

Lower Mystic Cemetery

ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Lower Mystic Cemetery Association has had another year of wonderful activity and support from its Board members, as well as from individuals and groups in the community.

We welcome anyone who has family buried in the Lower Mystic Cemetery 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 860-496-1562 or by email at buckb@snet.net

Lou Allyn and Barry Thorp spent many weeks volunteering during the past year removing the yuccas that have blighted the grounds of the LMC for years. We thank them for their heroic efforts which are most appreciated, as the cemetery has never looked better. Please stop by and visit it to see how wonderful it looks!

In addition, the Mystic Rotary Club has adopted the Lower Mystic Cemetery. We thank them for their volunteer

efforts during this past year in its upkeep, and look forward to their ongoing help and support.

Our 2014 annual fund raising appeal resulted in individual donations in the amount of \$745.00. In addition, the Anderson-Pafford Foundation presented the cemetery with a check for \$2,500.00 and we also received a

\$600.00 donation from the Mystic Garden Club, as well as a \$100.00 donation from Groton Elks Lodge No. 2163. These local organizations have been faithful supporters of the Lower Mystic Cemetery and we thank them for their continued generosity, as well as all of the individuals who made donations.

Donations are used for insurance, upkeep and maintenance of the Lower Mystic Cemetery, which include seasonal mowing by Bruce and Sons of Stonington. They have done a great job in keeping the cemetery looking its best, and we thank them for their efforts.

As we move through 2015, the association is always striving to continue our work to maintain this historic cemetery, which has such a prominent location in Mystic. I sincerely hope that you will consider making a contribution to its upkeep this year. Thank You.

Ken Buckbee, President

REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CEMETERY

We had an unusual situation occur in early September, 2014, which was an auto accident that resulted in a vehicle landing on its roof in the LMC between several headstones. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries sustained, but in the removal of the vehicle from the grounds and the general impact of the crash, serious damage was done to the stone retaining wall on the right front side of the cemetery.

Full structural repairs were made to the wall once the claim was settled with the driver's insurance company, restoring it to its former condition.

Lou Allyn and Jack Garbarino undertook a most appreciated repair project several months ago, replacing the old well cover with a secure top. This was needed to prevent anyone from accessing the opening of the well and any potential accidents that may have caused.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Scoutmaster John Sidlinger and Boy Scout Troop 2 of Groton placed flags on all of the veterans' graves in the LMC prior to Memorial Day, and Lou Allyn placed the flag holders. Our sincere thanks to them for their efforts, which made the grounds look beautiful for this most special day of remembrance.



Lou Allyn placing the flag holders in the Lower Mystic Cemetery.

The flag holders were made by Ken Buckbee.

Lou Allyn has included articles about the history and founding of the Lower Mystic Cemetery in Mystic River Historical Society's "*Portersville Press*", beginning in January, 2015. To read these interesting and informative articles, please visit www.mystichistory.org

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

The annual meeting of the Lower Mystic Cemetery Association was held on Saturday, June 20, 2015 at Ford's Lobster in Noank. We enjoyed lunch while we conducted necessary business including the updating of our Board's bylaws. The new bylaws can be viewed at http://www.mystichistory.org/LMC/lower_mystic_cemetery.htm Below is a list of current board members and officers for 2015-2016:

Ken Buckbee, President
Lou Allyn, Vice President and
Treasurer Judey Sawyer Buckbee,
Secretary Kathryn Gremley Hill
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 as well as many founding families of Mystic, including Lou Allyn's great-great-grandfather Gurdon Spicer Allyn.



Gurdon Spicer Allyn
(1816-1876)

Gurdon Spicer Allyn was born in Ledyard, CT and spent his early years on the farm and at sea with his father Captain Rufus Allyn, Jr. By the 1840s Gurdon was a carpenter, building houses and other structures in the area. In 1853 he built and operated a successful ice house, and soon after set up a fish processing business on Mason's Island that became known as G.S. Allyn & Co. The company processed Menhaden or "bony fish" to extract the oil and produce fertilizer from the remaining fish pumice. Much of Allyn's business life was spent in the Menhaden fishery, and he received a number of patents for improvements on various aspects of this operation.

For nearly 30 years, G.S. Allyn & Co. was one of Mystic's major businesses. Gurdon Allyn's other business ventures included the Mystic River Water Works, and lumbering investments in Juneau County, Wisconsin. He married Hannah Avery Rathbun (1819-1858) in 1838 and Martha Champion in 1859.

PLEASE HELP US MAINTAIN THIS HISTORIC MYSTIC CEMETERY

Send your tax deductible contributions made payable to the "Lower Mystic Cemetery Association" for mowing, gravestone repairs and liability insurance to Lou Allyn, Treasurer,
14E. Forest Road, Mystic, CT 06355. Your support is most appreciated!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE TIDS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL, PLEASE LET ME KNOW

As Secretary, I would be delighted to add you to our email list to save costs on printing and postage. Please email your contact info to Judey Buckbee at jsbuckbee@gmail.com