FREEPORT
PAST AND PRESENT, WITH A PROSPECT OF ITS FUTURE.

AUGUST 21-22, 1900.

A HISTORICAL SOUVENIR OF THE SUMMER FESTIVAL OF THE LADIES’ AID SOCIETY.
FREEPORT METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.
DIRECTORY

OF THE

Freeport Methodist Episcopal Church,

FREEPORT, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

REV. JAMES A. MACMILLAN, Pastor. Parsonage adjoining the Church.

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

Regular Meeting Official Board, 1st Monday - 8 P. M.
Sunday School Board Meeting, 4th Monday - 8 P. M.
Union Church Social, 4th Friday - 8 P. M.
Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, 4th Friday - 3 P. M.

SABBATH SERVICES.

Adults' Class Meeting - 9:30 A. M.
Preaching - 10:30 A. M. and 7:45 P. M.
Sunday School - 2:30 P. M.
Epworth League Prayer Meeting - 7 P. M.

WEEKLY MEETINGS.

Ladies' Aid Society, Wednesday - 2:30 P. M.
Regular Prayer Meeting, Thursday - 7:45 P. M.
Meeting of Choir, Friday - 7:45 P. M.
Epworth League Social Meetings, 2d and 4th Fridays - 8:00 P. M.

A cordial invitation is extended to all to meet with us and enjoy our religious and social meetings.

OFFICIAL BOARD.

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WILLIAM G. MILLER, President. WILLIAM E. GOLDER, Secretary.
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CLASS LEADER.

CARMAN PEASELL.
The Ladies' Aid Society of the Freeport M. E. Church extend to our neighbors and friends their heartiest greeting.

The publication of this pamphlet of the History of Freeport is to announce our Summer Festival

TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21 and 22, 1900,

In three Large Tents, corner Ocean Ave. and Fulton St.

To invite you to enjoy the occasion with us, and to purchase at our booths such useful and beautiful articles that we know will attract you there.

Our Entertainment Committee and people urge you to test their ability to make you feel welcome and "at home." It is designed to tell the story of the growth of Freeport, and to inspire in the hearts of all our people a desire to make this village the best, brightest, and most gracious place for resident, sojourner, or visitor, to be found anywhere. This publication will also place our advertising friends in 1,000 homes in this and surrounding territory. May this prove a constant reminder that these friends who have so generously served us here are abundantly able to promptly, honestly and patiently serve you also.

Following are the committees:

**ENTERTAINMENT.**

Mrs. Daniel Barker, Mrs. J. A. Macmillan, Rev. J. A. Macmillan,

**SUPPER.--First Evening.**

Mrs. O. W. Humphrey, Chairman.

Mrs. W. G. Miller, Miss Hattie R. Smith, Mrs. S. R. Smith, Mrs. B. E. Gerst, Mrs. J. J. Randall, Mrs. H. L. Crandall, Mrs. E. F. Cook, Mrs. V. G. Walters, Mrs. L. H. Ross, Mrs. H. R. Smith, Mrs. Joseph Bedell.

**SUPPER.--Second Evening.**

Mrs. Thomas Lucas, Chairman.

Mrs. Leander Barker, Mrs. Howard Daisley, Mrs. R. M. Tryon, Mrs. W. E. Golder, Mrs. Frank Pearsall, Mrs. Sarah A. Davison, Mrs. Morrell Whaley, Mrs. Franklin Bedell, Mrs. Carman Pearsall.

**FANCY TABLE.**

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Mrs. C. L. Wallace, Mrs. G. H. Hammond, Mrs. W. B. Osterhout, Mrs. B. F. Golder, Miss Ida A. Ross, Miss J. C. Ross, Mrs. C. W. Bedell, Mrs. George Wallace, Miss Hattie R. Wallace, Mrs. C. S. Powell, Mrs. Edwin Carman, Mrs. Thomas Lucas, Mrs. J. A. Macmillan.

**DOMESTIC TABLE.**

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Mrs. J. E. Brown, Mrs. G. T. VanRiper, Mrs. Platt Conklin, Mrs. Jesse Conklin, Mrs. William Lewis, Miss Rosanna Baldwin, Mrs. Andus Magnusson, Mrs. Carman Peasell, Mrs. C. B. Raynor, Mrs. J. W. Raynor, Mrs. N. H. Smith, Mrs. J. R. Smith.

**GROCERY TABLE.**

Mrs. Oscar Toombs, Chairman.

Mrs. S. A. Wright, Mrs. Frank Ashdown, Miss Jessie L. Toombs, Mrs. Henry Ashdown.

**CANDY TABLE.**

Mrs. Whitson Colyer, Chairman.

Mrs. Wilbur Raynor, Miss Irene VanRiper, Miss Estelle VanRiper, Miss Nellie Bloomer, Miss Mamie Humphrey, Miss Ada Conklin, Miss Bertha Conklin.

**LEMONADE TABLE.**

Miss Laura J. Brotheridge, Chairman, assisted by her Sunday School Class.

**FRUIT TABLE.**

Mrs. George Wallace.

**ICE CREAM.**

Mr. Walter B. Cozzens.

**BICYCLE CHECKS.**

Mr. George W. Watson.

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Mr. Wilbur Raynor.

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FREEPORT, N. Y.
HISTORY OF FREEPORT.

The history of this community has never been recorded. Yet from the legal documents filed in county offices, the records of our churches and the faithful testimony of living witnesses whose minds repeat the unwritten history of their fathers and what they themselves have seen and know, we are able to write the following history of this community.

ITS SETTLEMENT.

In the Historical Calendar of 1897, (Nov. 16,) we find that Hempstead, L.I., was settled by Rev. Robert Fordham and a party of Englishmen in 1643 and they received a large grant of land or patent from the Dutch Governor, Kieft, in 1644. This party included in its members Rev. Richard Denton, William Rayment, John, Robert and Benjamin Coe, and John Carman. All of these accepted grants of land for settlement and early began the contest for success in their new lands.

South of Hempstead was the "Great South Woods," which extended east and west for some miles near the great bay. Here was the opportunity of these pioneers to find material for their log houses, fuel for the cold winter days and food from this inland sea, protected from the storms of the ocean by a sandy bar and filled with fish and clams. These possibly were the temptations that drew them here.

They purchased in some cases the rights of the Merokes Indians and in other cases contested it; but altogether lived peaceably and with little molestation from them.

As early as 1680 we have this record of the sale of land which we abbreviate:


"Witness my hand and seal this 11th May, 1680.
(Signed.) THOMAS RUSHMER.
In presents of Edward French, Nathaniel Persall."

To picture the life of these early settlers is but to repeat the hardships of every beginning in a new country.

First, a clearing in the forest beside a clear running stream, where was erected the log house. This year by year enlarging from a house garden to a larger spot, until in the passing years a good sized farm had been cleared. Then others came and did as the first settler had done and here and there in the midst of the forest they cleared the way for civilization.

A NEW ERA.

As the eighteenth century advanced, the white man began to display his ingenuity in the use of the water power which flowed uncontrolled down the East Meadow brook. In a crude way he harnessed this force to saw his trees into slabs and grind his grain.

Then the log cabin gave place to a different structure, one more comfortable in appearance, as well as in fact.

At Washburn's Neck, in the Great South Woods, at a spot now definitely known as Ocean and Randall

First School House.

Present School House.
THE FREEPORT BANK.

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CHAUNCEY T. SPRAGUE, Vice-Pres't.
WILLIAM S. HALL, Cashier.

Main St., Freeport, N. Y.

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16 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Ave, there was erected in 1795 by Jacob Bedell, a spacious modern homestead. In 1800 this structure was moved several hundred feet east, where it now stands corner Randall Avenue and Main Street and is the home of R. H. Mayland who has somewhat changed its appearance by alterations. Two large oak trees were planted by Jacob Bedell at the homestead, one of which now remains, the other being destroyed by lightning a few years ago.

About the beginning of the nineteenth century the description of property on Washburn’s Neck was changed in conveyances to Raynor, South Raynortown or Raynortown—nearly the entire section of old Freeport being then in the possession of this family.

This locality then had grown to be a hamlet of a dozen houses on Main street, the road to the bay, where lived those who made their livelihood from the water.

At the head of what is now Freeport creek was the grist and saw mill of Daniel Raynor, very primitive in construction, but from miles around came those who had grain to grind and timber to be sawed. The mill pond here in winter was the great skating park of Raynortown.

Joseph Smart’s mill on Merrick River was at this time, (1837,) manufacturing paper of such quality as to attract the publishers of New York. The first editions of Thompson’s Long Island and Webster’s Speller was printed on paper from this mill.

OLD ROADS.

No roads in the early days went east and west through Raynortown. Fulton street came from the west and stopped at Church Street. You then turned north along Church Street to where the old depot now is, and so along Crooked Avenue, now Broadway, to the Hempstead and Babylon Turnpike. From the point where the first school stood (Main and Church streets) you could go south to the Mill Road at head of present Freeport creek and so east over the Old Mill Road; or you could go along Main street north again toward Hempstead as now. Bay View Avenue and the old Turtlehook Road were the only other roads in this locality. There were a few lanes leading along through farms but no other public highways.

POST OFFICE.

There was no Post Office here in those days. The nearest was at Merrick, one and one-half miles away at the intersection of East Meadow Road and Hemp-
stead and Babylon Turnpike. It was kept by Joseph Smith, father of Nelson and Carman Smith, of this village. This was quite a centre in those days, being on the line of stage travel. The Post Office was first removed to Freeport about 1858. The records fix the date of change of name from Raynortown to Freeport in 1858.

**SCHOOLS IN FREEPORT.**

Early in the century, how early is not certain, perhaps 1820. The farmers agreed to open a school house for their children, and on the site of Charles P. Smith's drug store the little one-story school house was erected. In 1833 when some of our friends attended, it had a shelf or desk of pine built along each side-wall in front of which was constructed a bench of rough slabs with peg legs. There was also a platform at the end of the room from which the teacher surveyed the faces of his "hopefuls."

In winter an iron plate stove glowed in the centre with the logs generously piled in to make a roaring fire.

The boys played the usual tricks and received the usual dressing down. Perhaps all told 50 children attended.

The gradual growth, however, as the years came and went, made larger rooms necessary.

About 1852 the second school in Raynortown was opened. It was built on a lot on west side of Main street, near Fulton, where it now stands. This building accommodated 203 scholars in 1858 and, by raising another story, answered its purpose crudely until 1875.

At this date the need of larger and better facilities was imminent. No extensions could well be made and after a struggle to convince the people of their need, a piece of ground was purchased on Pine street, where a commodious district school was erected. This was sufficient for 13 years when alterations were necessary for this building also and in 1888 these were completed. Scarcely five years had elapsed when by the rapid growth of Freeport the building was again taxed to give accommodation to all who applied.

It was a cold night, January 10, 1883, that the writer was coming to Freeport on the 11 o'clock train when the brakeman remarked on leaving Baldwins that there appeared to be a fire at Freeport. The heavens were ablaze with the red glow.

It was a beautiful but awful sight as you approached to see the tall posts of the school house—all that then remained standing—blazing upright sticks. There was no protection from fire except the Hook and Ladder Company which of course was powerless in such a fire. To save the adjoining houses the whole populace was out en masse, snow-balling the buildings, and thus the melting snow kept the sparks from igniting. This fire accomplished three things for Freeport: A commodious school, a water works and a fire department, though not all at once, but the people were agreed. So the fourth school was completed in 1893, with ten rooms, accommodating 500 pupils, and today it is necessary to rent two rooms in a store adjacent, to accommodate the 100 pupils more.

It is proper to mention also that in the days when Freeport gave only the rudimentary education in its district school, the Rev. Marcus Burr of the Presby.
terian Church opened a private school known as the Freeport Academy. Upon the retirement of Rev. Mr. Burr in 1872 a young man took up the work whose name is very dear to the hearts of Freeport people. Though only a few years he continued it before he entered a mercantile pursuit, his impressions left upon the minds of our best people of today have moulded them into better men and women. We refer to the late William Foreman.

**THE CHURCHES.**

**EARLY MISSIONARY WORK.**

Though far from civilization, even in the earliest settlement the dwellers in the "Great South Woods" were not neglected in religious attention; for traveling Quaker missionaries went from house to house leaving the truth in word and example. So zealous were they that Gov. Peter Stuyvesant was appealed to, and endeavored to supplant their labors by those of his own choice, the Dutch Presbyterian.

**METHODIST CHURCH.**

The first actual record of Christian work in Freeport is the statement in the M. E. Church minutes from the lips of Rev. Thomas Birdsall, an aged local preacher in years gone by that he was converted in 1813 in Raynortown, in a class lead by Parker Baldwin.

The home of Willet Raynor was in the early days the "preaching place," though William B. Raynor is no doubt the father of active Methodism in this community. He was born 1801, converted 1823 and appointed class leader 1829.

In 1833 a small store was purchased on the west side of Hempstead and Babylon turnpike, south of present Seaman avenue, and the first church in Raynortown district was opened for worship. It was known as the Sand Hill Church, though some designate it Sand Hole Church to distinguish it from the old Sand Hill Church at Rockville Centre. The Trustees elected June 11, 1833, were Willet B. and William B. Raynor, William Smith, Jackson Post and Jarvis Combs.

For twenty-five years services were held in this little building. They were presided over by the local preachers and exhorters and the circuit preacher. In 1858 most of the congregation had removed or located in the settlement of Raynortown proper, now "Old Freeport," and here the Trustees purchased a site on Main street where Morris Miller's dry goods store now is, and erected the church shown on 5th page. This building was enlarged in 1877 by an extension of fifteen feet and otherwise altered. It was a comfortable church home; but in 1890 it again proved inadequate for the needs of the people, and the present church was planned.

A large piece of land was purchased on Pine street, between Grove and Church streets, and here was completed and dedicated, free of debt, July, in 1891, the present modern church shown on 5th page.

Many faithful pastors have served the people, zealous for the Master's cause, not least of which is the present one, Rev. James A. Macmillan, who began his work here last April.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**

In the little school house, before described, which stood at the junction of Church and Main streets, the Rev. Sylvester Woodbridge, of Hempstead Presbyterian Church, began in the year 1839 Sunday afternoon preaching services. After Sunday School, which was held just before, the people would stand about the doorway looking up the road for the little white horse and rig of the coming preacher. When they came in sight, they marched solemnly back into the school and were quietly seated ready for the sermon.

At a meeting held April 8, 1840, a resolution was passed to build a church; and on October 13, the Presbyterian society was incorporated and Thomas Carman, Jr., Sylvanus Bedell and Reuben Pine were elected Trustees.
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in the latest style at reasonable prices.
A lot was purchased and the building erected on the east side of Main street south of Mr. Andrew Rhodes’ house. The picture on 6th page shows the structure as it now is and then was except that the roof has been raised a little to add one story. It now stands on the west side of Main street where it was moved about 1860. Rev. Mr. Woodbridge was grieved because the people were careless of the services of God’s house. They even pitched quoits, ran horses and ploughed in the fields in sight of the church. His appeals to them were of little avail. Rev. F. Merrill, who succeeded him in the work of the pastorate, tried a new plan. He invited all the young people to meet at his house to form a singing class, which he taught, and so won the hearts of the people. He was the first stationed preacher, a faithful man, and left the moral tone of Raynortown far above the level at which he found it. The present Presbyterian Church was completed May 13, 1860, at a cost of $5,255. From this edifice standing second in the picture the first church bells rang, inviting the people to God’s house.

The Chapel, the first building in the picture, was erected, a gift to the church by Mrs. George W. Bergen in memory of her mother, Elizabeth Carman, about 1879.

Rev. K. P. Ketcham, the pastor, is a faithful, earnest man of God, devoted to his work.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Church of the Transfiguration, a mission of the Cathedral at Garden City, was started by Canon Schultz.

The first services were held in Opera Hall in 1893, where they continued to worship until 1894, when the parish house they now occupy was erected. Lay readers conducted the services generally until 1897, when the first clergyman, Rev. James R. Smith, was called to the work. He was compelled to resign because of ill health in 1898, and the Rev. Arthur Lowndes, who is now in charge, began his labors here.

They have a large and handsome site at the south-east corner of Pine street and Long Beach avenue, where the parish house now is, and the day will not be distant when a larger church and rectory will be required.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

The First Baptist Church of Freeport was organized on October 19, 1890, with nine members. In the autumn of 1889 Mr. Charles Edwards, of Rockville Centre Church, established a mission at Freeport, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Ryder. At a meeting held at Mr. and Mrs. Miller’s, it was resolved to establish a Baptist Church in Freeport. A hall was hired, and services were held, the attendance being small, but the growth of the congregation has gradually increased. The church has been served by faithful and efficient clergymen. We are hopeful that at an early date an edifice will be erected to accommodate the growing membership.

CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The Catholic Church is situated on Pine street, between Grove street and Ocean avenue. The parish originally formed part of the mission of Rockville Centre. Rev. Thomas Carroll in 1895 found eighteen Catholics at Freeport. The first services were held on the Christmas morning of 1897, in house of William Dougherty on Fulton street. These services were discontinued. Sunday School organized in the house of Mr. Jas. F. Haggerty in spring of 1898. Services were again continued in Village Hall during winter of ’98 and summer of ’99. At this time there were about 75 Catholics in attendance. In November of ’99, Freeport was transferred to care of Rev. William B. Farrell, of Hempstead. Services were held in Willis’ Hall from November, 1899, to June, 1900. The new church was begun in April, 1900, and opened for services the first Sunday in July. Church dedicated by Rt. Rev. C. E. McDonnell, D.D., Bishop of Brooklyn, September 4, 1900.
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MODES OF TRAVEL.

To get to Raynortown from Brooklyn in ye old days, the stage coach with its uncertain connections and delays occupied a good part of the day. In the '40s the L. I. R. R. had a road to Hempstead, the old-fashioned tub-top smokestack engine burning wood for fuel.

It was not until 1868 that the South Side R. R. was opened. The management of this enterprise, though contested in every step by the farmers, was without doubt their greatest benefactor.

THE COUNTRY HOTEL.

The country Hostelry or Tavern of ye olden time was not so much for a comfort to the traveler as a place of amusement and entertainment of the community, where "frolicks" were wont to be held.

It would have served a good purpose had it avoided the sale of liquors, but like the country store, here also it was indispensible.

Corner Main street and Broadway, opposite Ross and Randall's office, there stands the building now occupied as residences by James Mead. It is the old hostelry kept in the '30's by Benjamin Smith. Here gathered in ye old days the lads and lasses whose feet made time to the tune of colored Townsend's fiddle. The latter was a quaint old character in Raynortown and made an easy living by the drawing of his bow.

Some difference between the hotels of those days and our beautiful hotels of today. The Woodcleft Inn, owned by Randall & Miller, built in 1897, situated at the Woodcleft channel, accommodating 150 guests with every comfort for their convenience and pleasure.

The Crystal Lake House located in Woodcleft, midway between the village and the water, erected in 1899. From its spacious varandas you look across the meadows and bay to the ocean and enjoy the healthful, cool breeze. Here 150 guests find wholesome comfort and entertainment under the management of A. E. and E. P. Frost.
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saplings when Raynortown contained scarcely a dozen houses. Here can upwards of 200 guests find gracious comfort and health. Its spacious shade grounds and tier upon tier of piazzas are a boon to those who would rest. Not more inviting however than the welcome and care Messrs. Humphrey and VanRiper extend to their guests.

In all these as in olden days our village finds entertainment and pleasure.

**THE OLD COUNTRY STORE.**

As far back as the memory of my informant, 1837, Raynortown had two general stores. The larger of the two was that kept in the building still standing in what is now Pine street, between Church and Main streets. It was kept by Riley Raynor and John Mead. Its stock was not large but answered the people’s necessities: dry goods, boots and shoes, hardware, etc., and last but not least, we are sorry to say, the indispensable annihilator, liquors. Here indeed can Freeport find the vast change of sentiment in the intervening years, and rejoice that an evil once so commonly handled and abused, is now despised and relegated to one class of business and not only put under the restrictions of the government, but the sentiment of the people of even those who use it. May the day soon come when public sentiment will have taken one more step and banish it altogether.

**FREEPORT VILLAGE.**

By the opening of large farms into streets and avenues and building plots in 1885, which will be mentioned later, the growth of Freeport was so rapid as to make it desirable for a local government. On Saturday evening, June 18, 1892, twenty citizens of Freeport met at VanRiper’s Hall and discussed village incorporation. William Foreman was elected chairman, Charles L. Wallace, secretary, and William G Miller, S. R. Smith, Carman Cornelius, George Wallace, H. P. Libby, Hiram R. Smith, Platt Conklin were appointed a committee to take steps to incorporate the village of Freeport. By a vote of the citizens of the territory incorporation was accomplished. The first officers were Carman Cornelius, President; Raynor R. Smith, Henry Mead. H. Asa Nichols, Trustees. Second year, William G. Miller, President; Raynor R. Smith, Smith Cox and Isaac VanRiper, Trustees. Mr. Miller was re-elected five times as President, with but slight changes in the Trustees, S. Foster Sprague, Daniel Morrison and John K. Eldridge serving. The present officers are: George Wallace, President; Wm. H. Patterson, Wm. Raynor, S. Foster Sprague, and Raynor R. Smith, Trustees.

The Fire Department of Freeport was organized October 20, 1893. Excelsior Hook and Ladder Com-
company had been doing excellent service since 1874. It at once became a part of the new department, which consisted of one steam fire engine, one hook and ladder company and three hose companies. The department officers and men give entirely gratuitous service. The excellence of their discipline and the promptness of their work has so many times been exemplified in actual service that we have the utmost confidence in their ability to fight fire.

The need of a water system had for some time been the topic of conversation of our people and by their vote to build a water works plant at a cost of about $40,000 the water department was established in 1893. The first tap was put in July 24, 1894, and the comfort of this splendid service is the pride of our village today.

For the want of a better service the streets of Freeport were lighted by large oil street lamps in June, 1894. This was not intended as a permanent enterprise and though it greatly improved our village, it needed but the request of our Village Board that the village erect an electric light plant in connection with the water system, to awake all the people to interest in the cause. At the special election the Board were instructed to erect such a plant at a cost not to exceed $20,000. The first arc light was turned on May 23, 1898.

The incorporation of Freeport, making possible the establishment of the two necessities to comfort, light and water, together with our admirable public school has done more to enhance the value of Freeport as a place of residence than ten times the cost of the enterprise spent in any other way.

REAL ESTATE.

OLD FREEPORT.

In the early days to own property in Raynor-town was generally to die possessed of it. The first enterprise or effort to sell small plots was made by Mr. Charles L. Wallace in 1882. He advised Mr. Daniel Raynor, who tried long to sell his farm but failed to do so, to cut streets through the property and sell it in small parcels. Bedell street, Raynor street, Smith street, were opened and the property sold for three times the original price of the farm.

In this section on Archer street is Elora Farm the home of Mr. George Wallace, President of the village. Mr. Wallace came to Freeport in boyhood and
Cottage of Miss R. H. Brown, occupied by Mr. Charles E. Cozzens, builder, of whose careful art this house is a product; Bergen Place, Randall Park.

grew with it. He has been actively connected with the public affairs of the county. Served the people in the Assembly and was the framor and advocate of the law that separated Nassau from Queens County. He is the senior member of the firm of Wallace & Smith, Attorneys, of Jamaica and Rockville Centre.

RANDALL PARK.

John J. Randall moved to Freeport in the spring of 1885, and purchased of D. Wesley Pine the cottage now owned by Mrs. Verity, on the corner of Fulton Street and Ocean Avenue.

During the summer he purchased the farm of E. A. and John R. Bedell, and portions of the farms of John Mead, Robert Porterfield and Samuel Smith, comprising about one hundred acres. The land was laid out in streets, and otherwise beautified by the setting out of cedar, spruce and maple trees, and is now known as Randall Park. The only building on the property at that time was the "Old Homestead," erected by Jacob Bedell, which has been here-tofore described. Sixty suburban residences have been erected here. This was the first large enterprise toward the making of New Freeport.

He has since purchased what is known as East Randall Park, the farms of D. Graffin, S. M. Smith and a portion of M. Southard’s, comprising about forty acres, which was laid out, and on which numerous cottages have been erected.

Since that time there have been added to the Park the lands of A. Tredwell, Daniel Smith and Charles Bedell, which have added largely to the area of the Park.

Mr. Randall’s beautiful residence Woodbine Cottage is on Lena Ave., in the northern section of the Park.
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Carman Pearsall, Carpenter,
FREEPORT, L. I.
WOODCLEFT.

That section of Freeport known as Woodcleft extending from the Merrick Road on the north to Woodcleft channel on the south, was opened up for building purposes in the spring of 1890. This property formerly comprised the farms of the late S. S. Carman and adjoining lands known as the Whaley and Southard sections; also the farms of Elisha Raynor, Elbert Cox, D. W. Pine, John Holloway and others. The streets in most instances were laid out five feet wider than the ordinary streets and carefully graded. The subdivision of plots was made of good proportions, the wisdom of which has been apparent in the development that has followed, which includes the erection of over fifty modern homes.

Most of the residences are occupied throughout the year by substantial citizens of the village.

The completion of the enterprise that gave us the Woodcleft channel, marked a period of general prosperity here. This work was done at a great expense by private parties and opened up a waterway of sufficient depth to be of service at low tide, one hundred feet wide and seven-eighths of a mile long, connecting directly with the waters of Hempstead Bay. On its surface may be seen in the summer time more than one hundred pleasure boats, launches, etc. Also a double-decked side-wheel steamboat making four regular trips to the beach every week day throughout the summer season. Other improvements may follow in the near future still greater than any yet seen.

Of this enterprise and this section of our village our people are justly proud.

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Residence of Wm. G. Miller, of Randall & Miller, owners of Woodcleft, and Architects and Builders of Brooklyn. Ocean Avenue, Woodcleft.

The home of Mr. Lewis H. Ross, of Ross & Randall, is situated on Archer Street, Woodcleft. It was the first house erected on Woodcleft property.

Residence of Mr. James Dean, Ocean Ave., Woodcleft. Mr. Dean’s collection of firearms, ancient and modern, are his pride and worthy so.

The South Side Observer was established in Freeport in 1869 by George Wallace. It was later moved to Rockville Centre, where it is now published. The whole South Side is its territory, and for years it has furnished weekly clean, readable news for its readers. It has been active in all matters relating to the welfare of the district.

The Nassau County Review was established at Freeport in November, 1896, by Charles D. Smith, as the Queens County Review, and upon the separation of the county its title was changed. It
issues every Friday a creditable, newsy paper, filled with the incidents of this village and the surrounding territory and the country at large. It speaks promptly in behalf of all good work and the village is fortunate in having here this faithful advocate.

FREEPORT.

To prospect of the future is a dangerous endeavor generally, yet in the light of past growth and present accomplishments it is made easy in this case. Freeport is destined to be the largest town of winter and summer homes within 25 miles of New York. Why?

It is within one hour of the city and the nearest place readily accessible to the waters of the Great South Bay.

It is directly north of the end of Long Beach, to which point from Freeport must soon be made a highway, opening up a beautiful drive along the Ocean to Long Beach and so to Rockville Centre, a loop of eighteen miles. It will be the farthest point in years, profitable to trolley enterprise.

The character of its people, the substantial construction of its public improvements, and its homes are simply to be noted to indicate the prospect of its growth and beauty in the near future.

CLOSING.

In closing we would acknowledge the kind assistance in the preparation of this history of Mr. A. J. Smart, Mr. Carman Peasell, Mr. Valentine Smith and all others who have so willingly placed their memories at our disposal; Messrs. Albin N. Johnson and M. J. Brown for their search of the county records for early history;

The Photo-Electrotype Engraving Co., of 232 Williams street, New York City, who have with such deftness and art produced the photographs and drawings herein;

The South Side Observer for the skill and carefulness with which they have printed this publication in the time allowed them;

The generosity of our advertisers who by their patronage have made it possible for the Society to publish this story of Freeport, and to our friends whose interest in our village has been such as to permit the display of their homes.

We regret exceedingly that scarcity of space has necessitated the concentration of our subject and the leaving out of much very interesting old incidents of Washburn's Neck and Raynortown.

For the Publishing Committee,

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