

Sailor Valentines to Susan's Teeth: Collecting Maritime Art & Antiques Then & Now



A gallery of maritime art collectibles highlighting local heritage from left to right: an Isaac Sheffield captain's portrait, and Mystic and Noank shipbuilding.

Americans have been collecting marine art and antiques since the 18th century, enshrining collections in the forerunners of institutions such as the Peabody Essex Museum, the New Bedford Whaling Museum and Mystic Seaport as early as 1799.

In the 20th century, collectors such as Henry Francis du Pont and the Connecticut antiques dealers J.A. Lloyd Hyde of Old Lyme and Norman Flayderman of New Milford were among those who helped popularize the art and artifact of our seafaring past. Their interest contributed to the rise in prices, culminating in 2004 in the record sale of Fitz Henry Lane's "Manchester Harbor" for \$5.5 million.

Laura will provide a brief history of collecting marine antiques and will discuss popular collecting categories such as antique sailors' valentines, scrimshaw, sailors' woolworks, ship's figureheads, portraits, landscapes, ship models and Chinese export paintings and porcelain. She will also offer tips on finding bargains in local shops and auctions. See www.laura-beach.com for more information.

Contributing editor of *Antiques and the Arts Weekly*, Laura Beach writes regularly for *The Magazine Antiques*, *Antiques and Fine Art*, and *AFAnews.com*. The author of *The Art of Stephen Huneck*, her work as appeared in the *New York Times* and *Architectural Digest*.

Please join us in November on Wednesday the 30th at 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall of the Mystic Congregational Church. The program is open to the public and free. Donations are welcome.



Laura Beach

An MHRHS Present: Past & Future

This holiday season, give the gift of history & heritage for better understanding of the road to tomorrow. A perfect fit for all ages! Historical Society Membership & Patronage support is available starting at \$15. The gifts of volunteering & learning together are, of course, priceless.

Please see www.mystichistory.org for complete information on participation, publications and media available from MRHS.

INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, CONTRIBUTING, BENEFACTOR, SUSTAINING AND LIFE MEMBERSHIPS • INDIVIDUAL or COMMERCIAL PATRONAGE • "COLORS OF MYSTIC" BY ASHLEY HALSEY • MRHS' A KAYAKER'S GUIDE TO THE MYSTIC RIVER AND ITS HISTORY • BAILEY PRYOR'S "MYSTIC - AN



AMERICAN JOURNEY" DVD • MRHS' "IMAGES OF AMERICA: MYSTIC" • "AN ACCOUNT OF MY LIFE, 1915-1926: THE CHILDHOOD JOURNALS of HELEN MAY CLARKE of MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT" BY HELEN CLARKE GRIMES, EDITED BY MRHS • HISTORICAL MAP REPRODUCTIONS • NOTECARDS



from the CONTRIBUTOR'S DESK

Jim Kimenker

Perhaps it's just the season (and I don't mean the changing of the leaves), but I can't be the only one whose eyes have started rolling in response to the Presidential campaign. I'm not whining about the constant bombardment of ads, debates and Presidential "jobs" tours. No, what I'm complaining about are the illogical statements and misuse of data made by our benighted politicians and their sidekicks.

Without intending to pick on our President (there is no shortage of similar misbehavior on the part of his "worthy" opponents), I listened as he launched into a rhetorical flourish about people "paying their fair share", about not increasing taxes on the "bottom" 97 or 98 percent and increasing taxes on the top "1 or 2 percent who can afford it". A number of questions arise from those statements. What's the definition of "fair share"? Can 97% of anything be considered the "bottom"? Does being in the top 2% this year mean one is always in the top 2% (regarding affordability)? If only the top 1 or 2 percent will see higher taxes, shouldn't it be the bottom 98 or 99 percent who should be protected? That 97th percentile is presumably just a tad uncomfortable listening to the President. And, why does he say, "or"? To give hope to the 98th percentile? Doesn't he know what his plan is? All to say, there's a lot of undisciplined, fallacious thinking going on and it's used to obfuscate, not illuminate.

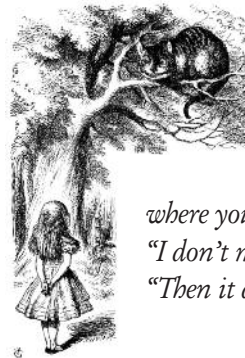
To be fair (and to bring this column around to its appropriate mission—history), while fallacy is often found in the political arena, it also occurs frequently in historical writing. So, it behooves us to be diligent in recognizing illogic not only from our politicians, but from the scholars we'd like to think are honest and precise. For those who enjoy logic and critical thinking, a book not to be missed is David Hackett Fischer's *Historians' Fallacies—Toward a Logic of Historical Thought*. The book is a compendium of the fallacies of numerous historians and shows how analysis that appears sound and well reasoned, when dissected, is really a mess of illogical and unpersuasive argument. Just two examples of the many in the book will suffice to describe the problem.

For instance, as Fischer explains, frequently the problem can be traced to how questions are framed. A common mistake is the fallacy of the "false dichotomous question", meaning a question constructed so that it demands a choice

between only two given answers, when others may, in fact, be the correct ones. From actual treatises consider the following titles: "Jacksonian Democracy: Myth or Reality", or "The Abolitionists: Reformers or Fanatics", or "John D. Rockefeller: Robber Baron or Industrial Statesman". At first blush, the given answers all seem to square with our basic understanding of history, but are they really the only choices we have? Of course not. Consider the media today: "The Tea Party: Government Reformers or Right Wing Whackos?", or "Occupy Wall Street: Financial Reformers or Left Wing Whackos?" We do ourselves a disservice when we limit our analysis to false choices or allow it to be limited by others. It's up to us to think critically and reject the fallacy.

Another fallacy is found in imperfect generalizations. Consider, for instance, a generalization that rests on too little data. Fischer hilariously describes the work of two historians who argued that distinctions between Federalists and Anti-Federalists while drafting the Constitution could be traced to a generational difference—Federalists, they argued, were much younger than the Anti-Federalists. But, as Fischer demonstrates, their sample of the individuals involved was ridiculously small. He constructed his own equally small sample of individuals involved in the drafting to "prove" Federalists were actually much older! Think about current events—does the singular fact that Warren Buffet says he pays a lower tax rate than his secretary mean that every executive does? Do we even know that it's true about dear Warren?

If we learn to discern the mistakes made in historical writing, it will serve us well in dealing with the illogic prevalent in the world around us and in avoiding the kind of confusion Alice experienced in Wonderland:



"Cheshire Puss," she began, rather timidly . . .

"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"

"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.

"I don't much care where," said Alice.

"Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat.

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 - Lou Allyn • Vice President - John Porter
Treasurer - Bill Everett • Corresponding Secretary - Lois Glazer • Recording Secretary - Cathy Marco

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Issues of the newsletter are available for online viewing at www.mystichistory.org



Portersville Academy Comes Alive!

- Tim Evers



Blithewold ~ "one of the finest garden estates in New England" ~ will be just one of the stops on the MRHS spring excursion.

MRHS Spring Trip Announced

Save the date! Spearheaded by Sally Halsey, the MRHS excursions will begin anew with a spring trip to the Blithewold Mansion and Gardens and the Herreshoff Museum in Bristol, RI on Wednesday, May 2, 2012. Stay tuned for more details in upcoming winter issues.

Historic Plaque Help Wanted

We need your help! For the Society's 40th Anniversary in 2013, we want to place historic marker plaques on the buildings in downtown Mystic. A team of researchers, including Judy Hicks, Joanna Case, Betty Ann Tylaska and Susan Lund are investigating historical information on each building, and are excited to share their findings. We need someone to help us decide what style of plaque to use, and how much it will cost. Wood? Brass? Size? Price? If anyone has an interest in helping out on this exciting project, please contact Dorrie Hanna at the MRHS - 860-536-4779 or info@mystichistory.org.

Portersville Academy hosted 150 elementary school pupils on October 19, 20, and 24. LEARN, the regional educational center in Southeastern Connecticut, organized the visits to the 1839 schoolhouse. Third graders from public schools in Norwich, who were paired with students from Old Saybrook, created journals, dressed up in period clothes, and enjoyed lessons & exercises in the historic classroom upstairs.

Congratulations and thanks to Cathy Mauritz for organizing and to volunteers Walt and Susan Keach, Lou Allyn, Judy Hicks, Lois Glazier, and schoolmaster Dudley Avery (aka Tim Evers). Special appreciation is extended to volunteers from the Mystic Women's Club who assisted in the successful program: Linda Files, Judy Keegan, and Peggy Jordan. We hope to continue this coordinated effort in future projects.



Contemporary students participate in a vintage educational experience with Tim Evers' "Mr. Avery" at Portersville Academy. Photo from MRHS files.

Partners in Education

The Mystic Woman's Club has wholeheartedly agreed to form a partnership with the Mystic River Historical Society for volunteers in education programs at the Portersville Academy. We look forward to working together to provide and expand educational opportunities.

Re: Perspective & Generalization...



The Blind Men and the Elephant

John Godfrey Saxe's (1816-1887) poem version of the famous legend from India

*It was six men of Indostan
To learning much inclined,
Who went to see the Elephant
(Though all of them were blind),
That each by observation
Might satisfy his mind.*

*The First approach'd the Elephant,
And happening to fall
Against his broad and sturdy side,
At once began to bawl:
"God bless me! but the Elephant
Is very like a wall!"*

*The Second, feeling of the tusk,
Cried, - "Ho! what have we here
So very round and smooth and sharp?
To me 'tis mighty clear
This wonder of an Elephant
Is very like a spear!"*

*The Third approached the animal,
And happening to take
The squirming trunk within his hands,
Thus boldly up and spake:
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a snake!"*

*The Fourth reached out his eager hand,
And felt about the knee.
"What most this wondrous beast is like
Is mighty plain," quoth he,
"'Tis clear enough the Elephant
Is very like a tree!"*

*The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,
Said: "E'en the blindest man
Can tell what this resembles most;
Deny the fact who can,
This marvel of an Elephant
Is very like a fan!"*

*The Sixth no sooner had begun
About the beast to grope,
Then, seizing on the swinging tail
That fell within his scope,
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a rope!"*

*And so these men of Indostan
Disputed loud and long,
Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
And all were in the wrong!*

MORAL.
*So oft in theologic wars,
The disputants, I ween,
Rail on in utter ignorance
Of what each other mean,
And prate about an Elephant
Not one of them has seen!*

From Our Readership: Historic Vignettes

Editor's Note: Readers are welcome to send along their own memories of Mystic people & places, or help to document a friend or family member's remembrances. Email is preferable to: jenniferspryor@gmail.com or send to Pryor/Attn: MRHS, 35 Pearl Street, Mystic, CT 06355

Memories of Nauyaug II: Summer Sports *from John R. Wheeler*

Norton C. Wheeler III and his wife Sandra live in Quaker Hill. His father and mother, Norton C. Wheeler, Jr. and his wife Andy, live adjacent to Nauyaug on Mason's Island in Mystic. NCW Jr.'s father was Norton C. Wheeler, Sr. John R. Wheeler (Uncle Jack) was NCW Sr.'s brother. They both worked at Standard Machinery in Mystic which is now Factory Square. The stories were noted in 1989 when John Wheeler was 93. In Part I of the October issue, the Campers were introduced.

Johnnie Allyn (my age) became my pal and what fun we had "lassoing" the Mason's sheep, at the rear of our cottage where there was a sheep shed. If we roped them by the legs, they were caught quickly, but if we roped their necks they would pull us 200 feet or more. Andrew Mason stopped the sport - afraid of injuries to the sheep - not us.

Another sport was shooting bullfrogs with my 22 rifle on the center pond. Aunt Nettie skinned the legs and made a pie which was better than any chicken pie ever made.

Before July 4th, all the campers gathered driftwood and filled a pit behind our cottage and on the evening of the 4th, the blaze could be seen over Noank.

Most of the campers collected rainwater for washing, but milk, butter etc., were kept in a pail at the bottom of Mason well, near our cottage. We had no refrigeration. We rowed to Noank most every day for groceries, purchased at the store near the public landing.

Once when Aunt Jenny (Dad's sister) was visiting us, we rowed to Noank and on the way back we tried to better the time across. Aunt Jenny sat on the stern and I rowed in the forward bow for she was broad and tall. As we got nearer Nauyaug, Aunt Jenny kept crying, "Faster, Jack, faster, we've got to beat the record." I kept pulling with my eyes shut, nearly exhausted until we hit the dock. Aunt Jenny went in the air on top of me with petticoats flying and jelly beans, which she had in her lap, all over the boat. What a laugh we had!

In August, the crab season started and I took Aunt Jenny into the cove on the west side with incoming tide. It took us about two hours to fill the bottom of the boat with blue shells. I stood up in the bow, poling along with the tide. A crab caught me in the middle of my instep (barefooted) and I jumped overboard, spilling Aunt Jenny. She thought I had gone nuts. I never went crabbing again barefoot. We cooked the crabs in the big iron kettle in the backyard. Aunt Nettle picked out the meat and made a crab soufflé. As Byron Hatfield should say, "We lived high on the hog."

There were fishnets on the east side of Nauyaug extending out some 100 feet from the shore to the west. Each week Mr. Wilcox came over to empty the nets early in the morning. I would row out and bring back a 2-3 lb. flounder for 10 cents, or if I had no money, I always brought back a fish.

We went swimming at high tide daily, rain or shine. Once Seneca Eldridge, 6'3", 200 lbs. swam over to Cabin Island (north of Mystic Island) with me holding onto his shoulder with one hand and kicking with my feet. Seneca used a crawl stroke, head submerged except to breathe. The Holmes had a speedboat, Blue Peter, with a new Holmes engine. It had a speed of over 18 knots which was very fast for those days.

Irons Family of Mystic *from Robert Irons*

Since my family is the last of this Irons line I thought it was appropriate to find a few words and stories to document some of what I know about this branch of the Irons family that settled in the Mystic area.

Col. Laben Irons was 6th generation in the Irons line that originated with Matthew (1615-1661), who lived in Boston after coming to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1633 with the Winthrop Fleet. The subsequent line from Matthew was Samuel, Samuel, Samuel and Resolved. Laben (1778-1813) was the son of Resolved (1743- 1830) and lived in Glocester, RI. Laben's siblings were Phebe, Martha, Waity and Dexter. Laben was buried, with many of his family, in the Col. Laben Irons Lot, off Snake Hill Rd, in Glocester, R.I. The title of "Col." eludes me, however, it appears that at one time he was a member of the R.I. Militia. Laben was married twice: to Margaret Man in 1798 and Lydia Hawkins in 1799 after Margaret died, childless.

The Weekly Mirror Journal of Stonington and Groton, Vol. 1 No.2, Thursday, April 27, 1871 states: "One of the oldest persons of the Town of Stonington, and certainly the oldest in Mystic, passed peacefully to her rest on Thursday night. Mrs Lydia Irons, the honored mother of the late Dexter and Resolved Irons, and widow of Labon Clark (Laben Irons) of Glocester, R.I. entered the ninety-fifth year of her age on the 17th Day of March. Mrs Irons had been more than sixty years a widow, and had resided in this village about twenty years. Her remains were carried to Glocester to repose beside her husbands". Lydia is buried in the Col. Laben Irons Lot.

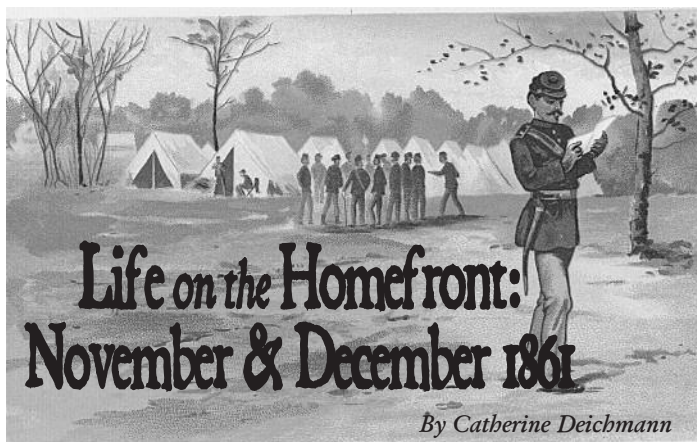


Headstone of a namesake of Lydia Irons in the Glocester, RI lot.

On George Thompson *from Lucy T. Howell*

I read with interest Dorrie Hanna's account on artist Thompson. As a student at Mystic Academy, I clearly recall Mr. Thompson visiting the classes on Wednesday morning to instruct the pupils in a bit of art.

For all we know, Mr. Thompson's endeavors could have awakened a previously hidden talent in some youngster.



Life on the Homefront: November & December 1861

By Catherine Deichmann

In honor of the Civil War sesquicentennial, I will be looking at the war month-by-month from the historic local point of view: Like the citizens of Mystic at the time, we have no idea how long the war will go, what the incredible cost will be, or even who will prevail in the end. It should be interesting to watch it 'unfold' in the months to come...

On November 2, the *Pioneer's* lead article celebrates the war's boost to the local economy. "Notwithstanding the disarrangement of business on account of the war, the various branches in Mystic seem to flourish more than ever before." The Mallory, Greenman, and Maxson & Fish shipyards, and the riggers, foundries and machine works that supply them, now employ more than 600 men. New stores are opening to meet the community's grocery and dry goods needs. The old Congregational church is being converted into a boarding house for workers; several new homes are under construction. A group of investors led by Mr. Lucas is restarting the looms at the Greenmanville factory, and expect to hire 100 hands. The mills at the Mystic Manufacturing Company run 24 hours a day, turning out 1700 yards of blue flannel for army uniforms. The government purchases the veteran whalers Robin Hood and Meteor, half of the Mystic whaling fleet, for \$4000 each. The Navy plans to load them with stone and scuttle them in Charleston harbor.

Long, reassuring letters arrive weekly from local correspondents in the army. "Mirth and good humor prevail" among "the boys." In far-off places from Maryland to Meridan, army life has fallen into a routine of drill and sentry duty, punctuated by regular meals, visits from the sutler, and a peaceful sleep in a cozy tent. Meanwhile, Mystic stationers offer a variety of maps and "military campaign charts," so the soldiers' friends and families can follow the war from the comfort of their own parlors. When Governor Buckingham proclaims Thursday, November 18th as a day of "Public Thanksgiving and Praise," the community has much to be thankful for.

Still, despite the economic boom and the inactivity along the front lines, the war continues to make demands. More able-bodied men are needed for a new regiment of infantry, the Connecticut 12th, and for Captain William Fish's cavalry company. Although Elisha Rathbun praises the warmth and comfort of the new

Sibley tents just issued to the CT 4th, the approach of winter lends urgency to the appeals for clothing and supplies for soldiers. The ladies of the Mystic Nightingale Society meet weekly at Morgan Hall to knit and sew, while festivals are held in the Borough and at Floral Hall to raise money for bandages, medicines, warm bedding, and delicacies for the sick and wounded.

At year's end, the editor of the *Pioneer* looked back on the local business community's response to the war's opportunities. In 1861, the Mallory yard launched five boats, and they have three more on the stocks. At the Maxson & Fish shipyard, new buildings are being constructed to permit work to continue throughout the winter. After one month in operation, the Lucas & Brothers mill in Greenmanville is now producing more than 500 yards of army cloth daily, with further expansion anticipated in the new year. The growth in manufacturing is bringing in more workers; the *Pioneer* prints notices from those seeking lodging, and from residents offering rooms to rent.

Cheerful news continues to arrive from "the boys" in the field. "I can assure you there was nobody in all New England who enjoyed their dinner better than did we exiles down here in the pine woods of Maryland," wrote one member of the 5th Regiment's Company G. Captain Hiram Appleman relayed his soldiers' appreciation for a shipment of winter clothing. From Meridan, Captain William Fish's cavalry company thanked "the little girls who sent those Sunday school papers," noting that "the soldiers are much pleased with them."

The war is proving to be much more dangerous for local ships and sailors than for soldiers safe in their winter quarters. Early in December, word arrives that the ship Harvey Birch, built in Mystic by Irons & Grinnell in 1854, was captured and burned in the North Atlantic by the Confederate commerce raider Nashville. The next week, the *Pioneer's* lead story describes the seizure of the Noank fishing schooner Ocilla near Tampa Bay. After a mock trial, the smack's seven officers and crew were sent to Richmond and imprisoned there; "how long they will remain there they do not know," the paper reports.

The war is threatening to expand into local waters. When the removal of two Confederate agents from the British mail steamer Trent disrupts Anglo-American diplomacy, the *Pioneer* quickly proposes the construction of a 1st class fort on Mystic Island, at the mouth of the river, for the defense of Long Island Sound. Such a fort "would be a military necessity if England should, as expected, declare war upon us," the editor declares. On this uncertain note, the year 1861 draws to an end.



Mystic Manufacturing Co. Woolen & Worsted Mills

October Meeting Minutes

- Cathy Marco, Recording Secretary

The Board of Trustees of the Mystic River Historical Society met on Monday, October 17, 2011. Board Members and Committee Chairmen/members present were Aimée Allaire, Cynthia Allyn, Lou Allyn, David Evans, Bill Everett, Tim Evers, Lois Glazier, Alan Greener, Sally Halsey, Jim Kimenker, Cathy Marco, Cathy Mauritz, Betty O'Donnell, John Porter and Stephanie Thorp. Laura Beach came as a guest. The Board members who were not present had been excused.

President's Report (Lou Allyn): It recently came to our attention that the 1772 Foundation offers grants for historical preservation. The 1772 Foundation website is www.1772foundation.org and information about their matching grants for historical preservation in Connecticut is available there as well. It is a 1:1 matching grant program for specific preservation projects, with this year's grant up to \$15,000. We will keep this in mind for the future.

Treasurers Report (Bill Everett): Financials were sent to the Board prior to this meeting. A brief discussion of our current numbers was presented.

Finance (David Evans): The committee met on October 12 to prepare a preliminary 2012 budget for board discussion. A copy of the preliminary 2012 budget was sent to all board members prior to the board meeting.

The Committee reviewed the 2010 Form 990 and decided it would be prudent for the committee to review it prior to filing in the future. No issues were found but it was concluded that this was a shared Financial Committee responsibility.

During the budget process, the Finance Committee noted the need for growing the membership and pursuing initiatives that would more closely match programs with revenues. Our remaining supply of book "The Colors of Mystic" was discussed and we will be looking for additional avenues to sell this publication. The Board members discussed various elements of the budget. It was noted that trips have been a good source of revenue in the past and it was important to continue these in the future. The House Tours every three years are a big source of revenue. These two things are extremely important to the organization's financial health but lack of volunteers to run them is a serious issue and big concern.

David suggested the Board members continue to review the preliminary 2012 budget and contact him as soon as possible with suggestions on how to solve the projected deficit. He hopes to have a budget for the Board to vote on at the November Board Meeting.

The Board discussed a number of possible ideas to increase revenue: a membership drive organized by a Membership Task Force and possibly raising the dues (both of these will be addressed by the Membership Committee with recommendations to the Board); Appointing a Ways and Means

Editor's Note: The meeting minutes are reviewed and revised as necessary by the board prior to publication, but are not approved until the following monthly board meeting.

Committee (with responsibility to suggest ways to improve revenue); Change to our Educational Programs (this would be addressed by the Education Committee to suggest ways to improve revenue); and cutting back on the number of Programs (to be addressed by the Program Committee to review cost effectiveness of a program's cost vs. attendance).

The Committee also reviewed our investment portfolio and discussed current allocations and alternative strategies. The only immediate action was to suspend reinvestment of dividends and interest, channeling these disbursements to our money market fund and reducing our need for sales to fund current expenditures.

Stephanie Thorp volunteered to do some grant writing.

Corresponding Secretary (Lois Glazier): Correspondence for September consisted of four thank you letters: to our September speaker, Casey Zahn; for a general gift to the society; for a gift in memory of Joyce Everett; and for a new membership at the Benefactor Level.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings & Grounds (Alan Greener): Fencing has been purchased (recommended by Dorrie), stakes and trash bags for the Saturday, October 22 clean up. The fencing will be used each fall to block the gravel and stones that our overzealous snow plow contractor pushes into the bushes and flower beds which edge the parking lot.

Curatorial (Dorrie Hanna for Judy Hicks): The Committee met with IT chairman Stephanie Thorp and discussed various technical issues that have come up recently regarding PastPerfect. No consensus was reached and further discussion will be required to establish procedures and guidelines so that we can make the best use of our computer system, the PastPerfect software, and our staff and volunteer time. The on-site visit for the Disaster Planning Consultant has been rescheduled to Thursday, November 3 from 9 to noon. All Board members are welcome to attend.

Education Outreach (Cathy Mauritz): Project LEARN third graders will be coming for three days at the end of October. We have gotten volunteers to help. However, one of the major problems we do have is getting volunteers to help with these school programs. Cathy informed the board that thanks to the Mystic Women's Club, they have agreed to work in partnership with us to volunteer with our spring and fall educational programs, as part of their community work projects.

Cathy continues to work on a possible program for high school level. She is in discussion with Fitch High School to explore ways to work together.

IT Committee (*Stephanie Thorp*): The System Administrator performed routine backups of all data files and Past Perfect files on October 1. MRHS1, MRHS2 and MRHS3 are connected to the in-house network and properly interconnect with each other. MRHS4, a standalone device, was reconnected and verified to be operating properly.

Since the Norton Internet Security license of MRHS3 has expired, the licenses for MRHS1 and MRHS2 will expire soon, a new license for all three has been requested and will be installed soon.

Both printers are restored to proper operation. All copies of Past Perfect were updated to the current version, 5B3. An up-to-date copy of the MRHS membership list was installed on MRHS1 and MRHS2.

Marketing (*Sally Halsey*): Press Releases have been sent for our October program. Facebook continues to be updated as well.

Membership (*Cynthia Allyn*): We had one new member and seven renewals for the month, and five renewed as Newsletter Patrons.

Nominating: Because we have a large number of replacements for next year's board (NOTE: we have to replace Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Membership Committee Chairman and IT Committee Chairman and John Porter ends 9 years as an elected Trustee), we will be starting the Nominating Committee work now. We also have re-election of three other Board members: Lois Glazier, Tim Evers and Betty O'Donnell.

The Committee's task will be figuring how and where to look for new officers and board members. Possible ideas include: our Membership list, Chamber of Commerce, the civic organizations (i.e., Rotary), local colleges, etc.

At present the Nominating Committee will consist of Lou, John, and Bill. If there are any other volunteers, please contact Lou.

Program (*Aimée Allaire*): Our 2011 - 2012 Membership Meeting Program season kicked off September 28th with Casey Zahn's presentation on encouraging children to get involved in genealogy. Hook 'Em While They're Young gave the audience many ideas and resources to enable families to have fun while learning about their own family's history and heritage. Almost 30 people attended the meeting though we had hoped for more. Last September we also had a lower than expected number of attendees. Hopefully our numbers will increase as they did with the 2010-2011 programs, consistently reaching an audience of 60 or 70 people.

Our October 26th program is being presented by MRHS's very own Judy Hicks and Lou Allyn. The Program Committee is very much looking forward to Four Ladies of Mystic based on the lives of Mary Jobe Ackeley, Mary Louisa Brewster, Mary Rathbun Stark and (lest ye be concerned that the only interesting women of Mystic were named Mary) Helen May Clarke.

We are also putting the call out for a little trusty Board member Hospitality help for Louisa. It is not a very taxing job but would be much appreciated by us. Board members who would like to volunteer to bring cookies/desserts for the Monthly Meeting are asked to contact Aimee.

Special Events (*Sally Halsey*): We are working on a spring bus trip to New Jersey with possible stops at the Edison Museum, Princeton, the Grounds for Sculpture, and maybe even making it to Cape May (which may mean we need to make it a three night trip). Not sure if it will be a two or three night trip since the logistics are still being worked. The Board discussed the pros and cons of having a two night trip versus a three night trip. Keeping the price down will probably mean a two night trip.

The Special Events Committee met last month to discuss the possible House/Business Tour for June 2013 (the MRHS 40th Anniversary Year). The Committee wants to be sure that the Board supports a tour before they plan any further. The Board discussed this and shared ideas but no one volunteered to chair it. The consensus was that this project needs to start moving ahead very soon with someone volunteering to chair it.

Judy Hicks and colleagues are continuing on their research on the history of each building downtown, with the goal of creating some sort of plaque for each building. We suggest that this be a 40th Anniversary project, and hope to unveil the first of the plaques by the House Tour in 2013. Again, a volunteer is needed. This volunteer needs to research the plaques - styles, materials, and prices, probably by finding ones in other towns to copy. No volunteer came forward from the Board. Maybe someone not on the Board would be interested in this project. We will put a request in the newsletter for a volunteer.

Walking Tour (*David Evans*): Over the past few months our outdoor holders lost their adhesive and were screwed into position at Downes and the Pumping Station by Lou and David.

Unfinished, New Business: None.

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on November 21, 2011

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Marco, Secretary



Newsletter Patrons ~ Individual



Events Calendar

Newsletter Patrons ~ Commercial

CYNTHIA AND LOUIS ALLYN
 JANE AND DAN BRANNAGAN
 JAK AND DAVID CRUTHERS
 DAVID AND JEAN EVANS
 MR WILLIAM EVERETT
 SALLY HALSEY
 MR AND MRS DOUG HANNA
 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

Membership Meeting
 Wed., Nov. 30th, 2011, 7:30p
 Congregational Church Parish Hall
Laura Beach - Sailor's Valentines to Susan's Teeth: Collecting Maritime Art & Antiques Then and Now

Membership Meeting
 Wed., Jan. 25th, 2012, 7:30p
 Congregational Church Parish Hall
Nautilus Submarine

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Membership Updates



We have had eight renewals during the previous period. They are:
 Individual - Frank Bean, Geraldine Phillips, Sharon Stryker, and Gail Swanson • Family - M/M Frank Fulchiero, M/M Robert Krusewski • Contributing - Carl Strand • Benefactor - Jak and David Cruthers

- Cynthia Allyn, Membership Chair

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