

NEWS AND VIEWS

UNDERHILL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

<http://UnderhillSociety.org>

ORGANIZED 1892

Volume 39, Issue 2, July 2006

INCORPORATED 1903

Dear Cousins!

THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT THE READER IS URGED TO READ!

In late-September our Annual Reunion will be held in the great City of Vancouver! I invite our members to join in and head to that west coast city. See the enclosed announcement concerning the details of this annual event in the life of the Society.

There comes a time in the life of every organization when people ought to sit back, take a deep breath and think about the things in life we take for granted.

Organizations like the Underhill Society can easily be taken for granted (as can the PTA in school, the kid's softball league, the Scouting program, and so forth). The reality is that it takes people to make things happen. And right now we need people to step up and put their name forward as a volunteer for any of the several positions with the Underhill Society.

Getting involved is the key – obviously it is not enough to simply say one will do something. Saying yes to an invitation to participate is super however, actually delivering on the promise is what makes the organization go.

The Underhill Society seeks volunteers to help with the many tasks on our agenda. Every position is open to the membership for election every year. Right now we have three key positions vacant: Editor for this newsletter, Editor for the *Bulletin*, and Heritage Corner.

The Underhill Society has several committees that can use the services of volunteers. These positions range from fund raising activities, meeting site selection and planning, to officer positions.

From my days as a Cubmaster, I always believed that any position should be “two deep.” When that happens, the job is more appealing and the responsibilities are more readily shared. It would be great if we could reach a point in this organization of having two people willing to invest some of themselves to the many activities of the Underhill Society.

Won't you consider volunteering to do something for the Underhill Society? There is so much to do and so few willing hands that “taking it for granted” is an outdated notion that can no longer be the norm. We need you, we want you and would appreciate even an expression of interest in the smallest way one could come up with.

Please let me or any of our board members know that YOU would like to be involved with the Underhill Society. And do it right away – please!

See YOU in Vancouver and I do look forward to hearing from YOU very soon!



CARY J. UNDERHILL
President

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED!
UNDERHILL SOCIETY**

**THE REWARDS ARE:
GREAT PRESTIGE
PERSONAL SATISFACTION**

CALL TODAY!

USS Underhill Survivors Honor Lost Shipmates

The survivors of a Navy destroyer escort that was sunk by Japanese submarines gathered here today to say a prayer for their mates who didn't get away.

They came to Annapolis, heart of the Navy, to pay their respects to the warship and the 112 men who died at sea with her off the Formosan coast July 24 eight years ago.

They assembled in the Naval Academy chapel for services at 3:15 P.M. That was the underhill's fatal moment. Japanese mid-geet submarines shot her to the bottom.

Saved 122 Men

Rescuers saved 122 men. Some of them were among the 50 or so at the annual memorial.

Mrs. R. E. Hogus of Clayton, N. J., is president of the Underhill Memorial Committee. She is here with her husband, a shipyard worker, and daughter.

She lost her only son, Richard, a 19-year-old electrician's mate when the Underhill sank.

Mrs. Hogus, 45, quietly explained the reunion:

"We enjoy so much getting together with those who did come back. They're such a loyal group. I couldn't express just how I feel about it. Having lost someone makes it doubly close to us."

The widow of the Underhill's skipper, Comdr. Robert Newcomb, also was back this year. Mrs. Newcomb lives in Guilford, Conn.

Named for Nephew

Another was Mrs. Daniel Underhill of Jericho, E. I. the ship was named for her nephew, Samuel,

a Navy flier who died at the battle of Coral Sea early in the Pacific war. She and her late husband had raised the youth as their own. She christened the Underhill in 1943.

Rear Adm. Chester C. Wood, of the National War College, came from Washington for the service. He has been close to the Underhill group.

Mrs. Hogus understands the organization is the only one of its kind. With Navy encouragement the Underhill people are kindling the same interest among survivors of other ships.

The man who brought the Underhill memorial Committee into being won't be here this time.

Alexander Morrison, a William-son (N. Y.) sign painter, died last April in his 60s. He had lost his only child, Richard, a radio technician. He first rounded up the survivors and next of kin.

"It will be difficult this year because we all relied on him so much," Mrs. Hogus said.

Morrison led the drive to secure a tangible memorial to the Underhill, something to pay it living tribute. The committee chose a console organ for the chapel, where future officers worship in their days at the academy. It hasn't been installed yet.

"The gift was a high spot in his life," Mrs. Hogus said. "He just lived for the day we had the dedication."

"We heard from Mrs. Morrison a little while back. She said she just can't possibly do it this year but she'll be here next year."

1953

Dutch ships and possessions (in collaboration with Capt. William Dyre), he definitely qualifies as a privateer. So, a biography of the Captain and his brief career as a privateer seemed very much in order. Attached to the article is a list of his wives and children, an annotated bibliography, and a link to the Underhill Society for more information.

The website is quite a bit of fun. Links take visitors to biographies of criminals, rogues, and villains, and makes available unusual lists for genealogists: convicts, executions in nearly every state in the Union, the mentally ill, etc. The material is international but weighted primarily towards the United States and Canada. Well worth adding to one's "Favorites" on the computer, highlighting the "dark side" of family history for serious study or amusement.

[Extracted from <http://blacksheepancestors.com>]

"Capt. John Underhill, privateer, (c. 1608-72)"

"John Underhill came to the Americas with the Winthrop Fleet in 1630. At first. He was a captain of the Boston militia and fought in the Pequot War of 1636. However, he fell out of favor with Puritan government in the midst of the Ann Hutchison religious controversy of 1638 and was expelled from the Massachusetts Bay colony. His post-Boston wanderings challenged him to reinvent himself and his career several times - as governor of Dover, sheriff of Flushing, and various turns as a military commander for both English and Dutch forces.

"On June 3, 1653, he was commissioned by Rhode Island as a privateer with the charge to seize any Dutch properties claimed by the English. One writer, sympathetic to the Dutch, referred to Underhill and his associate Capt. William Dyre as 'loose fish of thievish proclivities' with license from 'that disreputable colony' (Rhode Island) to 'take all Dutch ships and vessels as shall come into their power.' Capt. John acted quickly! His most notorious raid was up the Connecticut River on the trading post 'House of Good Hope' (June 27, 1653) where he seized the goods of the Amsterdam-based West India Company.

"Whether on land or sea, Capt. John Underhill was a success, and secured his wealth any way he could. He retired to Oyster Bay, Long Island, NY where he died in 1672.

"...I, John Underhill, do seize upon this house and land thereunto belonging as Dutch goods claimed by the West India Company in Amsterdam, enemies to the Commonwealth of England, and thus remain seized till further determined by the said State. Hartford this 27th of June 1653... [Proclamation by Capt. Underhill nailed on the door of the trading post, 'House of Hope.']

"The two wives & children of Capt. John Underhill:

"Wife 1: Helena de Hooch, b. ca 1608 at Gorinchem, the Netherlands; d. ca 19 Aug 1658 at Southold, Long Island, NY. Marriage: 12 Dec. 1628, in the Kloosterkerk, The Hague, The Netherlands.

"Note on Helena: The Underhills were living in the Netherlands prior to their departure for the New World in 1630. Young Capt. John had served with Dutch forces in the

George T. Underhill, Jr. of Louisville, KY sent this article to the Society recently. He was not able to provide additional information about the article. However, there is ample information about the USS Underhill in various publications by the Society..

CAPT. JOHN UNDERHILL, "BLACK SHEEP"?

By: Rev. John F. Crossen, Phoenix, AZ

Recently, I contributed an article to the website "Black Sheep Ancestors" (www.blacksheepancestors.com), designating it for inclusion on the pages devoted to pirates, buccaneers, and privateers. As Capt. John was given a commission by the colony at Providence in 1653 to patrol and seize any and all

UNDERHILL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
News and Views, Volume 39, Issue 2, July 2006

continental wars before being hired by John Winthrop and the Puritans as their first military commander and protector.

“Children:

“Deborah, b. ca. 1629; d. ca. 1659

“Elizabeth, bap. 14 Feb 1635 in Boston, MA

“John, Jr., b. 1642; d. 1692; m. 1668 Mary Prior (1652-98)

“Wife 2: Elizabeth Feake, b. ca 1633 at Watertown, Massachusetts Bay Colony; d. ca 1675 at the Underhill estate, ‘Killingworth,’ Oyster Bay, Long Island, NY. Marriage: late 1658 at Flushing, NY.

“Note on Elizabeth: The daughter of Robert Feake and Elizabeth Fones Winthrop Feake, the latter being the basis for the Anya Seton novel, ‘The Winthrop Woman.’

“Children:

“Deborah, b. 1659; d. 1698, m. ca 1678 Henry Townsend (c. 1649-1718)

“Nathaniel, b. 1664; d. 1710; m. Mary Ferris

“Hannah, b. 1666; d. 1757; m. 1685 Richard Alsop (1660-1718)

“Elizabeth, b. 1669; m. Isaac Smith (b. 1657)

“David, b. 1672; d. 1708; m. first UNKNOWN, second Hannah _____.

“Note of Nathaniel Underhill: This is the g-grandfather of the contributor of this article, John F. Crossen, member of the Underhill Society. Date: April 2, 2006.

“An Underhill Bibliography

“Deats, Edwin R., comp.: Macy, Harry, ed. *Underhill Genealogy*, Vol. V (Baltimore, MD; Gateway Press, 1980). Volume 6 contains a comprehensive surname index.

“Effingham, L & DeForest, Anne Lawrence, *Captain John Underhill: Gentleman-Soldier of Fortune*, a number of the *Bulletin* of the Underhill Society of America, New York, Feb. 1983. Includes letters to the Winthrops and the Captain’s last will and testament, dated 1671.

“Shelley, Henry C., *John Underhill: Captain of New England and New Netherland*, New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1932. A somewhat reverential and overly apologetic account of the Captain’s exploits. However, the details of his society (both European and colonial) are worth the read. This book includes several excerpts from the Captain’s letters and various writings.

“Underhill, Capt. John, *News from America*, London: Peter Cole, 1638. The Captain’s own book! He writes primarily about his campaigns against the Native Americans of New England. Gives a view into his mind and helps one to grasp his martial spirit. He was truly a man of his age! Available in facsimile form or annotated transcription through the Underhill Society.

“For brief but excellent bios of Capt. John, check out the following encyclopedia entries:

“*The New Encyclopaedia Britannica*,” (2002) v. 12, p. 126. Sums up his career as follows: ‘British-American colonial military officer, privateer, and magistrate.’

“*The Encyclopedia Americana*, v. 27, p. 360.

“‘In the Lord I take leave and remain yours to command as I am able...’ -John Underhill (letter to John Winthrop, 1664).”

OBITUARIES

RICHARD P. RUSSELL

The Society was truly saddened to learn recently of the passing of this member. According to his daughter Linda, he passed away Feb 3, 2006 just 6-weeks before his 92nd birthday (he was born Mar 17, 1914). He was married to Lorraine Bovie Russell for 58 years at the time of her passing in 1995. They had four children: Beverly, Linda, Richard and Robert. His parents were James Franklin Russell and Mary I (Robertson) Russell. His genealogy was reported in the *Underhill Genealogy*, Vol. 7, p. 283.

FAMILY UPDATES

ALEXANDRA CHANNING UNDERHILL

Channing is the daughter of George T. Underhill, III and Mary Colleen Jones. Channing was b Aug 3, 1987 and is giving the Valedictorian presentation at Sacred Heart Academy in Louisville, KY this year.

ENOCH PHILLIPS UNDERHILL



This is the marker of the grave of Enoch Phillips Underhill located in Pleasant Hill Church Cemetery, Golden Pond, KY. The marker reads “Enoch Underhill born 1824 died 1908 Rest in peace.” His genealogy is reported in the *Underhill Genealogy*, Vol. 7, pp. 1075-6. Enoch is an ancestor of Kerry Wayne Underhill of Cadiz, KY. Kerry and his wife Denise forwarded these pictures to the Society.

ELIZABETH UNDERHILL



This is the marker of the grave of Elizabeth Underhill, wife of Enoch Phillips Underhill located in Pleasant Hill Church Cemetery, Golden Pond, KY. The marker reads “Elizabeth Underhill, born 1835 died 1918 Rest in Peace.”

UNDERHILL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
News and Views, Volume 39, Issue 2, July 2006

WE GET LETTERS:

In an E-mail dated June 23, 2006, from Sarah Gibbs Underhill, our Membership Secretary, she sent the following:

“Hello Underhill Society Members & Pals:

“I just spent a very pleasant weekend camping at Croton Point on the Hudson River, and I am pleased to report that the four yew trees planted by Dr. Richard Underhill in 1850 are doing well and even seem to have had some attention from a tree surgeon/arborist of late. They are now enclosed by a split rail fence with the following sign in place: ‘HISTORIC CROTON YEWS’.

“These four ENGLISH YEWS [*taxus baccata*] were planted by Dr. Richard Underhill in the mid-1800’s when he lived here with his family. Their mansion stood nearby, overlooking the Hudson River. The yews were purchased for 17 ½ cents each [that was a lot of money in those days, ed. note] from a nursery in Flushing, NY. They are now on the NY State Historic Tree Registry.

“I also have to confess that I have written a song about these trees, which I was able to perform at the annual Clearwater Revival music fest this past weekend. For more details see www.clearwater.org. The song is available on CD from yours truly.”

In an E-mail from Fred Underhill dated May 11, 2006, he reported:

“Information I was unaware of: From the spring issue of *New England Ancestors* (NEHGS) pg. 39 in a story about the Makepeace family of New England: ‘Our first stop in Boston was City Hall Plaza at Government Center. The Plaza covers the section of Hanover Street where Thomas (Makepeace) owned the house and land he purchased from **Captain John Underhill** in 1638. Today a metal bicycle rack on the Plaza marks the approximate location of the property.’”

CONTACTING THE SOCIETY

President - Carl J. Underhill
3085 N. Bluff Ct., Hudsonville, MI 49426
616-662-5061 poodlebj@yahoo.com

Vice President - Harold Campbell
PO Box 2897, Setauket, NY 11733
631-941-9392 HECampbell@ms.cc.sunysb.edu

Vice President – Donald Underhill
615 Bent Tree Dr.
Eules, TX 76039-2117 dinberry@hotmail.com

Treasurer – Gloria Tucker
10 Underhill Ave.
Oyster Bay, NY 11771
516-922-1294 ob764348@yahoo.com

Membership Secretary – Sarah Gibbs Underhill
1150 Berme Rd., Kerhonkson, NY 12446-2902
underhval@hvi.net

Historian - Harriet Streek
96 Euclid Ave.
Massapequa, NY 11758-4508
516-799-8152
Streekerstwo@aol.com

Library, Museum, and Antiquities Director
Harry Macy, Jr., 300 E 33rd St., Apt 5-D
New York, NY 10016-9406
212-686-8761 harrymacy@yahoo.com

Internet & Database Manager - Melvin L. Underhill
5008 Olde Creek Way, Prospect, KY 40059-9685
502-228-9241 melunderhill@bellsouth.net

Budget and Finance Director – Samuel U. Mitchell
30 Meritoria Dr., E. Williston, NY 11596-2005
516-747-6413

Heritage Corner Director – vacant (contact Carl Underhill)

Editor, *News and Views* – vacant (contact Carl Underhill)

Editor, *Bulletin* – vacant (contact Carl Underhill)

Y-DNA Project Manager - Robert Underhill
9 Valley View Lane, South Deerfield, MA 01373
413-665-4094 BUnderhill@comcast.net

Genealogist – Hans Hammer
PO Box 58, Gainesville, GA 30503-0058
770-532-558 hanshammer@charter.net

Chairman of the Board - George T. Underhill, Jr.
Winter: 5101 Underhill Ct., Louisville, KY 40207-6102
502-893-2197 george@uhill.org
Summer: 183 Via Napoli, Naples, FL 34105-7112
George.Underhill@comcast.net

Archivist – John Catanzariti
107 E. Main St., Oyster Bay, NY 11771-2401
johncat@verizon.net

Education and Publishing Fund Trustees
(3-year terms expire 2006)
Harry Macy, Jr., Chairman
Melvin L. Underhill
Carl J. Underhill