Wednesday, September 26th, 2007 will mark the beginning of our new program season with a presentation from Bob Welt called “The Use of 19th Century Primary Source Written Correspondence as a means of Teaching Geography and History in the Middle School Classroom: or, Poking Your Nose Into Other People’s Business.”

Mr. Welt, who has taught U.S. History in Groton for 33 years, is a graduate of the University of Connecticut, with a Master’s degree from Eastern Connecticut State University and also a Sixth Year in Administration from Southern University.

An active collector of Nineteenth Century correspondence for use in the classroom, Mr. Welt has spoken about and led workshops on this teaching method for a number of different groups, including the American Philatelic Society and the NE Regional Council for the Social Studies and served as a consultant to the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum as well as being an associate editor & a monthly columnist of Global Stamp News for over a decade. Mr Welt and his wife Lora reside in Mystic and are the parents of three daughters and one granddaughter.

Upcoming Wednesday meeting programs include one on October 24th with Patricia Schaefer; November 28th with Catherine Deichmann tentatively slated as “Mystic and the Draft during the Civil War” and then January 23rd, 2008, speaker Frederick Burdick will give an update on The Davis Stanton Homestead.

Hudson River Valley Trip - Booked!

The October 10 - 11 trip to the Hudson River Valley is completely full with a waitlist. It would be wonderful if we could take everyone who wants to go but the logistics of two buses are too difficult. Many thanks to all of you who signed up so promptly! We hope for good weather and two wonderful days of sightseeing. There will be a pre-trip meeting for participants at the meeting room of Mystic-Noank Library on September 27 at 300pm.

NEW: Wednesday Member Meetings

MRHS has changed its Member meetings from Friday to Wednesday evenings still at 7:30pm at the Congregational Church in Mystic. The 2007-2008 schedule is:

Wednesday Evenings
September 26
October 24
November 28
December - no meeting
January 23
February 27
March 26
April 23
May 28 Annual meeting and potluck supper

Looking forward to seeing you there!
It’s been four months since our last Newsletter and General Membership meeting but the activities at the Mystic River Historical Society never stop as you can tell from the following news items.

The Constant Contact email distribution system was put to use over the summer to keep in touch with our members. Emails were sent out on:
April 28 – Notice of the May 2007 Newsletter available on our website
June 14 – Announcement of the opening of the Portersville Family Activity Centers
June 20 – Noank Historical Society letter of events
June 30 – Groton Historic District informational brochure
July 11 – Schedule of 2007 – 2008 Member meeting dates with change to Wednesdays
July 22 – Notice of Neptune Park tours
August 8 – Mystic Times article about the Family Activity Centers

Charts from the recording hygrothermograph show that the summer humidity in the Downes Building is being kept at a constant 68% by the stand-alone dehumidifier. The outside is looking particularly spiffy with new roof, siding paint and shutters.

Our archival software, PastPerfect, was upgraded to the new Version 4.0. One of the more interesting new features is the ability to “watermark” digital images. This provides the potential of selling our pictures on-line.

The Connecticut Humanities Council has approved our grant application for the third year of partial funding for a Curatorial Assistant. Louisa Watrous and Dorrie Hanna are working away under the terms of the grant: “to process collections, assist with reference questions, develop finding aids, train volunteers, and develop procedures to facilitate accurate and effective use of PastPerfect, our primary database, all in an effort to better promote and interpret Mystic’s history.” Fits right in with what we’re all about doesn’t it?

The Mystic Noank Library has implemented their project, “Digitization of Historic Newspaper Presently on Microfilm”. This allows anyone to use a library computer to search through CD’s of various Mystic and Stonington newspapers as far back as 1859. My first session yielded the obituary of my namesake, Louis P. Allyn, that I had never seen before. This project was funded in part by a $750 grant from MRHS as part of our joint sharing of local historical resources.

At the request of William Borrows Allen of Greenville, RI an investigation was gathered regarding the two Burrows cemeteries on Fort Hill. The north cemetery is hidden behind a large cut-stone wall and is maintained by the Town of Groton. The Benjamin Burrows cemetery south of the water tower is maintained by a family association. It is still active. Mr. Allen came to Mystic to present a donation of a large mylar plan of the cemetery to MRHS. Copies are available at the Downes Building. Both Louisa and I have visited Mr. Allen to view his collection of Burrows family pictures and furniture and spend some enjoyable hours hearing about the Burrows family – one of Mystic’s oldest.

Sales of the Kayaker’s Guide to the Mystic River and Its History have been rewarding. My $785 cost of printing has been fully recovered; now all revenue goes into the Society’s bank account.

You can now read back issues of our newsletter, The Portersville Press, on our website at www.mystichistory.org
She died at her "Great Hill" home in Mystic at the age of 80. Many of her photographs and papers are now housed in the Mystic River Historical Society.

So how did we get her stuff? The trail is long and convoluted, but a simplified explanation is that the material came to us for safekeeping, but remains the property of the Mary Jobe Akeley Trust. I have been working with the current Trustees to develop a letter of agreement that will set out this situation in writing. Back in the 1980s a graduate student spent the summer in Mystic arranging and boxing the many documents and photographs, which now occupy one whole set of shelves at the Downes Building. The Trust pays us a yearly stipend for caring for this valuable collection and has empowered us to handle queries on their behalf.

In addition to the Trust’s collection, we also have books and other items relating to Mrs. Akeley and to Camp Mystic which were acquired for the MRHS by Carol Kimball or given by generous donors.

**Do You Remember Camp Mystic?**

In August of 2003, during Ohio’s Bicentennial, an Ohio Historical Marker honoring Mary Jobe Akeley was placed at the entrance to the cemetery in Deersville, Ohio, where she is buried and only a short distance from where she was born. While gathering information for the marker I became a "fan" of Mary and have tried to find out what I could about her life. I have read all 7 of her books, and about her exploits in Canada as found in "Off the Beaten Path" by Cyndi Smith.

I recently was given a booklet about Camp Mystic which Mary ran for girls ages 8 to 18. Reading the booklet about their daily activities and looking at photos of their camp life made me wonder if any women who attended Camp Mystic, or a relative of one, are in the local area. I would be interested in hearing any anecdotes about camp life or about any mementos which may have been preserved from that time.

The Union Hotel, circa 1835, in Deersville, is being restored and the owners plan for one of the rooms to be dedicated to Mary Jobe Akeley material.

Any information would be greatly appreciated. I may be reached at: Dick Zeimer
PO Box 61
Deersville, Ohio 44693
zeimer@tusco.net
Reading Between the Lines is the first in a series of vignettes relating to Mystic and the Civil War by Catherine Deichmann, a resident of Masons Island and member of the Historical Society. Over the last year Catherine has been researching the archives in the Downes Building for information to use in her thesis for a Masters degree in History from the University of Connecticut. We will also have the opportunity to learn more about her work when she will be the featured speaker at our General Meeting this November.

Lou Allyn remarks: “I am very pleased to see our archives being used for this level of serious scholarship and expect that the time and money we have put into our PastPerfect database will be of use to more scholars in the future.”

Last spring I came across a faded, handwritten document in the MRHS collection that particularly interested me as a historian of the Civil War era. A little research showed that it contained the names and service information of thirty-four members of the Union Baptist Church Sabbath School who served in the Union army. Primarily the work of William H. Randall, clerk of the church immediately after the war, the list may have been compiled for a memorial scroll mentioned in Comrie’s History of the Union Baptist Church. Randall apparently passed the list around to others, who filled in additional details. A somewhat expanded version was printed in the Church Manual for 1870.

While it may be a genealogical treasure trove for the families of these thirty-four men, what does a document like the Randall list mean for those of us who are not Fishes or Rathbuns? For social historians, the list illustrates the 19th century concept of “belonging.” By classifying these men as sons, then as members of a church, then by their roles in the Sabbath School, and only then as soldiers, Randall placed them firmly in the family and socio-religious orbit of their community. This idea of belonging identified men with their home communities from cradle to grave. Soldiers’ obituaries often ended with the sad but telling phrase “He belonged to this town.”

To military and political historians, the Randall list illustrates a state and national dilemma on a local scale. In the seventeen months between April 1861 and September 1862, Connecticut sent a total of twenty-eight regiments – roughly 25,000 men – off to war. In the two and a half years from October 1862 to Lee’s surrender at Appomattox, the state sent only two more regiments, the 29th and 30th Colored troops. The Randall list reflected this dichotomy. Of the thirty-two soldiers named on the list, twenty-nine enlisted before mid-September 1862; only three more entered the service after that date. The list showed exactly when Mystic’s supply of able and willing white men was exhausted, a problem that was simultaneously confronting communities across the Northern home front. For the remainder of the war, the Federal government would have to resort to conscription to maintain its armies in the field.

Thus the Randall list has a value beyond family research. It’s a useful primary document for historians in several fields, and one of the hidden treasures of the MRHS collection.
The Annual Meeting of the Mystic River Historical Society was held at the Mystic Congregational Church on Friday, May 18, 2007. A potluck supper preceded the Annual Meeting.

President Allyn reported that his Annual Report appeared in the May 2007 issue of the Portersville Press. The Society is in very good shape in the short term. Looking ahead over the next 4 to 5 years, there will continue to be a focus on recruiting and developing new trustees and committee chairmen to carry on the work of our long-term stalwarts who will be retiring from their current responsibilities.

He thanked retiring Trustees Margot Greener and Betty Anne Reiter. Margot finished her full term as Membership Committee Chairman a year ago and agreed to stay on another year to take care of hospitality. Betty Anne has been our Recording Secretary and has done a marvelous job recording and issuing the minutes of our Board meetings.

Allyn then presented the Treasurer’s report for Treasure Bill Everett. As of December 31, 2006:

- Cash on hand $5,995.
- Investments at book value in Vanguard mutual funds $184,858.
- Total Assets $524,309.

The only Liability was a Connecticut Humanities Council grant balance of $1,608.

- Equity and Retained Earnings $522,701.
- Operating Revenue $44,398.
- Expenses $38,497.
- Net Gain for the year $5,901.

Vice President Helen Keith for the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of persons for three year terms on the Board of Trustees: David Evans, William Everett, James Kimenker and Cathy Marco. A motion was made that the nominations be closed. The motion was seconded and passed. A motion was then made that the Secretary cast one ballot for the nominations. This motion was seconded and passed.

Program Chairman Paul Ingle introduced the evening’s speaker Carol Kimball who gave an excellent talk on her experiences in local history both before and after she became the Municipal Historian for the Town of Groton in 1985.

Sunday August 18th was my turn to be the Family Activity Center volunteer. It was such an enjoyable afternoon that I wanted to share the details with MRHS members.

I arrived at 1:00 p.m., unlocked the doors and put out the flags. Since the weather was nearly perfect with a warm sun and a cool breeze I sat reading in my van.

During the afternoon:
- Two women walking by stopped to read the Portersville sign. I invited them in and gave a tour, including a climb to the belfry. I asked them to sign the register; they left a $7 donation and took a membership application.
- Two cars pulled into the parking lot. They weren’t there to visit us so I prompted them to park on the street.
- A man walking by stopped to read the sign but didn’t have time for a visit.
- A young couple with two small children parked on the street, which raised my hopes, but they went down the hill.
- A couple who keep their boat at the Mystic River Marina stopped to read the sign and did have time for a tour, including the belfry. They bought a Kayaker’s Guide to the Mystic River and Its History, signed the register, and took a membership application. They were especially interested in the photographs of the various Mystic bridges, and would have liked some informative text re dates, type of construction, etc.
- At 4:00 I put away the flags, locked up, and drove home through a downtown Mystic filled with tourists.

Conclusion: People walking around are attracted by waving flags and do stop to read signs, especially on a beautiful day.

The Family Activity Centers will be open on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday afternoons (1-4) through September 30th. For more information please call the Mystic River Historical Society at (860) 536-4779.
The following lists MRHS members who have mailed in their renewals for the 2007-2008 membership year. Also listed are members who have made gifts since the last Newsletter. If you don’t see your name, please let me know or send a check to: MRHS, P.O. Box 245, Mystic, CT 06355.

Memberships are: $15 for Individual, $30 for Family, $50 for Contributing, $100 for Benefactor, and $250 for Sustaining. $1,000 will make you a member for Life.

We would also like to welcome new members: Family - Joyce & David Kay; Contributing - Gail Lane, Mr. John Purcell; Benefactor - Mr. & Mrs. Hans Gram

**RENEWALS**

**Individual**
- Ms. Charlotte Aquaviva
- Mrs. Charles Alfano
- Ms. Norma Aronson
- Miss Ruth M. Atcheson
- Mr. Ryan B. Atkinson
- Mrs. Eleanor P. Ball
- Mrs. Deborah Bates
- Mrs. Charles R. Baxter
- Mr. Frank R. Bean
- Ms. Mara Beckwith
- Mr. Charles S. Beebe
- Mr. Richard Bennett
- Ms. Jennifer M. Billeci
- Ms. Barbara Block
- Mr. Philip L. Budlong
- Ms. Judith Cady
- Dr. Dennis Cambria
- Ms. Laurie Nelson Capener
- Ms. Joanna Case
- Ms. Carrie Charles
- Mr. Thomas L. Cheney
- Ms. Cynthia Allyn Clapp
- Mr. Frank Clay
- Mrs. Joan Cohn
- Mrs. Anna N. Coit
- Ms. Sarah Lee Collins
- Mrs. Jean Coogan
- Ms. Theresa Courchaine
- Mrs. Gerald M. Cruthers
- Ms. Rosemary Dayton
- Ms. Barbara Donath
- Mrs. C. Philip Donnel III
- Ms. Virginia C. Ely
- Mr. Marsh A. Enquist
- Mr. Rudy Favretti
- Mrs. Mina Ferguson
- Ms. Alice Foley
- Ms. Barbara Lee Franciosi
- Mrs. Eleanor Gannon
- Genealogy Periodicals - Allen County Public Library
- Ms. Judith N. Gifford
- Mrs. Robert Gill
- Mrs. Helen Giordano
- Mr. Charles A. Glaza
- Ms. Sandra L. Graham
- Mrs. John E. Greenhalgh
- Mrs. Jules Hallum
- Mrs. Mary Hartman
- Mrs. Sally Hirakis
- Mrs. Marian Hobaica
- Ms. Charlotte L. Holm
- Mr. Virgil W. Huntley
- Ms. Mary P. Hyde
- Ms. Joy Jastremski
- Ms. Lois Jennings
- Ms. Janet Kellock
- Mrs. Elizabeth A. Kennedy
- Mr. Arthur Kirkpatrick
- Ms. Chandler Kissell
- Mrs. Everett B. Law
- Mrs. Elizabeth M. Lockyer
- Mrs. Frank C. Lynch Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. James R. Maxson Jr.
- Mr. David Menzies
- Ms. Justine Metrick
- Mrs. Barbara B. Nelson
- Mrs. Joan Ness
- Mrs. Robert Niebling
- Mrs. William Noyes
- Ms. Janice Olson
- Ms. Doris B. Ottaviano
- Mrs. Louis B. Palmer
- Ms. Kim T. Phillips
- Mr. Oliver H. Porter
- Ms. Jane Preston
- Mr. James K. Pryor
- Mr. Edward Purcell
- Ms. Juliana Ratliff
- Mrs. Eleanor B. Read
- Ms. Mildred L. Reed
- Mrs. Richard P. Robinson
- Ms. Jean E. Rowley
- Ms. Willa T. Schuster
- Mrs. Marilyn Sly
- Ms. Ellen Smith
- Ms. Trudy Smith
- Ms. Nancy K. Spillane
- Ms. Julia S. Stone
- Mr. Carl A. Strand Jr.
- Ms. Amy Swan
- Ms. Gail Swanson
- Ms. Dorothy Szestowicki
- Mrs. Willis H. Todd
- Mrs. Richard Trumble
- Mrs. Paul C. VanDyke
- Mrs. Catherine Walker
- Ms. Catherine Zahn

**Family**
- Ms. Liz Allyn
- Ms. Julie Whitney
- James Allyn Family
- Dr. & Mrs. James B. Anderson
- Atty. & Mrs Robert P. Anderson Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard G. Arms Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. Loring Bailey
- Mr. & Mrs. Sandor Balint
- Mr. & Mrs. Peter M. Barres
- Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Barton
- Dr. & Mrs. Alan Bentz
- Mr. & Mrs. Bill Billing
- Dr. & Mrs. Norman Boas
- Mr. & Mrs. John Brooks
- Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Brown
- Mr. & Mrs. William A. Budding Jr.
- Mr. Ambrose H. Burrows
- Mr. & Mrs. Josh Burrows
- Mr. & Mrs. Craig Bush
- Laurel Butler
- Capt. & Mrs. Wilbur O. Cooke Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. Webster Copp
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Cushman
- Mr. & Mrs. Franklin G. Davis
- Connie Desillier and Family
- Mr. & Mrs. John T. Dobbin
- Mr. & Mrs. Timothy B. Evers
- Mr. & Mrs. George A. Fearn Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. Charles Feeney
- Capt. & Mrs. Donald R. Ferrier
- Mr. H. Bruce Fielding, CPA
- Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Fitzton
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Floyd
- Mr. & Mrs. Frank Fulchiero - Voyager Cruises
- Mr. & Mrs. Carl Gehring
- Mr. & Mrs. William Glazier
- Mr. & Mrs. Alan Greener
- Mr. & Mrs. Roger Gross
- Mr. & Mrs. Allen Haggerty
- Mr. & Mrs. Craig Haines
- Mr. Lawrence H. Hall
- Mr. & Mrs. William F. Herrmann Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. Herbert A. Holmstedt
- Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ingle
- Mr. & Mrs. Paul Jakob
- Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Johnson
- Richard & Ginna Kelly
- Jack & Beth Komorowski
- Mr. & Mrs. Horace B. Lamb
- Laurie Jean Lamb
- Mr. Colburn Graves Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. Samuel S. Lamb Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. Calvin W. Lane
- Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Leech
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Leetey
- Mr. Russell Leonard
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lord
- Mr. & Mrs. J.A. MacGregor
- Mr. & Mrs. Frank Marco
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mark
- Mr. & Mrs. John Mauritz
- Ms. Sally S. McBees
- Mr. Bruce Campbell
- Drs. John & Marcia McGowan
- Bob & Anne Mercer
- Nel & Mike Messick
- Michael Meyer
- Philip Kuepper
- Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Mosher
- Mystic Garden Club
Contributing
Mrs. James Nault
Mr. & Mrs. Judith Nickerson
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Nolan
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis O’Brien
Mr. & Mrs. Edmund F. Oliver
Ms. Cynthia Palmer  Bill Kavanagh
Mr. & Mrs. William Peowski
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Peyton
Mr. & Mrs. David Porter
Mr. & Mrs. Brae Rafferty Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ritzie
Mrs. O. Pomeroy Robinson
Mr. & Mrs. Peter G. Roper
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Scheer
Mr. & Mrs. David Scott
Mr. & Mrs. J. Donald Simpson
Mrs. Douglas Smith
Mrs. Stanley Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sorensen
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Springsteel & Family
Dr. & Mrs. L. Edwin Sproul Jr.
Rev. Kenneth Steere
Mr. & Mrs. Harold C. Tarbox
Mr. & Mrs. William Wardle
Walter & Louisa Watrous
Mr. & Mrs. John K. Watson III
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Welt
Mr. & Mrs. Norton C. Wheeler Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Simon Wohman
Ms. Catherine Casey Zahn

Benefactor
Dr. & Mrs. Susan Ahamed
Mr. & Mrs. John Butler
Ms. Melinda Carlisle
Mr. Trad Dart
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Deichmann
Densmore Oil Co.
Mr. & Mrs. Frank M. Durrschmidt
Essex Financial Services, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. David Evans
Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Ford
Franklin’s General Store
Frank’s Service Station
Ms. Audrey Golub
Lydia Herd  Michael DeAngelis
Ms. Kathryn Hill
Mrs. Kenneth O. Hodgson
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Lathrop
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Law
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Maxson
Mr. & Mrs. James P. O’Boyle
Mr. & Mrs. Robert O’Connor
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Perkins Jr.
Mrs. Richard A. Perkins Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Tod Schaefer
Mr. & Mrs. Harold P. Smith Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. J. Niel Spillane
Stuart Stender  Deborah Davenport, MD
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stuart
Mr. & Mrs. L. Wilber Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore T. Tylaska
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Washburn
Mr. & Mrs. William Webster
Mrs. Royal C. Werner
Mr. & Mrs. Harry White

Sustaining
Ms. Donna Ryan-Rose

Gift
Norma Aronson -
Memory of Dr. and Mildred Fowler
Priscilla Baxter
Audrey Beaumont
Jennifer Billeci

Frank Clay
Franklin’s General Store
Betsy Halsey
Mary Hartman
David Hinkle
Andrew Langlois
William Lewis
Otto Liebig
Brendan O’Donnell
Jane Preston
Jean Rowley -
Memory of Gladys Myers Rowley
Willa Schuster
Carl Strand -
Memory of Priscilla A. Strand
Barry Thorp
Catherine Zahn

Life
Mr. & Mrs. Louis P. Allyn
Kate April
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd J. Boggio
Mrs. LeRoy Broccoli
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony C. Dinoto
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Ettinger
Mr. & Mrs. William Everett
Mr. & Mrs. John Fiore
Mrs. William H. Forster
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel B. Fuller
Mrs. Charles L. Gates
Mrs. Ralph W. Halsey
Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Hamm
Mr. Eric Heyniger
Mr. & Mrs. David Hinkle
Mrs. Joseph T. Imdahl
Mr. Stephen P. Jones
Mrs. George Keith
Mrs. Ruth Keyes
Mr. & Mrs. James Kimken
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Kodama
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Langlois
Mr. & Mrs. William E Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Otto E. Liebig
Mrs. Clifford Mallory
Mrs. Graeme Mann
Tom & Nancy McLoughlin
Mr. Forrest Mitchell
Ms. Sandra Morse
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O’ Beirne
Mr. & Mrs. Brendan O’ Donnell
Mrs. Marion Palm
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Patton
Mr. William Peterson
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Pryor
Mr. Leonard C. Reid
Dr. & Mrs. Trent J. Repko
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Sinnett
Mr. & Mrs. Morgan St. John
Mr. & Mrs. C. William Stamm
Mr. & Mrs. Barry L. Thorp
Mr. & Mrs. Brian A. Thorp
Mrs. William L. Trench
Mrs. Barbara Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Ted A. Wydler
Ms. Alison Goodsell (Honorary)
Mrs. Burton C. Kimball (Honorary)
Mr. Stuart Lamson (Honorary)
Bailey & Jennifer Pryor Family (Honorary)
June 2007 Meeting Minutes

The Board of Trustees of the Mystic River Historical Society met at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce on Monday, June 18, 2007. Those present were Lou Allyn, Bill Everett, Joyce Everett, Tim Evers, Paul Ingle, Helen Keith, Bettye Noyes, Betty O’Donnell, Stephanie Thorp, Kit Werner and Cathy Marco.

President (Lou Allyn): Allyn reported the appointment of chairpersons to the various committees. The chairpersons for this year will be the following: John Porter, Building & Grounds; Bettye Noyes, Curatorial; Helen Keith, Finance; Stephanie Thorp, Information/Technology; Sally Halsey, Marketing; Cindy Allyn, Membership; Jennifer Pryor, Newsletter; Paul Ingle, Program; Joyce Everett, Special Events. Lou also reported that a combined effort by Board members would address the vacancy of a Hospitality chairperson. However, Allyn is actively looking for a much needed chairperson for the Education/Outreach committee.

Allyn gave an update to May’s board meeting concerning the request by William Burroughs Allen to get involved with Fort Hill cemetery maintenance. Allen clarified that it was not the maintenance of the cemetery he was interested in discussing with us but, rather, (currently unspecified) items which he has that he would like to give MRHS. He has requested a meeting with Allyn to discuss in the near future. Werner mentioned that Allen had previously donated a Porters Rock painting to MRHS and paintings to Mystic Seaport.

The Noank Historical Society invited MRHS members to attend their special opening day on July 1st at the Sylvan Street Museum with their ongoing exhibits and a new exhibit about Noank schools. Their museum is open until Columbus Day on Weds, Sat & Sun from 2 - 5 pm.

The Kayaker’s Guide to the Mystic River continues to sell very well. As of the June meeting, 159 copies had sold for a total of $644. With increased traffic of kayakers to this area, we expect sales to continue through the summer.

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum sent an invitation for all to attend their free second annual History & Culture Fair 2007 specially devoted to Eastern Connecticut and Western Rhode Island on Saturday, October 20, 2007 from 10 am to 3 pm. MRHS has been invited to have a table with display at this event and the Board has agreed to participate. Allyn will make contact with the organizer of the event to say that MRHS will be attending.

Barry Thorpe has been in touch with Allyn concerning the September 21 & 22 Antique Car event at Mystic Seaport. This year’s theme is Revolutionary America. Thorpe is looking for speakers for the weekend which would deal with this theme. Suggestions for speakers were discussed. As a result, Thorpe will contact Friends of Fort Griswold while Allyn will contact Louise Pettway, curator of the Stonington Lighthouse.

The Indian & Colonial Research Center (located in the 1856 historic Mystic Bank on Route 27 in Old Mystic) has provided us with more information about their center. This included such items as their mission statement, history, budget, and listing of holdings. They are looking for financial assistance from MRHS or if we are interested in possibly taking over their collection in the existing building. They are also in need of volunteers. The Board discussed the history and holdings of their large and unique collection. A history of their finances was also discussed and what monies would be needed. The board concurred that it was not in the financial position to be able to assist at this time nor had any additional staff or volunteers to offer them at this time.

Treasurers Report (Bill Everett): Everett reported that as of June 16, 2007 we have $13,182.27. It was also noted that the spring trip produced a nice income of $1486.09 (thanks to Joyce Everett) and plans are coming along for another wonderful trip on the Hudson River this fall.

Corresponding Secretary (Kit Werner): Werner read a thank you from the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library for our donation of a pair of framed Mystic Photos for their Library’s Silent Auction fund raiser which occurred on June 2, 2007. This month, Werner wrote 22 pieces of correspondence. She thanked those making memorial donations, membership renewals and donations, our May speaker (Carol Kimball), special donations for our Pot Luck Supper, donors to our Family Activity Center & Grandma’s Attic, our outgoing trustees, Tim Evers for his wonderful dedicated Pedi cab services, and also the Mystic Women’s Club for their gracious $150 grant for our Family Activity Center and other items.

Standing Committees

Buildings & Grounds (John Porter): Tim Evers reported for Porter that Simonds and Co. completed their work on the Downes Building. The Committee continues to look into rain gutters and carpenter ant treatment for the Downes Building.

Curatorial (Bettye Noyes): The committee met June 13th. Attending were Chairman Bettye Noyes, along with Dorrie Hanna, Helen Keith, Judy Hicks, Louisa Watrous & Kit Werner and MRHS president Lou Allyn. Lou reported that he and Barry had yet to install upgraded version of PastPerfect. Bettye reported that she is now able to work with the “front computer” and that in her research she found the same individual entered into the database under several different versions of their name. This problem was discussed and it was agreed that Louisa and Dorrie would try to “clean up” the entries. Noyes also wanted to note that she was surprised & impressed by weekly progress at the building.

Dorrie reported that Anne O’Neill at the Library has done a fine repair job on a large book donated by Ellen
Ross Smith. It was decided not to accept the donation of a desk as the desk is from Rhode Island, not from Mystic. There was a brief discussion of how to accession items that are for PVA or otherwise for Education & Outreach and not for the main collection. Louisa reported PastPerfect allows for such a designation and will investigate.

The “De-Accessioning” section of our Collections Management Policy was discussed and new wording agreed upon, pending review by Committee members who have been sent a copy of the material for comment. The actual revision will be voted upon via email and sent to the Board prior to the September Board meeting for their approval.

**Education & Outreach** (Temp. Chairperson, Helen Keith): The reframing workshop on Saturday, June 16th was most educational & successful, but not as well attended as we would have liked. Because we had to buy materials in quantity we have surplus acid free backing board, gasket and dust paper. The Denison Society has bought some and any member who would like to purchase these items should contact the Downes Bldg. Keith pointed out that anything framed more than 10 years ago is probably not acid free and, therefore, backing board may be of interest to our members & other local historical societies.

The Family Activity Centers were set up in June with a Grand Opening on Sunday, July 1st. The Family Activity Center will be ongoing on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from July 1 through September 30. We have 13 volunteers who will be rotating to help on Sundays at the Family Activity Center. The school program will also start in early September.

Tim Evers reported that the Pedi cab had been in operation for three weeks with some reservations scheduled. Betty O'Donnell recommended placing advertising on our Pedi cab, similar to those found in NYC. A board member also suggested considering a backup Pedi cab driver, however it was pointed out that this individual may be hard to find since they would have to be knowledgeable of Mystic history and be in as good a shape as Tim.

**Finance** (Helen Keith): Keith reported there was no meeting in June, and the next meeting will be held when warranted.

The **Hospitality** position is vacant, while **Information-Technology** and **Marketing** had no new reports.

**Membership** (Cynthia Allyn): Lou Allyn reported there are 264 paid members and that we received three gifts in June. Our newsletter patrons total 13.

**Newsletter** (Jennifer Pryor): Allyn mentioned that Catherine Deichmann has made very good use of the MRHS archives in her research for her Masters thesis in history. The subject includes the Civil War draft in Mystic. She will write some vignettes for publication in future issues of the Newsletter.

**Program** (Paul Ingle): Paul reported that he has come up with about a dozen potential interesting speakers for the upcoming program year. Some familiar names are Judy Hicks for next spring discussing one of our trips, our favorite historian Carol Kimball, and others. Allyn also added that Catherine Deichmann would be a good speaker to add to the list as well.

**Special Events** (Joyce Everett): Everett reported that she is receiving reservations for the trip along the Hudson River. Everett also received a letter from Tim Bell (appraiser from Appraisal Day) stating he felt it was a good event and that he loved doing it. His feeling about the poor attendance was that the price of $10 per item might have been too high. Everett asked the Board whether they felt the event should be offered next year and ideas on how to make this event more successful were discussed resulting in agreement to hold an appraisal day in 2008, with the possibility of running it on a Saturday and having interesting items discussed at the next Membership meeting.

**Unfinished Business**

**Walking Tour** (David Evans): The fact checking and research phase is taking longer than expected, and the first draft of the Walking Tour has been sent to Jennifer Pryor. There are still inconsistencies to be resolved among prior tours, commentaries, etc. and the passage of time requires some additional research, however, it’s moving forward.

Allyn brought the Board up to date on his research of rental prices for our monthly meetings. The Board agreed to continue using the Congregational Church for meetings at their rate of $100 per meeting since it was in line with other locations and they will allow us to move the evening day to Wednesday from Friday. Therefore, starting in September, all monthly meetings will be on Wednesday evenings, not Friday evenings. An inquiry was also made to Allyn about having children attend our monthly meetings. It was agreed by the Board that this had been done in the past and would be acceptable.

Allyn went over the calendar for future Board meetings, Monthly meetings, and the Newsletter which was agreed upon after discussion. Allyn also asked Board members if there should be a cut in the number of meetings and/or newsletters. Again, after discussion, the Board agreed to maintain the current number of meetings and newsletters. The Board is sensitive to our member’s reaction to the change in day for our monthly meetings from Friday to Wednesday. Every effort will be made to remind members of this change and monitor its impact. The Membership committee also compiled the names of all members living in Stoneridge. This list will be sent to them to encourage carpooling to meetings.

There is no Board meeting in July and the August meeting was deemed unnecessary after an email discussion. The next meeting will be on September 17th.
Mystic Arts Center Announces Art Lectures and Museum Trips

Our friends at the Mystic Arts Center would like to extend an invitation to MRHS members & friends to join them for any or all of a series of lectures and adventures this fall. For further detail, please visit the Center online at www.mysticarts.org or contact them at: 9 Water Street, Mystic, CT 06355; phone 860-536-7601; fax 860-536-0610, or education@mysticarts.org

Lectures

Lecture Series Package - Class ID: 1582A Art Historian, Noelle O’Connor, returns to the Mystic Arts Center to conduct a new series of art history lectures - each highlighting artists & artwork that will be viewed & discussed the following week on trips to revered museums. Individual lectures and day trips may be purchased separately. Teens Allowed.

Package Includes Series of Three Lectures:
- Wednesday, September 19th, 2007, 2-3 pm
- Wednesday, October 17th, 2007, 2-3 pm
- Wednesday, November 7th, 2007, 2-3 pm

Tuition (Member & Non-Member): $60. includes materials

Southwest Connecticut Art and Artists - Class ID: 1582 J. Alden Weir, a member of the Group of 10, the Cos Cob colony of artists, and instructor at the Art Student’s League in NYC was an American Impressionist. Friends with Whistler, Twachtman and Ryder, his style evolved from a classic realism to a tonalist Impressionism. His oeuvre and stylistic evolution will be illustrated in this lecture, which will also introduce the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art in Ridgefield, CT. The lecture will include works by contemporary artists such as Mary Temple, James Prosek and Charlotte Schultz, who had or have exhibitions at this important cultural resource for artists working today.

Time: Wednesday, September 19th, 2007, 2-3 pm
Tuition (Member & Non-Member): $25. includes materials

Rembrandt and the Dutch Masters - Class ID: 1584 Roughly 400 years ago Rembrandt van Rijn was born, one of the great painters and printmakers of the 17th century. His copious works include oil paintings, drawings and etchings. Active in what is considered the Golden Age of Dutch art, Rembrandt’s technical skill combined with a deep and transcendent humanism make his masterpieces as fresh and engaging today as when they were first made. This illustrated lecture will introduce the major works of Rembrandt and explore the creative output of other Dutch masters such as Hals, Vermeer, van Ruisdael and others.

Time: Wednesday, October 17th, 2007, 2-3 pm
Tuition (Member & Non-Member): $25. includes materials

Grandeur & Glory - Development of the Empire Style - Class ID: 1586 The early 19th c. saw the development of the Empire Style, created in conjunction with the taste of the Emperor Napoleon and his wife Josephine. Ornate, opulent, and inventive, the decorative arts of this period were idealized versions of ancient Greek, Roman and Egyptian motifs, made to glorify the French Empire, and its ruler, Napoleon. This lecture will cover the wide range of decorative arts from furniture to ceramics to textiles, including well-known period paintings augmenting Napoleon’s grandeur.

Time: Wednesday, November 7th, 2007, 2-3 pm
Tuition (Member & Non-Member): $25. includes materials

Trips

Weir Farm & the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art - Class ID: 1583 Connecticut Treasures - Join us for a day trip by bus to the home of J. Alden Weir in Wilton, Ct., the only National Park Service facility dedicated to an American Painter. In 1882, J. Alden Weir brought his family to this farm and developed it into a center for painting. The landscape of stonewalls, undulating hills and the pond on the property make it a delight to visit. After viewing the gallery and grounds, we will board our bus to go the neighboring Ridgefield where we will visit the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art. James Prosek’s Life and Death: A Visual Taxonomy and Charlotte Schultz’s An Inefficiency in Our Screen are but two of the exhibits by contemporary artists we will view. Bring your own lunch to eat either on Weir Farm grounds (weather permitting) or aboard our bus. Comfortable shoes are suggested.

Time: Wednesday, September 26th, 2007, 8a - 5p
Tuition (Member & Non-Member): $100. includes materials

Metropolitan Museum of Art - Class ID: 1585 The Age of Rembrandt: Dutch Paintings in the MMA and Drawings and Prints From Holland’s Golden Age: Highlights of the Collection - Join us for a bus trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art where we will view two extraordinary exhibitions of Dutch art. We will arrive around 12 noon and begin with a “Dutch treat” lunch in one of the Museum’s cafes and cafes. After lunch, we will view The Age of Rembrandt, which showcases the MMA’s collection of 20 Rembrandts as well as paintings of other masters dating from the seventeenth to eighteenth centuries. Paintings of landscapes, religious subjects, portraits and genre scenes will be on view. Next we will view the exhibition in the Drawings and Prints Galleries, which will display works by Rembrandt, van Ruisdael, Cuyp and others. Comfortable shoes are recommended.

Time: Wednesday, October 24th, 2007, 8a - 5p
Tuition (Member & Non-Member): $100. includes materials

Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts - Class ID: 1587 Symbols of Power: Napoleon and the art of the Empire Style 1800-1815 Join us for a day trip to Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts where we will begin by viewing the exhibition Symbols of Power: Napoleon and the Art of the Empire Style 1800-1815. This ornate style is evidenced in furniture, textiles, jewelry, painting and porcelains all augmented to imbue the owner and environment with an aura of power and elite cultural grandeur. We will then have a ‘Dutch treat’ - lunch at one of the BMFA’s cafes and, time permitting; next view the exhibition Arts of Japan: The John C. Weber Collection. This superlative collection encompasses many media such as lacquers, screens, scrolls, ceramics and textiles. Comfortable shoes recommended.

Time: Wednesday, November 14th, 2007, 8a - 5p
Tuition (Member & Non-Member): $100. includes materials
Family Activity Centers Weds, Thurs, Suns, 1- 4 at Portersville Academy through September 30th
Knot tying & Signal Flags, Boat Building, Bridge Construction, Grandma’s Attic of Toys & Clothes, Journaling, Fort Rachel Creation, Quilting and more.

Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center’s History & Culture Fair, Sat. October 20, 10a - 3p at the Museum Gathering Space. Free. Historians, authors, researchers & geneologists share ideas about what shaped modern day southeastern Connecticut and western Rhode Island. See www.pequotmuseum.org for more info.

Member Meeting Wednesday, September 26, 7:30p at the Mystic Congregational Church
Bob Welt speaks on “The Use of 19th Century Primary Source Written Correspondence as a means of Teaching Geography and History in the Middle School Classroom: or, Poking Your Nose Into Other People’s Business.”

Member Meeting Wednesday, October 24, 7:30p at the Mystic Congregational Church
With speaker Patricia Schaefer.

Member Meeting Wednesday, November 28th, 7:30p Catherine Deichmann presents “Mystic and the Draft during the Civil War.”

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center’s Second Annual History & Culture Fair 2007 will be on Saturday October 20, 2007 from 10am to 3pm.

This event is being organized by the Research & Information Resources Department to bring individuals, research centers, museums, historical societies, authors, and the public together to network, share ideas & resources, and promote the study of Southern New England history.

The main focus of this History & Culture Fair is Eastern Connecticut and Western Rhode Island but participants from the greater Southern New England area are encouraged to participate. This event is free and open to the public.