

1654



today

# HISTORIC PELHAM

*Historic Pelham Herald – A Monthly Newsletter on History Happenings in Pelham, NY  
Vol. 1, Issue 6 (December 2003)*

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*Feature  
Story*

## **Town of Pelham Arranging Ceremonial Demand by British Monarchy of Payment of 20 Shillings as Required by October 20,**

### **1687 Confirmation of Thomas Pell's Land Grant**

On October 20, 1687, New York Governor Thomas Dongan confirmed by letters patent issued to John Pell (nephew and sole heir of Thomas Pell) the June 27, 1654 land grant from local Native Americans to Thomas Pell. Published transcriptions of the confirming letters of patent appear in a variety of publications including, for example, Bolton, Jr., Robert, A HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME, pp. 536-39 (NY: Alexander Gould 1848).

The October 20, 1687 confirming letters patent included the following provision that required:

“John Pell, his heirs, and assignes, for ever, to be beholden of his most sacred

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Majesty, his heirs and successors, in free and common soccage, according to the tenure of East Greenwich, in the county of Kent, in his Majesty's kingdom of England, yielding, rendering and praying therefore yearly and every year for ever, unto his Majesty, his heirs and successors, or to such officer or officers as shall from time to time be appointed to receive the same – twenty shillings, good and lawful money of this province, at the city of New Yorke, on the five and twentieth day of the month of March, in lieu and stead of all rents, services and demands whatsoever.”

As part of next year's celebration of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thomas Pell's purchase, The Town of Pelham has asked Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey (Dem. – 18<sup>th</sup> Dist., NY) to assist, through appropriate diplomatic channels and in the most appropriate way, to arrange for the British Monarchy to make a ceremonial demand on the Town of Pelham for payment of the twenty shillings to the British Monarchy on behalf of the landowners of Pelham in their capacity as “assignes” of the land interests

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## **HistoricPelham.com Web Site News**

According to hosting records provided by the host of the site, during the month of October, the [HistoricPelham.com Web site](http://HistoricPelham.com) received 169,557 hits representing 10,207 page views. Visitors in October downloaded 2.080 **gigabytes** of data from the site.



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## Ceremonial Demand that Town of Pelham Pay British Monarchy 20 Shillings

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confirmed to John Pell on behalf of the British Monarchy in the October 20, 1687 letters patent.

On November 8, 2003, Pelham's Deputy Town Historian delivered to Congresswoman Lowey a formal request seeking assistance with arranging the ceremonial demand from the British Monarchy. Congresswoman Lowey's office since has responded to the letter saying that the proposal is "exciting" and that they have begun work on the request. While there can be no assurance that such a demand will be arranged successfully, efforts are underway in the spirit of the upcoming celebration.

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## Pell Family Has Long Tradition of Demanding That City of New Rochelle Deliver a "Fatt Calfe" as Required by John Pell's September 20, 1689 Sale of Lands That Became New Rochelle

On September 20, 1689, John Pell and his wife, Rachel, sold to Jacob Leisler of New York City 6,000 acres. At the same time they gifted to Leisler another 100 acres for use as church grounds. Leisler reportedly was commissioned to acquire the land on behalf of French Huguenots seeking to relocate to North America, many of whom fled from La Rochelle in France. The land became today's New Rochelle, named in honor of La Rochelle from which many of the Huguenots fled religious persecution by the French Catholics.

A condition of the sale in 1689 was that Jacob Leisler, his heirs and assigns should deliver to "John Pell his heirs and assigns Lords of the said Manor of Pelham . . . as an Acknowledgment to the said Manor one fatt calfe on every fouer and twentieth day of June Yearly and Every Year forever (if demanded)."

The date, June 24, is significant. It is the date of the annual Festival of Saint John the Baptist celebrated within the Roman Catholic Church. It is most intriguing to consider precisely why these Protestants, John Pell and Jacob Leisler (who acted on behalf of French Huguenot Protestants) would choose the day of the annual Festival of Saint John the Baptist as the day each year that the Huguenots would pay "acknowledgment" to the Pells "forever".

One wonders if there were not hidden meaning in the establishment of an annual commemorative ritual to be celebrated by Protestants on a Roman Catholic Festival day. Was it a slap in the face of the French Catholics who had persecuted the Huguenots for so long – perhaps not unlike the decision to name the settlement New Rochelle in honor of La Rochelle, where French Huguenots long had withstood persecution by French Roman Catholics until, finally, they were overcome?

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, according to reports, Pell family members ignored the provision. In 1952, however, the headmaster of a school for boys in Delaware, Rev. Walden Pell, learned of the agreement and made a demand on behalf of the Pell family for New Rochelle to deliver a "fatt calfe". As one report puts it:

"So he put in the claim, which the city ignored until publicity forced its hand and a ritual was born."

In addition to that initial resurrection of the delivery of the "fatt calfe", Pell family members have demanded delivery of the calf in 1956, 1984, 1988 and 1999.



**Lord John Pell,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lord of the Manor of Pelham**

In 1999, Mayor Timothy Itoni of New Rochelle ceremonially delivered a 6-month-old Holstein calf to William Rodman Pell III who reportedly asked "Where's the beef?" It turns out the calf was not particularly "fatt". Former U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island was among the attendees at the event in 1999 which was held in connection

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## Pell Family Tradition of Demanding Delivery of a “Fatt Calfe” from New Rochelle

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with the celebration of the centennial of the incorporation of New Rochelle.

During that celebration, Mayor Idoni reportedly told Pell family members that “in selling New Rochelle, they had pretty much given away an asset now worth about \$4 billion.” See [Family Collects ‘Fatt Calfe’ as Portion of Perpetual Debt](#), Associated Press special to Jefferson City News Tribune Online Edition (Jun. 25, 1999). It may not have been fair to suggest that the “agreement” was so one sided. The lands that comprise New Rochelle were worth a mere \$4 billion, according to Mayor Idoni, in 1999. A wholly unscientific and, admittedly, tongue-in-cheek analysis demonstrates that such a lowly figure pales in comparison to the present value of one “fatt calfe” delivered in 1689.

According to the appraisal of the estate of Thomas Pell, John Pell’s uncle, conducted in 1669, a “calfe” was valued at one pound sterling.



**Jacob Leisler**

Assuming an average return of 7% per annum on the investment of one pound sterling received in 1689 (compounded annually) the value today would be about 27 Billion pounds sterling – almost \$46 Billion in U.S. dollars at today’s exchange rates with no adjustments for inflation. And, that doesn’t include the compounded value in today’s dollars of each “fatt calfe” that was supposed to be delivered in each subsequent year after 1689! Perhaps ancestral members of today’s Pell family should be criticized most not for “giving away” lands that grew in value to \$4 billion by 1999, but rather for not selling the

“fatt calfe” and investing the proceeds wisely beginning in 1689 . . . . .

In 1984, Debbie Pell Dunning (presently of Sarasota, Florida) reportedly became the first woman in the Pell family to accept the “fatt calfe” from New Rochelle in the ceremony held that year. As she recently told this author – also tongue-in-cheek – “Those poor New Rochellians didn’t know just how seriously we’d take that contract . . . . .”

As the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thomas Pell’s purchase from local Native Americans of the lands that became Pelham, New Rochelle and surrounding areas approaches, it certainly seems time – once again – for the proud and historic City of New Rochelle to step forward and deliver a “fatt calfe” to representatives of the Pell family. And, please, as Pell family members made clear in 1999, let’s make it a FATT calfe in compliance with the terms of the contract . . . . .

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## John Pell, Second Lord of the Manor of Pelham, and the New Rochelle Commemorative Half Dollar Minted in 1937

Few know that John Pell, Second Lord of the Manor of Pelham, is believed to be the individual depicted on the front of a legal tender half dollar minted in small quantities at the Philadelphia Mint in April of 1937. He is shown holding a rope tied to the famed “fatt calfe” that Jacob Leisler, his heirs and assigns are required to deliver to John Pell, his heirs and assigns, every June 24 “forever (if demanded)”. See story above at pages 2-3.



**Obverse of New Rochelle Half Dollar**

The story behind the famed New Rochelle Half Dollar is a fascinating one – nearly as interesting as the scene depicted on the front of

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## The New Rochelle Commemorative Half Dollar

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the coin.

The half dollar commemorates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the settlement of New Rochelle, celebrated in 1938. That event, of course, was of local – not national – interest. So, just how did it come about that a legal tender coin came to be minted for a local event?

The answer is: the affluence and influence of the members of the Westchester County Coin Club of New Rochelle were responsible. The members of that club reportedly exerted pressure on their Congressional Delegation. Consequently, on May 5, 1936, Congress passed legislation calling for not more than 25,000 half dollars to be struck at a single mint. The coins were specifically to be dated 1938 regardless of when they were struck since they were being struck in celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the settlement of New Rochelle in 1688.

The design process for the coin was painful – so painful that it is now legendary. Sculptor Lorillard Wise was selected to design the coin. His design for the front of the coin showed a Native American crouching at the shoreline watching an approaching European ship on the waters with a sunburst on the horizon. His design for the reverse of the coin included the seal of the City of New Rochelle as well as various commemorative and other inscriptions.

The Federal Commission on Fine Arts delayed approval of the design and considered criticisms offered by members of the public. Still, it granted formal approval of the design on September 16, 1936.

Barely a month later, the Federal Commission on Fine Arts reportedly had second thoughts and reversed itself. Commission Chairman Charles Moore issued a letter dated October 28, 1936 saying:

“The Commission feel that this work should be placed in the hands of an artist who has had experience in producing designs for medals and coins.”

An artist named Gertrude K. Lathrop was named to replace sculptor Lorillard Wise. Lathrop was the sculptor of the Albany Charter Half Dollar minted that same year. She quickly produced new designs for the front and back of the coin. She chose a man dressed in an elegant period costume holding a rope tied to the famed “fatt calfe”. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the design on the front of the coin is the fact that no one knows the identity of the man with the “fatt calfe”. Most presume it to be John Pell, but Lathrop apparently never said this to be the case. As one author has written:

“Many people believe that the figure in the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century costume is meant for John Pell, but this is unconfirmed; the design can be read to mean either that the calf is being brought to Pell by one of Leisler’s people, or that Pell has just accepted the delivery. Had Ms. Lathrop specifically meant the figure to represent Pell, she doubtless would have said so.”

The reverse of the coin depicts a stylized fleur de lis – a symbol found in the seal of the City of New Rochelle, borrowed from the seal of La Rochelle, France, after which the City of New Rochelle was named. Lathrop’s designs were approved by the Commission of Fine Arts on February 25, 1937.



**Reverse of New Rochelle Half Dollar**

While 25,015 half dollars were minted, 9,749 coins were never sold to collectors and were returned to the mint for melting, leaving a net mintage of 15,251 (15 of the original coins were reserved for assay).

Uncirculated versions of this coin today are worth more than \$300 to coin collectors.

## Pelham's Planning for 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Underway in Earnest

Planning for the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Thomas Pell's purchase of the lands that became Pelham and surrounding areas is underway in earnest. On November 18, Town Supervisor Joe Solimine chaired a meeting of more than two dozen Town leaders representing nearly two dozen Pelham groups and organizations to discuss plans for the year-long celebration.

Robert Engel, Curator of the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on Shore Road, reported that Bartow-Pell is clearing the site where "Thomas Pell's Treaty Oak" once stood. Bartow-Pell plans to dedicate an historic plaque at the site on June 27 next year and likely will arrange a Native American reenactment event that day to illustrate how the Lenape Native Americans lived in the area in 1654.

Town Supervisor Solimine discussed preliminary plans for celebratory dinners next June as well as the hope that a journal documenting the year's events can be published in February, 2005. He asked representatives of organizations based in Pelham to consider the types of assistance they might be able to provide to support the planned events.

Blake Bell, Deputy Town Historian, reported on progress to date involving a host of events including: publication of a book on the events commemorated in the celebration; a monthly Pelham history lecture series sponsored by the Town of Pelham Public Library; monthly revolving exhibits at the library on the history of The Pelhams; an exhibition of museum quality historical artifacts at the Pelham Art Center facilities next July; a special United States postal cancellation to commemorate the anniversary; a series of local history articles for publication in The Pelham Weekly; a possible local history essay contest for Fourth and Fifth graders in the Pelham Schools; a ceremonial payment of 20 shillings to the British Monarchy as required by a local land grant issued on behalf of the British Crown in 1687; a parade; and much more.

Town Supervisor Solimine is arranging an events coordinator to oversee the preparations and has requested that regular planning sessions continue even as the year progresses.

## History Events of Interest to Pelham

**Dec. 3** – Holiday Candlelight Tour of Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site. View the Hall with festive traditional decorations and hear about Dutch, English, and American holiday celebrations and the changes in holiday customs over three centuries. Reservations are required. Admission is \$5; seniors and students \$4; children 5-12, \$2; children under 5, free; members of the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall, \$3. The event is sponsored by the Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site and will be held at Philipse Manor Hall, Warburton Avenue & Dock Street (29 Warburton Street), Yonkers at 6:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. For more information telephone the Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site at (914) 965-4027 or visit its Web site calendar at <http://www.philipsemanorfriends.org/cal.htm>.

**Dec. 4** – Holiday Candlelight Tour of Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site: View the Hall with festive traditional decorations and hear about Dutch, English, and American holiday celebrations and the changes in holiday customs over three centuries. Reservations are required. Admission is \$5; seniors and students \$4; children 5-12, \$2; children under 5, free; members of the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall, \$3. The event is sponsored by the Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site and will be held at Philipse Manor Hall, Warburton Avenue & Dock Street (29 Warburton Street), Yonkers at 7:00 p.m. For more information telephone the Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site at (914) 965-4027 or visit its Web site calendar at <http://www.philipsemanorfriends.org/cal.htm>.



**Dec. 5** – Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum Holiday Brunch, Holiday Boutique and Holiday Wine Tasting Reception: On Friday, December 5, the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum will host a Holiday Boutique with an Opening Brunch beforehand and a Holiday Wine Tasting Reception afterward. The Brunch will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Reservations are required and admission is \$30 per person. The Holiday Boutique will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will feature holiday goods, seasonal decorations and baked goods on sale. Admission is \$5 per person although children under 12 are free. The Holiday Wine Tasting Reception will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There will be carol singing, a selection of fine wines, hor d'oeuvres, a silent auction and holiday boutique. Patron \$125, Sponsor, \$100, Friend \$75. Reservations are required. For reservations, call 718-885-1461 or email [BartowPell@aol.com](mailto:BartowPell@aol.com).

**Dec. 6** – Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum Continental Breakfast, Holiday Boutique, Photos with Santa and

## History Events of Interest to Pelham

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the Children's Holiday Craft Program: On Saturday, December 6, the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum will host a Continental Breakfast, Holiday Boutique, Photos with Santa and a Children's Holiday Craft Program. The breakfast will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$20 per family or \$8 per person and reservations are required. The Holiday Boutique will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will feature holiday goods, seasonal decorations and baked goods on sale. Admission is \$5 per person although children under 12 are free. Photos with Santa will be made from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a charge of \$5 per photo. The Children's Holiday Craft Program will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. by Anna Saura of the Creative Corner in Larchmont. For reservations, call 718-885-1461 or email [BartowPell@aol.com](mailto:BartowPell@aol.com).

**Dec. 6** – Winter Carnival: A joint extravaganza sponsored by the Yonkers D/W BID, historic St. John's Church, the Yonkers YMCA, the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall and the Yonkers Historical Society. Getty square will be closed to vehicular traffic. There will be free parking in Chicken Island and a free petting zoo, hayrides, caroling, farmers' market, crafts, gifts and more. At 1:00 p.m. there will be an annual St. Nicholas holiday celebration featuring traditional holiday music, refreshments, and visits from St. Nicholas and Black Peter (Zwart Piet). At 2:00 p.m. there will be a Holiday Wassail at St. John's Getty Square, sponsored by the Yonkers Historical Society. The Winter Carnival is sponsored in part by the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall will be held at Getty Square, Yonkers from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information telephone the Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site at (914) 965-4027 or visit its Web site calendar at <http://www.philipsemanorfriends.org/cal.htm>.

**Dec. 9** – Holiday Candlelight Tour of Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site: View the Hall with festive traditional decorations and hear about Dutch, English, and American holiday celebrations and the changes in holiday customs over three centuries. Reservations are required. Admission is \$5; seniors and students \$4; children 5-12, \$2; children under 5, free; members of the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall, \$3. The event is sponsored by the Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site and will be held at Philipse Manor Hall, Warburton Avenue & Dock Street (29 Warburton Street), Yonkers at 7:00 p.m. For more information telephone the Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site at (914) 965-4027 or visit its Web site calendar at <http://www.philipsemanorfriends.org/cal.htm>.

**Dec. 10** – Holiday Candlelight Tour of Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site. View the Hall with festive traditional decorations and hear about Dutch, English, and American holiday celebrations and the changes in holiday customs over three centuries. Reservations are required. Admission is \$5; seniors and students \$4; children 5-12, \$2; children under 5, free; members of the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall, \$3. The event is sponsored by the Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site and will be held at

Philipse Manor Hall, Warburton Avenue & Dock Street (29 Warburton Street), Yonkers at 6:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. For more information telephone the Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site at (914) 965-4027 or visit its Web site calendar at <http://www.philipsemanorfriends.org/cal.htm>.

**Dec. 13** – Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum Sponsors the Bronx Arts Ensemble: There will be a St. Nicholas Day Celebration Double Reed Band and Singers. The event will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Reservations are required and there is an admission charge – call 718-601-7399. For more information, generally, call 718-885-1461 or email [BartowPell@aol.com](mailto:BartowPell@aol.com).

**Dec. 14** – Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum Sponsors the Bronx Arts Ensemble: There will be a St. Nicholas Day Celebration Double Reed Band and Singers. The event will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Reservations are required and there is an admission charge – call 718-601-7399. For more information, generally, call 718-885-1461 or email [BartowPell@aol.com](mailto:BartowPell@aol.com).

**Dec. 14** – Candlelight Tour of Historic Sherwood House: The Yonkers Historical Society will host candlelight tours of the historic Sherwood House. Located at 340 Tuckahoe Road in Yonkers (at the southbound entrance to the Sprain Brook Parkway), the Sherwood House is one of the few remaining pre-Revolutionary War tenant farmhouses in the New York metropolitan region. It was built about 1740 by Thomas Sherwood on land leased from Frederick Philipse and was purchased in 1801 by Yonkers' first physician, Doctor John Ingersoll. The home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The candlelight tour is by reservation only. For more information or to make reservations, call 914-961-8940.

**Dec. 15** – Bill of Rights Program: Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site will sponsor an educational program marking the 212<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Bill of Rights at St. Paul's Church National Historic Site in Mount Vernon from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. For more information contact David Osborn at 914-667-4116 or Sharon Mills at 914-667-4116 or visit <http://data2.itc.nps.gov/calendar/index.cfm?alphacode=SA PA>.

**Dec. 21** – Holiday Organ Concert: Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site will sponsor a holiday organ concert. It will be a recital by Jan Piet Knijff featuring classical music on the Church's historic 1833 pipe organ, and some traditional carols and holiday favorites, accompanied by soprano Susan Diamond. The concert begins at 4:00 p.m. and refreshments will be served after the concert. The concert will be held at St. Paul's Church National Historic Site in Mount Vernon. For more information contact David Osborn at 914-667-4116 or Sharon Mills at 914-667-4116 or visit <http://data2.itc.nps.gov/calendar/index.cfm?alphacode=SA PA>.

**Dec. 21** – Bartow-Pell Mansion Candlelight Tour: On Sunday, December 21 there will be a candlelight tour of the Bartow-Pell Mansion from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is \$5 per person. For more information, call 718-885-1461 or email [BartowPell@aol.com](mailto:BartowPell@aol.com).

## History Events of Interest to Pelham

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**Dec. 22** – Family Holiday Program: Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site will sponsor a family holiday program consisting of historic games, activities, music and demonstrations designed for children on vacation from school as well as parents, adults and others. The event will be held at St. Paul's Church National Historic Site in Mount Vernon from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information contact David Osborn at 914-667-4116 or Sharon Mills at 914-667-4116 or visit <http://data2.itc.nps.gov/calendar/index.cfm?alphacode=SA PA>.

**Dec. 23** – Family Holiday Program: Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site will sponsor a family holiday program consisting of historic games, activities, music and demonstrations designed for children on vacation from school as well as parents, adults and others. The event will be held at St. Paul's Church National Historic Site in Mount Vernon from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information contact David Osborn at 914-667-4116 or Sharon Mills at 914-667-4116 or visit <http://data2.itc.nps.gov/calendar/index.cfm?alphacode=SA PA>.

**Dec. 26** – Family Holiday Program: Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site will sponsor a family holiday program consisting of historic games, activities, music and demonstrations designed for children on vacation from school as well as parents, adults and others. The event will be held at St. Paul's Church National Historic Site in Mount Vernon from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information contact David Osborn at 914-667-4116 or Sharon Mills at 914-667-4116 or visit <http://data2.itc.nps.gov/calendar/index.cfm?alphacode=SA PA>.

**Dec. 29** – Family Holiday Program: Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site will sponsor a family holiday program consisting of historic games, activities, music and demonstrations designed for children on vacation from school as well as parents, adults and others. The event will be held at St. Paul's Church National Historic Site in Mount Vernon from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information contact David Osborn at 914-667-4116 or Sharon Mills at 914-667-4116 or visit <http://data2.itc.nps.gov/calendar/index.cfm?alphacode=SA PA>.

**Dec. 30** – Family Holiday Program: Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site will sponsor a family holiday program consisting of historic games, activities, music and demonstrations designed for children on vacation from school as well as parents, adults and others. The event will be held at St. Paul's Church National Historic Site in Mount Vernon from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information contact David Osborn at 914-667-4116 or Sharon Mills at 914-667-4116 or visit <http://data2.itc.nps.gov/calendar/index.cfm?alphacode=SA PA>.

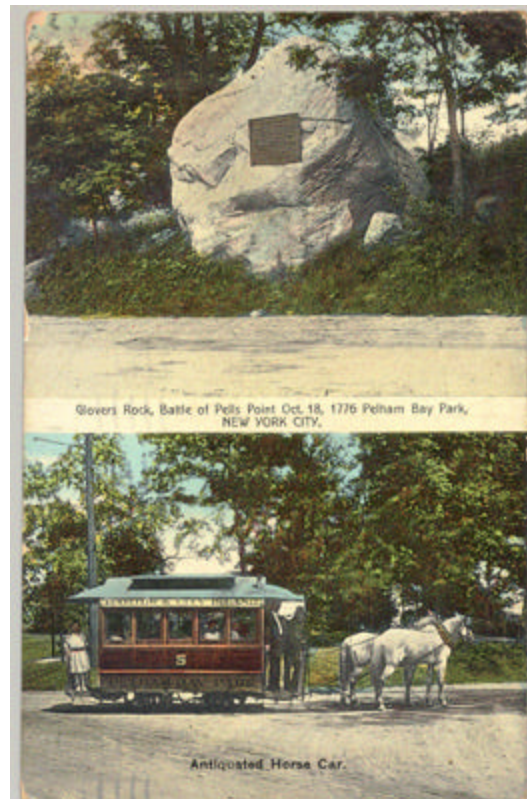
## Did you know . . . .

Baseball Hall of Famer John J. McGraw, Manager of the New York Giants as they won 10 National League championships, resided in Pelham Manor in the 1920s and 1930s. He had homes first at the corner of Boston Post Road and Edgewood Avenue and later at 620 Ely Avenue.

## The Taconic Postcard Club Sees Slide Presentation on a History of Pelham as Seen Through Postcards

On November 25, the Deputy Historian of the Town of Pelham, Blake Bell, gave a lecture and slide presentation to several dozen members of The Taconic Postcard Club on "A History of Pelham, NY as Seen Through the Prism of Early Postcard Views of the Town."

The Deputy Historian used only old postcards as the springboard for discussing more than 350 years worth of the history of the Town, showing slides of the postcards and weaving the story of the development of the Town throughout the presentation.



Postcard Showing Glover's Rock on City Island Road, Used in the Presentation as a Springboard to Discuss Col. John Glover and the Battle of Pelham on Oct. 18, 1776

The entire slide presentation, including all notes used to deliver it, is available at: <http://www.historicpelham.com/Articles.htm>