Society

Celebrating Our 17th Anniversary

Meetings are held at VFW Post #6249 on King Road
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH

2012

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Please note change in meeting place - meetings are held at the VFW Post #6249 on King Road (handicap accessible)

Thursday, Jan. 12th - 7:30 PM
Meeting and program by Tom Stock "Gravestone Rubbings"

Thursday, Feb. 9th - 7:30 PM
Meeting and historic film (weather permitting)

Thursday, March 8th - 7:30 PM
Meeting and program by Bruce Kagan
"In The Footsteps of Ben"
A 45 minute digital presentation of Benjamin Franklin's Long Island milestone markings and local lodging

Sunday, March 11th
Friends of St. Patrick Parade
Join with us - we will meet at Harrison Avenue before 12 Noon (Daylight savings time begins)

Rocky Point Historical Society
PLEASE RENEW YOUR 2012 MEMBERSHIP DUES

OR BECOME A NEW MEMBER

help us preserve beautiful Rocky Point's history

Kindly make check payable to:

Rocky Point Historical Society
PO Box 1720, Rocky Point, NY 11778

DUES: Individual: \$10 Family: \$15
Senior/Students: \$5 *Business: \$100

*Business members are entitled to newsletter business card listings

Contributions are welcomed
We are a 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Organization



On Veteran's Day, November 11th the Rocky Point Historical Society dedicated its memorial in remembrance of the Rocky Point residents who served during the Civil War in commemoration of its 150th anniversary. The dedication and a reception was hosted by the members of the Fischer-Hewins VFW Post #6249 on King Road in Rocky Point during their Veteran's Day Ceremony.

During the ceremony members of Company K of the 67th New York Historical Association Civil War re-enactors spoke about the importance of keeping the history of those who served in our nation's military. Co. K's President, Max Kenny, read out the names of the thirteen Rocky Point Civil War soldiers, as Commander Joe Cognitore rang out a remembrance bell.

Following the ceremony, attendees walked to the Depot Park located on Broadway and Prince Road for the dedication of the bronze monument plaque. A bugle was sounded with taps by VFW member Eddie Wider. VFW Commander, Joe Cognitore, provided a memorial dedication program at the monument rock, with Senior Vice Commander Randy Ward, while members of the 67th New York Civil War re-enactors, veterans of the VFW Post #6249, attendees and members of the Rocky Point Historical Society stood at attention. Irving Hart American Legion Post Commander, Richard Scott, completed the ceremony by placing a floral wreath at the monument. The Rocky Point Historical Society asked Commander Scott to place the wreath, due to the fact that he is personally related to three of the Civil War soldiers listed on the plaque.

Thirteen residents, who were born or lived sometime in Rocky Point, fought for the cause of freedom in the Civil War. Two brothers, one at age 17 and the other at age 27, signed up in the 159th Regiment together. The younger brother was killed during a battle in Louisiana. One of the men was captured and became a prisoner of war in the infamous Libbey Prison in Virginia and some were wounded.

It was through the efforts of VFW Commander, Joe Cognitore, that our historical society was able to obtain the rock for the memorial. Town of Brookhaven Councilwoman Jane Bonner directed us to the Parks Commissioner. Town of Brookhaven Department of Parks Commissioner, Ed Morris arranged the delivery and installation of the rock. It was the crew of Ed Gregory, Pat Spero, Mike Berlin, Jim Coppola, Mike Morris, Willy Strelbel and Dominick Buffa who brought and placed the huge rock at the park. On November 10th the plaque was installed by Alan E. Fricke Memorials, Inc. The cost of the memorial was provided by a Suffolk County 2011 grant, which was sponsored by Dan Losquadro when he served as Legislator.

(Photos of the dedication on page 2)

Dedication of our Civil War Monument On Veteran's Day November 11th, 2011



Town of Brookhaven Department of Parks transported and Installed the memorial rock



(above, from left to right)
Irving Hart Post of Setauket
Commander Richard Scott,
VFW Post 6249 Senior Vice
Commander Randy Ward,
Taps bugler Eddie Wider and
VFW Post 6249 Commander
Joe Cognitore



Members of Company K of the 67th
New York Historical Association
Civil War Re-enactors



VFW Ladies Auxiliary President Janene Gentile,
67th N. Y Civil War Re-enactor President Max Kenny
and VFW Post 6249 Commander Joe Cognitore



Rocky Point Historical Society Members



VFW Post 6249 Members



Our 15th Annual Tea on October 16th Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the opening of the RCA Radio Central Transmitting Station in Rocky Point



Robert T. Lundquist, RCA Chief Sta. Engineer



Senator Kenneth P. LaValle

Eighty-six people attended our 15th Annual Tea, including State Senator Kenneth P. LaValle, State Assemblyman Dan Losquadro, Town Councilwoman Jane Bonner and County Legislator Sarah Anker. Senator LaValle explained the importance of volunteerism and commended the Rocky Point Historical Society for its dedication in preserving local history. Robert T. Lundquist, Chief Station Engineer in charge at RCA Radio Central for nine years, gave a talk about the transmitting station. Kip Rosser, played the Theremin. He blended his storytelling and music on this unusual instrument, which requires the performer to move his hands in and out of electromagnetic fields to create the sound. He held our audience spellbound.



Our RCA artifacts display



Kip Rosser playing the Theremin



County Legislator Sarah Anker volunteered to play the Theremin



VFW Commander Joe Cognitore, State Assemblyman Dan Losquadro, Town Councilwoman Jane Bonner and Rocky Point Historical Society Trustee Jeff Davis



Thanks to our "dream-team of volunteers" who put together a stunning tea



Rocky Point Historical Society, P. O. BOX 1720, ROCKY POINT, NY 11778

OFFICERS

Natalie Aurucci Stiefel, *President*
James Higgins, *Vice President*
Linda Cathcart, *Treasurer & Membership*
Joseph Santoriello, *Recording Secretary*
Charlene LaCascia, *Corresponding Secretary*
Suzanne Johnson, *Immediate Past President*

TRUSTEES

Jeff Davis, Joan Depken, Walter Depken, John Galietti,
Netty Gautier, Robert Rizzotto, Joseph Di Marzio
Past Presidents: Kenny Blinn, Daria Cwik
Honorary Members: James Keegan
Robert T. Lundquist, RCA Radio Central Station Engineer
Anne Tuthill Polta, Arthur Hallock Tuthill, Thomas Samuel Tuthill
Internet Web Host: Ken Blinn, Jr.
Internet Web Page: www.rockypointhistoricalsociety.org



William H. Terbo, the grand-nephew of Nikola Tesla, (left) and Robert T. Lundquist at the Tesla Conference

The Tesla Science Center at Wardencllyffe held their Tesla 2011 Conference at the Garden Hilton Hotel in Riverhead on November 5th. It featured many scientists, engineers and Tesla enthusiast speakers from around the country. Our Honorary Member, Robert T. Lundquist, who served as Chief Engineer in Charge at RCA, did a great job in representing us with his RCA program at the Conference, which was held on the 90th anniversary of the opening of RCA in Rocky Point. During Mr. Lundquist's presentation, William H. Terbo, the grand-nephew of Nikola Tesla, stated that he also worked at RCA's Broad Street headquarters.

October 11, 2011

Dear Ms. Stiefel:

I was so pleased to receive a copy of your most recent newsletter. Needless to say I very much enjoy reading of the upcoming events and seeing the pictures of our community from over the decades.

Enclosed you will find my check representing membership dues in the Rocky Point Historical Society for the most recent year. I am grateful for the work you and your associates do each day to maintain the history of Rocky Point and my membership is just one small contribution to those efforts.

Please convey my regards to all of the officers and trustees of the Rocky Point Historical Society.

Sincerely,
Michael F. Ring, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Rocky Point Union Free School District

Our sincere gratitude to the Tuthill family. Anne Tuthill Polta advised that a stock will be sold and the proceeds of \$1,000 will be sent to our Historical Society, along with another gift of \$1,000 from the Oppenheimer Funds Tuthill Family Foundation. This is in memory of their parents, Frances Hallock Tuthill and Samuel Miller Tuthill, representing two of Rocky Point's oldest families.

Get well wishes to Past President Kenny Blinn, recovering from surgery. Kenny is planning Phase 3 restoration of the Marconi building as one of our projects in 2012.

We extend our deep sympathy to the family of Louise Via Cava, who lived in Rocky Point's oldest house, the Noah Hallock 1721 homestead. Louise's sister and brother-in-law, Gloria & Winton Kurz, have donated an old trunk to the Rocky Point Historical Society, containing archival papers and letters dating back to 1880.

We had a great Christmas Dinner Party at Gracie's on Thursday, December 8th. Jim Barchi created a fine gourmet menu, from soup and salad to excellent entrees and magnificent desserts. Our sincere gratitude to Linda Cathcart for taking care of all the party details as well as her direction during our Tea and the countless other things she does for our Historical Society and for Rocky Point.



A Happy & Healthy New Year to our Members, Families & Friends