



# the PORTERSVILLE PRESS

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## Jim Streeter's Groton Landmarks



*Jim Streeter will present a special gift to the first person to correctly identify both Mystery Photos at our April presentation.*

*Mystery Photos: Can you identify the buildings in these "before" photos?*

*Hint:*

*They are Groton Landmarks that still exist today!*



Jim Streeter is a life long resident of Groton. An avid collector of Groton history, Jim writes a weekly historical article for the Groton Times newspaper. He has co-authored two Arcadia pictorial history books on Groton and is in the process of doing research on two additional books relating to Groton's history.

In addition to working full time as a Forensic Science Examiner at Connecticut's Forensic Science Laboratory, Jim has always found time to "give back to the community". He is serving his second term on the Groton Town Council and previously served on the Groton RTM for twelve years. He is co-chairman of the Avery Point Lighthouse Society is a member of the Board of Directors for the Bill Memorial Library; the Avery-Copp Museum; the New London Maritime Society, the New London Ledge Lighthouse Foundation and the American Lighthouse Foundation. Jim is also a member of the Groton Bank Association and the Friends of Fort Griswold.

Jim will provide an interesting program relating to several past and present "Groton Landmarks". He will give a brief history and show some interesting "now and then" photographs of the more visible Groton and Mystic landmarks. Although many of our community landmarks continue to exist today, several, for various reasons, have gone by the wayside. The presentation will discuss some of those that no longer exist and several that many of us have either forgotten or become oblivious to.

*Please join us on April 23rd to solve the landmark mysteries!*

## READING between the LINES: The Students of Portersville Academy

*- C. L. Deichmann*

The Portersville Academy served the educational needs of many Mystic families in the nineteenth century. In June, 1847, young Lemuel Burrows observed in a school essay about the Academy that enrollment averaged "about 60 scholars in the Summer term and about 90 in the Winter term." In spite of the difficulties in getting to school through ice and snow, Winter was the more popular time to attend. The long warm summer days made many students "dread to come to school," but "in the Winter season...the boys and girls are lonesome at home and so they come to school."

Lemuel's essay is from a collection in the MRHS archives, written by Portersville Academy students from 1846 through 1849. The students' own words give us amazing insight into how these children perceived their world. What did these young scholars choose to report? Like Lemuel, many found their subjects in everyday life, writing on topics such as "Fruit," "Mr. Brown's Goat," "Reflections on Winter," or a December, 1848, outbreak of smallpox in Stonington. Others offered their opinions on larger issues such as temperance, slavery, and peace. Themes of death abound in memorial essays and poems that focus on the worthiness and devotion of the deceased, as well as the sorrow of those left to mourn.

The majority of the students' essays speak to the importance of maritime industry and commerce in Mystic's daily life and livelihood. In "The Ship," ten year-old Anna Judson showed her knowledge of the difference between ships, sloops, smacks and brigs, and the wide range of materials, "wood tin iron nails cloth lead and copper &c." needed to build them.\* "Ships increase the comforts of life...and if it were not for ships men could not go in to foreign countries to bring things...to this place," Anna opined. Her list of ports of call, from Java to Key West, demonstrated her grasp of the shipping patterns of local vessels. "Steamboats are both useful and dangerous," observed Adelia M. Randall in her composition on the history and future of steam vessels. "Commerce means trade," ensuring that "[o]ur wants are supplied, vessels employed our country enriched knowledge [sic] increased," wrote young Ann Ashby in her essay on "Commerce."

*Continued inside on page 2*



## from the PRESIDENT'S DESK

Lou Allyn

### Joint House and Garden Tour A Possibility

At the March meeting of the Board of Directors a motion was passed "To approve the continuing discussion with the Mystic Garden Club regarding a joint House and Garden Tour in Spring 2009." This motion was the result of conversations between our Past President's Ad Hoc Committee and the Garden Club about joining forces for a house and garden tour and is an exciting instance of what is possible when two of Mystic's outstanding non-profit organizations work together. The last Historical Society house tour was 4 years ago in 2004. I look forward to further developments!

### Membership Survey

In my March letter I talked about planning for the future and the challenge of maintaining MRHS's traditional activities while incorporating the technological opportunities presented by the internet. To help us make better decisions as we develop these plans we are asking all of our members to take the time to complete the enclosed survey. A lot of thought went into preparing these questions to find out what is important to you so please take the time to fill it out and mail back to us.

Thank you,  
Lou Allyn

## Appraisal Day Thanks

- J. Everett

A big round of applause is due to all the good people who helped with Appraisal Day! Thanks are first due to Amy Swan who stepped up to become the premiere chairman of Appraisal Day and also to organize the Wednesday night program preceding the big day. When you see her tell her how great she is! Thanks are due too to all the appraisers who gave up their Saturday to make our event possible. Then we must thank all the volunteers who kept things going smoothly all through the day. You are the best!

~ Joyce

## Students of Portersville Academy From page 1

Our young scholars often described launchings, and the return of local ships. In the autumn of 1846, the launch of the Greenman yard's schooner Elizabeth was a popular topic. On March 14, 1849, Prudence Bailey composed an essay "On the arrival of the Ocilla and Almeda;" a few days later Leonard W. Morse reported on the "Arrival of the Robin Hood." Shipwrecks aroused both interest and fear. The wreck of the steamboat Atlantic near Fishers Island elicited several lengthy accounts in prose and verse, many focusing on the bodies and debris that eventually washed ashore on local beaches.

Portersville students were remarkably well-traveled. In 1846, young J. W. Eager provided a description of Kingston, Jamaica, "by an eyewitness" -- himself. Thomas E. Wolfe recounted his personal observations of St. Helena, the Crozette Islands, and the Isle of France in the Indian Ocean. William Romwell noted the latitude of "New Archangel, Russian America" in his account of his visit to Sitka Island. In another essay Master Romwell gave a detailed description of the "US ship of the line Columbus as she appeared at the Sandwich Islands in 1845," right down to the number of guns and the manner of burying sailors who died at sea. Not surprisingly, the ports that received the most "eyewitness" reports were those on the usual Mystic trading routes, such as St. Mark's and Key West, Florida, Mobile, Alabama, and Havana, Cuba.

In their own words, Mystic's children demonstrated their involvement in the local maritime economy, both on land and at sea. The tempo of the village ran with the tides, and even the younger members of the community sensed this rhythm. In March, 1847, E. Rogers was inspired to write a poem to celebrate the coming of Spring. Along with anticipating the warm sunshine, longer days, and the chance to play ball, Rogers didn't fail to note another important sign of the season:

"The spring has come the agent say  
My ships will soon be home  
My debts and drafts I then can pay  
With lots of oil and bone."

\*I have kept the students' own spelling and punctuation (or lack thereof) in excerpts from their work. - C.L.D.

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  
Back issues of the newsletter are available for online viewing at [www.mystichistory.org](http://www.mystichistory.org)





# MRHS Membership Survey

For years the MRHS has been known for its house tours and class room educational/outreach programs, but times change. In an era of declining voluntarism and the maturing of our membership we no longer can find as many people to lead and work on these activities. Additionally, changes in technology over the last decade are having a significant impact on the ways that historical societies such as ours are able to interact with their members and the public at large. To help the Board of Trustees plan for the future of the Society we are asking that you fill out this questionnaire and return it via email or postal mail to MRHS, P.O. Box 245, Mystic, CT 06355.

The questions are designed to determine how important our various activities are to our members so that we may best allocate our resources. Since there often is a natural human tendency to give encouraging answers to volunteer organizations, it would really be more helpful if you were frank in your replies. (If two people are responding on one survey, please use different pen and pencil or different colors.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of an "old" Mystic family? \_\_\_\_\_

Which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

## MRHS Programs and Activities:

For each of the following programs please indicate -

In Column #1 - In the last two years (2006 and 2007) approximately how many times you have participated in the programs listed.

In Column #2 - On a scale of one (low) to five (high) how important is each of these events to you?

Program	#1 No. of times Participated in 2006-07	#2 Importance to You on Scale of 1/low - 5/high				
		1	2	3	4	5
Appraisal Day		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bus Tour		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family Activity Center		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grade School Classroom		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
House Tour		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Monthly Meeting with Speaker		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research in the collections		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking Tour		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Meeting Day:

Would you prefer the monthly meetings to be on the third or the fourth Wednesdays? \_\_\_\_\_

## Communications:

Please rate the importance of each of these events to you.

	Importance to You on Scale of 1/low - 5/high				
	1	2	3	4	5
Newsletter (The Portersville Press)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Constant Contact (our email service)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Newspaper press releases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Our website (www.mystichistory.org)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Announcements at monthly meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you do not receive ConstantContact emails now, and would like to receive them, your email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in looking at an on-line catalog of our collections on the web (a Virtual Museum)? \_\_\_\_\_

(An example of this is the Indian and Colonial Research Center at www.theicrc.org)

Can you suggest anything we can do to improve communication? \_\_\_\_\_

## Funding:

MRHS has an annual income of a little over \$20,000, all of which goes for daily operating expenses. Capital spending on building and equipment is funded by donations and income from our endowment funds. Please rate upon which types of fund raising should MRHS rely.

	Importance to You on Scale of 1/low - 5/high				
	1	2	3	4	5
Membership dues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
House tours	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Annual fund drive	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Donations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (Please write in your suggestion!)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Buildings:**

Have you ever been inside the Downes Building? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what was the reason? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you seen Portersville Academy since the renovation? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you ever been inside? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, what was the reason? \_\_\_\_\_

	Importance to You on Scale of 1/low - 5/high				
	1	2	3	4	5
How important is Portersville Academy to you?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you agree that the Historical Society has an obligation to maintain the Academy and make it available to the community as part of the town's history?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Support:**

Please rate why are you a member of MRHS ~ a local community organization? Please answer as many reasons as apply.

	Importance to You on Scale of 1/low - 5/high				
	1	2	3	4	5
Just enjoy belonging	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To participate in activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To support a worthy group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To attend monthly meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To keep in touch with local history	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

For genealogical research

Are you an active member in any of the following local organizations: Active member? And also a Volunteer?

	Active member?		And also a Volunteer?	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
Stonington Historical Society	YES	NO	YES	NO
Noank Historical Society	YES	NO	YES	NO
Friends of the Mystic Noank Library	YES	NO	YES	NO
Mystic Seaport	YES	NO	YES	NO
Other _____				

How many hours per week do you do volunteer work now? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been an MRHS volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_ Within the last 4 years? \_\_\_\_\_ Doing what? \_\_\_\_\_

If you had more time, what kind of volunteer work would interest you?

Education & Outreach \_\_\_ Membership \_\_\_ Building & Grounds \_\_\_ Marketing \_\_\_ Genealogy \_\_\_ Collections \_\_\_  
Accounting / Finance \_\_\_ Website \_\_\_ Computers \_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership:**

Our membership year runs from May 1 to April 30 the following year. 

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>				

On a scale of 1/low to 5/high, how satisfactory is the membership renewal process? \_\_\_\_\_

How could it be improved? \_\_\_\_\_

What other services would you like to see offered? \_\_\_\_\_

May we contact you in case we have further questions? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include any comments in general that you would like to make:**

*Thank you very much for your help.*

FOLD

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P.O. Box 245  
MRHS

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*The Depot, "Mystic Pizza" and West Main Street after the '38 hurricane ~ Downtown Mystic landmark snapshots through time.*

## Thoughts from the Downes Building

- D. Hanna

Lately I've been reminded that events in the recent past can be described as "historical" just as much as those from 200 years ago. The twentieth anniversary of the film, "Mystic Pizza", and the thirtieth anniversary of the Mystic Depot Restoration will both be noted this year. And doesn't it seem like "just the other day" when those were current events? Another notable anniversary coming up is the seventieth for the Great Hurricane of 1938. I must confess I didn't live in Mystic (or live anywhere actually) in 1938 so my knowledge of the hurricane is second hand. But I surely remember both the filming of the movie and the campaign to save the Depot.

MRHS is fortunate to have material about these and other "recent" events that we can preserve and share with others. Helen Keith has found many, many pictures depicting Mystic in the 30s and 40s for her "Remember When" programs. I recently found a set of snapshots taken on January 1, 1973 that show how Mystic (both sides of the river) looked on that particular date. We have photos of the 300th anniversary celebration in 1954 and America's bicentennial in 1976. Bill Everett and others once took pictures of almost every individual Mystic house and then Bill generously updated those same views at the time of the 350th anniversary of Mystic in 2004. Barry Thorp has also taken some great pictures of contemporary Mystic, as has Jim Burbank.

We all are aware of the continuing changes occurring in Mystic. Before you know it, THESE will be the "good old days" so it is gratifying to know that MRHS is not ignoring them.

## REMEMBER WHEN

- H. Keith

The booklets for the Remember When program are progressing nicely. The one for the 1930s has been finished, copied, collated and assembled. We have 12 copies which we will share with the residents at Mystic River Homes at their monthly pot-luck supper on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

The pages for the 40s booklet are being compiled in "Publisher" and should be ready for copying and assembly shortly. Our 40s program at Mystic River Homes is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>. We are gathering information and photographs for the 50s booklet. It will be completed, copied and assembled early in May in plenty of time for our May 15<sup>th</sup> presentation at Mystic River Homes.

There will be 12 copies of each decade's booklet which will available for members to take to retirement communities. Mystic River Homes Congregate has asked to have the program as an afternoon presentation in September, October and November. If you have family or friends at that facility and would like to MC this program please call the office (536-4779) and let us know. If you would like to take it to Stone Ridge, Academy Point or any other facility just let us know.

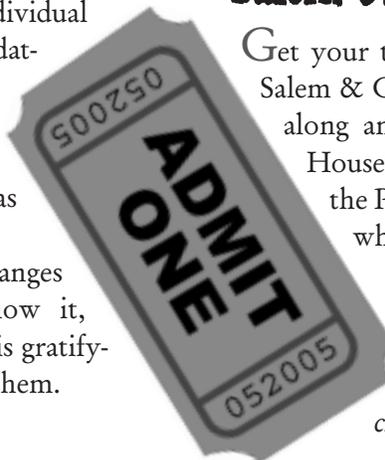
This is planned as an audience participation program with the booklets available to jog memories. No special skills or training is needed; just the willingness to share your memories and encourage others to share theirs. This program was planned so that our members can use it with family and friends as an informal, relaxed presentation. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

My special thanks to Jane Preston for suggesting the idea and her hours of research for the project; to Bettye Noyes for helping me find useful items from our collections; to Nancy McKay for finding books for us from each of the decades; and especially to Dorrie Hanna for unraveling the complexities of our storage systems, scanning the pictures we wanted and for compiling the booklets in "Publisher".

## Salem & Gloucester Trip June 11-12!

Get your ticket to ride on the MRHS Spring Trip to Salem & Gloucester! April 12<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to hop along and see the sights, featuring Salem's "Witch House" and the Yin Yu Tang House relocated to the Peabody Essex Museum from China as well as whale watching and fine dining.

Don't miss it! Checks should be made out to MRHS and mailed to PO Box 245, Mystic, CT 06355. Call Joyce Everett at 536-6339 to let her know you'd like to be on the list & a check is coming.



# March 2008 Meeting Minutes



- C. Marco

*The Board of Trustees of the Mystic River Historical Society met at Mystic Chamber of Commerce on Monday, March 10, 2008. Those present were Lou Allyn, David Evans, Bill Everett, Sally Halsey, Cathy Marco, John Porter, Jennifer Pryor and Kit Werner.*

**President (Lou Allyn):** The Member Interest Survey will be included in April's Portersville Press.

**Treasurers Report (Bill Everett):** No significant changes to report.

**Corresponding Secretary (Kit Werner):** There were three pieces of correspondence this month: A sympathy card to a member, a thank you to our February speaker, and a letter to a donor who had contributed stock to the MRHS, as a follow-up on the amount the MRHS received upon its sale.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

**Building & Grounds (J. Porter):** The Grounds Cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 26th, from 9:00 until noon. A sign-up sheet was circulated at the Board of Directors meeting and an appeal will be posted in the next issue of Portersville Press. Many more volunteers are needed to help mulch, prune and spruce up Portersville Academy. Please come on April 26th to help.

**Curatorial (D. Hanna, Collection Manager):** Bettye is just back from Florida and we have not yet set a meeting date for the Curatorial Committee. Dorrie has been working with Louisa to learn more about data entry for older items. We have had several reference queries and have spoken with two newspaper reporters, one from the "The Day" about filming the movie 'Mystic Pizza' and the other from the Norwich Bulletin about how small historical societies maintain optimum climate conditions for their collections.

**Education & Outreach (vacant):** Karen Havrilla will coordinate the Family Activity Centers which will be open for 12 weeks this summer (late June until early September) from one to four on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday afternoons. Downes volunteers will welcome visitors on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Karen will find volunteers to open PVA on Sunday afternoons. She is planning special events for two or three Sundays this summer. She will also plan and schedule special programs for Scout groups, birthday parties or Day Camp Field Trips. Anyone interested should contact her at 536-6886 or by e-mail at ehavrilla@aol.com.

The Remember When programs are shaping up very well. The '30s booklet is finished and we expect to finalize pictures and text for the '40s booklet next week. Our first program will be at Mystic River Homes on March 27th.

We will do the 40s there on April 17th and the 50s on May 15th.

We will clean, set-up and have a volunteers' orientation for our school field trip programs in Portersville Academy on Tuesday April 22nd from 9-12.

**Finance (H. Keith):** The next meeting of the committee is March 19. Bill Everett mentioned that the committee will be discussing whether MRHS should have credit cards or debit cards to help with purchases, their ramifications, their cost benefits, and what options are available.

**Hospitality (vacant):** Nothing new to report.

**Information/Technology (S. Thorp):** Barry Thorp installed updates to Microsoft and PastPerfect, did backups, and checked out the in-house network. Stephanie will be introducing an "Incident Report" to the process.

**Marketing (S. Halsey):** Newspaper articles are going well. Sally will make sure that an article about the Trip to Salem and Gloucester (including the reservation deadline) goes in the newspapers.

**Membership (C. Allyn):** New members are Pat & Mandy Gunning from Groton. There are 166 addresses in our database for our Constant Contact (online) email notices.

**Program (P. Ingle):** In April Jim Streeter will talk about "Groton Landmarks."

**Special Events (J. Everett):** All is going well for Appraisal Day on Saturday, March 29th from 10:00 - 3:00 at the Mystic Congregational Church. Dorrie has gotten many volunteers to help with cookies and other refreshments. There is a meeting of the committee on Wednesday, March 12 at the Everett house. We will need volunteers to help setup on Saturday.

We have received 15 deposits for the Trip to Salem and Gloucester on June 11 and 12. At least 25 deposits are needed by our deadline, April 12th, to take this trip. Flyers have been sent to Stoneridge and an article about the trip will be put into the local newspapers.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Walking Tour (D. Evans):** Work is continuing...

**Pedicab (T. Evers):** Nothing new to report.

## OLD BUSINESS

**House Tours -** The Past President's Ad Hoc committee checked with other groups in the area to make sure that there was not a conflict with their proposed House Tour in fall 2008 or spring 2009. They found the Mystic Garden Club was planning a similar event in May 2009 and was interested in doing a joint project with MRHS.

Sally Halsey made a motion "to approve the continuing discussion with the Mystic Garden Club regarding a joint House and Garden Tour in Spring 2009. Should the

MRHS and the Mystic Garden Club agree to this, the Board of the MRHS will allow the Past President's Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate the terms and date."

Sally said motion is being done to enable to Past President's Committee to move forward with this project without having to come back to the Board each time. She hopes that the Garden Club will agree to a 50/50 split of expenses and income; anything not deemed by the Past President's as not in the best interests of the MRHS would give the group the ability to negotiate or dissolve the agreement without having to ask the Board. So far, this Ad Hoc committee is serving as the House Tour committee, but that may or may not change. Bill Everett volunteered to serve as an ad hoc treasurer, if needed.

Sally's motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously. The next Membership meeting will be March 26 at 7:30pm with appraiser Tim Bell discussing pewter collecting. Also, on Saturday, March 29th in the Mystic Congregational Church Parish Hall from 10 until 3 is the Antique Appraisal Day followed that evening (at 7:30pm) with a Preview Lecture.

*The next Board meeting will be Monday, April 21 at 7:30pm. NOTE: The May Board meeting is on May 19th. The June Board meeting is on June 16th.*



## Spring Cleaning!

Please join us Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 12 for our annual Grounds Cleanup Day ~ good company, conversation & exercise tidying the grounds around Portersville Academy & Downes Building. Please call John Porter at 536-2312.

**Wood'ja**  
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# CALENDAR Notables

**Transcription Club Monday, April 7, 12:30p**  
at the Avery-Copp House  
*Bring your lunch & treasured documents for a fun afternoon!*  
*Call Leslie Evans at (860) 445-1637 for more information*

**Member Meeting Wednesday, April 23, 7:30p**  
at the Mystic Congregational Church  
*Jim Streeter will highlight Groton Landmarks.*

**Spring Cleaning Saturday, April 26, 9a - 12**  
at MRHS Grounds - PVA & Downes Building  
*Grab a rake and a friend and join us for a tidying of the grounds. Call John Porter at (860) 536-2312 to RSVP!*

**Transcription Club Monday, May 5, 12:30p**  
at the Denison Homestead  
*Bring your lunch & treasured documents for a fun afternoon!*  
*Call Jane Preston at (860) 536-9248 for more information.*

**Annual Meeting & Potluck Wednesday, May 28**  
at the Mystic Congregational Church  
*Author Judith du Pont will speak about her intriguing book "The Langworthy Family of Darling Hill in Stonington - and the Murder of Their Youngest Son."*

**Transcription Club Monday, June 2, 12:30p**  
at Portersville Academy  
*Bring your lunch & treasured documents for a fun afternoon!*  
*Call Emily Perkins at (860) 536-4779 for more information.*

**Transcription Club Monday, July 7, 12:30p**  
at Portersville Academy *See above.*

# Newsletter Patrons

*Louis & Cynthia Allyn  
Jane & Dan Brannegan  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Butler  
Webb & Patty Copp  
Densmore Oil  
Ms. Sandra Dolan  
Mr. & Mrs. David Evans  
Mr. & Mrs. William Everett  
Franklin's General Store  
Mary Fuller  
Sally Halsey*

*Mr. & Mrs. William F. Hermann  
Ms. Judith Hicks  
Mr. & Mrs. David Hinkle  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Krusewski  
Marjorie Moore  
Stuart Lamson & Leah Prescott  
Frank & Cathy Marco  
Nancy & Tom McLoughlin  
Captain & Mrs. John Porter  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stuart*

# Membership Updates

*- J. Everett & C. Allyn*

We will miss the following members who have died recently, and the Mystic River Historical Society extends sympathy to their families: Jean Simpson - Charter Member, Ben Lord and Ellen Scott. Ellen Scott and Ben Lord were decades-long, helpful members of the Mystic River Historical Society, and will be greatly missed.

Jean and Don never missed a meeting for years until her illness and the change to Wednesday night forced them to miss. She volunteered for every event, served as hostess, baked cookies, offered their house and garden for tours, always with a bright, happy smile on her face! What a loss she is.

New Family Members include Pat & Mandy Gunning and Renewed Family Member, Ambrose Burrows.

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Tuesdays 9 A.M. - 12 NOON  
Wednesdays 1 P.M. - 4 P.M.  
Thursdays 1 P.M. - 4 P.M.  
(860) 536 - 4779

MYSTIC, CT 06355  
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