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The Charles W. Morgan, ship rigged at Colonel Edward H.R. Green's estate, Round Hill, in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts before she was transported to Mystic Seaport Museum in 1941.

On Wednesday, November 17th, at 7:30pm Matthew Stackpole will present "And She Alone Remains: The Past, Present, and Future of the *Charles W. Morgan*." As many in Mystic know, the *Charles W. Morgan* is the last surviving wooden whaling ship in the world. It's designation as a National Historic Landmark conveys its importance to America and our nation's history.

Join us as Mr. Stackpole follows the life of the Morgan, who sailed 37 voyages, from 1841 to 1921 and was acquired by the Seaport in 1941. She was enjoyed for over 60 years here in Mystic before the current extensive three year

restoration project began in 2008. This preservation ensures that the *Charles W. Morgan* will continue to be available to admire and learn from in the future.

Matthew Stackpole's own history is closely tied to his subject as he literally grew up on the grounds of Mystic Seaport where his father was Curator, then added "Rigger," "First Mate" and "Captain" to his resumé for the Seaport and the schooners Shenandoah and MYA, sequentially. With a varied background in sailing, teaching, public relations and museum directorship, Mr. Stackpole returned to the Seaport in 2008 to lead the restoration project on the Morgan.

Looking for a different Holiday Gift idea this year?

Consider the joy of giving a one year membership in the Mystic River Historical Society!

For only \$15 for an Individual member or \$30 for a Family membership you can give someone a door into the fascinating world of Mystic history.

Please mail your check to: MRHS Membership, PO Box 245, Mystic, CT 06355



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Please check here if you would like MRHS to notify the new member/s.



from the PRESIDENT'S DESK

Jim Kimenker

Our November Member's meeting will host Mystic Seaport's Matthew Stackpole and a presentation on the history of the Charles W. Morgan, the venerable whaling ship which is the last of its kind and centerpiece of the Seaport's marine collections. The Morgan has been in the news because of the current efforts to restore it, not only to insure its preservation as a museum piece, but to make it seaworthy again. The museum's plans for the restored ship actually include sailing it on the waters of southern New England. I'm nearly speechless at the thought (and anybody who knows me understands how remarkable that is).

A New York Times article about the work published last August (recommended reading for those who missed it), noted that the restoration is fundamentally about remembering and honoring the past. I was struck by that formulation. After all, in thinking about the past, none would argue "remembering" as fundamental to the exercise. But "honoring"? Is that what we do when we read about, discuss or, as in this case, effectively re-enact the past? Obviously, one can hardly be unimpressed by the Seaport's efforts in raising \$10 million for the effort—if that's not fundamentally an honor of SOME sort, I don't know what is. But, I'm still not sure that our labors in remembering the past, whether financially imposing or not and regardless of the element of love involved, must also necessarily result in honoring the past.

Think of it this way, perhaps: "Remembering", by itself, is a non-judgmental exercise. The mere gathering, reconstruction or retelling of the facts and details of a past event need not involve a qualitative opinion of the worth or value of the event. In fact, we typically insist that historical works are worthy when they are accurate and truthful, not because they tell us what we want to hear. Works which serve simply to confirm our biases are a mere waste of time. Works meant to persuade without regard to fact or truth are nothing but propaganda (or an election advertisement!). "Honoring", on the other hand, implies a judgment of worthiness.

Unfortunately, "worthiness" is a slippery concept because it cannot be applied objectively. One person's worthy event is another person's tragedy. Even where worthiness appears obvious, it may not be so obvious to all. Think about it—St. Patrick's Battalion: Mexico's Irish heroes or American deserters and traitors? Pearl Harbor: a "day that will live in infamy" or a glorious military victory? The Charles W. Morgan: esteemed whaling vessel or merchant of death responsible for the murder of thousands of sentient beings, contributing to their near extinction?

Ok, ok, don't panic. I do view Pearl Harbor as justifiably infamous and I'm not about to criticize whalers who acted without knowledge of our "modern" sensibilities (I'll leave the Battalion to your judgment). My simple point is that remembering the past should be divorced from honoring it, because honor necessarily resides in the minds of those beholden to a particular result. It's important to understand and remember the difference, because forgetting frequently leads to unnecessary misunderstanding and controversy about the memory. It ought to be sufficient to honor the past by remembering it accurately and truthfully. And, now, having made my simple point, I need to get over to the Seaport to explore the restoration project!



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 - Kay Janney • Recording Secretary - Cathy Marco*

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



A Montreal Fall & Philly Spring

- Joyce Everett

We had a great trip to Montreal and New York state! The fall colors varied but we had many beautiful views of foliage. Our ferry trip across Lake Champlain gave us view of the foliage from across the water at the end of the day.

Our Montreal guide, Lucie, made certain that we saw as much of the city as possible - around the old town, up Mont Royal, along the waterfront, into the cathedral, and through some of the lovely residential areas. We scattered for lunch and regathered for a visit to the Botanical Gardens in their fall finery.

We had a wet but interesting day at Fort Ticonderoga and Saratoga. The Thomas Cole house in Catskill was a delight for everyone, as was our tram ride through the Storm King Art Center on a brilliantly sunny day. Our final stop was West Point with a charming West Point wife for our guide and divulger of fascinating facts and little-known insider information!

Our thanks to everyone who came and made the trip a pleasure for all. Our next adventure will be in late April - an exploration of little known spots in Philadelphia and favorite stops in Delaware. Plan to join us!

Updates from the Downes

- Dorrie Hanna

Things are really hoppin' at the Downes Building these days. We're getting new computers and printers, we're fulfilling orders for our wonderful new book, "Colors of Mystic", we're answering lots of research inquiries, and of course we keep on working with our collections to make them more accessible.

One thing we are NOT getting at the Downes, is more space. As we sort over the material we find that we have multiple copies of some things, such as postcards, maps and booklets. The Curatorial Committee will have a table at the November MRHS meeting at which we will be offering some of these extras for sale. Please plan to have a look—you might find a perfect holiday gift for that proverbial "person who has everything". And of course, you'll be supporting the MRHS.

Naturally we will have our publications for sale as well. In addition to Colors of Mystic, there will be An Account of my Life, Images of America: Mystic, the Mystic DVD and the Kayaker's Guide to the Mystic River.

Please Note: The Downes Building will be closed November 11, Thanksgiving Eve, Thanksgiving Day, and the week before Christmas. If you need to reach us, please email info@www.mystichistory.org and we will get back to you. Happy Holidays!



photo by W. Halsey

Ashley Halsey and a gallery of her original watercolors for the newly-released "Colors of Mystic" at the MRHS book opening splash at the Mystic Art Center on October 27th.

The Colors of Mystic....

The Colors of Mystic book opening was a great success! If you missed it, books are \$14.95 & available at Bank Square Books, Mystic Noank Library and MRHS. Ashley Halsey's new print will also be featured with Will Halsey's work at a Brother & Sister Art Exhibit at the Finer Line Gallery. Ms. Halsey will be on hand to personalize copies of the limited edition print during the Art Stroll December 2nd from 6-8p.

THE FINER LINE
GALLERY

is pleased to introduce the print:

"Colors of Mystic"

~ An Exclusive Fine Art Signed & Numbered Limited Edition Giclée Print Featuring Ashley Halsey's images from the book "Colors of Mystic" ~



Giclée Print \$125.00*

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*20% of all print sales and 10% of all framing sales benefit the Mystic River Historical Society

The Finer Line Gallery • 48 W. Main St. Mystic • (860) 536-8339

September Meeting Minutes

- Cathy Marco, Recording and Dorrie Hanna, Summary

The MRHS board met on September 21, 2010.

President's Report (*Jim Kimenker*): An update on the Akeley Trust Agreement: We have had some discussions and correspondence since the last meeting. We are still investigating insurance and negligence issues. We will continue work on this. A question of adequate insurance was raised. It was agreed that many of the insurance issues (i.e., D&O, co-insurance, enough protection) would need to be reviewed by the Finance Committee and our insurance agent and reported back to the board at a Board Meeting.

Stephanie has been working on coordinating a review of the MRHS bylaws. All board members have again been asked to review the Bylaws and email Stephanie any comments.

Finance (*David Evans*): All budget requests (showing major income and expense items) should be emailed to David Evans no later than Monday, October 4th! NOTE: Discussion of a major expenditure for Replacement of MRHS Computer system is under New Business. Also discussion of a major expenditure for an Education/Outreach Coordinator is under Education/Outreach Committee.

Corresponding Secretary (*Lois Glazier*): 2 Letters were sent: a Thank you note for a donation of a book by its author; a Thank you note for a monetary donation to the organization by a business.

Buildings & Grounds (*Alan Greener*): Painters did a good job, particularly inside. Threshold was replaced. UV panels need to be put on inside; however, windows need to be washed first. This will be done.

Curatorial (*submitted by Dorrie Hanna*): The Archival Assessment has been received and a copy is available for anyone interested in reading it. Bottom line, the assessment was that we have a great collection and it is well cared for.

Education/Outreach (*No chairman*):

The Board invited Helen Keith to present for discussion a review of what Education and Outreach has done and suggestions on what more they could be doing.

A motion was made and seconded to continue our educational programs for the 1st and 3rd grade and continue outreach programs (as we did last year). The board voted approval (with one abstention).

A motion was then made and seconded that assuming no volunteer come forward to fill the role as chairperson of education and outreach, that the finance committee include a \$5000 allowance for an education and outreach staff person. Tim Evers and his nominating committee would write up the job description by October (based on material already provided by Helen). The person would need to be in place by January. The board approved the motion unanimously.

IT Committee (*Stephanie Thorp*):

Computer System Incident Reports were submitted by staff members, causing the System Manager to spend a good deal of time investigating the situation and the reasons for the reported problems. The primary computer has been removed from the Downes Building for repair and further testing; the secondary computer has been reprogrammed to serve as the primary computer; and the IT Committee has determined that the most efficient and cost-effective action to take at this time is to replace the entire system. The formal proposal for this action is documented separately.

Marketing (*Sally Halsey*): News releases have been sent.

Membership (*Cynthia Allyn*): Listed our recent renewals since the last Portersville Press. Fortunately no deaths to report. As requested by the board regarding an evaluation of members we have to-date versus the number we have had during the same period a year ago. Are you gaining membership or losing? The answer is we are about even. We have nine fewer members. Of the 48 follow up letters, we received 8 replies and memberships.

Newsletter (*Jennifer Pryor*): Newsletter patrons are bringing in money and soliciting ads would be a good thing. If Board members are interested, Jennifer will provide a form flyer for getting ads. Jennifer is contacting current advertisers.

Nominating (*Tim Evers*): No report.

Program (*Aimee Allaire*):

There is one change in the tentative program schedule given at the June Board meeting. The program for January 2011 has now been changed to "Getting Children Excited about Genealogy" by Casey Zahn.

Much thanks to Betty for all the planning for 250 Years of Children's Seating ("Tiny Chairs for Tiny Buns") by Arthur Liverant.

Aimée is planning the book-signing event at Mystic Art Center for October and is on the lookout for anyone willing to help with set up, clean up and general helping out with the program that evening. There has been some talk of the possibility of asking for a larger Program Committee budget for the 2011/2012 year. Some MRHS members have brought up the possibility of changing the day the membership meeting is held. It was noted that Jim Baughman has confirmed he will speak at April's membership meeting.

Special Events (*Joyce Everett*): The Next House Tour: The Mystic Garden Club meets tomorrow and will discuss this issue. An update will be reported at the next board meeting.

Unfinished Business

Sally reported that "Colors of Mystic" (illustrated by Ashley Halsey) is moving ahead nicely. The cover price of the book is \$14.95 (with no tax) and we are having 2000 copies printed. News releases have been sent announcing the new book and the book launching event at the Mystic Arts Center planned for October 27 from 6-8. Ashley will be there for a small talk and book signing. We will serve refreshments.

New Business

Stephanie presented a Proposal by the IT Committee for Replacement of MRHS Computer System We have been experiencing some serious problems with our computers and Barry has done a wonderful job keeping us going. These pieces of equipment are vital to us and are in constant use. Ideally, every five years we need to seriously consider replacing our computers because of the burden of ever increasing size of software, multi software use, and new technology.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the IT Committee to have up to \$5000 to pay for computer upgrades. It was the consensus of the board that monies should be budgeted towards upgrading computer equipment on a five year cycle and that this should be considered when doing the 2011 budget. The board voted unanimously for the motion.

The next Board meeting is October 18, 2010 at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Marco, Recording Secretary

More Bits & Pieces

from Lucy T. Howell

As a "newcomer" to the Mystic Historical Society, I do not wish to bore the reader, but to perhaps recall happenings of interest that are new to some, or perhaps forgotten by others.

Let me ask: How many readers remember Mabbitt's Pond? The pond was a special place - in all seasons. Now a row of homes on Allyn Street, the pond was important to me and others in the latter '20s and '30s. In the spring, the pond was alive with fish eggs. The pond offered nature-lovers jars of minnow eggs which could be watched daily in their development to little creatures. A lesson in science unlike any classroom.

In the winter, Mabbitt's pond was alive with skaters. Usually, a bonfire offered a bit of warmth until the cold drove us home for a perhaps belated lunch.

Mabbitt's pond obviously is no more, but we who are still of reasonably good memory will recall the fun shared there with friends and neighbors.



Help Wanted to Reach Out for Education

- Tim Evers

A replacement is needed for Helen Keith, who retired as Education/Outreach Coordinator. If any MRHS member is interested (or knows of someone who might be interested) in the following position, please contact Tim Evers (timevers82@comcast.net). It's important to note that the position may be filled by two or three people who prefer to share responsibilities.

The position summary states that the coordinator is responsible for managing three programs: Portersville Academy Connecticut History presentations, Family Activity Centers at Portersville Academy, and Community Outreach Presentations. The coordinator is chairperson of the education/outreach committee of the Board of Trustees, an appointed, voting position.

Primary Responsibilities:

1. Portersville Academy Connecticut History presentations:

- Recruit & train volunteers to teach and supervise 1st & 3rd grade programs
- Contact 1st and 3rd grade teachers at local elementary schools and establish a visitation schedule (May and June)
- Plan, purchase materials for, and prepare programs
- Administer student visitations

2. Family Activity Centers:

- Recruit & train volunteers in family activities in Portersville Academy
- Plan, purchase materials for, and prepare activity centers
- Establish a schedule (June-October) and publicize activity centers
- Administer activity centers

3. Community Outreach:

- Recruit and train volunteers for Remember When, an audience participation program reminiscing about the 1930s, 40s, and 50's
- Establish a schedule with interested rehab centers and senior residences

Future Goals:

- Expand Remember When to include the 1960s and 70s
- Develop outreach programs for local middle and high school students
- Record oral histories
- Create exhibits, craft classes or other programs utilizing Portersville Academy (June-October)

Pocket Stove -
Which he will sell for one Dollar (\$r) warranted to cook
a stew of oysters in 4 minutes and boil a pint of water.
Every man his own cook - should carry one in his vest
pocket and not have a cold dinner.

From a classified ad in the Mystic Press July 27, 1874

CALENDAR Notables

Membership Meeting

Wed., November 17, 7:30p
Mystic Congregational Parish Hall
Matthew Stackpole and "The History of the Charles W. Morgan"

~ No membership meeting in December. ~

Downtown Mystic Art Stroll

Thu., December 2, 6-8p
"Colors of Mystic" print purchase & signing at Finer Line Gallery, Book at Bank Square - a share of proceeds benefit MRHS.

Membership Meeting

Wed., January 26, 2011, 7:30p
Mystic Congregational Parish Hall
Carl Abissi "Our Memories Preserved"

Membership Meeting

Wed., February 23, 2011
Fritz Hilbert "More on the History of Mystic and its Fires"

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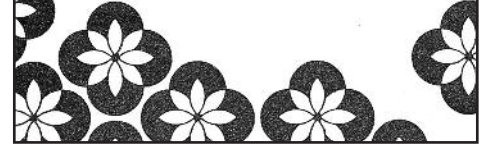
Membership

- Cindy Allyn

Renewals: Juliana Ratcliff/*Individual*, M/M
Craig Haines/*Family*, Ms. Judi Caracausa/*Benefactor*. Two members are recently deceased: Joyce Pippo & Carolyne Evers.

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