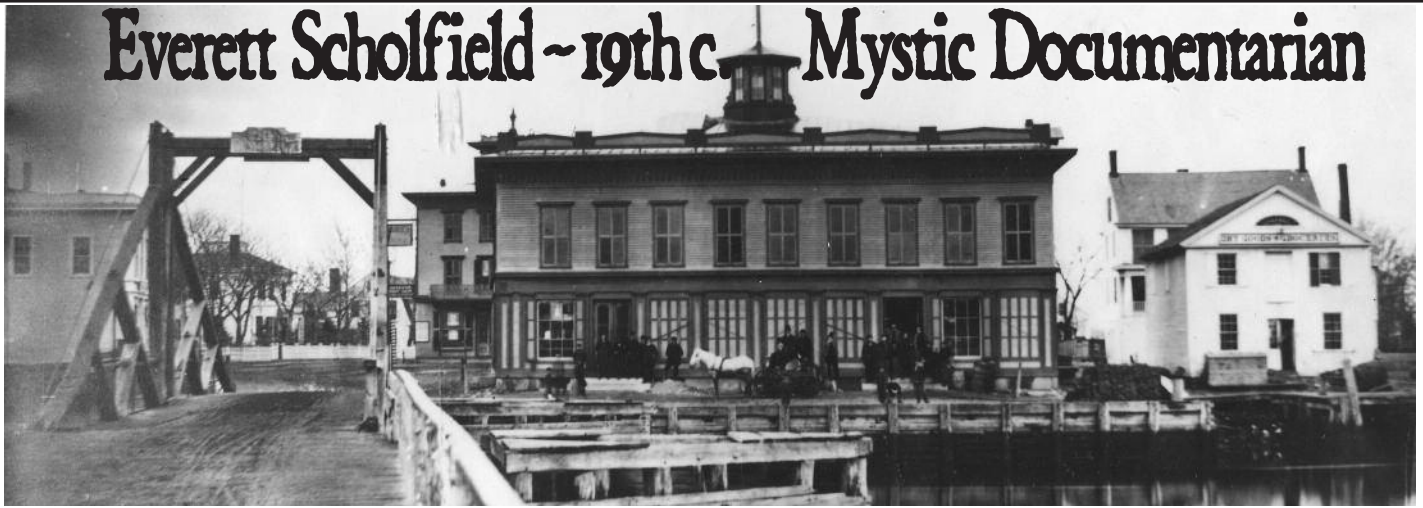




the PORTERSVILLE PRESS

www.mystichistory.org • vol. xxxvii, issue v • march-april 2011

Everett Scholfield ~ 19th c. Mystic Documentarian



An Everett Scholfield photo looking east over the iconic Mystic Bridge in its pre-1920 wooden iteration. Photo from MRHS archives.

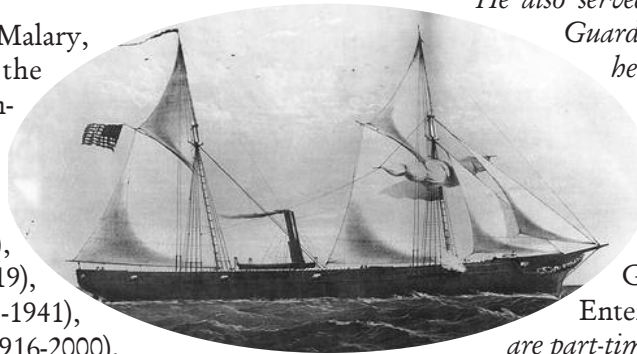
Please join us on March 23, 2011 at 7:30pm in the Mystic Congregational Church fellowship hall for Bill Petersen's presentation on local 19th century photographer, Everett Augustus Scholfield. Born in Lowell, MA in 1843, Scholfield learned the photography trade from his father, putting his skills to use when he established a studio in Mystic River in 1866. He had various business partnerships, including one with the equally renowned George E. Tingley; traveled to St. Croix and the West Indies with his art; had business studios in Putnam and New London, and eventually retired to a home on Clift Street in Mystic, focusing his lens on the charm of the town until his death in 1930.

William N. Peterson is Curator Emeritus of Mystic Seaport Museum and a founding member of MRHS. He has lectured and written extensively about the Connecticut maritime experience, and co-authored or contributed to even more. In 1989, his book, "Mystic Built" was chosen for the prestigious John Lyman Award as "best book published in American maritime history." Bill has also been recognized by the Photographic Historical Society of New England for his work preserving & collecting historic photographs. Most recently, he was the historical advisor for the "Mystic Streetscape" and he currently chairs the collections committee of the New London County Historical Society and sits on the collections advisory board of Norwich's Slater Memorial Museum. Bill and his wife Claire reside in North Stonington.

The Maritime Enterprise of the Mallorys of Mystic

At the Membership meeting on Wednesday April 27th, Jim Baughman will speak on the business history of the remarkable Mallory family, which began in Mystic and, over six generations, progressed from sail making to ship-building, to the ownership and operation of sealers, whalers, clipper ships, coastal steamships, transoceanic liners, and oil tankers.

The story begins with David Malary, a privateersman in the Revolutionary War, and continues, father to son, through the business careers of Charles Mallory (1796-1882), Charles Henry Mallory (1818-1890), Henry Rogers Mallory (1848-1919), Clifford Day Mallory, Sr. (1881-1941), and Clifford Day Mallory, Jr. (1916-2000).



USS Owasco was a wood-hulled screw gunboat built by Charles Mallory and launched at Mystic, CT, October 5th, 1861. She was commissioned at the New York Navy Yard in January 1862 and went into service in the Civil War as part of a mortar flotilla created to neutralize forts protecting New Orleans.

From history.navy.mil and wikipedia.com

Over a 43-year career, Jim Baughman has been a Professor at Harvard Business School, President of the Iranian Center for Management Studies, Worldwide Head of Management Development for General Electric, Corporate Head of Leadership & Organizational Development for J.P. Morgan, and consultant to top management of multinational firms.

He also served eighteen years in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. Besides business textbooks, he has written extensively on American maritime history, including Charles Morgan and the Development of Southern Transportation and The Mallorys of Mystic: Six Generations in American Maritime Enterprise. Jim and his wife Deborah are part-time residents of Mystic.



from the PRESIDENT'S DESK

Jim Kimenker

I've written before about the difficulty of finding historical works that help us survive the "dry, dusty" experience that often threatens an exploration of the past. Too frequently, as much as all of us obviously enjoy reading this literary category, the attempt is as likely to find us prone, head back, mouth open, eyes closed, only to jerk awake during a commercial on the TV, which of course we've left on because we're uncertain how interesting the book will be (why is it always a commercial, by the way?).

There are, of course, historians who write so well or think so clearly (some have been identified in this column) that they overcome the dullness factor. However, even well written books struggle to relate the excitement of the actual "moment". Why is that? Well, first the self-evident part—every history tells a story about something that occurred in the past and we know two absolute things about the past: we know how it turned out and how long it took (in absolute time). Second, our storyteller, the historian, must compress the known storyline into a few hundred pages that we're expected to read over the course of some number of hours.

What's my point (a frequent question in these columns)? Simply that it would be exciting to find a work of history that reads like historical fiction, where you have a general idea of the facts and timing of the story, but the precise elements themselves remain something of a mystery. Best of all would be to find a work that didn't compress the timeline but, instead, literally matched it day by day so you could relive it "in the moment".

For those who haven't noticed, the New York Times, since this past October, has been celebrating the sesquicentennial of the Civil War with a daily blog on its editorial pages by different authors, called "Opinionator/Disunion". Each day matches the same day 150 years ago (how cool is that?), beginning with the end of the 1860 election campaign and the unfolding disintegration of the Union. It doesn't limit itself to drily reciting a summary of the day's events, but provides much historical detail about some issue or interest of the day. As I write this, the blog is following Lincoln's remarkable journey by train from Springfield, IL to Washington, D.C. for his inauguration (remember, until 1933, that occurred in March, not January).

Here's the thing. Opinionator/Disunion succeeds as well as anything could in overcoming the "all-knowing" aspect of

reading about history. You find that you're pulled into the story in a way that allows you to forget that you know how it all comes out, which may be the most compelling aspect of the exercise. Plus, you find that the bygone people involved have a much more recognizable quality—they appear more real, in the immediate sense, than historical and unreachable. You get a visceral sense, for instance, of how numerous southerners viewed Lincoln as a monstrous, uneducated rube determined to reinstate a monarchy, nearly unimaginable to our modern sensibilities. It was almost painful for me to follow southern senators as they made sad, farewell speeches on the floor of the Senate and shook hands with friends who were not following them out of the building or the Union (ok, so maybe it was harder to have empathy for the firebreathers among them, but I'll bet it was the same way then, too).

Obviously, this is not the only or best way to read about history and I'm not suggesting that it is. What I am suggesting is that it's always worthwhile seeking unusual or atypical historical works—you might be pleasantly surprised.



Photo - Library of Congress

Lincoln's Inaugural address on March 4th, 1861 at the as-yet undomed capital building which was still under construction at the time.

Mystic River Historical Society Mission Statement

The Society exists to collect, arrange, exhibit and preserve records, papers, photographs, artifacts, relics and related archival materials that document the history of the people who lived in the area around the Mystic River from the first settlement in 1654 to the present.

Officers: President - Jim Kimenker • Vice President - John Porter
Treasurer - Bill Everett • Corresponding Secretary - Lois Glazer • Recording Secretary - Cathy Marco

The Newsletter of the Mystic River Historical Society is published monthly September through May with a combined issue for November and December by the Mystic River Historical Society • Box 245 Mystic, CT 06355
Issues of the newsletter are available for online viewing at www.mystichistory.org



Boucher Rolls Up Sleeves at MRHS

- Dorrie Hanna

Welcome, Betsy!

Introducing our new archives assistant, Betsy Boucher, who has been on the job since the first part of January. Betsy graduated from Fitch High School and from Yale. She is currently working part time for Stonington's Old Lighthouse Museum and for the Noank Historical Society, as well as for MRHS. We are delighted to have her on our "team".

At the moment Betsy is completing the task of sorting and re-boxing the material in the Haley Collection. This material includes a large group of ship's papers relating to the careers of the several Captains Gates from Mystic. We hope that when Betsy is done the collection will be easier to search and to use.



Photo ~ Maddie Pryor

Betsy Boucher busy at her desk in the Downes Building.

Membership Updates

- Cindy Allyn

We have a number of renewals: Victoria Cooke, John and Catherine Mauritz and the Mystic Garden Club all at the Family level. At the Individual level, Eleanor Read renewed her membership. We also have Michael Hennessy and Pauline Wen at the Benefactor level.

We welcome a number of new members to the historical society: At the Individual Level - Ed Coogan, Mayburn Koss, Sally M. Morris, Mary Oberhelman, Diana Phaneuf, Steve and Maggie White and Pat Zalesny. At the Family Level - Harry and Susie Ferguson and Nancy and Gary Johnson. At the Contributing Level - Laurie Pasteryak

Unfortunately we have had four member deaths: Webster Copp, Sandra Dolan, Helen Keith and James Pryor.

Giving Opportunities at MRHS...



Portersville Press Advertising & Patronage Rates: *from \$75*
 Membership Rates: *from \$15*
 Volunteerism: *free ~ and priceless!*

For more information, see www.mystichistory.org or call (860) 536 - 4779

House Tour on Horizon

- Joyce Everett

The Special Events Committee met on February 15th at Judy Hicks' house to for preliminary discussion of a House Tour in 2013. A small group had earlier met with representatives of the Mystic Arts Center partnering with them in a house tour and other activities in celebration of MAC's 100th anniversary and MRHS' 40th anniversary. Good progress was made, some exciting ideas emerged, and you will all hear more as thinking progresses.

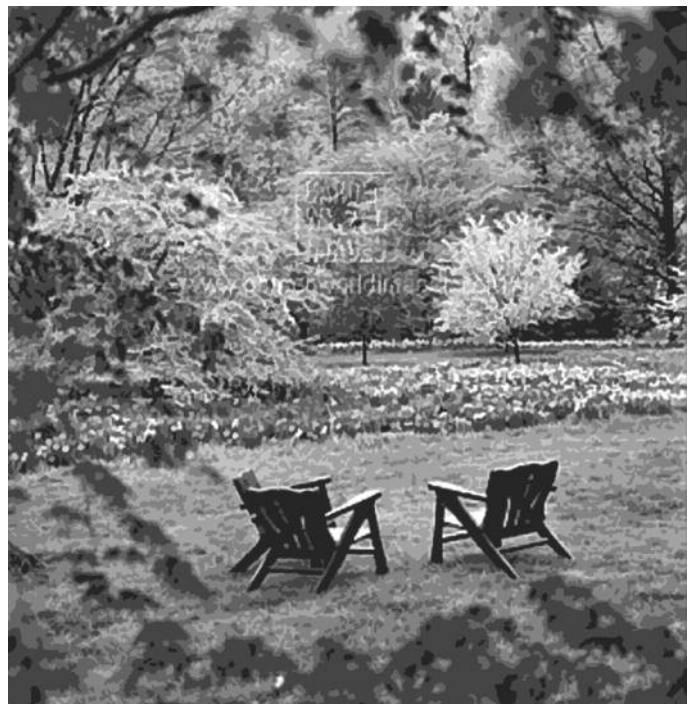
If any member of the MRHS would like to be part of this thinking and planning stage or has an idea of someone else who should be included, please let us know. All suggestions are welcome and appreciated!

Spring Out from April 25-28!

- Joyce Everett

The Spring Trip is just around the corner! We depart Monday, April 25, and return Thursday, April 28, on an exciting trip to the Philadelphia area and Delaware. We have room to fit a few more people into the group so please call or email Joyce Everett (860-536-6339 or jeverett38@aol.com) if you would like to join us. Please call immediately if you are interested so that I can make certain that there is still space.

Among other visits we will stop at Washington's Headquarters in Morristown, NJ, the Swedish American Museum in Philadelphia, Hagley Museum in Delaware, The Barnes Foundation near Philadelphia, Chanticleer gardens, and spend a day exploring the houses, museums, and gardens of New Castle, DE.



Spring blossoms & dappled sun at Chanticleer Gardens.

It's "Old News"

From the MRHS files to cyber-sleuthing, diving into historical research reliably results in treasures still relevant today. Some gold nuggets are included here.

More Mystic Hook & Ladder

- Dorrie Hanna

Our February program about fire fighters and fires in Mystic generated quite a bit of interest, including a query from a lady in Texas who wondered what materials we had in our collection about this subject. I located a couple of different items for her and was making the photocopies she ordered when I came across this little essay in "The Story of the Mystic Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1", by Geo. E. Tingley, Ex-Foreman. (Photocopy of manuscript in MRHS collection donated by Horace B. Lamb.)

The Slaughter of the Innocents

A serio-comic Happening of All Fools Day 1933

In rounding the corner of E. Main and Holmes streets, pursuing an alarm, Harry G. Allyn was thrown from the truck and landing on his head was seriously injured.

Whether this was caused by vertigo or due to the speed mania of one of our young drivers demonstrating how to play "Snap the Lash", has never been fully determined. Of the far reaching consequences however we are certain. The wise younger members put their heads together and decided that "something must be done".

Thus, after Harry had broken his head, they proceeded to break his ambitious spirit, and to that end, he was excused from further riding on the machine. To soften this last blow and to prevent his feeling lonesome in this crucifixion, two other malefactors were selected to keep him company.

So, they broke Gurdon Gates of his riding on the front seat with the driver, and also broke the writer's heart by prohibiting his riding on any part of the machine—this, though the latter individual had not enjoyed such pleasure for some years.

This trio now sit on the mourner's bench as the truck rolls out, shedding crocodile tears intermingled with scornful boo-hoos hurled at their vanishing comrades. Alone, they sigh and if you listen closely you may hear "Woe is me?" NO! Instead: "Drill ye terriers drill!" Ha, Ha, Ha. We are free!"

It was a bad break all around.

The date seems most appropriate to the incident.



The August 1894 annual Peace Convention gathering along the Mystic River in the area between River Road and High Street around what is still called the Peace Sanctuary. Photo by Edward H. Newbury.

For more information, visit Mystic Seaport Museum or MRHS archives.

LAST DAY OF THE PEACE CONVENTION

**Alfred H. Love Re-elected President—
Report Read by Belva A. Lockwood.**

MYSTIC, Conn., Aug. 23.—The closing day of the great Peace Convention was very strong both in programme and attendance. Passages of Scripture were read by Mrs. Bertha Cheney Ward of Mystic. At the annual election of officers, Alfred H. Love of Philadelphia was chosen President; Charles H. Hastings and Oliver S. Fell of Philadelphia, Belva A. Lockwood of Washington, the Rev. Amanda Deyo of San Diego, Cal., Secretaries; Amos B. Ellis of Tacoma, Penn., Treasurer.

The report of the International Peace Bureau was read by Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood. A brief address was made by James H. Earle of Boston offering practical suggestions in regard to the abolition of boys' brigades. Mrs. Bertha Cheney Ward, Miss Christine V. Whipple, Miss Harriett Holmes of Mystic, Levi W. Grouch, and Frank Lester of Norwich, Herbert Rathbun and J. Holmes of Mystic were appointed for anti-brigade work.

An original poem was recited by John Collins, an aged peace worker of Philadelphia. The Rev. W. S. Heywood delivered an address, in which he referred to the great reformers, Phillips, Garrison, Sumner, and Lucy Stone in terms of the greatest respect, and dwelt on the subject of peace on non-resistance lines as taught by Christianity.

New York Times, August 24, 1895

Belva Brigade Info Bourgeons

- Jane Preston

It's been quite a while since new information about the challenging puzzle of the 1884 Belva Lockwood Mother Hubbard Parade has been located. I am delighted to say that an article from the Stonington Mirror for November 1, 1884 has just come to light. One of the unknowns we have been trying to solve is the location of Williams and Dudley Square. Virgil Huntley and Bill Peterson supplied us with the location of Dudley Square (see previous Portersville Press for April 2010) but where or what was "Williams"? Was it another Square? Was it part of the Dudley property? No one knew.

Then this article from the Stonington Mirror arrived which not only describes the route of the parade but identifies "Williams" as Williams Wharf where the program exercises were held. Researching this wharf on the website of Connecticut History On-Line I located a wonderful map that clearly showed Williams Wharf and left no doubt that it would have been an excellent place for the line of march to hold their exercises. Today we recognize it locally as Steamboat Wharf.

And so, we move on to find what else we can about this event. Surely there must be photographs of this parade somewhere. We had excellent photographers in this area at that time and the fairly new hobby of taking pictures of events was finding quite a following. Although there is probably no one alive today who was present at that parade on October 27, 1884, isn't it possible that somewhere in that collection of old photographs that you may have there is just the picture that would illustrate this fascinating event for us?

And who was "the sweet singer of Lyme"? No one from Lyme seems to know. Was she actually from Lyme or was that just sort of an alias that disguised who she really was?

The program which appeared in the Portersville Press January 2010 contains the names of several people who were local to Mystic at that time. Is it possible that there is still family of their descendants in the Mystic area who know something about this parade? Please contact the Mystic River Historical Society if you have any information that you believe might aid us in our research of this interesting event at (860) 536 - 4779.

BELVA LOCKWOOD BRIGADE

Monday evening the twin Mystics enjoyed a demonstration which proved attractive as well as unique. The support adherents of a woman candidate for president decided to give their best girl a send off which would cause her name to be remembered in the valley even if it did not get her one vote. At about eight o'clock a couple of hundred fantastically dressed human beings fell into line on one of the principle streets near the bridge and proceeded by the Mystic Cornet Band marched away on a parade through the two places. All were attired in Mother Hubbard costumes and poke bonnets and were other fancifully decorated. Some carried torches, others had brooms and a number had cradles containing rag babies under their arms. Artillery, cavalry and infantry - particularly the latter - were all repre-

sented in the procession. Conspicuous in the line were two baby carriages holding live infants, of goodly size, however, and these were occasionally fed from three gallon bottles of milk which had the usual rubber accompaniments of that useful article of nursery furniture. The critter company were well mounted, but the ample skirts of the members prevented them from riding as gracefully as they would had the been wearing their customary unmentionables. The artillery consisted of one detachment and their deadly looking gun - "an 1/8 ounce" - amply defended the rear of the column. A calcium light somewhat novel in construction, shed its brilliant rays along the route of march and kept two old girls busy feeding it with red fire.

In the center of the feminine (?) band, in an antiquated barouche, rode the speaker of the night - a matronly appearing goddess of about forty-five years, with spectacles and highly colored cheeks and nose. This fine specimen of the woman suffrage party was greatly admired by both old and young masculines and received many a sly wink from them. Halting once during the march at Williams Wharf, a large network and hand painted banner was raised. It contained the name of Belva Lockwood and an oil painting of her, painted



in the most brilliant manner by a local artist from memory. As it swung to the breeze three rousing cheers saluted it and the populace rushed toward it en masse into line to view the comely features of the advocate of female freedom from the tyranny of that terrible creature - man. At the close of the parade the torchmen surrounded the band stand and in turn were quickly surrounded by hundreds of people, all eager to hear the speech and poem previously advertised. The orator, Miss Anne Dickinson, alias O.F.H., was introduced to the audience by an old lady of uncertain age but frisky manners, and proceeded to give an interesting and humorous speech which fairly drew tears and laughter from her auditors and caused the demolition of corset strings and suspender buttons. Then a poem was read, full of local gags on prominent people, and this met with hearty applause even from those who were closest hit. The affair was very funny and made a break in the monotony of political parades, with which we have been afflicted of late and as every party was represented in the line it tended to create harmony and good feeling among the rival factions. The Mystic Band fairly beat its previous record for furnishing good music and words of approbation were heard on every side. In fact we doubt if it ever before played so well. On all the thoroughfares the principal residences and stores were brightly illuminated and skyrockets, Greek fires, and Roman candles fairly made the village as light as mid-day. For years our people have been credited with being able to get up the largest demonstration in the way of parades, at the shortest notice, of any village in eastern Connecticut, but Monday night's effort surpasses all previous ones as the entire affair was planned and carried out after only twenty-four hours notice. Should a similar one occur this year may your scribe be there to see.

~ Stonington Mirror November 1, 1884

January Meeting Minutes

- Cathy Marco, Recording Secretary

The Board of Trustees of the Mystic River Historical Society met on Monday, January 10, 2011. Board Members and Committee Chairmen/members present were Aimee Allaire, Cindy Allyn, Lou Allyn, David Evans, Joyce Everett, Bill Everett, Tim Evers, Lois Glazier, Alan Greener, Sally Halsey, Cathy Marco, Catherine Mauritz, Betty O'Donnell, John Porter, Jennifer Pryor, and Stephanie Thorp. November minutes were approved with a slight revision.

President's Report (John Porter for Jim Kimenker): The by-From the mail: The Indian & Colonial Research Center has a new president, Robert A. Lecce, Jr.; Mystic & Noank Library thanked MRHS for their letter of support regarding their grant application to the CT Trust for Historic Preservation; Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce sent thanks for our donation of a signed copy of "Colors of Mystic" to their annual Silent Auction; Westerly Band wrote of their sincere appreciation for our donation of an old computer and scanner; Ladies of St. David's Church thanked MRHS for their contributions to the reception following Helen Keith's memorial service.

A revised copy of the MRHS Bylaws had been distributed to all board members by Stephanie Thorp. Discussion will be held at our February board meeting, giving time for review & comment. The Bylaws will be published in the March/April Portersville Press giving members the opportunity to review them prior to the May meeting vote.

The Mormon church once again invited us to attend their Expo in February. The Curatorial Committee discussed this at their meeting and decided against participating this year.

Board members discussed what type of memorial should be done for Helen Keith. We have received a number of donations specifically in Helen's name. She was very interested in seeing the historical and genealogical library increased at Portersville. The Curatorial Committee decided that they would add the Gallup Genealogy 200 with some of the donation monies. The committee will work on a list of genealogy-related literature to add to our collection.

Betty O'Donnell made a motion to have a plate over the entry to the upstairs classroom engraved in the names of "Helen and George Keith". This motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the board.

Treasurers Report (Bill Everett): Bill will re-send the most recent Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss statements to all board members.. The sales for "The Colors of Mystic" are going well. We have received over \$6000 so far which is very good. Also, our Postal Account has enough monies to cover our mailings until May and our credit card is paid off.

Finance (David Evans): A review of our Investment Performance for 2010 shows Vanguard's calculation of our portfolio return for 2010 was 9.6%. This result was

achieved while still holding approximately 10% of the portfolio in cash, producing virtually no return. Our investment account balance gain for the year reflected income from interest and dividends. Year-end balance also reflected a November withdrawal. The Finance Committee will conduct its internal audit of the MRHS books on Thursday, January 13, 2011.

The approved Budget was modified slightly. A modest change was made to "Education" to now include \$600 expenses for materials for 200 students offset by \$3 charge per student.

It was determined that D&O insurance is not required for our organization because of various factors including limited exposure and modest monies/ investments, and it is not required for non-profits.

Corresponding Secretary (Lois Glazier): Correspondence since October has included sympathy cards, letters of thanks to Benefactors, thank you cards for donations in memory of Helen Keith, a number of thank you cards for unrestricted donations, and thanks for membership.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings & Grounds (Alan Greener): All is going well.

Curatorial (reported by Acting Chair, Lou Allyn): The Committee met Monday, December 13, 2010 and January 10, 2011. The Committee agreed to hire Betsy Boucher as an archival assistant to replace Helen Keith, beginning with work to complete sorting the Haley Collection. Sally Halsey made a motion to accept the hiring of Betsy Boucher which was seconded and passed unanimously. Betsy may also cover the front desk when Dorrie is on vacation.

Betsy Rowe of Stoneridge has asked that we provide some programs at their facility. Judy Hicks will transfer slides of her lectures to PowerPoint for this purpose.

Work continues on the Disaster Plan, choosing someone to restore the oil painting, research on downtown buildings, transfer of Carol Kimball's Mystic materials to MRHS (including notebooks of downtown buildings), and creating a detailed PastPerfect customized user manual to be used in conjunction with our process notes.

MRHS Job Descriptions were presented for review by the board. Jim Kimenker and Bill Everett to discuss and revise, if deemed necessary.

Education/Outreach: Joyce introduced our new "Coordinator" for Portersville Academy programs, Cathy Mauritz. Cathy gave a brief bio and some visions of her new role. It was suggested that President Jim Kimenker appoint Cathy as Chairman of the Education Committee to attend and report at all future board meetings.

IT Committee (*Stephanie Thorp*): The System Manager performed routine backups of all files in the system. Operating system, security, and other application software have been updated to most current version, including Past Perfect. The system and all equipment and software were operational as of January 2, 2011.

The Webmaster has updated the website with the latest Portersville Press issue as well as necessary changes to the home page and the events calendar. Detailed reports are available on request.

Marketing (*Sally Halsey*): Articles for upcoming meetings were sent to publications.

Membership (*Cynthia Allyn*): We have a number of renewals: Victoria Cooke, John and Catherine Mauritz and the Mystic Garden Club all at the Family level. At the Individual level, Eleanor Read renewed her membership. We also have Michael Hennessy and Pauline Wen at the Benefactor level. A number of New Members at the Individual Level: Mayburn Koss, Mary Oberhelman, Steve and Maggie White and Pat Zalesny. New Members at the Family Level: Harry and Susie Ferguson and Nancy and Gary Johnson.

Unfortunately we have had four member deaths: Webster Copp, Sandra Dolan, Helen Keith and James Pryor.

Program (*Aimee Allaire*): November's Membership meeting was well-attended and the speaker well-received. Matthew Stackpole gave an informative and entertaining presentation on the Charles W. Morgan and her restoration. 49 members attended the meeting.

The Program Committee is looking forward to January's Membership Meeting and Casey Zahn's presentation "Hook 'Em While They're Young" about engaging children in history. Publicity information for January's and February's programs has been sent to the appropriate members. The committee's next meeting is January 13th, 2011.

Special Events (*Joyce Everett*): A meeting to brainstorm plans for our next House Tour with the Mystic Art Center will be on Tuesday at 1:00 at Willa Schuster's house. Those planning to attend are Dorrie, Lou, Karen Barthelson, and Athena Yannitsas, Development Director for MAC.

Our Spring Trip to Philadelphia and Delaware will be from Monday, April 25 to Thursday, April 28. Material announcing this trip is being distributed in the newsletter and via email notifications. The plan is to visit Washington's Headquarters in Morristown, NJ; Valley Forge; areas in Philadelphia area settled by Swedes; the Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington DE; museums of New Castle, DE; Barnes Foundation outside Philadelphia; and the beautiful gardens of "Chanticleer" in Wayne PA. We are looking for 30 people for this exciting trip. The price for each person sharing a room, including all

transportation, accommodations, all breakfasts, three lunches, two dinners and supper, all admissions, snacks and extras, and medical cancellation insurance is \$695. The cost for a single is \$875. A nonrefundable \$200.00 deposit for a shared room, \$300.00 for a single, will be due by February 22. Non refundable final payment is due by March 15.

Walking Tour (*David Evans*): We are working on reprints. We have monies which were approved last year that will be used for this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Aimee asked if Committee Annual Reports were due. This was tabled to be discussed at the next board meeting.

Committees not included had nothing to report.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 14 at 7pm at the Mystic and Noank Library.

Keith Memorial Plaque

- B. O'Donnell

A memorial plaque was installed at Portersville Academy on February 23rd, 2011 to honor Helen and George Keith for countless years of dedication to the Society. Tod Johnstone, a fine, professional local artist, generously made this laser-etched oval plaque for us. It reads: "The Helen and George Keith Classroom", and has black uppercase lettering on a brushed brass background. Two narrow black bands frame its oval shape. The plaque is mounted at the top of the staircase, next to the entrance to the classroom.



The Helen and George Keith Classroom and memorial plaque at Portersville Academy.

Mystic River Historical Society, Inc.

By-Laws Revision

Approved 2/14/2011

ARTICLE I - Name and Purpose

Mystic River Historical Society, Inc. is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Connecticut, hereinafter referred to as the Society.

The Society exists to collect, arrange, exhibit and preserve records, papers, photographs, artifacts, relics and related archival materials that document the history of the people who lived in the area around the Mystic River from the first settlement in 1654 to the present.

The Society maintains its collections in the William A. Downes Building, 74 High Street, Mystic, CT 06355. The Society shares this material and information with members, interested scholars, and the public. It uses its collections in the presentation of programs and exhibits in the community. In addition, the Society owns Portersville Academy, an 1839 schoolhouse located next door to the Downes Building, at 76 High Street, Mystic, CT 06355. Portersville Academy is used to provide local history exposure, including a mid-19th century schoolroom experience for elementary school students, as resources permit.

Note that these by-laws are intended to be gender-neutral. Gender references herein apply equally to men and women.

ARTICLE II - Membership and Dues

Membership in the Society is open to all.

The Board of Trustees shall establish a set of membership levels and an associated dues structure. The Board of Trustees shall periodically review and revise both the membership levels and the associated dues structure.

The Board of Trustees may, at its discretion, under exceptional circumstances, confer Honorary Life Membership on an individual who has actively participated in a variety of capacities in the work of the Society, or on an individual who has contributed significantly through services or donations to the Society.

ARTICLE III - Board of Trustees

A. The affairs of the Society shall be governed by a Board of Trustees, consisting of twelve (12) individuals elected by the membership at large, and the chairs of Standing Committees and Special Committees, as designated and approved by the Board of Trustees. All members of the Board of Trustees, as well as chairmen of standing committees, shall be eligible to vote on proposals presented to the Board.

B. In order to maximize continuity and institutional memory without being unduly burdensome, the Society shall rotate Trustee positions. To accomplish this goal, each year the Society shall elect four individuals, each to serve a 3-year term. Individuals may be re-elected, but may not serve more than nine (9) continuous years (3 terms). After an individual has reached his term limits (3 terms), he becomes ineligible to run for election to the Board of Trustees for a period of two (2) years.

Exceptions to this policy may be approved on a case basis by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

C. The Board of Trustees shall choose a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary from among its elected members each year within thirty (30) days after the Annual Meeting.

D. Elected officers shall serve for a minimum of one (1) and maximum of five (5) years.

E. The Board shall have authority to approve formation and dissolution of standing and special committees, appointment of committee chairs, and replacement of Trustees, as recommended to the Board by the President.

F. As necessary, the President may appoint a replacement for any office, committee chair, or Trustee.

1. Serving 12 months or fewer as a Trustee replacement shall not count toward the nine (9) continuous years of service; serving more than 12 months shall count as a three-year term.

2. Serving as a replacement for any Board office shall have no effect on eligibility for re-election to the Board or to any office and shall not count toward the 5-year maximum term of any office.

3. Serving as a replacement for any committee chair shall have no effect on eligibility for re-appointment and shall not count toward the 5-year maximum term for that committee chair position.

G. The Board of Trustees shall, as necessary, establish programs to raise sufficient undesignated funds to meet the budget and to maintain unencumbered contingency funds.

ARTICLE IV - Duties of Officers

A. President

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Trustees.

2. He shall request the Corresponding Secretary to notify the members of the Board of Trustees of all regular and special meetings.

3. The President shall administer the business of the Society, and shall delegate responsibilities and assign tasks as necessary.

4. The President shall provide a report at the Annual Meeting outlining the Society's activities and accomplishments for the past year, to be filed with the minutes of the meeting in the Society's archives.

5. The President shall appoint chairs for all committees established by the Board and shall serve as an ex officio member of all committees.

6. The President shall appoint a replacement for any Trustee who resigns prior to completing his/her term.

7. The President may appoint an Historian, at his discretion and the Board's request.

B. Vice-President

The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President's office in the absence of the President, and shall assist the President as needed.

C. Recording Secretary

1. The Recording Secretary shall document proceedings of all meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Annual Meeting of the Society in Meeting Minutes. When the Board approves each set of minutes, the Recording Secretary shall file them in the Society's archives.

2. The Recording Secretary shall maintain a record of the terms of each elected trustee, officers and appointed committee chairs.

D. Corresponding Secretary

1. The Corresponding Secretary shall notify members of the results of Board elections and committee appointments.

2. The Corresponding Secretary shall notify the Board of Trustees of meetings as directed by the President.

3. The Corresponding Secretary shall generate and send correspondence necessary to carry on the business of the Society, as well as items such as thank-you notes, condolences, and others as directed by the President.

E. Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall receive and record dues and all other income.

2. The Treasurer shall disburse Society funds for legal obligations, in accordance with the approved budget, or as directed by the Board, and shall record all expenditures and disbursements.

3. The Treasurer shall prepare and present financial reports for the meetings of the Board of Trustees, or as the President shall direct. On Board approval, he shall file these reports in the Society's archives.

4. The Treasurer shall report the Society's financial status at the Annual Meeting. On membership approval, he shall file this report in the Society's archives.

5. The Treasurer shall serve as a member of the Finance Committee.

6. The Treasurer shall provide all records in a timely manner to the Finance Committee for their annual review (audit), after which he shall file a copy of these records in the Society's archives.

7. The Treasurer shall ensure that all local, state and federal tax returns and reports are filed in a timely manner, and shall file copies of those returns and reports in the Society's archives.

F. Historian

1. The Historian shall create and maintain a record of Society activities, and shall ensure that this record resides in a current state among the Society's collections.

2. The Historian shall be a non-voting member of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE V - Committees

A. A Committee shall be defined as a Chair and at least one other member.

B. The Board of Trustees shall establish such Standing and Special Committees as it deems necessary to conduct the affairs of the Society. The President, with the Board's approval, shall appoint chairs to those committees. The newly-elected President shall appoint or reappoint all Committee Chairs each year following election of officers at the next Board meeting following the Annual Meeting. This applies to standing and special committees.

C. Chairmanship of committees is open to all members of the Society. Chairs of committees are responsible for staffing their committees. Presidential and/or Board approval is not required, but Committee Chairs should inform the Board of committee membership.

D. Chairs of Standing Committees automatically become voting members of the Board of Trustees. If an Elected Trustee is also serving as a

committee chair, and he reaches his three-term limit as an Elected Trustee, he may, at the President's option, continue to serve as a committee chair, and he then becomes an Appointed Trustee. If he chooses not to continue in his role as a committee chair, he becomes subject to the requirement that he not be eligible for Elected Trustee for a period of two years.

E. After a Chair has served five years in that position, the President, with Board approval, shall appoint a replacement. If the existing Chair wishes to continue to serve, he may request the President to reappoint him. The President, with Board approval, may reappoint him, or may name a replacement.

F. If the existing Chair wishes not to be reappointed, and a replacement is not readily available, the President, with Board approval, may appoint an Interim Chair, to hold that position until a permanent replacement can be found. An Interim Chair shall have voting privileges during his tenure.

G. A Special Committee may be established, at the Board's will, when necessary for the purpose of managing a unique project or event for a specific period of time not to exceed two years. The Chair of a Special Committee may attend and speak at meetings of the Board of Trustees but shall not be eligible to vote. There shall be no term limits on the chairs of Special Committees; that is, a member who has chaired a particular Special Committee may be reappointed to chair that same committee the next time the Board determines that re-establishing that committee is appropriate.

H. Each Standing or Special Committee is required to submit a formal document defining its purpose, mission, duties and responsibilities, and to submit this report to the Board for approval. On Board approval, the Committee Chairman shall submit the report for filing in the Society's archives. The document shall remain in effect until such time as the Committee or the Board of Trustees determines the need to update the report.

I. Any member desiring to establish a new committee, either Standing or Special, shall submit a formal document defining the purpose, mission, duties, and responsibilities of the Committee, and to submit this report to the Board for approval. On Board approval, the Committee Chairman shall submit the report for filing in the Society's archives. The document shall remain in effect until such time as the Committee or the Board of Trustees determines the need to update the report.

J. Nominating Committee

At least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting, the President shall appoint three (3) members to a Nominating Committee. This committee shall select four (4) individuals to replace those whose terms are expiring. The Nominating Committee shall present the slate of candidates for vote by the general membership at the Annual Meeting.

K. Finance Committee

This committee shall be chaired by an elected Trustee and shall include the Treasurer and three (3) members-at-large, appointed by the President and approved by the Board.

The committee shall:

1. Prepare an annual budget for the approval of the Board of Trustees prior to the end of the preceding fiscal year.

2. Examine (audit) the Treasurer's records at the end of each fiscal year for completeness and accuracy, and prepare an audit report describing the results. It shall present the findings at the next Board meeting, and on the Board's approval, shall file this report in the Society's archives.

3. Invest and administer any trusts established for the benefit of the Society and all other funds, except those designated for the operating budget.

4. Evaluate the need for long-term capital improvements and plan for their funding.

5. At least once every three years, obtain an insurance policy recommendation from a qualified agent for the Board's approval. On the Board's approval, the Finance Committee shall secure the insurance policy.

6. Report to the Board at every Board meeting of its actions since its last report.

7. Notify the Board of Trustees immediately when it identifies the necessity to raise funds to meet the budget and to maintain unencumbered contingency funds.



ARTICLE VI - Meetings

A. Annual Meeting

An Annual Meeting of the members of the Society shall be held each year. The Board of Trustees shall determine the specific date. The order of business for the Annual Meeting shall include, but not be limited to:

1. President's Annual Report
2. Treasurer's Annual Report
3. Committee Reports (as the President shall deem appropriate)
4. Nominating Committee Report
5. Election of Trustees for upcoming three (3) year term.

B. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the general membership may be called at any time by the Corresponding Secretary, at the direction of the President, or at the written request of any ten (10) members of the Society. The membership must be notified in writing twenty-one (21) calendar days in advance. Twenty-five (25) members shall be required for a quorum at any Special Meeting.

C. Notice of Meetings

Notice of all meetings of the Society shall be given to the members by publication in the Newsletter, or by U.S. mail, or electronic mail ("e-mail"), at least twenty-one (21) calendar days before the meeting. The purpose for which a Special Meeting is called shall be stated in the notice of said meeting.

D. Quorum

Twenty-five (25) members who are present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any general or special meeting of the Society.

E. Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees shall meet as needed. A majority, defined as seven (7) elected Trustees, shall constitute a quorum for Board of Trustees meetings.

The Recording Secretary shall capture the proceedings of each meeting in formal minutes and shall file them in the Society's archives.

F. Special Meetings of the Board of Trustees

The President of the Board may call special meetings of the Board of Trustees as necessary. He may conduct these meetings online; that is, he may use email to notify Board members of an issue, and Trustees and other members may comment, present motions, obtain seconds, and vote, as if the meeting were conducted in person. A Board member, not having email access, may request notification by telephone.

The Recording Secretary shall capture these messages and shall file them with a brief cover description of the action taken in the Society's archives.

ARTICLE VII - Finances

A. Fiscal Year

The fiscal and budget year shall begin on 1 January of each year and shall end on 31 December of that year.

B. Checks and Contracts

All checks, drafts and endorsements shall be signed by the Treasurer, President, or other officer authorized by the Board.

All contracts, other than checks, drafts or endorsements, entered into on behalf of the Society, shall be approved by the Board of Trustees and signed by the President. In the absence of the President, signature may be provided by the President's authorized delegate.

ARTICLE VIII - Dissolution of the Society

In the event of dissolution of the Society, all of its assets shall be deeded to one or more not-for-profit societies or institutions in and serving the Mystic River area, as chosen by a vote of the Society, or to a government agency, in accordance with federal Internal Revenue Service rules guidelines. "Government agency" does not refer by definition to a federal agency; it also encompasses local and state government entities, such as a local or state library, or a school.

ARTICLE IX - Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Society (regular or special) by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the those members present and entitled to vote, providing that the proposed amendment has been recommended by the Board of Trustees or approved in writing by fifteen (15) members in good standing, and has been published in the Newsletter at least twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE X - General

The rules contained in "Robert's Rules of Order, Revised" govern the Society in all cases in which they apply and when they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws.

CALENDAR Notables

Membership Meeting

Wed., March 23, 2011, 7:30p
Mystic Congregational Parish Hall
Bill Peterson "Mystic's Famed
Photographer: Everett Scholfield"

Membership Meeting

Wed., April 27, 2011, 7:30p
James Baughman "Mallorys of Mystic"

Annual Membership Potluck and Meeting

Wed., May 25th 2011
6p/potluck, 7:30p/meeting
Rick Spencer "Sea Chanteys" ~
an interactive and entertaining
musical program

BANK SQUARE BOOKS

Books For All Ages • Extensive Children's
Section • Special Orders Welcome •
Greeting Cards and Maps



860-536-3795

www.banksquarebooks.com

53 W. Main Street, Mystic
HOURS: MON - SAT 10-8; SUN 10-5

Newsletter Patrons

CYNTHIA AND LOUIS ALLYN
JANE AND DAN BRANNEGAN
JUDI CARACAUSA-MARKET REALTY LLC
DAVID CRUTHERS FAMILY
DENSMORE OIL
SANDRA DOLAN
DAVID AND JEAN EVANS
MR AND MRS WILLIAM EVERETT
SALLY HALSEY
MR AND MRS DOUG HANNA
MR AND MRS WILLIAM HERMANN JR
JUDY HICKS
MRS DAVID HINKLE
MR AND MRS ROBERT KRUSEWSKI
MR AND MRS FRANK MARCO
NANCY AND TOM MCLOUGHLIN
MARJORIE MOORE
MR AND MRS ROGER PANCIERA
CAPT AND MRS JOHN PORTER

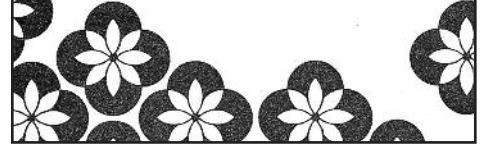
Woodja
Furniture Restoration
Restore • Repair • Reglue • Refinish
Denise Mitchell
woodja@snet.net 860-536-3009
www.woodjawoodworking.com

~ Why, Thanks! ~

The Mystic River Historical Society's Portersville
Press would like to thank all of the Patrons and
Advertisers for their support. We encourage read-
ers to also offer appreciation and patronage.

stonewear clothing

33 west main st | mystic, ct 06355 | ph 860.572.0817
fax 860.572.0819 | www.stonewearclothing.com



The Blue Horse

Beautiful Things for Children

Specializing in
Christening Wear • Brother & Sister Outfits
European Imports • Personal Service

(860) 536-4895 • 1 West Main St., Mystic, CT 06355

PETER J. SPRINGSTEEL ARCHITECT, LLC

Historic Homes, Renovations & Additions

PHONE 572-7306 • FAX 536-5325
105 STARR ST., MYSTIC, CT 06355

peter.springsteel@snet.net

Non-profit Organization
Presorted Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 17
Mystic, CT
06355

Tuesdays 9 A.M. - 12 NOON
Wednesdays 1 P.M. - 4 P.M.
Thursdays 1 P.M. - 4 P.M.
(860) 536 - 4779

MYSTIC, CT 06355
P. O. BOX 245
74 HIGH STREET

