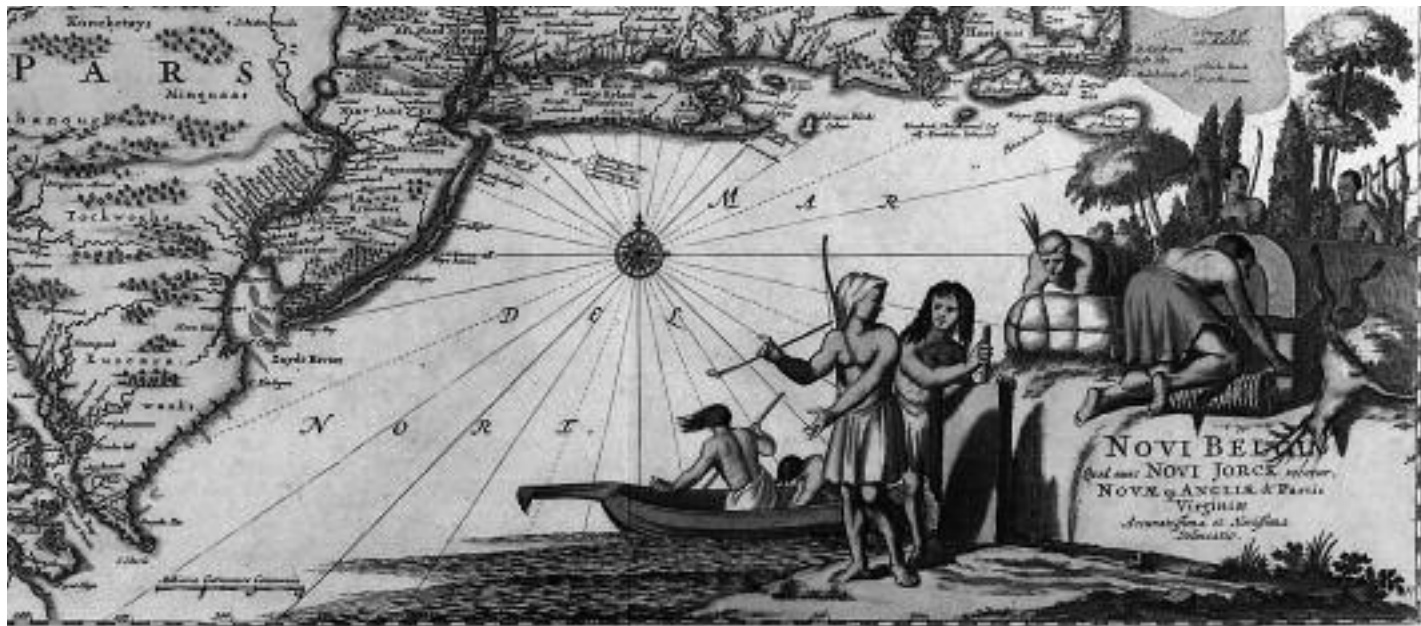


Long Island History, Heritage & Ties to New England

- Natalie A. Naylor, Professor Emeriti, Hofstra University



Novi Belgii, quod nunc Novi Jorck vocatur, Novaeque Anglia et partis Virginiae. (New Netherland, Which is Now Called New York, and New England and Part of Virginia.) 1671, John Ogilby; Arnoldus Montanus. The original inhabitants, possibly of "Paumanok" and beyond, are depicted in this intricate illustration of "New Netherland." Images & information from New Netherland Project and Fordham University.

Much of Long Island's history has been interwoven with Connecticut and New England. Long Island's Native Americans paid tribute to the Pequots; one of the Indian names for the island, Paumanok, means "land of tribute". Many of the early settlers on Long Island came across Long Island Sound from New England. Several Long Island towns were under the jurisdiction of Connecticut in the mid-17th century. Lion Gardiner and John Underhill were military leaders on both shores. During the Revolutionary War, whaleboat warfare was waged from Connecticut with raids on Long Island. And the Long Island Railroad was organized in 1834 as a shortcut to Boston (via a ferry from Greenport), at a time when the technology of the day could not bridge the many rivers in Connecticut to carry railroads. Today, ferries from Bridgeport to Port Jefferson and New London to Orient Point connect Connecticut with Long Island.

This program is an overview of Long Island's history from the Native American Indians and early Dutch and English settlements in the seventeenth century to

Levittown and the suburban metropolis in the twenty-first century. Land and sea have shaped the lives of Long Islanders from Brooklyn to Montauk in agricultural, maritime, and other activities. The slide presentation includes genre and landscape paintings by William Sidney Mount and William Merritt Chase, Currier and Ives lithographs, and WPA murals, as well as contemporary photographs of historic houses and sites which illustrate Paumanok's history. Emphasis is on the legacy in parks, museums, and historic houses open to the public where Long Island's past can be further explored.

Natalie Naylor was on the faculty of Hofstra University for more than thirty years where she taught courses in American social history. She was the director of Hofstra's Long Island Studies Institute from its founding in 1985 until she retired in 2000. She has written many articles and edited or co-edited several books on long Island history, including Long Island Women, and Journeys on Old Long Island. Dr. Naylor is President of the Nassau County Historical Society and has edited its annual Journal since 1992.

See inside for full 2009-10 MRHS Membership List
New members and dues are welcome at any time of year!



from the PRESIDENT'S DESK

Jim Kimenker

Lou Allyn's last letter as President is followed here, unsurprisingly, by my first. It's a "first" made with no minor trepidation, as would naturally be felt by anybody filling large shoes—and Lou's are particularly large ones to fill. Fortunately, he remains enthusiastic about continuing his relationship with MRHS and I intend to make full use of that enthusiasm!

Although my wife, Jen, and I are relative newcomers (we moved to Mystic permanently in 2004), Jen's family ties to the area are long and extensive, so we don't really feel like the typical newcomers. And I hope my own passion for history, particularly the kind of "hands-on" history on which MRHS thrives, will prove useful in helping me perform my new duties as President.

One of the things I couldn't help but comment on in this first "letter", is a feature of MRHS that I find particularly attractive and compelling. That is the fact that the business of the Society relies almost exclusively on volunteers. This is no small achievement in an era when most of us have very little of that precious commodity—time—to spend on anything outside the home or work. We're all increasingly so over-programmed these days. For those with a little additional time available, don't be a stranger! We can always use a helping hand. And for those of you unable to volunteer, but who nevertheless appreciate the good works of the Society, you're obviously one of the primary reasons we exist.

I look forward to the new year and hope we continue to be a useful and valuable resource to the area and our members.

VOLUNTEER CORNER



Education Committee - Join In! - H. Keith

2010 looks to be a banner year for our education programs at Portersville Academy. First of all 2010 will mark the 20th year we have hosted first and third grades from local school at PVA. Also we already have five days in May booked for 200 students participating in a LEARN "buddy" program. Last spring we were unable to accommodate all the classes who wanted to come. Chances are we will face that same problem this coming spring unless we can find more volunteers.



Wednesday, September 9th at 4 p.m. at Portersville Academy we will have an Education Committee meeting to plan for the spring. We cordially invite you, and any one you know who might be interested in helping with our school programs, to join us. You will learn about the programs we now offer and our hopes for expanding our horizons. Your thoughts and ideas will be as welcome as your willingness to participate in these exciting & fun projects.

Free on Tuesdays?

- D. Hanna

What are you doing Tuesday mornings? We're looking for someone to volunteer at the Downe's Building on alternate Tuesday mornings on a regular basis. Helen Keith is back on the job as our office manager, but it's always better to have two folks "on duty" when the building is open to the public. Charlotte Smith comes in every other Tuesday—we'd like to find someone to cover the days she is not available. Please call 536-4779 and leave us a message if you think you might be able to help out. Thanks.

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 - Jim Kimenker • Vice President - John Porter
Treasurer - Bill Everett • Corresponding Secretary - Kay Janney • Recording Secretary - Cathy Marco*

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



Remembering A Special Friend: William Burrows Allen

L. Watrous



William Burrows Allen at Benjamin Burrows Homestead, 5 West Mystic Avenue, ca. 1918, at age 3, with Elizabeth Burrows Colby
MRHS #1999.004.0088

Bill Allen, the son of Phebe Burrows Allen, died on April 20th, at age 94. Phebe and Bill were descended from Mystic's Benjamin Burrows ships captains who were also proprietors of the family's coal yard. Bill joined MRHS in 1990, and donated a wonderful collection of family photos, genealogy information, a painting of Porter's Rocks, and a map of the family's Benjamin Burrows Cemetery on Fort Hill, where he will be buried with his wife Agnes.

The PastPerfect program we use to catalog the MRHS collections was a wonderful tool for showing Bill his life at a glance, how we have photos digitized from when he was a baby to now. He was in awe of this new technology for documenting family life.

When I first met Bill, he pressed me to write something about his Aunt Elizabeth "Lizzie" Burrows, who was living with Phebe's family at 5 West Mystic Avenue when his grandmother died. According to Bill, Aunt Lizzie, who was born on April 20th, the same date Bill



Bill at the computer with Louisa, August, 2007, viewing a childhood photo taken at Groton Long Point.

died, "raised three generations of Burrows men up to be real people" and was active at Union Baptist Church.

To get started, Bill lent me Phebe's 1903 diary of her daily life in Mystic at age 19: The Diary of a Good Girl. Phebe's friends included best friend Ruth Clift, Frank Baton, Archie Garrish, Charlie Mallory (who lived with mother Lillian), and Alma Schofield. I read it cover to cover, not wanting to put it down! Helen Keith did a wonderful job of organizing and taking part in the diary transcription with other dedicated volunteers Ellie Coffey and Charlotte Smith.

Phebe and friends often took and developed photos together. I'm on the hunt for any photos that may still exist, as we move along in typing and researching further. Felice Negrelli apparently had Ruth Clift's material at one time, which had been left in the attic of her house at 193 High Street. If anyone has any information, please contact me at lawatrous@yahoo.com or 536-4897!

Thank you!

MRHS Long Island Trip Sells Out - Has Waiting List

- J. Everett



Vintage postcard of Oyster Bay, Long Island, ca. 1920

The MRHS trip to Long Island has been very well-received and has been taking names on a waitlist basis since mid-August! However, if you are anxious to come & forgot or were unable to make a decision earlier, please call Joyce Everett, 536-6339, and put yourself on the waitlist too. There is always a chance (heaven forbid!) of a last minute cancellation and we would be happy to have your name. You will certainly get advance notice of our spring trip when it is ready to be announced.

**Come to the Sept. 23 membership meeting for a historical
Armchair Excursion to Long Island with Natalie Naylor!**

Annual Meeting Minutes

- C. Marco

The Annual Meeting of the Mystic River Historical Society was held at the Mystic Congregational Church on Wednesday, May 27, 2009. President Lou Allyn called the meeting to order with a quorum of over 25 members present. President Allyn welcomed all members and guests.

Annual Reports: As specified in Article VI of the Bylaws, the order of business was to include Annual Reports from the President, Treasurer and committee reports as appropriate. The President's report was published in the May 2009 issue of the Portersville Press while the February 2009 issue included annual reports from the Treasurer and the committee chairpersons. A motion to accept these reports as presented was passed.

Retiring: President Allyn thanked the board members who are either retiring from the board and/or retiring from their role as committee chair. Board members can be elected to three 3-year terms. Committee Chairs can only serve 5 years.

Kit Werner has done a spectacular job as Corresponding Secretary, writing hundreds of thank you notes every year for memberships, gifts, newsletter patrons, and volunteer work. She is retiring from the Corresponding Secretary position but will remain as Trustee for another year.

John Porter will also remain on the board; however, he will no longer serve as Building Committee Chairman. John has done a superb job and was responsible for finishing our Portersville Academy restoration project.

Three others who are retiring and have done a great job: Paul Ingle has been Program Chairman for three years bringing us a range of fascinating speakers; Betty Noyes as Board members and Curatorial Committee Chairperson; and Emily Perkins, as our Office Manager.

Nominations: President Allyn described the composition of our 12-member Board of Trustees and the process of election to the Board. He also stated that the election of officers for the following year was done at the June Board Meeting. President Allyn asked Nomination Committee Chairman Tim Evers for the nominations to the Board. The slate of the nominees was Betty O'Donnell, John Porter, Lois Glazier, Kay Janney, and Tim Evers. There were no additional nominations suggested from the floor. A motion was made to elect the slate as presented, seconded, and the motion was passed.

President Allyn thanked everyone for their wonderful selections for the pot luck dinner and Cathy & Frank Marco for providing the wine. Jim Kimenker presented outgoing President Allyn with a framed photograph of Portersville Academy, taken by Barry Thorp, as an expression of appreciation for his service to MRHS.

June '09 Board Meeting Minutes

- C. Marco

The Board of Trustees of the Mystic River Historical Society met on Monday, June 15, 2009. Board members present were Lou Allyn, David Evans, Joyce Everett, Bill Everett, Tim Evers, Lois Glazier, Sally Halsey, Dorrie Hanna, Jim Kimenker, Betty O'Donnell, Jane Preston, and John Porter. Board members who were not present had been excused.

Vice President John Porter called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Minutes of the May meeting were accepted.

Nominating Committee (Tim Evers): The nominating committee (Jim Kimenker, Kit Werner, Lou Allyn and Tim Evers) presented the slate of officers for 2009-2010: President Jim Kimenker, Vice President John Porter, Treasurer Bill Everett, and Secretary Cathy Marco. Kay Janney has agreed to serve as Corresponding Secretary. The board unanimously passed the slate of officers.

President's Report (Jim Kimenker): As part of the Presidential duties, Jim appoints the committee chairmen. We need chairmen for Buildings & Grounds, Program, Hospitality, and Curatorial. Jane Preston was proposed as chairperson for Curatorial. Suggestions for Buildings & Grounds Chair, a Corresponding Secretary and a Hospitality chairman will be solicited. NOTE: We are required to have a Corresponding Secretary for tax purposes (written recognition of donations over \$250). A suggestion was made as to a possible Program Chairman.

Treasurers Report (Bill Everett): Our endowment has not been tapped and donations have been good for the year. We anticipate newsletter income will increase in the fall. We profited from our NYC trip and our budget outlook is very favorable. Tim Evers asked details pertaining to the budget numbers for school trips and which schools haven't paid for this past spring's programs.

Corresponding Secretary (retired Kit Werner): There were 16 letters of thanks sent this past month: related to membership renewals, grant & donations, newsletter patrons, outgoing Board members, etc.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings & Grounds (John Porter): Fire extinguishers will receive their annual preventive maintenance. Downes Building needs to be relamped.

Curatorial (Dorrie Hanna, Collection Manager): Updating PastPerfect database and re-organizing the Haley photo collection continues in addition to answering research queries. At the request of the Finance Committee, we are also researching fine art appraisers to value our two oil paintings for insurance purposes.

Education (Tim Evers): Tim submitted his annual report and credits the success of this year's education program directly attributed to personal emails to teachers and wonderful volunteers who graciously helped us with these programs.

Finance (David Evans): The Committee met June 11 to review the new insurance proposal presented by Sound Insurance. It approved the policy from Zurich which enhances our coverage, while remaining within budget.

The Committee also reviewed the Year-to-date P&L Statement. As we approach mid-year, individual expense categories are either on plan or under budget, while revenues are running ahead of plan. The Committee also reviewed our Vanguard accounts which show our investments have gained nearly 12% SINCE March 31, 2009, and these are ahead for 2009 by over 5%.

Marketing (Sally Halsey): An MRHS Facebook page has been started - please become a fan and share the page with family & friends. Sally will post all press releases & points of interest. She also sent a press release about the Hands On History and Field Trip of Pine Point School to the Mystic River Press. Zip06 and Facebook have been updated and include photos from Bill Everett.

Membership (Cynthia Allyn): The renewal membership list is published in full in the September Portersville Press

Program (Paul Ingle): Paul has the September speaker. We are looking for a new Program chairman.

Special Events (Joyce Everett): The spring trip was a success! Mandatory insurance covered those who dropped out near date of trip. Our fall trip will be October 14-16 to Long Island via the Orient Point ferry and travel by bus. Price is \$465 to share room or \$615 for single room.

House Tours (Sally Halsey, Joyce Everett): The Kimenkers hosted a lovely preview party for the homeowners, advertisers and committee members (and other friends who have helped a lot). There's a lot of excitement. As of this morning, 764 tickets were sold or given

as complementary (around 150 comps). An additional 250 booklets were ordered. The Chamber sent an email reminder to all shops in the downtown area, since we expect the restaurants to be full. The banner is up at the Union Baptist Church. The first aid kit and Lost & Found will be at the Ticket Tent.

Walking Tour (David Evans): After some production delays, the Tour is back in print. The Chamber printed approximately 300 tours and was able to have most of them folded by student volunteers.



OLD BUSINESS

Ashley Halsey Project: Tim spoke with Jane Hannon at Bank Square Books about a Historical guide of Mystic houses with special scenery by Ashley Halsey and Jane believed it would be a good idea. Bob McKenna from Flat Hammock Press was also interviewed and approved of this type of book. Funding would be from MRHS 25th anniversary fund. John Porter moved that we proceed on discussion with Ashley regarding having her do the artwork for this booklet and the possibility of having it ready for production by next spring.

Updating the Disaster Preparedness booklet for the Downes Building and Portersville Academy: Document is in the Downes Building.

The next scheduled Board meeting is September 21st.

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*One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade.
~ Chinese Proverb*

Thank you, to all our members, for helping to 'plant trees'!

CALENDAR Notables

Education Committee Meeting Wed., Sept. 9, 4p
Portersville Academy, High St., Mystic
Interested parties welcome to attend!

Membership Meeting Wed., September 23, 7:30p
Fellowship Hall, Mystic Congregational Church,
Broadway & East Main, Mystic
*Natalie Naylor presents Long Island History, Heritage and
Ties to New England.*

Membership Meeting Wednesday, October 21, 7:30p
Fellowship Hall of the Mystic Congregational Church

Membership Meeting Wed., November 18, 7:30p

No Membership Meeting in December

Membership Meeting Wed., January 27, 2010 7:30p

Membership Meeting Wed., February 24, 7:30p

Membership Meeting Wed., March 24, 7:30p

Membership Meeting Wed., April 28, 7:30p

Membership Meeting Wed., May 26, 7:30p

No Membership Meeting in June

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Membership Updates

- Cindy Allyn, Membership Chair

Pages 6-7 inside list MRHS members who have mailed in their renewals for the 2009-2010 membership year. 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 Individual, \$30 Family, \$50 for Contributing, \$100 for Benefactor, and \$250 for Sustaining. \$1,000 will make you a member for Life.

We will miss the following members who have died recently, and the Mystic River Historical Society extends sympathy to their family:

David Hinkle - Newsletter Patron & Life member since 1989.
Mary Hyde - Member since 1997.

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