

# THE NEW PORTICO

THE HUNTINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY • SPRING 2011

A SOLDIER'S RETURN TO HUNTINGTON

## Painting Inspires New Civil War Exhibit

One hundred and fifty years ago on April 12, 1861, the first shots were fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina's Charleston Harbor and the War of Session had begun. In October of that year, J.C. Walters, a thirty-five year old Long Islander and son of Philip and Deborah Conklin Walters, who had been married in South Hempstead in 1807, enlisted at Cold Spring Harbor as a Sergeant in the 102nd Volunteer Regiment, Company C. Jacob Conklin Walters, who married in Huntington in 1856 the recently widowed Eliza Jane Cheshire (nee Kellum) was the father to Ida Walters, born in 1858, Carrie Walters, born in 1860 and the step-father to Emma Cheshire, born in 1850.

In March of 1862, the 102nd Volunteer Regiment of eight companies including Company C, left Brooklyn and proceeded to Washington. On March 15th, they crossed the Potomac and marched to Langley, VA where they were stationed for ten days before returning to Washington. In May the regiment joined the Army of Virginia and participated in the Battle of Cedar Mountain on August 9, 1862. Sergeant J. Conklin Walters was killed in the battle and became one of the first casualties of the war from Huntington.

After the war, when G.A.R. Post 641 was formed in Cold Spring



**PORTRAIT OF A SOLDIER:** A painting of Jacob Conklin Walters, one of Huntington's first casualties of the Civil War, serves as the inspiration for the Society's new exhibit at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building. This fascinating exhibit opens on April 12th, which marks the 150th Anniversary of the start of the Civil War.

Harbor/Huntington, it was named the J.C. Walters Post. J.C. Walters is one of the names listed on the memorial tablet over the fireplace at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building, now owned and operated by the Huntington Historical Society. Ida, the oldest daughter of J.C.

Walters and his wife Eliza Jane, married John J. Ferguson of Huntington in 1879. They lived at the corner of Prime and New York Avenues. Their son, Harry C. Ferguson married Fanny and lived at 18 Prospect Street in the village, and their son John A. Ferguson, inherited the portrait of his great-grandfather. In 2011, John A. Ferguson's widow Joan, on behalf of the Ferguson family, donated the portrait to the Historical Society, to hang in Huntington at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building. It will be installed there in April to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War.

It is the "return" to Huntington of the J. C. Walters portrait which has inspired a new Civil War exhibit highlighting the contributions and sacrifices made by Huntington

*Continued on back page...*

"A Soldier's Return...Huntington During the Civil War" opens on April 12th with a special reception at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building, 228 Main Street. For more information, please call 631-427-7045, ext. 401.

SHEEP TO SHAWL FESTIVAL

# Llamas...Angoras...and Sheep...Oh My!

Sunday, May 1st  
12 to 4 pm

Dr. Daniel W. Kissam  
House Museum  
434 Park Avenue,  
Huntington



**FUZZY FRIENDS** *One of the highlights of the Society's Sheep to Shawl Festival is the wide variety of animals and activities which can be observed and enjoyed by all who attend. Our annual Spring tradition is held on the same weekend as the Town of Huntington's Tulip Festival*



## AT THE KISSAM HOUSE MUSEUM "Strolling Along with Baby"

An interesting new exhibit will open in time for the Sheep to Shawl Festival on Sunday, May 1st at the Kissam House Museum. "Strolling Along with Baby" will showcase three antique prams which were recently donated to the Society,



along with three antique doll carriages. The exhibit will offer a look back in time and span the years from the Civil War through the Victorian era, up to the 1930's. Another newly acquired pram will

also be on display, but this one at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building as part of the new Civil War exhibit opening on April 12th. We invite you to come learn about the

development of "baby transportation" and how it has evolved through the years.

You may find yourself wondering, "Is what I'm looking at a perambulator, a pram, a stroller, a buggy, a push chair or a carry-cot?" Stop by the Kissam House Museum on May 1st and find out!

If you close your eyes and breathe deeply you can just about smell the spring. After this long chilly winter, we can't wait! With much anticipation, along with the spring weather comes the Huntington Historical Society's annual Sheep To Shawl Festival. Join us on May 1st on the lush green lawn of the historic Kissam House property where the lilacs will be blooming and the sheep will be sheared.

This year, along with lovely llamas, angoras and the adorable pot belly pig, we welcome a plethora of textile traditions. Enjoy weaving, spinning, tatting, lace making, quilting, rug hooking, felting, embroidery and more. Spirited music presented by the Long Island Traditional Music Association will fill the air and make you snap your fingers and tap your toes. Children will be entertained with old-fashioned games (win a prize!) and can let their imaginations run wild as they create adorable puppets, mosaic clay pots, yarn dolls and other seasonal crafts. The little ones will be enchanted by

the story teller, while everyone will be enchanted by our *Strolling Along with Baby* exhibit in the Dr. Daniel W. Kissam House Museum, which will be open for tours throughout the day. Your stroll across the grounds will stir your appetite, so don't forget to stop by our authentic bee hive oven for some freshly baked bread as well as the food and drink stand for refreshments, snacks, munchies and beverages.

This event is truly the perfect way to mosey into spring, so be sure to mark your calendars and save the date!

*\* This event is made possible in part with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts. In Suffolk County the Decentralization Program is administered by The Huntington Arts Council, Inc., in partnership with the Suffolk Consortium of Arts Councils.*

## Luck Be A Wonderful Night Out For the Society

Looking to take a chance on a wonderful evening of musical comedy? The Huntington Historical Society invites you to a special reception and performance of the award winning musical, "Guys and Dolls," on Thursday, April 28th at the John Engeman Theater in Northport. A portion of the \$75 ticket price will benefit the Society and includes the reception.

Winner of 5 Tony Awards including one for Best Musical, "Guys and Dolls" will have you singing along to such Broadway favorites as "Luck be a Lady," "A Bushel and a Peck" and "If I were a Bell." The characters are



Thursday, April 28th  
6:30 pm Reception & Refreshments;  
8 pm Show

John Engeman Theater  
250 Main Street, Northport

as memorable as the songs: Adelaide, the nightclub singer who has been frustratingly engaged for 14 years to her fiancé, Nathan Detroit. Nathan, who has been desperately scouting out a location for his infamous floating crap game and Sky Masterson, the slick, high-rolling gambler who bets his buddies that he can woo the high-minded Sarah Brown and ends up falling in love.

The fun begins at 6:30 pm with a reception featuring tasty hors d'oeuvres, followed by the performance at 8. For ticket information please call Maria DeLeo at 631-427-7045, ext. 401.

Now enrolling...

## Passport to the Past

With summer just around the corner, it's time to start thinking about a camp that your child(ren) would truly enjoy. Instead of the usual sports camp, how about a camp that is not only fun, but also a great learning experience?

Geared for children ages 7 - 12, our *Passport to the Past* program takes children on an exciting journey back into time where they can visit historical sites, participate in colonial crafts such as weaving on looms and dipping their own candles, play authentic colonial games and dress in costumes. On the final day of each two week session, children will dance around a Maypole, churn butter and enjoy homemade ice cream that they make themselves.



AROUND THE MAYPOLE: Children in the *Passport to the Past* program participate in historical games, learn colonial crafts, visit historical sites and have a healthy snack each day.

**When:** Monday through Friday  
**Where:** Dr. Daniel Kissam House,  
434 Park Avenue, Huntington  
**Hours:** 9 am until 12 noon

**Session I** June 27 to July 8  
**Session II** July 11 to July 22  
**Session III** July 25 to August 5

**Fees for each two week session:**  
\$300 for Society members  
\$400 for non-members  
(Session I is \$270 for members, \$360 for non-members)

**REGISTER EARLY!**  
*This program fills up fast!*

To enroll, please call 631-427-7045 ext. 401 or 404 for more information.



# Spring Events for the Whole Family

## Special Civil War Exhibit

"A SOLDIER'S RETURN TO HUNTINGTON"

**Opens April 12th**

*Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building, 228 Main Street*

Along with their stories, artifacts from those who fought, died or had loved ones in the Civil War will be on display. Open Tues. - Fri., 1 to 4 pm. For info. call: 427-7045, ext. 401.

"TRACING EARLY AFRICAN AMERICANS IN HUNTINGTON"

**Thursday, April 21**

*Refreshments: 1:30 pm*

*Lecture: 2 pm*

Rex Metcalf, in commemoration of the 300th birthday of Jupiter Hammon, America's first published African American poet, will trace early African American family histories in Huntington. To reserve please call: 427-7045 ext. 403.

*All lectures are held at the Conklin House & Barn, 2 High Street, Huntington*

*HHS Members: Free. Public: \$5.*

*Reserve at 631-427-7045, ext. 403*

**SHEEP TO SHAWL FESTIVAL**  
**Sunday, May 1: 12 to 4 pm**

**Kissam House Museum, 434 Park Ave.**



A free, family favorite featuring real sheep shearing demonstrations, crafts and games for the kids, weaving, traditional live music and more. For more information call: 631-427-7045, ext. 403.

## One of Huntington's best!

HERITAGE ANTIQUES SHOW AT HUNTINGTON

**Saturday, May 21: 10 am to 5 pm**

**Sunday, May 22: 11 am to 5 pm**



*Huntington High School  
Corner of Oakwood and  
McKay Roads*

*Tickets: \$7 each or \$6  
for members*

Quality dealers in room-setting booths featuring everything

from pottery to posters, furniture to fine porcelain, folk art, jewelry and more. One in a series of shows presented in cooperation with the Town of Huntington Historical Partnership. Luncheon items available for purchase both days. For more information call 631-427-7045, ext. 401.

## ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, June 5: 3 pm**  
**Conklin House and Barn,  
2 High Street**

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of owning the Conklin House, the Society will hold a special cocktail reception and preview of the new Conklin exhibit following the meeting.

**Mark Your Calendars Now!**  
**ANNUAL WINE TASTING AT  
THE KISSAM HOUSE**  
**Friday, September 9: 7 to 10 pm**

The Society has already started getting ready for its biggest fundraiser (and best party) of the year so save the date now and get ready for fine wines, delicious food, great music, and exciting raffles and auction items! Hope to see you there!

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS DURING APRIL BREAK

"Old Burial Ground Tour"

**Monday, April 18: 1 - 2pm**

*Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Building, 228 Main Street*

**Children ages 7 to 12 (7 to 9 must be accompanied by an adult): \$10 per child; \$5 per adult**

Imagine literally walking back in time! Join us as we stroll through Huntington's Old Burying Ground and learn a bit about history, folk art and the intriguing stories connected with this historic site. Discover the tale of Fort Golgotha and the stories behind various stones and epitaphs. The Tour will end with a visit to the Soldiers & Sailors Memorial building, home to the Society's current Civil War exhibit. *Rain date April 20th*



"The School for Spies"

**Tuesday, April 19: 1 - 3pm**  
*The Conklin Barn, 2 High Street*

**Children ages 7 to 12 with an adult: \$15 per child; \$5 adult**

"The School for Spies" will familiarize children with the Culper Spy Ring and their secret code. Your child will come away learning how discipline, manners, and good planning are just a few of the things that a good spy needs in order to NOT GET CAUGHT! Colonial games and refreshments will also be part of the fun.

**Limited & Advance Enrollment for both programs: Call 631-427-7045, ext. 401 to register today.**



*The Huntington Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the Town of Huntington for its financial support.*

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



It is with great pleasure that we wish long time volunteer and former HHS Trustee Alice Link a very happy 90th birthday! Alice has volunteered diligently and with great passion at the Society for 26 years. Alice, we salute you on this very special birthday! Cheers and the very best to you." Congratulations are in order to Claudia Fortunato who recently began her new role as the Director of Operations for the Historical Society. Claudia holds a Master's Degree in American History and has worked at the Society as a fundraiser for almost two years, as well as in the office of the Town Historian. We would also like to welcome Laura Dabrowski to the HHS team. Laura has been involved in the Society since she was a child and was one of our most dedicated



**FRESH FACES AT THE SOCIETY** Laura Dabrowski (left) will be interning at the Society during her Spring semester and Claudia Fortunato has been promoted to the position of Director of Operations.

*Passport to the Past* volunteers. Now attending Wellesley, Laura will be spending her spring semester interning in the offices at the Historical Society and helping out with a little bit of everything we do! Through the years, the Huntington Historical Society has been fortunate to have Eagle Scouts in the Huntington area carry out projects at

our historic properties. In 2010, scout Matthew Gonsalves of Commack built an attractive and much-needed enclosure for our exterior oil tank at the Museum Shop on the Kissam property. For years, during the very cold weather, the oil flow from the outside tank to the furnace would fail and we would lose heat in that highly visited building. Matt's project will help us all breathe a little easier around here knowing that volunteers won't show up to a freezing building. Thank you Matthew and congratulations on becoming an Eagle Scout!

**OOPS!** In the last issue of *The New Portico* we forgot to include the names of some of our Family Members: Brian & Mollie Madden, Richard Maikis, The Makover Family, Emily May and Robert & Catherine McDonough. Missing from the Volunteer list was Robert Farrell.

## "All Things Conklin"

### *Celebrating the Conklin House Museum's First Century: 1911-2011*



**SPECIAL DESIGNATION:** The Society's Conklin House on High Street is the oldest House Museum in Suffolk County, having been donated by the Conklin Family 100 years ago this year.

In celebration of the 100 year anniversary of the Conklin House Museum's founding, the Huntington Historical Society will launch a special exhibit this summer highlighting the Conklin Family's contributions to our area. From gravestones to samplers and everything in-between, the exhibit will showcase the Conklin family's involvement in Huntington which

dates back to the 1650's. A special preview will be held during our Annual Meeting on June 5th where refreshments and an exclusive look at the exhibit can be enjoyed. To visit the Conklin House, please call the main office at 631-427-7045, ext. 401 for docent availability. Special tours and hours can be arranged for larger groups, students or out of town visitors.





209 Main Street  
Huntington, NY 11743-6993  
(631) 427-7045, ext. 401

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**PAID**

Permit No. 271  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## A SOLDIER'S RETURN TO HUNTINGTON

# Exhibit Highlights Huntington's Sacrifices

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residents during the War. Most of the soldiers and sailors who fought and died were members of the 127th Volunteer Regiment, known as "The Monitors." They were led into battle by Hewlett J. Long, who enlisted as a lieutenant and became a Captain during the war. On display at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building will be the sword presented to Captain Long by his men in 1864. Also on display will be Civil War artifacts, including uniforms, documents and weaponry, and the stories about other soldiers who are listed on the memorial tablet in the Soldiers and Sailors Building.

Don't miss this interesting and moving exhibit which captures the emotions, efforts and sacrifices of "Everyday Huntingtonians" during the Civil War. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 1-4 pm, and on special occasions.



A CIVIL WAR SWORD presented to Lieutenant Hewlett J. Long by members of Company E, 127th New York State Volunteers in 1864 will be on display

THE SAMMIS FLAG: donated by Maria Sammis, this flag was hung outside of the Sammis general store on the corner of Main and Green Streets after word was received of a Union victory. It is one of a number of Civil War era flags and artifacts which will be part of the exhibit opening on April 12th

