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HISTORIC PELHAM

today

*Historic Pelham Herald – A Monthly Newsletter on History Happenings in Pelham, NY
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Feature
Story

Historic Pelham Blog Is Unveiled

On February 8, 2005, the “[Historic Pelham Blog](http://HistoricPelham.com)” was unveiled. (The term “Blog” is an abbreviated reference to “Web Log” – a form of daily electronic journal published on the Web.) The blog is located at: <http://historicpelham.blogspot.com/> and can be accessed from the HistoricPelham.com home page.

The Historic Pelham Blog is devoted to “[p]resenting the rich history of Pelham, NY in Westchester County including current historical research, descriptions of how to research Pelham history online and genealogy discussions of Pelham families.” Very early each business day the Town Historian of Pelham, NY publishes a new posting to the Blog dealing with some aspect of Pelham History.

In the last seven weeks, the daily postings to the Blog have addressed a wide variety of topics including, among many others, the following:

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And More. . .

Thomas Pell
and the Legend
of the Pell Treaty Oak



Blake A. Bell

Visit www.historicpelham.com To Purchase a Copy of the Book Published in Connection with Pelham’s 350th Anniversary Celebration Entitled “Thomas Pell and the Legend of the Pell Treaty Oak” The book is also available from the online bookstores of Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com.

For those who may wish to browse the beginning of the book all the way through the entire first chapter, visit www.historicpelham.com.

HistoricPelham.com Web Site News

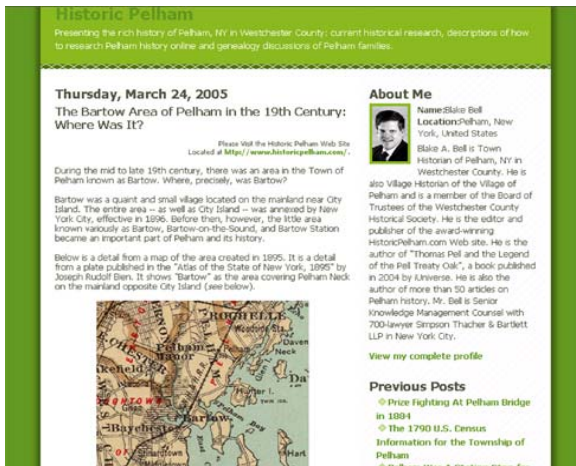
March 20, 2005 was the two-year anniversary of the HistoricPelham.com Web site.

The site has been mentioned twice in the print edition of *The New York Times* and has won several awards. Far more importantly, traffic on the site has grown significantly. In its first year, visitors viewed pages on the site 116,913 times. During the twelve months from March 21, 2004 until March 19, 2005, the site delivered an additional 140,100 “page views”. Thus, in its first two years of existence, visitors have looked at pages on the site more than a quarter million times!



Historic Pelham Blog Is Unveiled

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- Prize Fighting at Pelham Bridge in 1884
- The Earliest Telephone in Pelham Manor?
- Split Rock: A Pelham Landmark for Centuries
- Pelham Was a Station Stop for the Stage Coach That Carried Mail from New York To Boston in the Early 19th Century
- Tennis in Early Pelham
- The 1790 U.S. Census Information for the Township of Pelham
- The Oldest Tombstone in Westchester County
- “Mammy Goose” of Goose Island
- What Is That Bell Resting on a Stone Pedestal in Front of the Richard J. Daronco Townhouse at 20 Fifth Avenue?
- New Discoveries Regarding Baseball in 19th Century Pelham

There are many, many other such postings. In addition, there are quite a number of postings that provide “how to” information regarding how to use online resources to research Pelham history. Among the many such postings are the following:

- Searching Historic Newspapers Online for Information About Pelham
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- Searching The Brooklyn Daily Eagle (1841-1902) for Information About Pelham
- Studying Antique Maps of Pelham Using Online Services That Provide High Resolution Scans (Parts I, II and III)
- Finding Photographs of Pelham in the Online “American Memory Collection” of the Library of Congress
- Building a Basic Library on the History of Pelham, NY
- Using eBay© -- of All Things! – To Assist You With Your Research Into Local History
- Using the Web To Find Books and Materials Relating to the History of Pelham

New York Public Library Unveils “NYPL Digital” – Online Collection Contains Many Images Relating To Pelham’s History

On March 7, 2005 the New York Public Library unveiled its “NYPL Digital” described as a “gateway to The New York Public Library’s rare and unique collections in digitized form” where visitors can find “hundreds of thousands of prints, photographs, maps, and text pages via searchable databases”. There reportedly are more than 275,000 images in the collection.

It should come as no surprise that even fairly rudimentary searches have revealed that many items in the new online collection relate to the history of Pelham, NY and surrounding areas. Indeed, the collection is merely another example of how more and more local history material is becoming freely available online on almost a monthly basis. This article will discuss the NYPL Digital collection and will provide links to a few of the many items in the collection that relate to the history of Pelham.

The NYPL Digital collection is currently available from the home page of the New York Public Library Web site located at <http://www.nypl.org/>. The home page of the NYPL Digital collection is located at

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New York Public Library Unveils "NYPL Digital"

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<http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/>. Click here or use your browser (e.g., Microsoft Internet Explorer) to go to the home page of the NYPL Digital collection.

Explore the home page carefully and you will see references to many functions that allow you to access the collection. Given its size, of course, the most important is the search feature. As always, the first step should be to review the search "Help" page by clicking on the "Help" link below the search dialogue box. (The "Help" page is located at <http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/dghelp.cfm>).

You will see that you can search phrases by placing them in quotes and can use the basic Boolean search terms "and" and "or". The wild card search characters that permit you to find all variations that contain the letters you indicate are "?" and "*". The question mark looks for all variations containing a single letter. Thus, for example, the term "c?t" would find cat, cut and cot. The "*" finds all variations regardless of the number of letters. Thus, for example, the term "Pelham*" would find Pelham, Pelhamville and Pelhamwood.

Return to the NYPL Digital home page. There you will find a link to an "Advanced Search" page. It is located at <http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/dgadvsearch.cfm>. On that page you can search by titles, digital image numbers (once you have located images) and keywords. You can designate words that should NOT appear in the search results and you can limit your searches to particular divisions or centers of the NYPL research libraries. As an example, go to the keyword search dialogue box and type John Glover then select from the picklist next to the box "exact phrase". Click on "Go" and you will see three portraits of the man who led American troops during the Battle of Pelham on October 18, 1776 and a page from the May 30, 1895 issue of *Leslie's Weekly* with a photo of a statue of John Glover.

You are not finished! Always remember to search thoughtfully and creatively. Is it possible that other materials may exist that contain items related to John Glover but that do not use the exact phrase "John Glover"? Perhaps items that used a middle name or a middle initial? Go back to the advanced search page and try a keyword search using John Glover but, instead of selecting "exact phrase" from the picklist, select "find all words (AND)". Click on "Go".

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You now will see search results that include the four items referenced above *plus four additional portraits of General John Glover*. (There are three unrelated items as well.)

These searches provide a classic example of why it is so important to give careful thought to your search queries and to mine the database carefully. There is much to be found. Below are live hyperlinks to some of the items relating to Pelham history in the database.

General John Glover:

[Portrait 1](#)

[Portrait 2](#)

[Portrait 3](#)

[Portrait 4](#)

[Portrait 5](#)

[Portrait 6](#)

[Portrait 7](#)

[Leslie's Weekly Page](#)

Maps of the Area:

[Westchester County, 1838](#)

[Westchester County, 1839](#)

[Marshal Map Showing Battle of Pelham, 1807](#)

[Sauthier Map Showing Battle of Pelham, 1777](#)

[Map of Engagement on Long Island \(Shows Pelham Area\), 1776](#)

[Hydrographic Map of the Counties of New York, 1846\(?\)](#)

[Westchester County, 1841](#)

[Hawkswood on Rodman's Neck](#)

[John McGraw, Manager of the N.Y. Giants \(Pelham Manor Resident\)](#)

Miscellaneous Items:

[Glover's Rock on Orchard Beach Road](#)

[Postcard View of Travers Island \(Postmarked May 21, 1931\)](#)

[Pell Mansion in Pelham Bay Park](#)

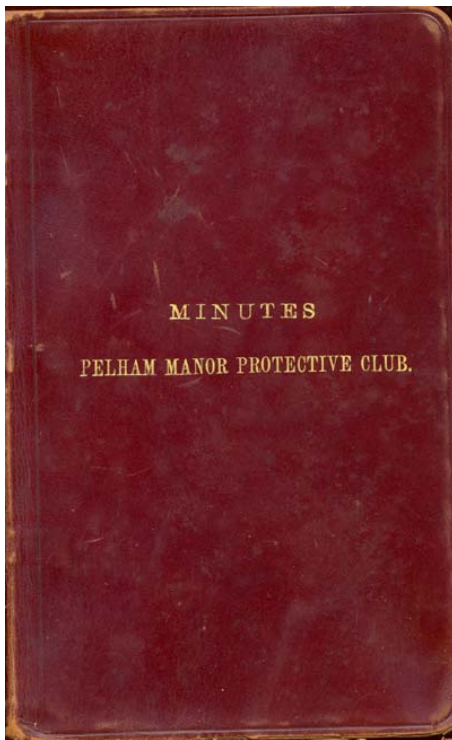
[St. Paul's Church Postcard View](#)

[St. Paul's Church Postcard Photograph](#)

There likely are many, many more items relating to the history of Pelham contained in the 275,000 images that form this wonderful collection.

The Westchester County Historical Society Acquires Records of The Pelham Manor Protective Club From Dealer in Tarrytown, NY

Elizabeth G. Fuller, Librarian of The Westchester County Historical Society, recently discovered a very large leather-bound volume containing more than ten years' worth of handwritten meeting minutes and other records of the Pelham Manor Protective Club -- the precursor to the village government formed when the Village of Pelham Manor was incorporated in 1891. She found the volume among the collections of a dealer located in Tarrytown, NY. There is no record regarding how the materials ended up at that location. Ms. Fuller successfully acquired the treasure for the collections of The Westchester County Historical Society. (Below is an image of the cover of a DRAFT minutes book stored among similar records maintained in the collections of The Office of The Historian of The Town of Pelham.)



The WCHS has made the volume available to a representative of The Office of The Historian of The Town of Pelham who was able to photograph the hundreds of pages of records contained in the volume to permit transcription, study and analysis. The records span the period from 1881 when the Pelham Manor Protective Club was first formed until

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shortly after the Village of Pelham Manor was incorporated and, consequently, took over many of the functions that had been served by the Club during the previous decade.

The discovery of these records is one of the most significant developments in the study of the history of Pelham Manor in many years. They show the evolution of a so-called "Vigilance Committee" formed to handle policing issues in the area into a political force that grew so unhappy with Town Government that it became an important force in the decision to incorporate the area to form the Village of Pelham Manor in 1891.

In the early 1880s, a group of local residents formed a "Citizen's vigilante committee". That committee, in turn, created an organization known as "The Pelham Manor Protective Club."

The Pelham Manor Protective Club was formally organized on December 15, 1881 – ten years before incorporation of the Village of Pelham Manor. Indeed, the Club might be viewed as a precursor to the organization of the Village because it was an important cooperative body created for the protection of the local citizenry.

Nearly the entire adult male population of the area – 52 local residents – subscribed as members of the Pelham Manor Protective Club. The list of subscribers reads like a "Who's Who" of early Pelham, including such names as Robert C. Black, Robert Bolton, Benjamin Corlies, Henry W. Taft, Silas H. Witherbee and many others.

The sole purpose of the Club was "to assist the public authorities in maintaining law and order within a radius of one mile from Pelham Manor Depot . . . and to prosecute all persons committing any crimes or misdemeanors within said district."

Given the importance of its work, the Protective Club was able to raise a substantial amount of money. Upon "subscribing" to the Club, each new member was required to pay an entrance fee of three dollars and, thereafter, to pay "such dues, not exceeding fifty cents a month, as the Executive Committee shall determine." In addition, the "Articles of Association of The Pelham Manor Protective Club" authorized the five-member Executive Committee "to levy assessments for any legitimate object of this club, provided that assessments levied by the executive committee on any one member in any one year shall not exceed in the aggregate the sum of NINE DOLLARS over and above the regular dues."

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The Westchester County Historical Society Acquires Records of The Pelham Manor Protective Club From Dealer in Tarrytown, NY

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Over the coming months a representative of The Office of The Historian of The Town of Pelham will be transcribing, annotating and analyzing the records of the Pelham Manor Protective Club as a consequence of the kind and gracious courtesy of Katie Hite, Executive Director of the Westchester County Historical Society and her talented colleague, Elizabeth G. Fuller. The *Historic Pelham Herald* will report on the status of the project and significant discoveries as the records are reviewed.

To learn more about the Pelham Manor Protective Club, see Bell, Blake A., The Pelham Manor Protective Club Founded in 1881, *The Pelham Weekly*, Vol. XIII, No. 24, June 11, 2004, p. 12, col. 1.

Bartow-on-the-Sound – A 19th Century Hamlet in Pelham: Where Was It?

During the mid to late 19th century, there was a little hamlet within the Town of Pelham known variously as Bartow, Bartow-on-the-Sound and Bartow Station. Where, precisely, was Bartow?

Bartow was a quaint and small hamlet located on the mainland near City Island. The entire area -- as well as City Island -- was annexed by New York City, effective in 1896. Before then, however, the area became an important part of Pelham and its history.

At the top of the next column is a detail from a map created in 1895. It is from a plate published in the "Atlas of the State of New York, 1895" by Joseph Rudolf Bien. It shows "Bartow" as the area covering Pelham Neck on the mainland opposite City Island.

The map is somewhat imprecise. Bartow actually encompassed an area slightly larger than the map detail in the column to the right suggests. Bartow encompassed an area from Pelham to the Bartow-Pell estate and even northeastward to

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include some of the lands on the mainland across from the Bartow-Pell Mansion (an area that encompasses portions of today's Pelham Bay and Split Rock golf courses).

There is an interesting description of the Bartow area contained in a suggested walking tour published in *The New York Times* in 1878. The account reads, in part, as follows:

"About a dozen miles from the City, on the Shore Line branch of the Harlem and New-Haven Railway, is a small station called Bartow. It is where one gets off the train to go to City Island. The ride to that little station is a very pleasant one; past long gleaming arms from the Sound, that at high tide reach far up in the land among the meadows of tall, rank, dark green grass; past brooks and mills and hamlets, while the cool salt air comes breezily from the shimmering bosom of the watery expanse gleaming in the distance. It is just after the train's hollow rumble over a long, low bridge that a forest is entered, and there, beneath the shadows of the trees, nestles Bartow. Opposite the station is a pretty little house, where, through a widely-opened door, one may see a table set out with bright service on a cloth of snowy whiteness for a dinner, for which the dinner never seems to come, though alluring signs on the dwelling's front invite the public. A little back in the woods, beside the New-Rochelle road, stands the 'Bartow Hotel,' which appears to do a composite business in beer and horse-shoeing. And those houses, with the depot, of course, are all there is of Bartow.

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Bartow-on-theSound – A 19th Century Hamlet in Pelham: Where Was It?

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"From the station a road extends, nearly all the way through a shady lane, over to City Island, one of the most delightful short drives -- little over a mile and a half -- that can be found anywhere along the shore. Overhead arch oaks, hickories, maples, and elms. On either side are rough stone walls. Cresting those walls with foliage and snowy bloom lie tangled masses of the flowering vine that people hereabouts call 'Aaron's beard.' Modest yellow and blue flowers nestle at the bases of the rocky piles. Here and there the golden rod uprears its yellow sprays, and on the little knolls beside the road the sumac's crimson tufts flare brilliantly. The sweet breath of the new-mown hay floats up from low meadows, and at the next turning of the road gives place to the saline scent of the still lower lands, where tall grasses leave their roots in the salt tides. . . ."

Source: The Pearl Of The Sound. Attractions Of Little-Known City Island., *N.Y. Times*, Aug. 25, 1878, p. 12.

New Discoveries Regarding Baseball in 19th Century Pelham

Recent research has revealed even earlier references to baseball being played in Pelham than those previously known. Based on the new research, the earliest reference now known to organized baseball in Pelham appeared in the June 7, 1885 issue of *The New York Times*. The article relates an account of a baseball game played in Pelham on June 3, 1885. The article also describes baseball played in Pelham the previous summer. According to the account:

"On Wednesday a game of baseball was played on the polo grounds of the club between a nine composed of members of the Knickerbocker Club and one from the Country Club. The result of the game was the defeat of the Knickerbocker Club players by a score of 34 to 37. Last Summer the Country Club nine played a match game with the Knickerbockers and Calumeters. It

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is more than likely that a series of games will be played this Summer between the Country Club nine and nines formed from the members of the different clubs in this city."

The World of Society, *N.Y. Times*, Jun. 7, 1885, p. 14.

Only a few weeks later another such article appeared in the August 16, 1885 issue of *The New York Times*. It suggested, apparently erroneously, that no baseball games had yet been played on the Country Club grounds that summer. The article also described baseball games played in Pelham during the previous summer in 1884. The reference, quoted in full, reads:

"Little has been heard of the Country Club this Summer. There have been no startling announcements and the games of baseball among members of the Country Club and those of several of the social clubs of New York, which were quite a feature there last . . . year, have not been taken up this season. Last year both the Calumet and Knickerbocker Clubs sent nines to Bartow, where they played several strong games against the Giants of the Country Club. The results of these games, I think, were always in favor of the visiting clubs, at least the majority of games were won by the New-Yorkers. Perhaps the famous nine of Bartow does not feel equal to competing for supremacy again this year. These visiting nines were always treated by the Giants with a great deal of consideration, and the 'spreads' they gave them after the games were worthy of an epicure."

The World of Society, *N.Y. Times*, Aug. 16, 1885, p. 3.

The Country Club Giants drew their team members from the Country Club of Westchester County located near Bartow-on-Sound (roughly near today's Pelham Bit Stables on Shore Road in Pelham Bay Park, once part of the Town of Pelham). The Country Club of Westchester was Pelham's first country club. Founded in 1884, it reportedly was the "second organization of its kind established in the United States, its only predecessor being the Country Club of Boston." The Westchester Country Club, *N.Y. Times*, Jul. 18, 1897, p. IWM14.

The club was located on a property known as the Dr. Richard Morris place. When the land leased

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New Discoveries Regarding Baseball in 19th Century Pelham

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by the club was condemned for inclusion in Pelham Bay Park, the club moved to a 120-acre site on Throggs Neck, building a new clubhouse there in 1888. *Id.* According to the accounts quoted above, club members played organized baseball against other clubs from New York City during the year the club was founded.

Baseball seems to have been a widely played sport among Pelham youngsters at about this time. Indeed, according to one report published about steeplechase races sponsored at the Westchester Country Club in October 1886, during the lively races "around, all, like the ocean on the shield of Achilles, was the omnipresent, perpetually moving and whooping small boy, who played baseball when he was not looking at the races and yelled wildly when he was." *Watching the Pony Races, N.Y. Times, Oct. 24, 1886, p. 14.*

Baseball, of course, likely was played in Pelham for many years before 1884. References to the game that predate the summer of 1884, however, remain -- at least for now -- obscured by the mists of time.

If you would like to learn much more about baseball in early Pelham, see Bell, Blake. A., *Baseball in Late 19th Century Pelham, The Pelham Weekly, Vol. XIII, No. 17, Apr. 23, 2004, p. 8, col. 2.*

History Events of Interest to Pelham

April 2 – The Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum presents an award winning exhibit entitled "In Search of the Lenape: The Delaware Indians Past & Present by Dr. David Oestreicher" at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Road, Bronx, NY, 10464. The exhibition continues from March through October 2005. Exhibition hours are Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. For additional admission details, call 718-885-1461 or email bartowpell@aol.com.

April 2 – Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site is available to sponsor an interactive Revolutionary War Education Program at Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site, 897 S. Columbus Avenue, Mt. Vernon, NY. The program is available for elementary, middle and high school classes studying American history and local history. Group sizes can range from 40 to 80 students. Free of charge and space is available for bag lunches. For information on how to arrange such a program, contact David Osborn or Sharon Mills at 914-667-4116.

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April 3 –The Pelham Preservation & Garden Society sponsors a Spring Cleanup. Those who wish to volunteer for the cleanup should meet at the train station on Sunday, April 3 at 1:00 p.m.

April 3 – The Jay Heritage Center in Rye will present a lecture and book signing by Walter Stahr, an international lawyer and author of the first full-length biography of John Jay since 1935. Jay Heritage Center, 210 Boston Post Road, Rye, NY, 3:00 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person. Reservations are recommended. Call 914-698-9275 for more information.

April 8 – New York Landmarks Conservancy will sponsor a program entitled "Roofs, Boilers & Budgets: How to Care for Your Religious Property" a maintenance and fundraising workshop for stewards of houses of worship at Trinity Church, 1200 Old Main Street, Fishkill, NY beginning at 9:00 a.m. A nonrefundable fee of \$20 per person covers all workshop materials, continental breakfast, continental breakfast and lunch. For more information, call Ann Friedman or Elizabeth McTigue at 212-995-5260.

April 18 – Warner Library presents Rob Yasinsac with his Slide Presentation of Briarcliff Lodge from his new Images of America Book on April 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Warner Library, 121 North Broadway, Tarrytown, NY at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free. Please call 914-631-7734 for more information.

Looking Ahead

May 5 – Native New Yorkers: The Lenape Then and Now. A free presentation by lecturer Linda Poolaw, a leader of the Delaware tribe and respected Native American activist will discuss the fate of the Lenape, the original inhabitants of the New York area. Learn how the Lenape lived on Manhattan Island prior to the Europeans' arrival; how conflicts with the settlers led to their eventual migration across the United States; and how their descendants live today. A light dinner will follow the lecture. The lecture is co-sponsored by the National Museum of the American Indian and will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at The National Museum of the American Indian at One Bowling Green in New York City. For more information see www.fohrp.org/fohrp2.php?screen=events.

May 14 – Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site will host its second annual historic dinner featuring an authentic, delicious four-course meal, a delightful musical performance, a Civil War talk, a living history demonstration in period costume and a ceremony to honor Patricia N. Dohrenwend, Director of the Westchester Records and Archives Center and formerly Eastchester Town Clerk for her outstanding contribution to increasing appreciation and understanding of Westchester's civil war history. Tickets are \$65 per person. The event begins at 5:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. For additional details, call 914-667-4116.