

PINE PLAINS



PHOTO BY KAYLA GANGLOFF

Stissing Mountain High School students led an authentic Revolutionary War drill outside the historic Louis Graham-Brush House on Thursday, Oct. 25.

History comes alive as students re-enact Revolutionary War

By KAYLA GANGLOFF
kaylag@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The historic Louis Graham-Brush House played host to Stissing Mountain High School's military history teacher Neil Murray and his students for a Revolutionary War re-enactment on Thursday, Oct. 25.

"This is a big part of the class and one of two major field trips. It's great that we can use the house as a community resource. It's the perfect setting," he said.

The house was built in 1776 and was acquired by Pine Plains' Little Nine Partners Historical Society in 1997.

"The students are wearing uniforms borrowed from the Living History Education Foundation. They have been learning about this time period and preparing for the re-enactment since September. President of the Historical Society Ann Simmons and all the members have been very kind and generous to make this event worthwhile for the students," said Murray.

Murray's course focuses on the Revolutionary and Civil wars while concentrating on New York state.

In preparation for the day students built fascines or authentic field reinforcements and heavily researched their roles.

"The scenario is that they have a civilian house that has become their position in which they must defend. They have to fortify their position, set up camp and will be dining on an authentic meal. Each student has a specific role and must execute those duties," said Murray.

Despite temperatures in the mid-50s, students stood with stone expressions as they diligently kept guard over the historic home and campsite.

Several others gathered around as the students in charge of lunch built a fire from timber and sparks.

"They will be eating what was issued as a Thanksgiving meal during the war. The president issued orders that every soldier get a full Thanksgiving meal, although it wasn't what you would think. The ration for the 'feast' was half a "gill" of rice, which is approximately two ounces, and a teaspoon of vinegar. That's all," he said.

The group's sergeant, student Zach Badore, found the authenticity a boost to the educational

experience.

"It definitely helps you understand more what they actually went through during the war. Your feet are sore, your shoulder hurts from carrying the musket, and the lunch is very small. It's only a fraction of what they actually dealt with but it's much more vivid than just reading about it," he said.

Badore enjoyed his role overseeing his classmates.

"I love history. I took honors history and got to go to Fort Ticonderoga for another re-enactment. That time I was only a private. It's a lot of responsibility being the sergeant and making sure everything is happening as it should be. It teaches you responsibility. Even in the preparations leading up to it. It's a lot," he said.

Simmons was on hand to see the students in action.

"This is huge for us. We've been wanting to partner with the school on more events. It's nice to see this historical facility utilized. It couldn't fit better with the time periods either. It's a great resource and we're happy to see it serving the community," she said.

Murray took the students in small groups through the house to share some fun and interesting facts on the history.

"While they wait for lunch they are expected to stay in their roles. It's really authentic and that's the experience we want them to have. It makes the material they're learning about come alive," he said.

For more information on the Louis Graham-Brush House go to www.littleninepartners.org.

Tempers flare over BOE clerk discussion

By KAYLA GANGLOFF
kaylag@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Pine Plains Board of Education (BOE) member Todd Bowen had several questions regarding changes in the district clerk position during the board meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 17.

The board began making a motion to appoint Julia Tomaine to the position of district clerk, replacing Joanne Gorman, from Oct. 18, 2012, through June 30, 2013, at a stipend of \$8,134 prorated for the period of service.

During a previous meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 10, the board voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Patricia Audenino from the position of part-time clerk effective Oct. 17 and pending her appointment to the position of secretary to the superintendent, a position also previously held by Gorman.

Regarding Tomaine, Bowen was concerned about the stipend.

"Where does this number come from?" he asked.

Superintendent Linda Kaurmeyer explained that the stipend amount had been approved during the reorganization meeting at the beginning of the school year.

"She's a new person. Why are we paying a new person the same as we were paying someone who had years of experience?" he asked.

Board member Debra Lewis explained that a stipend worked differently than a salary.

"It's like a coach. You pay the coach a set amount, no matter who is coaching," she said.

They went on to vote along with the board in favor of the appointment.

During the final public comment portion of the evening former board member Karen Orton voiced her displeasure with Bowen's questions.

"I have to defend the clerk. You obviously have no idea what she does; \$8,000 is a crime to pay for that job. It's barely minimum wage. I'm upset about the conversation on this," she said.

Bowen defended his stance.

"I have a responsibility to ask questions to help me determine right or wrong. That's what it takes to be a board member," he said.

Orton responded that she, "knows what it takes to be a board member."

After a moment of silence between the two the meeting was adjourned.

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Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11

PINE PLAINS — Shacameco American Legion Post 426 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5519 will conduct a joint ceremony on Veterans

Day, Sunday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. at the town clock, in the center of town (South Main Street), next to the Stissing House. The public is invited to attend.

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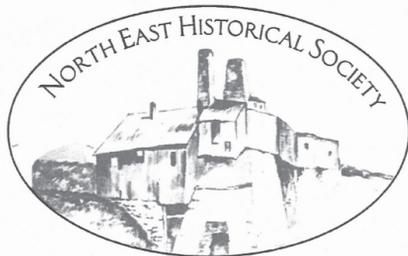


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"SAVING A LITTLE PIECE OF OUR HISTORY"

This year, the North East Historical Society is hosting the Friends of the Irondale Schoolhouse. They will report progress to save, restore and relocate the historic one room schoolhouse to Millerton's Main Street Historic District. The program will feature a slide show. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the move.

Bring the whole family; ask friends and neighbors to join you. IT'S FREE. JUST BRING YOUR FAVORITE COVERED DISH TO SHARE. Desserts and beverages will be provided. Dinner starts at 6PM, followed by a short NEHS business meeting and then the Irondale Schoolhouse program.

Put down your rake
and pick up your fork.



NOV
5-18

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For details: HudsonValleyRestaurantWeek.com

