



THE SENTRY

Appreciating Heritage—Encouraging Preservation

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November 2010

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Joan Tripp, SHHS President, 1985–2010, Retires

On the occasion of our Annual Meeting this spring, Assemblyman Fred Thiele Jr. presented a citation to honor Joan's accomplishments during her 25 years as president of the Sag Harbor Historical Society stating, "...Whereas, Joan Tripp has worked diligently to foster the mission of the Sag Harbor Historical Society for the preservation of historic buildings and sites as well as maintaining the historic character of the village... Now therefore be it resolved, that I, Fred W. Thiele Jr., on behalf of the New York State Assembly, do hereby recognize and commend the many years of superior service always accompanied by the friendly and positive nature of Joan Bates Tripp."

Less formal recognition came from Joan's daughter Kim Tripp: "I remember the first time that you excitedly took me to see, lets face it, the distinctly derelict Annie Cooper Boyd House as the new home of the Sag Harbor Historical Society. My first reactions were a combination of 'what were you thinking?' along with rather palpable fear that I would get conscripted into roofing or at least scraping and painting."

When the Sag Harbor Express (May, 2010) asked what she was most proud of, Joan commented on archiving, grant writing, programs free of charge, restoring the Annie Cooper Boyd House, publishing *Sag Harbor an American Beauty* and *Anchor to Windward*, and expansion of the historic district, "accomplished without spending too much."

We join Fred and Kim applauding Joan. See page 2, "25 Years of Lasting Value," for a truncated summary of the SHHS's accomplishments during Joan's leadership.

Joan



Nancy French Achenbach Elected President, 2010

Nancy is interviewed by **Vice President Tucker Roth**: *Nancy, your family has a long history in Sag Harbor. How many generations have lived here?*

Nancy: I am the fourth generation to live in Sag Harbor. My great-grandfather Hannibal French, who lived from 1817-1889, owned ships in partnership with his brothers. It was always my understanding that one of his ships was the last one to leave the harbor at the end of the whaling industry. He and Cornelia Hedges French had nine children between 1847 and 1860. My grandfather, Frank, married Harriet Wade who was also from a whaling family. They had three children, my father, Wade, being the youngest and only son.

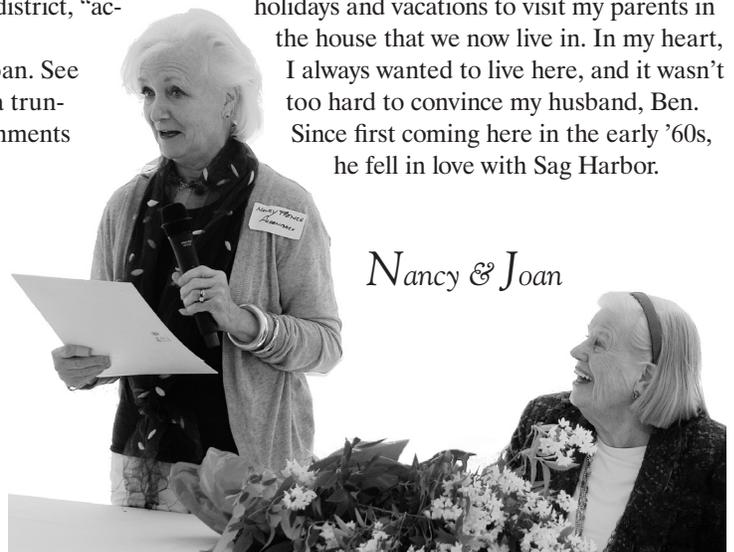
Tucker: *Did you grow up in Sag Harbor?*

Nancy: I summered in North Haven in a house that my father inherited. We moved here when I was in the third grade. I attended Pierson for two years, then the Tuller School at Maycroft, and spent the last three high school years at the Academy of the Sacred Heart of Mary, which is now the elementary school. I left Sag Harbor after high school and went to school in Philadelphia, where I met Ben Achenbach, whom I married three years later in Sag Harbor's Christ Church.

Tucker: *When you and Ben lived in Alexandria did you spend time in Sag Harbor?*

Nancy: Yes, we came up with our two sons for holidays and vacations to visit my parents in the house that we now live in. In my heart, I always wanted to live here, and it wasn't too hard to convince my husband, Ben. Since first coming here in the early '60s, he fell in love with Sag Harbor.

Nancy & Joan





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OFFICERS

President: Nancy French Achenbach
Vice President: Tucker Burns Roth
Recording Secretary: Peter Hansen
Treasurer: Robert Espach, Esq.
Parliamentarian: James D. Tripp

TRUSTEES

Nancy French Achenbach
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James Tripp
Jack Youngs
Dorothy Zaykowski
Priscilla Ciccariello, EMERITUS
Joan Bates Tripp, EMERITUS
Jean Vielbig, EMERITUS

MANY THANKS TO

RETIRED TRUSTEES, 2010

Priscilla Ciccariello, Ellen Hanson,
Alexandra Leigh-Hunt,
Christopher Leonard
James Merrell, Joan Bates Tripp,
Christina Zacharia

WELCOME NEW TRUSTEES, 2010

Neal Hartman, Martha Potter,
Diane Schiavoni, Jack Youngs

THE SHHS SENTRY

Published spring and fall

From Our President

My first few months as President of SHHS have been exciting and tremendously fulfilling. Succeeding Joan is an honor, but a hard act to follow.

With your support, we will devote our future to promoting and encouraging public education and appreciation of the historic character of the village. A trustee is now attending all Village Board meetings in order to keep current with all that is going on in our village.

Our summer exhibit on Long Beach was the best attended SHHS show ever.

To add to the show's success, our beloved Neal Hartman (1946–2010) created the popular "Fridays on the Porch." His idea, to draw people to the house in a friendly way, was a huge success. An average of 50 people came each Friday. Neal and his enthusiasm and devotion to the Society will be forever missed.— *Nancy F. Achenbach*

25 Years of Lasting Value—A Summary

The current Sag Harbor Historical Society (SHHS) came into being in August of 1985 when Joan Bates Tripp held a meeting in her living room. Nancy Boyd Willey, Mary Hemming, Jane E. Kiernan, Jean Waring, Dorothy Sherry, Dorothy Espach, John Sampson, Carolyn Oldenbusch Marx, Jeanne Vielbig, Pace Barnes, Ted Conklin, James D. Tripp, Phillip H. Curtis, and Alexandra Eames were all there. That year and in following years our members elected Joan Bates Tripp president until she retired this year. Those years of pivotal-preservation accomplishments are enterprisingly presented by Alexandra Eames in *The Sag Harbor Historical Society—The First Twenty-Five Years, 1985–2010*, which we encourage you to read at local libraries or at the SHHS.

The fledgling society's first agenda was to assure the preservation of the Umbrella House; the mission succeeded in 1986, when the Umbrella House was designated as a local landmark. Over 400 members joined in the first year; Pace Barnes edited the first edition of our newsletter, "The Sentry." Its first page told of the SHHS's leadership in creating Sag Harbor's board for Historic Preservation and Architectural Review, and the production of the popular pamphlet, "A Self-Guided Walking Tour of Sag Harbor." Next, a crack across the Broken Mast Monument in Oakland Cemetery was repaired, five informational plaques were set to mark historic locations, oral histories were recorded, and publications of local history were written and printed,

including *Sag Harbor an American Beauty* by Dorothy Ingersoll Zaykowski.

Four times a year lectures were given to enhance respect and preservation of Sag Harbor history and the talks concluded with conversation and refreshments. The SHHS saved the abandoned 1916 Jail from demolition, and raised funds to preserve it as a museum. The SHHS led a campaign to maintain the Municipal Building for the public.

The SHHS joined local advocates to successfully expand Sag Harbor's Historic District, and in 1992, New York State presented the survey document for its acceptance on the New York State Register and National Register of Historic Places. Since then, educational pamphlets are given to applicants for building permits under the Certified Local Government program.

At first, the Society met where anyone would have us: the American Hotel, the John Leonard Building, Long Wharf courtesy of Patrick Malloy, and the third floor of the Municipal Building until following 1998, when Nancy Boyd Willey left the Annie Cooper Boyd House to us. Next, Robert Hefner completed a *Historic Structure Report* of 2000 giving detailed recommendations for restoration facilitated by member contributions and fund raising spearheaded by Priscilla Ciccariello.

At this year's annual spring meeting, Robert Mackay of the Society for Long Island Antiquities (SPLIA), officially transferred Annie Cooper Boyd's art works to the Sag Harbor Historical Society. Nancy Boyd Willey had willed Annie's works to SPLIA, although we had been stewards of the collection for some years.

Priscilla Ciccariello Retires

After 16 productive years on our board, Priscilla Ciccariello retired this year, and while every year she deserved our annual “Historic Preservation Award,” it was this year that she received it. The Corcoran Group has graciously presented a citation to her and a gift in her name to the society. The award is given to someone who has made a major contribution to preservation in Sag Harbor—in Priscilla’s case, for a long list of specific accomplishments including the establishment in 1996 of Nancy Willey Park at the Turnpike entrance of the village.

Years later in 2007, Priscilla and a coalition of individuals and organizations

Priscilla received our annual “Historic Preservation Award” this year.



asked Southampton Town to perform a comprehensive examination of the area bordering the Turnpike called the “Sag Harbor Gateway Study.” She followed through with every step involved in the two-year process leading to the applauded passage in 2009 of rezoning the area to Hamlet Office (HO) in what we now call the “Sag Harbor Gateway Area.” The Willey Park and Hamlet zoning ensure a welcoming entrance to our historic village.

The Sag Harbor Historical Society, too, benefited from Priscilla’s tireless search for major grants to restore the Annie Cooper Boyd House, produce exhibits and publications, install air conditioning, design and purchase archival storage units, and procure funds to pay an office manager. With a smile, we will always recall Priscilla’s holding an eight inch stack of papers, while requesting a few words at monthly board meetings.

From the *Sag Harbor Express*, July 13, 2006, on the announcement of Priscilla’s receipt of the Genetic Alliance 2006 Art of Advocacy Award, “Priscilla Ciccariello is outstanding as an advocate and community leader. Priscilla inspires us to seize opportunities to further our individual causes. She also reminds to never forget our overall mission to leverage the voices of the millions of individuals and families living with genetic conditions.” This statement applies to her activities locally and personally as many of us have experienced her prodding to do the right thing. The question is, how many of us will it take to fill Priscilla’s shoes?

WISH LIST

How you can help:

•OUTDOOR LIGHTING—

Porch lighting and museum sign illumination.

•CLIMATE CONTROL—

Angel or angels to pay for our new Fugitsu climate control system—\$3,700.

•DOCENT / JAILER(S)—

Volunteer(s) for the Old Jail House Museum. Limited seasonal schedule—kids love the place. Great photo opportunities behind bars.

•HISTORIAN FOR 19TH-CENTURY TOOLS—

Researcher needed to help document our extensive tool collection from the whaling era for exhibition.

•PRINTER / FAX / SCANNER—

Our old one is defunct.

•AMERICAN FLAG & POLE—

Annie Cooper Boyd flew the flag from a pole in the yard. We wish to continue her practice.

WALKWAY—

Angel(s) to help pay for the restoration of the front walk.

Restoration of Annie’s Old Shed— Priscilla’s One Unfinished Project

We are renewing our applications for grants to rebuild Annie’s Shed, and Joan and Jim Tripp will guide the project to finish. Last year, these grants were denied owing to the economic downturn. The shed, our final restoration project, will provide a space to permanently exhibit over 100 old tools used by Annie’s father, William H. Cooper (1817-1894), who constructed whaleboats in his shop behind his house. These tools serve as a visual example of a working man’s life in Sag Harbor in the 19th century. Among the assorted tools are a blubber knife used to cut away whale blubber, an eel spear with iron prongs shaped like a fan, a harpoon point, a lamp designed to withstand the ship’s movement at sea, and a tool believed to pull whale teeth. Other implements include wooden planes, tongs, hinges, pulleys made from wood and steel, along with bark shavers for shaving bark from tall trees for making masts for ships. These tools reveal a history of a time when tools were fashioned individually by the village blacksmith and craftsmen.

MEMBERSHIP & GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Sag Harbor Historical Society

PO BOX 1709, SAG HARBOR, NY 11963

Your Membership and Donations maintain the Annie Cooper Boyd House Museum and its programs and our efforts to support the preservation of Sag Harbor’s historic character.

Donations and Memberships are tax deductible.

NAME(S)

MAILING ADDRESS

E-MAIL & PHONE

- INDIVIDUAL: \$25 FAMILY: \$35 SENIOR CITIZEN: \$15
 BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION: \$50 SPONSOR: \$100 OR MORE
 DONATION \$ _____ CHECK IF THIS IS A GIFT

UPCOMING EVENTS

WHAT OLD HOUSES TELL US

Sat., Dec. 11, 2010, 2 p.m.
**Holiday Party & Program about
the 25 years of the SHHS**

Alexandra Eames on the history of the SHHS and the restoration of Annie's House. This will coordinate with our Holiday Tea.

Sun., April 10, 2011, 2 p.m.
Anchor to Windward

Carolyn Oldenbusch on her book about the secret life of Annie Cooper Boyd and her art work.

Sun., May 15, 2011, 2 p.m.
The Secrets of Maycroft

Jim and Susan Merrell on Maycroft in North Haven and its architectural and social history.

In Memoriam

Leandro S. Galban, Jr.

David Neal Hartman

Gloria Finckenor Jayne

D. Katherine "Birdie"
Holabird

Nancy Love

Joseph Schiavoni

Thank You for Projects Completed

Annie's Gardens

Thanks to Christina Zacharia for her continuing support of Annie's welcoming gardens.

Re-installation of the Original Front Walk Leading to the Annie Cooper Boyd House

Annie's paintings and photos of her house served as a guide to the restoration of the walkway. Thanks to Unlimited Earth Care for construction of the walk.

New SHHS Entrance Sign

Our new sign announces that we are both a home and a museum. We thank Sign Language for the design and production of our more visible and informative sign.

Dehumidifier

Before the onset of summer humidity, Gabe Schiavoni installed a dehumidifier.

Bedroom Air Conditioner

Until Affordable Air Conditioning installed a Fugitsu climate control system, unbearable heat and humidity prevented visitors from viewing the Annie Cooper Boyd bedroom and threatened stored paintings and archival materials.

Driveway Entrance

Thanks to Jim Early and the Sag Harbor Highway Dept. crew for filling a pothole and bringing the entrance to our driveway up to grade.

2010 in Review

SHHS Annual Meeting

This year's annual Sag Harbor Historical Society meeting was kindly hosted by the Society for Long Island Antiquities (SPLIA) on the Custom House Grounds.

Anchor to Windward

The beautiful new book containing Annie Cooper Boyd's Sag Harbor paintings and photographs, paired with excerpts from her diary, and explanations by Carolyn Oldenbusch, would make a fine holiday gift. Contact the SHHS.

Exhibits, 2010

Pamela Vail Lawson's "My Dear Long Island Home," featuring Sag Harbor's past citizens in the arts opened the season. For the rest of the season, about 800 visitors enjoyed "We Love Long Beach and its History" presented by Jean Held and Dorothy Zaykowski.

Dedication of the Clifford Foster Memorial Beach

The Long Beach exhibit was highlighted by Southampton Town's formal dedication of the Clifford Foster Memorial Beach (Long Beach) and citation of thanks to the Foster Family for their gift of the Beach to the people of the Town of Southampton and the Village of Sag Harbor.

Fridays on the Porch

Friday evening open-house gatherings, generated by Neal Hartman and John Bjornen, made their debut to pleased crowds on three evenings in August.

Sag Harbor Historical Society
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