



# Port Chester Historical Society Newsletter

Fall 2022

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## GARDEN CLEANUP



On Saturday, October 29, 2022, we held a periodical garden clean-up at the Bush-Lyon Homestead. In addition, on Friday, November 4, we were pleased to have the help of over 30 Port Chester High School student volunteers. A great deal of work was accomplished as a result of the work of these fantastic volunteers - they planted almost 700 crocus bulbs! Click this link to read the write up about it in the Port Light,



the Port Chester High School newspaper:

<https://pchsrams.edublogs.org/2022/12/12/pchs-environmental-club-host-bulb-planting-in-lyon-park/>

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with these two events for their excellent work! We hope to have another event in the spring.



## PORT CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAGNETS

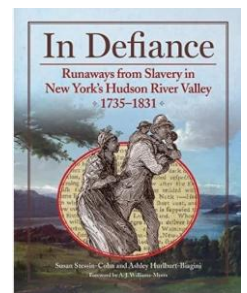


As a fundraiser, we are selling magnets with the logo of the Port Chester Historical Society. They are \$5 each - buy some now for friends and family! Show everyone how much you value our local history and help us raise funds at the same time. Contact us at [portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) to order one today!

## SPRING 2023 LECTURE

Get ready to save the date! In Spring 2023, we plan to host Susan Stessin-Cohen, the author of the book *In Defiance: Runaways from Slavery in New York's Hudson River Valley 1735-1831*, to a Zoom lecture. This book was donated to the Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library's local history section in celebration of Juneteenth. As there will be a cost to have the author at the event, any funds towards the lecture are greatly appreciated.

We will let you know when the event is officially scheduled!



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## PORT CHESTER-RYE BROOK LIBRARY PASTORAL PAINTING

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We have been collaborating with the Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library about a painting hanging in the upstairs of the library. This painting, which has been misattributed for years, is the work of Charles Themmen.



Themmen was from France and moved between Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York in the 1800s. The painting that is so exciting to us is of Westchester Avenue, looking down to the Byram River and the Sound. It was painted in 1871.

We are currently continuing research on this fascinating man who exhibited with the Brooklyn Art Association, taught at a girls school in Massachusetts, signed up to fight in the Civil War, and seems to have disappeared at the end of his life. Perhaps Themmen is one of the people who came to the United States to reinvent himself.



We have scanned and blown up the painting so that everyone can examine it more closely without damaging the original. (It also makes a great backdrop for a selfie!) We are hoping to have an exhibit at the library when we have a fuller picture of Themmen and his life. It would be terrific to have the painting professionally cleaned and framed to reflect its value to our community. Themmen was not a great American artist, but this painting is an invaluable resource to us.

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## WINTERFEST 2022

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On Saturday, December 17, we hosted our annual Winterfest event at the Bush-Lyon Homestead. After missing it for two years due to the pandemic, Winterfest is back, and it was a major success! About 100 members of the community enjoyed tours, stories, crafts, taking selfies, munching food,



receiving free gifts, and learning about our treasured Homestead. Village DPW worked hard to make the space cleaner and brighter, which was appreciated by all. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers from the other PCHS, Port Chester High School - we could not have had such a successful event without their help. If you didn't make it this year, plan on joining us next year and making it even better!



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## SCAN OF THE BUSH-LYON HOMESTEAD

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We are pleased to announce the Bush-Lyon Homestead will be scanned to create a 360-degree rendering of the Homestead. The technology involves taking pictures of each room in a rotating manner. This scan can then be uploaded so the public can “walk through” the Homestead and learn more about its configuration and current condition. We definitely need to do some tidying and cleaning before we begin. If you are interested in helping us in this endeavor, reach out as soon as you can. More information to be announced soon!

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## SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

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The Port Chester Historical Society is pleased to announce it is once again offering a \$500.00 scholarship to a graduating senior of Port Chester High School Class of 2023. This year’s scholarship contest will involve interviewing a Port Chester resident over the age of 60. The person interviewed is to be asked about his or her life growing up in Port Chester or elsewhere. Some interview questions are required and some questions need to be created by the student. Click [here](#) to see this project on the Historical Society web site. We look forward to learning more about the people of our community and connecting seniors (in high school) with seniors (in life)!

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## PORT CHESTER WORDS INTO MUSIC DELAYED

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We are saddened to announce that due to an illness, our arts collaboration with Pam Sklar entitled Words into Music, Part 2, will be indefinitely postponed. However, we will announce when the event is rescheduled.

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

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The Port Chester Historical Society General Membership Meetings are open to the public and are held on the first Thursday of the month via Zoom at 7:30 PM. The information on how to attend is sent in an email before the meeting. To be added to our e-mail list, please send us your info: [portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings!

The 2023 upcoming meeting dates are...

January 5, 2023	February 2, 2023
March 2, 2023	April 6, 2023
May 4, 2023	June 1, 2023

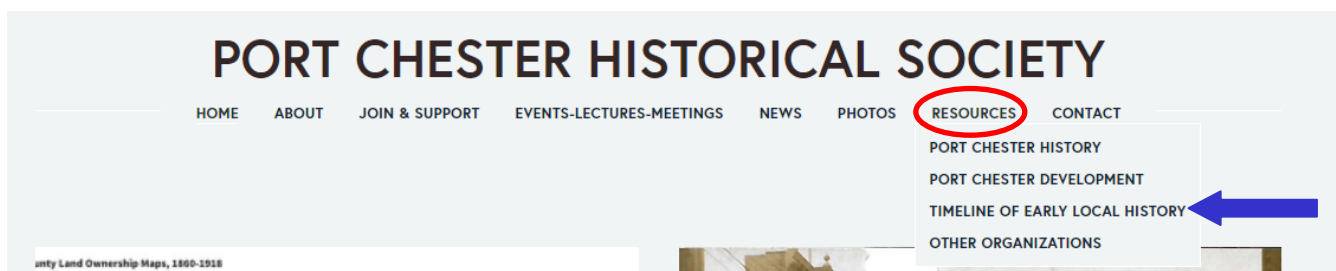
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## ANNOTATED HISTORICAL TIMELINE

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One of the missions of the Port Chester Historical Society is to educate our community about local history. We have posted a timeline to the website on the local history of the area, starting 11,500 years ago! The timeline presents a multitude of local history events along with links to reputable websites where more information can be found. A reader can browse through the dates or take a deep dive into each of the links provided. Much of this history is not well known - there was a LOT going on in our area!

This is an ongoing project, so check back for updates as we include them. The timeline can be found at [www.pcnhistory.com](http://www.pcnhistory.com). On the top menu, click on “Resources” and then click on the “Timeline of Early Local History” link.

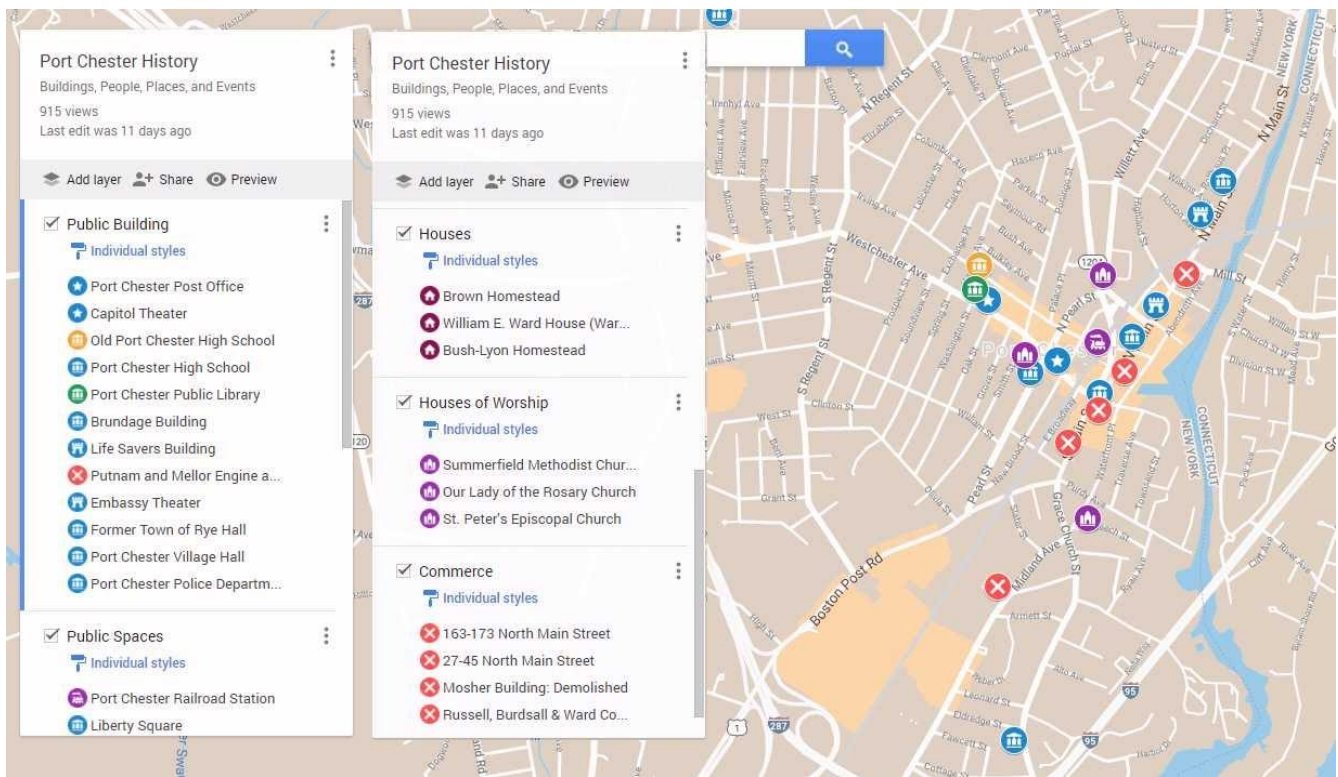


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## INTERACTIVE LOCAL HISTORY MAP

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We are continuously working on an interactive map of historic buildings and locations in and around the Village of Port Chester. The map will be a free resource for anyone interested in exploring Port Chester's past, online. If you know of a building that should be on the map, please drop us an email! Our email address is [portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com).



Map Link: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1oUEO9xvvyUIjbepBjqomdDa74IvPVqft&usp=sharing>

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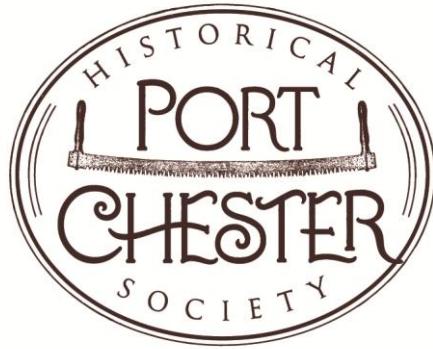
## FOLLOW THE PORT CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY ONLINE

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- Visit our web page at [Port Chester Historical Society](https://www.portchesterhistoricalsociety.com)
- Join us on Zoom at one of our monthly meetings
- Like us on Facebook [@PortChesterHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/PortChesterHistoricalSociety)
- ...and on Instagram [@PCNYHistory](https://www.instagram.com/PCNYHistory)
- ...tag your photos with [#PCNYHistory](https://www.instagram.com/PCNYHistory)
- Contact us/subscribe to our newsletter at [portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)



Point your camera at the QR Code above to jump to the Port Chester Historical Society website.



## Join The Port Chester Historical Society TODAY!

### Annual Membership

- |                          |                                   |          |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual .....                  | \$20.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family (Household) .....          | \$30.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior (Over Age 62) .....        | \$10.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student (Enrolled in HS/MS) ..... | \$0.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Commercial/Business Sponsor ..... | \$500.00 |

### Lifetime Memberships

- |                          |                       |          |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Single Lifetime.....  | \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family Lifetime ..... | \$300.00 |

Please check the appropriate box  
and return with your check (made out to *The Port Chester Historical Society*) to:

**The Port Chester Historical Society, P.O. Box 1511, Port Chester, NY 10573**

or sign up at **[www.pcnhistory.org](http://www.pcnhistory.org)**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Member Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Member Benefits

Your membership to The Port Chester Historical Society entitles you to participate in the love of local history, all newsletters and mailings, advance invitations to public and member-only events and tours, and programs as we develop them. Commercial or business sponsors are eligible for recognition in our newsletter and other printed material, as well as acknowledgment at public events and gatherings.