

# Lower Mystic Cemetery

## ASSOCIATION

MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT 06355

### OFFICERS

ROBERT P. BANKEL, Treasurer

CAROL W. KIMBALL, Secretary

### FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Two years ago, when it became apparent that the existing by-laws for the cemetery were outdated, the board of directors received permission from the Secretary of the State to update them. Using the by-laws of Elm Grove Cemetery as a pattern, the board adjusted the terms for membership and length of service on the board and increased the price for lots and perpetual care.

The board has undergone some substantial changes in recent years because of the deaths of some of its members. The cemetery association lost Barbara Jensen, Marion Allen Gremley and Roger Lewis, all faithful supporters. Most recently, we lost Anne Stevenson who, as the board's liaison from the Mystic Garden Club, took a special interest in the grounds of the cemetery. Anne annually saw to it that Lower Mystic was a recipient of funds from the Garden Club and, at the time of her death, was looking into whether the cemetery qualified for federal funding for its upkeep because we have a Medal of Honor winner buried there. We will miss her tremendously on the board.

Currently, the officers on the board are: President, Marilyn Comrie; Vice President, Carolyn Norton, Treasurer, Robert Bankel; and Secretary, Carol W. Kimball.

The board holds its annual meeting in April. In 2005, the meeting will be the first Sunday in April and all interested persons are invited to attend.

### AMONG THE BURIED

Lower Mystic Cemetery, founded in 1848, is the resting place of many prominent Mystic people.

On the west side of the cemetery, close to the road, is the grave of Horatio Nelson Fish, Jr. He and his father, Horatio, Sr. are buried side by side, all have matching headstones.

A Civil War veteran, Horatio Jr. grew up in a house at 148 High St. in Mystic and was a member of one of Mystic's founding families. He was the youngest child and only boy in his family and as a result, was a bit spoiled. He attended Sabbath School at the Baptist Church in Mystic. He enlisted at 19 as a private in Company C., 21st Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers on July 25, 1862. He spent two years in the Union Army. He died in Hampton Hospital in Virginia Aug. 8, 1864, from wounds he received near Petersburg. He was not quite 21.

Much of what we know about Horatio comes from letters he wrote to his family during his enlistment, which now belong to the Mystic River Historical Society. While Horatio was at war, his father died and Horatio writes of his bitterness at not being able to get leave to see his father one last time.

Capt. Silas Beebe, who died May 1, 1863, commanded the sloops Eliza, Ranger and Rover, and the schooner LaGrange. During the Great Gale of 1815, his sloop Ranger, A New

York Pack was driven up on Randal's wharf. Later, with Jedediah Randall, he owned and managed Mystic whaling vessels.

Beebe Cove was named for him and the house he built there still stands.

Medal of Honor winner and Civil War veteran Capt. John Knight Bucklyn is buried in the only mausoleum in the cemetery. Bucklyn won the highest award a soldier can receive at Chancellorsville, where he served as First Lieutenant Battery E, 1st Rhode Island Light Artillery. Bucklyn's great grandson, Jack Bucklyn of Old Mystic, has the medal.

Born in Foster, R.I., Bucklyn settled in Mystic after the war and established Mystic Valley Institute, a prep school, which was located not far from the Mystic Railroad Station. Bucklyn also was a member of the Union Baptist Church and helped organize the local branch of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Civil War veterans equivalent to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He died in 1907.

#### UPKEEP

For the past two mowing seasons, the maintenance staff at Elm Grove Cemetery has taken over the mowing at Lower Mystic. Jim Davis, Elm Grove superintendent, offered this service for free and the board is very grateful to him and to his staff. Since the deaths of Warren B. Fish and Roger Lewis, the board, with its limited budget, has struggled to find someone to mow the cemetery regularly. The board is mindful that Lower Mystic is in a very prominent location along Route 1 and we are happy once again to have it mowed regularly.

In addition, since last fall, Ian Reyburn, a Specialist 3rd class stationed at the Submarine Base in Groton, has volunteered countless hours, trimming around stones, attacking the aggressive yucca plants on the property and generally neatening up the cemetery. A native of California, Ian is interested in historic cemeteries and approached the board about doing work there. He has unearthed several fallen gravestones and hopes eventually that they can be reset.

#### OUR FINANCIAL STATUS - WE NEED YOUR HELP

Lower Mystic Cemetery is having a tough time financially. Our limited investments do not yield enough to pay for even one mowing of the cemetery, which is why we are so grateful for the services Elm Grove and Ian Reyburn provide.

With advice from Chelsea Groton Bank, we have reinvested our money and it is growing slowly. But to ensure the cemetery's future, the directors believe we need to increase our endowment by a healthy amount.

It has been more than 10 years since we appealed for funds. With this newsletter we are asking anyone who is interested in the cemetery or who has relatives buried there to provide some financial support.

The cemetery is in a prominent location in town and we want to keep it in good shape. We also hope to have enough money some day to have the fallen stones reset.

Lower Mystic has nonprofit status. All contributions are tax deductible. Your help is essential for the future of this historic burial ground. Checks made out to Lower Mystic Cemetery may be sent to our secretary, Carol W. Kimball, 28 Allyn St, Mystic, CT. 06355. We are very grateful for your support.

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### 2004 AUTUMN ADDENDA-NEWSLETTER

#### CEMETERY TOUR

In honor of Mystic's 350th birthday several cemetery tours will take place this October involving role players from Fitch Senior High School. Lower Mystic Cemetery is honored to be the scene of a cemetery tour on Sunday, October 24th from 1 to 3 p.m. It's free and offers a chance to view the scene and learn more about our historic burial ground and those who lie there.

Mark the date, OCTOBER 24TH' on your calendar. We hope that you who have ties to Lower Mystic Cemetery will attend. It promises to be interesting and fun.

#### FOR YOUR INFORMATION- OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marilyn Comrie	President	William G. Fish, Jr.
Caroline Norton	Vice president	Kathryn Hill
Robert Bankel	Treasurer	Horace B. Lamb
Carol W. Kimball	Secretary	Emily S. Perkins
		Peter B. Viering

#### FINANCIAL MATTERS- REPORT

Our summer newsletter with accompanying financial appeal has had heartening results. We were able to increase our small endowment fund, although we still need a substantial amount to become self supporting in our cemetery's care.

We thank all of you who contributed. Also, if you have not yet contributed, may we remind you that it is not too late to help the cemetery financially. The need is great. Checks made out to Lower Mystic Cemetery Association may be sent to the Secretary, 28 Allyn Street, Mystic CT 06355.