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October 26th: Four Women of Mystic And Their Time

Mary Jobe Akeley at Kinbasket, British Columbia ca. 1937, pictured below. Ms. Akeley's curriculum vitae includes: teacher, explorer, anthropologist, naturalist, mountaineer, map-maker, photographer and author. Her travels took her from visiting the Canadian Inuit & Rockies to the Belgian Congo, working to support wildlife, game preserves and the cultures of the Pygmy, Zulu and Swazi people. Akeley called Mystic home base, beginning a girls summer "Camp Mystic" in 1914. Though it closed during the Great Depression, the land tract still operates today as the "Peace Sanctuary."



Mary Rathbun Stark, pictured right ca. 1860, oversaw the construction of her family's home which still stands on West Mystic Avenue while her husband Captain Henry Stark was at sea. From 1854 to 1856, however, Mary and Henry travelled together on the clipper ship "B.F. Hoxie" to Honolulu and Mary wrote frequently to their 11-year old daughter, Lizzie and two sons, Charles, 6, and Sanford, 5 who stayed in Mystic under the care of their grandparents.



Mary Louisa Brewster, shown ca. 1854 at left, was a trailblazing "Petticoat Whaler" who opted to sail with her husband rather than spend months or years awaiting his return. Mary sailed with her husband William aboard "The Tiger" to the Sandwich Islands (James Cook's name for Hawai'i) and to the Arctic to utter dismay of many friends and family - in particular, her adoptive mother who disowned Mary for the decision. Those she met during her adventures, however, were impressed by her company, and a trend of wives and women were inspired to take to the sea by Mary's example.

Mystic history nearly always relates to the shipbuilding days on the River. A few years ago, however, Judy Hicks decided to look at it from a different perspective - women. Judy worked with the Mystic River Historical Society's material regarding two 20th Century Mystic women, as well as an intriguing 19th Century diary written by a woman from Stonington during the mid-19th Century.

For the October program, Judy will discuss Mary Burtch Brewster who sailed with her husband on several whaling voyages; Mary Rathbun Stark who undertook a clippership voyage; Mary Jobe Ackely, an early feminist and independent woman, explorer and owner of Camp Mystic for girls; and Helen May Clarke who started her diary at the age of 10.

Please join us for this interesting program on Wednesday, October 26th, 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall of the Mystic Congregational Church - as always, the meeting is free and open to all membership & the public.



The young Miss Helen May Clarke, pictured above, kept a lively personal diary logging the years from 1915-1926. The account portrays her life in the town of Mystic during that time, and provides a window into small town American life in the burgeoning early twentieth century.

Helen's original journals were donated to the Mystic River Historical Society and became the focus of an award-winning publication now available from MRHS & elsewhere.



Clarke's Journals "An Account of My Life" Available from MRHS

For a more in-depth look into Helen May Clarke's world in the early 1900s, pick up your own copy of the book!

"Although specifically about Mystic, the diary transcends time and place and becomes a rich and colorful canvas depicting small-town life in America nearly a century ago and a lively and observant young woman who took note of it all."

Available at MRHS for \$15.95 or \$14.35 non-member/member.

Please contact us at info@mystichistory.org to purchase.





from the CONTRIBUTOR'S DESK

Jim Kimenker

I've spent numerous columns extolling the virtues of the more modest places to "look" for history: places containing hidden meanings, like our own backyards, local cemeteries, and other familiar haunts. I've also used the column to exhort readers to expand their "thinking" about history: to make it more personal, more real, and more immediate. And, of course, I've employed my little word pulpit to recommend books and other publications of interest which provide new or different ways of contemplating the past. I realize, however, that many of my suggestions to date sometimes require a tad extra "reflection" effort, minimizing the likelihood that you'll all rush to implement them.

So, here's a "simpler" recommendation—how about just becoming more aware of the "obvious" history around us? No, no, I haven't lost my mind (at least no more than is already gone). By "obvious" I mean places specifically designated and maintained to memorialize or demonstrate the past. There are the really "obvious"—museums (like the Smithsonian), famous forts and battlegrounds (like Fort Ticonderoga or the grounds of Gettysburg), and well-known memorials (Lincoln, Jefferson or the new Martin Luther King, Jr.), among the most prominent which spring to mind. But, a recent article in the New York Times alerted me to another way of considering history—visiting less well known, but official, historical sites.

We tend to lose sight of the individuals who actually made events happen and gave them meaning. That New York Times article, entitled, "Commemorating Those Lost Through Time", reported on those of our national memorials which are either off the more well-traveled path or are just plain overlooked.

For instance, how many of you are aware of the massive ammunition explosion which shook the Port of Chicago during World War II, killing hundreds, mostly black servicemen, leading to a mutiny which ultimately led to the desegregation of the armed services. How many of you are aware that there is a memorial to that event, the Port Concord Naval Magazine National Memorial, is at a military base in San Francisco Bay. It is one of only 29 national memorials run by the National Park Service, including the well-known ones noted above. But unlike the memorials devoted to our iconic past, many of our national memorials honor less-reverently

remembered individuals, places and events. And, because of that, few beat a path to their doors.

How about the Kosciuszko Memorial in Philadelphia (revolutionary war hero), the Arkansas Post Memorial (100 miles from Little Rock and, no, it's not a newspaper), or Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial in Put-in-Bay, Ohio (honoring those who fought in the 1812 Battle of Lake Erie)? Like me, I'm betting you're not aware of them. There are others even more out of the way—the memorial to Coronado is south of Tucson where even locals are not always aware of its existence; and the De Soto National Memorial, near Tampa, actually has its detractors, as modern research demonstrates that he wasn't exactly a friend to the local Indians (the Memorial now describes its mission as preserving the "controversial story").

So, here's my latest and, perhaps, most practical advice to date. Join me in looking up a list of the National Memorials and think about visiting the ones you never even knew existed. And, while you're doing that, consider that all of them involved people we hardly ever or never think about. While the vast majority of the people who lived in the past are, and will remain, anonymous, whatever we do to remember or consider them provides a very modest touch of immortality and helps us to better understand our current world.



The Philadelphia memorial to Tadeusz (Thaddeus) Kosciuszko - one of the first Europeans to engage in the Revolutionary War. He was commissioned a colonel at the rate of \$6 monthly and ended the war a Brigadier General, receiving Congressional recognition, and the note from Thomas Jefferson that Kosciuszko was "as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known."

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*

The Newsletter of the Mystic River Historical Society is published six times annually: September, October, November-December, January-February, March-April and May • Box 245 Mystic, CT 06355

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



Are We Prepared?

- Dorrie Hanna

For the last few months I've been participating in a series of workshops on disaster planning for history organizations sponsored by the Connecticut State Library. I really didn't expect to have to apply what I've learned so soon! The MRHS buildings and grounds came through Irene just fine. The freezer where we store nitrate negatives "defrosted" due to the power outage, but that was about it and the negatives are all OK. Luckily there was scarcely any water on the floor, either.

If the storm had been worse, would our buildings have been OK? PVA has survived many a hurricane and the Downes Building is specially constructed to protect our collections but there's no way to be sure that all would be well. Some of what we own can be replaced, but certainly much of our collection is unique. If we had to prioritize what to save, what would we decide? Who would make the decision? Where could we relocate things to keep them out of harms way in preparation for an area-wide disaster? What if there was no warning? What would need to be done to "clean up" after the event? Who would be responsible for doing that? You are all aware of how much damage the Indian & Colonial Research Center suffered during the spring flooding. They are still raising the money for the repairs even as Irene dropped a big tree on their already damaged building. MRHS has been very lucky!

As part of the workshop series we have a visit scheduled with an expert from the Northeast Document Conservation Center on October 18. She will tour both our buildings and give us tips on how to be better prepared. It's quite a process!

And on a more personal note -- If you have special family history documents and photographs at home, would they have been safe if you left them behind when you had to evacuate? Do you have them stored securely? Do you have duplicates and/or back ups? What about clothing, china, jewelry, silver etc? Have you documented these things with pictures so that even if they are damaged or lost you have a record of them? This isn't the sort of thing you can take care of once the storm/blizzard/hurricane warnings are up. All of us who are "family historians" should be planning ahead.

Thank You!

The Mystic River Historical Society participated in the Groton History Fair on September 17th at the Groton Public Library. A big thank you to Judy Hicks and Kit Werner for their help!



MRHS Tour in "Patch" News

The Patch, an online community information website for news and events in our area, featured an article by Bree Shirvell with great photos of "Captain's Row" (aka Gravel Street, Mystic) in their September 17th issue. Included in the



article there was a discussion of the Mystic River Historical Society and their self guided history tour of Gravel Street.

For a free subscription to *The PATCH* for local Mystic or Stonington information, log on to: www.groton.patch.com or to www.stonington.patch.com

Wooden historic plaque on the home originally built by Captains George, Thomas and Charles Wolfe in what appears to have been a family effort.

*Also note the oval-shaped National Registry plaque.
Photo Credit: Bree Shirvell, Stonington-Mystic Patch*

National Register of Historic Places

- Lou Allyn

We often hear that such and such a building is "on the National Register of Historic Places" but what does that mean and is my house on the Register?

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

The Park Service administers the National Register of Historic Places. The Register is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. National Register properties have significance to the history of their community state, or the nation. National Historic Landmarks are a separate designation, but upon designation, NHLs are listed in the National Register of Historic Places if not already listed. You can find more information on the National Historic Landmarks program at their website.

The NRHP website is at <http://www.nps.gov/nr/> Their Frequently Asked Questions page is quite helpful. The NRHP database contains text and photographs of Mystic on both sides of the river. Go to <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natreghome.do?searchtype=natreghome> and search on Resource Name "Mystic" and State "Connecticut". The next page will show the two districts with files for text & photos: Mystic River Historic District (West side) and Mystic Bridge Historic District (East side.) Note that street lists have all the odd numbers and then all the even numbers. If your house is listed within either of the Districts it is on the National Register of Historic Places.

From Our Readership: Historic Vignettes



Boys swimming in the Mystic River in an undated photo likely from the later first portion of the twentieth century. Note the boy on the left wearing full bathing trunks. Photo from Mystic Seaport.

Memories of Nauyaug: Part I, The Campers 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 on Money Point Road, 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 following was noted in 1989 when John Wheeler was 93.

My father, Charles E. Wheeler, was a co-owner of the first complete cottage built on Nauyaug. A Mr. Leuther, minister of the Mystic Congregational Church, supplied the labor and Charles E. Wheeler furnished the materials. The cottage was built on the west side of Nauyaug, next to the large rock on the highest ground. This occurred in 1903 - 1904.

Before that time, all the campers' places consisted of lean-tos for the kitchens and large tents on platforms for living and sleeping. Our cottage consisted of kitchen, dining room, living room and large bedroom with cots in various directions.

The campers to the north of us, Mr. Doubleday; Miss Gill; Charles A. Van Winkle and family; Professor and Mrs. Haines (later owned Gates Island with cottage); John Allyn; Roughhouse Duncan, who worked in Lamb's store, and several other Mystic boys; two cousins (names forgotten); then the Holmes (in children, Raymond and Charles); Seneca Eldridge; Walter Lathrop, and others.

To the north of the big rock was Arthur Van Winkle (with the tobacco-stained moustache) & family (Theodore, Charles, and Sterling). Van Winkle's camp was previously owned by Buckley High School boys - noisemakers.

John and Ernest Rossie of Rossie Velvet Co. came next, then the Dodges. That consisted of campers on Nauyaug in 1903 and 1904. I enjoyed every summer of that period, from school closing in June to Labor Day. My Aunt Nettle (Mother's sister) was my housekeeper.

Father had a 26' launch built in Stonington (the Emma Louise, after my mother), a cabin cruiser with torpedo bow, full size head and covered cockpit, with Hasbrook engine, 3 cylinder, 2 cycle, built by Holmes Shipyard at West Mystic. Dad motored daily to Standard Machine Co.

Capt. Palmer Bindloss was his first paid captain. Mother, Edna (sister) and Norton (brother) divided their time with Dad in Mystic, as they had more to do there than on the island and Dad always wanted three hot meals a day, dinner at noon.

Editor's Note: Readers are welcome to send along their own memories of Mystic people and 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

More 'Bits' from Lucy T. Howell

Ms. Howell submitted this piece last spring, noting: "History is a very important part of my life. I was born on West Mystic Avenue in 1920, only leaving town in 1942 for a stint in the Navy - in Washington D.C." And "...Portersville Academy holds another precious memory for me. As a girl scout in 1933, under the direction of Mystic Academy's 6th grade teacher, Elsie McGoughy, we met weekly upstairs at the Academy." And, in remembrance of Helen Keith, that "I very much enjoyed my work days with Helen - a finer person never lived."

The older I get, the more I believe that growing up in Mystic was both a magical time and place.

A place called "Turtlerock" meant an afternoon of fun - also a bath in the Mystic River. Turtlerock was - and still is - a spit of sand located on the northwest shore of the village - previous to Bindloss Road. When my dad would announce that we were going "bathing" at Turtlerock, my day had been made. Turtlerock's name was probably derived from a boulder about eight feet from shore. If you were allowed to swim to the rock, (or weren't, but did anyway), it was a perfect day!

"Shhhh....." from Emily Perkins

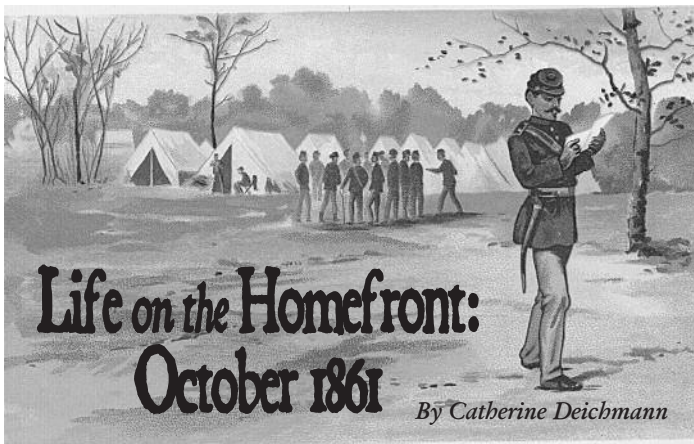
Emily Perkins shared a girlhood memory in this vignette several years ago after she and Lou Allyn were reminiscing about Lou's great-grandfather and namesake...

Mr. Allyn was a Deacon at the Union Baptist Church and was always called "Deacon Allyn" by all who knew him. Mr. Lamb was a stone mason who built fireplaces for many families in Mystic and was called "Herbert." They were neighbors; Mr. Allyn lived on New London Road and Mr. Lamb just across Mr. Allyn's lot, on Allyn Street.

On pleasant days Mr. Allyn would walk across the lot to visit Mr. Lamb, who had a nice, sunny bench on the south side of his house where the two old gentlemen liked to sit and talk. As they were both very hard of hearing, these talks were far from private.

One day Mr. Allyn had something particularly interesting to tell Mr. Lamb and started off by saying: "Now, Herbert, I don't want you to tell anybody what I'm going to tell you". Then he told him the story. The only trouble was, Mrs. Lamb was in the kitchen with doors and windows closed and could hear every word very clearly.





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...

As October arrived, a lively local battle of patriotic one-upmanship diverted attention from the shadow war along the Mason Dixon line. Soon after Captain Appleman's "Mystic Company" left for Hartford to join the 8th Connecticut Regiment, the residents of Stonington Borough voted to pay each man \$10 if they would agree to be known as the "Stonington Company" instead! Although Company G contained only five men from the Borough, the offer was promptly accepted, and \$760 was quickly dispatched to Hartford from the Borough's "financial men." This change of allegiance did

not sit well with Mystic citizens, who felt they had earned the Company's loyalty by covering their recruiting expenses. As evidence, the *Pioneer* printed Company's own report, showing that Stonington had contributed a mere \$40 toward the Company's expenses of \$346.50, while the citizens of Mystic River and Mystic Bridge paid the remainder. When the "financial men" of the Borough raised the ante by sending an additional sum of \$1000 to support the new company, Mystic folded, and both communities shared the pride when the "Stonington Company" was assigned "the honorable and dangerous position" of Color Company of the Regiment.

Mystic's civilian mariners also faced the dangers of war, without the emotional and financial support the community so generously bestowed on its soldiers. Giles Latham of Noank and Lemuel Park of Mystic were aboard the schooner *W.C. Atwater* when she was captured by armed Confederate privateers off the Florida coast on April 21, just one week after Fort Sumter. They were held prisoner on their own ship throughout the hot Florida summer, tried in a mock court, and then sent north to Richmond. Along the way they were pulled from the cars, taunted by local crowds and threatened with hanging. After a brief stay in Richmond's notorious Libby Prison, they were exchanged at Fortress Monroe in early October. Throughout their long ordeal, their families in Mystic had received no word of their fate.

As October closed, the *Pioneer* carried notices of calls for still more men to join a regiment of infantry and a cavalry company. The war's insatiable appetite for manpower continued.

"Revolutionary Thanksgiving" Offered at Jabez Smith House November 6th

In the fall of 1783 the "Treaty of Paris" was signed - ending the American Revolution, and the Jabez Smith house had been rebuilt after a 1775 fire ~ there was much to give thanks for...

With soldiers passing through on their way home to various parts of New England, the "Smith family" will be demonstrating a "historic" feast, featuring 18th century cooking both over the hearth and in outdoor fire pits by the returning soldiers. Featured fare may include: turkey, chicken, bear, venison, mutton, corn, squash, cranberries, breads, and pies. There will also be lectures in herbal cooking, taking flax to linen and numerous period children's games. A highlight of the day will be a 1:00 outdoor lecture by Dr. Robert Selig, noted NPS and Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary National Historic Trail historian, discussing African American participation in the Revolutionary War.

The event is free and open to the public from 10:00 - 5:00 pm, Sunday, November 6th, rain or shine. Parking is on the grounds. Jabez Smith House, 259 North Road, Groton CT. For more information please call 860-445-6689.



The historic Jabez Smith farmhouse was built on the site of one of Groton's original land grants from the King of England. The title remained within the Nehemiah Smith family until the property was deeded to the town in 1974.

September Meeting Minutes

- Cathy Marco, Recording Secretary

The Board of Trustees of the Mystic River Historical Society met at Mystic & Noank Library on Monday, September 19, 2011. Board Members and Committee Chairmen/members present were Aimée Allaire, Cynthia Allyn, Bill Everett, Tim Evers, Sally Halsey, Judy Hicks, Lou Allyn, Cathy Marco, Betty O'Donnell, and John Porter. The Board members who were not present had been excused. June meeting minutes were approved.

President's Report (Lou Allyn): The appointed committee chairs with their members are as follows:

Curatorial - Judy Hicks (Chair) with Dorrie Hanna, Louisa Watrous, Kit Werner, Jane Preston, Betsy Boucher, Lou Allyn

Education - Cathy Mauritz (Chair) with Tim Evers

Finance - David Evans (Chair) with Bill Everett, Sally Halsey, Lou Allyn

House & Grounds - Alan Greener (Chair) with John Porter

IT - Stephanie Thorp (Chair) with Barry Thorp. (NOTE: Stephanie's 5 years is up - reappoint for one more year)

Marketing & Communications - Sally Halsey (Chair) with Jennifer Pryor (Newsletter) & Lou Allyn (Constant Contact)

Membership - Cindy Allyn (Chair), Barry Thorp, Lou Allyn (Note: Cindy's 5 years is up - reappointed one more year)

Program - Aimee Allaire (Chair) with Bettye Noyes, Louisa Watrous (Hospitality), John Porter, Lou Allyn, Betty O'Donnell

Special Events - Sally Halsey (Chair) with Judy Hicks, Susan Lund, Dorrie Hanna, Willa Schuster, Sara Lathrop

NOTE: It is important for us to find new board members. Please mention any ideas to Lou. Ex: terms ending May 2012:

John Porter 9 years as Board Member

Bill Everett 5 years as Treasurer

Cathy Marco 5 years as Recording Secretary

We have increased the coverage limits on the Porterville Academy building to \$270,000 and the Vault building to \$150,000, and deleted liability coverage for Hired Autos. The revised annual premium would be \$1900, which is \$10 more than the current renewal amount of \$1890.

Treasurers Report (Bill Everett): Financials were sent to the Board prior to this meeting. Handling of "Unrealized loss on investments" was discussed and decided to treat it as it has been. A wonderful tribute to Joyce Everett with many generous donations now totals \$3580. The Board was asked to consider where this money might be used. At the present time, it has helped us with paying our bills (which we all agreed would be something she would have liked).

Corresponding Secretary (Lois Glazier): Correspondence for June, July and August consisted of 44 thank you letters sent as follows: 6 for general gifts to MRHS, one for Benefactor Renewal plus Gift, and 37 for gifts in memory of Joyce Everett. There were also three additional cards: one thinking of you; one sympathy; and one get well card. Bill Everett also wrote some thank you letters for the gifts honoring his wife, Joyce.

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.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings & Grounds (Alan Greener): Dorrie did a wonderful job preparing for the hurricane (computer shutdowns). The only damage was outside to branches of a crab apple tree which has since been cleaned up. • Broadbrook Heating & Cooling cleaned & inspected our system, and reports it's operating well. This is the first of two annual inspections.

Curatorial (Judy Hicks): The Curatorial Committee met on Sept. 12th. Dorrie Hanna reported that there was no damage from the storm, although the freezer holding the nitrate negatives did defrost due to the power outage. A letter has been sent to the Mystic & Noank Library indicating MRHS support for their preservation grant application. The West Main Street land records have been brought up to date and research continues on the businesses from the early 1800's to present. Joanna Case researched land records and we owe her a BIG thank you! • Dorrie and Judy represented MRHS at the Groton History Fair on Saturday, Sept. 17th. Books and other items sold totaled about \$125. • Betsy Boucher has started graduate school and will leave for Pennsylvania next term. We want to have her work as much as possible to help us out before she leaves. • The next meeting of the Curatorial Committee will be on October 17th.

Education Outreach (reported by Tim Evers): Project LEARN third graders will be coming for three days in October. At our rate of \$3 per student, we estimate that the 40 students coming each day will bring in revenue of \$360. We still need volunteers to help. Please contact Tim or Cathy Mauritz if you want to help out.

IT Committee (Stephanie Thorp): The System Administrator performed routine backups of all files on the system monthly during the summer, with the exception of MRHS3 (laptop), which is being used for preparation of the Hicks/Allyn presentation on Mystic's Noted Women, and is temporarily unavailable for updates. We are working at getting the Virtual Exhibit updated with Louisa. • Operating system, security and other applications, including Windows, Java, Flash Player, and Office have been updated and/or verified to be at the most current version. • Past Perfect data files were backed up both to the Western Digital hard drive and to offsite secure storage. The system was fully operational at the completion of each update, including both printers, which were properly functioning and accessible from any of the computers. • An updated copy of the membership list was installed on both computers (MRHS1 and MRHS2).

Marketing (Sally Halsey): Press Releases have been sent for our September program. • Facebook was updated and we now have 240 "fans". We are still looking for content ideas. Sally will now receive Curatorial Committee minutes since this would be a source for content ideas. • The Patch did a fantastic article ~ see page 3 for more.

Membership (*Cynthia Allyn*): The list of members was published in the previous newsletter. • Two members have died recently: David Porter and Bill Hermann. Harriet Brown recently sent in her membership renewal. • Cindy will be sending out 7 renewal letter this week to Newsletter Patrons.

Newsletter (*Jennifer Pryor*): October news deadline is 9/23.

Program (*Aimée Allaire*): The Program Committee met on September 8th. The schedule of programs for September 2011- May 2012 is now set. Rob Palmer will present Henry R. Palmer's My First Three Hundred Years at our February meeting. Robert Thorsen will speak on stonewalls at our April meeting. Our first program of the season is September 28th called "Hook 'Em While They're Young". A presentation on getting kids interested in genealogy by Casey Zahn. • In the future we will be using the new Program Contracts Sheet to track program planning details. • Donations, admission charges, and nametags were discussed. As per previous meetings, donations will be requested from non-MRHS members and name tags will be used by all attendees. Determination of membership status will be on an honor system basis. The Board decided that we really want to emphasize converting non-members attending our monthly meetings to sign up and become members. The Presenter for each month will make sure to push this theme. • The next meeting of the Program Committee will be held at 4:00 p.m. on November 2 at the Downes Building.

Special Events (*Sally Halsey*): Sally has agreed to chair the committee until someone steps forward. Judy Hicks has volunteered to help her. • The future of bus trips was discussed. The consensus was to try and continue the trips. Without Joyce Everett's expertise, it is



The Portersville Academy at 74 High Street is described on the National Register of Historic Places as: 1839 Portersville Academy. 2-story, Greek Revival, clapboard building. Twin front doors have simple pilasters and entablature. There is a large oval window in the flush boarding pediment. Moved from its location near the Baptist Church to this site in 1880. Used as Fifth District Schoolhouse until World War I.

a real learning curve. If a spring trip is planned, notification to the membership will be by the end of the year. Suggestions for the spring trip are welcome. Any suggestions, please contact Sally or Judy Hicks. • The House Tour 2013 meeting will be September 21 with Tricia Cunningham and Karen Barthelson attending. Research is being done on possible placards/plaques for downtown buildings. We would like to have them up by the Tour as a 40th Anniversary project. It was agreed that we would rather have a few really nice ones than a lot of not-so-nice ones; if we don't do all of the buildings and then we can continue as funds allow. Therefore, we are forming a committee to look at how other communities have done this, the costs, input from Historical District Commission, etc. Judy Hicks is working on a pamphlet and narrative to go with the placards/plaques. • The Board discussed having an Antique Appraisal Day. Unfortunately these events do not bring in the revenue and we cannot run it at a loss. The consensus was to not do it unless we had someone willing to volunteer to be in charge and make it profitable.

Unfinished Business: With the closure of Thames Printing, we had to pick up the boxes of books we had published over the years which they had been storing for us. There are a number of books we need to sell and make money. The Board discussed various venues to do this; however, we are open to any ideas.

Finance, Nominating, Walking Tour New Business: No report/activity.

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on October 17, 2011 at the Mystic and Noank Library's Activity Room (new location).

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Marco, Secretary



~ Mystic River Historical Society Membership & Patronage Form ~

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Annual Membership:

\$15/Individual \$30/Family \$50/Contributing \$100/Benefactor \$250/Sustaining \$1000/Life Membership

Patronage Support ~ Individual or Commercial:

\$100/Patron Individual or Business Name _____

Business Phone _____ Business Web _____

Additional Gift Opportunity:

\$ _____ Gift in Memory and/or Appreciation of _____

Acknowledgements will be in the above name/s. Our membership year is May 1 to April 30. Your contribution is tax deductible. Checks may be made payable to MRHS. Send to P.O. Box 245, Mystic, CT 06355

Newsletter Patrons ~ Individual



Events Calendar

Newsletter Patrons ~ Commercial

CYNTHIA AND LOUIS ALLYN
 JANE AND DAN BRANNAGAN
 DAVID CRUTHERS FAMILY
 DAVID AND JEAN EVANS
 MR 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

Membership Meeting
 Wed., Oct. 26th, 2011, 7:30p
 Congregational Church Parish Hall
Judy Hicks - Four Women of Mystic

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

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Membership Updates



We had two renewals this past month at - Harriet Brown and Laura Beach - both at the Individual level. We also regret the passing of two of our members--David Porter and William Hermann. Please consider renewing your membership with the form on page 7 if you have not already done so for this year.

- Cynthia Allyn, Membership Chair

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