

THE HISTORY OF BALDWIN by Jean Goodwin

GOOD MORNING. TODAY IS THE FIRST OF OUR 200TH ANNIVERSARY MINITALKS.

BALDWIN – HOW WE BECAME KNOWN AS BALDWIN

BALDWIN AS WE KNOW IT TODAY ENCOMPASSED A NUMBER OF SMALL SETTLEMENT AREAS.

MANY OF THE SETTLERS IN THE AREA WE NOW KNOW AS HEMPSTEAD AND BALDWIN CAME ACROSS THE SOUND TO LONG ISLAND FROM CONN. AND MASS. BECAUSE OF RELIGIOUS AND BOUNDARY DISPUTES

IN 1643 A TREATY WAS SIGNED WITH THE ISLAND INDIANS FOR A STRIP OF LAND BETWEEN THE SOUND ON THE NORTH AND THE SEA ON THE SOUTH WHICH INCLUDED HEMPSTEAD PLAINS.

COLONIZATION BEGAN THE FOLLOWING YEAR AND AMONG THE FIRST TO SETTLE IN THE AREA WERE DESCENDANTS OF THE FOUNDERS OF OUR CHURCH. IN 1664 HEMPSTEAD DECLARED ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM CONN. AS WELL AS HOLLAND.

JOHN HICKS AND EDWARD SPRAGUE REALIZED HOW IMPORTANT THE WATER AND SALT MARSHES WERE AND MOVED DOWN FROM HEMPSTEAD PLAINS TO THE COASTAL AREA SOUTH OF OUR PRESENT MERRICK RD. BETWEEN PARSONAGE CREEK ON THE WEST AND MILBURN CREEK ON THE EAST. THIS AREA BECAME KNOWN AS HICK'S NECK.

LONG ISLAND IN THE 1700'S CONSISTED OF SMALL FARMING VILLAGES, FAMILY FARMS, GRIST MILLS AND SAW MILLS. ALONG THE COASTAL AREAS FISHING WAS A BIG INDUSTRY AND SHIPYARDS WERE ESTABLISHED FOR TRADING TO N.Y., NEW ENGLAND AND THE CARIBBEAN.

AS EACH SETTLEMENT GREW, THE AREA ASSUMED THE NAME

OF THE DEVELOPER. PINE'S MILL WAS THE NAME OF THE 5 ACRE GRISTMILL ON MILBURN CREEK ESTABLISHED BY JOHN PINE. SOME OTHER SETTLEMENTS WERE CALLED MILBURN CORNERS, LOTT'S LANDING, SODOM, BETHEL AND SOUTH HEMPSTEAD.

THE FIRST ROADS LED TO THE MILL AND FROM IT TO THE FARMS, TO THE BAY OR TO THE VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD WHICH WAS THE FIRST CENTER OF WHITE CIVILIZATION. THESE EARLY ROADS EVOLVED FROM FOOTPATHS AND FOREST TRAILS.

AFTER THE REVOLUTION IN 1776 HICK'S NECK BEGAN TO PROSPER. ROADS IMPROVED AND TRAVEL BY STAGE INCREASED. PROBABLY WOOL IN THE AREA BROUGHT INDUSTRY TO HICKS NECK. A CARDING MILL WAS SET UP ON MILBURN CREEK. MERCHANTS AND TRADESMEN BEGAN TO EMERGE.

LOTT'S LANDING LOCATED ON MILBURN CREEK JUST NORTH OF TODAY'S ATLANTIC AVE WAS LARGE ENOUGH SO THAT SIX VESSELS COULD BE MOORED AT ONE TIME AT THE WHARVES. LOTT'S INN WAS A POPULAR STOPPING PLACE ACROSS FROM THE LANDING, ANOTHER POPULAR PLACE WAS MILBURN INN AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF MERRICK RD. AND MILBURN AVE. IN ADDITION TO THE HOTEL IT WAS USED FOR A COURTROOM AND A JAIL IN THE BASEMENT. ACROSS THE STREET WAS ANOTHER INN. THIS AREA BECAME KNOWN AS MILBURN CORNERS.

THE OTHER TRADING CENTER AT THE CORNER OF GRAND AVE. FOXHURST AND MERRICK RD. WAS CALLED BALDWIN CORNERS NAMED FOR THE COMMUNITY MINER MAN I WILL MENTION LATER.

THE TOWN NAMES OF SODOM AND BETHEL SEEM TO BE INTERCHANGEABLE FOR THE AREA JUST SOUTH OF THE HEMPSTEAD PLAINS AND NORTH OF WHAT IS NOW SUNRISE HIGHWAY. IN 1810 A LOCAL FARMER CHRISTIAN SNEDECKER BEGAN CONDUCTING RELIGIOUS CLASSES IN AN OLD BUILDING ON HIS FATHERS FARM. THIS 20 X 50 STRUCTURE BECAME KNOWN AS BETHEL CHAPEL AND WAS THE FIRST ESTABLISHED HOUSE OF WORSHIP IN THE AREA AND THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH WE ARE ATTENDING RIGHT NOW. THIS STRUCTURE ALSO SERVED AS A SCHOOL FOR THE BETHEL AREA. IN JUNE 1839, THIRTY THREE YEARS AFTER STARTING THE CHAPEL, THE TRUSTEES MET TO INCORPORATE THE METHODIST

EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND THE CONGREGATIONS OF BETHEL AND HICK'S NECK. EVER SINCE IT HAS BEEN A METHODIST CHURCH.

NO COMMUNITY CAN DO WELL WITHOUT MANY OF ITS CITIZENS HELPING TO MAKE IT A GOOD PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE. THOMAS AND SUSAN BALDWIN A 6TH GENERATION MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY, WERE AMONG THE VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE WHO DID MANY KIND AND HELPFUL THINGS FOR THE GOOD OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND WERE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH. HE FARMED THE LAND, OPERATED A SAW MILL ON BALDWIN POND [NOW SILVER LAKE POND] AND OWNED THE BALDWIN INN ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF MERRICK RD. HE ALSO HAD A GENERAL STORE CALLED T. BALDWIN &SON FOR MANY YEARS.

IN 1866 THOMAS BALDWIN GAVE PROPERTY ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF MERRICK RD. TO THE METHODIST CHURCH TO BUILD A PARSONAGE AND CHURCH. AGAIN IN 1871 HE GAVE TO THE METHODIST CHURCH, THE LAND ON WHICH OUR PRESENT CHURCH IS LOCATED. HE DIED IN 1872 AT THE AGE OF 77

ONE OF HIS SONS FRANCIS B. BALDWIN BUILT MANY FINE HOMES INCLUDING HIS OWN WHICH OVERLOOKED THE LAKE KNOWN NOW AS LOFT POND. HE WAS A CLOTHING MAKER, ARCHITECT AND SERVED IN PUBLIC OFFICE. WHEN THE CHURCH NEEDED TO EXPAND HE, LIKE HIS FATHER, GAVE PROPERTY TO THE CHURCH. HE LIVED UNTIL 1890

THE BALDWIN FAMILY HAD DONE SO MUCH FOR HICK'S NECK THAT IN 1855 THE VILLAGE WAS NAMED - BALDWINSVILLE CHANGED LATER -TO BALDWINS - AND IN 1897- TO BALDWIN. BALDWIN AS WE KNOW IT TODAY INCORPORATES ALL OF HICK'S NECK, PINES'S MILL, MILBURN CORNERS, LOTT'S LANDING, SODOM AND BETHEL.

WE GIVE THANKS TO ALL THESE PEOPLE THAT WORKED SO HARD TO DEVELOP BALDWIN AND MAKE POSSIBLE A HOUSE OF WORSHIP FOR US TO PRAISE GOD TODAY.