

1654



today

# HISTORIC PELHAM

*Historic Pelham Herald – A Monthly Newsletter on History Happenings in Pelham, NY  
Vol. 1, Issue 7 (January 2004)*

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*Feature  
Story*

## Magazine Published in Great Britain in 1776 With Casualty List From Battle of Pelham Is Discovered

An eighteenth century magazine published in Great Britain with a casualty list that includes casualties during the Battle of Pelham on October 18, 1776 has been discovered. The 27-page magazine, entitled "Supplement for the Year 1776", was printed in London as a supplement to Gentleman's magazine.

The magazine includes a section entitled "Journal of the Proceedings of the Army in New-York" which, in turn, includes a subsection entitled "Return of Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers, rank and file, killed, wounded, and missing in several actions, from Sept. 17, to Nov. 16, inclusive". The first entry in that subsection covers "the action at Pelham-Manor, Oct. 18" as well as "previous skirmishes, from Sept. 17". Disappointingly, the data provided is aggregated and the magazine does not distinguish between casualties at the Battle of Pelham and those in "previous skirmishes".

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## Pelham's 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Begins

As most already know, June 27, 2004 will mark the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thomas Pell's acquisition of the lands that became Pelham. The celebration is underway. *The Pelham Weekly* is publishing a weekly column on the history of Pelham throughout the year. The column began in the January 2 issue with an article entitled "How Did Pelham Get Its Name?"

The Town of Pelham Public Library is sponsoring a year-long series of lectures and exhibits. The first lecture (including a slide presentation) will be given by Deputy Town Historian Blake A. Bell on Sunday, January 18 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the library. The topic, quite appropriately, will be Thomas Pell's Purchase of the Lands that Became Pelham. Beginning the day before, January 17, an exhibit on the same topic will be on display in the main hall of the Library.

## HistoricPelham.com Web Site News

Hosting records provided by the host of the site show that during the month of December, the [HistoricPelham.com Web site](http://HistoricPelham.com) received 163,807 hits representing 9,531 page views. Visitors in December downloaded 1.126 *gigabytes* of data from the site.



## Magazine Published in Great Britain in 1776 With Casualty List From Battle of Pelham Is Discovered

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The relevant entry from the magazine is quoted in its entirety below:

"In the action at Pelham-Manor, Oct. 18, and in previous skirmishes, from Sept. 17.

BRITISH.

2 Serjeants, 11 rank and file, killed; 1 Field-Officer, 1 Captain, 1 Subaltern, 3 Serjeants, 1 Drummer or Trumpeter, 40 rank and file, wounded; 1 Drummer, 3 rank and file, missing.

*Names of the Officers killed and wounded, &c.*

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of Light Infantry, Capt. Evelyn, of the 4<sup>th</sup> reg. mortally wounded, since dead; Lieut. Col. Musgrave, of the 40<sup>th</sup> reg. wounded; Lieut. Archibald Rutherford, of the 22<sup>nd</sup> reg. wounded."

Casualty figures for the Battle of Pelham have proved quite elusive for a host of researchers who have studied the battle. British Commander-in-Chief Sir William Howe reported three British soldiers killed and twenty wounded, although he said nothing of casualties experienced by the German soldiers who constituted approximately 75% of the force that fought the Americans at the Battle of Pelham. British deserters after the Battle claimed that between 800 to 1,000 had been killed among Howe's forces while American eyewitnesses to the Battle estimated Howe's losses to be from approximately 200 to 400 men.

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## Review of Microfilm in Town Historian's Office Reveals an Early History of Work of Rev. C. Winter Bolton of The Church of The Redeemer Published in The Pelham Press in 1897

Review of microfilm stored in the Office of The Historian of The Town of Pelham has revealed a wonderful early account of the life and work of Rev. C. Winter Bolton of The Church of the Redeemer published in *The Pelham Press* on March 13, 1897.

The Parish known as the Episcopal Church of Christ the Redeemer merged with Christ Church in 1976 and is known today as the Parish of Christ the Redeemer. The Richard J. Daronco Town House located next to Town Hall on Fifth Avenue was originally built as the Episcopal Church of Christ the Redeemer. At the time of the merger in 1976, the church building was deeded to the Town of Pelham.

Prior to erecting the church building that became the Richard J. Daronco Town House, the congregation worshipped in a lovely stone church of modified English Gothic style built in 1892. Before that, the congregation worshipped in at least two other buildings located in the area of Pelham then known as "Pelhamville".

On March 13, 1897, with Rev. C. Winter Bolton's jubilee anniversary celebration approaching, a local newspaper known as *The Pelham Press* published a lengthy but interesting account of Rev. C. Winter Bolton's life and work. Given that today's Parish of Christ the Redeemer is celebrating its 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, this fascinating history is set forth below in its entirety.

"REV. C. WINTER BOLTON'S APPROACHING JUBILEE.

—  
Interesting sketch of His Life and Work.  
—

In view of the approaching jubilee celebration at the Church of the Redeemer, we deemed it a matter of local interest to gather a few facts connected to the history of the Redeemer. Purely personal information was courteously furnished to a 'Press' representative by the Reverend gentleman himself. The general information has been gathered from public records, and also from several New York gentlemen conversant with the history of the work done at St. George's Mission chapel. The details thus learned were so voluminously interesting, and striking, that it was impossible to deal properly with them in the space at our disposal. In each case the information was accompanied by warm and affectionate commendation of Mr. Bolton's work.

The Rev. C. Winter Bolton is the fourth son of the late Rev. Robert Bolton. He is the grandson of the Rev. Wm. Jay, a celebrated English Divine who for over half a century, officiated at Argyle chapel in the once alra-fashionable [sic] city of Bath, England, and it may be here noted, as a coincidence, that on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1841, Mr. Jay kept his jubilee of 50

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## Early Life and Work of Rev. C. Winter Bolton of The Church of The Redeemer

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years continuous ministry in Argyle chapel, Bath, the only call he ever had. Mr. Bolton was born June 3, 1819, at Bath, England, and named after the Rev. Cornelius Winter of Painswick, Gloucestershire. He was educated at Mill Hill, near Harrow, and left England in the year 1836, settling as a farmer, at Bronxville, Westchester Co., N.Y. He studied Divinity in the Theological Seminary at Alexander, Va., under Bishop Meade. Was ordained to Deacon's orders, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1847, by the Right Rev. John Johns, Assistant Bishop of Virginia, and was ordained Priest in St. Peter's church, New York City, by the Right Rev. Alonzo Potter, Bishop of Pennsylvania, father of the present Bishop of Pennsylvania, father of the present Bishop of this Diocese, and was called to assist his father, March 29, 1847, at Christ church, Pelham. He resigned in 1850 to accept a call as Assistant to Christ church, Baltimore, Md., under the rectorship of the Rev. Henry D.V. Johns. In 1855 he was recalled as Rector of Christ church, Pelham. On the first of May he was elected Rector of the Redeemer, South Yonker, from whence he was called as minister of St. George's Mission chapel, New York. He was afterwards called to St. Mark's Church, New Castle, and later to St. Stephen's church, Armunk [sic], North Castle; St. John's, Pleasantville; and Calvary, Round Hill, Conn. In 1880 he accepted a call to the Church of the Redeemer, Pelhamville. His labors there (including the erection of a handsome stone church and rectory) are well known to our readers. Mr. Bolton is the author of several children's books, and a Sunday school prayer book. In 1854 he edited Jay's Scripture Characters, Jay's Autobiography and Reminiscences, and afterwards Bolton's Revised History of Westchester County, N.Y.

Mr. Bolton's father built Pelham Priory, where Miss Bolton conducted a Young Ladies School for many years. His father also built Christ church, Pelham, and the stone parish school house, and presented the church to the neighborhood on his leaving to reside in England, where he subsequently died. Miss Bolton presented the stone school house to the parish for a rectory, altering, and fitting it up at her own expense. All Mr. Bolton's brothers entered the ministry, James, his youngest brother, in 1848; Mr. Jay his second brother, in 1853; John, his third and only surviving brother (now in his 80<sup>th</sup> year) in 1862, and later his oldest brother, Robert. Mr. Bolton's family was quite an educating one, he himself taught a boys' school in New Rochelle and

afterward took charge of the Priory school for his sister, during her two years' absence in England. His brother Robert, kept a Young Ladies Institute at Bedford, Westchester County, N. Y.

Of Mr. Bolton's ministerial work, (with one exception) it is not possible within the limits of this brief sketch, to say more than that it bears a record of uniformly faithful service. But the exception noted, contains so much that lifts it above the ordinary level, that it calls for special notice. In April, 1859, Mr. Bolton was called to the charge of St. George's Mission, New York City. The district included in the Mission was a large and densely populated one, being bounded on the North by Twentieth Street, on the South by Fourteenth Street, on the West by First Avenue, and East by the river. In that section were 623 large tenement houses, containing over 4,983 families. The population was cosmopolitan, Germans and Irish preponderating, and the social life was in the main, extremely low and degrading. When Mr. Bolton commenced in May, 1859, the services were conducted in a small room then rented, at the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> street and avenue A. The attendance was very small and altogether the conditions were such, that only a man of strong religious faith, convictions and courage, could hope to make headway. That Mr. Bolton fully possessed these qualifications was soon evidenced by the energy with which he set about improving the material agencies to be employed. In July, 1859, the services were removed to a larger and more commodious Mission building, and an immediate improvement at once took place. To quote from an utterance of a living witness. "The simple, earnest and faithful teachings of Mr. Bolton, his daily work in the homes of the people, was so effective that the Sunday services were often unpleasantly crowded, and a great moral agency was thus set in motion that speedily impressed itself upon the whole character of the district." The evidence of this in the published reports of the Mission, as well as the oral testimony given to the "Press" man, is so ample and interesting, that we would fain quote at length. But when it is recorded that in 1865 there were 450 families belonging to the Mission, 370 communicants, and 709 scholars in the Sunday schools, we give figures which carry a commentary on Mr. Bolton's work more eloquent than mere words. This record is in itself monumental, but it is when we take the records of the Mission work during the eventful month of July, 1863, that the narrative assumes still more striking and forceful character. The history of the draft riots in New York occurring as they did during the most dark and troublous time in the Nation's history, assumes a livid aspect even when read in the cold type of contemporary records. But listening to the narratives of eye witnesses,

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localized and individualized, the horrors of that time are most vividly accentuated. And it was in the midst of that horror that the true nature and heroism of Mr. Bolton's character and work was displayed. To show how close he was to danger. At a meeting at Irving Hall, held subsequently to the riots, Mr. Bolton publicly stated that 1,000 deaths had occurred in his district. This statement being challenged, a reference was made to Mr. Acton, the acting Superintendent of Police whose sympathetic answer was: "that Mr. Bolton had under rather than over estimated the number." And the writer has it on unimpeachable authority, that throughout the whole time when danger was most pressing, Mr. Bolton remained at his post calm, amidst the turbulence surrounding him. A striking proof of the impression his personality had made, is found in the fact, that, when it was feared that violence might be offered to his mission buildings, offers of help and defence, came from many, who, opposed to him in religion, and, possibly in partial sympathy with the rioters, out of sheer respect for the man, would have shed their blood in his defense. Columns might be filled with incidents related to the writer, but the following will serve the purpose of fully illustrating the fullness of Mr. Bolton's work.

Amongst the families visited during the winter of 1862-63, was one where the wife was a regular communicant, and the husband a drunkard. As a result of Mr. Bolton's visits the husband was induced to attend the mission church, and ultimately became a temperance man and a God fearing church member. On the second morning of the riots, this man (who was employed at night in the Gas Works adjacent to the Mission) came to Mr. Bolton in great anxiety, and asked his advice. He and his four fellow workmen had been warned to keep away from the Gas Works the next night, so that the gas supply might be stopped, thus adding to the horrors and dangers of the situation. "Thomas" said Mr. Bolton, "Do your duty" "But" said Thomas "they threaten to kill us if we go to work." Again and again did the minister urge him to stand firm to his duty, adding that God would protect him. And such was the influence of this good minister that the man ultimately left with the resolve not only to stand to his post, but also to evoke in the minds of his co-workers the same faith and courage that he had acquired. In this he succeeded, with the result that the gas supply was not interfered with and what, might have been a great calamity, was averted. The foregoing incident was narrated by Mr. Bolton at the meeting at Irving Hall, and at the close of the meeting, Mr. Moses Taylor, the President of the Gas Company (who had been an interested listener)

requested Mr. Bolton to give him the name of the man referred to. This was done with the result that Mr. Taylor at once took steps to give the man a position of greater responsibility, at an increased salary, as a token of gratitude for the great service rendered. Bishop Potter has placed on record his opinion "that no more heroic ministry adorns the annals of the Church in the Diocese of New York, than that of Mr. Bolton, whose brave and unselfish services during the tragic times of the draft riots in 1863, ought never to be forgotten." And in placing this sketch before our readers, we express the earnest hope that this village and the whole neighborhood will honor themselves in doing all honor at the coming jubilee celebration to one whose life has been so perfect an exemplification of 'faithful service, nobly done.'"

**Source:** *Rev. C. Winter Bolton's Approaching Jubilee – Interesting Sketch of His Life and Work*, The Pelham Press, Mar. 13, 1897, Vol. II, No. 52, at 1, col. 1.

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### Efforts Underway to Save the Pelham Picture House and Develop It as a Non-Profit Film and Education Center

The Pelham Picture House (Wolfs Lane at Second Street) was built in the 1920s. It is believed to be one of the oldest movie houses still operating in Westchester County and is considered to be an excellent example of original "art deco" styling.

A group reportedly has entered into a contract to acquire the Pelham Picture House. The group intends to convert it into a regional non-profit film and education center.



**Front Façade of The Pelham Picture House.  
Photograph by Blake A. Bell.**

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According to a January 12 report on *The Pelham Forum*, a public meeting of “area residents” is scheduled to discuss future plans for the Pelham Picture House. The meeting reportedly will be held on Thursday, January 15 at Village Hall, 195 Sparks Avenue, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

### Town of Pelham Public Library Kicks Off Year-Long Local History Lecture Series as Part of Pelham’s 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

As reported on the first page of this issue, on Sunday, January 18, the Town of Pelham Public Library Kicks off a year-long local history lecture series as part of Pelham’s 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The monthly lectures will be held on the third Sunday of each month except during the summer months when they will be held on a weekly evening to be determined. An exhibit associated with each lecture will be available for one month in the Library’s main reading room beginning the day before each lecture.

Deputy Town Historian, Blake A. Bell, will deliver the inaugural lecture and slide presentation, entitled “Thomas Pell’s Treaty”. The lecture and slide presentation will explore the events that are being commemorated in this 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Thomas Pell’s acquisition of the lands that became Pelham.



The Pell Treaty (June 27, 1654).  
Courtesy of The Office of The Historian of  
The Town of Pelham

### History Events of Interest to Pelham

**Jan. 10** – Lecture by Research Librarian and well known Yonkers historian John Favareau to review the extensive genealogical resources of the Riverfront Yonkers Public Library. The lecture, co-sponsored by the Westchester County Genealogical Society, will begin at 10 a.m. at the Riverfront Library, One Larkin Center, Yonkers. For more information telephone the Yonkers Historical Society at 914-961-8940 or visit either of the following Web sites: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nywcgs/> and the calendar page available via <http://www.yonkershistory.org/>.

**Jan. 15** – Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum Winter Lecture Series: “Uncovering the Past Through Archeology – The Hendrick I. Lott House Project” by Chris Ricciardi. Seating is limited and reservations are required. The lecture will be held from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Cost TBA. For reservations, call 718-885-1461 or email [BartowPell@aol.com](mailto:BartowPell@aol.com).

**Jan. 18** – Town of Pelham Public Library 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Lecture Series: “Thomas Pell’s Treaty”. The lecture will be held from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Town of Pelham Public Library located at 530 Colonial Avenue in Pelham. For more information, call 914-738-1234.

**Jan. 22** – Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum Winter Lecture Series: Topic to be announced. The lecture will be held from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Cost TBA. For reservations, call 718-885-1461 or email [BartowPell@aol.com](mailto:BartowPell@aol.com).

**Jan. 29** – Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum Winter Lecture Series: “Native Americans of the North East Bronx” by Mike Cohn. Choice of lecture or lecture with noon lunch. Seating is limited and reservations are required. The lecture will be held from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Cost TBA. For reservations, call 718-885-1461 or email [BartowPell@aol.com](mailto:BartowPell@aol.com).

### Did you know . . . .

A great rapier (sword) and a silver tankard both owned by Thomas Pell were handed down through the Pell family for several generations until they were stolen by a relative of the family and were pawned in New York City. They have vanished though they may yet turn up since there do exist fairly detailed descriptions of the items should they ever come to light.