

The Scott House Journal

Newsletter of the
Ridgefield Historical Society
Established 2001

Spring, 2018

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**The Scott House is
open to the public
Tuesday through
Thursday from
1 to 5 pm**

President

Sharon Dunphy

Co-Treasurers

Georgianne Kasuli

Nancy Selander

Recording Secretary

Michele Mahland

Board Members

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Sara Champion

Grace Clewell

Phillip Esser

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Betsy Reid

David W. Scott

Gary Singer

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Betsy Reid

[Spring Trip 2018](#) [Arthur Avenue & The Met Cloisters](#) **Saturday, June 2**



Join the Ridgefield Historical Society on its day-long spring trip to Arthur Avenue in the Bronx and [The Met Cloisters](#) in northern Manhattan, overlooking the Hudson River.

The first stop is Arthur Avenue, home to Italian immigrants for over 100 years, a delightful neighborhood and the best place to shop for the freshest breads, pastries, and meats. Enjoy lunch on your own at any of the local Italian eateries.

After lunch, we travel to The Met Cloisters, known for its collection of medieval art, architecture, and gardens including a special viewing of The Met's Costume Institute's exhibit, [Heavenly Bodies](#). The Met Cloisters was built to resemble the architecture of medieval French cloisters in order to house the museum's collection of Western art from the 12th through the 15th centuries. The gardens have been planted in accordance with descriptions found in medieval sources.

Tickets are \$55 for members and \$65 for non-members, and includes admission to The Met Cloisters. The bus will leave the south parking lot at [Pond's Edge Professional Park](#), 901 Ethan Allen Highway at 9 am and return to Ridgefield at 5 pm.

To make reservations, please call 203-438-5821 or email us at ridgefieldhistory@sbglobal.net.

In Remembrance

Maureen Kiernan was a new friend to some of us at the Historical Society, but an old and dear friend to others. She came on board as our Treasurer to replace Pat Kearney, another very special member whom we had recently and suddenly lost. In addition, Maureen had been a member of the Graveyard Committee for many years.

As we have all learned, Maureen was an unofficial face of what Ridgefield is all about. She showed her love for the town from day one, becoming Town Treasurer for over 30 years. In her spare time, as a member of the Caudatowa Garden Club, her talent as a gardener showed up in flower shows and plantings at Town Hall and the Ridgefield Bank, and we remember her climbing up ladders to decorate the lampposts in both summer and winter. She also worked with Helen Stevens in their business, Arts and Flowers, where their creations were eagerly bought by loyal customers at local craft shows.

One of my special memories is the fun we had at our birthday parties, and also at Rotary dinners each year. Rotary once tried to seat us at separate tables, but we somehow made it known that our group was to be seated together so that we could enjoy our time together, and indeed we did. We worked with the town on the Festival 2000 and Ridgefield's 300th anniversary, and lately when she joined RHS she took over the decoration of our tree donation to the Community Center Tree Festival. With her eye for design, she decorated our "school house" tree and we won a blue ribbon for artistic design. We've kept the tree intact, and the bows she made for the wreaths on the doors at Christmas, which you'll be seeing in the coming years.

-Kay Ables

Vera Neligan, also a dear friend of RHS, passed away on March 11th after a brief illness. She and her husband Patrick graciously opened their beautiful home on West Mountain to help promote Jeanne Timpanelli's vision of establishing a historical society for Ridgefield. Vera then became one of the first volunteers to join the cataloging committee and from the beginning we were captivated by her warmth and beautiful smile, and especially her wonderful Irish brogue. We are thankful for the time we had with her, and for Vera and Patrick's generous contributions to the Society.

-Monica McMorran

The Historic Herrick Portrait has a New Home



Lois Hall was born in 1892 to a wealthy and well known New York family. As a young woman she had her portrait painted, around the time she was "coming out" in New York society. Shortly after WW I, Lois' father, Bolton Hall, purchased a home on High Ridge from the estate of Helen Minturn Post. After extensive renovations and additions he gave the house, *Grey Shingles*, to his daughter and her new husband, Gerard Herrick, as a wedding present. For over 60 years the Herrick's and their two children, Scott and Susan, spent their summers in Ridgefield and winters in their New York apartment. Lois was a member and officer in the Ridgefield Garden Club and in 1936, she sailed to Paris on the Normandy to be a representative at the international convention of Garden Clubs.

In 2008, Scott Herrick donated this portrait to the Historical Society. Wanting to find a more appropriate setting for this lovely painting, it was displayed for several years on loan to the historic Lounsbury House until their recent renovations required its removal. Our first selectman, Rudy Marconi, expressed an interest in having it hung on a wall outside of his office, situated in Town Hall, another historic building.

We give our thanks to Bill Young of Ridgefield's [Frame Barn](#) for his assistance in both the portrait's move and installation.

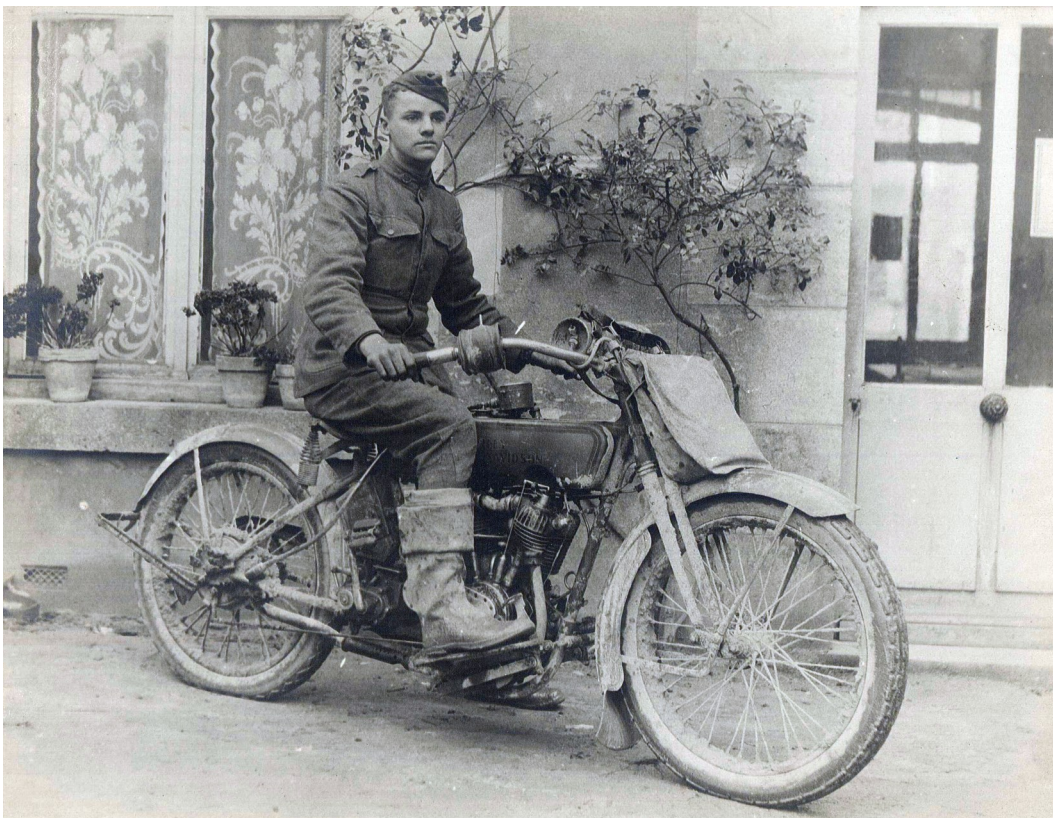
100th Anniversary of the End of World War I

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I. A number of Ridgefield non-profit organizations have banded together to honor the brave men and women who risked their lives to protect our freedom. The Ridgefield Historical Society, the Library, Keeler Tavern, the Graveyard Restoration Committee, the Playhouse, the American Legion and Marine Corps League have planned a program of over 18 events. For more information on these lectures, exhibits, music, movies, and performances, check each organization's website or the Historical Society's website at Ridgefieldhistory@sbcglobal.net.

As Historical Society members research Ridgefield's response to the war, we have been struck with how difficult it must have been for these young men and women from this quiet, farming town to be separated from their homeland and shipped overseas into deplorable, terrifying, war conditions. They fought on the land, sea and in the air. They were soldiers, messengers, ambulance drivers, nurses, hot air balloon experts. Some were gassed, many wounded and a few killed. On the home front, Ridgefield citizens energetically rose to the cause. They purchased war bonds, grew food, canned goods, worked in factories, donated books and clothing, and wrote patriotic articles and letters. When the soldiers returned home they became productive citizens. They opened businesses, became grocers, mailmen, etc. Some have last names still familiar in town. Join the RHS in celebrating these brave men and women.

PLEASE NOTE TWO EVENTS:

- 1) *WWI Digitization Day*, June 10th at Keeler Tavern. The State of Connecticut is spearheading a project to document privately held information regarding WWI. They would like citizens with personal letters, family memorabilia, stories passed down through the years, to come and share their information and document it for future generations. RHS staff will be on hand at Keeler Tavern to assist with this process.
- 2) *WWI Ridgefield Answers the Call* will be an exhibit by the RHS in the lower level of the library for the month of July. A special reception will be held Saturday, July 7th to celebrate this exhibit.



Calendar of Events

May-August	8:30 am–4:30 pm	RHS Exhibit @ Town Hall
Saturday, May 19	1–4 pm	First Annual Member Appreciation Day @ Scott House
Sunday, May 27	1–4 pm	Schoolhouse Open House @ Peter Parley Schoolhouse
Saturday, June 2	9 am–5:30 pm	Field Trip to The Met Cloisters & Arthur Avenue @ Pond's Edge Professional Park, Route 7
Sunday, June 24	1–4 pm	Schoolhouse Open House @ Peter Parley Schoolhouse
Monday, July 2—Monday, July 30		RHS WWI Exhibit @ Ridgefield Library
Saturday, July 7	2–4 pm	RHS WWI Exhibit Opening Reception @ Ridgefield Library
Sunday, July 29	1–4 pm	Schoolhouse Open House @ Peter Parley Schoolhouse
Sunday, August 26	1–4 pm	Schoolhouse Open House @ Peter Parley Schoolhouse
Saturday, Sept 22	9 am–5:30 pm	Field Trip to Theodore Roosevelt's Sagamore @ Pond's Edge Professional Park, Route 7
Sunday, Sept 30	1-4 pm	WWI Self-guided Cemetery Tour @ Mapleshade Cemetery