

SEPTEMBER

MamaroneckHistoricalSociety.org

| MamaroneckHistory@gmail.com

Monthly Member Get-togethers!

Third Tuesday of every month (except January, July & August)
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at
Woman's Club of
Mamaroneck, 504 Cortlandt Avenue.

First we have a group discussion of current research projects and local mysteries in Mamaroneck.

We break after that, stretch & grab some refreshments.

Then we take our seats for the "feature" presentation, usually with a PowerPoint, leaving lots of time for Q & A.

Coming next month...

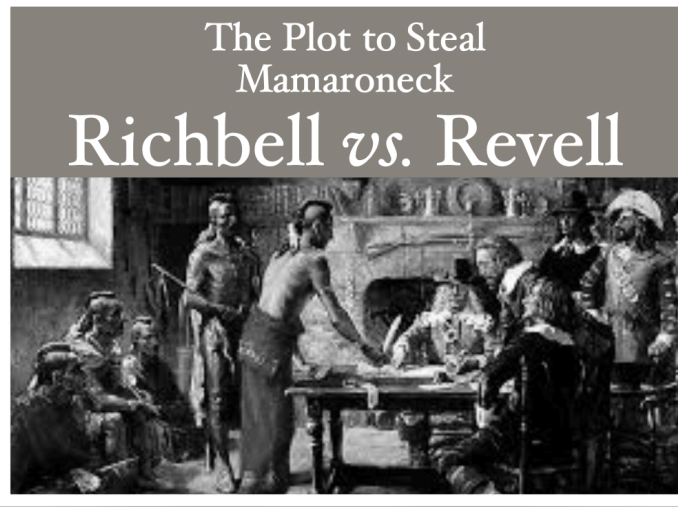
Tuesday, October 17th

The Battle of Heathcote

Hill: *A Story About Mamaroneck During the Revolution.*

The American Revolution was also a civil war, families divided as to what was the "right" course of action.

At Heathcote Hill, Mamaroneck residents acted on both sides of the struggle.



September 19, 2023, Member Get-together

Always something new to discover and some new mystery to uncover!

At the Member Get-together, we talked about some of the stuff we've been up to over the summer recess: Sunny Goldberg's LMC interview of Peter about the Historical Society, Gail Boyle's on hands work on the James Fenimore Cooper murals, and more (which you can read about in this issue).

We spoke about the fall/winter Member Get-togethers (also covered here) including the December Holiday Party. "Be there or be square!"



Also coming this fall...

Board Elections & Honoring Our Vets

November 21st (Tuesday)

Member Holiday Party

December (Date TBA)

1816 School House

Just a reminder that (thanks to John Pritts) the School House is open for visits on the last Sunday of each month, from 1:00 - 4:00pm.

You can make a difference as a Member!

When you become a 2024 Member, no matter how much you participate or donate, it all helps! Donate now for 2024

Minimum Suggested 2024 Member Donations: \$25 (\$20 for Seniors & Students - \$40 family)

Checks payable to "The Mamaroneck Historical Society"

Mailing Address: **The Mamaroneck Historical Society, PO Box 776, Mamaroneck, NY 10543**

or online at

2024 Membership Donations



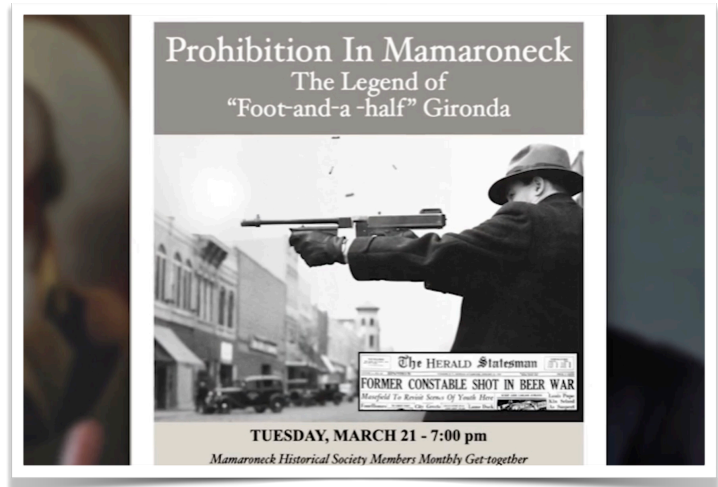
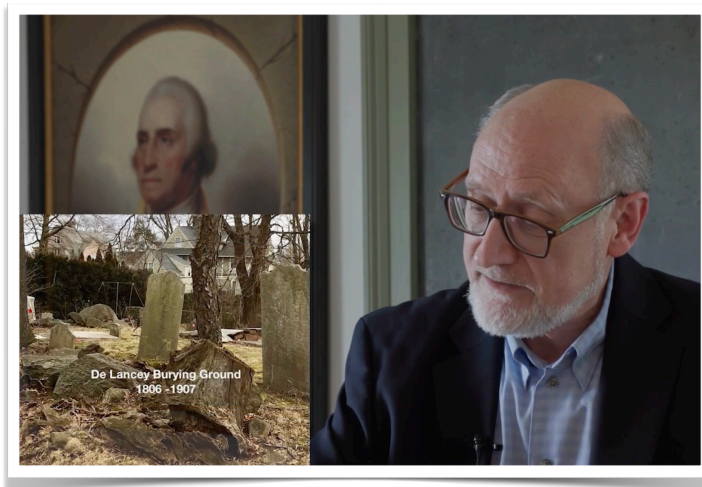
The Restoration of the James Fenimore Cooper Murals Rescued from Mamaroneck High School

Saving the Murals before they were destroyed was the first step. Carol will share that harrowing tale with us in the New Year.

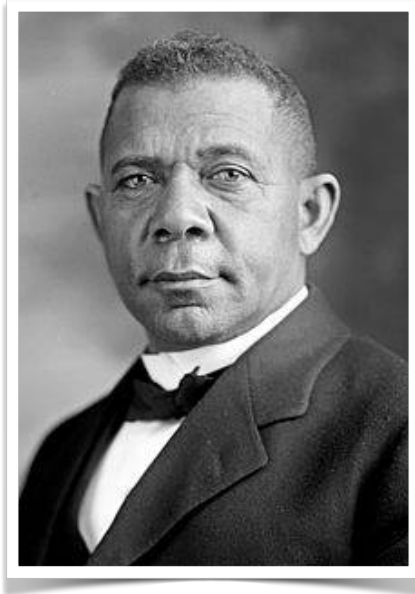
Over the summer she and John Pritts have found a home for three of them and are working on the restoration phase.



Some Photos From the KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS LMC Sunny Goldberg Interview



Booker T Washington (Almost) Comes To Mamaroneck



From my online post of Sunday, May 25, 2019.

I took an early morning walk up to the De Lancey Burying Ground this morning). Although it was only 7:30 am the air was already warm and humid.

I placed a chair where I thought a planned future park bench would be best situated, and pulled out my laptop.

Drops of water fell dangerously from the leafy bough overhead, shaken by a delightfully cooling breeze.

I was searching online for any newspaper articles about the burial of Edward Floyd DeLancey.

As my search widened I came across the following article in the July 02, 1907 edition of the New York Tribune.

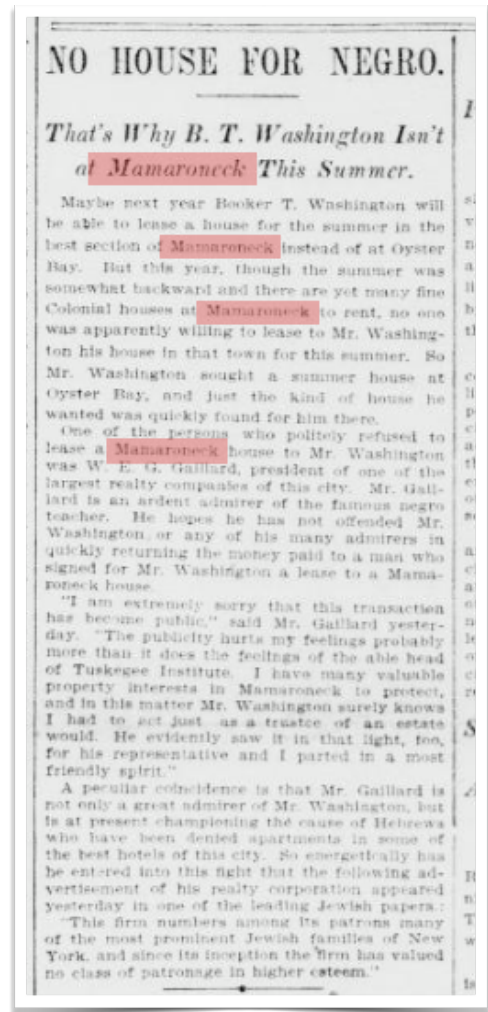
WARNING: *You might find this article offensive. I post it because I think it suggests an important avenue of research and as I am focused upon 17th and 18th century Mamaroneck, I hope someone else will be moved to take up the trail.*

Please remember that any newspaper article is akin to a single snapshot. We cannot derive an accurate understanding of Mamaroneck in 1907 from one photo taken at one place at one moment from one angle.

NO HOUSE FOR NEGRO

That's Why B. T. Washington Isn't At Mamaroneck This Summer.

Maybe next year Booker T. Washington will be able to lease a house for the summer in the best section of Mamaroneck instead of at Oyster Bay. But this year, though the summer was somewhat backward and there are yet many Colonial houses at Mamaroneck to rent, no one was apparently willing to lease to Mr. Washington his house in that town for the summer. So Mr. Washington sought a summer house at Oyster Bay, and just the kind of house he wanted was quickly found for him there.



One of the persons who politely refused to lease a Mamaroneck house to Mr. Washington was W. E. G. Gaillard, president of one of the largest reality companies this city. Mr. Gaillard is an ardent admirer of the famous negro teacher. He hopes he has not offended Mr. Washington or any of his many admirers in quickly retiring the money paid to a man who signed for Mr. Washington a lease to a Mamaroneck house.

"I am extremely sorry that this transaction has become public," said Mr. Gaillard yesterday. "The publicity hurts my feelings probably more than it does the feelings of the able head of Tuskegee Institute. I have many valuable property interests in Mamaroneck to protect, and in this matter Mr. Washington surely knows I had to act just as a trustee of an estate would. He evidently saw it in that light, too, for his representative and I parted in a most friendly spirit."

A peculiar coincidence is that Mr. Gaillard is not only a great admirer of Mr. Washington, but is at present championing the cause of Hebrews who have been denied apartments in some of the best hotels in this city. So energetically has he entered into this fight that the following advertisement of his reality corporation appeared yesterday in one of the leading Jewish papers:

"This firm numbers among its patrons many of the most prominent Jewish families of New York and since its inception the firm has valued no class of patronage in higher esteem."

SOME COMMENTS FROM FOLK WHO READ THIS POST

"My family moved from Brooklyn to Larchmont around 1951 when I was only four, but as I grew older in the '50s and early '60s, it was obvious - regarding discrimination and prejudice - that some things were still the same." JS

"In the 50s I walked from Mamaroneck Avenue School to Prospect Ave. It was known to not walk that way after dark because of my color. Said we had to respect each others boundaries after the sun goes down." DA

"What the friendly village doesn't understand, this same sentiment happens today. People of color have been rejected and discriminated in buying, renting, or living in Mamaroneck. I can make this statement because it has happened to me. Thank you so much for posting this article. There is no coincidence that you came across this article." LY

"I was mortified to read my house deed which states that I cannot sell my house to blacks. I asked my attorney if he could get it changed but we were at closing. Wondering if others have this clause in their house deeds." ES





Who Lies Beneath? Uncovering the lives of those interred in the Florence/ Powell Burying Ground

The restoration of any burying ground can be said to have two components: the restoration of the physical aspects of the site, and the restoration of the story of the people interred there.

According to a 2009 transcript of his headstone, Peter Florence died November 30, 1808, aged 57 years, 3 months & 10 days. So from this we might infer that he was born August 20, 1751.

This would make Peter Florence about 24 yrs old on September 24, 1774 when a Peter Florence signed the Declaration of Freeholders in the Town of Rye saying they were not part of the rebellion against the King.

But was that the same Peter Florence?

And in the burying ground, beside his head stone is that of Sarah Florence described on the stone as “Wife of Peter Florence,” so the entry in Christ Church on June 25 (year unknown) of a Peter Florence marrying Miss Mary Ann B Webb, “both of Mamaroneck,” is probably not our Peter Florence, but might be, or might be his son.

That, I hope, illustrates the difficulty of trying to figure out who these folk (our neighbors from an earlier time) are.

You can help.

Think of it like a detective story. Take a few minutes when you can and scour the internet looking for clues to this mystery.

Who lies beneath? Maybe you'll find out!