

Westbrook History Quarterly

*The Newsletter of the Westbrook Historical Society:
A Society That Preserves The Past
Winter 2010 – Donna Cousens Conley, Editor*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the end of this calendar year approaches I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Officers, Board of Directors, Committee Members and the weekly volunteers for the great support they have given me. I also want to thank Donna Conley for the great web site that she had created and maintains for the society. She also does a superb job in processing E-mail inquiries we frequently receive.

The upcoming year with our move to the new Westbrook Community Center will be challenging but nothing that we can't overcome. That being said, I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season and look forward to working together in the New Year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Your Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Suzan Norton has accepted the appointment to fill the board vacancy left by the resignation of Beverly Sinclair Marion.

Thank you, Beverly, for three years of service and welcome Suz!

Three new names have been added to our Memorial Gift plaque (refer to Standing Rule #15 of our By-Laws):

Byron Dyer

Darlene Holston

Robert Smith (father of Rob Smith)

The Society mourns the recent loss of the following members:

Carl "Jimmy" Burrill

March 9, 1939 – October 15, 2010

A well known Westbrook sports figure, coach and fan; past Society Director and a loyal member.

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Frances Knight Marsh

May 2, 1918 – October 21, 2010

Local teacher, writer, historian, descendent of Col. Thomas Westbrook and a loyal Society member.

Other members lost this past summer:

Darlene Poore (Boucher) Holston,

May 23, 2010. Darlene attended Westbrook High School and was an active member of many Westbrook organizations. She was one of the first women Rotary members in Maine.

Constance Chayer Middlesworth,

June 10, 2010. Connie was a WHS graduate and was Miss Apple Queen and Miss National Guard of 1948.

[The full obituaries are on file at the Society.]

THE MUSEUM CORNER

William W. Poole, Jr., born September 10, 1889, was Vice President of the Westbrook High School class of 1908. The 1908 Blue & White gave the following statistics: "William Whipple Poole, Jr. – Yes, that's his name. The one with the expansive grin. He is another who believes in taking life easy. A lady's man as may be seen anytime..."

William was the son of Mr. & Mrs. William W. Poole and his father was the President of the Haskell Silk Mill. After high school he entered Dartmouth College and was prominent in various activities there. Following his graduation in 1912 he entered into the paper manufacturing business, first at West Virginia Pulp and Paper in WV, then at Maine Coated Paper Co. in Rumford, ME where he met his bride-to-be. In 1916 he joined the Bryant Paper Co. in Kalamazoo, Mich. On June 20, 1917 William married Delia Florence McPhee in Rumford and they moved to Kalamazoo where they lived until April 27, 1918 when events in WW I caused William to enlist in the Army.

Within three months of his basic training at Camp Custer in Michigan, Private Poole was sent to France with the 329th Machine Gun Battalion. He then transferred to the 165th Infantry of the Rainbow Division. On September 12, 1918, his unit went into action in the St. Michiel offensive.

According to a letter sent to Dartmouth College by his father, William was "instantly killed in battle by machine gun fire...in the drive at St. Michiel while advancing with his Company in the attack made that day. His burial place is on the north side of the ridge between Seichprey and St. Baussant, a few miles north of Toul."

A few months ago the Society received a set of 9 books of Shakespeare's plays, a gift from Allen & Pamela Cote of Augusta. Pamela is the niece of Delia McPhee Poole and found the books after Delia's death.

Although the Library & Museum Committee usually limits their assessments to Westbrook-related items, we could not refuse these small, annotated books when we learned of their history and saw the documentation of W. W. Poole, Jr.'s life....so we are happy to say that a piece of William has returned to his home!



William Whipple Poole, Jr. - 1918

A Few Recent Gifts to the Collection

The Route of a Rose, a booklet written by France Knight Marsh, which tells the journey of an English rose bush and its connection to the Knight family on County Road - donated by Frances Marsh

Edith Bell's school record books - donated by Joy Bell Main

Selected entries from Zelia A. Hunt's Journal - donated by Margaret St. Pierre

Peters' Tea Room memorabilia, along with a brief history of Chris Peters' family - donated by Cynthia Peters McIver

1900 Westbrook City Directory - donated by Judy Lefebvre

Graduation photograph of Westbrook High School, class 1955 - donated by Pat Cousens Hansen

THE 'OTHER' WESTBROOK

Ever wonder why Westbrook, CT was named Westbrook? Well some of the Tuesday Society workers wondered and they sent a query off to that historical society. The answer, kindly given by Margaret Buckridge Bock, was that "Saybrook Colony was originally composed of the present towns of Old Saybrook, Essex, Westbrook, Deep River and part of Lyme. Westbrook (also known by the Indian name of Pochaug) was the West Parish of the colony. When it separated to form its own church, it was called West Saybrook, the "Say" soon being dropped."

Along with this information, Margaret sent a copy of a photo of the Westbrook Cornet Band, which she said they knew was not a group from their city; they wondered if the band 'belonged' to us. After a search on www.books.goggle.com, it was discovered (in an 1885-86 Maine Register) that this was indeed one of our bands. It was lead by Howard S. Babb and was located in Cumberland Mills.

This only shows that there is a lot of information still to be learned by our Societies...if we continue to ask the questions!

WEB PAGE NOTES

Have you checked out the Society's webpage recently?

1. Information and photos of Westbrook neighborhoods have been added to the Collections page.
2. Interesting 'switch-photo' will appear on the Photo of the Month page in December – just a movement of the mouse and you will see a 'then and now' photo.

Information requested:

WHITE, Louise, Angus & Morris b. 1919 – 1921
c/o Jack White and Barbara Gallant;
raised by Mary & Angus Gallant

MORRIS, Gerard- and any information about a baseball team sponsored by Keating's Market

[Send any information via e-mail or note to the Society; also any suggestions for anything you'd like to see added to web page.]

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

December 1, 2010 - Christmas Past. This program will be a "show and tell" of Christmas memories: gifts, toys, ornaments, stories... so bring along a favorite memento to share with your friends.

January 5, 2011 - The Roberts Family of Saco Street - William Roberts kept a diary all his life. It was through reading and researching the diaries that his descendant, Suzan Roberts Norton, was able to find so many interesting stories about her family. Suzan brings her family story to life in this program

February 2, 2011 – Antique Appraisal Day - Thomaston Place Galleries is a premier auction and appraisal company located in Thomaston, ME. One of their representatives will be available to discuss the value of items brought in by Historical Society members. Each member may bring one item for discussion and appraisal.

May 4, 2011 - Keep watch for information on the 4th annual Westbrook Immigrant program.

All programs are free and open to the public. If you have an idea for a program, please contact Suzan Norton, 541-7105, or any board member.

Watch the web site for an updated Program listing



Boston & Maine Railroad Sta, Fitch Street

TID-BIT FROM A LOCAL NEWSPAPER OCTOBER 1893

Among those who left here for the World's Fair last Monday were L.W. Edwards and wife, Misses Bertha and Jennie Pennell, Miss Eva Roberts, Miss Addie May Quimby, Mrs. A.W. Thorne and Miss Adeline Proctor.

In past Newsletters we have highlighted some Westbrook people who have made a mark on history.

Henry Plummer (or Plumer), the Montana outlaw who appeared in the Summer 08 Newsletter, is currently being researched for a forthcoming book on his life. Society workers had the opportunity to assist the future author with some research at our library.

Artt Frank, Bop Drummer who appeared in Winter 09, was inducted into the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame in Tulsa on November 16, 2010. Congratulations, Artt!

Here are some other local **MEN OF NOTE**:

Edmund Needham Morrill (1834 – 1909)

Born to Rufus and Mary Webb Morrill on February 12, 1834 in Saccarappa, Edmund Needham Morrill attended Westbrook schools and Westbrook Seminary. Following school he worked in town with his father who taught him the trade of tanning.



In 1857 Edmund joined a colony which left Maine to found a new settlement in the territory of Kansas. They laid out a town called Hamlin, in honor of Hannibal Hamlin who was then a senator from Maine. Edmund bought land for \$1.25 an acre and, with supplies brought from Maine, he started a saw mill. He was only 23.

His new career was soon cut short by two events, a fire that burned his mill to the ground and the advent of the Civil War. In 1861 he enlisted in Company C, 7th Kansas Cavalry. Within a year he was promoted to captain and by 1865 was made a major. He served with General Grant at Corinth.

He married Elizabeth Bretton of Livermore, ME in 1862. Following her death in 1868 he married Caroline Nash of Boston and settled in Hiawatha, KS where they raised three children.

Following the war Edmund entered into the banking business where he remained for the rest of his life, helping to establish the first bank in Brown County in 1871.

Edmund's political career began in 1866 when he was elected clerk of the district court; it continued upward to the U.S. Congress where he served his adopted state for eight years. In 1894, he accepted the republican nomination for Governor and served as the 13th Governor of Kansas from January 14, 1893 to January 11, 1897.

Following his defeat for a second gubernatorial term, Edmund dedicated himself to his business and to philanthropic ventures that benefited the citizens of his hometown of Hiawatha, Kansas. In 1882 he initiated funds for the Morrill Free Library which he later deeded to the city. He also donated land and money to establish the Hiawatha Academy for boys and girls.

Edmund died March 14, 1909 and is buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery in Hiawatha, KS. He is remembered for his sincerity and honesty and his earnestness and progressiveness of ideals. He is also remembered by a tiny town northeast of Hiawatha, near the town of Hamlin, which was named Morrill in his honor.

(Read more details about Edmund Needham Morrill in *Remembering Westbrook, People of the Paper City* by Andrea Vasquez and in the genealogy section at the Society)

Harrison King McCann (1880 – 1962)

Harrison King McCann was born in Saccarappa on November 4, 1880, a descendent of the Cloudmans of Presumpscot Lower falls. His parents were Joseph and Ella Mary Bean McCann. Although his name is well known today in the business world, it would be recognized by few Westbrook residents. He graduated from Westbrook High School in 1898 and from Bowdoin College class of 1902.

He started his business career working for a well known hotel proprietor in New York City. He moved on to become advertising manager for the New York Telephone Company and then he took the same position for Standard Oil Co. in 1911. When that company was dissolved by the Supreme Court later that year Harrison started his own advertising agency with \$5,000 borrowed money.

He organized and incorporated the H.K.

McCann Co. as a general advertising business. It became the Standard Oil Company's spin-off advertising department and soon added new clients such as General Motors and Coca-Cola. The business thrived and extended all over the US and into Canada.



In 1912 Harrison introduced the 'total marketing' concept, moving the agency into

disciplines such as public relations, sales promotion and production survey services.

The depression led to a company merger with Albert Erickson's smaller agency to form the McCann-Erickson Agency. Harrison lived to see that organization become the first to approach the half-million dollar mark. In 1928 McCann-Erickson established three offices in Europe and grew to have branches in 44 countries.

Harrison is thought to have been the first to hire a psychological research staff and his vision lead his company to vast achievements in advertising. His vision and life long work for better principles and practices in advertising are among his most notable legacies.

Today McCann-Erickson is one of the world's largest agency networks; its client list included BASK, Cathay Pacific, Chrysler, Coca-Cola, Exxon Mobil, GM, Johnson & Johnson, MasterCard, Microsoft and Sony.

Erickson died in 1962.

[Thanks go to Carlene Cook for introducing Harrison King McCann to us.]

Lt. Col. Robert C. Knight, (1939 -)

LTC Robert C. Knight, USA, Ret., is the son of the late Forrest and Annie McClure Knight and the brother of Society member Bette Bragdon.

He attended Westbrook schools and currently has a Masters Degree in Military Art and Science from the Command and General Staff College, Leavenworth, KS.

Colonel Knight enlisted in the Maine National Guard in 1955 at the age of 16 and enlisted for active duty in April 1956. In December 1960 he received his Commission as a Lieutenant from Infantry Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning, GA. Following OCS he completed helicopter and fixed wing flight training at Fort Rucker, AL.



He served two tours in Vietnam. He was wounded after being shot down in his helicopter in 1966 and was medically evacuated after serving there for ten months. He returned to Vietnam in 1967 and served as an armed helicopter platoon leader. During the 1968 TET Offensive Colonel Knight was recommended for the Distinguished

Service Cross, the Nation's second highest medal for heroism. He went on to fly a total of 1495 hours of combat missions.

He was nominated for membership in the Legion of Valor of the USA in 1971 by General George S. Patton, Jr. Membership is restricted to those awarded the Medal of Honor or one of the three second highest crosses for extraordinary heroism. Colonel Knight was elected National Commander for the Legion of Valor for the year 2006-2007.

He retired from the military with 30 years service on November 1, 1984.

Among his many awards are: Distinguished Service Cross, 5 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 2 Bronze Stars for Valor, 3 Purple Hearts, 62 Air Medals with Valor Device, Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device, Meritorious Service Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry plus other overseas medals and service ribbons. One of his uniforms and some of his military medals are on display at the Society along with a photo taken at the White House with the President and Mrs. George W. Bush.

He now resides in Melbourne, FL with his wife Drucilla.

SOCIETY MEMBERS' BOOKS ARE FOR SALE

Girl of the Past by Diane LeConte and Pat Leonard, \$10 A story about connecting to Col. Westbrook; for Young Adults

Westbrook Remembered: People of the Paper City by Andrea Vasquez, \$20 A collection of stories about Westbrook natives

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joan and Romeo Boucher, Westbrook
Scott Goguen, Westbrook
Sondra Taylor, Westbrook
Paul Emery, Westbrook
Catherine Glynn, Saco, ME
Beverly Murray, Gorham, ME
Patricia McCaul, Oxford, ME
Gregory Bodge, Stafford, VA

Westbrook Historical Society

Purpose and Principle

The purposes of this Society are to bring together those people interested in the history of Westbrook, Maine, and to discover, collect, and preserve any materials and objects that establish and illustrate the history of the area. The Society shall make all such materials and objects accessible for viewing or study on the premises. The Society shall arouse interest in the past by holding meetings open to the general public, by marking historic buildings, sites, etc. and by using other media to gain public interest in Westbrook history.

The membership meets regularly for business and entertainment at 1:30 o'clock on the first Wednesday of each month, with the exception of July and August.

Officers

President- Mike Sanphy
Vice President- Roberta Wyer Dutton Morrill
Secretary- Andrea Pacillo Vasquez
Treasurer- Nancy Joy Curran

Westbrook Historical Society
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Westbrook, ME 04092

Directors

Suzan Roberts Norton – Al Waite
Nancy Crump – Diane Turgeon Dyer

Email address

info@westbrookhistoricalsociety.org

Webpage

www.westbrookhistoricalsociety.org

Tel: 207-854-5588

The doors of the Westbrook Historical Society are open to the general public every Saturday morning, 9:00 o'clock to noon. Capable volunteer staff is present at that time to help visitors with their interests and their needs.

The doors are usually open again on Tuesday mornings while volunteer workers are doing their chores, at which time the general public is also free to visit.