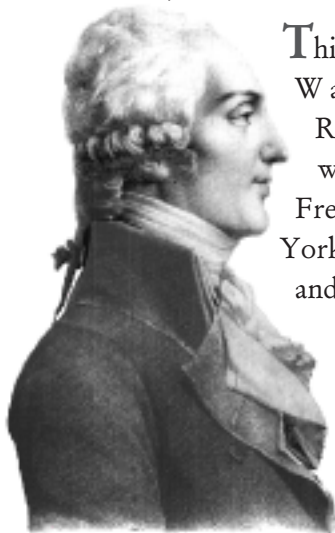




# the PORTERSVILLE PRESS

www.mystichistory.org • vol. xxxiii, issue i • september 2006

## Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route LAUZUN'S LEGION in LEBANON



*Duc de Lauzun*  
Duc de Lauzun

A rare engraving ca 1820-30 of le Duc de Lauzun owned by Leslie Andrich from [www.lauzunslegion.com](http://www.lauzunslegion.com)

This year Connecticut celebrates the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (the W3R) which marks the route taken by French troops from Newport to Yorktown, VA, where the French and American armies defeated the British on October 19, 1781.

Alicia Wayland, Lebanon town historian, will talk about the W3R and the nearly eight-month encampment of the Hussars or cavalry unit of Lauzun's Legion in Lebanon before the march began. She will show the historic sites and museums around the town green, including the home of Governor Jonathan Trumbull and the War Office where he led Connecticut's contributions to the patriot cause.

*Alicia Wayland is the municipal historian for the town of Lebanon and chairperson of the Jonathan Trumbull Junior House operating committee. She has written two short books on Lebanon history, "Around the Lebanon Green" and "Remembering Lebanon 1700-2000". Ms. Wayland is past president of the Lebanon Historical Society and a retired editor and journalist who has served on numerous town commissions and committees, both elective and appointive. She and her husband Howard, have three grown children and live on a small farm in Lebanon where they raise beef cattle.*

*Please join us for Ms. Waylands presentation September 22nd and stay afterward for refreshments courtesy of MRHS Hospitality.*

**fun fact:**  
Mystic resident Michael Fitzgerald, featured in the MRHS film *Mystic: An American Journey*, is currently leading a group of re-enactors along the 225th anniversary march in a three-month journey along the W3R.

## Portersville Academy ACTIVITIES & OPEN HOUSE

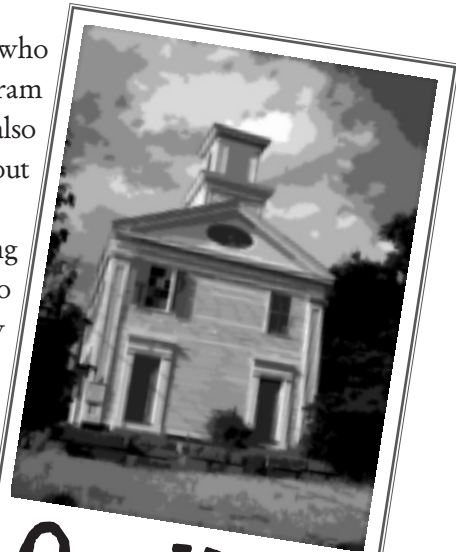
-Karen Havrilla

In June Portersville Academy closed for summer recess! Our volunteers, "school teachers", and presenters all earned their summer vacation.

This year we were visited by over 300 students from grades 1, 3, and 4. The area schools that participated in our programs were SB Butler School, Pine Point School, Pleasant Valley School, St. Michaels School, Deans Mill School, and North Stonington Elementary. Mr. Potter and Mrs. Williams encouraged the students in their 19th century classroom lessons. The rest of our education presenters lead the groups in crafts and lively activities typifying life in the 19th century. Mystic Seaport roleplayer interns also paid a visit to Portersville Academy, and Helen Keith graciously greeted and presented a program for them of June 11.

Thank you to all who helped put this program together this year, and also to all who helped carry out the programs.

We are always looking for new ideas and ways to improve upon this very successful program. We are also looking for new volunteers to role play as our 19th century teachers, and to present our programs. We are also looking for a volunteer or several volunteers to make toy wooden boats for our craft program.



**Open House**  
3-5pm Sunday  
October 1

You did it! Join us in celebrating successful fundraising & hard work. All are welcome!



*from the <sup>new</sup>*  
**PRESIDENT'S DESK**

*Lou Allyn*

As your new President I am looking forward to working with our fine Board of Trustees in bringing the history of Mystic to you, our stalwart members. I thought that I would take this opportunity to give you a status report of the Society. Please send me your feedback with comments, suggestions, questions, etc. including what you would like more of and what less of from me and the Society.

The Mystic River Historical Society exists to serve the Mystic community. Our Mission Statement says that "MRHS seeks to facilitate research and promote awareness of the history of the Mystic River Valley; its people and its institutions." We bring four groups of resources to this effort: Physical Assets, Money, Organization, and People.

**Physical Assets:** Both the newly refurbished Portersville Academy and the Downes Building are in good shape, although both buildings will need new roofs within the next 5 years, and some of the Downes HVAC system may need to be replaced.

Our new Strategic Planning Committee is looking into further uses of Portersville Academy in addition to the present School Outreach programs.

Our new networked computers are working well, and we also have a new laptop and projector which will prove very useful for meetings and presentations.

Efficient use of space in the Downes Building is a perennial challenge. We need to balance carefully our objective of bringing together deeds, letters, maps, pictures, portraits, and other records that more clearly re-capture the past in Mystic without becoming "Mystic's attic". The Curatorial Committee is working on implementing policy and procedures to determine which of the many objects and artifacts donated to the Society should be retained and which may properly be relocated elsewhere.

**Money:** Our annual budgeted income is generally sufficient to cover our operating expenses. We will continue to raise money through membership dues and contributions, newsletter patrons and advertising, trips and special events, School Outreach programs, and sales of books, maps, images, DVD's, etc. Our endowment, which is invested in a basket of funds at Vanguard, is available for major capital projects and seed money for special projects. House Tours have traditionally been major fund raisers and we expect to hold another in the next year or so.

**Organization:** We have a Mission Statement, Statement of Purpose, Goals and Objectives, and written duties for each Committee. Our Committee structure has been recently reviewed and updated, and we are now developing detailed action item lists for each of them.

Our PastPerfect archival software is more than adequate for our requirements but we need to develop and write step-by-step user instructions to make full and efficient use of it.



# CALENDAR NOTABLES

**General Meeting & Alicia Wayland**  
Friday, September 22nd

*Ms. Wayland will discuss Lauzun's encampment and the "Hussars in Lebanon" on the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route.*

**Portersville Academy**  
Sunday, October 1st from 3 - 5

*Celebrate the successful fundraising efforts & improvements on the lovely Academy building with your friends and MRHS community.*

**Vermont Excursion**  
October 8 - 10

*Columbus Day weekend MRHS trip to Vermont. Nearly sold out. For wait list information, call Joyce Everett at 536-6339*

**General Meeting & William N. Peterson**  
Friday, October 27th

**Member Arts & Crafts Show**  
June 2007

*Plan now to showcase your skills & admire the talents of MRHS members in what is sure to be a wonderful event!*

*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*

**People:** A major concern for the next two years is people. Currently we have unfilled Committee Chairs for the Curatorial, Fund Raising, House Tour, and Membership Committees. And next spring we will need to replace two retiring Trustees and fill openings for Recording Secretary and Hospitality Committee Chair.

Our paid membership currently is currently at 309 including 56 Life, 37 Contributing, 37 Benefactor, 86 Family and 93 Individual. Our challenge is to increase both the number of members of all ages as well as their participation in the activities of the Society.

Our website, [www.mystichistory.org](http://www.mystichistory.org), has been successfully running since 2003. We are now in the process of enrolling "owners" of each web page; they are responsible for the content of their pages. In the coming year we expect to add more pages and forms to the site to make it more useful to our members and to the general public.

In conclusion, my priorities for the next 12 months are: new trustees and committee members, expanded membership, organizing archival material and updating PastPerfect, and website enhancements; all with the goal of maintaining and enhancing our presence in and relevance to Mystic.

## PEDICAB: *The Word on the Street*



*Tim Evers & the pedicab on parade in the 4th of July parade in Groton*

In addition to representing MRHS in Mystic's May Day parade and the July 4th parade in Groton (see photo), our yellow pedicab has been touring people around Historic Downtown Mystic on Fridays and Saturdays for the second summer.

One-hour tours are available at Liberty Pole Park between 12 Noon and 4 pm, or reserved tours depart from the Information Center at the railroad depot at 12, 2 & 4 pm.

So far, MRHS member Tim Evers has enjoyed leading 17 people on 10 separate tours. Beep your horn when you see him—or, better yet, take a tour with your spouse or a friend! A tour is only \$15 per person and all proceeds go to the Mystic River Historical Society.

## VERMONT, VIRGINIA *Upcoming*

As I am writing this report the October 8-9-10 trip to Vermont is nearly sold out. There is a possibility of finding one more room, so be sure to call if you would like to go and have not yet signed up. We are looking forward to a great trip to Lake Champlain, the Shelburne Museum, and our last day coming home by way of Quechee Falls, Woodstock, and Windsor. We will maintain a waiting list once all space is positively taken.

Our spring trip to Virginia in April 2007 is timed to take advantage of America's 400th anniversary at Jamestown. We hope to fit in Jamestown, Yorktown, and Williamsburg as well as other sites near Philadelphia. Let me know if you would like to be on the "possibles list", call me if you think you are coming and have a suggestion for a site you would like to have included, and if you have any great ideas for the trip! Joyce Everett 536-6339



*The MRHS Travel Team adventured in Maryland and Pennsylvania in April 2006*

## 225th Anniversary Exhibit: **BATTLE of GROTON HEIGHTS**



*The Fort Griswold Monument in Groton*

The Mystic & Noank Library, in cooperation with the Mystic River Historical Society and Dr. Norman Boas, has created a special exhibit commemorating the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Groton Heights. The exhibit will include many 18th century documents from the collection of Dr. Boas which have never been published or seen by the public. These documents have been enlarged to improve their readability and

they offer a valuable new perspective on the Battle. The exhibit is presented in chronological order, from the acquisition of the site for the Fort to reparations to survivors of the Battle, and the widows and families of the slain defenders. This is a unique opportunity for students to enrich their understanding of local and national history and we would be pleased to welcome classroom visits.

Documents are shown that were signed by the original owner of the site of the fort (Jonathan Chester), the appraiser of the site (William Hillhouse) and the engineers (including Ebenezer Ledyard) who designed and built not only Fort Griswold, but Fort Trumbull. The exhibit also includes documents signed by five of the commanders of Fort Griswold, from Oliver Coit to Samuel McClellan, as well as many documents signed by soldiers who were slain or wounded at the Battle of Groton Heights. Included is William Ledyard's original bond to the state of Connecticut to organize a militia company under his command as a captain, and an exceedingly scarce handwritten letter by Colonel Ledyard.

In addition to Zabdiel Roger's report on the battle that he sent to Governor Jonathan Trumbull by express rider Samuel Raymond ñ a report that the governor forwarded to General George Washington - the display includes copies of the first newspaper description of the battle, as well as all pertinent publications about the battle. The powder horn of Daniel Stanton, who was wounded at the battle, is also on exhibit.

# June 2006 Meeting Minutes

The Board met June 19, 2006 with Lou Allyn, Joyce Everett, Tim Evers, Margot Greener, Judy Hicks, Karen Havrilla, Paul Ingle, Spence Leech, Betty O'Donnell, Betty Anne Reiter and Kit Werner and Helen Keith present.

Werner's Correspondence sent out several thank you notes and MRHS received a card of thanks from Carol Kimball for her 90th birthday celebration

Allyn issued a comprehensive Treasurer's report including copies of the balance sheet, profit & loss statement highlighting statistics on income v. budget, membership dues, Education Outreach & toy sales, DVD sales, Trip and Appraisal Day losses & gains.

For Keith's Vice President Keith report, a motion was made, seconded and accepted for the following 2006-2007 slate of officers:

*President* - Lou Allyn, *V. President* - Helen Keith, *Recording Secretary* - Betty Anne Reiter, *Corresponding Secretary* - Kit Werner, *Treasurer* - Spence Leech. Allyn's President's Report included the following committee chairs appointees: *Special Projects* - Joyce Everett, *Marketing & PR* - Sally Halsey, *Historian* - Judy Hicks, *Newsletter* - Jennifer Pryor, *IT* - Barry Thorp, *Programs* - Paul Ingle, *Hospitality* - Margot Greener, *Education* - Karen Havrilla, *Finance* - Helen Keith, *Building & Grounds* - John Porter.

Allyn reported that he'd met with Greener to review the membership renewal procedures, and with Thorp to review the membership Access database, queries and reports. Cindy Allyn has agreed to write the membership letters. A Membership Chairman is still needed; their role will be to work on ways to increase membership. Hanna will coordinate the work of the Curatorial Committee.

Keith reported for Porter's Building & Grounds Committee that an arrangement had been made for some PVA cleaning with three janitorial services asked to submit quotes after their inspection. No responses had been received. Curatorial will research floor cleaning/waxing materials in terms of archival correctness. The B&G Committee held its first full member meeting on 6/16/06.

In Curatorial matters, Hanna, Watrous and Hicks have been cleaning, sorting and accessioning items. Storage space is becoming an issue. A new collection of materials about the Women's Relief Corp, Mystic Unit (dating back to 1871) has been received from a Westbrook family. Carol Kimball had previously donated some items con-

cerning this group. A new volunteer, Rod Greene, has begun indexing scrapbooks.

MRHS is in need of a curator and a motion was made & passed for the Curatorial Committee to search for a volunteer or paid employee to fill the position of Curator and will make a recommendation to the Board.

In Education, Havrilla noted the closing of the school group season and listed participating groups. Additionally, Keith presented the annual program for Rebecca Donohue and her role-player interns from the Seaport on June 11.

Ingle noted that the September speaker is arranged, and that he will look into other possible meeting spaces or evenings due to concerns about the noise from the teen program at the Congregational Church.

In Special Projects, Everett's fall trip to Lake Champlain is planned for October 8 - 10 and Evers' pedicab has been operating for three weeks, including participating in the Mystic May Day Parade and possibly in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Groton.

Allyn distributed policies, etc. to the new Board members and Ingle is working on an updated Board contact list Ideas were discussed for promoting sales of the DVDs. Hicks will look into possible sales to area hotels, retirement homes and Mystic Seaport.

In new business, MRHS received notification of a proposal to build a 120' telecommunications tower on Sandy Hollow Road. A motion was made & accepted for the resignation of Amy Swan Plouffe who will continue to help with Appraisal Day.

House Tour Chairpeople are needed for 2007.



Safe Polishing, Mosler Safe Company

## A Safe Safe Available

**Safe in Need of a Good Home:**

The MRHS has a surplus **Mosler safe** that is available to any member who could use it. The safe is about 30 inches wide, 36 inches high, and 30 inches deep.

First come, first served.

(And you may remove!)

**Contact John Porter  
at 433-7342 if you are interested**

# August 2006 Meeting Minutes

The Board met August 21, 2006 with Lou Allyn, Joyce Everett, Tim Evers, Margot Greener, Sally Halsey, Karen Havrilla, Paul Ingle, Helen Keith, Spence Leech, Betty O'Donnell, John Porter, Jennifer Pryor & Betty Anne Reiter.

Treasurer Leech is learning to use QuickBooks and reported that MRHS accounts are sound.

In Standing Committees, for Building & Grounds, Porter presented a quote from Butta Cleaning for monthly cleaning of the Downes Building. Members recommended further research. Porter also investigated the 20+ year old heat pump unit with a normal life expectancy of 10-12 years and an average replacement cost of \$10,000 per Duncklee. He is looking into roof condition assessment. Volunteers will install plastic sheeting under PVA as a moisture/vapor barrier. It was agreed to implement Porter's suggestions of a rotating roster of Board members assuming responsibility for alarm calls and a Duty Committee Member Roster, placing one committee member on call each month for routine maintenance chores.

In Curatorial, Keith reported for Hanna that the Committee's conclusion regarding a Curator is that we continue status quo with Hicks and Watrous, and Hanna as administrator, overseeing the accessioning of MRHS collections. Hanna will list items found to be inappropriate for the MRHS collection to be sent to Committee members before the next meeting. Paperwork has been received for the second phase of the CHC grant.

For Education & Outreach, Havrilla's committee will meet on August 23, to discuss the possibility of fall programs at Portersville Academy. Pryor offered to work on a brochure for the school outreach programs.

Keith's Finance Committee met August 14th to review investments and discuss necessary future capital improvements. Based on the Strategic Planning Committee report, it was agreed to ask Porter to find an independent building inspector for heat pump and roof status advisement. Keith will talk with Pat Liebig, Downes Building architect, for roof & expansion recommendations. Committee requests for 2007 funding must be brought to the September meeting. Treasurer Leech, will send Chairs a to-date copy of receipts & expenditures by September 1st. The Finance Committee will meet October 2nd to begin deliberations.

For Funding, Allyn outlined the duties and purpose of the Committee with the primary responsibility of the Funding Committee being to develop and support the fund raising activities of the Society.

In IT (Allyn for Thorp) Barry has been working on get-

ting slides into PowerPoint. Members or committees who "own" web pages are encouraged to review, make changes, and submit to Stephanie.

For Marketing & PR, Halsey will do a press release for the September program and is looking into creating a new brochure.

For Membership, Allyn reviewed mailings & dues statistics and noted that non-renewals older than 2004 are being archived by Barry Thorp. Cindy Allyn has agreed to serve as acting membership chair. A motion was made and accepted that Bailey & Jennifer Pryor and Dan & Mary Fuller be made lifetime members.

For Programs, Ingle stated that the September speaker is arranged. Bill Peterson will speak in October. Ingle will send out an updated list of Board Members.

For Special Events Everett reported the Vermont fall trip nearly sold out. A trip to Jamestown, Yorktown, and Williamsburg is being investigated for next April.

For Pedicab, Evers has not been successful in finding a substitute pedicab driver. He participated in the 4th of July parade in Groton and was featured in an article in the Mystic Times. He has offered 10 tours with 17 people for \$345 this season.

In Special Committees, the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee's purpose was presented: the Committee's primary responsibility is to advise the Board on how each committee can focus on the implementation of the Mission, Goals and Objectives of the Society. The committee met August 7th and discussed creative ideas about PVA use as well as deciding that the expense of heating PVA for year round use is not warranted at this time.

In his President's Report, Allyn identified his concerns about the need for new Board Members, Chairs and expanded membership, collections accessibility & relevance and the MRHS relevance within the community at large.

In Unfinished Business, Hanna is taking pictures as part of the building documentation project; Allyn will coordinate & distribute a calendar of MRHS meetings and events; and volunteers are needed for the House Tour.

Artifacts & information from private collections and the Friends of Fort Griswold concerning the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Griswold will be on display in the Ames Room of the Mystic & Noank Library for the month of September.

An open house will be held at Portersville on Sunday, October 1 from 3:00 to 5:00 to thank all of the contributors for the successful fund raising campaign.

Work on the small boat historical guide to the Mystic River may continue independently if others express interest. Working with the DEP would be a complicated process.

The next meeting is September 18th.

*from the pages of history*

## ELLERY THOMPSON



*Ellery Thompson (1899-1986) was born in Mystic and spent his adult life fishing the waters off southern New England. He was an author, a painter and an all-around character. In addition to writing such books as "Draggerman's Haul," Ellery spent much of his later years putting stories from his life down on paper. Beginning this month, the Mystic River Historical Society newsletter will publish excerpts from some of Ellery's reminiscences, most*

*written in 1960s and 1970s, looking back on his life. Marion Krepcio of Stonington was entrusted with Ellery's manuscripts and she is generously sharing them with the historical society and allowing society member Marilyn Comrie to edit them for publication in the newsletter.*

*Ellery was descended from the Thompsons, Denisons and Wilcoxes on his father's side of the family and from the Chapmans, Rathbuns and Packers on his mother's side. To introduce Ellery to this audience, we begin with his reminiscences of a July 4th picnic at his grandmother's house ca. 1910.*

Any youngster without loving grandparents is sure missing a good thing. When I was about 12 in 1911, living at Groton by the Thames, I was as much interested in going over the hill to Grandpa Chapman's house in Mystic, than in going on board boats skippered by my father.

I'll say grandparents are important. In 1908, when Pop got his first motorboat, he was showing it off to Grandpa Chapman when I fell overboard from a rickety Groton pier. And it was Gramp who was first to reach me and hold me up by the hair on my head. Darn good thing I was in need of a haircut.

As John W. Chapman's oldest grandson, I enjoyed privileges to be denied later males in the clan. His last words to me in my 23rd year were, "Ellery, don't work too hard. There'll be fish in the ocean long after you're gone."

Ah, but the movies Gramp took me to back when Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford were blazing stars.

The Fourth of July was an annual picnic day in our family. But, on this kid-day fourth, around 1910, all the sons and daughters and grandchildren of John W. Chapman and his wife, Mary Rathbun Chapman, were to congregate at the Chapman home on West Mystic Avenue, once known

as Skipper Street, because so many ship captains had their homes there.

The Chapman home set back from the dirt road, with two huge maple trees dolling up the front yard. Two other trees off from the south porch had a fish-net hammock strung between them, sometimes with grandchildren standing in line to climb aboard.

The back yard, with its outhouse, grape arbor, peach trees, woodpile and so forth, extended 500 feet east to the private estate known as Ayear's Woods, with its honey-moon-like cottage partly hidden by the trees.

On this particular fourth, my father had the afternoon watch as skipper of the ferryboat Governor Winthrop, three trips an hour across the Thames.

The trolley ride over to Grandpa's was about par for the seven-mile course. We climbed out at the foot of West Mystic Avenue and hoofed it up the dusty road.

On arrival, I was soon running around the spacious yard with other boy cousins. The girls, including my older sister, Louise, remained pretty much indoors, around Grandma's organ in the parlor.

When the ice cream wagon approached with the tolling of its bell, Gramp went out and bought a couple gallons of ice cream. It soon disappeared like dew before the rising sun.

All afternoon, Grandma saw to it that we kids enjoyed her pies and cakes and cookies. Her cupboards were overflowing from a week's baking.

Gramp had a bonfire roaring out in the back yard. He was boiling a half bushel of lobsters, obtained from a Mystic lobsterman in payment for some repair to the man's boat. Gramp had a big cast iron pot holding the steaming lobsters and I was hoping my appetite would do them justice. After cooking, the lobsters were placed in the shade of the south hedge in a bug-free container.

Mother, holding my younger brother Morris, sat alongside me and Louise in the living room listening to family tales. Cousin Edna Chapman was wandering around the dining room, prospecting, when, suddenly, a shot rang out. From the dining room came a girlish scream.

"Good grief," someone shouted, "Edna's shot herself." In the dining room, we found Grandma's well-stocked grub cupboards a shambles, glass decorating about every goody in sight. Standing there facing us was 16-year-old Edna, holding a smoking revolver.

"She sure shot up this room," someone remarked dryly, reaching out and grabbing the gun from Edna's hand. Edna was sobbing as her mother - Pop's only sister, Lena - tried to comfort her. Seems Edna - a true adventurer at heart - had been rummaging in Uncle Bob's desk and had come up with a supposedly unloaded revolver. Then, posing before the mirror, she aimed at her reflection and pulled the trigger, apparently pretending she was a love-sick maiden who was determined to end it all.

Ten minutes later, the mess had been cleaned up, and out went six loaves of warm bread, five layer cakes, four huckleberry pies, three dozen doughnuts, one bucket of broken

*continued on p. 7*



*Carol Kimball on the move at her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday in May*

## CAROL KIMBALL'S 90<sup>th</sup>

*Carol Kimball, also known to regale us with tales of local yore, celebrated her ninetieth birthday with a large gathering of friends at the Groton Senior Center back in May. MRHS members provided delicious delicacies for the occasion and the Society received a card from Kimball thanking everyone for joining and contributing to a fabulous fete.*

*Ever active, Kimball is the preeminent local historian, former & continuing teacher, lecturer, charter member of MRHS, founder of the Indian & Colonial Research Center, member of the D.A.R., the Denison and the Mayflower Society and more - as well as acting as the grand marshal in the 2006 Groton 4th of July parade.*

### **Ellery** *continued from p. 6*

glass, a half bucket of Chinese art and a small sponge full of Thompson tears.

Meanwhile, on this fateful day, Uncle Robert had brought home a small brass cannon, a relic from a yacht being overhauled at the Homes Engine Company at Willow Point. Several of Gramp's sons-in-law were there - Francis Allanac, Nelson Burroughs and John Chapman Jr. The cannon was set up in the back yard, midway between the grape arbor and the dying bonfire Gramp had lit. Gramp viewed the cannon with misgivings.

Uncle Chester helped load it with about everything hand, including plenty of powder and wadding. The cannon was aimed upward and out in the general direction of the Mystic Academy - the old wooden one where Mother and Father had attended school.

Somehow, the Chapman brothers seemed unaware that Gramp's young peach trees were in the line of fire. Bob touched off the cannon, which blasted its message of destruction out in a ball of fire. When the air cleared of smoke, it became painfully noticeable that the tops of Gramp's four peach trees were missing. Gramp's let go with his usual utterance in times of crisis: "Now, wouldn't that cut a gut."

He uttered it again when he inspected his cooling lobsters and discovered more than half of them missing. Someone mentioned seeing a strange, poorly dressed men in the pasture beyond the hedge earlier.

Minus the lobsters, Grandma gave us a quick thrown-

together supper. Then mother started preparing us kids for the walk to the westbound trolley home.

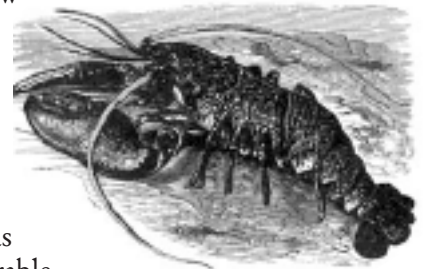
We were out on the front porch when, down the dusty road came the town game warden and a trampish looking man. The warden was holding a small-size boiled lobster in his left hand.

"John Chapman, this well-fed bum says he caught this short lobster on your premises, and, if so, I don't know who to pull in, you or him, or both."

Grampa explained he got the lobster in trade for doing some repairing to his boat. "But I didn't measure the lobster to see if he was a shortie. For my part, you can let the road-master go, and let him keep and eat up the evidence. I've got a half dozen larger ones all boiled and cooled. How about coming in and joining me at eating them. We can talk over the coming town elections."

"Don't bribe me, John," the warden said. "You know my weakness for boiled lobster. A moment later the tramp was galloping up the dusty road, and Gramp and Amos began talking politics.

And that was about it on a very memorable Fourth of July, and our trolley did not jump the tracks on the way home to Groton.



# Mystic Art Center LECTURE SERIES



Noelle O'Connor

*MRHS would like to share with you this information from our friends at the Arts Center:*

The Mystic Arts Center is pleased to present an exciting new Art History class on Tuesday evenings and a lecture series on Wednesday afternoons. These programs are designed for multiple audiences

and do not require prior art training. A spirited multimedia presentation will be delivered by an experienced & charming art historian, Noelle O'Connor, who moved to the Mystic area with her husband, Robert, this year.

Noelle O'Connor received her B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley and her M.A. in Art History from Columbia University. She has worked for many years at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, taught Art History at Pace University and F.I.T., and continues to teach seminars for credit for the Great Neck L.I. Teacher's Center as the Art and Museum Specialist. Her publications include articles in the Encyclopedia of Modern Asia (2005) and the Columbia Encyclopedia (3rd edition). Her goal as a teacher is to make art history accessible, entertaining & irresistible.

The two-part art history class will start Tuesday, September 19th at 6:30 pm and the lecture series will begin on Wednesday, October 11th at 2:30 pm. For more information and to register, visit our website: [www.mysticarts.org](http://www.mysticarts.org) or call the Center.

## Art History Lectures

### How to Look at Art: An Introduction to Basic Principles of Art Appreciation - October 11

If you have ever felt somewhat shy at the prospect of going to a museum or gallery to view art, this introduction is for you. Using famous examples, we will start at the beginning and come up with an understanding of how to look at art. How we see, what our brains do with this visual information, the intent of the artist and most importantly our own personal views all have a role to play in our appreciation of art forms. We will discuss paintings, sculpture, printmaking and architecture in brief.

### An Avid Avocation: The Passion of the Art Collector - October 18

What do H.O. Havemeyer, Bill Gates, Queen Elizabeth, Walter Annenberg and Bill Cosby have in common? What are the primary motivating factors that drive those with means to accumulate works of art? What makes one modern collector refer to her paintings as "her children"? Why

do some cultures eschew the collecting of art altogether? These questions will be the focus of this illustrated lecture examining the fascinating world of the art collector.

### Anything Goes: A Brief Survey of Contemporary Art, Artists and their Media - October 25

Jennie Holzer and Cai Guoqiang utilize word, image and performance events in their works, whilst other artists such as Charles Csuri use the computer to create digital art and animation. Andy Goldsworthy creates sculpture out of natural forms such as ice fragments which are meant to be ephemeral. A very well known director of a famed art museum has said that in contemporary times there is no definitive answer to the question "What is art? An open mind is key to understanding the fluid world of contemporary art. Join us for a lecture that examines several contemporary artists, their choice of media and their creative methods.

### A Question of Light: American Impressionists - November 1

Charles H. Davis, Mary Cassat, William Merrit Chase, Childe Hassam, J.H. Twachtman and Willard Metcalf, to name but a few, were all involved in the Impressionist movement of the late 19th - early 20th c. New advances in science and photography changed forever the perception of our natural world that existed prior to this time period. Artists on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean began to expand the boundaries of the painted image, using the properties of light as their guides. This lecture will focus on specific works of these American Impressionists and use the works to reflect the new interests and styles of that time.

### The Three Perfections in China: Painting, Poetry and Calligraphy - November 8

In classic Chinese painting there is an inclusive style of creating art that combines painting, poetry and calligraphy. Each of these sister arts has a long and valued tradition in China, and the use of all three in one work is known as the "three perfections". This lecture will explore this multi-layered art form and identify the associative meanings of the works. Artistic references to past masters, great poets of the past, and historically important calligraphers will be noted. No prior knowledge of Chinese art or language is required.

### Shapes of Black: The Sculpture of Louise Nevelson - November 15

Born in Kiev, Louise Berliawsky and her family immigrated to Maine. She married Charles Nevelson, moved to New York City and embarked on a career in the arts. She worked with Diego Rivera on his WPA murals, and in the 1930s turned to sculpture. Her work was exhibited in MOMA, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, and the Venice Biennale. Her shadow boxes and walls, made of wooden objects painted a matte black were famous for their rendering of the ideas of Abstract Expressionism into three dimensions.

*Tuition for Art History Lectures: M \$50, NM \$75 or \$15 each (#1487)*

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