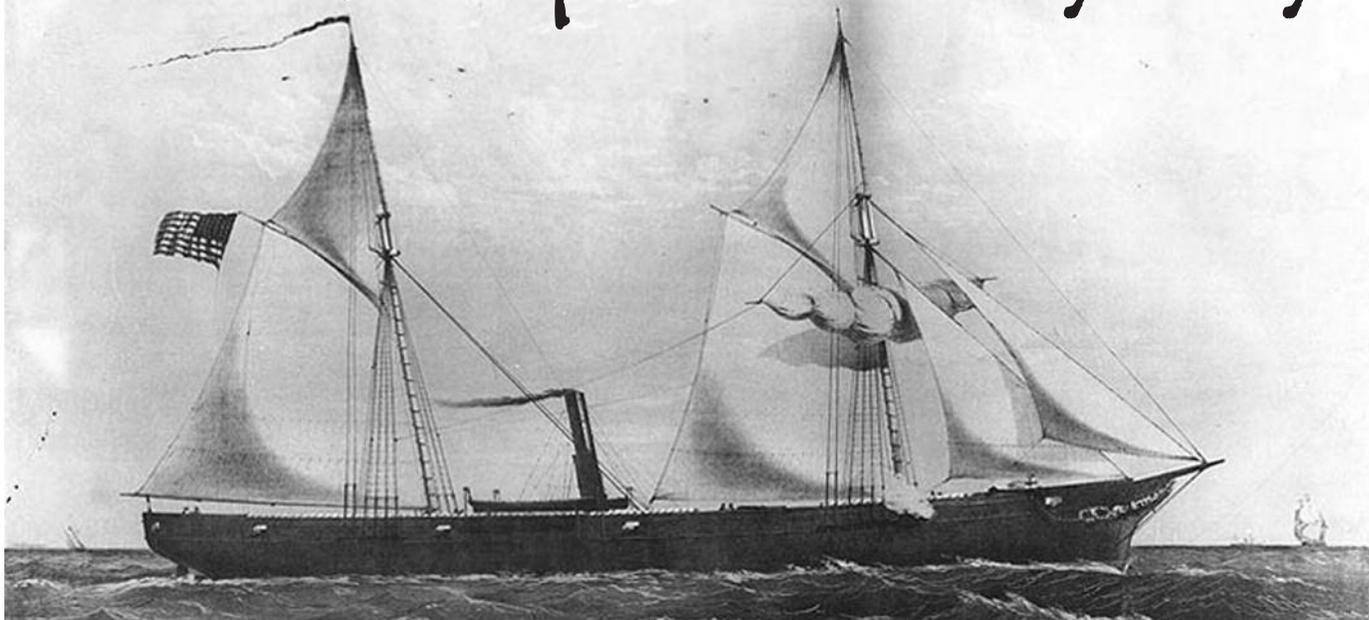


The Maritime Enterprise of the Mallorys of Mystic



USS Owasco was a wooden hulled screw gunboat built by Charles Mallory and launched at Mystic, CT, October 5th, 1861. She was delivered to the New York Navy Yard on December 6th, 1861, and commissioned there January 23rd, 1862, with Lt. John Guest in command. The original lithograph was published by Shearman & Hart, New York City, 1861 and issued with different titles to represent many of the American Civil War 90-day gunboats. Harpers Weekly later depicted the Owasco on active duty in 1863 amidst a bombardment at Galveston, TX. from history.navy.mil and wikipedia.com

At the Membership meeting on Wednesday April 28th, Jim Baughman will speak on the business history of the remarkable Mallory family, which began in Mystic and, over six generations, progressed from sail making to ship-building, to the ownership and operation of sealers, whalers, clipper ships, coastal steamships, transoceanic liners, and oil tankers.

The story begins with David Malary, a privateersman in the Revolutionary War, and continues, father to son, through the business careers of Charles Mallory (1796-1882), Charles Henry Mallory (1818-1890), Henry Rogers Mallory (1848-1919), Clifford Day Mallory, Sr. (1881-1941), and Clifford Day Mallory, Jr. (1916-2000).

Over a 43-year career, Jim Baughman has been a Professor at Harvard Business School, President of the Iranian Center for Management Studies, Worldwide Head of Management Development for General Electric, Corporate Head of Leadership & Organizational Development for J.P. Morgan, and consultant to top management of multinational firms. He also served eighteen years in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. Besides business textbooks, he has written extensively on American maritime history, including Charles Morgan and the Development of Southern Transportation and The Mallorys of Mystic: Six Generations in American Maritime Enterprise. Jim and his wife Deborah have been commuting between Chicago and their part-time home in Mystic since 1962.

Appraisal Day Thanks

- Joyce Everett

Many, many thanks to all of you who helped in any way with Appraisal Day on Saturday, March 21st!

The cookie bakers and those who came to welcome the attendees, accept their payments, and send them to the correct appraisers, all were invaluable and gave up their time on a beautiful Saturday. Most special thanks go to the co-chairman, Laura Kezer, to Betty O'Donnell who planned an excellent lunch for the appraisers, to Sally Halsey who took care of publicity, and to Tim Bell who was not only an appraiser but was responsible for finding three others!

See photos inside on p. 5



from the PRESIDENT'S DESK

Jim Kimenker

This month's speaker, Jim Baughman, will be talking about the Mallory family and their place in the life of Mystic from the Revolutionary War to our current century (he's the author of a book on the subject). That got me to thinking. In contrast to people like the Mallorys and my wife, Jen, who can trace her roots to the beginning of "American" time, many of us can barely trace back to the beginning of the last century. Especially for those of us who love history, that's cause for some regret, as our ancestral pasts are obliterated by the proverbial mists of time, absolutely and irrevocably irretrievable.

Jen's genealogy, on the other hand, a tree that sends out roots in every direction, has me believing she's related to just about everybody and that her family single-handedly fought both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars (no surprise that one of her sisters discovered she'd married a 7th cousin, 5 times removed, or something like that). But, even in Jen's case, the history is relatively meager with significant, individual detail. So, what does it mean to be part of a family for which there's more than just a thumbnail sketch regarding your various forbears? Better yet, what's the effect on your sense of family when there are actually books written about them?

Currently, I'm in the middle of Jon Meacham's Pulitzer Prize winning biography, "American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House", a book I heartily recommend to all, but especially those who mistakenly bemoan the current dysfunction in Washington as unprecedented. (See insert, right. ~Ed.) The characters filling the pages are both compelling and fascinating. I've found myself particularly interested in John Eaton, Jackson's first Secretary of War, who was at the center of the political whirlwind in Jackson's first term. On a whim (and thinking of both ancestors and descendants), I googled him (who doesn't love the internet?). Up popped a reference to one Andrew Jackson Eaton, hardly an unexpected result. But, this par-

ticular Eaton was born in 1904 in Canada, whose own forebears appear to have resided there well back into the 19th century. Yet, the coincidence seems hardly just luck of the draw in picking names. Learning of John Eaton's travails during Jackson's presidency, you have to wonder—did he or some branch of his family move to Canada just to get away from scandal? Maybe when I have some extra time (anybody have any wasted hours they can lend me?), I'll try to find out.

But, my point (as minor as it might be) is that the history of families important enough to encourage somebody to write a book about them can be of interest in more than just the pure historical sense. It can also help you think about your own ancestors and how they might have fit in that history. Of course, that's assuming, like Jen, you actually know who they were.

Membership Updates

Cindy Allyn, Membership Chair

We have two new members. They are Judith E Sawyer and Hermine Dudda - both at the Individual level. We are getting ready to send out renewal letters to all our members.

From the Archives....

An extract from a letter written by Mystic's Rev. Daniel Burrows while in Congress c 1821 during James Monroe's presidency, to his brother, Rev. Roswell Burrows:

I am sorry to say that every day's experience confirms me in the belief that there is a great want of integrity in men acting in high stations. I consider it very unfortunate for the country that a majority of Congress should be made up of second rate lawyers, who spout by the hour to no purpose but to be heard.... I don't think I was ever in so wicked a place as Washington. I have declined all visits or dinings and tea parties beyond what can be made immediately subservient to the business for which I am sent, which, with me, shall be paramount.

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*

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THIS style of home has become very popular in the States and equally well in city and country and style can you get so much space for such a small cost.

- Judy Hicks
Order your dream house by mail? In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, you could do just that. Large companies such as Palliser, Aladdin, Montgomery Ward, Sears Roebuck, and Sterling advertised their house plans in Pattern Books. One chose a house, paid a small fee, and received the plans and a list of

materials needed for construction. As the industry grew, not only were plans and lists provided, but one could additionally buy a precut lumber kit for the chosen house model!

I was interested in the Sears houses because I have learned that there are such houses here in Mystic. Their present owners have researched and validated that indeed the houses were built from Sears Roebuck kits.

In 1906, the general catalog included house materials, but within two years, a specialty catalog was published - the Book of Modern Homes and Building Plans. It contained drawings and floor plans for 22 styles ranging in price from \$650 to \$2500. By 1909, the company had bought a lumber mill in Louisiana, and materials were sent directly from the mill to the buyer. Gas and electric fixtures were added, and 6% 5 to 15 year mortgages were available (the only requirement was to be employed.) In 1916, more extensive catalogs offered pre-cut houses as a kit. They included additional opportunity to purchase plumbing and wiring materials. Books on installation were included in the kit. All pre-cut lumber was numbered and/or labeled. In 1928, Standard Oil Co. purchased 192 houses for its workers in Carlinville, IL. The cost was about \$1 million. More mills were bought, and sales offices opened all around the country. On average, nearly 125 houses were shipped per month. Sears' name recognition gave them an advantage over other companies.

Larger catalogs were published, showing bathroom and kitchen fixtures, lighting fixtures, and even furnaces - all additional options - and the kits grew to include paint and varnish, choice of red cedar roof shingles or asphalt slate covered, lath or sheet plaster with plaster finish, medicine cabinets and ironing boards. Placement of room furniture was also shown - possibly to promote the availability of Sears' house furnishings.

During the Great Depression, the company lost over \$11 million in unpaid mortgages. In 1940, the last catalog was published. By that year, they had sold more than 100,000 units, not including cabins, cottages, barns, garages and outhouses (4' x 4' with both a child's and an adult's "comfortable" seat.)

Now we have modular houses, and, who knows, maybe someday, a helicopter will drop a complete furnished home on a prepared foundation....

Dudley Square Found?

- Jane Preston

Many thanks are due Bill Peterson and Virgil Huntley for providing us with another piece of the puzzle surrounding Belva Lockwood and Mystic's Mother Hubbard Parade.

Both Bill and Virgil believe that Dudley Square may have been located as a part of the property located at the bottom of Old New London Road near or across from the Emporium. According to the information provided by them, the home of Lyman Dudley, who was a prominent shipsmith, is located at the corner of Water Street and Old New London Road. Virgil lived on Water Street in the 1920s and remembers that Julius Dudley who was Lyman's son lived in a big white house opposite the Emporium. Bill said that the Old New London Road hill was often called Dudley Hill and that Dudley Square could possibly be where Old New London Road meets Library Street - not far from where Mystic River Historical Society is now. Thinking about it, it seems a reasonable place for a parade to come to an end. It would be wonderful if we knew exactly what the parade route had been.

Bill and Virgil also tell us about Julius Dudley who was Lyman's son and was noted for his fine ship models and doll houses but that is material for another story.

We are also beginning to find out that Belva was well known to the people of Mystic as she was once or twice a visitor to the annual Peace Meeting. This too presents an opening for another interesting topic for some research.

We hope that further puzzle pieces continue to be brought to us. There is still much to learn about this interesting parade that took place in Mystic in October of 1884.



Possible location of the "Dudley Square" mentioned in the poem read at the Belva Lockwood Parade in 1884 - at the intersection of Water Street and the old New London Road/Route 1 in what used to be often referred to as the "Three Hills" area - apparently "Dudley Hill" was one of the three.

February Meeting Minutes

- Cathy Marco

The Board of Trustees of the Mystic River Historical Society met on Monday, February 8, 2010. Board Members and Committee Chairmen present were Bill Everett, Lois Glazier, Sally Halsey, Jim Kimenker, Cathy Marco, Betty O'Donnell, John Porter, and Jane Preston.

President's Report (Jim Kimenker): Helen asked the board to give serious consideration to STEPS (Standards and Excellence Program for Historical Organizations) workshops. This was discussed at last month's board meeting and was again passed around for board members to see if they could attend. We will not have representation at the Local History Expo on March 20 since we have our own event, Appraisal Day, at the same time. The Curatorial Committee is considering applying for the Mystic Woman's Club grant. The Board consensus was for them to proceed with the paperwork & submission. Jane will inform them.

Information Packets for all Board members were distributed by Jane Preston. The packet included the By-Laws, Certificate of Incorporation, List of members and committees, Committee Duties, Investment Report (December 31, 2009), Budget (9/30/09), Strategic/Long-Range Plan, Brief History of PVA and MRHS, Board of Trustees Statement of Policy Number 1-2005, and the Collections Management Policy.

Treasurers Report (Bill Everett): Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss statement (as of January 31, 2010) were distributed.

Corresponding Secretary (Kay Janney): There was no correspondence this past month. The board agreed that the Corresponding Secretary should write thank you notes to the monthly speakers.

STANDING COMMITTEES*

Curatorial (Jane Preston): The Curatorial Committee met today. Lou Allyn will serve as coordinator for curatorial matters in Jane's absence. The Archival Assessment Program is experiencing some delays due to funding issues. They expect our assessment person to contact us in late February or early March. Louisa showed screen printouts from the Virtual Exhibit and described to the committee how the software works. Louisa and Dorrie will be fine-tuning our first "exhibit" of images from the Dickinson Collection. The "exhibit" will be linked to our web site. We do not know the date for completion.

Two galleries in Old Lyme are being considered for the appraisal of our oil paintings. Lou has offered to take our oil paintings to one of two possible galleries in Old Lyme for appraisal. We are continuing to work on our disaster plan and will consult with the Northeast Document Center about their on-line disaster plan service. It would be good to have our revised plan close to completion before the assessment.

The committee agreed to have curatorial meetings on the third Monday of each month at 1:00.

*Unlisted committees had no reports for this session.

IT Committee (Stephanie Thorp): On January 30, 2010, the IT Committee performed monthly system updates and file backup tasks and updated the website to reflect current events planning and schedule as well as include the latest edition of Portersville Press. All systems are deemed to be in working order.

Marketing (Sally Halsey): Press releases were sent for upcoming programs. We now have 120 fans for MRHS on Facebook. Sally met with Dorrie and Aimee to discuss possible plans for MRHS's Facebook.

Membership (Cynthia Allyn): Membership had two renewals this past month. They were J. MacGregor and Wilfred Thompson. With sadness, we note that three members died – Robert Lord, Alma Trench and Thayer Kingsley.

Newsletter (Jennifer Pryor): The newsletter copy deadline is always the Friday following the Monday Board meeting, February 12 for the March newsletter.

Special Events (Joyce Everett):

Appraisal Day – March 20: We have a good number of volunteers although more are needed, particularly for the afternoon. A signup sheet was passed around at the Board Meeting for volunteers. We are still looking for two more appraisers. Laura Kezer has prepared a letter for the appraisers with information about the day.

Spring Trip – April 18 – 22: If all those who have asked to have their names put on the list send in their money we have the necessary number to go but I would be happy to have more. Sadly, Nicki Trench was the first person to sign up and she will not be with us. She was an enthusiastic member of almost every MRHS trip.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Marco, Recording Secretary

Newsletter Label Changes

- Barry Thorp

Why the "or Current Resident" line added to your newsletter mail label?

Many of you have noticed that your newsletter label now includes a "or Current Resident" addition to the address line. We've added it at the request of the US Post Office. This is to permit the postal delivery person to leave the newsletter in the mailbox even if a new resident now occupies the home, saving the carrier the additional task of returning non-deliverables to the post office for disposal.

This also is a good reminder to all. If you change your address, please be sure to let MRHS know of the change so we can prepare a correct address on your label. MRHS uses a bulk mailing service that represents quite a saving on postage to the Society, but that service does not notify us when you have moved and changed your address. You are the ones that need to tell us. We are most anxious to see to it that you continue to get your newsletter each month.

Letters to Mabel

- Dorrie Hanna

The MRHS recently received an email from John Kershaw who lives in Thropton, a small village in Northumberland, England. He owns some letters with a Mystic connection that he purchased at a stamp and coin show. The letters date from 1896 to 1915 and include correspondence sent to Mabel Dewitt Eldred of

Kingston, R.I. by Ruth Elizabeth Earnshaw and her son Eldred of Mystic. The letters were sent mainly at Christmas or New Year and deal with family business. A number of area people may be mentioned in them, according to Mr. Kershaw

Mabel Eldred (1874 - 1957) was an Assistant Professor and Instructor in Drawing at the R.I. College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (now URI). Ruth Elizabeth (nee King) (1872 - 1960) was married to Oscar E. Earnshaw who at one time had a Livery and Boarding Stable in Kenyon, R.I. About 1903 Ruth and Oscar moved to Mystic. Their two children Eldred K. and Everett William died young (Eldred in 1925, aged 27, and Everett in 1924, aged 20).

I did a little research, but only learned a few things so far. In our MRHS database I found reference to Eldred in a collection of papers about Union Baptist Church and mention of Oscar's brother, Herman, in the book "Village Firefighters". On the 1930 census I found Herman listed as living on Orchard Lane, right around the corner from my house. (Small world, and all that). Ruth, Oscar, their children, and other family members are buried in White Brook Cemetery in Richmond, RI. Mabel is buried in Old Fernwood Cemetery in South Kingston

Mr. Kershaw wonders if there are any surviving relations of Oscar & Ruth in the Mystic area? Or anyone whose family was once acquainted with the Eldred-Earnshaws? If you have any information to share, please call the Downes Building at 860-536-4779 and leave a message, or email us at info@mystichistory.org. Thanks.

Snapshots of Appraisal Day

A few images of the Appraisal Day event on March 21 were captured by field photographer Dorrie Hanna. Top to bottom: Adam Tamsky values a 19th century oil painting; Tom Gray checks out a clock and vase; Sally Halsey waits patiently for the results of Tim Bell's brooch examination.



CALENDAR Notables

Membership Meeting

Wed., April 28, 7:30p

Mystic Congregational Parish Hall
Jim Baughman discusses generations of the Mystic Mallorlys & their endeavors

Membership Meeting

Wed., May 26, 7:30p

No Membership Meeting in June

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~ Why, Thanks! ~

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