



# NEWS & VIEWS

## of the Underhill Society

P.O. Box 712, Oyster Bay, NY 11771-0712  
<http://UnderhillSociety.org>

**Underhill Society of America, Inc.**

ORGANIZED 1892

INCORPORATED 1903

Volume XXXIV, Issue 2

Summer 2001



### *President's Message*

By George T. Underhill

If you are at all interested in becoming actively involved by volunteering as a board member or a committee member, please write, e-mail or call the president.

Our board of directors is made up of very competent and dedicated men and women who welcome fresh ideas from members. They are looking for new ways to stimulate the interest of the membership at large. Please write, e-mail or call any board member with new ideas.

It's really fulfilling to contribute time and talent to such a worthy cause where our efforts are greatly appreciated. **IT'S WELL WORTH IT!**

If you have Underhill stories to share, please get them to the editor for consideration. All material must be edited and ready for publication. The preferred method of delivery is e-mail with attached word processing files. Related pictures or portraits should also be attached to an e-mail as graphic files. The alternate method of the U. S. mail is also acceptable, as long as the documents and photos are of good enough quality to clearly scan into a computer. Documentation that has to be retyped is not acceptable. The only exception is historical documents and letters that need to be presented in their original state. Of course, if these items are not in condition to scan clearly, they cannot be used. No point in publishing something that the readers cannot read.

**WE NEED YOU, YOUR IDEAS, AND YOUR STORIES!**

GTU - [george@underhill.net](mailto:george@underhill.net)

### **If You Changed Your Address**

If you have moved or otherwise changed your address, please write to the correspondence secretary and give your old and new address information. A telephone number, or e-mail address, would also be helpful in the event we cannot deliver a mailing to your address. Our address list is verified with the Postal Service for each mailing. Recently, there have been many address rejections, meaning that some of our members will not receive their copy of the Bulletin or News & Views.

### **Alternate Addresses**

We are also having mailings returned for members who have alternate addresses for portions of the year and have not notified us. If you live somewhere other than your home address for part of the year, please furnish us your alternate address and when you will be there.

If your address is consistently rejected by the Postal Service, either because you are temporarily away or the address is invalid, you risk being dropped from the mailing list.

Write to the **Membership Secretary at:**  
THE UNDERHILL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.  
P.O. BOX 712  
OYSTER BAY, NY 11771-0712

**Editor's Corner:** Mel Underhill - [m.underhill@att.net](mailto:m.underhill@att.net)

If you have an e-mail address, or change it, please send it to me at my e-mail address. It is vital that I have this information so you can gain access to the members-only area of our website. There you can view the member roster, check and update your own record, look at the archives ( which will continually expand), and see the by-laws and article of incorporation.

### ***You know who you are!***

We still have members that have **not** renewed their membership for this year! If you're among that select group, this will be the last News & Views you will receive until you renew. The N&V will be published 3 times annually and the Bulletin will be assembled in October each year. **Don't be left out!**

## OBITUARY

**Harriet A. (Smith) Frost**, a longtime member of the Society's board, died at her home in Massapequa Park, New York, on June 28, 2001. Born in Brooklyn, she was descended from Capt. John Underhill three times through her grandmother Harriet Townsend Underhill (no. 1578-A in the genealogy, wife first of Isaac Southard and then of Samuel Smith).

Harriet served on the Society's board for twenty years, from 1972 through 1991, and was one of our most enthusiastic and hard-working members during those years. For many years she was the Program Coordinator, in charge of organizing the annual meeting and other events, and was frequently pictured in issues of *News & Views*. She was a retired employee of the Town of Oyster Bay, former Republican Committeewoman from Massapequa Park, and Past Matron of Eastern Star Lodge #76, Brooklyn.

Harriet's husband Alfred Frost, and her only child, Harriet J. (Frost) Bland, both died before her. She is survived by her grandchildren Deborah Marecki, Gary Bland, and Nancy Miller; her great-grandchildren Joseph, Lisa, Laurence, David, and John; her son-in-law Jack Bland; and her sister Florence Carroll. Following her funeral on June 30 she was laid to rest in Maple Grove Cemetery, Kew Gardens, New York.

## DID YOU KNOW?

■ Our website <http://UnderhillSociety.org> has had 8245 visitors as of 09/17/2001. When we met in Mystic, CT in October of 1999, the count was around 2700. We began counting October 1, 1997.

■ I received this e-mail from our archivist and thought it appropriate to include it here as information:

Hi Mel,

I was just wondering whether there is a link to the Ellis Is. Website on the USA site. I couldn't find it on the Links page, but perhaps it's on another page.

I've been using it to trace my own ancestry, on my father's side, with mixed results. But when I entered Underhill in the search engine (without using a first name or initial), I got 560 names. Variant spellings might increase that number.

I was also wondering whether a brief notice of the Website would make a nice little snippet for N&V. There are one or two related links that members might find useful.

Best regards,

John

I have placed a link to Ellis Island on the Internet Links page of our site. Editor

■ I have received several communications from cousin Red Underhill of Tullahoma, TN. Maybe he will not be there much longer, as he says that he is interested in moving to Texas. He pronounces the Hill Country as his favorite region and mentions San Marcos as a possible locale of residence.

He tells me that a book will be published this fall about Roy Rogers, in which he and his grandfather will appear. Red last appeared in a book about Tex Ritter and he considers it an honor to be associated with such fine gentlemen.

Red is planning a project for next year involving a racing team. He states that, as of next year, he will be the only known person in America to have been present at the Daytona "200" for 50 years consecutively. This is a real fan! He's even considering doing some racing again himself. His son and some friends are trying to convince him to do this. He'll probably do it, if it's possible, that's our Red!

## UNDERHILLS IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GRANTS

A report by John Kenneth Underhill, Jr.

I first wrote about the Underhills in Vermont, "News and Views" Fall 1996, and now I have some additional insights to add to that story.

Benning Wentworth, the Governor of the Royal Colony of New Hampshire, started chartering towns in the area between the Royal Colony of New Hampshire and the Royal Colony of New York. Wentworth named the first town Bennington as a namesake to himself and then named other towns to gain as much political advantage as possible. A good reference to this is contained in the book "Dorset" by Tyler Resch.

The first town was chartered in 1749. With the end of the French and Indian War in 1759, this area, became available for settlement. With the possibility of owning their own land, many were interested in coming to the Grants, and settlement was rapid.

By 1773, many of the proprietors signing the charters were living in the area around Jerico and Oyster Bay on Long Island. This is the area where most of the descendants of Capt. John were living. William and Nathaniel had both moved their families from Long Island by this time so would have missed the opportunity to become proprietors. Governor Wentworth named one of the towns Jerico and another town Underhill, possibly to attract people from Long Island. Also, Capt. John had preceded Wentworth as governor of the colony of New Hampshire, and it would naturally follow that he would name a town for the previous governor. Here are some of the towns that were chartered then, and the Underhills who were proprietors include:

**Hinesburgh** June 24, 1762 Andrew, Joseph, Thomas, Samuel

**Huntington** June 7, 1763 John

**Jerico** June 7, 1763 Amos, Edm, David, Soloman

**Milton** June 8, 1763 Benja

**Sbelburne** Aug 18, 1763 Isaac, Jacob

**St. George** Aug 18, 1763 Isaac, Benja, Amos

**Underbill** June 8, 1763 Benja

**Westford** June 8, 1763 Benja

Proprietors of the town of Underbill include these great grandsons of Capt. John Underbill: John Sackett, William Sackett, Benja Underbill, Underbill Horton, Samuel Sackett, James Sackett, and Joseph Sackett, Jr.

Very few of the proprietors become settlers, possibly because they were more interested in speculating on the increasing value of land. When the towns were organized as provided for by the New Hampshire Charters, some of the first settlers became agents for the proprietors at the meetings. One of the families that became involved in organizing these towns was that of William Underhill (Capt. John, John Jr., Abraham). He is often mistakenly placed in Nathaniel's family (see Underhill Society Bulletin for 1984). Though he missed the opportunity to become a proprietor by moving from Long Island, his sons became involved in settling the towns. William's eldest son Abraham was one of the first settlers of the town of Dorset. Son Augustine was also an early settler of Dorset. Son John was in the British army and was one of the soldiers named in a Charter of land from the Colony of New York as a reward for services in the British army.

By 1765 New York had also started patenting towns in the same area as the New Hampshire Grants. When the surveyors for these Patents started to layout new towns, they found much of the area settled and defended. Conflicts arose, but eventually the New Hampshire Grant towns prevailed and the area was organized as the state of Vermont. Vermont then made a payment to New York to settle their claims. It is not known if John ever received any of this money for his charter.

The first meetings of the proprietors of the town of Underhill took place at the homes of Abraham and Augustine in Dorset. Abraham and Augustine appear to have been agents for some of the proprietors of that town. At these meetings, the procedure was to survey lots and to assign them to the proprietors. An assessment was made to pay for the cost of the survey. If an assessment was not paid, the lots were then sold to cover the cost of the survey. Both Abraham and Augustine purchased land in the town of Underhill. Abraham's son Isaac's family were the only Underhills known to have lived in the town of Underhill.

References include: Dorset by Tyler Resch; Underhill Society Publications Genealogys 4, 5 and 6, Bulletins, and News & Views; Charters of Towns; and records in the office of the Town of Underhill.

### **The Warwickshire Poet**

This is an interesting letter from Roy Gaveston Knight to Colin Hughes, a features editor and publisher of much of Mr. Knight's works. The letter was sent to our Society along with promotional materials for his poems.

Honnington Court,  
Maesyrcugiau, Pencader SA 39 DH

Dear Colin,

I was particularly interested in the article, Wednesday's Western Mail, concerning the claims made by the Rev'd Aelwyn Roberts, in his book 'Operation Woolsack.' During college days we had a lot of Shakespeare, when the almost inevitable question of true authorship cropped up continually. The general consensus agrees with many of his assertions, as I'm afraid I do, but, of course, it is all a grand money spinner!

Winning a poetry competition, around 12 years of age, I well remember an Aunt saying, "Well, so you should, you are related to Shakespeare, aren't you?" Long since this the family tree has been proven, for the Bard was not only given to heavy drinking, he was also a philanderer, seducing among others a Miss Mary Knight of Stratford Upon Avon. We believe her father kept a cherry orchard, and she being subsequently delivered of a boy, called his name John Knight. She lived on a small bequest from William, in a cottage (also probably given by him) which was on the opposite side to the supposed Birth Place, No. 15 Henley Street. Subsequent generations jealously keeping the cottage and naming their eldest sons John. Our late Grandfather, John Knight, tailor and draper of S.O.A. and Kenilworth, well known figure for fifty odd years in the latter - and a gifted Preacher - was the 7th in line. The 8th, who would have been my uncle, died in infancy and is buried near the Lych Gate of the Parish Church in S.O.A. My late brother John, the 9th, was wounded in Nimegan during those heroic efforts to relieve the 51st Parachute Brigade, dying of poison from those wounds at 46 years of age. He was a Lieutenant in the 7th Argyle and Sutherland Regiment. There is no connection, of course, with this rake concerning my own works, but I do mention a humorous episode involving our former Shakespeare fanatical English master at Myton, this at the time of my first published poem in the Leamington Spa Courier, at 15 years. This is found in our second book, 'Classical Poetry for the English Lesson' out very shortly with Regent Publications. We have another connection with the Bard, for of the Underhills on our late Mother's side, one William Underhill of Hunningham Hall, sold William Shakespeare New Place in 1597 for the princely sum of £60. He improved house and garden, and it became a veritable Mecca for the tourists. A certain Rev'd Gentleman however, outraged by the clamour and invasions of his privacy - having purchased it for retirement - burnt it to the ground! It survives as a knott garden, thousands visiting every year still.

With every good wish ..  
Roy Gaveston-Knight .. and Mary ..  
The Warwickshire Poet.

**Underhill Society of America**  
**Application for Membership**

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**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Print this application and mail it, along with your check, to:

Membership Secretary  
Underhill Society of America  
PO Box 712  
Oyster Bay, NY 11771-0712

**Membership fees are payable only in U.S. funds.**

Please make checks for membership dues separate from those for Heritage Corner Gift Shop items.

Upon receipt of your membership application and dues you will receive your membership card by return mail.

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**Comments (if any):**

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| 2    | <b>Underhill Genealogy</b> , Vols. V and VI. Published in 1980. <b>\$25 for BOTH volumes, mailing included.</b>   |                  | \$25.00 | \$    |
| 3    | <b>Underhill Burying Ground</b> . Maps included, published in 1926.   |                  | \$10.00 |       |
|      | <i>Order both of the following 2 pamphlets for \$10.00.</i>   |                  |         |       |
| 4    | (1) <b>News From America</b> , written by Capt. John Underhill in 1638 and reproduced by D. Harris Underhill (pamphlet).  |                  | \$6.00  |       |
| 5    | (2) <b>News From America</b> , as published in the 1981 Bulletin. An easier reading version of Capt. John's original, edited by Dorothy M. Greninger.   |                  | \$5.00  |       |
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| 15   | <b>Tote bag</b> , 10x14, natural with Underhill Coat of Arms, 100% cotton.  |                  | \$11.50 |       |
| 16   | <b>"News and Views"</b> , past issues.  |                  | \$3.50  |       |
| 17   | <b>Bulletins</b> , past issues; list of past Bulletins and associated articles in December 1994 issue   |                  | \$5.00  |       |
| 18   | <b>1913, 1916, 1924, 1935 Bulletins</b> , reports of meetings with articles   |                  | \$2.00  |       |
| 19   | <b>Bulletin - November 1971</b> . Descendants of Captain John Underhill from Nathaniel; edited by Kathleen Underhill  |                  | \$5.00  |       |
| 20   | <b>Bulletin - October 1972</b> . Captain John's American descendants from his son David; edited by Kathleen Underhill. The Underhills and historic St. Paul's Church, Eastchester, NY; by Harry Macy, Jr. |                  | \$5.00  |       |
| 21   | <b>1985 Bulletin</b> , Capt. John, Gentleman Soldier of Fortune.  |                  | \$10.00 |       |
| 22   | <b>1992 Bulletin</b> , 100th Anniversary Issue (copy). Dedicated to David Harris Underhill, including "The Last 50 Years", Past President Harry Macy, Jr.'s speech for Anniversary Dinner.                |                  | \$3.00  |       |
|      | <b>Total</b>  |                  |         | \$    |

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