



Port Chester Historical Society Newsletter

Winter 2022



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Port Chester Historical Society is once again pleased to announce a \$500 scholarship opportunity for a graduating Class of 2022 Port Chester High School senior. In a short essay of about 250 words (double spaced, 12-point font), answer the following question... “What event or location in the Village of Port Chester is so important to you that you think it should be memorialized? Explain why and how you think it should be remembered.”

You may email your completed essay or the link to a Google Doc to the Historical Society via Paul Zaccagnino, Education Committee Chairperson, at paulzaccagnino@gmail.com or through regular USPS mail to the Port Chester Historical Society, P.O. Box 1511, Port Chester, NY 10573. The deadline for essay entries is April 10, 2022. More information can be found on the Port Chester Historical Society website, www.pcnhistory.com, on the “News” tab. Click on “2022 Scholarship Announcement.”

The Historical Society Education Committee looks forward to reading your essays!

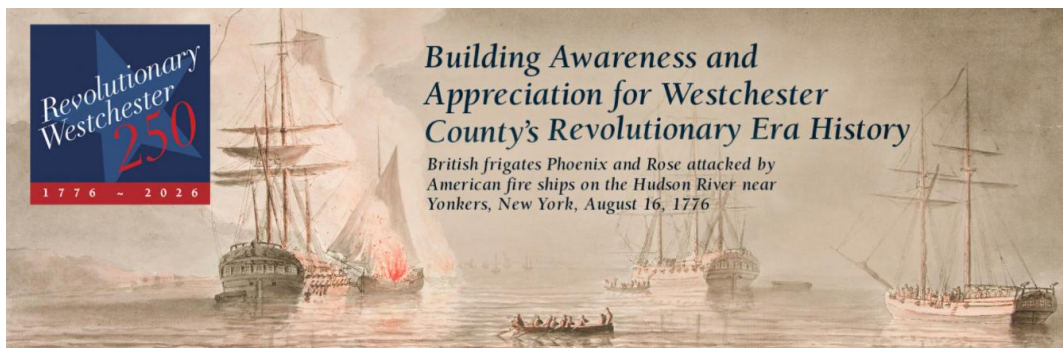
UPCOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING DATES

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 2022 upcoming meeting dates are as follows: February 3, 2022; March 3, 2022; April 7, 2022; May 5, 2022; June 2, 2022; July 7, 2022; August 4, 2022; September 1, 2022; October 6, 2022; November 3, 2022; and December 1, 2022.

The information on how to attend will be included in an email before the meeting. To be added to our e-mail list, please e-mail your contact information to portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings!

REVOLUTIONARY WESTCHESTER 250

After the Village of Port Chester recently celebrated its Sesquicentennial (150th - Try saying “Sesquicentennial” five times fast) in 2018, we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, an important occasion. As part of this celebration, we plan to partner with Revolutionary Westchester 250, a dedicated group preparing for this exciting occasion in 2026. Events would include live demonstrations, re-enactments, lectures, book talks, and hands-on activities around the county. Revolutionary Westchester 250’s website and more information about Revolutionary Westchester 250 can be found at <https://rw250.org>. More information to be announced soon!

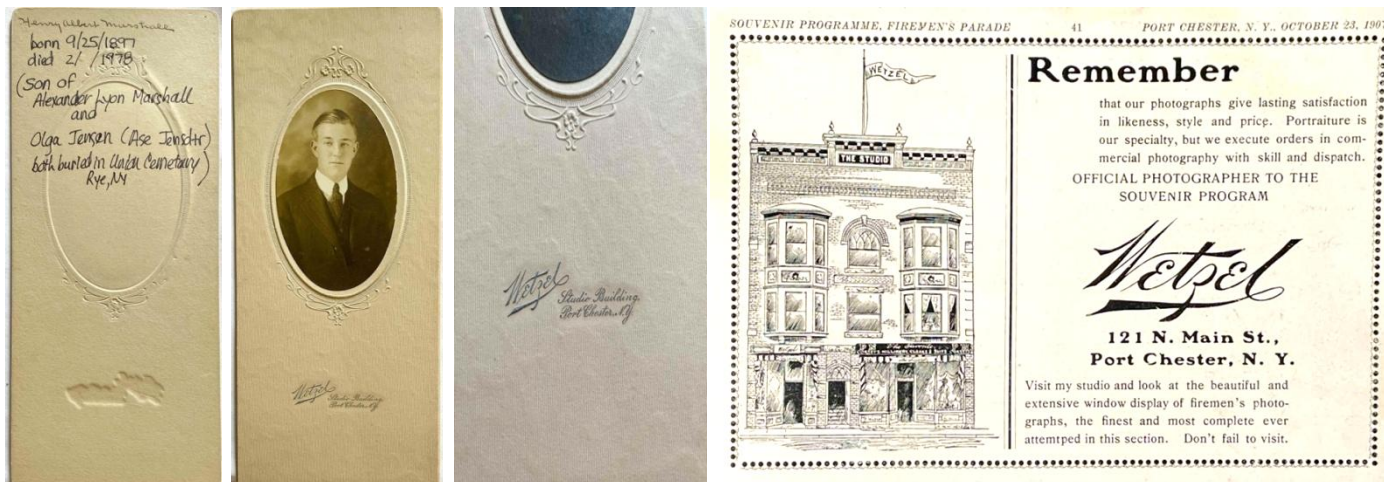


GARDEN CLEANUP

On November 9, 2021, the Port Chester Historical Society organized and held a periodical garden clean-up and maintenance day at the Colonial Garden at the Bush-Lyon Homestead. We had a great turnout which of course included dedicated and diligent volunteers. Our objectives were to prepare the garden for the hopefully not too harsh winter and plant crocuses. We hope to have a similar event in the spring. More information to be announced soon!

RECENT MAILINGS

The Port Chester Historical Society is pleased when we receive mail of historical significance from individuals not only in Port Chester but also around the country! Recently, we received this photograph of Henry Albert Marshall, who is believed to have lived in Port Chester with family. We thank everyone who mails us historical materials as we learn a new thing each time it happens!



PANDEMIC STORIES – IT'S TOUGH TO SHARE

The Port Chester Historical Society is interested to hear your stories related to the ongoing pandemic. After all, this is a tremendously important historical event that we are all experiencing. Young people in the future will want to look back and see what we thought and did. Yet it seems to be very difficult to share these stories. WHY? A History.com article entitled, "Why the 1918 Flu Became 'America's Forgotten Pandemic'" states, "Whatever the reason, Americans didn't seem to want to talk about their experience during the pandemic. And because they were reluctant to talk or write about the pandemic, future generations weren't always aware of it."

Before this important historical event fades into obscurity, please take a moment to preserve our understanding for the future. Send us some photos that reflect your experience, write us a short paragraph, or simply send us 5 words that sum up your thoughts. We are dedicated to capturing and preserving history as it happens, especially at such an important time in history - please help.

Email us at portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you and hearing your stories soon!

WHAT GOOGLE TELLS US ABOUT 2021

Looking at the top Google searches for a given year can tell us something about what that year was like, and 2021 clearly had its ups and downs. Top searches for "How to be ..." included, "eligible for the stimulus check" and "happy alone." In the "How to help" category, we see "Afghan refugees," "foster kids," and "Texas." People stuck at home at different times were searching for Cottagecore and sage green, as well as "Bernie Sanders' mittens," Squid Game, Black Widow, TikTok pasta, Bacon jam, and crockpot chicken. People that showed up in the top searches included Simone Biles, DMX, Alec

Baldwin, Travis Scott, Odell Beckham Jr, Prince Philip, Olivia Rodrigo, Norm Macdonald, Adele, and Dr. Dre.

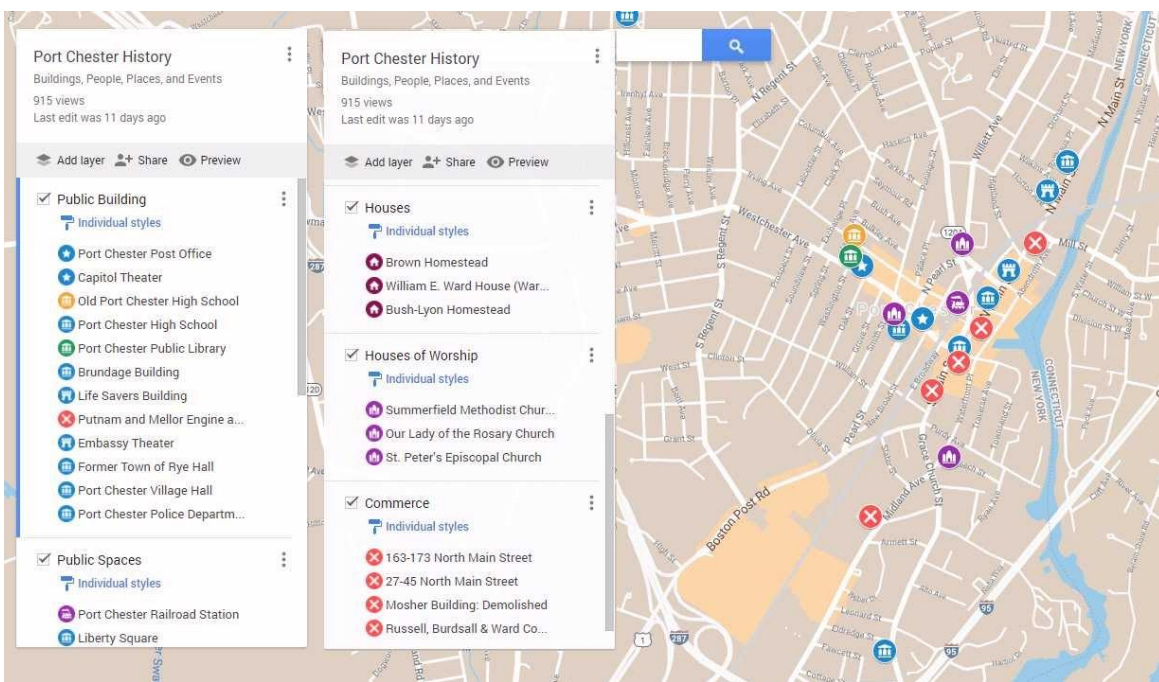
Looking at these lists can help us remember some of the important moments throughout the year - the highs and the lows. The “near me” list shows the changes over the course of the year:

- 1) COVID vaccine near me
- 2) COVID testing near me
- 3) Movies near me
- 4) Bars near me
- 5) Bowling near me

On a lighter note, the searches show there might be a few things from 2021 we would be happy to leave behind: “how to style a sweater vest,” “how to style a wolf haircut,” and “how to pronounce quinoa” point to some experimentation going on in the United States!

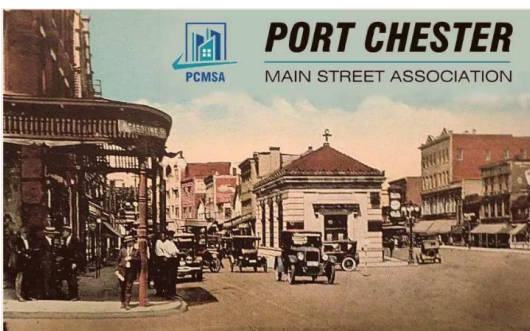
INTERACTIVE LOCAL HISTORY MAP

The Port Chester Historical Society is 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.



Map Link: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=10UEO9xvvyUIjbepBjqomdDa74IvPVqft&usp=sharing>

PORT CHESTER MAIN STREET ASSOCIATION



The Port Chester Historical Society is happy to introduce everyone to The Port Chester Main Street Association, which is working to help the village fulfill its own goal of maintaining a historic district downtown. Here's a link to their website: <https://portchestermainst.org/>

“We are current and former Port Chester residents with a deep appreciation of the history and character of Port Chester. We work in partnership with other community organizations who

have successfully updated their Main Streets while maintaining the unique character that makes them attractive to local businesses. Preservation does not mean stagnation. It means maintaining the character of the street with new, appropriate buildings as needed. Our goal is to promote development that respects the unique character of Main Street; to work with local business owners, local property owners, and entrepreneurs who appreciate the economic opportunities and charm of Main Street.”

Check out what they are doing online, and remember to voice your opinion about the importance of our history to the village!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMPETITION

“To enter this year’s Black History Month Creative Competition, students must recreate and post on social media a moment in Black history that most resonates with them.

Students must use the hashtag #BHMwithCMJ on all social media platforms.

Students must submit their videos by Wednesday, February 23, 2022.

Students and/or parents or guardians must complete the release form [here](#).

Once all videos are submitted, the winners will be announced on Monday, February 28, 2022. One winner from each grade will be chosen for an opportunity to meet with me.

Last year, it was incredible to see the different moments in Black history that students throughout Westchester and Rockland chose to recreate, and I can’t wait to see what this year’s competition brings. The winner of my first annual Black History Month Creative Competition was Rosie Isiyel, a student at Highlands Middle School in White Plains. Her video can be found [at this link](#).”



FOLLOW THE PORT CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY ONLINE

- Visit our web page at [Port Chester Historical Society](#)
- Take a virtual tour of the Bush-Lyon Homestead at <https://sites.google.com/view/bush-lyon-homestead>
- Join us on Zoom at one of our monthly meetings
- Like us on Facebook @PortChesterHistoricalSociety
- ...and on Instagram @PCNYHistory
- ...tag your photos with #PCNYHistory
- Contact us/subscribe to our newsletter at portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

