The Mystic River Historical Society and the Mystic and Noank Library will present “A Walk Through Helen Clarke’s Mystic” on Saturday, Oct. 5, at 10 a.m. The free walk will feature a look at the Mystic of 100 years ago, based on the writings of Helen Clarke, who grew up in Mystic during the first two decades of the 20th century and whose diary was published by the historical society in 1997. Tour guides from the historical society will lead the walk.

Registration is required and may be completed at the library website, www.mysticnoanklibrary.org. The walk is limited to 60 people and the deadline for signup is Sept. 30. There is no wait list, so sign up early to reserve your space. It will be a lovely time of year to walk through downtown Mystic. The walk will start at the Union Baptist Church parking lot at 119 High St. and will end at Portersville Academy, also on High Street, where there will be a display of Helen Clarke photos and memorabilia. Copies of the Helen Clarke diary will also be for sale. The parking lot at Union Baptist has been reserved for parking for those who sign up for the walk. There will be no walk if it rains. And there is no rain date.

Helen Clarke was born in Mystic on Sept. 17, 1905. In 1915, when she was just 10, she started writing a diary after reading a book in which a girl began keeping a diary and exciting things started to happen to her. The diary is loaded with stories about the people who lived in Mystic at the beginning of the 20th century and the things that were happening there. So join us for a fall walk that will step back in history and show what Mystic was like around the time of WWI.
The Mystic River Historical Society’s acclaimed publication, “An Account of My Life” ends in 1926 when diarist Helen May Clarke elopes to Providence with handsome Dorrance Grimes, but Helen’s writing continued beyond that time. The Rhode Island Historical Society holds her later journals, which include this excerpt describing Helen’s return to Mystic just days after the devastating hurricane that had struck on September 21, 1938 (MSS 983, published courtesy of the RIHS).

1938

“Friday, Sept 23

No direct news from Connecticut, only small news items from Hartford, New London and Norwich; Mystic may be flat for all we know. It must have been flooded downtown – that low, made land. The Westerly area is in ruins; Napatree Point swept clean. The stories are unbelievable, and the death list contains familiar South County names – Burdict, Barber, Champlin – but not Uncle Ase Hoxsie, thank God. . . . Tonight’s Obituary Notices run to two full columns.

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[Sunday], Sept.25 – 5PM. At last we have obtained a Military Pass – from Mr. O’Connell a minor politician and our next door neighbor. Can’t get anywhere without one. Too late to attempt Mystic today with road conditions such as they are.

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Monday, Sept. 26

[We] decided to go to Connecticut while our pass still holds good. Of the drive up I can give only a numb repetition, fallen trees, telephone wires hanging to the ground, collapsed barns, walls of houses sheered off. The same line-men from Pennsylvania and Indiana.

We drove straight thru to New London. The damage grew greater every mile we covered. A house cut open was not unusual; in one a woman moved about restoring order, the ornaments primly arrayed on a white mantle. New London is a shambles beggaring description though there are less evidences of fire than I had expected. We found the May’s house on Broad Street buried beneath fallen trees, the steps smashed, the veranda caved in. Cousin Herbert looking aged and worn, lifted his head from his wood chopping as we pulled up to the curb. He was not surprised to see us, he seemed incapable of further surprise.

“I hope I never live thru another,” he said wearily.

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And then Mystic – and that was the worst of all. I thought I had felt sick before, but Mystic, my Mystic! Elms I have known intimately, splintered and gashed. Ashby Street: a telephone pole snapped in half yet leaning against something over the road, permitting the passage of one car, dangling wires scraping the roof. Trees, trees, trees – all down: the great maples splintered as if by a shell. Mrs. Fannie Fish’s big pines flat to the ground, the only remaining one sheared off at the top.

And the Stantons, worried, harried before this struck, living on a tiny income. They met us at the door, white faced and waxy lipped. Their roof was damaged, the chimney down, windows broken, furniture covered with salt spray and plastered leaves; not more than $200 damage perhaps, but a large sum to them.

She was tying a broken blind when she saw the big maple falling over her. She screamed, covered her face, flattening herself against the house. The trunk missed her by inches, the great boughs swished past her, and she emerged almost without a scratch when Mr. Stanton, ill and weak and trembling from the shock, helped her into the house.
When she had caught her breath she fought her way to the garage doors. She couldn’t force them shut, but she managed to pound in stakes to keep them from tearing loose. The barn came down. Every window pane blew in on two sides of the house and the rain and the spray from river and sea frosted the sideboard mirror. They tugged at rugs and furniture, trampling broken glass and branches and leaves under foot; somehow she nailed blankets over the gaping holes. About that time, Mrs. Stark must have been bleeding to death, a dagger of window glass stuck in her throat.

The Baptist church! Someone saw the white spire when it lifted straight into the air to drop like a plummet thru the roof to the basement, its bell tolling in the roaring wind and drenching spray.

The Methodist church is flat save for a gaunt wall. Its members always poor, [had] labored unceasingly to clear the debt. They were within $200 of their goal. Every church suffered damage, but the ugly Catholic church. The Catholics are quite cocky about that.

The roof is off the Gilbert Block and every storefront smashed. A large yacht crashed into the theatre. Mr. Post’s boats are strewn the length of Rotten Row [Water Street]. The few trees the Italian cobbler left standing because they were too big to manage easily, are down and children sit astride the prostrate trunks. I’m glad Capt. Holmes is dead. Old Man Allyn too, though I never liked him- his place is ruined. The trees – oh the trees! Skipper Street [present day W. Mystic Avenue] is like a blow in the face. Every window is out of the Academy. The roof is stripped from the Station. And Elm Grove! The great pines high over the riverbank – gone.

Dorrance’s house when we at last drove down the laneway – Hard to believe we saw it a month ago, white and calm in the summer sun; that I sat under those torn and splintered elms, or walked in the debris strewn fields. The barn is down, the shed is flat, one chimney is gone, shingles and clapboards are off and the house scrubbed nearly bare by the salt spray. There it [stands] alone, bereft of its out buildings, its eyes picked out, sagging, old, desolate.

They had weathered the hurricane alright. – Dorrance’s people, although they looked battered and the grandmother still wore a dazed and almost witless look. Esther is staying there, until her house can be pumped out. She saw the waves rushing down the road with people fleeing before them to dry land. Now that the water has receded the children poke at dead rats and cats which makes her nervous. “You never know what you’ll come across,” she shivered.

Sept. 28

I feel tired and as if I had been dragged thru a knot hole. At the moment I can’t seem to care whether there is a European war by Saturday or not.

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**Catching up with the History Book Club**

The following books have been selected for the next several months by a vote of The History Book Club. Since the last two are longer, we have designated them to be discussed over two monthly sessions each.

Nov. 12—*Ledyard: In Search of the First American Explorer*, Bill Gifford

Dec. 10—*The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*, Maria Rosa Menocal


Feb. 11—Last half of *The Half Has Never Been Told*

March 10—*Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century*, George Packer (1st half)

April 14—Last half of *Our Man: Richard Holbrooke*

The History Book Club is a partner project of the Mystic-Noank Library and MRHS. The group meets on second Tuesdays at the Mystic-Noank Library at 7pm in the Activities Room and new reader members are always welcome. For more information, please contact Richard Semeraro and rasemeraro@gmail.com.
June 2019 Meeting Minutes

The Board of Trustees of the Mystic River Historical Society met on Monday, June 17, 2019. Attendees were: Cindy Allyn, Lou Allyn, Margaret Austin, Marilyn Comrie, Lois Glazier, Stephen Menno, John Parry, Richard Semeraro and Stephanie Thorp. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President L. Allyn.

President (L. Allyn): A motion was made, seconded and passed to elect Stephen Menno as President and Louis Allyn as Treasurer. At this point chairmanship of the meeting was handed over to the new President.

Recording Secretary (L Allyn): A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of the May 20, 2019 meeting and the May 22, 2019 Annual Meeting (which will also be submitted for approval at the 2010 Annual Meeting).

Corresponding Secretary (L. Holland): No letters were written.

Treasurer (L. Allyn for B. Thorp): As of today cash in the bank is $9,886 with $2,260 committed to a new laptop and return of unspent money to the Charles B. Allyn foundation. • Donations in June included $250 from the Mystic Garden Club. • Membership Dues of $9,975 are running behind last year’s $11,150 YTD. • A MailChimp reminder will be sent out in June and printed reminders will be mailed in September. The $2,950 in Office Equipment was for the two new Dell desktops which will be capitalized along with the new laptop when all the bills are in. • Independent Contractor expense is even with $6,100 last year to date. • A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Treasurer’s report.

CT History Day (S. Menno): Turnout exceeded expectations; 43 visitors signed the register at the Portersville Academy open house, including some local neighbors. $82 of books and maps were sold.

Curatorial (D. Hanna): Dorrie is resuming her office schedule as Doug recuperates. The curatorial staff has been working closely with Barry Thorp to install and try out the new desktop computers.

Finance (L. Allyn): No report.

Information Technology (S. Thorp): On June 1, the System Administrator backed up all files for offsite secure storage, including Past Perfect and Virtual Exhibit. He installed 3 updates to the Dell hardware MRHS1, 2, and 3. The new laptop has been installed as MRHS3 and is operational. • Application and security software were updated and are current at this time. All equipment is operating properly at this time as well. Networked operation of each computer was checked and found to be in good condition. • No problem with the printer connection to the Laser muti-function printer with the computers was encountered. • The System Administrator has ordered 3 copies of MS Office from Tech Soup and is awaiting delivery, as well as the invoices from Dell and Tech Soup for hardware and software. On receipt of the invoices, the IT committee will draft the required letter of response to the Allyn Foundation and will request a check from the Treasurer to reimburse the Allyn Foundation for funds from their grant that weren’t used.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Thorp, IT Chairman
Barry Thorp, System Administrator

Lower Mystic Cemetery (L. Allyn): Donations received were $2,500 from the Anderson-Pafford Foundation, and $250 from Masons Island Fire District and $120 from Masons Island Property Owners Association in recognition of Lou’s years of service to the Masons Island community. The annual meeting of the Cemetery Association Board will be held Saturday June 22nd.

Membership (C. Allyn): No changes.

Mystic Noank Library (R. Semeraro): There was a good turnout for the June 11 discussion of Fascism: A Warning, by Madeleine Albright. On July 2 and August 13 the topic will be American Eden, by Victoria Johnson

Newsletter (J. Pryor): Submissions for the September/October Portersville Press will run from August 16th to September 20th.

Programs (M. Austin): The goal is to have speakers signed-up shortly for all membership meetings from this October through next May. T

Social Media (L. Pyrke-Fairchild): Social media accounts continue to grow, with particular interest this past month to some really great photos of visitors to the archives and the Portersville Open House.

Walking Tour (Marilyn Comrie): Arrangements have been made with the Union Baptist Church to use their parking lot for the October Helen Mae Clarke walking tour. Marilyn will lead a preliminary walkthrough with Board members who have volunteered to assist.

Next Meeting –September 16, 2019 7:00 pm Mystic Noank Library

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm
Respectfully submitted, Lou Allyn

May 2019 Meeting Minutes

The Board of Trustees of the Mystic River Historical Society met on Monday, May 20, 2019. Attendees were: Cindy Allyn, Lou Allyn, Margaret Austin, Stephen Menno, John Parry, and Richard Semeraro. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President L. Allyn.

President (L. Allyn): At the Annual Meeting Wednesday May 22 the Nominating Committee will present for re-election as Trustees Cindy Allyn, Lois Glazier and Jennifer Pryor. At the June Board of Trustees nominations will be present for Steve Menno for President and Lou Allyn for Treasurer. • Barry Thorp will be completing his service as Treasurer. Lou expressed his sincere and grateful appreciation for Barry’s dedication and commitment to MRHS and noted that Barry went “the extra mile” when he responded to a request back in 2013 that he learn QuickBooks and non-profit accounting and taxes so that Lou could accept another stint as President. In the years since he has done an accurate and professional job.

Recording Secretary (L Allyn): A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of the April, 15, 2019 meeting.

Corresponding Secretary (L. Holland): 6 letters were written.

Treasurer (B. Thorp): This report covers details of the treasurer’s activities during the period 15 April 2019 to 20 May 2019. • At this time all deposits have been made in the Chelsea Groton checking account and all invoices are paid current. The treasurer’s account books are reconciled with the Chelsea Groton Bank statements. • Expenses for this period are budgeted commitments that include payments for utilities, newsletter printing, curatorial staff payments, speaker fees, dues to organizations we support (ASSHL), and our annual heating and security inspections. Deposits for this period totaled $3060.75 and expenses were $2514.15. Deposits included receipt of 2019 member annual dues, donations and the second Grant from the Charles B. Allyn Foundation for the purchase of a new laptop computer to replace our aging one. Not appearing on the P&L report are obligations MRHS has effectively incurred to pay Dell Corporation $1937.91 for the laptop computer (but that has not yet invoiced at this point), and the return of $322.66 to the Charles B. Allyn Foundation for an amount that our Grant request exceeded the actual amount that Dell has charged MRHS for the laptop computer. This effectively reduces the balance in the checking account to $7,457.75. • This will be my final report as Treasurer as I step down with the election of new officers and board members. It has been a pleasure to work with you all and I thank you for your support during my term. • A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Treasurer’s report.
The Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm
Respectfully submitted, Lou Allyn

April 2019 Meeting Minutes - - -

The Board of Trustees of the Mystic River Historical Society met on Monday, April 15, 2019. Attendees were: Cindy Allyn, Lou Allyn, Margaret Austin, Marilyn Comrie, Lois Glazier, Steve Menno, John Parry, Lyndsey Pyrke-Fairchild, Richard Semeraro, Stephanie Thorp, and Barry Thorp. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President L. Allyn.

President (L. Allyn): A visit to the Lebanon Historical Society is well worth the trip. Lou met a cousin, Jim Maxson, at a local historical societies’ open house at the Groton Public Library.

Recording Secretary (L. Allyn): A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of the March, 18, 2019 meeting.

Corresponding Secretary (L. Holland): 9 letters were sent.

Treasurer (B. Thorp): This report covers details of the treasurer’s activities during the period 17 March 2019 to 14 April 2019. At this time all deposits have been made in the Chelsea Groton checking account and all bills are paid current. The treasurer’s account books are reconciled with the Chelsea Groton Bank statements. Expenses for this period are non-discretionary commitments that include payments for utilities, newsletter printing, office supplies, curatorial staff payments. There was one unusual expense during this period, that for the payment for the two new computers ($ 2950). Deposits for this period totaled $861.91 and expenses were $4262.13 ($ 1312.13 for ordinary expenses). Deposits included receipt of 2019 member annual dues, Pfizer Foundation matching gift, and a Royalty payment for the sale of “Images of Mystic”. The present balance in the Chelsea Groton checking account is $9718.32
A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Treasurer’s report.

Chamber of Commerce (S. Menno): SEC-TV will tape the program Mystic Matters this Tuesday at 4:00 with Lou talking about MRHS and the Central Hall Block.

Curatorial (D. Hanna): The Committee met March 18: Dorrie, Marilyn, Cindy and Lou participated in the local History Fair at the Groton Town Library.

Finance (L. Allyn): No report.

Information Technology (S. Thorp): Since the last report, the System Administrator installed new MRHS1 and MRHS2 computers, reloaded operating system and application software, and ensured the system was operating properly. He performed computer updates and backups on 28 March. Backup files were moved offsite for secure storage. Application and security software were updated and are current at this time. All three computers received a security update. All equipment is operating properly at this time as well. Networked operation of each computer was checked and found to be in good condition. No problem with the printer connection to the Laser multi-function printer with the computers was encountered.

Lower Mystic Cemetery (L. Allyn): Grass will be mowed before Memorial Day. Cindy and Lou joined Boy Scout Troop 2 and Scoutmaster John Sidlinger for a spaghetti supper at the VFW. Each year Troop 2 sets flags on veterans’ graves at Elm Grove and other local cemeteries; John and Lou do the Lower Mystic Cemetery flags.

Membership (C. Allyn): Shirley Sebastian joined as a new member. Charter member Bill Everett died.

Mystic Noank Library (R. Semeraro): May was Measuring America by Andrew Linkletter.
June 11 Fascism: A Warning, by Madeleine Albright
July 2 and August 13: American Eden, by Victoria Johnson

Newsletter (J. Pryor): We’ve put the MRHS Portersville Press 2018-19 volume to bed and will look forward to fresh content next year for vol.XLVI !! Thank you to everyone for your contributions this year! Thank you to Lou & Cindy for rolling up their sleeves and getting both the digital and print versions picked up, labeled, and into circulation! :) The next MRHS PP calendar will be shared at the end of summer, closer to our first copy deadline. The structure will be consistent with content due the 3rd Friday before the next edition (Friday after the board meeting,) but contributions are welcome at any time. We run 5 newsletters annually: Sept-Oct, Nov-Dec, Jan-Feb, Mar-Apr and May-Jun. The upcoming public meeting speaker/s are featured on each cover.

Programs (M. Austin): Upcoming meetings are:
May 22th, 2019 – Annual Meeting and Rebecca Bayreuther Donohue “Cover Them Over With Beautiful Flow’rs:” How We Memorialise the Civil War.
Fall programs are to be announced.

Social Media (L. Pyrke-Fairchild): No report

Walking Tour (Marilyn Comrie): The tour was held on April 27th. Go to www.mystichistory.org What’s New for pictures and more information.

Next Meeting –June 17, 2019 7:00pm Mystic Noank Library

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm
Respectfully submitted, Lou Allyn

CT History Day (S. Menno): Preparations are underway for an open house of Portersville Academy on June 8th. Lou noted that Steve is learning to use Mail Chimp and Microsoft Front Page so he can be do the MRHS email and website.

Curator (D. Hanna): Cataloging of the Virgil Huntley collection is in progress.

Finance (L. Allyn): No report.

Information Technology (S. Thorp): The Allyn Foundation has awarded MRHS a grant in the amount of $2370.57 for the acquisition of a replacement laptop for MRHS3. The laptop has been ordered and shipped and we are awaiting delivery. On April 27, the System Administrator updated Past Perfect to 5.0 F3 and backed up all files for offline secure storage. In addition, he reinstalled MS Office and activated it in response to staff complaints of slow performance. Application and security software were updated and are current at this time. All three computers received a security update. All equipment is operating properly at this time as well. Networked operation of each computer was checked and found to be in good condition. No problem with the printer connection to the Laser multi-function printer with the computers was encountered.

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Lower Mystic Cemetery (L. Allyn): No activity.

Membership (C. Allyn): 2019 dues renewals are coming in on budget.

Mystic Noank Library (R. Semeraro): April was King Leopold’s Ghost (about rubber trade in the Belgian Congo). May will be Measuring America by Andrew Linkletter.
By Stephen Menno

Mystic Liberty Pole Celebration May 17, 1862

It’s always so satisfying when items from the past can be connected to current events. Louisa Watrous is one of the two collection assistants who work for MRHS in the Downes building. While preparations were being made for the Portersville Academy open house on June 8, 2019, she happened to be cataloging papers of the Coogan/Holmes family from the Civil War era. Louisa came across a letter written by Lucy A. Holmes on May 18, 1862 to her son, Corporal Charles D. Holmes, describing the dedication of the Mystic Liberty Pole. Charles was serving with the 3rd Regiment RI Volunteers, Company A, in Port Royal, SC.

The text of that letter was included with the Liberty Pole display at the open house and is as follows:

"Yesterday they raised a very tall liberty pole here in Mystic. It is in front of the Floral Hall and a large banner floats upon the top of it. They dedicated or celebrated it yesterday afternoon when they raised the flag. There was quite a gathering I believe and the Band played Yankee Doodle and a few more tunes and they fired a number of cannon, and gave lots of cheers, but it seemed to me that they better have waited a little while, until they were sure how it would end for my part, if the whole victory was won, and peace proclaimed, and you here at home, I should have enjoyed it much better for I think that it is the most likely that there will be heavy signs of distress and loss of lives before it is ended."

Reader Tips:
To everyone interested in local history, check out “Today in Connecticut History”: https://todayincthistory.com/ for new stories everyday, brought to you by the office of the CT State Historian and CT Humanities.

April 2019 Meeting Minutes (Continued) - - -

Newsletter (J. Pryor): Press copy deadline is April 19th.
Programs (M. Austin): Upcoming meetings are:
April 24th, 2019 - Dr. Ralph D. Arcari Ph.D., UCONN School of Medicine - “The 1918 influenza Epidemic in CT”
May 22nd, 2019 – Annual Meeting and Rebecca Bayreuther Donohue “Cover Them Over With Beautiful Flow’rs:” How We Memorialise the Civil War
Social Media (L. Pyrke-Fairchild): We continue to post on Instagram and Facebook. Our next program has been shared on Facebook and submitted to the Westerly Sun, The Day and CT History Events.com,
Walking Tour (Marilyn Comrie): The tour is planned for 10:00 a.m. April 27th with a rain date of May 4th. Dorrie is setting up a display at the Mystic Noank Library. The event is posted on the Library’s Calendar of Events. The Union Baptist Church parking lot has been reserved for Saturday October 5th.
Next Meeting – May 20, 2019 7:00 pm Mystic Noank Library
The Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm
Respectfully submitted, Lou Allyn
In support of Connecticut Open House Day on June 8, 2019, the Mystic River Historical Society (MRHS) held an open house at the Portersville Academy from 1pm to 4pm. Portersville Academy is the flagship symbol of the MRHS, but has not been used for MRHS activities in some time. Besides displaying items that were already in the Academy (such as desks, chairs, books, and numerous other items from schoolhouse days, antique tools, and various vintage household items), photographic displays of the Academy and the Mystic Liberty Pole were featured. A model of the flagpole made with wood from the pole that stood in Mystic from 1906 to 1986 and the original plaques that were once attached to the flagpole were also displayed.

An interesting coincidence occurred while assembling the photographic display for the Mystic Liberty Pole. Louisa Watrous, one of the two collection assistants who work for MRHS in the Downes building, was cataloging the papers of the Coogan/Holmes family and came across a letter written by Lucy Holmes to her son, Corporal Charles Holmes, during the Civil War describing the dedication of the original flagpole. The text of that letter was included with the Liberty Pole display. See the accompanying article for more information on the letter.

Over 40 visitors toured the Academy during the open house. Several live nearby and had never been inside. Still others were touring Mystic to take advantage of the other open houses in the area. MRHS books and vintage map replicas were for sale, and several were purchased.

Built in 1839 (when the village on the west side of the Mystic River was known as Portersville), the Portersville Academy was originally the Fifth District School and was located just north of the Union Baptist Church (then called Mariners Free Church). In 1888, the building was moved (!) to its current location and became the First District Hall. It was used as a courthouse (with a separate jail immediately nearby) and a voting hall. The building’s use as a district hall ended in 1958. The building sat vacant and unused for many years and was slated for demolition. In 1966, the building was rescued by concerned citizens, the Mystic Valley Civic Association, the Mystic Garden Club, and, later, the Mystic Junior Woman’s Club. It was acquired by the MRHS in 1975. At that point, many renovations of the building were made, including restoring the original configuration of two entrance doors, recreating the oval spider glass window, and installing a replacement bell and belfry that had been removed many years before.

Many thanks to the following MRHS members who helped with the Open House: Margaret Austin, Elizabeth Boucher, Marilyn Comrie, Dorrie Hanna, Lyndsey Pyrke-Fairchild, Barry Thorp, and Louisa Watrous!
Events Calendar

7pm Tuesday, October 8, 2019
History Book Club—MRHS & MNL Partnership
Activities Room, Mystic Noank Library
These Truths: A History of the United States
by Jill Lepore
Always Open to New Readers!

7pm Wednesday, October 23rd, 2019
“TURTLE: David Bushnell's Revolutionary Vessel and Connecticut's Role in Submarine History.”
7:00 refreshments & socializing, 7:30 program
Mystic Congregational Church Hall,
Broadway & E. Main, Mystic

Bring a friend! All meetings are free and open to the public!
Donations are always welcome. Renew or become a Member of MRHS
for updates about our events.
Contact us at info@mystichistory.org

Membership Updates

We welcome six new members who are Glenn Brady, Jennifer Kettledon, George Sylvestre, Brian Lombard, Connie Plessman and Judy Munro. Bernie Boylan has rejoined MRHS and we welcome him back.

We also mourn the loss of longstanding members Sally Halsey, Bill Everett, William Lewis and Bev Dobbins.

—Cindy Allyn, Membership

Newsletter/Print Patrons

CYNTHIA AND LOUIS ALLYN
LAURA BEACH AND JOSHUA KALKSTEIN
DANIEL & JANE BRANNEGAN
MR. & MRS. FRANKLIN DAVIS
MR & MRS. FRED DEICHMANN
DENSMORE OIL
KATE DIMANCESCU
HERMINE DUDA
DAVID EVANS
ALICE FOLEY
MR. CRAIG HAINES
MR. & MRS. DOUG HANNA
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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 - Stephen Menno • Vice President - Margaret Austin • Treasurer - Lou Allyn • Corresponding & Recording Secretary - Elizabeth Holland

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