

LOWER MYSTIC CEMETERY NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2013  
FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Lower Mystic Cemetery Association has just come through a very trying year. In 2012, we lost two of our board members and officers. In May 2012, Horace Lamb died. For many years Horace had been the association's treasurer and maintenance person, making sure the cemetery was mowed and cared for and walking it frequently to keep an eye out for any necessary repairs. In November 2012, Bill Fish died. Bill had served as our secretary since the death of Carol W. Kimball in 2010.

We are now trying to rebuild the membership on our board. In 2012, we welcomed Ken and Judey Buckbee to the board. They live in Torrington, but Judey has ancestors buried in Lower Mystic and they frequently visit Mystic and the cemetery. At our annual meeting in April, we welcomed Bob and Janet Purinton to the board. We still have two vacancies, including Horace's position of treasurer/facilitator, and we would welcome anyone who has family buried there or who has an interest in preserving historic cemeteries to join us in helping to keep the cemetery well maintained, if you are interested, please contact me at (860)-536-7997, or email me at mcomriel0324@tvconneet.net.

As a result of the losses of Bill and Horace in 2012, we did not put out a newsletter last year. Nevertheless, we managed to keep the cemetery mowed during last summer and we did some cleanup of debris from the hurricane. And although we did not put out our annual appeal for funds, we still received two generous donations. The Anderson-Pafford Foundation gave the cemetery \$1,500 and we received a \$600 donation from the Mystic Garden Club. These two organizations have been faithful supporters of Lower Mystic and we thank them for their generosity.

The association also received a monetary gift from Bill Lewis in memory of Bill Fish. As we move through 2013, the association is moving forward to continue our work to maintain this historic cemetery, which has such a prominent location in Mystic. I hope you will consider making a contribution to its upkeep this year.

Thank you. Marilyn J. Comrie, President

**PLEASE HELP US MEET OUR NEXT CHALLENGE**

In walking the cemetery, we have discovered that five gravestones have fallen over and are on the ground. Two others are broken in two and need repair. The cost estimate to repair these stones is \$1,600. We have applied for a grant from the Charles B. Allyn Foundation for help in resetting the stones. But any contributions from individuals would be gratefully received. Monetary contributions would also be put toward the annual mowing expenses.

In talking with a representative from Shawn Monuments in Rhode Island, he said most people believe fallen stones in a cemetery are the result of vandals. That's not always true. Often, especially in older cemeteries, the wind is the culprit. If a stone's base becomes uneven, a good wind can topple the stone. Deer also rub against the stones, which also can push them over. And we definitely have deer tracks in the cemetery. Contributions to this project may be sent to our president, Marilyn J. Comrie, 566 Sandy Hollow Road, Mystic, CT 06355

## CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

The annual meeting of the Lower Mystic Cemetery Association is held the first Sunday in April. An announcement will appear in the Mystic River Press giving the date and location. Below is a list of current board members and officers. As noted earlier in this newsletter, we have two vacancies on the board and are still looking for someone to be treasurer/facilitator, the position that Horace Lamb filled for many years.

Marilyn Comrie, President  
Robert Bankel, Vice President  
Judey Sawyer Buckbee, Secretary  
Kenneth Buckbee  
Kathryn Gremley Hill  
Janet Purinton  
Robert Purinton  
Carolyn Norton

## OUR HISTORIC CEMETERY

The people who are buried in Lower Mystic Cemetery depict many chapters in our country's history. It is the final resting place of many military veterans. There are five veterans from the War of 1812, who helped defend Mystic from the British coastal raids. And as the nation marks the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, we would note that 24 veterans from that conflict are buried in Lower Mystic, including the Medal of Honor winner, Capt. John Knight Bucklyn, who is buried in the mausoleum. We also have two veterans of the Spanish American War - Lucian O. Allen and William Lewis. There are also two representatives of the 1849 California gold rush buried in the cemetery. Three young Mystic men, Charles Sisson, Thomas Wolfe and Ransford Ashbey Jr., got gold rush fever and left together to search for gold. Failing to find riches, they boarded a return steamer that landed on the Nicaraguan Isthmus. Ashbey died of a fever at Chagres, but Wolfe and Sisson returned to Mystic months later, in time to attend Ashbey's burial in Lower Mystic. After a successful career as a sea captain, Sisson died in 1885. His stone in Lower Mystic bears a representation of a sailing ship.

## PLEASE HELP US MAINTAIN THIS HISTORIC MYSTIC CEMETERY

Send contributions for mowing or gravestone repairs to Marilyn J. Comrie, President, 566 Sandy Hollow Road, Mystic, CT 06355 We appreciate your interest.