

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION  
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# LONG ISLAND

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Though not too much is said about slavery on Long Island, it did exist in these parts. Indeed, the first published black poet in America was a Long Island slave: Jupiter Hammon, who was born in 1711 and served four generations of Lloyds of Huntington. Today, to mark Black History Month, the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities pays tribute to Hammon in a program at the Joseph Lloyd Manor in Lloyd Harbor. At 1 P.M. there'll be children's workshops and tours of the house, featuring the rooms that research indicates were Hammon's slave quarters; and at 2 P.M. the Be-One Storytellers, a professional company from Manhattan, will perform Afro-American tales, music and dance. Tickets are \$2, or \$1.50 for children, and for information call 271-7760.

Speaking of Huntington and Black History Month, at noon today at the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, 109 Browns Road, the present takes precedence over the past in a panel discussion of "Racism in Huntington."

Other events this week follow a more cultural route. For example, Tuesday in Baldwin, at the Public Library, 2385 Grand Avenue, at 8 P.M. in its "Meet Your Neighbor" series, Labiba Abdur Rahman talks about African heritage with an emphasis on her own Ashanti tribe. Wednesday, there's a lecture on black literature by Amiri Baraka at 11 A.M. in the Babylon Student Center on the Selden campus of Suffolk Community College; and at 7 P.M. at the Fine Arts Center of the State University at Stony Brook, Jim Anderson, composer, backed by his jazz quartet, does a performance-lecture stint. All these programs are free.

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## Babylon Book Review

"Babylon, it seems, is more than just a village, it is also an inescapable metaphor." With these words, Dr. David Randolph hosted some 70 people who came to celebrate the first publication of BABYLON REVIEW at the Babylon Bean Coffee Extreme on June 11.

An ambitious literary journal whose basic criterion is not whether writing is "correct" or "incorrect" but whether it is dead or alive, BABYLON REVIEW's first volume features the work of world-famous Kurt Vonnegut, as well as the writings of persons who have never been published, or maybe never even written before but "who have life in what they say."

The idea for the BABYLON REVIEW effort was prompted by a New Yorker cartoon a few years ago which stated an individual was spending time somewhere on Long Island, between Manhattan and Montauk. This led Dr. Randolph, the BABYLON REVIEW editor, to think of Babylon as a place where people live between the end of the age of Manhattan and the end of the world Montauk. Given this description, it is obvious that that the definition fits a Babylonian who may live not only on Long Island, but in New York City, Miami Beach, Florida, Georgia, Connecticut, Denver, Boulder, Volotsfo, and everywhere in the world.

The evening at the Babylon Coffee Bean Extreme featured the writers and poets who contributed to the BABYLON REVIEW reading their work. The many guests shown in the following collage came from all levels of government, educational and non-profit organizations. Special recognition was given to 92-year old Henry Scurti who has written poignantly about his life as a youngster in Italy and continues in his description as an Italian immigrant to the United States.

It appears that BABYLON REVIEW is ambitious about its future and has already accrued a following, as well as the interest of writers and poets who wish to participate in its success. Volume No. 1, officially published; by Hanging Gardens Press was reaching the bookstores by the end of June and sells for \$5.95, a nominal sum considering the talent it displays.

Dr. Randolph expressed appreciation to all those who attended and singled out for special thanks Barbara Pepe of the Babylon Citizens Council on the Arts, Ruth Solomon, a contributing poet who also designed the cover for the first issue, and Sharon Bauer and Doris Richter who facilitated its publication.



## Women's Health Care

...an Rick Lazio (R-Brightwaters) is sponsoring the health of women enrolled in aged care plans. The Lazio initiative, which ongoing budgetary process, amends a sweeping reform package recently approved by the force Committee.

Lazio amendment, women covered by Medi-

A champion of women's health care issues, Congressman Lazio is sponsoring a bill that establishes a toll-free federal hotline providing the public with the latest information about scientific research efforts designed to combat breast cancer and other life threatening illnesses. Moreover, the House in 1996 approved \$100 million in Defense Appropriations funding for ongoing breast cancer research re-

## Prostate Cancer Disc



***Pictorial book of Babylon  
authored by former St. Joseph's  
Elementary School teacher***

Sister Anne Frances Pulling has completed a new pictorial history of our area entitled *Babylon By The Sea*. She is a Sister of Mercy who taught the primary grades at St.



Joseph's School for many years. Sister Anne has pursued a lifelong teaching career and presently teaches mental aerobics at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Pennsylvania.

Interest in local history has always been a hobby. Sister Anne has put it to good use by working with the Arcadia Publishing Co.

of Dover, New Hampshire. Their thrust is on Images of American or town and villages across the country. Sister Anne chose Babylon because the area has such a fascinating background.

The pictorial history contains over 200 photos and captions from our earliest inhabitants to the present. It describes in word and picture the evolution of our South Shore community through the three hundred years of its existence. The book will be available in July and Sister Anne Frances will be in town to launch it and offer an autographing session. She is hoping to meet many of her former students and their families.

Other Arcadia books by Sister Anne Frances include: *Around Cresson and the Alleghenies*, *Around Central Islip*, and *Windmills and Watermills of Long Island*.

Anyone who would like a copy of the book can write to Arcadia Publishing Company, 24 Chestnut St., Dover, NH, 03820, or call them at 603-743-4266.

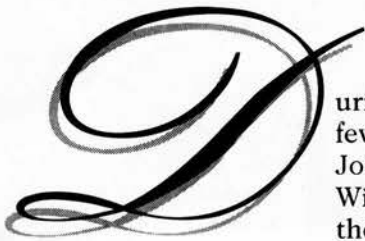
# Along the Great South Bay

*From Oakdale to Babylon—The Story of a  
Summer Spa 1840–1940*

by **Harry W. Havemeyer**

*522 pages containing over 64 pages of photographs and illustrations.*

ISBN 0-8488-1736-2 \$29.95



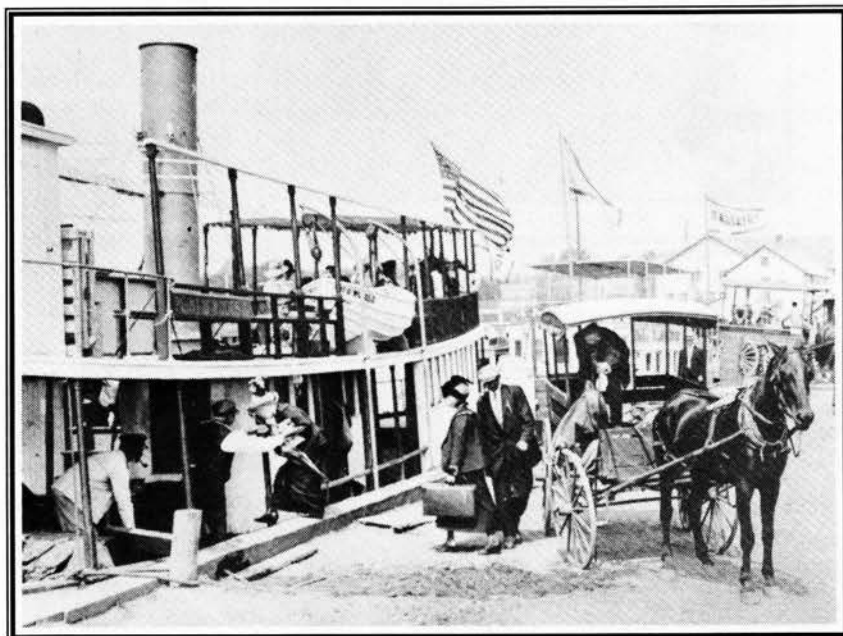
during the decade of the 1840s, a few affluent New Yorkers - the Johnson, Lawrance, and Wilmerding families - came to the South Shore of Long Island along the Great South Bay to build summer homes. They were attracted by the cool breezes from the Atlantic Ocean and by the fishing and bird shooting, sports for which the area was already becoming known. Following the end of the Civil War, the South Side Sportsmen's Club was founded by several New

York gentlemen to pursue these sports along the Connetquot River in the Town of Islip. One of the men, the country's most prominent financier, August Belmont, purchased a large tract of land north of Babylon at that time for a horse breeding farm. The flat land and temperate seashore climate were ideal as a nursery for America's most popular sport, trotting and horse racing.

In the decade of the 1870s, the scion of America's richest family, William K. Vanderbilt, grandson of the famous Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, and his dynamic wife Alva, chose Oakdale along the Great South Bay to build their country seat which they named "Idlehour". It was here that their daughter, Consuelo, later to be the Duchess of Marlborough, grew up.

Into the Gilded Age many affluent and socially prominent people from New York Society wanted to locate for the summer between Oakdale and Babylon as the Belmonts and Vanderbilts had done. Some of these at first stayed in cottages of the resort hotels that were built in the area. Others bought land and built their own estates near the water. All of them joined the clubs that were established for "sociability" and to pursue the sports of the day.

From New York came tobacco heir George L. Lorillard; the Benjamin Welles, sister and brother-in-law of the Mrs. Astor; industrialists W. Bayard Cutting, Frederick G. Bourne, William C. Whitney; many of the Knapp family; stockbroker Harry B. Hollins; merchants George C. Taylor, who lived with the woman he never married, and the Sugar King Henry



*Vacationers leaving their carriages to catch the Ferry to Point O' Woods at the Bay Shore dock in 1908.*

O. Havemeyer; cousins Schuyler Livingston Parsons, Robert Cambridge and Henry Beekman Livingston; William T. Garner, Samuel T. Peters, William F. Wharton, Lucius K. Wilmerding and Henry H. Hollister. Most of these families were blue bloods with old American ancestry. Most were also Episcopalians who built and supported St. Mark's Church, second oldest church in the Town of Islip. And most were members of New York's Union Club, the oldest and most prominent in the city. Their guests often included J. Pierpont Morgan and Andrew Carnegie.

As the Gilded Age reached its climax in the 1890s, affluent families from Brooklyn joined those from New York although -there was a subtle line dividing -the areas where each would live. From Brooklyn came the founder of Chicklets, the Adams; sugar refiners William Dick and John Mollenhause; department store merchants Simon Rothschild, Edward C. Blum and John Gibb; the Robert Pinkertons of the detective agency of that name.

By the turn of the century, seven young daughters of Great South Bay summer families had married titled European gentlemen, many with tragic consequences.

In the Twentieth Century, Edward F. Hutton with his first wife, his brother Franklyn L. Hutton with his wife Edna Woolworth Hutton and their soon to be famous daughter, Barbara Hutton, became summer residents of the area. The Woolworth millions and Barbara's tragic girlhood are a part of this story. The names of August Belmont, Jr., Jay F. Carlisle and Charles Van Rensselaer added lustre at this time.



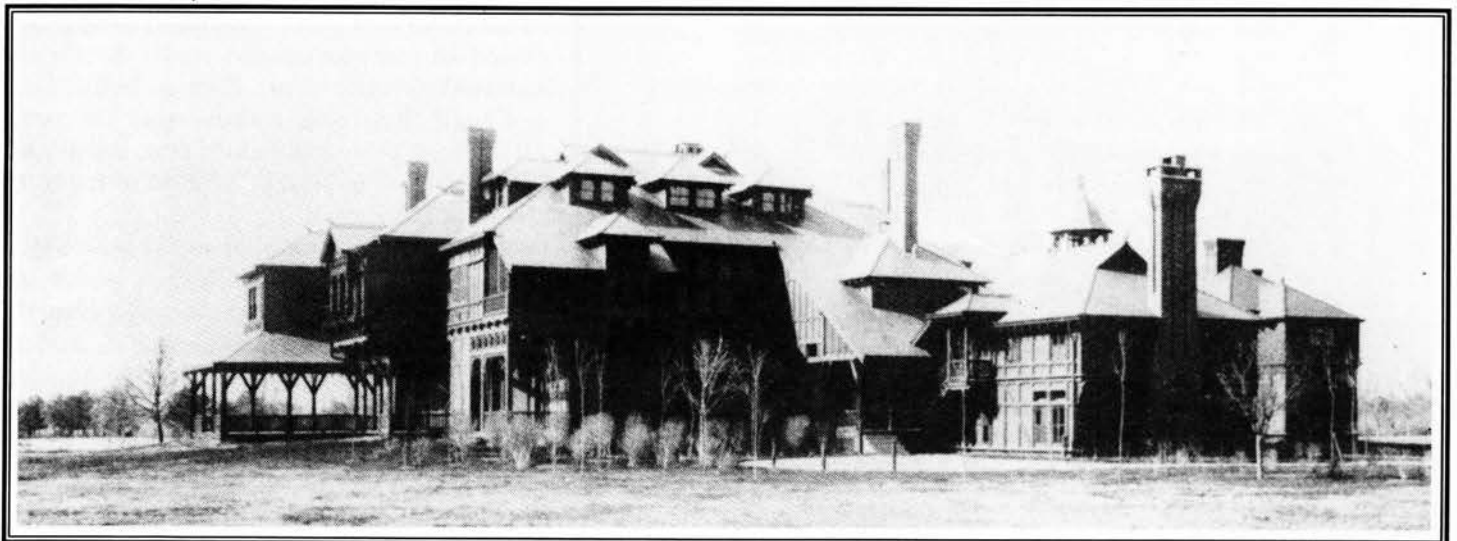
W.K. Vanderbilt, 1899



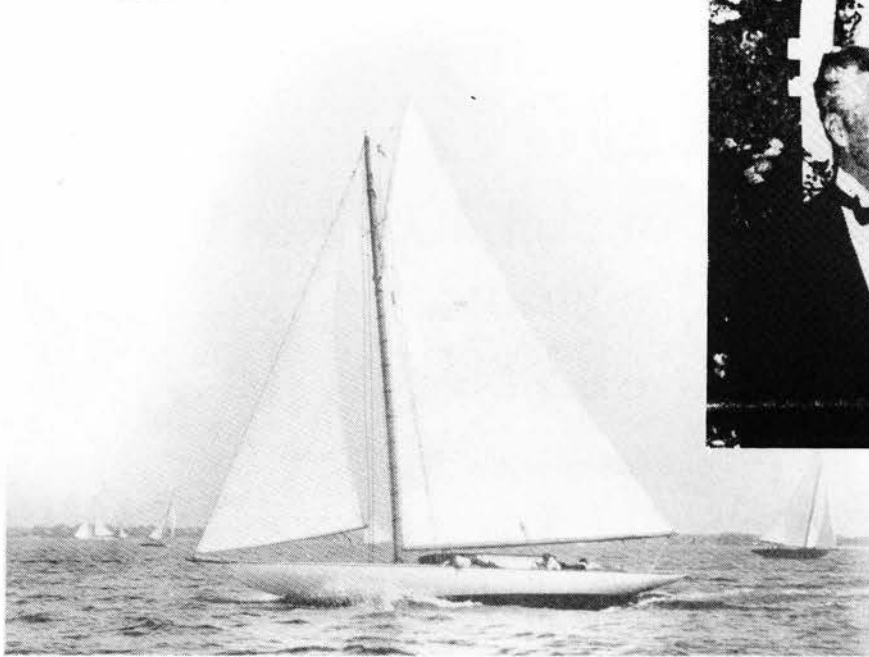
Consuelo, the Duchess of Marlborough, in her coronation gown in 1902 for the coronation of King Edward VII.

The first "Idlehour", Oakdale, 1879-1899.

(right) Windholme, the Victorian shingle-style home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel T. Peters on Johnson Avenue (now St. Mark's Lane) in Islip, was built by John D. Prince c. 1880.

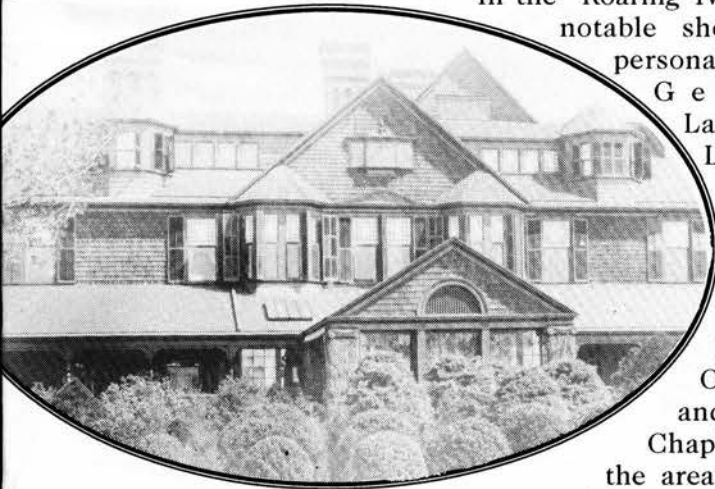


Electra - 1902  
30 Footer



*"Electra" racing off Bay Shore on the Great South Bay.*

*(Above)  
Charlie Chaplin, Gertrude Lawrence, and Schuyler L. Parsons at the "Beauty Pageant" in Bay Shore in 1927.*



In the "Roaring Twenties" such notable show business personalities as Gertrude Lawrence, Bea Lillie, Rudolph Valentino, George Gershwin, Richard Rodgers, Cole Porter and Charlie Chaplin came to the area to entertain and be entertained. So did

the famous dancer Irene Castle, and Fred and his sister Adele Astaire. Fred Astaire would later marry an Islip girl. America's greatest hero, Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, spent time in Islip both before and after his epic flight to Paris in 1927, as did his female counterpart Amelia Earhart, who opened Islip Airport in 1928. And finally for one night in 1924, Prince Edward, the Prince of Wales, was a guest in an East Islip home. The great hurricane of September 1938, followed closely by World War II, saw an end to the area as a summer spa. It had long been eclipsed by Bar Harbor, Southampton and, of

course, by Newport as a fashionable place to locate along the east coast. Its story has largely been forgotten. Few remember that for thirty or forty years from Oakdale to Babylon along the Great South Bay in the Town of Islip, Long Island, there existed a summer resort that rivaled even Saratoga and Newport in prominence. It was a part of what Consuelo Vanderbilt would later entitle "The Glitter and the Gold" of the Gilded Age. The story of this summer spa from its early beginnings in the 1840s to its end over a hundred years later is a tale of its summer residents, their ancestors, their occupations, activities, sports and clubs. Their births, marriages and deaths, some tragic, all interesting, are recounted for the first time.



*After five years of research, using contemporary newspapers and personal memoirs, both public and private, together with interviews of descendants and historians, the author has compiled the story. Along the Great South Bay includes over 100 photographs, both old and new, of these people, their homes, their churches and their recreation, all of which enhance the tale of this by-gone era.*

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## Photo Album of a Town by the Sea

### Babylon is history for an ex-teacher for St. Joseph's

BY NICOLE GESUALDO  
STAFF WRITER

**I**N 1991, SISTER ANNE FRANCES Pulling closed the door to her Babylon elementary school classroom for the last time. Eight years later, she continues to teach Long Island history.

Pulling's history lessons are no longer lecture-style, as they were during the 15 years she taught first grade at St. Joseph's School. Instead, the Central Islip native instructs from her new home in Cresson, Pa., by publishing Long Island's past in pictorial books.

This month she released "Babylon by the Sea," a black-and-white chronicle of Babylon Town. The visual timeline — from pencil drawings of Babylon's first house to photos of a 1998 Irish dance show — reveals the cross-sections of town life that attracted Pulling to local history.

"I like to know all about the place where I am," she said.

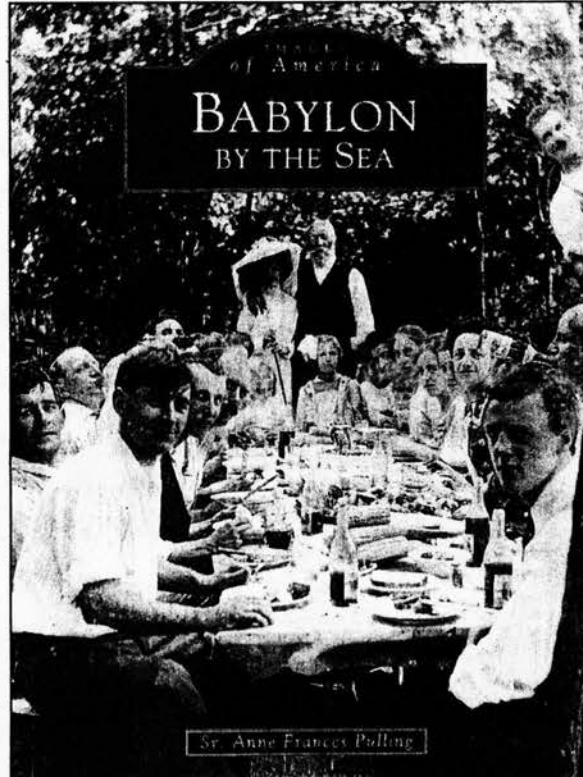
Pulling also has made it her business to write and publish books that introduce other people to those places.

Her first work of local history, "Central Islip, My Hometown," went to press in 1976. She then took a 20-year hiatus, but the writing business had left her with ink in her blood. In the mid-1990s, representatives of the Arcadia publishing company cold-called the library at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, where Pulling was teaching, in search of authors for an American villages series. The college librarian brought the request directly to Pulling and she took up the charge.

Pulling completed "Around Cresson and the Alleghenies" in 1997. A year later, she followed it with "Around Central Islip," a second book on her

**'We have a lot of new people in Babylon. They want to know about the history.'**

— Alice Zaruka, historical society president



Sister Anne Frances Pulling's latest published work offers a chronicle and cross-section of the South Shore town where she once taught school.

birthplace.

By the time Pulling made it back to Babylon, with Arcadia in tow, her book production methods seemed like second nature. "The first time, it takes you longer," she said.

Pulling said the first phase of the work involved collecting the images. Arcadia wanted 230 of them — no more, no less. Only a handful of the Babylon photographs came from her own collection, Pulling said, while others were borrowed from older Babylon residents.

"People know you're doing a book, and they say, 'Sister, I have a very good picture. Would you like to

see it?" Pulling said. "I told them right on the spot whether I wanted it or not."

Even more of Pulling's material — perhaps two thirds, according to Village of Babylon Historical & Preservation Society officials — was gleaned from their photo library. Pulling said she spent a few days at the Historical Society building in September, sifting through the archives and brushing up on local history with old-timers.

Materials in hand, Pulling left town for Mount Aloysius, where her night classes were waiting. "Babylon by the Sea" was put together in Cresson, more than 350 miles away from the South Shore village.

"I gather all the information while I'm on Long Island," Pulling said. "Then I bring the history home and write it here."

In about six months, Pulling arranged the photographs and penned captions for each one. She sent the finished product to Arcadia in February.

The book offers snapshots of Southside Hospital as a converted gingerbread-house structure that opened in 1913 before it moved to Bay Shore, and a turn-of-the-century trolley that ran from Amityville to Halesite. Pulling's written work is encapsulated in the three or four lines beneath each picture, placing the images in time and giving them context.

"Babylon by the Sea" is typical of the give and take between the Babylon Historical Society and writers who use it, said Historical Society president Alice Zaruka. In addition to Pulling, the society was contacted within the last year by a Manhattan playwright and two book authors looking for research material.

Pulling came across the Historical Society more indirectly. "She was writing to everybody and everyone's telling her to call us," Zaruka said. For its efforts, the Historical Society now has Pulling's volume on display in its archives.

Zaruka said "Babylon by the Sea" is not entirely unique in the Historical Society's collections. The society put together its own town history in 1993 to celebrate Babylon's centennial, she said. But it centers more on the village of Babylon than Pulling's pictorial, which includes some photographs of Amityville and Fire Island.

Regardless of overlap, Zaruka said any documentation of Babylon's past is valuable.

"We have a lot of new people in Babylon," she said. "They come in here, they want to know about the history." And even longtime residents of Babylon need these books, she said.

Zaruka purchased an extra copy of "Babylon by the Sea" to send to her son, who lives in California.

"I wanted to remind him," she said, "that this is where he came from." ●