



Port Chester Historical Society Newsletter

Winter 2023

portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



REMINDER!

It's time to renew your membership! Information about membership is on the last page of this newsletter. We've made it easier than ever with a "donate button" - just click [here](#). You can also send a check to PO BOX 1511, Port Chester, NY, 10573. Please consider making an additional donation to support all the activities we are engaged in; a future researcher or history enthusiast will thank you!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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 2023 upcoming meeting dates are as follows: April 6, 2023, May 4, 2023, and June 1, 2023.

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

SCAN OF THE BUSH-LYON HOMESTEAD

We are VERY excited to announce the Bush-Lyon Homestead will be scanned to create a 360-degree rendering of the Homestead on June 10th! This scan will allow the public to "walk through" the Homestead and learn more about its configuration and current condition. One of the bonuses from this



will be accurate measurements of the spaces as well as increasing our accessibility. Not only will it save a version of the Homestead in its current condition forever, but people all over the world will be able to see the design and contents of our historic treasure. AMAZING!

We have therefore been working very hard to clean the Homestead [see the letter about DPW below] and to organize its contents. We are discovering that we have some wonderful newspapers that no one else seems to have; a long term project will therefore be to digitize them so that everyone can access them. We will be partnering with the Port Chester Rye Brook



Public Library to accomplish this task!

Perhaps unsurprisingly, we have also discovered that we sometimes have 3, 5, or even 10 copies of the same newspaper. While we definitely need to hold on to one copy, we cannot keep all 10 copies. So keep an eye out for a future fundraiser on our part! If you are interested, you might be able to purchase one of the extra nine copies of a 1970s newspaper and own a little piece of Port Chester History!

The Village and DPW have been helping us out tremendously in this venture, so we send them a big THANK YOU! We will post updates, we promise.

Here is a letter the Port Chester Historical Society submitted to The Westmore News thanking the Village of Port Chester and DPW for all of their work on the Bush-Lyon Homestead:

Dear Editor:

The Port Chester Historical Society would like to thank The Village of Port Chester, Village Manager **Stuart Rabin**, DPW Foreman **Rocco Cambarieri**, and the entire crew of DPW for their work to preserve and maintain our Village's treasured historical resource, the Bush Lyon Homestead.

We had been experiencing a drainage problem at the Bush Lyon Homestead for months. This issue was recently greatly improved as DPW cleared the drains close to the building. Water now flows away from the building at a good rate. **THANK YOU!**

The Village is moving forward with getting professional input on repairs and renovations to the Homestead and its outbuildings. **THANK YOU!**

The Port Chester Historical Society has been working to clear an accumulation of trash, including such things as broken picture frames, rotting 1970s carpets, and broken appliances. DPW came with a team and took care of removing 30 years worth of junk in 30 minutes. **THANK YOU!**



Anyone wishing to join the Port Chester Historical Society is encouraged to reach out to us at portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. We welcome your involvement.

Sincerely,
Jordan Allen, President
The Port Chester Historical Society

HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

The Port Chester Historical Society is pleased to announce that it is once again offering a \$500.00 scholarship to a graduating senior of Port Chester High School Class of 2023. Society members look forward to announcing the scholarship winner soon.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS - LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED? WE NEED YOU!

We are inviting volunteers who are interested in Port Chester local history and making a difference in the community - WE NEED YOU! If you care about preserving and educating people about Port Chester local history, you will fit right in. All people are welcome and encouraged to volunteer with us. We have many different projects and there is definitely a place for your skills in our organization. Email us at portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com today!

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 to order one today!

JUNETEENTH OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS

Juneteenth Planning Committee

Have you heard about Juneteenth, our newest national holiday? We celebrate it right here in Port Chester and Rye Brook! Come be a part of our planning and make your imprint on our community!

The Port Chester/Rye Brook Juneteenth Planning Committee seeks students from Port Chester and Blind Brook High Schools to join the committee. Students will help shape and participate in the local Juneteenth ceremony, and in the process get to know peers from the other high school.



Recent Juneteenth ceremonies have taken place at Lyon Park at the Bush/Lyon Homestead, a historic home that likely had enslaved people living and working there in the 18th century.

The meetings will be facilitated by a coalition of local leaders, including Kikki Short (Port Chester Historical Society), Pastor Jim O'Hanlon (St. Paul's Church), Rabbi Ben Goldberg (Congregation KTI), Tom Kissner (NAACP) and others. Each meeting will be about an hour.

Interested students should email rabbigoldberg@congkti.org. Please mention your school and grade.

Meeting Schedule

Planning Dates

- Sunday, April 16, 3 PM, St. Paul's Church, Rye Brook
 - Introductions and planning
- Sunday, May 21, 3 PM, Bush/Lyon Homestead, Port Chester
 - Tour and local history presentation (Yes, there were enslaved people in the Town of Rye!)
- Sunday, June 4, 3 PM St. Paul's Church, Rye Brook
 - Final preparations

Public Ceremony

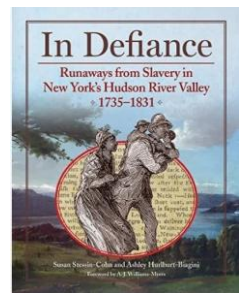
- Monday, June 19, 5:30–Juneteenth Ceremony, Lyon Park, Port Chester (attendance strongly encouraged)

SPRING 2023 LECTURE

In lieu of the March 2, 2023 meeting, the Port Chester Historical Society held a fascinating lecture featuring Professor Susan Stessin-Cohen, who is the author of the book *In Defiance: Runaways from*



Slavery in New York's Hudson River Valley 1735-1831. The book is one of the books which the Port Chester Historical Society donated to the Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library to add to its local history section in celebration of Juneteenth. Approximately 25 people attended the lecture on Zoom. Stessin-Cohn brought a rich understanding of the mechanics of slavery in the North to her materials and managed to bring this part of our history to life for us. It was both informative (we all learned



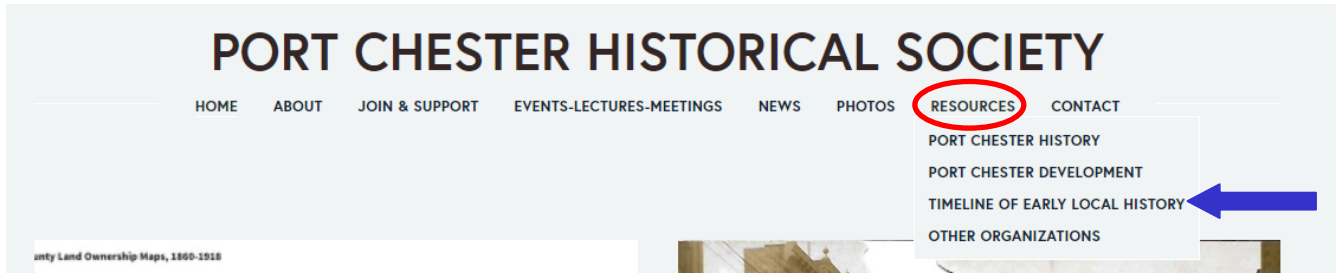
a lot) and heart-wrenching (the statistics on enslavement are horrifying). Thank you for improving our knowledge so greatly, Susan Stessin-Cohen!

ANNOTATED HISTORICAL TIMELINE

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

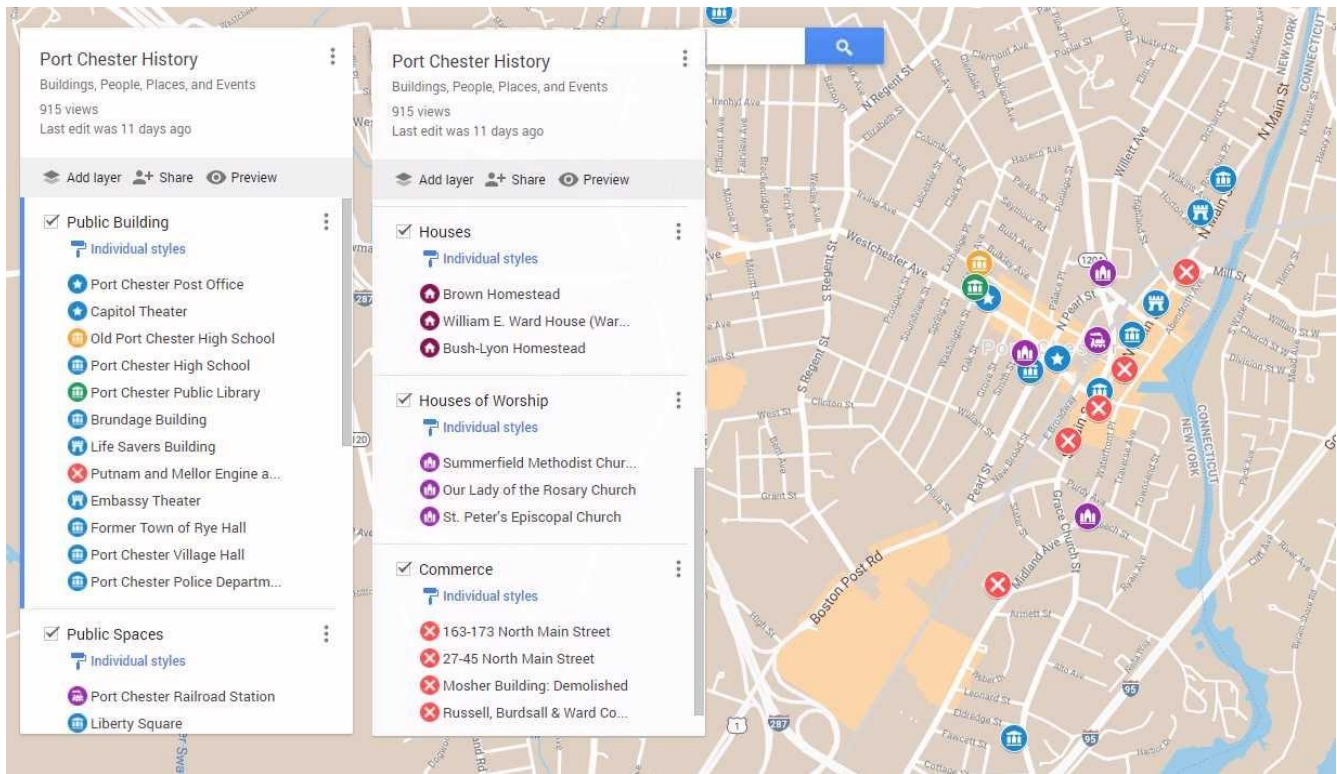
each of the links provided. Much of this history is not well known - there was a LOT going on in our area!

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



INTERACTIVE LOCAL HISTORY MAP

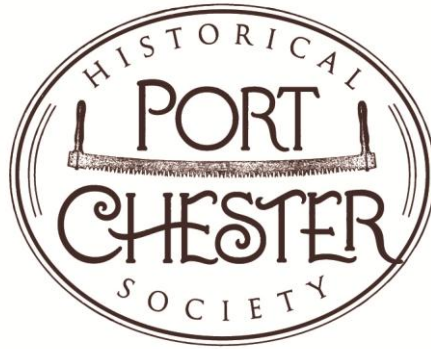
We are continuously working on an interactive map of historic buildings and locations in and around the Village of Port Chester. The map will be a free resource for anyone interested in exploring Port Chester's past, online. If you know of a building that should be on the map, please drop us an email!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



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

FOLLOW THE PORT CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY ONLINE

- Visit our web page at Port Chester Historical Society
- 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



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**

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.