

Aibonita's Bachelorette Gives a Rose in 1911

By Martha Young Edwards

HISTORY STORIES

Reflections of Pine Knoll Shores

Additional posts on this topic appear on the Pine Knoll Shores History Committee blog at pineknollhistory.blogspot.com.

In 1908 Oscar Kissam bought two tracts of land on Bogue Banks from a B.J. Coleman. These two tracts of land were put together in a section of Pine Knoll Shores known as Aibonita, which is recorded in Map Book 8, Page 518, located at the Carteret County Register of Deeds office.

Oscar Kissam was an interesting fellow, and his daughter Ella even more colorful. They were from Halesite, LI, NY, which is part of the town of Huntington, NY. While he was "promoting his real estate" adventures on Bogue Banks, she accompanied him there, as did invited guests, as reported in the *Sheboygan Daily Press* on August 31, 1911:

PREFERS HIS KID BROTHER, THROWS OVER "OCTO" FOR A "SEPTA"

Rejected Suitor Quits His Old Haunts

New York—Courtied by two brothers, both widowers, one 76 years old, the other 83, Miss Ella Kissam of Halesite, LI has chosen the younger and in a few days, it is announced, she will become the bride of Capt. Charles E. Sammis of Huntington, LI, NY. A license has been issued by Stanton E. Sammis, Town Clerk of Huntington.

The rejected suitor, Rinaldo Sammis, is so downcast it is said, that he quit his ancient haunts on the north shore* and has returned to the umbrageous section of Freehold, N.J.

Miss Kissam is only 35 and a prospective heiress. She was long sought by eligible bachelors and widowers even younger than herself, but her heart soon inclined to the two Sammises. When the grizzled skipper and his brother visited the Kissams several months ago in their winter home in Morehead City, N.C. [as the land area of Bogue Banks was known] it was known to their friends the brothers would not return north until one had won the hand of Miss Ella.

Though the Captain is fairly well to do, Rinaldo has more money. Land he owns was bought in a suburban real estate boom. His cornfields have been cut into building lots and friends refer to him as the "Farmer Millionaire."

Oscar Kissam, father of the bride-to-be, was called "The Dynamite Boss of L.I." because of his extensive operations as a contractor. When the two Sammises went to Morehead City, they were the best of friends and they bantered each other on their expectation. But when they came back to the

north and Rinaldo heard the news from the Captain, it is said the loser left the train at the first stopping place and waited for another one.

The Captain's friends at Huntington are getting ready to serenade him.

The account of their marriage was reported in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* of July 27, 1911. "Captain Charles Sammis, 76, married Ella Elizabeth Kissam, 35, at his Woolsley Ave. home in Huntington." They had developed this relationship while at the Kissam winter home in N.C. where Mr. Kissam was promoting real estate there. Neighbors were rejoicing in the happiness of the couple."

It seems to me the stories of "The Bachelorette" have been of interest for a long time. I hope you enjoyed the old Pine Knoll Shores tale with a bachelorette connection. Oscar Kissam sold the Aibonita land to many of his friends from Halesite, and my grandfather, William G. Young, was one of those friends—and that is how I have been afforded the wonder of being here. At this writing I do not know the location of the Kissam's home in Aibonita.

*Huntington, L.I., N.Y. is on the north shore of Long Island and was often referred to as just the north shore.

PKS Virtual Turkey Trot

(Continued from page 1)

7. A Christmas decoration anywhere in Pine Knoll Shores
8. Something in bloom anywhere in Pine Knoll Shores
9. A picture of an American Flag anywhere in Pine Knoll Shores (participants didn't need to be pictured with the flag)

Thank you to all who participated in what we hope is the first and last Virtual Turkey Trot. We hope to see you in person next year for the 14th Annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning.

Please see the Town Crier pages in this issue for pictures from this year's event.

Reflective Address Signs Available



Minutes matter in an emergency. To help medical, fire and police responders find your home as quickly as possible, the Pine Knoll Shores Fire Auxiliary is making reflective address signs available. For a donation of \$20, signs that meet the specifications set out by town ordinance will be made up by a fireman on duty. A post is available for an additional \$10, and a fireman will install it in the proper location for an additional \$10. Visit the public safety building at 314 Salter Path Road to order your sign.