

# MAMARONECK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 776 Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Newsletter Fall 2022

[www.mamaroneckhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.mamaroneckhistoricalsociety.org)

## President's Message

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Dear Friends of Mamaroneck History,

The Mamaroneck Historical Society has enjoyed a very active and productive year! Since January, our board has been focused on saving the James Fenimore Cooper Murals. Due to the support of the community the effort was successful and we are now planning for restoration and installation in our community.

In addition to the mural effort, the historical society has sponsored five programs on a range of topics. We offered two via Zoom and three in person events to accommodate our members and friends.

We are thrilled by the number of visitors to the 1816 Schoolhouse on the last Sunday of each month which has skyrocketed. Many local families stop by as well as many history buffs coming from a distance to enjoy this historic site.

We are looking forward to our Annual Membership meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Mamaroneck Historical Society Archivist, Mike Tripicco, has put together a wonderful program and archive display celebrating our veterans who have served throughout our country's history.

Our annual Board of Trustees election will also be held on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Based on our revised by-laws, the Board President role is limited to a maximum of two terms, totaling four years. Therefore, we will be voting in a new president to move us

forward in the year ahead. It has been an honor to serve the community as co-presidents of the Mamaroneck Historical Society. We appreciate all of your support and encouragement and look forward to supporting the ongoing work of the Mamaroneck Historical Society.

Gail Boyle *Gail*

John Pritts *John*

**Please join us on November 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm The Women's Club - 504 Cortlandt Avenue**

# Celebrating Local History

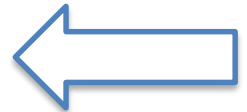
WILLIAM DEALL DAYMON

By Mike Tripicco

William Deall Daymon was a very important person in early Mamaroneck's history. His photographs of people, landscapes, village, sports, etc, are the only record we now have of Mamaroneck's early history. If it wasn't for Daymon, we would have no photographic record of what the village looked like from 1880-1919. This record is valuable to us now and will be even more valuable to future generations.



**William  
Deall  
Daymon**



William was born in Mamaroneck in 1861, and was one of 4 children (1 boy and 3 girls, as far as we know). He started his Photo Business in 1880 at age 19. The business carried on to about 1919, when he was 58 years old. He sold Daymon Studio on 5/29/1919 to Nightingale Studios, and decided to move on. He then became active in civic affairs as Town Clerk for 2 years. He also was active in real estate, with Judge Wm. A. Boyd. He was a member of the Mamaroneck Fire Patrol Co, a Forester and a Mason. He married Louise Campbell of NYC and lived on Palmer Avenue in Mamaroneck. They had 3 sons and 3 daughters and 4 grandchildren. The sons were William Daymon Jr. of New Haven, Conn., Reginald Daymon, and Charles L. Daymon, who was Village Assessor. Daughters were Mrs. Walter F. Hranas of Port Chester, Mrs. August J. Mueller of Mamaroneck and Mrs. Grace L. Brennan. Grace married Walter C. Brennan in NYC in 1920. Walter was a former resident of Mamaroneck and was the owner of Brennan & Foshay Contracting Co. of Port Chester. Both Brennan and Foshay are old names in the Village of Mamaroneck.

Another article in "The Paragraph" describes Damon going to NYC to have his appendix removed!

On April 11, 1912, "The Paragraph" wrote: "PUT OFF CAR: RECOVERS \$500.00". A jury in the County Court returned a verdict for \$500.00 in favor of the plaintiff, Wm D. Damon, the Mamaroneck photographer, against the Westchester Street Railway Company. He sued for \$2,000.00 for his ejection from a trolley car on the White Plains and Mamaroneck line. He refused to pay the extra five cent fare and was then ejected. The court found this to be illegal and he won the case.

Daymon was struck by an Auto in 1929 and was in poor health since then. He took his own life on 11/2/1930 at his home. Services were held at his home on Palmer Ave by Reverend J.J. Snavely of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Interment at Greenwood Union Cemetery in Rye.

The Mamaroneck Historical Society's Archives include approximately 150 photos taken by Daymon utilizing glass plate photography. Mike Meaney, a member of the Mamaroneck Historical Society Advisory Board as our technology expert, has partnered with me in transferring the images to digital format.

This involves handling the glass plates with kid gloves, literally, because the black emulsion that creates the image comes off the glass plates very easily. The plate is then placed on a light table and photographed, labeled and filed digitally.



We are in the process of putting all of the photos into a book format to include all known photographs taken by Daymon. Please let us know if you have any old Daymon photographs to add to this collection, either by donation or recopying.

Please email us at  
[mamaroneckhistory@gmail.com](mailto:mamaroneckhistory@gmail.com).

We look forward to sharing these historic photos with the community.

## Mamaroneck Avenue Nostalgia Tour Stirs Memories

Take an AMAZING tour of Mamaroneck Avenue! Recall favorite Mamaroneck shops and eateries present and past in a new Mamaroneck Historical Society online presentation researched and created by Advisory Board Member, Mike Meaney.

- As you stroll down the Avenue, see current and vintage photographs of businesses from Boston Post Road to the railroad that served shoppers over the decades.
- Browse a list of the shops that operated in every storefront in selected years in the 2000s, 1990s, 1980s, 1970s, 1950s and back to 1913 and earlier.
- Peruse a roster of the longest-operating shops and other businesses present and past.
- Explore the trends in the downtown mix, including the rise of restaurants that has made Mamaroneck Avenue a dining destination.
- And go way back: View photos of The Square, Mamaroneck's commercial hub in the late 1880s and early 1900s.



If you have photographs or stories you'd like to share for the "Tour," email them to  
[mamaroneckhistory@gmail.com](mailto:mamaroneckhistory@gmail.com)

The link to the tour is on our webpage:

[mamaroneckhistoricalsociety.org/mamaroneck-avenue](http://mamaroneckhistoricalsociety.org/mamaroneck-avenue)





## MAMARONECK MEMORIES

### Mamaroneck High School Hockey in the 50's

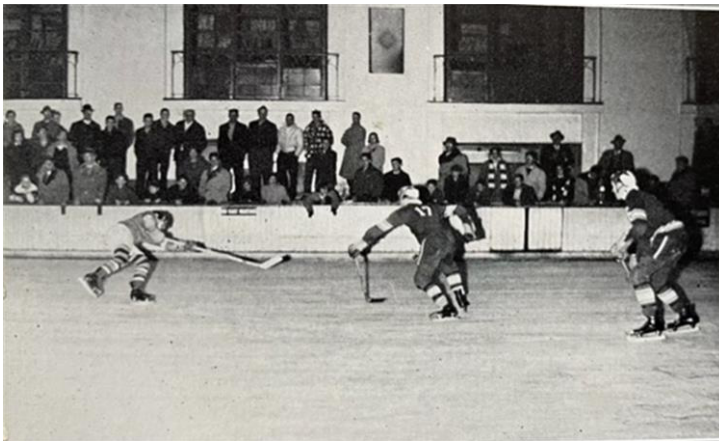
By Ben Shaw

I don't know when ice hockey began at MHS, but I know it began for me in 1957 when I made the varsity team as a junior. I tried out as a sophomore but really had never skated much before so was told to practice and wait a year. There was no JV team at that time.

Back in the 1950's, varsity ice hockey at Mamaroneck High School was vastly different from today with Coach Michael Chiapparelli and his fast paced, highly talented team of skaters. Mike's Division I, state championship winning team members usually had years of hockey training before coming to the high school and so many other opportunities not afforded to us playing 60 to 70 years ago.

First, instead of a thirty-game season, our season consisted of only ten games. The teams we played against were New Rochelle, Greenwich, Ossining, Sleepy Hollow, and Darien. There were only six teams in the league. Some of the teams had their own ice. The teams that did not have their own home ice, had to share practice time, once a week for one hour at Playland in Rye, N.Y. We had to get our own transportation to the site and during hockey season we only had one official practice a week at Playland Ice Arena. The rest of the time we had to pray for cold weather and find ponds to skate on in Larchmont, Rye Neck, and New Rochelle. The Larchmont Gardens Duck Pond and two ponds at Wingfoot Golf Course were our favorite places to practice. Clearing the ice of snow prior to practice was always a chore!

Even when we skated at Playland, the rink was outdated and the ice was in poor condition, but it was the best that we had. When we skated at Playland the ice resurfacing was next to nothing. They only scraped off a superficial layer each time between games. If you were the last team of the day, you felt like you were skating on sand.



In the 50's a wooden straight pine hockey stick would cost around \$2.00. Later on the sticks were wrapped with fiber glass to make them last longer. These sticks might go for \$4.00 or more at Clark and Finney in town or Allen's in New Rochelle. Curved hockey sticks were not available when I played in high school. Our dream place to shop for hockey goods was at Cosby's in NYC, a hole in the wall place, where the professional hockey players bought their equipment.

Our actual uniform was far from the protective gear of today. Even the goalie did not wear a face mask and helmets were three pieces of leather that served as no protective covering whatsoever. We wore garter belts to hold up our weirdly colored striped socks and our pants had one thin semi protection layer of material around the pockets and back. We had shoulder pads but nothing like those today and certainly did not wear teeth or neck guards. We purchased our own skates with tendon guards separately. These tendon guards then had to be sewn onto the skate by a shoemaker. Today all hockey skates cover that vulnerable part of the foot.

Prior to my joining the MHS hockey team there was a woman coach named Ms. Edith Sirica who taught Spanish at the high school. Considering that women's hockey was not even an idea at the time, to have a woman coach so early on, was quite amazing. She coached Steve Bernie and the Van Beaver brothers who were known skaters in town.

When I joined the team, Mr. Raymond Wattles, a French teacher, coached the team. Then during my senior year, I was coached by Coach William Murtagh, who was our football coach at MHS. Mr. Murtagh had no hockey background, but was a good coach. He, along with Mr. Wattles, was also the person who encouraged me to develop my skating skills to a greater degree and even get recognition as a skater.

Playing hockey at MHS changed my life entirely. It taught me to move quickly and gracefully around a rink while connecting to teammates in a precision type activity. I never dreamed of being a hockey player, it just happened.

My first pair of ice skates were racing skates and came from a neighbor. They were too small for me and when I tried to squeeze my feet into them, I fell flat on my face. The skates also had not been sharpened in years so would not move, even if they fit. I finally saved up \$25.00 and bought a used pair of Hyde skates that made skating possible.

I am now 83 years still practice and skate with a Connecticut team. I ended playing Old Timer's Tournament hockey at age 80. I will always cherish my memories of going on to play college hockey at Hillsdale College in Michigan, playing for several years in the Snoopy Tournament in Santa Rosa California, playing all over Canada, playing for St. Nick's, the oldest hockey team in the United States and also playing in the Mamaroneck High School Alumni Games for twelve years.

During these alumni games I also reconnected with Mamaroneck alum, EC Hoffman, who skated on the Ct. Old Crabs with me and with Mamaroneck alum, Danny Ronan, whose father, Dick, I had skated with as a member of the Greenwich Indians.

After being a member of numerous athletic teams, I believe that the friendships developed through hockey seem to be stronger and longer lasting than for most other sports. There is just something so special about the sport of hockey.

## **MILLER'S TOYS' LONGEVITY HONORED**

Miller's toys and bicycles was recognized on October 19<sup>th</sup> for its over seven decades of service. The store, on Mamaroneck Avenue in Mamaroneck since 1948, was added to the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry. The registry highlights businesses that have operated for at least 50 years and have contributed to their communities' history.

During a ceremony at the store, state Sen. Shelley Mayer said she nominated Miller's as "the perfect addition to the registry. The registry is to acknowledge the fortitude of business owners." Assemblyman Steve Otis called Miller's "part of Mamaroneck's history, part of what people feel about Mamaroneck as a home. People feel that this is a place that makes Mamaroneck Mamaroneck." John Pritts, co-president of the Mamaroneck Historical Society, said, "It's part of the community. It's part of us."



Brooke and husband Taka Andrews run the store now. Brooke is the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of the Miller family to own and operate the store.

Taka told those gathered: "We are a small part of this wonderful local community. It's our honor and privilege to do what we do."

Find more about the New York Historic Business Preservation Registry here:  
<https://parks.ny.gov/historic-preservation/business-registry/default.aspx>

# JAMES FENIMORE COOPER MURALS

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Since successfully removing seven of the eight James Fenimore Cooper murals from Mamaroneck High School, the Mamaroneck Historical Society has moved forward to plan for next steps – restoration and installation at sites within the Larchmont Mamaroneck community.

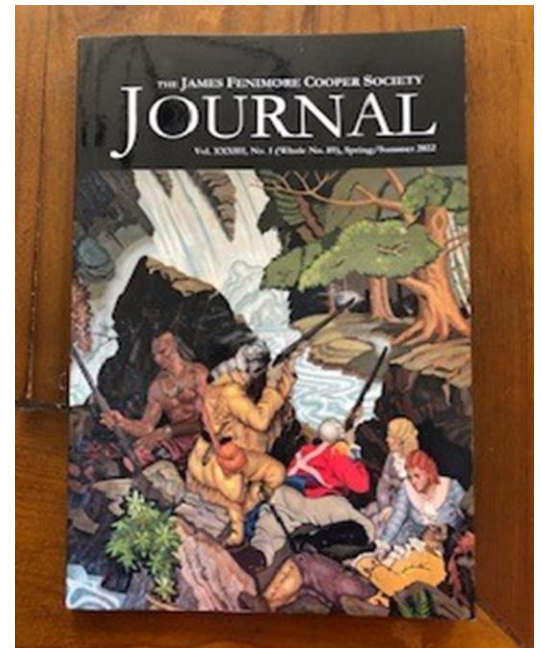
### Where are we in this process?

- The murals are safely stored at a Murphy Brothers Construction Company storage facility.
- Our art conservator has received a written report detailing all of the Art Restoration companies we communicated with during the removal process which she will follow up on.
- We have contacted leaders of Mamaroneck Town, Mamaroneck Village and Larchmont Village and owners of other potential sites for a mural. We are in the process of measuring sites and also identifying any obstacles related to entering each site. This information may impact how a mural is restored, framed, and transported.



View of the original space of the cafeteria at the Mamaroneck High School after the murals were removed. The tan colored walls across the back were the spaces for the five murals based on the Leatherstocking Tales Series by James Fenimore Cooper.

The James Fenimore Cooper Society lobbied strongly that the murals be preserved. They featured the story behind the murals and their removal from MHS in the fall edition of the society's literary Journal focused on the writings of James Fenimore Cooper.



### Join the effort to implement next steps:

- Become a part of the “steering committee” made up of community members interested in working together to get these murals out of storage and on to walls in our community.
- Share your skills and interests essential to moving forward with restoration including grant writing, working with conservators, planning with municipal leaders, fundraising, communication and press.
- Help plan for installation through research about the art and artists, navigating the challenges.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN HELP - CONTACT GAIL BOYLE AT [gailboyle@msn.com](mailto:gailboyle@msn.com)**



## THE MAMARONECK PLAYHOUSE REOPENS

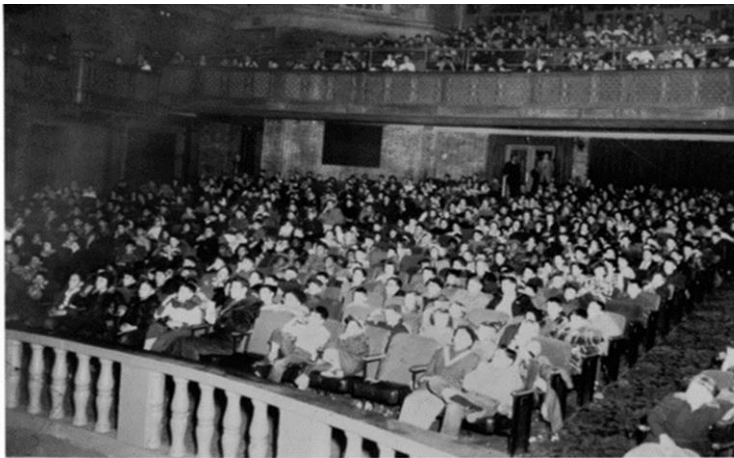


The theater name is displayed at the top of the building still in 2022.

The Mamaroneck Playhouse, closed since 2014, reopened June 17, 2022, as the eight-screen Mamaroneck Cinemas. Despite complete modernization of the facility, the new owners ensured that the restoration would honor and preserve the historic features of the building.

If you want to explore the amazing history of the Mamaroneck Playhouse, go to the link on the Mamaroneck Historical Society Website. [mamaroneckhistoricalsociety.org/movies](http://mamaroneckhistoricalsociety.org/movies)

Mike Meaney has created a nostalgic and informative tour with photos from our archives. He includes links to press coverage and video of the new cinema along with a photo montage that takes you through the history of movie houses in our community. In the Mamaroneck Memory below shared by Historical Society member Ben Shaw, pictures from the website are included. Enjoy the link – and hope to see you at the movies!



Audience packs ThePlayhouse, including balcony. Date unknown.



George Yannuzzi at concession stand in The Playhouse. Date not available. Several members of the Yannuzzi family worked in the theater over the years.

### Going to the Movies in the 40's and 50's

By Ben Shaw

Growing up in Larchmont Mamaroneck, my neighborhood was like being in the “Our Gang Comedies”. We came in all shapes and sizes, skin color, and religions, but all got along, as family, sometimes. What we looked forward to was a special Saturday morning going to the movies. We lived vicariously through these

movies. We talked about them, role played different characters, and were influenced by the movies that we saw. I grew up before television, therefore, movies were a very important part of my life.

Once a month the PTA would sponsor early bird morning movies at the Larchmont Playhouse. There would be a feature film, usually a cowboy movie or a horror film, comedies with Laurel and Hardy and the Three Stooges, and cartoons. Sometimes there was also live entertainment. I remember a local police officer, Jim Mancusi (was on Ted Mack Amateur Hour) who used to sing songs at the beginning of the feature movie on special occasions. He was known throughout town as "The Singing Cop." Sometimes treats were handed out after the end of the movie, especially at holiday time. It was only ten cents for a morning of fun.

Some of the characters that I remember from the cowboy movies were Hopalong Cassidy, Gene Autrey, Roy Rogers, Tom Mix, Lash LeRou, Whip Wilson, Sinbad and Hoot Gibson. Horror shows included Frankenstein, Dracula, werewolves and anything scary.



A performer on The Playhouse stage.  
His name and the year not available.



A New York Times story on the Dec. 5, 1925, opening of The Playhouse.

Living on the New Rochelle border, we would walk (2 miles), take the train (fifteen cents) or the bus (ten cents) to see movies. There were four movie houses in New Rochelle and each movie house had its own personality. Sadly, none of these theaters exist today.

Our choice in New Rochelle on Saturday's was usually the Astor. For a small amount of money, we got two feature films, (cowboy, horror, comedy, and action), cartoons, a fifteen-minute serial movie, and a chance to win prizes in the novelty race game. My favorite cartoon characters were the Loonie Tunes People; Little Audrey, Bugs Bunny, Road Runner and Donald Duck.

The serial movies were like chapters in a book. It would show you the first chapter and end with suspense. This would make you want to come back week after week to see what happened in that story to Don Winslow, Dick Tracy or other adventuresome characters.

The novelty race was like a race through the woods, up hills, through streets and water ways, and through other dangerous situations by ten different characters. When you went to the theater you would get a ticket with a number, one to ten. Each character had a number. If your character won the race at the end of the movie you got a prize. People went crazy cheering for their numbered character hoping they were the winner.



To get money to go to the movies you could ask your parents. In my neighborhood, we usually collected bottles to go to the movies. You got two cents for a soda bottle and five cents for a beer bottle. By collecting bottles, we became self-sufficient.

When I got to the Junior High School and mixed with students from different areas of town, we used to frequent the Mamaroneck Playhouse.

When going to the movies we loved to buy Cracker Jacks as you got a prize in the box. For sodas we liked Mason, Nehi, and Pepsi, not Coke. For the same price, Pepsi gave you twelve ounces and Coke gave you only eight.

With all the cowboy and Indian and horror shows that I saw, I think the scariest movie that I remember as a young boy was the Wizard of Oz. That movie was more frightening to me than either Frankenstein or Dracula. The Wizard of Oz was the first movie I ever saw alone. I am still a great movie goer. Movies have been a big part of my life.

## JAMES FENIMORE COOPER MURALS CELEBRATION

June 5, 2022

Many folks in the Larchmont Mamaroneck Community came together at the 1816 Schoolhouse to celebrate the successful removal of the murals. We paused and recognized all of the individuals and businesses who supported the effort. It was a beautiful June day to relax and enjoy music (by Midnight Maizy) light refreshments and a display showing the process used to safely save the murals. **Stop by the 1816 Schoolhouse on the last Sunday of each month to view the display, or email us at [mamaroneckhistory@gmail.com](mailto:mamaroneckhistory@gmail.com) to arrange for a presentation to an interested group.**



# MAMARONECK MEMORIES

## An Oral History Interview by Dr. Darla Shaw

*Dr. Darla Shaw continues to research Mamaroneck History. She is now exploring our history through personal interviews. She meets with people raised in Mamaroneck and listens to their life story, guiding them to shed light on what life was like growing up in the community. Her interview with Jack Brewer can be enjoyed at the link on our website. [mamaroneckhistoricalsociety.org/oralhistory](http://mamaroneckhistoricalsociety.org/oralhistory)*

*Today's featured interview is Barrie Proctor Bonacci. Barrie's memories about growing up in Mamaroneck are insightful and shed light on how much has changed – yet how much remains the same in our community.*

*Enjoy below an excerpt from Barrie's interview with Darla then explore more of her life and extensive photos at the link on our webpage.*

### **Barrie Proctor Bonacci**

“Sometimes you don't realize how much you miss a place until you move away,” is a quote from Barrie Proctor Bonacci who grew up in Mamaroneck in the 1940's and 1950's.

Barrie is now eighty and spent half of her life in Mamaroneck and half of her life in North Salem, N.Y. She was a graduate of the Mamaroneck High School class of 1959 and her husband, Tom Bonacci, is a graduate of MHS class of 1956.

Although Barrie is no longer a resident, she continually returns to Mamaroneck to meet with old friends, and visit her favorite locations. She has helped classmate Vivien Bonnist Cord organize the 10<sup>th</sup> through 59<sup>th</sup> reunions and the 59<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>, and 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.

Barrie's father, Beresford, moved to their house in 1914 on the corner of Palmer and Heathcote when he was 16 years old. The house was built in 1902. He then went on to raise his family of three beautiful daughters there; Marilyn, Janet and Barrie. When Beresford died in 1994, Barrie's older sister, Marilyn Proctor Monsanto, took over the family home. Beresford Proctor was in oriental rug sales, was with Peter Doran Real Estate and later became the vice president of the Larchmont Federal Savings and Loan.



In addition to being a very smart and talented man, Barrie's father was very concerned about the environment and what DDT was doing to the blue bird population. To help the cause, her father would go to the basement and make over 300 blue bird houses to give to various organizations, private home owners and nature centers to help preserve these birds. He asked if they would just contact him if any of the houses had blue birds in them.

**READ MORE OF DARLA'S INTERVIEW AND VIEW BARRIE'S AMAZING PHOTOS AT:**

[Mamaroneckhistoricalsociety.org/oralhistory](http://Mamaroneckhistoricalsociety.org/oralhistory)

# MAMARONECK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTIONS

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 7:00 PM

The Women's Club 504 Cortlandt Avenue Mamaroneck



Followed by a Special Program

Honoring our Veterans Throughout History

Hear stories written by local veteran Jim Camera

History of Veteran's Organizations with Al Bender



Archive display of artifacts celebrating the men and women who served

Refreshments Served

## MAMARONECK HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2022 ELECTION DETAILS

The following candidates are nominated for Board of Trustee positions.

Proposed Candidate	Position	Term
Peter Fellows	President	2 years
John Pritts	Trustee	2 years
Phyllis Kaskel	Recording Secretary	2 years
Mike Tripicco	Archivist	2 years

## Please Support the Mamaroneck Historical Society

Membership dues, donations and calendar sales support the work of the historical society. As a non-profit organization all donations are tax deductible so please consider a donation during this holiday season.

**Hurry up and get your copy of the 2023 Mamaroneck Historical Society calendar while supplies last!**

**Includes photos of memorable locations and dates in our history. Perfect for Holiday Gifts!**

**Cost: \$16.00**

**Available for sale at:**

1816 Schoolhouse on 11/27 1-4pm

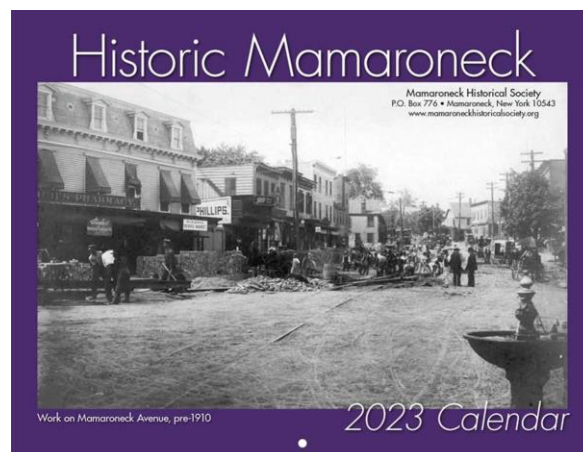
ASAP - E. Prospect Mamaroneck

Mamaroneck Public Library

Village Paint - Larchmont

Foleys - Larchmont

Contact Mike at [mat521@optonline.net](mailto:mat521@optonline.net)







**MAMARONECK  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

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**IT'S TIME TO RENEW - TO JOIN - AND TO SUPPORT PRESERVATION OF OUR HISTORY**

**Please use the enclosed envelope to support this effort or**

**Join via our website at the SUPPORT link. <https://www.mamaroneckhistoricalsociety.org/support>**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: (Please check one)

\$20 - Senior/Student

\$125 - Sustaining

\$25 - Individual

\$250 - Benefactor

\$40 - Family

\$500 - Corporate

Additional Tax Deductible Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Mamaroneck Historical Society

Membership is on an annual basis, from January 1st to December 31st of each year.