

#### <sup>4</sup>UPCOMING EVENTS

##### ICE HARVEST

Saturday, February 2 10:00 AM  
Sunrise Park

Dennis Picard and crew Westfield, Massachusetts  
*This year the Society will co-sponsor an ice harvest at Sunrise Park with the Suffield Land Conservancy and the Friends of the Farm at Hilltop. Show up around 10:00 a.m. to learn or observe how to handle an ice saw, use an ice pick and other antique tools used to cut blocks of ice out of White's Pond.*

Bad weather date is Sunday, February 3.  
*Check our website <SuffieldHistoricalSociety.org> for ice conditions or bad weather that might change or cancel the event.*

##### GENEALOGY

Wednesday, February 20 7:00 PM  
Kent Memorial Library

NOTE: This program starts at 7:00 PM, which is earlier than our usual meeting time.

*We will review the different types of primary and secondary sources available for genealogical research. Learn how to document these sources correctly.*

**Suffield Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 893  
Suffield, Connecticut 06078  
(860) 668-5256

www.SuffieldHistoricalSociety.org

King House Museum  
232 South Main Street

Open to the Public  
Wednesdays and Saturdays  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
May through September

Newsletter Editor  
Maggie Philippon

##### SHOW & TELL NIGHT

Wednesday, March 19 7:30 PM  
Kent Memorial Library

*Anyone can sign up for a presentation. Each presentation is limited to 10 minutes. Each must be related to Suffield or American history. Anecdotes, folklore, artifacts, photos or local artwork, collections, archaeology, and works in progress are all welcome.*



*Can you identify these trick-or-treaters from the King House Halloween festivities?*



The King House Museum

# Stony Brook CURRENTS

Vol. III, No. 1

A Newsletter of the Suffield Historical Society

January 2008

**The mission of the Suffield Historical Society is to collect, preserve and stimulate interest in the history of Suffield and the region and to actively share it. The Society hopes to inspire a sense of community, as well as to provide an understanding and appreciation of Suffield's past.**

##### Suffield Historical Society

*President*  
Edward Chase, III

*Vice President*  
Arthur Sikes, Jr.

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*Secretary*  
Nancy Noble

*Historian & Curator*  
Lester Smith

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Robert C. Stewart, *Programs & Events*

Arthur Sikes, Jr.  
*Membership*

Barry Sisk, *Long-Range Planning*

**Trustees**  
Jim Baker  
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**King Property Trustees**  
Edward Chase, III  
William Connelly  
Hazel Phillips

## Original Proprietors: Thomas Remington, Sr. and His Sons

*by Ed Chase*

Freeman Thomas Remington, Sr. and his family moved to Suffield from Windsor in 1679. Thomas Sr., along with his three oldest sons, received original land grants.

Listed as one with the "privilege and liberty of voting in all town affairs", Thomas Sr. was elected one of our first four selectmen at Suffield's first Town Meeting on March 9, 1681/2. He was elected to this position for six more one-year terms between 1682 and 1698 – beginning community service by the Remington family in Suffield spanning five different centuries. Last year's Town Report listed three Remingtons as town officials. Many of you may remember Harold Remington, who holds the record for continuous years of service to the town. He was elected Town Clerk for 49 consecutive years, 1929 to 1978.

Thomas Sr.'s land grant was on Feather Street (now East Street). Sons Thomas Jr. and John received land off what we now call North Main Street. Son Jonathan's grant was just north of his father's on Feather Street. A fourth son, Joseph, was too young in 1679 to receive a land grant. However, Thomas Jr. died in 1683, and his land grant became young Joseph's property. It is for this son, Joseph, that Remington Street was named.

A fifth son, Benjamin, was born in Suffield. Thomas Sr. and his wife Mehitable Walker also had a daughter, Sarah.

In those early years of Suffield, most settlers identified themselves as farmers although the community depended heavily on them for government, militia, and the construction of infrastructure. The Remingtons were no exception.

John's son, Daniel, built a house on Hill Street that was restored by Delphina Clark in the 1960s. Daniel's land is what we now know as a bird sanctuary thanks to a Clark family gift.

Daniel Remington's grandson and great-grandson – Eliphalet Sr. and Eliphalet Jr. – moved from Suffield and settled Remington Four-Corners in New York in the early 1800s. They opened the Remington Arms Company there and named the town that developed around the factory Ilian.

1) Emigrating from England, John Remington and his wife Elizabeth came to Newbury, MA in 1638. Children: John Jr., Thomas Sr., Jonathan, Elizabeth, and Joseph.

2) Thomas Sr. (b. 1633 in England, d. 1721 in Suffield) m. Mehitable Walker of Windsor, CT (d. 1718). Children: Thomas Jr., d. 1683 in Suffield; John; Jonathan d. 1755; Sarah m. Peter Roe 1688/9; Joseph b. 1675; and Benjamin b. 1677 in Suffield, d. 1767.

References for this article include Remington genealogies, H.S.Sheldon's *Documentary History of Suffield*, Robert Alcorn's *Biography of a Town*.

## HOLIDAYFEST

by Lester Smith

*Trains, Planes, and Cars* turned out to be a good choice for the King House Museum's special Holidayfest exhibit, December 1 & 2. Though nothing from our museum's collection fit the category this year, 23 friends and members responded well, with a lot of great toys and models, old and new. There was a good sampling of planes and lots of cars and trucks. As for trains, seventeen locomotives were on view, with plenty of rolling stock, all displayed on track representing five different gauges. One train set up to run around the Christmas tree was operated whenever there were children present.

About 120 visitors attended, enjoying the exhibit along with the ambience. Who could resist the fireplace, the refreshments, the friendly sociability?

Several good possibilities have been suggested for next year's topic. Your curator needs all the advice he can get, so please don't hesitate to add yours.



*Suspended from the rafters in the ell, Bill Daley's six-foot wingspan radio control biplane was a big attention-getter in the Holidayfest exhibit.*

## SHS MEMBER NEWS

We welcome the following nine new members: Dayl Graves, Jean and Paul Kulas, Walter Powell, John Quenneville, Alice Goldrick, Bill Westervelt, and Linda and Brendan Begley

We thank Gary Allen, a member from Annandale, Virginia, who wrote letters to the Society including some genealogical research which was not previously in our records.

Mr. Allen is a descendant of Bathsheba Fuller, the daughter of early Suffield settler, Joseph Fuller. Joseph was the subject of the *Stony Brook Currents* cover article in September 2007. The letters have been placed in the Kent Memorial Library historical collection.

## DOCENTS SOUGHT

by Anne Borg

The King House Museum is in dire need of new docents for the upcoming season.

If you can volunteer one Wednesday or Saturday afternoon a month (or more!), please contact Nancy Noble at 668-2538.

Docent responsibilities include opening and closing the house and escorting visitors through the house. Curator Lester Smith is nearly always present.

There will be a training session for new docents in April.

## 9/11 STORIES

The Connecticut Historical Society has put together an exhibit entitled "Connecticut 152 Victims, September 11, 2001, Connecticut Responds and Reflects."

Anyone who knew a victim, who was an emergency responder, or who has a story related to the events of 9/11 is encouraged to contact Ron Carlson, a member of the Suffield Fire Department, at 668-0183 or Anne Guernsey, the exhibit developer, at 236-5621 Extension 256.

Your information and stories are important and should be included in this exhibit, which is Connecticut's official history of the event.

The exhibit will be in Suffield during the month of September. Be sure to see it!



*Joan Baker, "Foxy" (once a G. Fox mannequin), and Nancy Noble are ready to greet the trick-or-treaters at the King House for Halloween.*

## CURATOR'S REPORT

by Lester Smith

Our off-season efforts on the museum's cataloging backlog and needed storage improvements have made some progress, including a nascent project to convert the storeroom in the ell into an archive room. The room is being emptied in anticipation of insulating and sealing it to provide satisfactory space for our growing collection of historical books, reports, journals, photos, and other sensitive materials now crying out for a better environment. We expect the construction work to start in the spring. The Executive Committee felt this project was needed, as a good archives room in a new building seems not expectable any time soon.

The Society's recent acquisitions have included: An assortment of old insignia and ceremonial items, donated by the West Suffield Grange. An old wash board, donated by Ann Cronan. A batch of projection slides from the Tercentenary Parade in 1970, the Masonic Building move in 1971, and the damage from the 1979 tornado, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Al Charman. A folding wash stand and wringer, purchased from a local tag sale

A tobacco hatchet, from the same sale. A stereo photo of the big 1878 wedding party on King's

## ROSALIE LAPPEN

Sadly, Rosalie Lappen's long fight with cancer ended with her death on August 30. A regular docent at the King House Museum, she helped to maintain the friendly atmosphere there that visitors so appreciate, and as Property Committee Chairman, she enthusiastically worked to arrange proper maintenance.

## Membership Application for New Members Only

I/we subscribe to the mission of the Suffield Historical Society as published in its newsletter and wish to be included in its membership.

Miss/Ms/Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check any committee or committees that are of interest to you.*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Collections    \_\_\_ Development

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Docents    \_\_\_ Exhibitions

Telephone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Property    \_\_\_ Membership

E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Program    \_\_\_ Special Events

Dues:    Individuals    \$10    Family    \$15

          Youth (under 18) \$2    Patron    \$25

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Publicity and Marketing

The Internal Revenue Service has granted tax exempt status to the Suffield Historical Society.

Please complete this form and mail it with your check to  
Suffield Historical Society, c/o Gary Mandirola, 1600 North Street, Suffield, CT 06078.