



# QUOGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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"The Olde News"

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## This Old House...in the Coast Guard Station on Dune Road The Only Building in Quogue on the National Register of Historic Places

Today, the old Coast Guard Station looks the same on the outside as it did in 1912 and on the inside as it did in 1948. The historic restoration was a long, very involved labor of love undertaken by the current owners, Wendy and John Cooney. They were then inspired to apply to New York State and to Washington for historic status, and it was granted. Their home is the only building in Quogue on the National and New York State Registers of Historic Places.

Why this old house is there.

The United States Life Saving Service was established in 1878 by the U. S. Treasury, who then constructed stations along both coastal shores (and the Great Lakes) to help ships, their crews, passengers, sailors and swimmers in distress in the sea. The station in Quogue was built by the government in 1912 to replace two previous small buildings which dated back to 1849. Three years later, in 1915, the Revenue Cutter Service and the U.S. Life Saving Service became the United States Coast Guard.

Each station housed six Surfmen and a Station Keeper. Men lived in the barracks-style facility year round, but if married, they lived there during their days on duty. Mrs. Shirley Tooker Riffley showed me a letter

from Bos'n William Fanning Halsey, Jr. (who was married to her cousin, Marietta Tooker) written to the District Commander February 5, 1929 asking permission to sleep at home "as my bedroom adjoins kitchen and messroom, conveniently located for me to hear various noises made during the night such as doors being opened and closed, fires shook down and coal put on, patrolmen passing in and out, etc." (Halsey's home was across the way some 135 feet distant.) In the official reply it was denied, but an attached note said, "while it cannot be granted it will be understood that you sleep at home." There were other small buildings near the station where wives and families lived. Cherie Carter Magee of Quogue told about her great uncle, Howard William Carter, who was born at the station on September 4th, 1896, one of nine children of Station Keeper Charles Almurin Carter and his wife, Adelaide "Betsy" Raynor, four of whom were born on the beach, meaning at the station, including her grandfather, Alfred Lewis Carter.

The Surfmen were strong, courageous men. They went into the sea in all kinds of weather to help those in distress. Valorous efforts by two Surfmen, William F. Halsey and Frank D.

Warner (still familiar names in Quogue) saved two men from the wreck of the "August Hunt" in January 1904. Each man tied a rope around himself, dived into the raging sea, swam out to the wreck, saw the men fall off the top mast, pulled the exhausted seamen out of the waves and swam them back to shore. Each man received the Congressional Gold Life Saving Medal for their rescues. Mr. Cooney has put a replica of the Halsey Gold Medal in a glass frame hanging in the station entry. Mr. Warner's medal is at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Ct. His daughter, Lavenia Warner Bohnak in Florida, said she sent it there to avoid the family fighting over it.

The old USLSSS on Dune Road, later Coast Guard Station #74, was on active status from 1900 to 1924 and from 1939 to 1948. Between the two world wars, the station was closed, but not locked. Young, inquisitive boys were known to investigate the interior and to use the facilities.

The original 1912 National Geologic Survey showing coordinates 40-48-20 Latitude and 72-36-00 Longitude still exists in the lookout tower.

In 1938, when the horror of shore residents came roaring up the coast in September, some of those trapped on Dune Road took refuge inside the station. Their lives were saved, but two popular young men from Quogue drowned. Tommy Fay, Jr., age 21 and Charles Lucas, Jr., age 20, were pulled under water by a rolling tidal wave coming over the canal. Their bodies were found six days later in Hampton Bays. The village was despondent for many years. More

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# Scavenger Hunt



Each of the nearly 60 curious children participating in the Historical Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, July 15th received a white tee shirt with QHS SCAVENGER HUNT identification on the back. They were given a map, pencil, booklet and answer sheet, then formed teams to start the search. At one of the stops, the Library, they were directed to the 1822 School-



house where mini cupcakes from The Lily Pad and lemonade were offered. First, second and third place teams received gift certificates to Double Rainbow. All team leaders received iTunes gift cards. They were all winners, learning interesting parts of Quogue's history and having a good day of it. About half way into the course, volunteer Inger Mejean gave out bottled water to the teams. The Society appreciates the help from our Village Trustees, as well as to all the young people who helped out as Team Leaders.

Packages of the booklets and answer sheets are available at the Pond House. The kids said, "we'll be back next year."

The Scavenger Hunt was made possible by a generous grant from the Pinetree Foundation of New York which is a charitable foundation set up by Charles J. Tanenbaum, deceased, to provide funding for library and educational purposes. One of the main goals of the Foundation is to encourage young people to read and use historical reference material. The Trustees of the Foundation are Kenneth Gliedman of Quogue and Szilvia Szmuk-Tanenbaum.

Committee members who had worked many weeks to create an interesting and educational hunt include Laurie Hallen, Cecelia Lazarescu, Joan Scanlan, Donna Sessa, Traci Duke, Dan Weiskopf, Noah Walley, and Kelso Sutton.



## Update on Antiquity

As reported in earlier editions of this Newsletter, in February of this year, the Historical Society acquired - as a gift from the developer Joseph Gazza - the historic structure known as "Antiquity", one of the oldest houses in the Village of Quogue. Under the Society's agreement with Gazza, the Society was required to remove the building from Gazza's property on Quantuck Lane within six months. In August, the Society completed the

"deconstructin" of Antiquity and moved the deconstructed structure (with all elements labeled and catalogued to facilitate reconstruction) to land provided by the Village of Quogue on Old Country Road where it is stored in a trailer pending a future move to a new location. The Society is actively pursuing options for a new location in the Village, and would welcome any suggestions or thoughts that our readers may have.

**The Pond House will be open Saturdays from 11 to 2 beginning October 6th through Thanksgiving weekend.**

*The Historical Society is a not-for-profit, all volunteer organization. If you would like to donate your time and/or money, please respond to QHS, P. O. Box 1207, Quogue, N.Y. 11959. If you have a comment, criticism, compliment, please write to Newsletter, P. O. Box 87, Quogue, N.Y. 11959*

## Did You Know?

In 1943 the U.S. Government acquired the Suffolk County airport in Westhampton to accommodate Army Air Corps missions during the war. The Army Corps of Engineers began immediately to extend the runways, build bigger hangars and put up barracks for the crews.

To protect the airports and harbors, the military installed coastal batteries throughout Long Island, including two 6" anti-aircraft guns in Quogue. Concrete evidence of these emplacements was discovered in the mid-1970s while engineers were surveying for a new subdivision on both the north side of Scrub Oak Road and east side of Old Depot Road. Buried in reinforced concrete bunkers, the guns could fire armor-piercing projectiles with a range of over 15 miles at a rate of up to 5 rounds per minute. A thick shield around the gun protected the crews.

All but six coastal batteries around the U. S. were deactivated in 1946.



## Children's Art Show

The theme for the Children's Art Show was "the ocean" with a painting of underwater life, a hanging rectangular banner of a colorful fish, and textured and appliqued work on a wood panel. The children did a variety of art from painting and drawing to sculpture and collage. Amy Hess again instructed the children's weekly art lesson at the library. These lessons and the art show are funded in part by the Counselman-Oxholm Fund with the Historical Society.

More than 40 young artists participated, competing by age in one or more of the categories. The art work was juried and prizes awarded. Ribbon winners included Alessia De

Matteo, Anthony Agudelo, Catalina McBride, Eve McBride, Charlotte Molinoff, Henry Haefliger, Mark Barteck, Madeline Clinton, Phoebe Naughton, Payton Glotzer, Charlotte Thompson, Isabella Mautone, Jillian Vargas and Mia Failla. In another section, judged by age, the ribbon winners included Maya Baldur, Story Sossen, Phoebe Kinell, Lily Wagshal, Townes Sossen, Jack Brixus, Claire d'Ambrosio, Ariel Baldur, Katie Burford, Ben Grossman, Elyssa Wagshal, Eloise Cunningham, Marie Goldfarb, Sofia Brixus, Daniel Rottman and Alexa Lightbourn. The judges were Pieter Greeff, Betsy McMahon, Inge Mejean, Joan Scanlan and Elmon Webb.

One project was for any child under 13, who has a Quogue Library Card, had no thematic restrictions. Daniel Caputo, 11 year-old sixth grader at the Quogue School won first prize for his work.



Daniel Caputo



From left to right: Scott Roden, Virginia Wehh, Hunt Whitbeck, John Hallen, Cecelia Lazarescu, Kathy Whitbeck, Laurie Hallen, Charles Caputo. There were prizes for each category by age group.

## Coast Guard Station on Dune Road

than one hundred houses from Quogue to Moriches Inlet were leveled by the storm, but the building at 78 Dune Road didn't lose a shingle.

During WWII the station was reactivated by the Coast Guard. Armed men in full uniform patrolled the beach on the lookout for enemy spies and U Boats. After the war, the government deemed the facility outdated and in 1948 when the U.S. Coast Guard Station opened in Hampton Bays, they sold old #74 to the Callaway family for \$7,000. Mrs. Callaway did some interior decorating and made the place into a comfortable, colorful home for the family. They lived there for many years and for many more years, it was used by renters. Until 1993 when Wendy and John Cooney purchased the Station.

They fell in love with the building, its history and location so near to the sea, but the place was a wreck. There was no heat. Every surface was covered with Lead Paint. The windows leaked, but Mr. and Mrs. Cooney were looking at their dream house on the beach.

Mr. Cooney did a thorough research. His BA in History and depth of respect for each and every, big and little, architectural detail are evident in every inch of the restoration. A good feeling emanates from the bones of these walls; standing in the boathouse which holds two 6-oared rowboats and all their equipment, you go back to another time, you can smell it. The Lorain style building (with tower on top) was designed for stout-hearted men to live with simple

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necessities. In the bedrooms, each man had a shelf, and sometimes a cubby, for his personal belongings – the shelves and cubbies are still being used by the Cooney family. The bathrooms are still painted Mrs. Callahan's lilac. There are the old toilet stalls and a water drinking fountain on the main floor. From the tower the horizon goes on forever, you can see gulls on their way to Spain, inland highways and at night a million stars, just ask the Cooney children.



# Annual Meeting Saturday, September 29

The Annual Meeting of the Quogue Historical Society will take place at 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 29, at the North meeting Room (Courtroom) of the Quogue Village Hall. We have invited Zach Studenroth (Town Historian of the Town of Southampton) and Robert Strada (the consultant who supervised the "deconstruction" of Antiquity) to repeat their fascinating presentation on the architectural history of Antiquity and the Weathervane, which was the subject of a study commissioned by the Historical Society. Their presentation will be followed by a "town meeting" discussion of the need for preservation of historic buildings in the Village

of Quogue, which will be followed in turn by an informal reception. All members and supporters of the

Historical Society are invited to attend.

## Leading Ladies

From its beginning, Pat Shuttleworth was the rudder, keel and sail behind the QHS. She wanted people to know about the village's historic value and to save it for the centuries. Last year, just before she died, Pat visited the Pond House; she exclaimed at the wonder of it all, a home for all those pictures, papers and collections about Quogue saved forever. Patricia Driver Shuttleworth 1928-2011

Thelma Georgeson, mayor of Quogue 1990 to 2002, re-built the weakened village hall to what you see today; computerized village papers, brought Quogue into the 21st century,

yet managed to keep a lot of its 19th century charm. The mayor lived in the Antiquity house for many years. She now lives in Vermont.



*The State of Officers and Board Members is listed below*

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