

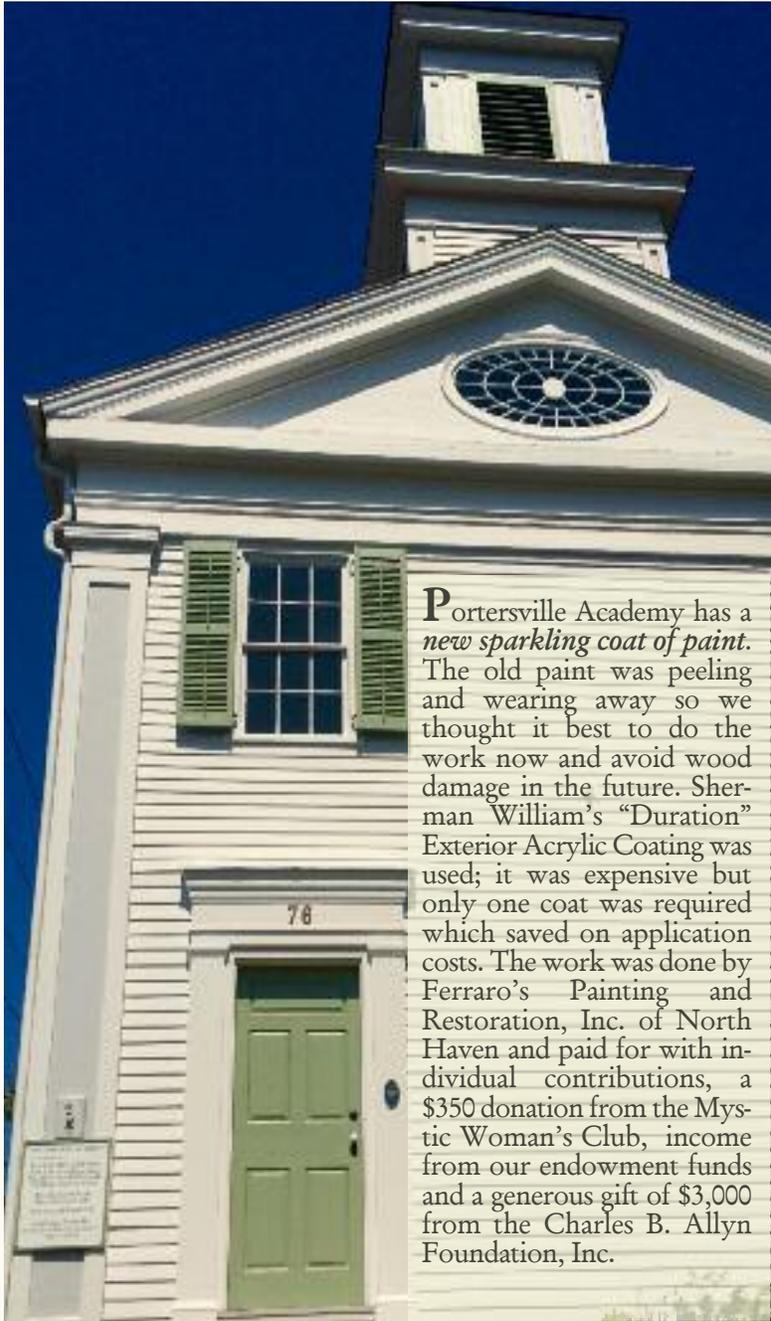
the

Special Edition Online Mini Issue!

# PORTERSVILLE PRESS

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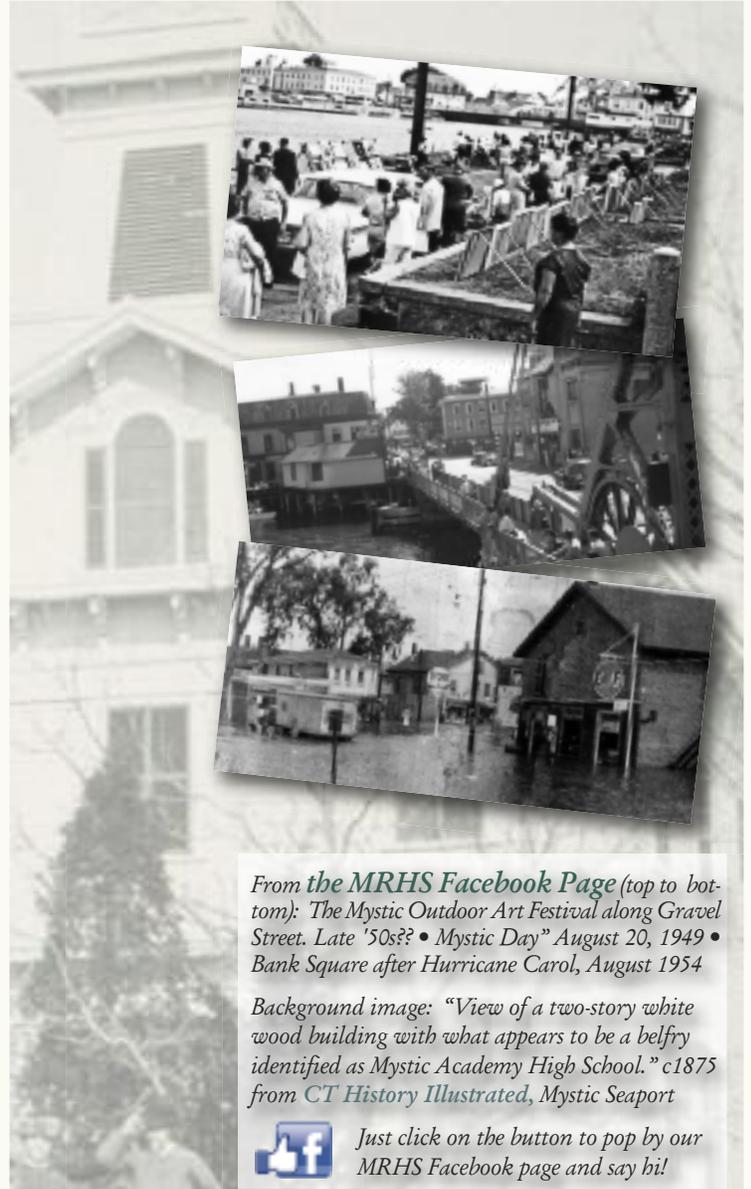
## Portersville Academy Freshened in Time for Schoolyear - Or How to Paint a Third Story Cupola without Touching the Roof



Portersville Academy has a *new sparkling coat of paint*. The old paint was peeling and wearing away so we thought it best to do the work now and avoid wood damage in the future. Sherman William's "Duration" Exterior Acrylic Coating was used; it was expensive but only one coat was required which saved on application costs. The work was done by Ferraro's Painting and Restoration, Inc. of North Haven and paid for with individual contributions, a \$350 donation from the Mystic Woman's Club, income from our endowment funds and a generous gift of \$3,000 from the Charles B. Allyn Foundation, Inc.

The shingles on the roof are old & fragile and can be slippery so the contract specified that the work be done without touching the roof.

Here's how that was done....



From *the MRHS Facebook Page* (top to bottom): The Mystic Outdoor Art Festival along Gravel Street. Late '50s?? • "Mystic Day" August 20, 1949 • Bank Square after Hurricane Carol, August 1954

Background image: "View of a two-story white wood building with what appears to be a belfry identified as Mystic Academy High School." c1875 from *CT History Illustrated, Mystic Seaport*



Just click on the button to pop by our MRHS Facebook page and say hi!

### ...And a Summer Wrap-up

Summer is winding down at the MRHS and everywhere else. It was a pretty busy time at the Downes Building and I'd like to thank fellow staff members Betsy Boucher and Louisa Watrous and volunteers Lou Allyn, Judy Hicks and Kit Werner for covering for me while I was on vacation.

If you're a Facebook participant I hope that you have "liked" our MRHS Facebook page. We're up to almost 950 "likes"! I've been posting a new picture just about every week so check out our page and add your comments to the discussion. ~Dorrie Hanna

# Grave Searching in Lower Mystic Cemetery

- Lou Allyn

Since joining the Board of the Lower Mystic Cemetery, I gathered several inventories of the gravestones there and some plot plans. Then the logical next step was to combine them so that anyone could search a database for an individual or family name and then walk to that particular plot. The details of how this was done are explained below and the results are now available on the Lower Mystic Cemetery page on [MRHS's website](#).

An additional benefit was the creation of a list of veterans with their locations to be used by Troop 2 Boy Scouts of America for placing flags by the graves.

## Sources of information:

1. An old map of the Cemetery plots with their numbers.
2. The Charles R. Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Inscriptions. It contains vital information from headstone inscriptions in over 2,000 Connecticut cemeteries that were recorded in a W.P.A. project directed by Charles R. Hale ca. 1932-5. Groton cemeteries are not online but there is a copy of Headstone Inscriptions Town of Groton Charles R. Hale Hartford CT 1932 at the Mystic Noank Library in the historic books section 974.65 H Hist. Coll. Volume 1 is #19 Lower Mystic or (Fishtown Cemetery). Page 213 in Vol 2 lists Army veterans of the Civil War, Spanish-American War and the War of 1812.
3. A graphic inventory done by Alan Brush in 1996. He drew a page for each plot with outlines of the stones and names, dates, etc. See the Mystic Noank Library LMC Inventory - 1996 under 974.65 L Hist. Coll.
4. Johanna Case and Judy Hicks did an inventory in 2014. A CD of their files is available at the Mystic Noank Library and the Mystic River Historical Society. They assigned a number to each stone which is the Case/Hicks Number in the database.
5. [Find A Grave](#) is another source of information with photographs of each stone. Go to [findagrave.com](#) and select Search for a Cemetery.

Creating the final database: To match plot numbers with the list of graves I added the Case/Hicks numbers to the Alan Brush pages for each plot number. I then walked the cemetery to verify the combined information before adding the plot numbers to the Case/Hicks inventory to create a master list.

## Online Tips....

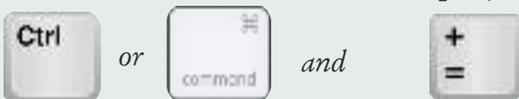
### BLUE & BOLD = CLICKABLE!

Any word or phrase that is blue & bold is a "hot link" which will direct you to a live web page to further explore. Use the cursor to hover over the blue & bold phrase, and a friendly pointing hand should appear -- then click to go!

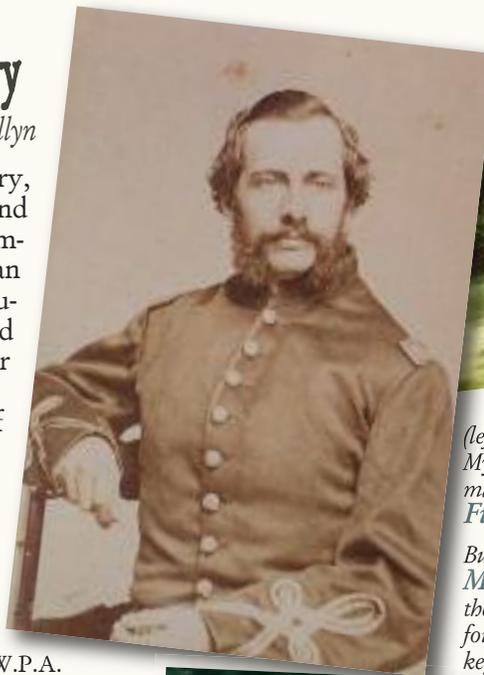
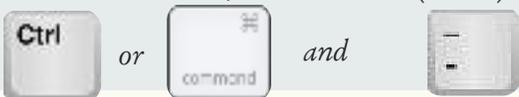
### ZOOM - MAKE IT BIGGER!

Any page or document can be made larger to get a better look, or make reading easier! (And you can zoom back out to standard size or smaller, too.)

To zoom IN: Hold the "control" for PC/Windows or "command" for Mac, and then the + (plus) button!



To zoom OUT: Hold "control" for PC/Windows or "command" for Mac, and then the - (minus) key!



A photo of Civil War veteran Johnathan Knight Bucklyn (left) and the Bucklyn tomb (above) at Lower Mystic Cemetery. Images and further information from [BucklynSociety.net](#) and the [Find A Grave](#) sites.

Bucklyn information was also featured in the [MRHS March -April 2015 issue](#) of the [Portersville Press](#), and much more can be found by on the [MRHS site](#) by searching keyword "Bucklyn."



Lou Allyn places flag holders made by Ken Buckbee in Lower Mystic Cemetery in spring 2015. Prior to Memorial Day, Boy Scout Troop 2 of Groton and Scoutmaster John Sidlinger placed flags on all veterans' graves. The LMC Association featured this photo and "Our sincere thanks to them for their efforts, which made the grounds look beautiful for this most special day of remembrance."

Photo & information courtesy of the [Lower Mystic Cemetery Association Summer Newsletter](#), which is also available on the [MRHS website](#). This article was found by using the "search" feature button on the [MRHS website](#), using the keyword "cemetery."

### SEARCH a 'site:

The MRHS, or any website, is easily searched for a keyword or phrase. Just go to the home page and look in the upper right corner. Start with just one or two key words to get the most possible results!

**Mystic River Historical Society**

74 High Street  
P. O. Box 245  
Mystic, CT 06355

Welcome to the [Mystic River Historical Society](#).

MRHS is located in Mystic, Connecticut, centered around the famous Mystic Bridge which has connected the towns of Groton and Stonington for nearly 300 years. We are some 400 strong and have been dedicated to preserving and promoting the historical traditions of the greater Mystic area since 1975. We're a totally volunteer organization offering a wide variety of opportunities for those who are willing and able to contribute time and energy.

[Search this website](#)

[facebook](#)

## Calendar of Events

MRHS membership programming will begin full swing again, as always, in October. We hope to see you there!

### June - September

Summer program hiatus.

The Portersville Academy & Downes building continue to be **open to the public** at 74 High Street, Mystic, Tuesdays 9-noon or Wednesday and Thursday 1-4p.

Visit [mystichistory.org](http://mystichistory.org) online anytime!

### Sunday, September 13th, 2015

2:00p Carriage House of the Babcock Smith House  
124 Granite Street, Westerly

The *Westerly Historical Society* Sunday Lecture Series presents "Spies in Revolutionary Rhode Island"  
Lecture is free for members of the *Westerly Historical Society* and \$5 for non-members.

### Wednesday, October 28th, 2015

7:00p refreshments & socializing, 7:30p program

Mystic Congregational Church Hall  
at Broadway and E. Main St., Mystic

Author & photographer Mark Starr will speak on local Native American stonework.

\* See our website or the upcoming full September-October edition for more! \*

Renew or become a Member of MRHS and receive updates about all our meetings & events.  
Contact us at: [info@mystichistory.org](mailto:info@mystichistory.org) or 860-536-4779.

## Meeting Minutes & Back Issues

The meeting minutes for the Mystic River Historical Society board are **available online** at any time. The minutes are often included in back issues of the Portersville Press **on the same page**. All material is presented as downloadable PDFs.

~ Enjoy! ~

## Newsletter/Print Patrons

Our printed edition will return in it's full paper glory next month for a combined September-October super issue. We have these fine folks to thank for their continuing support:

CYNTHIA & LOUIS ALLYN  
MR. & MRS. JOHN ASPINWALL  
MS. LAURA BEACH  
DANIEL & JANE BRANNEGAN  
MR. & MRS. FRANKLIN DAVIS  
DAVID AND JEAN EVANS  
MR. & MRS. CRAIG HAINES  
SALLY HALSEY  
MR. & MRS. DOUG HANNA  
JUDY HICKS  
NANCY & TOM MCLOUGHLIN  
MARJORIE MOORE  
MR. & MRS. ROGER PANCIERA  
CAPT. & MRS. JOHN PORTER  
THE REAL McCOY® RUM

~

## Membership Updates



We have one new member, Lynda McLaughlin, in the Individual category. The Program/Membership regrets the passing of John Porter, a long time supporter and member of the MRHS.

~ Cindy Allyn, Membership

*See you next month!*