

GUIDE TO TEACHING Long Island History

A SERVICE PUBLICATION FOR SUFFOLK TEACHERS PREPARED JOINTLY BY SCOPE AND THE OFFICE OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY HISTORIAN

Interest in the local history of Suffolk County and Long Island is at a new high as more and more teachers in elementary and secondary schools recognize the appeal of such study.

This fall fourth grade teachers begin a new Social Studies curriculum stressing local history and government, but because of budgetary hangups in Albany the new curricular guides and back up materials haven't arrived in schools yet. Judy Wooster--who heads the Fourth Grade effort in Albany--is hopeful these materials will be in schools by late fall.

In the meantime, this joint publication has been prepared for teachers who want to make a fast start in this field of study. And--fortunately--there are many individuals and organizations on Long Island who have been "into" local history for some time. So there is much help to be found--just for the asking.

This pamphlet highlights the historians, historical societies, special libraries, publications, organizations, readings, and other help for the teacher who wants to dig into Long Island's past.

GETTING STARTED

Begin at the school or public library nearest home for publications and picture histories on your town. Almost all have such books because almost every town completed one during the 1976 national Bicentennial. Skim or read one or two of these to get some idea of the depth and diversity of Long Island history. Find some of the things that happened in your town. You'll be better prepared to ask questions as you proceed.

TOWN AND VILLAGE HISTORIANS

Next, contact your Town Historian who is a government official charged with the preservation of town archives, records, and tales. The ten people listed at the left are steeped in the lore of your locality and dedicated to passing it along to others. They expect to be hearing from you because they know about the new state social studies curriculum.

TOWN HISTORIANS

- BABYLON - Ms. Helen Volz (957-3000)
- BROOKHAVEN - David Overton (654-7800)
- EAST HAMPTON - Carleton Kelsey (267-3810)
- HUNTINGTON - Rufus Langhans (351-3244)
- ISLIP - Carl Starace (MO 1-0137)
- RIVERHEAD - Alice Kappenberg (727-3200)
- SHELTER ISLAND - Louise Sutton (749-0981)
- SMITHTOWN - Brad Harris (862-9274)
- SOUTHAMPTON - William Dunwell (238-0817)
- SOUTHOLD - Magdalene Goodrich (477-2090)



Map by Nicollau Visscher of Amsterdam 1662.

Most historians work with very limited funds and tight time restrictions so consider them Teacher Resources. Don't turn your classes loose with "Please send me everything you have that's free on town history." That isn't fair and will only slow communication. Make a phone call and set up a visit so you and the historian can find out what there is to help you with your teaching.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Another way to get a quick overview of your town's history is to make contact with the local historical society. Because Suffolk has more historical groups than any other county in New York, finding the local group should be relatively easy (see list).

Some of your school colleagues may already know of the school services provided by your local organization such as tours for school groups through a local historic house museum; walking tours; in-school lectures; craft demonstrations; publications; history fairs; competitions, or heritage days. Some of the more active groups have classes organized or will help staff teacher workshops.

In addition to the local historical groups there are several organized along lines of special interests such as railroad-ing, pre-historic life; genealogy, etc. Some of the more prominent of these are listed below:

SPECIAL L.I. HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS

Assn. of S.C. Historical Societies (ASCHS)
An umbrella organization which holds quarterly meetings at historic sites on L.I. Communication between historical groups and municipal historians is a major aim.
(President: Merrill Brown 473-9094)

Friends of L.I. Heritage
Originally a support group for the Nassau County Museum system, it has a publications program; helps finance Nassau museum programs; and sponsors the monthly local history magazine, Long Island Forum.
(For info.: Ed Smits 364-1050)

Long Island Archives Conference (LIAC)
Dedicated to improving the quality of archives on L.I. and providing professional care for primary documents. Meetings and an annual conference.
(Chmn.: Evert Volkersz 246-3616 and Sally Packard 423-0194)

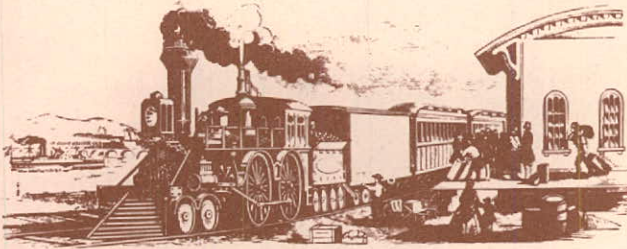
SUFFOLK HISTORICAL SOCIETIES (HS) & MUSEUMS

Adelphi H.S. (Dowling College)
Amagansett H.S.
Amityville H.S.
Bellport-Brookhaven H.S.
Bridgehampton H.S.
Brookhaven Town H.S. (Coram)
Sachem H.S. (Bayport)
Sagtikos Manor H.S. (Bayshore)
Babylon H.S.
Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum
Cutchogue-New Suffolk H.S.
Clinton Academy Museum (E. Hampton)
East Hampton H.S.
East Moriches Schoolhouse Assn.
Farmingdale-Bethpage H.S.
Greenlawn-Centerport H.S.
Stirling H.S. (Greenport)
Hampton Meadows H.S. (Westhampton Beach)
Heckscher Museum (Huntington)
Hallockville Inc.
Home Sweet Home Museum (Easthampton)
Lake Ronkonkoma H.S.
Lindenhurst H.S.
Lloyd Harbor H.S.
Manor of St. George Museum (Patchogue)
Mattituck H.S.
Miller Place H.S.
Montauk H.S.
Moriches Bay H.S.
Museums at Stony Brook
Northport H.S.
N.Y.S. Archaeological Assn. (Southold)
Oysterponds H.S. (Orient)
Vanderbilt H.S. (Oakdale)
Old Water Mill Museum (Water Mill)
Port Jefferson H.S.
Parrish Museum (Southampton)
Quogue H.S.
Riverhead Town Historic Building Commission
Riverhead Preservation & Landmarks Society
Smithtown Landmarks Society
Sag Harbor H.S.
Smithtown Branch Preservation Society
Sayville H.S.
S.C. Marine Museum (West Sayville)
S.C. Whaling Museum (Sag Harbor)
Sachem H.S. (Bayport)
Sagtikos Manor H.S. (Bayshore)
Shelter Island H.S.
Smithtown H.S.
Springs H.S.
Southold H.S.
Southampton Colonial Society
Three Village H.S. (Stony Brook-Setauket)
Vanderbilt H.S. (Oakdale)
Wading River H.S.
Walt Whitman Birthplace Assn.
Yaphank H.S.

Long Island Studies Council (LISC)

Dedicated to bringing academic, avocational, and government historians together. Meets monthly near SUNY at Stony Brook for dinner and informal talk. Holds annual S.C./L.I. History Conference.

(President: Dr. Steven Kesselman 399-2030)



Long Island-Sunrise Chapter-National Railway Historical Society

Railroad buffs and historians who share a passion for trains et al, even though it means loving the L.I.R.R.

(Pres.: F. R. Dirkes)

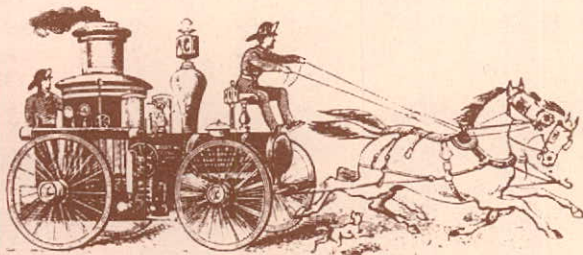
Long Island Museum Association (LIMA)

An organization of twenty-five museums in Nassau and Suffolk with the purpose of improving quality of the museums and informing the public about their resources. Distributes information on local museums.

Suffolk County Archaeological Association (SCAA)

The organizational goals include conserving and properly studying prehistoric sites on Long Island; providing a program of public education and publications; building a more responsible attitude toward cultural resources on Long Island; and sponsoring proper archaeological digs.

(President: Jim Truex 671-6641)



Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities (SPLIA)

This agency focuses its attention on preserving the built environment of historical significance, e.g., historic homes, mills, work places, etc. Maintains several historic properties. Varied activities.

(Exec. Director: Dr. Robert Mackay 941-9444)

AND DON'T FORGET---

The Long Island Council for the Social Studies (LICSS)- A professional association of teachers and supervisors at all levels of education to promote an understanding of the Social Studies and the more effective teaching of Social Studies. Its activities include a newsletter, book fair, conferences and seminars, and in-service education. (LICSS, P.O. Box 131, Glen Head, N.Y. 11545)

Hallockville Inc.- A group of interested Long Islanders--many from the North Fork--who are organized on a non-profit basis to preserve and restore Hallockville--a farm settlement--as a living farm museum for Suffolk. (To volunteer or get information: 727-8024 or 298-4766)

PERIODICALS

The Suffolk Historian published five times yearly by the S.C. Historian--it is free. To subscribe: write Chris R. Vagts, 48 Huntington Bay Road, Huntington, N.Y. 11743.

The Long Island Forum published monthly by Friends of L.I. Heritage, Carl Starace, Editor, 1864 Muttontown Rd., Syosset, N.Y. 11791.

Long Island Heritage, a monthly newspaper of the Island's history, antiques, arts and crafts, published by Community Newspapers, 29 Continental Place, Glen Cove, N. Y. 11542, Tim O'Brien, Editor. \$8/yr.

New York State History Network is a state-wide periodical distributed free by the N.Y.S. Department of Education, Division of Historical & Anthropological Services, Albany, N. Y. 12230.

Newsday has a School Service Department which frequently issues free teaching aids and newspaper supplements, Cindy Strohm, Manager.

Journal of Long Island History is a scholarly journal on local history published by the L.I. Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

SCAA Newsletter at \$3.00/year provides the only regional source for information about L.I. and Metropolitan area archaeology, history, and cultural resources. Comes with a \$5.00 yearly membership to SCAA.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITS

Long Islanders are most fortunate when it comes to being able to visit a museum on almost anything. Not only have we the riches of New York City within an hour, but there are scores of smaller museums and special exhibits right on the Island--in Nassau and Suffolk.

Start your search by borrowing or buying the book "Where to Go on Long Island" by Fred Monner--a SCOPE publication.

Even if you've lived here a lifetime, this book will show you back roads to historic sites, museums, little-known wildlife sanctuaries, and almost-forgotten beauty spots of Long Island.

Among its 200 listings you'll find:

- special exhibits
- historic homes
- national, state, county, and town parks
- historic waterways
- museums of every description
- industrial plant tours and government sites open to visitors
- wildlife preserves.

To purchase a copy, write: SCOPE, Dowling College, P.O. Box 254, Oakdale, N.Y. 11769. Mail a \$7.00 check made out to "SCOPE" and get WHERE TO GO ON LONG ISLAND.

Organizations may get bulk rates for members by calling 516-589-5700.

While you're waiting for this book take an afternoon or Saturday trip to these--for an overview of Suffolk County's heritage:

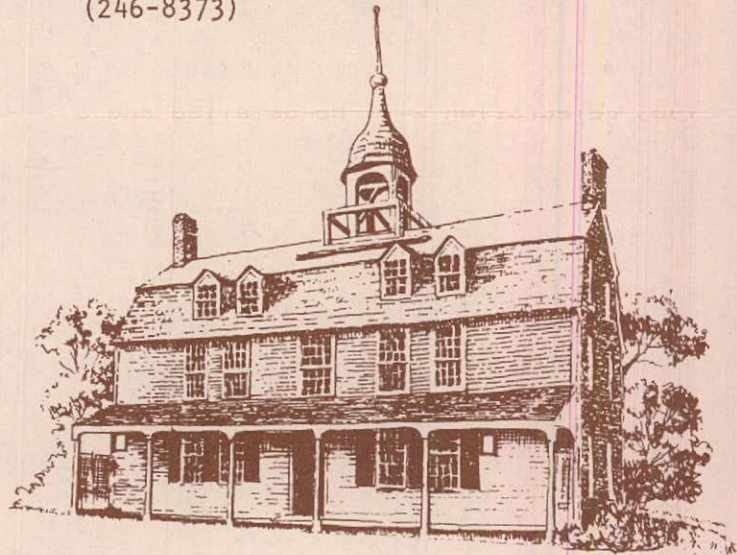
SUFFOLK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
300 West Main Street, Riverhead, W. Broege, Director (271-2881), featuring exhibits that describe important aspects of life here. A library-genealogical research facility. The WEATHERVANE Gift Shop also has the most complete display of local history publications in Suffolk. School tours and workshops organized on popular history topics: Indians, whaling, etc.

SUFFOLK COUNTY MARINE MUSEUM, Montuak Highway, West Sayville, Roger Dunkerly, Director, (567-1733). Indoor and outdoor exhibits relate to Long Island boatbuilding, yachting, shipwrecks, oystering, and bay life.

MUSEUMS at STONY BROOK, Rt. 25A, Stony Brook, Susan Stitt, Director (751-0066). A multi-building complex including an art gallery, carriage museum and history museum. Toys, decoys, miniatures, and William Sidney Mount paintings are featured.

SOME OTHER LONG ISLAND MUSEUMS

- American Merchant Marine Museum, Kings Point (466-9696)
- East Hampton Historical Society Museum, Clinton Academy, Town Marine Museum (324-6850)
- Guild Hall, East Hampton (324-0806)
- Heckscher Museum, Huntington (351-3250)
- Home Sweet Home Museum, East Hampton, (324-0713)
- Vanderbilt Museum & Planetarium, Centerport, (261-5656)
- Museum of Long Island Natural Science, Earth and Space Sciences Building, SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, (246-8373)



- Black History Museum, Hempstead (538-2274)
- Cradle of Aviation Museum, Mitchel Field, (292-4348)
- Garvies Point Museum Preserve, Glen Cove, (671-0300)
- Museum in the Park, Eisenhower park (292-4162)
- Old Bethpage Village Restoration, Old Bethpage, (420-5280)
- Sands Point Park & Preserve, Sands Point, (883-1610)
- Tackapausha Museum & Preserve, Seaford, (785-2802)

S.C. TERCENTENARY PLANS FOR SCHOOLS

The Suffolk County Executive, Honorable Peter F. Cohalan, has appointed a commission of citizens to plan and implement a program celebrating the 300th anniversary of the County in 1983.

The Commission is headed by Mr. Robert David Lion Gardiner whose forebear, Lion Gardiner, was the Suffolk area's first settler in 1639.

The Education, History and Publications Committees of the Tercentenary group are all working on projects that relate directly to those who are teaching local history.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Riverhead school superintendent, Alan Hernandez, is working with his committee to develop in-service courses, conferences, and school related projects.

An educational conference will be scheduled for November 1982 to kick off the S.C. Tercentenary for teachers and library personnel. At that time the 1983 celebration will be detailed and a complete package of all teaching materials developed to that point will be distributed to participants free. Those wishing to obtain multiple copies for distribution to students will be able to do so through the SCOPE offices at cost.

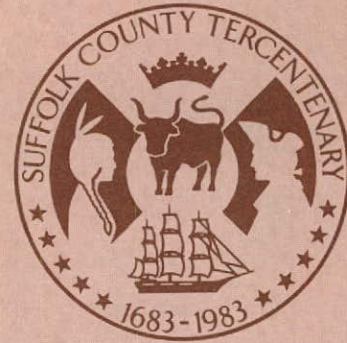
The PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE is developing a series of eight-page pamphlets on different aspects of Suffolk life. Ten are now in production with ten more slated for 1982. The first publication, A BRIEF HISTORY OF SUFFOLK COUNTY, will be distributed during the fall 1981 semester.

The HISTORY COMMITTEE is considering reprinting several documents of historic value such as old Long Island maps and a document describing the Bicentennial of Suffolk held in 1863.

Participation is welcomed. Contact Judith Sneddon's office (567-7775).



ABOUT THE SUFFOLK TERCENTENARY SEAL



The Tercentenary Commission has selected the seal above as its official emblem. Designed by Elaine Thompson of Behemia, N. Y., the emblem is rich in symbolism.

The steer draws attention to the agricultural aspect of life in this county. The emphasis has shifted from cattle to market gardening, potatoes, cauliflower, strawberries and peaches, but Suffolk remains the number one agricultural county in New York State.

The English crown symbolizes early ties to England. It comes from the Seal of the Great Province of New York and was used from 1660-1685. It recognizes that we enjoy those traditional rights of the individual and the protection of those rights through representative government and law. Finally, it draws attention to the many English names found here such as "Southampton," "Southold," and "East Hampton."

The Indian woman symbolizes the importance of the original occupants of this area. "Indians" enabled the first settlers to survive on the land. They taught farming, gave their crops (corn, tobacco, squash, beans, pumpkins), and left such colorful names as Hauppauge, Nissequogue, Montauk, and Patchogue. It is also a reminder that Indian reservations still exist. A woman was chosen to pay honor to all for their contribution to our life.

The silhouette of a man in colonial garb symbolizes our early heritage. It is a reminder of the individual strength, independence and commitment to freedom that are part of our heritage.

The whaling ship symbolizes our long maritime history from privateering, whaling, ship-building, coastal trade, and fishing.

The ten stars surrounding the circle represent the towns of the County.

LONG ISLAND COLLECTIONS

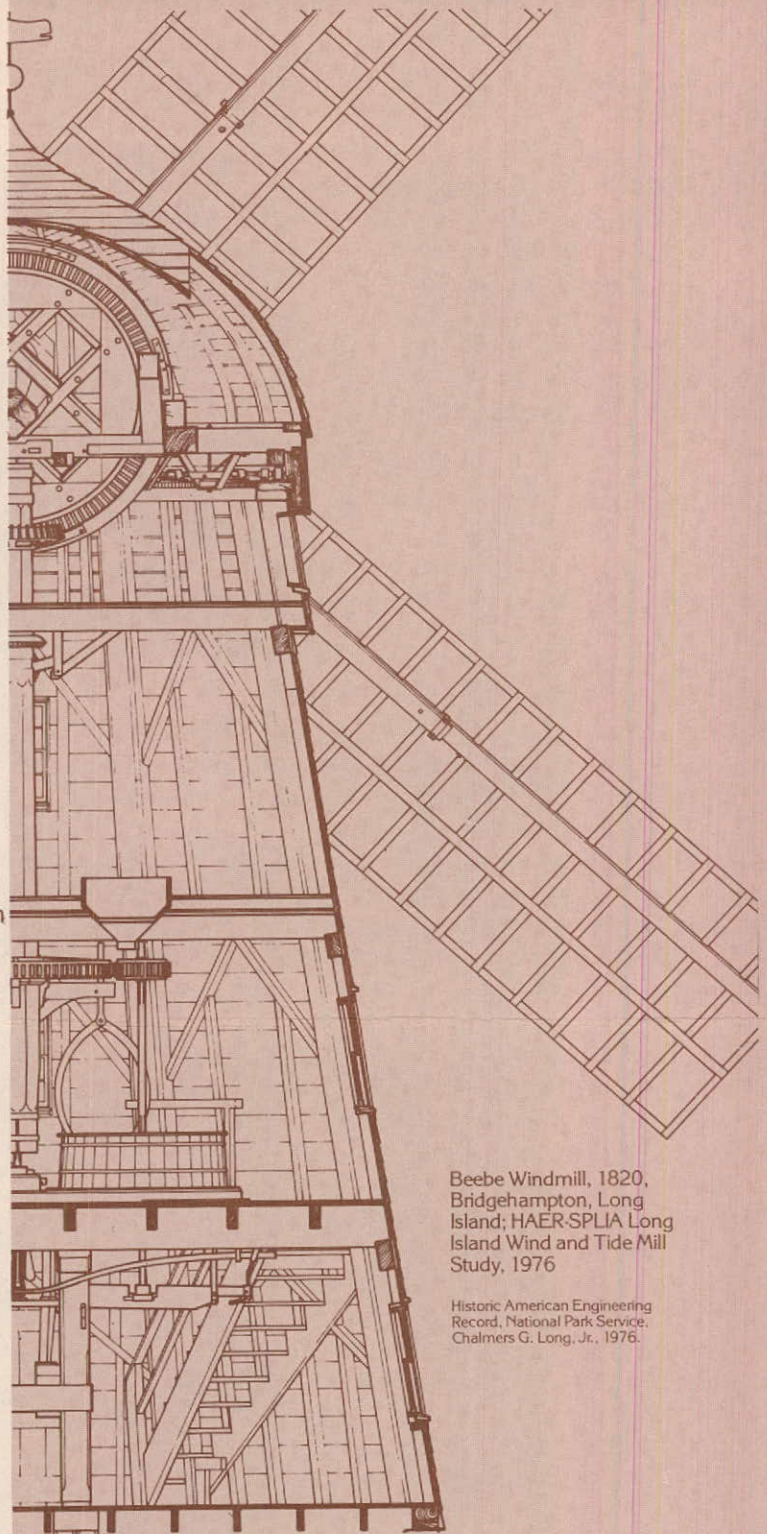
These are just some of the more important library collections of documents on Long Island history: L.I. family histories; newspapers, wills, deeds, notes, photographs, etc.

- Long Island Room, Smithtown Public Library, Smithtown, N.Y. 11787, Vera Toman, Librarian.
- Pennypacker Collection, East Hampton Free Library, 159 Main St., East Hampton, N. Y. 11937, Dorothy King, Librarian.
- Special Collections Library, Library of SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, N. Y. 11790, Evert Volkersz, Librarian.
- Research Library, Suffolk County Historical Society, 300 W. Main St., Riverhead, N. Y., Betty Carpenter, Librarian.
- Rhodes-Kuss Long Island Collection, Islip Town Museum, 965 Montauk Highway, Oakdale, N.Y. 11769. (Don Weinhardt/Richard Baldwin 567-2277)
- Library, Huntington Historical Society, 2 High Street, Huntington, N.Y. 11743, Agnes Packard, Librarian.

SPEAKERS--LECTURES--CONFERENCES

Everyone has his or her own list of good speakers on local lore. But since such lists are highly subjective and subject to change no list will be offered here. Instead, here are three good starters:

- S.C. History Day Conference, Saturday, November 14, 1981, Shoreham-Wading River High School, Rt. 25A, Wading River. Registration fee of \$3.00 includes wine and cheese party where you can meet the speakers one-to-one! Contact Ann Hess, Coordinator (929-8500 X280).
- N.Y. History Seminar, SUNY at Stony Brook, February 8, 1982.
- S.C. Cooperative Extension Service, Dave Newton (727-7850).



Beebe Windmill, 1820, Bridgehampton, Long Island; HAER-SPLIA Long Island Wind and Tide Mill Study, 1976

Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, Chalmers G. Long, Jr., 1976.

This pamphlet is a beginning. Doubtless it suffers from unintended errors of omission or commission. Readers are encouraged to send along suggestions for improvement to C. Vagts, 48 Huntington Bay Rd., Huntington, N. Y. 11743.

Hopefully, future publications of this type will survey courses on Long Island and local history methods available to teachers. If any school superintendent wishes assistance in providing such courses, please call Dr. Arline Winerman at SCOPE (516-360-0800).

SOME SELECTED READINGS

Botein, Leon, Novak, et al, Experiments in History Teaching, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard-Danforth Center, 1977. (Seventy-five innovative history teachers share their creative approaches to the classroom using the community, murderer's biographies, computers, oral history, tax lists, and psycho history--you name it.)

Bunce, James E. & Harmond, Richard P., Long Island as America, Port Washington: Kennikat Press, 1977. (A documentary history of Long Island to the "Turn of the Century" with concise commentary between the first hand sources provided.)

Failey, Dean F., Long Island is My Nation, Setauket: SPLIA, 1976. (An attractive book covering Long Island decorative arts and native craftsmen and their works, 1640-1830.)

Levine, Gaynell S., Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnography, 4 volumes:
Vol. I - Early Papers in L.I. Archaeology
Vol. II - The Coastal Archaeology Reader
Vol. III - History & Archaeology of the Montauk Indians
Vol. IV - Languages & Lore of L.I. Indians
S.C. Archaeological Assn. (A splendid series that offers the reader the best of research material with up-to-date commentary by L.I. scholars. Excellent pictures, maps, and photographs enhance the text.)

Felt, Thomas E., Researching, Writing, and Publishing Local History, Nashville, Tenn.: American Assn. for State & Local History, 1976. (Clear, concise coverage of the topic. Note: The American Assn. for State & Local History is perhaps the best single source for teachers seeking help in the study of local history. Write for their extensive list of inexpensive pamphlets: AASLH, 1400 Eighth Ave. South, Nashville, Tennessee 37203.)

Garlock, Jonathan, Doing Your History--Your Family History--Your Community History, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.: Empire State College, 1978. (This thin volume is loaded with self-help exercises and information to take the interested beginner into thinking about the personal dimension of history. Elementary and secondary teachers could easily adapt some exercises for their students.)



LION GARDINER

Lord, Clifford, Teaching History With Community Resources, New York: Teachers College Press, 1964. (An old standby in the field giving a host of ideas for the teacher and a rationale for the study of local history.)

Weitzman, David Underfoot, Guide to Exploring the American Past, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. (How the layman can study local history is covered, step by step, from tape-recording old-timers; "reading" old photos; architectural and landscape analysis; photo documentation; studying such artifacts as old glass, gravestones and rubbings; and doing a family tree.)

Prepared by Gaynell S. Levine, Long Island Studies, SCOPE, P.O. Box 604, Smithtown, N.Y. 11787; and Christopher R. Vagts, S.C. Historian (271-2161), as a service to teachers.



SCOPE

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