

A guide to the little-known historic places of ***Shelter Island***



Inside!

How to get there • Rare photographs • Island folklore • Google Map links



courtesy of the
SHELTER ISLAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We couldn't have written this without those who documented and preserved the history of the island over the centuries.

We want to thank Nanette Lawrenson, Executive Director of the [Shelter Island Historical Society](#) and especially their archivist, Rachel Lucas, who patiently and generously shared her knowledge and expertise to locate the majority of the historical images and documents in this guide. Their world-class History Center at 16 South Ferry Road is not to be missed ([map](#)).



SHELTER ISLAND HISTORY CENTER. PHOTO CREDIT: MICHAEL MORAN

WELCOME!

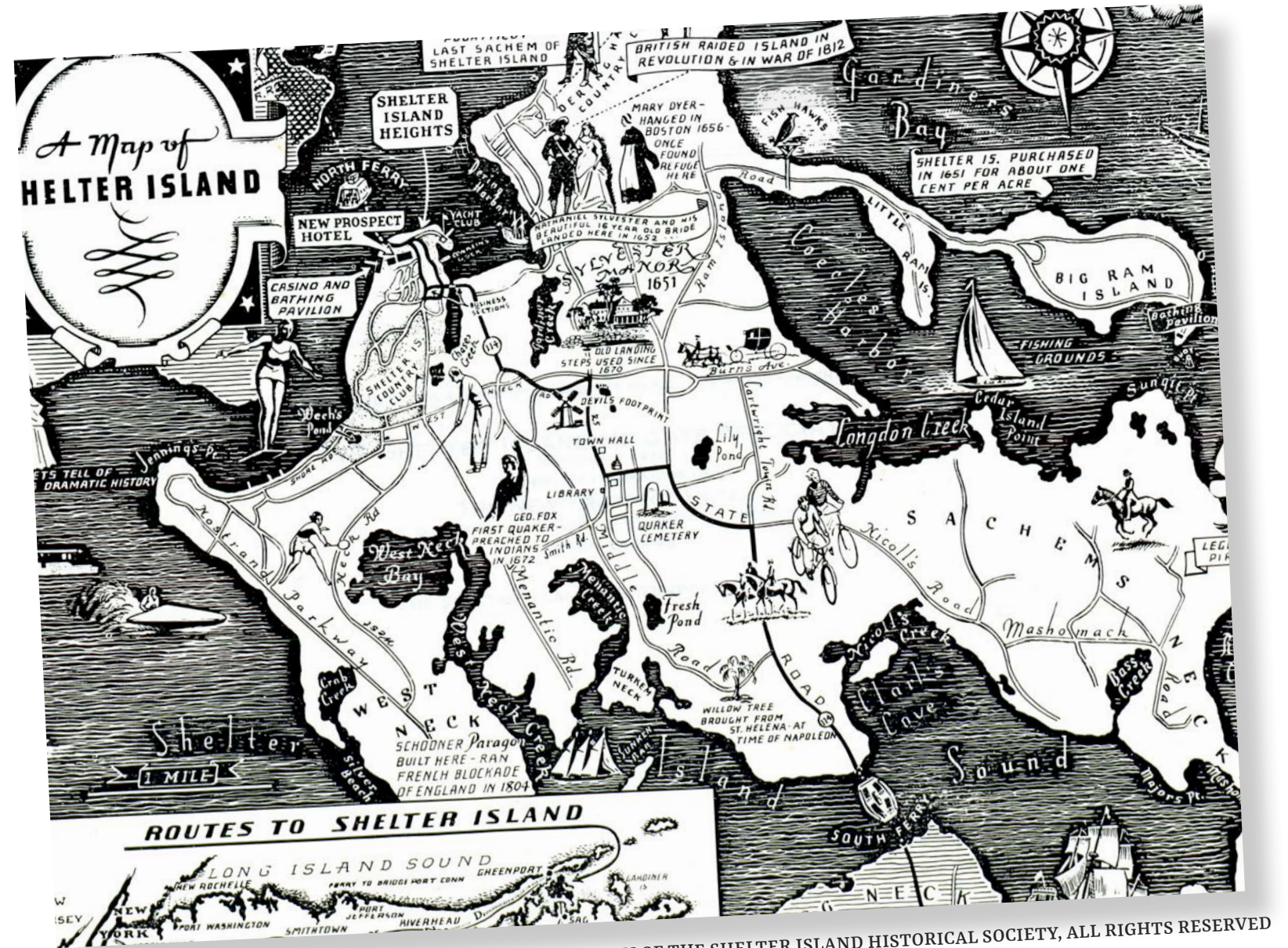
“Shelter Island is, par excellence, the very beau ideal of a seaside Summer resort. The island is completely sheltered from boisterous winds, as its name indicates, being cool all Summer and balmy both early and late in the season.”

— *The New York Times*, June 7, 1885

The Shelter Island Chamber of Commerce welcomes you to our beautiful island. Although Shelter Island may appear to simply be a beautiful, unspoiled 8,000-acre island with pristine beaches, it holds a surprisingly significant and remarkable history.

While there’s no shortage of articles written by visitors to Shelter Island, nobody knows the island like those of us who live here. The places in this guide have been suggested by our residents, some of whose families go back centuries on the island.

This guide can be viewed on a mobile device and/or downloaded and printed. It includes interesting stories, historical facts, folklore, and rare historical images. It also includes links to Google Maps for each location as well as written directions. More information about the island can be found on our [website](#).

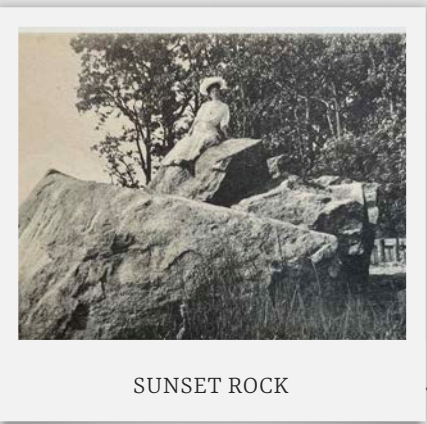


A 1934 MAP OF SHELTER ISLAND. OBTAINED FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	1
Welcome	2
Table of Contents	3
Interactive Map	4
Never Never Land	5
Smith-Ransome Japanese Bridge	7
Devil's Footprint	11
Manhanset House	13
Bunker City	17
Klenawicus Airfield	19
Quaker Meeting Area	22
Sunset Rock	27
Kissing Rock	30

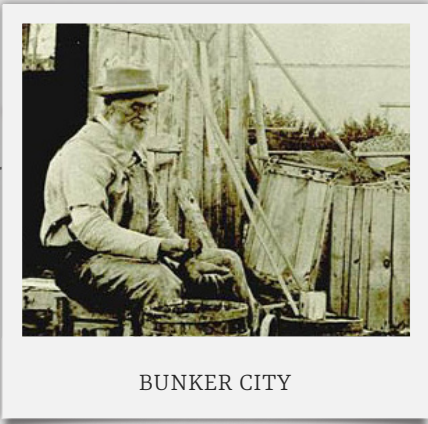
INTERACTIVE MAP OF SHELTER ISLAND



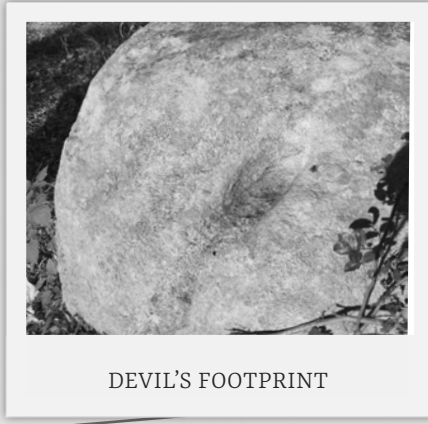
SUNSET ROCK



MANHASSET HOUSE



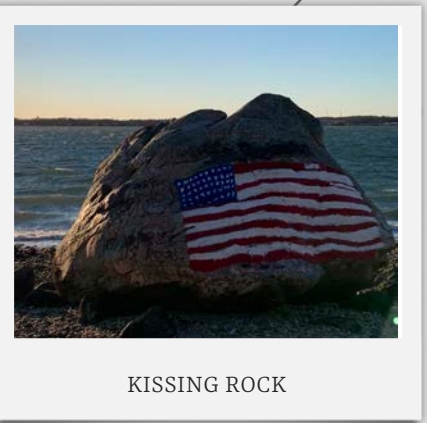
BUNKER CITY



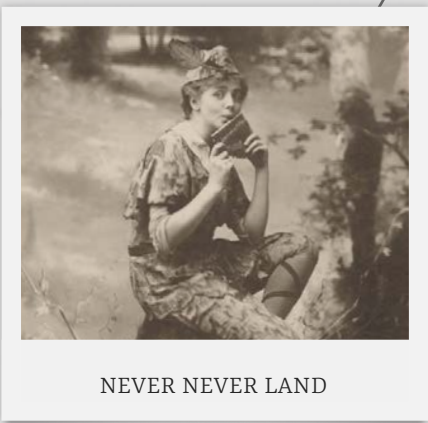
DEVIL'S FOOTPRINT



QUAKER MEETING AREA



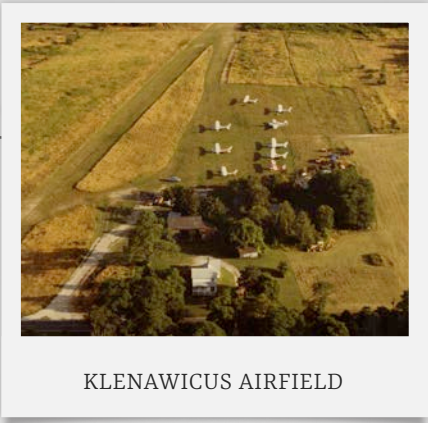
KISSING ROCK



NEVER NEVER LAND



Click on any of the images to take you to a description of the site, its history, directions, and more.



KLENAWICUS AIRFIELD



“NEVER NEVER LAND”

[!\[\]\(d0a1791f26d167e866e44ebbf83efebe_img.jpg\) Directions via Google Maps](#)

Did you know that Shelter Island was the inspiration for Never Never Land, the setting for the play *Peter Pan*? The island was also the location of the U.S. premiere.

Peter Pan playwright Sir James Barrie came to visit his friend Thomas Turner, a New York socialite and owner of Westmoreland House on Shelter Island. He kept the island in mind while he created the background for the play, describing Never Never Land as “always more or less an island, with astonishing splashes of color here and there. Not large and sprawly, you know, with tedious distances between one adventure and another, but nicely crammed.”

Of course, this happened long before the 1954 Mary Martin musical version many of us remember. The very first Broadway production of *Peter Pan* actually debuted in 1905 with Broadway star Maude Adams as Peter. It was so well received, she went on to play the role over 1,500 times. Even Mark Twain felt compelled to write her saying, “It is my belief that Peter Pan is a great and uplifting benefaction to this sordid and money-mad age.”



MAUDE ADAMS AS PETER PAN 1905. SHE DESIGNED HER OWN CLOTHING AND IS CREDITED ,
ALONG WITH HER NEIGHBORS, WITH CREAT-ING THE “PETER PAN” COLLAR

[Return to map](#) 

“NEVER NEVER LAND” CONTINUED

The owner of Westmoreland was also friends with both Maude Adams and Charles Frohman, who was producing *Peter Pan*. After rehearsing in the city for months, Turner suggested they have one last “try out” at his estate on Shelter Island in full costume.

Over 50 cast members as well as carpenters, electricians, and other workers took the train to Greenport or came by steamboat directly from the city. For the flying sequences, they ran a wire from the top of the clock tower to the barn.

It proved to be one of the play’s best performances because of the natural scenery and fantastic setting.



1890: ANOTHER VIEW OF THE PROPERTY UPON COMPLETION. OBTAINED FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

HOW TO GET THERE

As you can see on the [map](#), Westmoreland is located on the southwest side of the island between West Neck Creek and West Neck Bay on Westmoreland Drive. While it’s privately owned, you can see the property from the road. While trees have since grown up around the tower, you can get a great view of it from Westmoreland Drive [at the entrance to the property](#). It’s hiding straight down the driveway. You can also see it peeking out a bit [from the other side of the property](#). The owner only asks that visitors don’t feed the horses. [Google Maps](#)



BUILDING THE CLOCK TOWER IN 1890. THE STRUCTURE STILL STANDS. OBTAINED FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

[Return to map](#) 

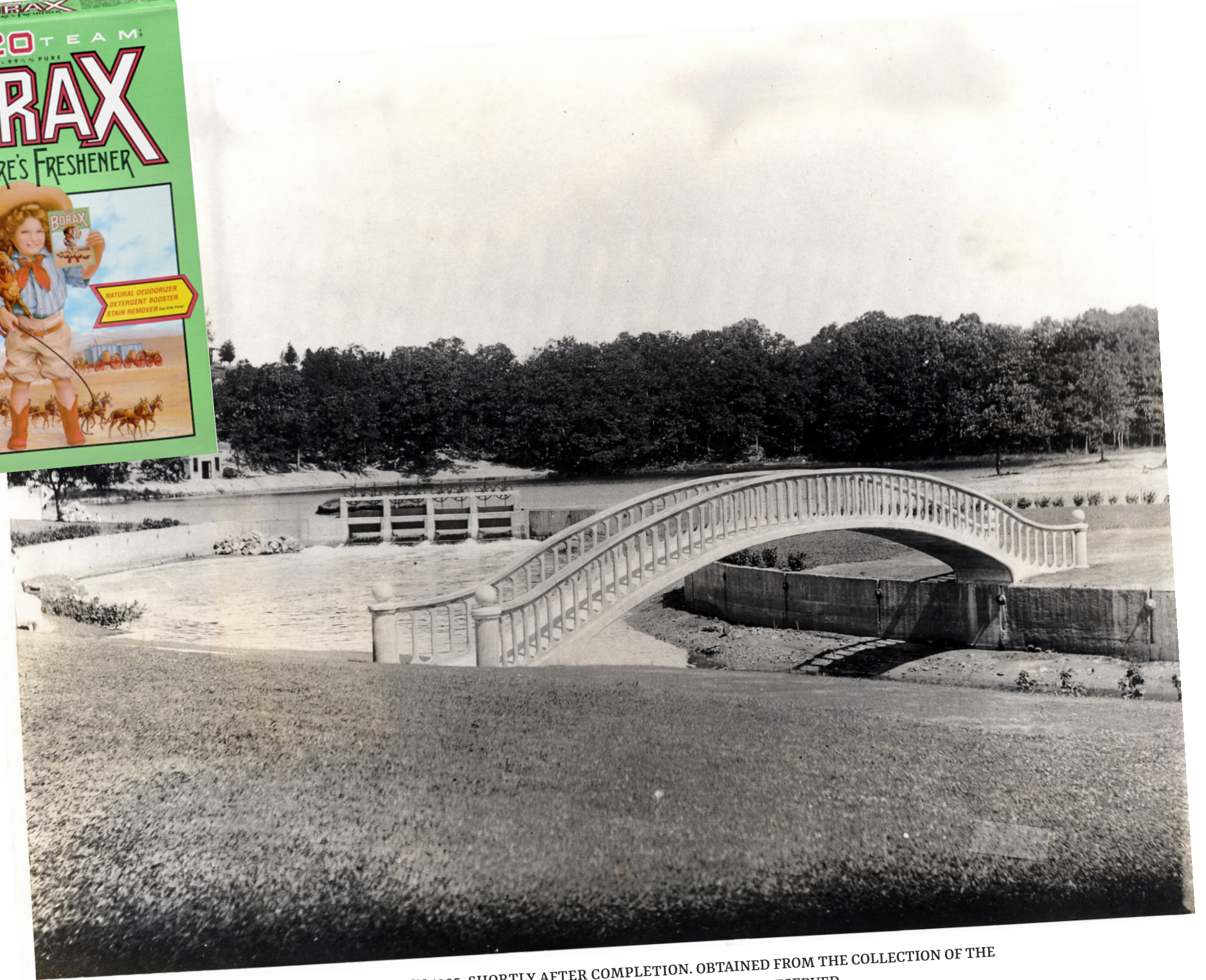
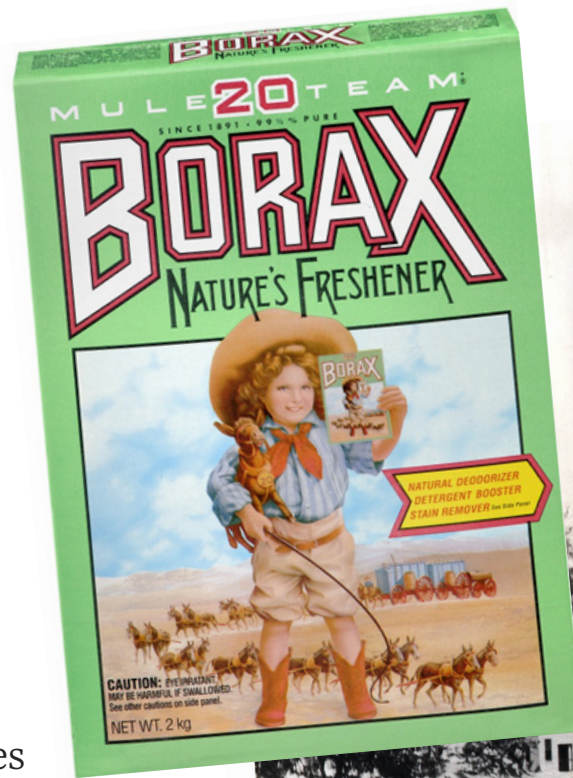
SMITH-RANSOME JAPANESE BRIDGE

 [Directions via Google Maps](#)

Over the centuries, Shelter Island's unique location and beauty has attracted some of the country's wealthiest families, many of whom have built very special structures that still stand today.

One of them is the Smith-Ransome Japanese Bridge. Commissioned by the "Borax King" himself, Francis Marion Smith, this beautiful 1905 structure has such historical significance that it has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1872, Smith had discovered the rare mineral borate (used to make borax) on his land in Nevada and began manufacturing and marketing borax cleaning products under the name "20 Mule Team Borax" which is still found in many laundry rooms to this day.



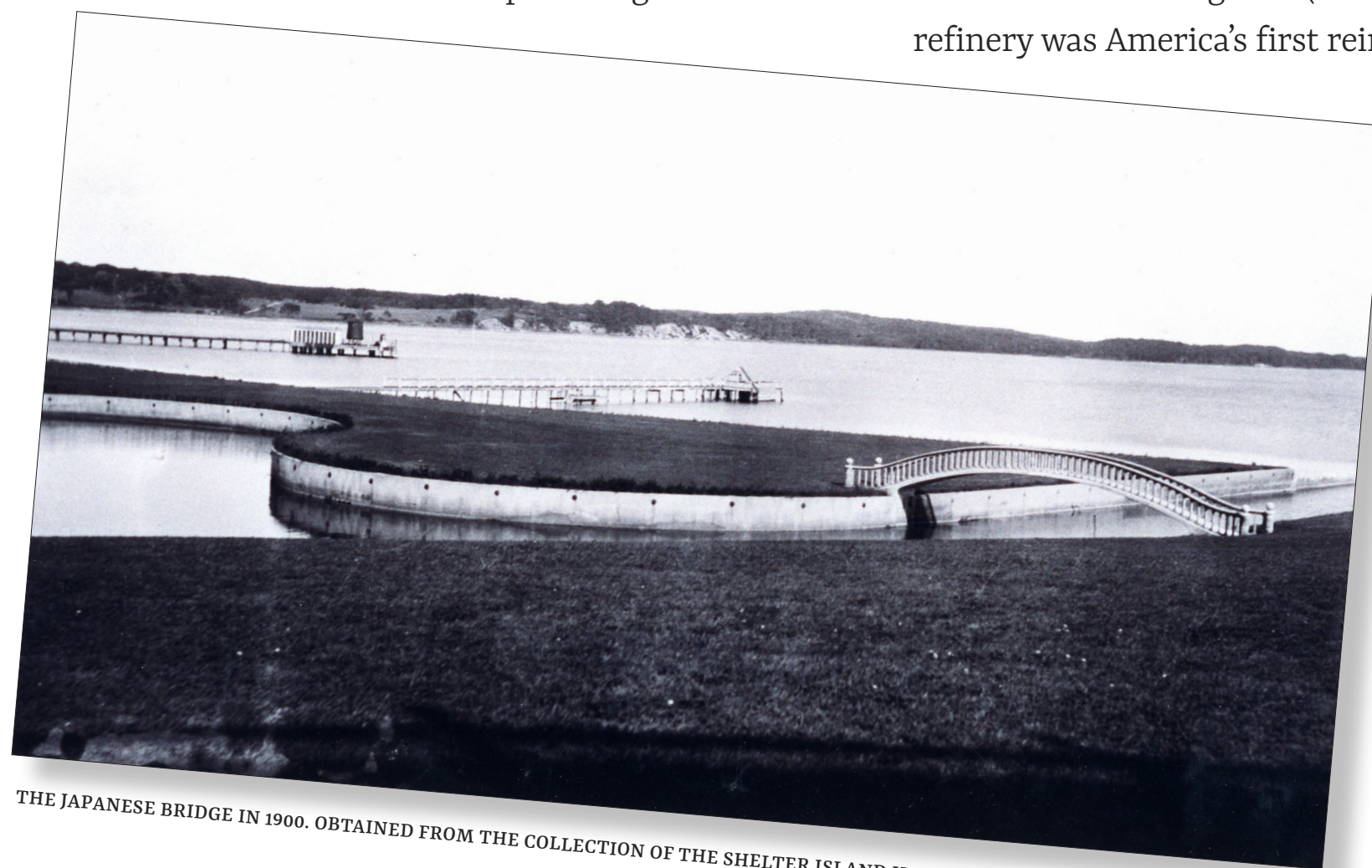
THE JAPANESE BRIDGE IN 1905, SHORTLY AFTER COMPLETION. OBTAINED FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE
SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

[Return to map](#) 

THE SMITH-RANSOME JAPANESE BRIDGE CONTINUED

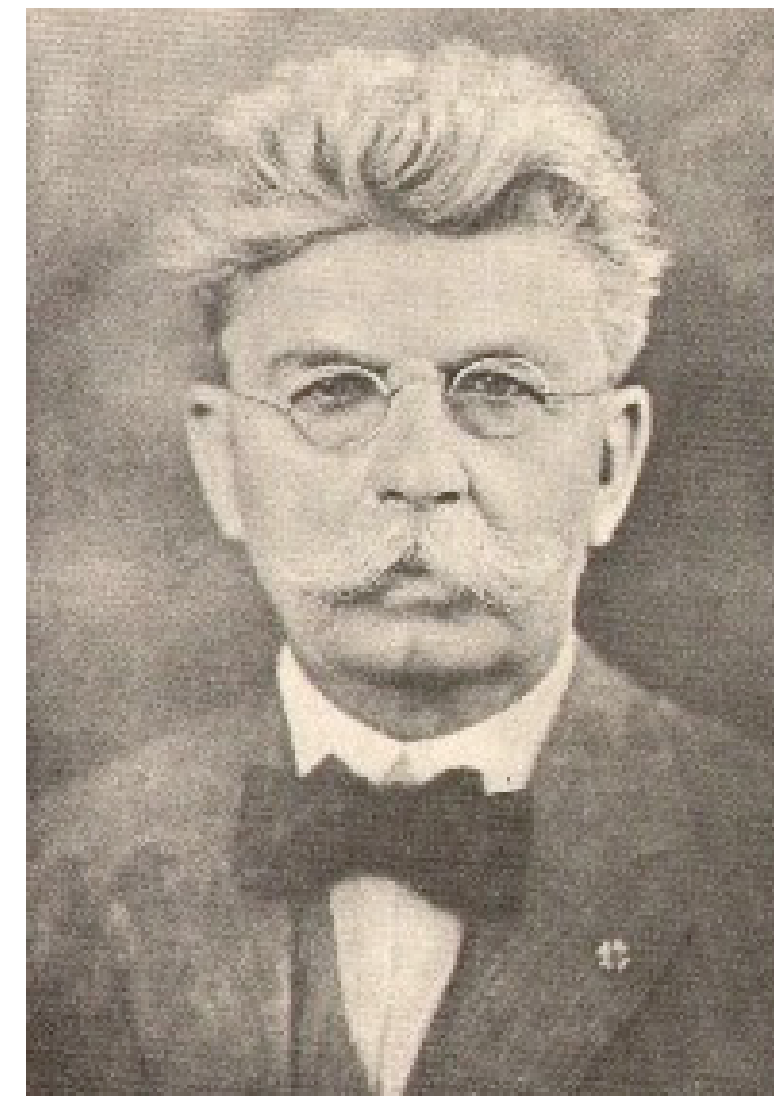
Within 20 years, Smith had amassed an enormous fortune and bought hundreds of acres here on Shelter Island. He built a summer estate, named *Presdeleau*, on the south side of the island near Smith Cove, not too far from where the South Ferry operates today.

In 1905, Smith commissioned architect Ernest L. Ransome to build a very special footbridge spanning a tidal creek he had dredged at *Presdeleau*. Ransome was building a borax refinery for Smith in California using a new building process he had developed using concrete with twisted iron reinforcing bars (known as Ransome bars). The refinery was America's first reinforced concrete building.



THE JAPANESE BRIDGE IN 1900. OBTAINED FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Smith asked Ransome to build his footbridge on Shelter Island using this new technology. That technology is the reason such an old bridge withstood so many decades. During his career, Ransome also built a 20,000 square foot museum at Stanford University using the same technology. It survived the 1906 earthquake while most of the brick buildings around it collapsed, making Ransome's way of building with reinforced concrete the gold standard.



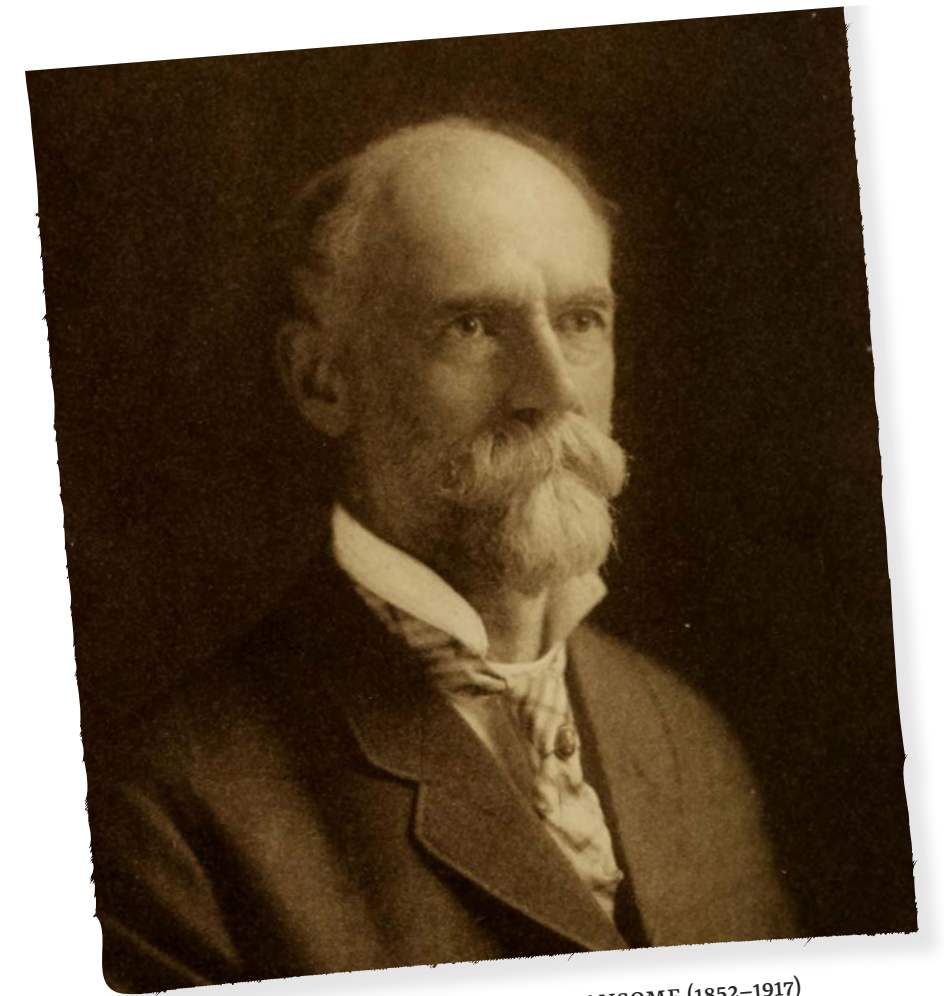
FRANCIS MARION SMITH, THE "BORAX KING"

THE SMITH-RANSOME JAPANESE BRIDGE CONTINUED

FACTS ABOUT THE JAPANESE BRIDGE

According to the application for entry into the National Registry:

- The bridge measures approximately 60 feet long by 6 feet wide at each end.
- The arched deck narrows to 4 feet wide at its center, where it reaches a height of about 10 feet above the water.
- The deck is arched not only from end to end, but also from side to side, enabling water to flow downward into drains located adjacent to the posts.
- The bridge has a simple, elegant Japanese style (which at the time was just starting to influence American architecture).
- The span is shaped in a low-slope bell curve, with open railings, or balustrades, and cap rails with minimal embellishment, terminating in substantial circular end posts with large ball finial tops. The surface of the bridge deck is cast concrete impressed with a brick pattern.
- The balusters alternate with elongated, rounded openings arranged vertically to follow the curve of the bridge deck.



ARCHITECT ERNEST LESLIE RANSOME (1852-1917)

THE SMITH-RANSOME JAPANESE BRIDGE CONTINUED

HOW TO GET THERE

The Japanese Bridge is located near the South Ferry. About a half mile before you reach the ferry, take a left on Clark Place. Clark Place turns into Merkel Lane. The bridge is 500 feet on the right past the first house after the bend. You can see it from the road but if you want a closer look, there is a [narrow path](#) between the houses that's a public right-of-way. Please do not walk or climb on the bridge.

The [Smith-Ransome Japanese Bridge Conservancy](#) is supporting the restoration, preservation, and maintenance of the bridge. They have stopped giving tours while they're restoring it, but check with their Web site to see if the tours have resumed (and perhaps [donate](#) to their efforts).

 [Google Maps](#)

[Return to map](#) 

THE DEVIL’S FOOTPRINT

 [Directions via Google Maps](#)

How does a footprint, specifically, an impression of a right foot, make its way into a boulder on Shelter Island? That’s been the question at least as far back as December 29, 1898 when it was discussed at Columbia University in New York City at the 10th Annual Meeting of the *American Folklore Society*.

According to a paper read at that meeting, “It is said on Shelter Island that if anyone makes a wish when he places his foot into this footprint for the first time, he will certainly get it.”

According to the discussion, the other strange fact about this impression is that it supports every sized foot “from a little child to the largest man.” As they pointed out back then, the impression of the heel and instep is deep and well-formed, but the toe prints are lost where the rock slopes away.

In the off chance you’re traveling Shelter Island by horseback, it’s said “no horse will pass this stone without being seized by terror on drawing near it, snorting, rearing, and trembling in every limb.”



THE DEVIL'S FOOTPRINT, ON THE GROUNDS OF SYLVESTER MANOR EDUCATIONAL FARM, IS SAID TO BRING GOOD LUCK.

[Return to map](#) 

THE DEVIL'S FOOTPRINT CONTINUED

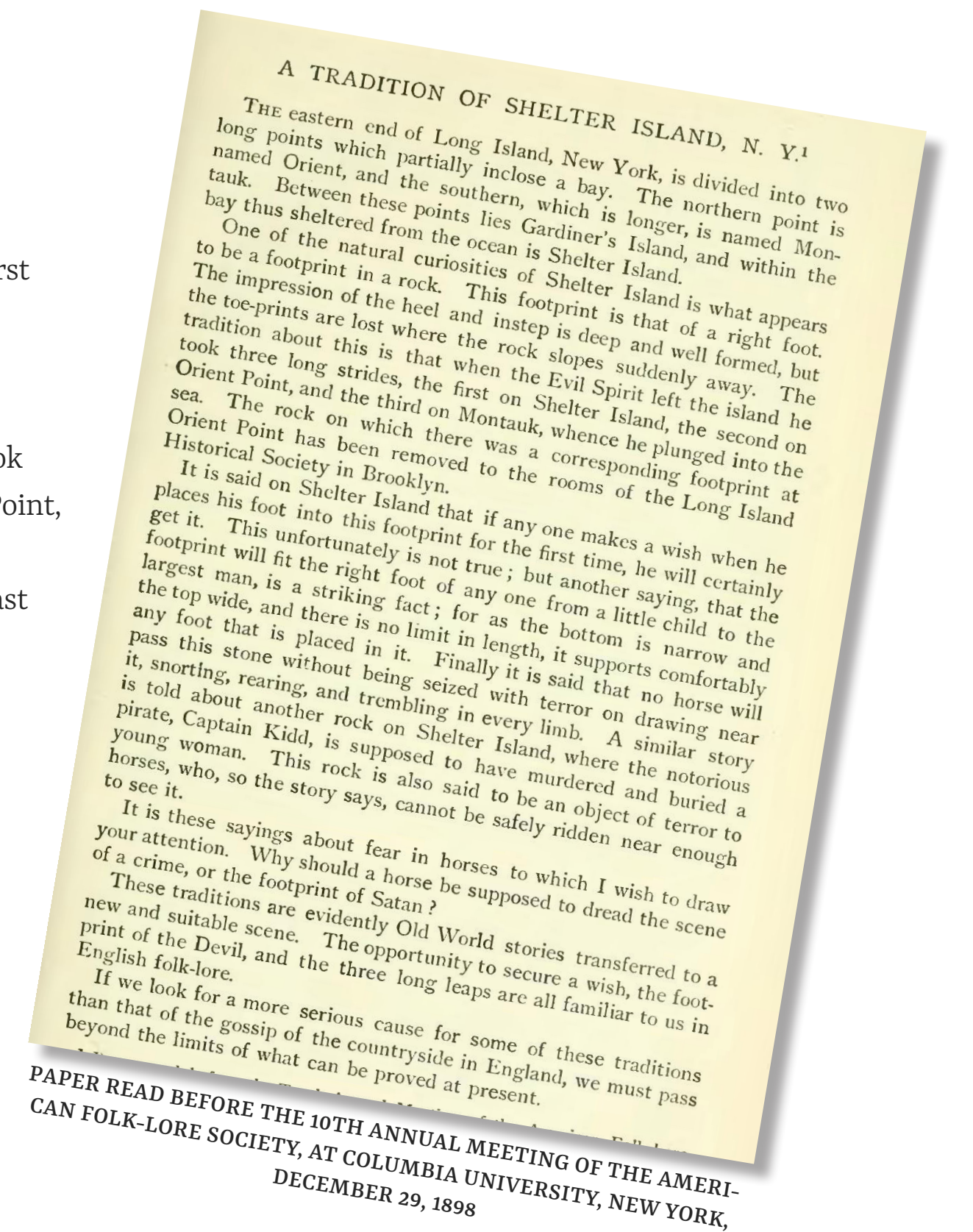
What is the story behind this rock that's so lucky for people and so dreaded by horses?

According to Sylvester Manor Educational Farm where the boulder is located, the legend was first described by indigenous people, but the tale was adapted and "Christianized" by early European settlers.

It was believed an evil spirit once lived on Long Island. When God made him leave, the spirit took three long strides. The first footprint can be found on Shelter Island, the second out in Orient Point, at the tip of the North Fork, and the third in Montauk, at the tip of the South Fork "whence he plunged into the sea." The rock with a footprint from Orient Point has been removed and was last known to be in a Brooklyn museum. The Montauk footprint rock is still there.

HOW TO GET THERE

The Devil's Footprint can be found on the grounds of [Sylvester Manor Educational Farm](#), a rewarding location to visit in itself. Pull into [this parking lot](#) off Manwaring Road. The rock is located in the back farm field, behind the windmill. You'll need permission to go back there, so you might want to call ahead. 📍 [Google Maps link](#)



THE MANHANSET HOUSE

 [Directions via Google Maps](#)

Back in the 1890's, Shelter Island was, at its peak, a tourist attraction and the largest hotel was the Manhanset House.

It was built in 1873 on a 200-acre parcel of land overlooking Greenport Harbor. This massive 840-room waterfront hotel was famous up and down the East Coast—so much so that steamships from Manhattan would take passengers directly to their dock.

The year after the hotel opened, the *New York Times* wrote the “accommodation for visitors here is most excellent in the way of hotels, the largest and finest... The location of the Manhanset is perfect, while its architectural beauty makes it a prominent feature in the landscape whether approached by sea or land. It stands high above the surrounding country, and from its verandas, which are long, broad, and protected from the direct rays of the sun, a magnificent panoramic view of land and water



MANHANSET HOUSE BROCHURE. OBTAINED FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

[Return to map](#) 

THE MANHANSET HOUSE CONTINUED



are presented. The rooms are all light, airy, perfectly ventilated, and handsomely furnished.”

Its 76-foot-long dining room was considered one of the largest and finest on the East Coast. It had a two-story carriage house, a 96-stall stable, and a separate non-denominational chapel. The hotel was popular with sailors. The New York Yacht Club maintained a building on the site.

The *New York Times* spent a good amount of their review discussing the sanitary conditions of the hotel, pointing out that “there are no disagreeable sights or odors and no malaria.” While this may be something we take for granted in a luxury hotel, keep in mind at the time cities still lacked public sanitation including sewers and trash collection. Since this hotel was financially accessible by the wealthy, who sought to escape the disease and filth of the cities, it would make sense this fact would be mentioned. And malaria wasn’t eradicated in the U.S. until 1951.

THE MANHANSET HOUSE CONTINUED

So why isn't this beautiful, successful hotel still standing today? The simple answer is that it kept burning down.

The first fire was on August 13, 1896. This was high season for the hotel, which was fully occupied. Thankfully, everyone escaped, partially because the fire spread so slowly.

It started in a separate laundry building, eventually jumping over to the main building. Despite the efforts of the Greenport Fire Department, the fire proved to be too massive to be extinguished.

It is said that the hotel porters, knowing that eventually the entire building would be gone, began negotiating higher prices for retrieving the patrons' personal belongings.

Miraculously, by the beginning of tourist season the following year, the hotel was completely rebuilt, only to be struck by lightning at 1:30 am on May 11, 1910. This time, the hotel burned to the ground in just a few hours. According to the 1932 book The History of Shelter Island by Ralph Duvall, "no effort was made to rebuild the hotel as Thomas Wood, the president and principal stockholder of the company, was in advanced years and the demand for large summer hotels had already begun to wane at that time."



THE FIRST MANHANSET FIRE, AUGUST 13, 1896. OBTAINED FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

THE MANHANSET HOUSE CONTINUED

The storm that produced the lightning strike also brought rain, which wasn't enough to extinguish the fire completely but was enough to stop the fire from spreading.

Interestingly, the little New York Yacht Club building survived both fires intact and was moved to Sag Harbor where it was given a new life as the Sag Harbor Yacht Club. It continues to serve as their clubhouse to this day.

HOW TO GET THERE

The Manhasset Hotel wasn't rebuilt after the second fire and there are now private homes on the property. The beach isn't easily accessible, either.

Still, we recommend driving down Harbor Lane to see where it once stood. When the [road turns at a 90 degree angle](#), you'll be as close as you can get. As you'll see, it's still an exceptional place.

 [Google Maps](#)



TOP LEFT: THE N.Y. YACHT CLUB STATION #5 ON THE GROUNDS OF THE MANHANSET HOUSE. OBTAINED FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. TOP RIGHT: THE BUILDING WAS MOVED AND NOW SERVES AS THE SAG HARBOR YACHT CLUB. BOTTOM: AN OUTLINE OF WHERE THE HOTEL STOOD.

[Return to map](#) 

BUNKER CITY

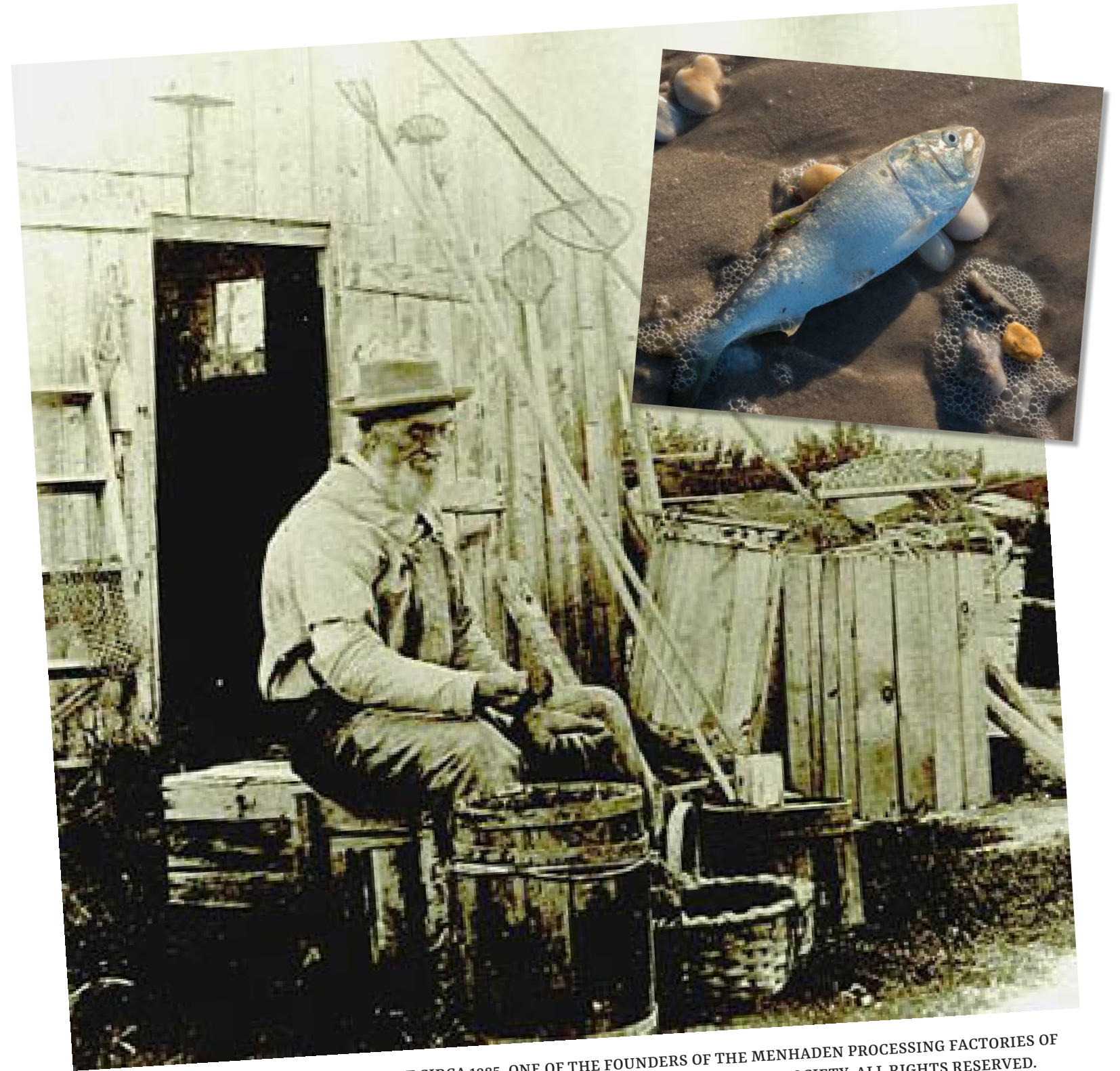
 [Directions via Google Maps](#)

For centuries, the menhaden, a fish also known as “bunker”, “herring”, “mossback”, and “pogy” (not to be confused with porgy) has been a critical fish in Shelter Island waters. They were, and continue to be, abundant off the Island’s shores, swimming in schools of up to a thousand fish.

While this fish is rarely considered edible by humans, it’s one of the main diets of most other fish around the island including striped bass, bluefish, albacore, weakfish, porgies, and fluke.

Early European settlers were taught by the indigenous people of Shelter Island that they could spread the otherwise useless fish on their farmland to act as a potent fertilizer. This method of fertilizing continued for centuries.

In the late 19th century, the menhaden was valued for its ability to be processed into fish oil or as a raw material in oil-based paints. Processing menhaden became a leading island enterprise for almost 50 years.



CAPTAIN BENJAMIN CONKLIN CARTWRIGHT CIRCA 1885, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE MENHADEN PROCESSING FACTORIES OF SHELTER ISLAND. OBTAINED FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

[Return to map](#) 

BUNKER CITY CONTINUED

Collectively called “Bunker City,” production plants popped up north of Hay Beach and continued to the “Pot Works” of Reel Point.

Eventually however, some residents became fed up with the constant smell and consulted the Board of Health. The fish were ordered to be removed from farmlands, and the fish oil factories were ordered to be shut down in April of 1872. Perhaps not-so-coincidentally, the Hay Beach production plant burned down shortly after.

HOW TO GET THERE

Bunker City really refers to many production plants around the Island, but one of the main locations was actually at the end of Menhaden Lane in the Hay Beach area.

Parking on Menhaden Lane requires a [permit](#) from Town Hall during the summer months then you’ll be free to walk the 42 acres of coastal preserve now part of the Town of Shelter Island’s [Open Space & Preserved Lands](#).

 [Google Maps link](#)



THE ENTRANCE TO BUNKER CITY COUNTY PARK

[Return to map](#) 

KLENAWICUS AIRFIELD

 [Directions via Google Maps](#)

Did you know Shelter Island has an international airport? It's all thanks to the Klenawicus family, who bought land in 1927 for a potato farm.

In 1935, Joseph Klenawicus, Jr. and a friend began experimenting with aviation and built their own airplane using a car engine. They launched it from the family's farm. They got it to fly but encountered engine trouble and crashed into a cornfield. It's considered the first flight of a plane on Shelter Island.

His friend, Mike Sabal, also attempted to launch his own homemade craft but failed when his plane didn't have enough runway to lift off and crashed into the water.



AN AERIAL VIEW OF THE KLENAWICUS AIRSTRIP TAKEN SOME TIME IN THE 1970S. OBTAINED FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

[Return to map](#) 

KLENAWICUS AIRFIELD CONTINUED

Lack of a lengthy runway was the reason sea planes became so popular around Shelter Island. One seaplane pilot, Dudley Griffing, even launched a short-lived service from Shelter Island to New York City in 1938.

In the 1930's, a particularly bad winter coated the bay in ice. This prevented boats from getting supplies to the island, and clearly seaplanes couldn't fill this deficit either.

The Klenawicus farm came to the rescue, allowing pilots to take off and land on a dirt road between their fields.

In the 1950's this area was expanded into a proper 1,600 foot runway cut between the fields.



JOSEPH KLENAWICUS, SR, AT AGE 33 IN HIS 1929 KITTY-HAWK AIRPLANE HE BOUGHT FOR \$25 AFTER WWII.
PHOTO CREDIT: THE FRANK KLENAWICUS COLLECTION

KLENAWICUS AIRFIELD CONTINUED

GOING INTERNATIONAL

In 1967, Klenawicus Airfield was nicknamed Klenawicus International Airport when Sidney Stiber left from Shelter Island and flew across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe in a two engine airplane.

The *Shelter Island Reporter* described Stiber as a “renaissance man” who embarked on a career as “a film writer, director and producer, sports reporter, restaurateur” and, of course, as an aviator who built his own planes.

HOW TO GET THERE

Klenawicus Airfield is located about a mile east of the center of the island on Burns Road. Klenawicus Airfield is operated by the Shelter Island Pilots’ Association.

 [Directions via Google Maps](#)



FRANK AND SID STIBER. SID WAS THE FIRST TO CROSS THE ATLANTIC FROM SHELTER ISLAND. OBTAINED FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

[Return to map](#) 

QUAKER MEETING AREA

 [Directions via Google Maps](#)

Did you know that back in the mid-1600's in North America, Quakers (or "Friends" as they refer to themselves) were being persecuted for their religious beliefs and Shelter Island was one of the only places willing to protect them?

James Bowden, in his book The History of the Society of Friends, said that "except on Shelter Island and in the colony of Rhode Island, there was not a rock in the colonies of North America where a Friend could land without being exposed to severe suffering."

It was Shelter Island's Nathaniel Sylvester, one of four sugar merchants who owned the island at that time, who gave them refuge in his home. He eventually became known as "Lord of Shelter" because of his heroic efforts.



IN 1884, A MONUMENT WAS UNVEILED HONORING NATHANIEL SYLVESTER AND THE BRAVE QUAKERS WHO FOUGHT FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM 200 YEARS EARLIER. OBTAINED FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

[Return to map](#) 

QUAKER MEETING AREA CONTINUED

In fact, Shelter Island was so famous for giving shelter to the Quakers that many believed that’s how the island got its name. The truth, of course, was the name came from its indigenous people, the Manhansets, who called it “Manhansack-aha-quash-awamock,” meaning “an island sheltered by islands.”

In 1656, Quakers began migrating to New England from Europe to escape religious persecution.

Instead, they were greeted by the Massachusetts Puritans who were imprisoning and hanging those accused of practicing witchcraft. The Puritans decided the peaceful Quakers should receive a similar treatment as well as

banishing them from the colony, threatening to execute any who returned. Numerous Quakers defied the law and four were put to death.

Two Quakers, Lawrence and Cassandra Southwick, after being imprisoned for many years in Boston, were released and banished from the city. They made their way back to Shelter Island where they were taken in and cared for by the Sylvester family. Unfortunately, they died from their injuries shortly after arriving and within a day of each other.

THE LORD OF SHELTER.

IN HONOR OF THE MEMORY OF
NATHANIEL SYLVESTER.

Ceremonies at the Recent Unveiling of the
Sylvester Monument on Shelter Island—
The Address and Poetical Tributes.

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

SHELTER ISLAND, N. Y., July 21, 1884.—It was a gala day on the island when the monument to Nathaniel Sylvester, shipmaster, merchant and banker of 200 years ago, was unveiled last week in the presence of five hundred spectators. The exact spot where he was buried is unknown, but his grave was probably in the immediate vicinity of the monument. This stands at the head of Deering Creek, which makes far inland, opposite the town of Greenport. The monu-

1884 ARTICLE BY THE BOSTON DAILY ADVERTISER REPORTING ON THE UNVEILING OF THE MONUMENT TO NATHANIEL SYLVESTER



MARKER ERECTED BY THE NY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, 1932

QUAKER MEETING AREA CONTINUED

Mary Dyer, perhaps the most prominent Quaker to be brutalized, came to Shelter Island for protection after being banished from Massachusetts, but eventually returned to Boston anyway and was hung on Boston Common. The hanging of Mary Dyer marked the beginning of the end of the Puritan theocracy.

By standing up for what they believed was right, the Quakers' bravery "broke the back of resistance to religious freedom in this country for all of us who followed" and in 1662, King Charles II, who had no love for the Puritans after they killed his father, ordered religious persecution in Massachusetts stopped.

On July 18, 1884, a monument to commemorate Nathaniel Sylvester was unveiled on Shelter Island. It's an exact replica of his family's tombs in England and still stands today. It's full of interesting inscriptions, including the dedication on the top marble slab, lists of descendants, the succession of proprietors, and the remembrances of some Quakers. Parts of the inscriptions are hard to read in person, so the full text is provided here.



MARY DYER, WHO TOOK REFUGE ON SHELTER ISLAND AFTER BEING BANISHED FROM MASSACHUSETTS, WALKING TO HER HANGING IN BOSTON AFTER RETURNING ANYWAY

QUAKER MEETING AREA CONTINUED

Engraved into top marble slab:

TO NATHANIEL SYLVESTER, FIRST RESIDENT PROPRIETOR OF THE MANOR OF SHELTER ISLAND, UNDER GRANT OF CHARLES II, A.D. 1666. AN ENGLISHMAN INTREPID, LOYAL TO DUTY, FAITHFUL TO FRIENDSHIP, THE SOUL OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR, HOSPITABLE TO WORTH AND CULTURE, SHELTERING EVEN THE PERSECUTED FOR CONSCIENCE’ SAKE; THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY AND PHOEBE GARDINER HORSFORD, DESCENDANTS OF PATIENCE, DAUGHTER OF NATHANIEL SYLVESTER AND WIFE OF THE HUGUENOT BENJAMIN L’HOMMEDIEU, IN REVERENCE AND AFFECTION FOR THE GOOD NAME OF THEIR ANCESTOR, IN 1884 SET UP THESE STONES FOR A MEMORIAL.

Below the white marble slab:

DESCENT FROM ANNE BRINLEY ON THE FEMALE SIDE.

Thomas Brinley, King’s auditor, married Anne Wase.
Nathaniel Sylvester married Grissell Brinley.
Benjamin L’Hommedieu married Patience Sylvester.
Benjamin L’Hommedieu, 2nd, married Martha Bourne.
Ezra L’Hommedieu married Mary Catherine Havens.
Samuel Smith Gardiner married Mary Catherine L’Hommedieu.

SUCCESSION OF PROPRIETORS.

The Manhanset Tribe
The King. [King James I]
The Earl of Stirling. [William Alexander]
James Farrett.
Stephen Goodyear.
Nathaniel Sylvester.
Giles Sylvester.
Brinley Sylvester.
Thomas Dering.
Sylvester Dering.
Mary Catherine Dering.
Mary Catherine L’Hommedieu.
Samuel Smith Gardiner.

On each of the steps:

South side:

Of the sufferings for conscience’ sake of friends of NATHANIEL SYLVESTER, Most of whom sought shelter here, including GEORGE FOX. Founder of the Society of Quakers, and of his followers, MARY DYER, MARMADUKE STEVENSON, and WILLIAM ROBINSON, WILLIAM LEDDRA, Who were executed on Boston Common.

East side:

LAWRENCE AND CASSANDRA SOUTHWICK,
Despoiled, imprisoned, starved, whipped, banished.
Who fled here to die.

North side:

DANIEL GOULD, bound to the gun-carriage and lashed;
EDWARD WHARTON, “The Much Scourged”;
CHRISTOPHER HOLDER, “The Mutilated”;
HUMPHREY NORTON, “The Branded”;
JOHN ROUS, “The Maimed”;
GILES SYLVESTER “The Champion”;
RALPH GOLDSMITH, “The Shipmaster”;
SAMUEL SHATTUCK of “The King’s Missive”;
THESE STONES ARE A TESTIMONY.

West side:

The Puritan in his pride, overcome by the faith of the Quaker,
gave LEXINGTON AND CONCORD AND BUNKER HILL TO
HISTORY. The Blood and the Spirit of Victor and Vanquished
alike are of the Glory of MASSACHUSETTS.



MONUMENT TO NATHANIEL SYLVESTER. OBTAINED FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

QUAKER MEETING AREA CONTINUED

HOW TO GET THERE

You can visit the monument at the Quaker Meeting Area on the grounds of the Sylvester Manor Farm.

Shelter Island members of the Society of Friends hold their Meeting on Sundays at 10:30 AM. All information.

Look for the [“Quaker Meetings” signpost](#). Drive down the adjacent dirt road with two cement pillars. Open to public.

 [Google Maps link](#)



SIGN MARKING THE ENTRANCE TO THE QUAKER MEETING AREA

[Return to map](#) 

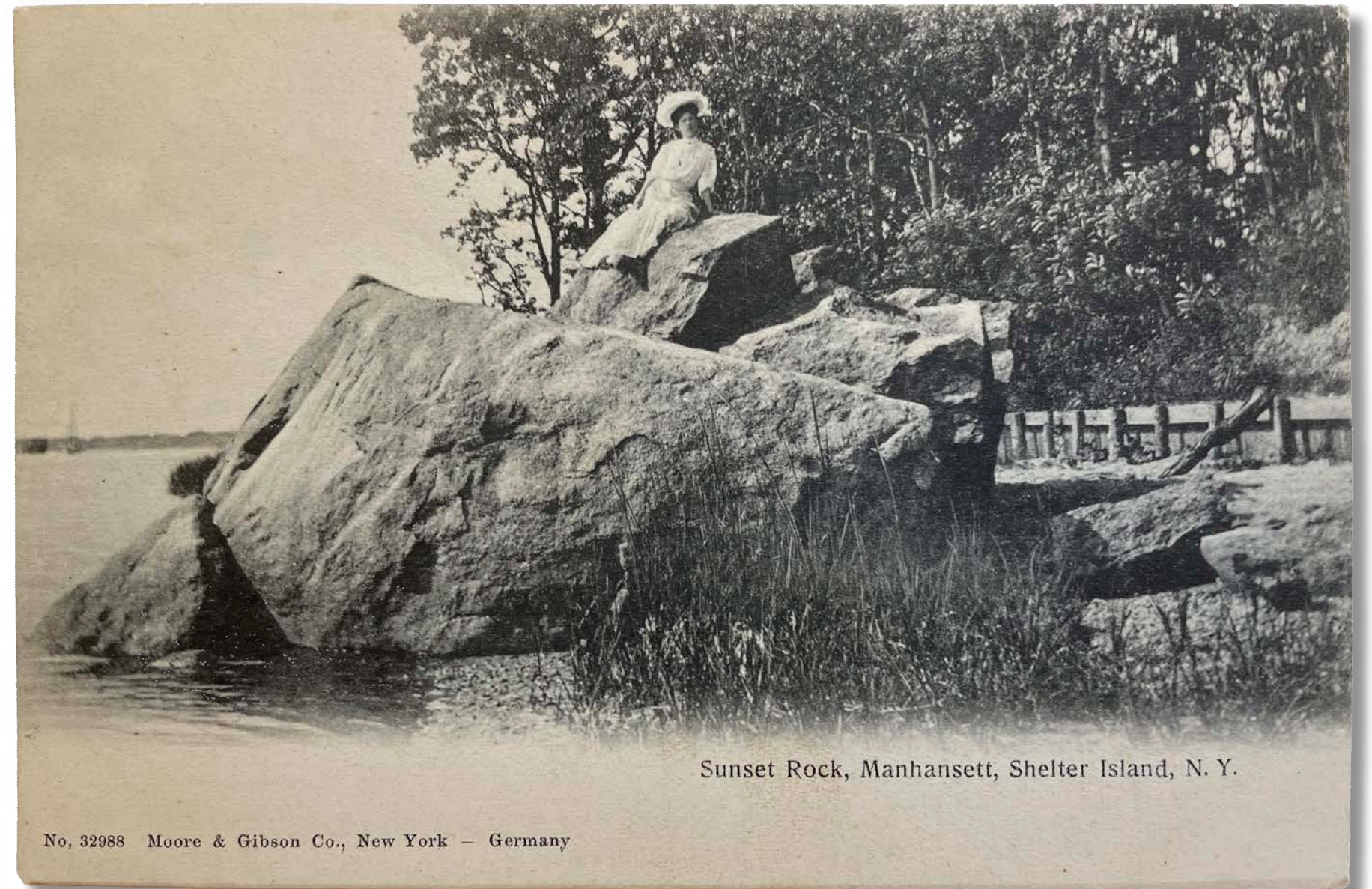
SUNSET ROCK

 [Directions via Google Maps](#)

This is a very special rock rich with history. According to 1932 The History of Shelter Island, by Ralph Duvall, Sunset Rock got its name because it used to be a popular destination for “the Shelter Island ladies to watch the sun going down, reciting poetry and singing songs.”

But long before, and more significantly, it was the throne of Sachem Pogatticut, king of the Manhanset native peoples.

He was there when the first white man visited the island in 1638. Duvall described him as “a very distinguished Indian. In fact, it might be said that Pogatticut was an aristocrat, and belonged to the Royal Family of Indians, for there were four brothers in their family who were Sachems.” In fact, Pogatticut was the Grand Sachem of all the tribes on Long Island.



VICTORIAN WOMAN PERCHED ON SUNSET ROCK, OBTAINED FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

[Return to map](#) 

SUNSET ROCK CONTINUED

In 1905, Nathan J. Cuffee, of the Sag Harbor Montauketts, and Lydia Jocelyn, wife of a missionary to the Sioux, published Lords of the Soil. The opening chapter describes the old chieftain as he viewed the sun setting for the last time from Sunset Rock:

“The date, a day in the month of May, in the year 1654. From his wigwam beneath the shadows of the giant oaks, adjacent to Sunset Rock, upon the shore of Lesser Peconic Bay, an Indian chieftain emerged, a man of commanding mien, and slow but stately step. In form he was erect and matchless, although the frosts of a hundred winters had bleached his once raven locks to snowy whiteness, and his eagle eye gazed unblinkingly at the setting sun as he seated himself upon the pinnacle of the rugged rock that for so many years had been his throne. It was Pogatticut, King of the Manhansets, who had come forth to take a last look at the setting sun, and to bid farewell to the dying day, for ere the luminary should again brighten the eastern horizon the brave soul of the mighty Sachem would be gone to the spirit land.”

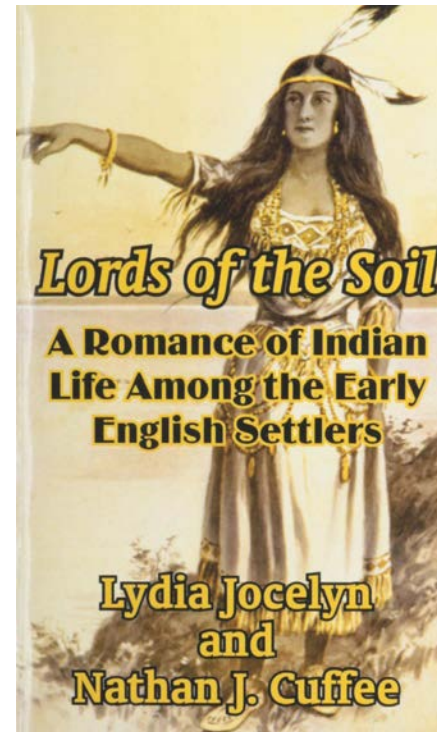


PHOTO OF NATHAN J. CUFFEE, CO-AUTHOR OF LORDS OF THE SOIL.

SUNSET ROCK CONTINUED

Sunset Rock is also said to be near the location where pirate Captain Kidd buried some of his stolen treasures. Supposedly, he came with twenty men to hide the treasure, and when it was done, one by one he cut off their heads to prevent them from disclosing the secret.

HOW TO GET THERE

Sunset Rock is located along the east side of Dering Harbor on the beach. One great view is from the [bridge](#) where Dering Harbor connects with Gardiner's Creek. Watch out for cars, though.

You can also take a path to the beach where [Winthrop Road and Cobbetts Lane meet](#). Once you're on the beach, walk to the right about 500 feet down the beach.

Keep in mind there are three docks coming from private homes that you have to pass. While many consider the land between the historical average high and low tides as public property, there seems to be an ongoing discussion of what this exactly means, especially with rising sea levels, so walk there at your own risk.

Perhaps the best view of the rock is by boat.

 [Google Maps link](#)



18TH CENTURY PORTRAIT OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM KIDD BY SIR JAMES THORNHILL

[Return to map](#) 

KISSING ROCK

[!\[\]\(311e630c32806714146bed03eb4d14ee_img.jpg\) Directions via Google Maps](#)

Another rock, perhaps of slightly less significance, but still notable, is Kissing Rock. I'm sure you can imagine how this beautiful, yet secluded, location got the nickname "Kissing Rock."

It's very easy to get to. It is located on the site of the very first ferry landing in 1793, so it was a priority that a good road led to it.

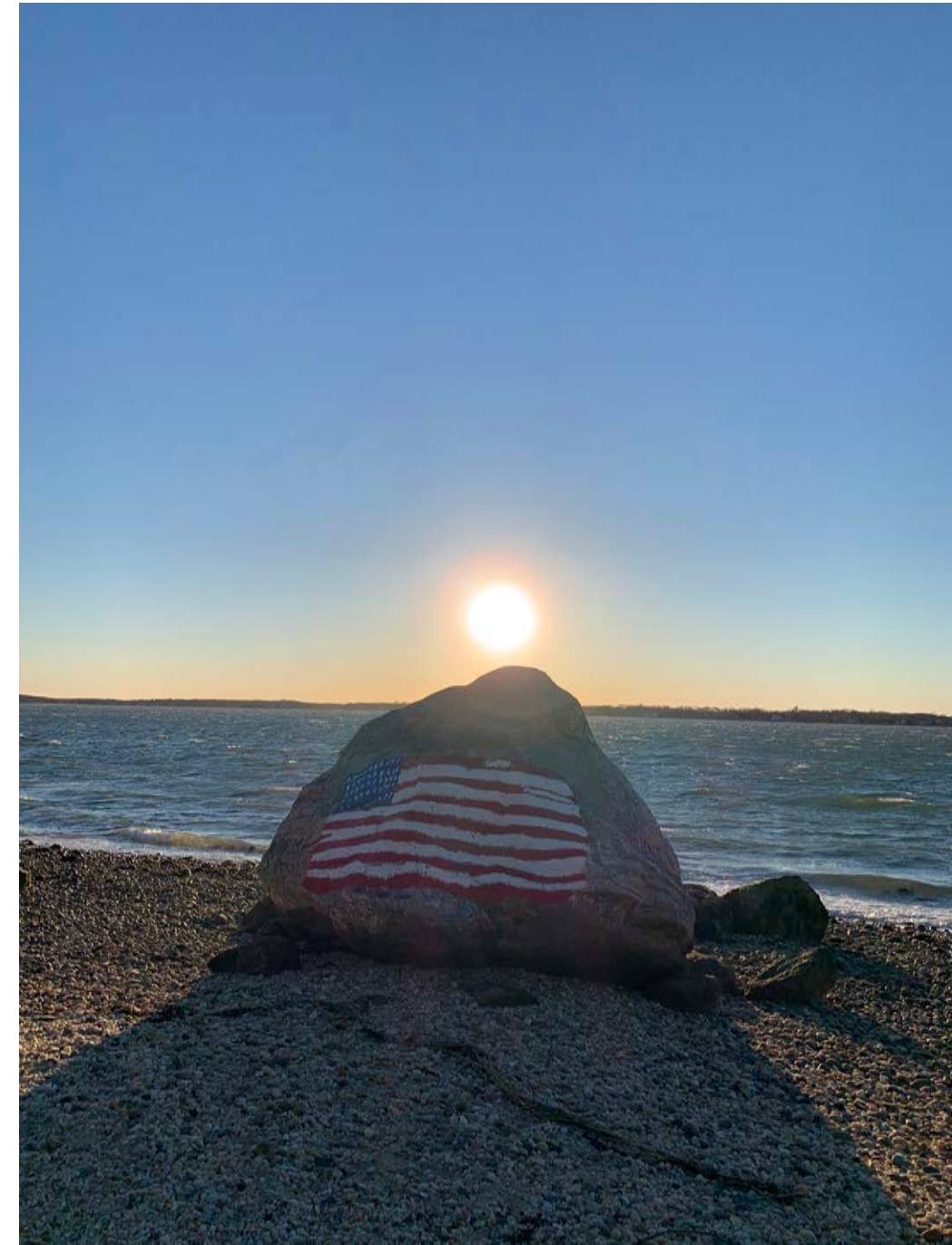
Its location may not seem logical given the ferries that run now are closest to their destinations--Greenport to the north and North Haven to the south. The original ferry actually took passengers and horses to Southold.

After 9/11, someone anonymously painted the boulder with a flag.

HOW TO GET THERE

Kissing Rock is located at the end of Rocky Point Road.

[!\[\]\(79590a370fd576bc4ea1423639c518eb_img.jpg\) Google Maps link](#)



KISSING ROCK COURTESY OF YVETTE ACEVEDO

[Return to map](#) 

THANK YOU FOR EXPLORING!



shelterislandchamber.org

Written and designed by Bob McInnis, [McInnis Digital](#)

[Return to map](#) 