

# Lyme Public Hall Newsletter



The Lyme Public Hall Association, Inc.

Vol.2, No. 1

Spring 2003

## PROCLAMATION

### WHEREAS,

Elizabeth Putnam has been a lifelong resident of the Town of Lyme . . . taught at the Joshuatown Road one room schoolhouse . . . is the author of the book Brockway's Ferry, Lyme, Connecticut . . . has been very active in the revival of the Lyme Public Hall . . . has been a volunteer caretaker of the Joshuatown Road Cemetery . . . will turn ninety years young . . . has throughout her entire life shown great human spirit, been understanding and an example to all the residents of Lyme,

### THEREFORE,

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Lyme declares that October 27, 2002 be and is hereby declared Elizabeth Putnam Day in the Town of Lyme.

Signed:

William T Koch, Jr.,

First Selectman

Parker Lord, Selectman

James Koch, Selectman

## Elizabeth Putnam Honored

Friends, family, former colleagues—well wishers all—gathered at the Hall last October for a reception honoring Elizabeth Putnam on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday.

By proclamation officially declaring October 27, 2002 *Elizabeth Putnam Day*, Lyme First Selectman William Koch, Jr. opened the celebration of appreciation and thank you for this woman who is considered one of Lyme's *treasures*.

Parker Lord, president of the Public Hall Association, told the story of how Elizabeth got her name. Carolyn Bacdayan read a poem whose theme touched on Elizabeth's contributions to the Archives. Wendy Hill spoke about Elizabeth's contributions to the town.

Doad Jewett told of experiences shared as students in the Brockway one-room schoolhouse and later as teachers in the newly opened Lyme Consolidated School. Don Male, another teaching colleague, regaled the audience with his reminiscences

of association with Elizabeth.

A beautiful birthday cake donated by Barbara Blackwell and the Sewing Group of the Lymes' Senior Center was presented and the attendees sang *Happy Birthday* to the guest of honor. A smiling Elizabeth announced, "I look forward to seeing you all at my 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!"

On display during the reception was an historical exhibition on the Brockway and Joshuatown areas using photographs and items from the Archives, much of which were donated by Elizabeth Putnam. Included in the exhibit were items pertaining to shad fishing, stone cutting, and the Brockway one-room school house and the early days of Lyme Consolidated School.

A tenth generation descendant of Wolston Brockway, one of Lyme's earliest settlers, Elizabeth is a lifelong Lyme resident with many and varied local experiences. She's a shad fisherman's daughter, a one-room schoolhouse scholar, a grade school

*continued on page 3*



*Elizabeth Putnam enjoying the moment with friends while being honored and thanked for her dedication and contributions to the community.*

## President's Message

As I read this edition of the newsletter, I am reminded once again why Lyme is so special. It is true we have a wonderfully protected cove, high ridges commanding spectacular views, and some of the most photographed area around. But, it is the people of this small community that I find give us the most reward. They are committed to protecting and preserving Lyme's rural character through open space and historic preservation.

It is interesting to note that in preserving our history, residents sometimes make history themselves. Some come here from other places and adopt Lyme because they find it suits their sense of well being. Thomas Nason and his wife found this to be true and he gained a reputation by depicting Lyme scenes and its way of life in his wood engravings. Elizabeth Putnam shares her love of Brockway's Ferry by preserving its history in a book she wrote after retiring from teaching. Jennie Stark, a wonderfully young 100 years old, recreates places and scenes of Lyme in her highly prized hooked rugs. It is these Lyme people, and I am sure many others I do not know, that make Lyme what it is, and I'm grateful we can call them Lyme treasures.

I, as well as the Lyme Public Hall am grateful to everyone who takes the time and makes the effort to preserve the history of Lyme and its people.

**Parker H. Lord**  
President

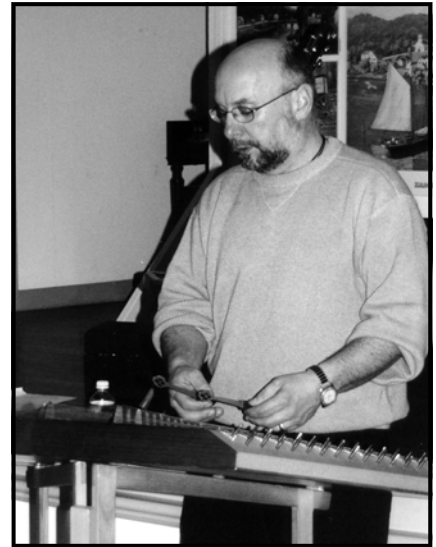
## Book Sales to Benefit Hall

A second edition of Elizabeth Putnam's *Brockway's Ferry, Lyme, Connecticut - A History and Memoir*, revised and edited by Wendolyn Hill has been published by the Hall and was first offered for sale in conjunction with the October 2002 reception honoring the author on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday.

Relating the history of the Joshuatown area of Lyme with special emphasis on Brockway's Ferry, the book contains stories passed down to Elizabeth, history learned throughout her lifelong Brockway's Ferry residency, and her personal memories. Details of area industries are given including shipbuilding, medicated oakum production, stone cutting, and shad fishing.

The book was first published by Elizabeth in 1991. Believing that it was very important to record the history of Brockway's Ferry—which has been largely overlooked by history books—and the way of life she knew in her youth so that it would be preserved for future generations, she said, "If I don't tell it, who will?"

Elizabeth has generously donated the publication rights of the book to the Public Hall Association. Copies may be purchased at *Reynold's Store* in Hamburg Center, at Public Hall events, or from *Carolyn Bacdayan*, 434-9292. Proceeds from sales will support activities of the Public Hall.

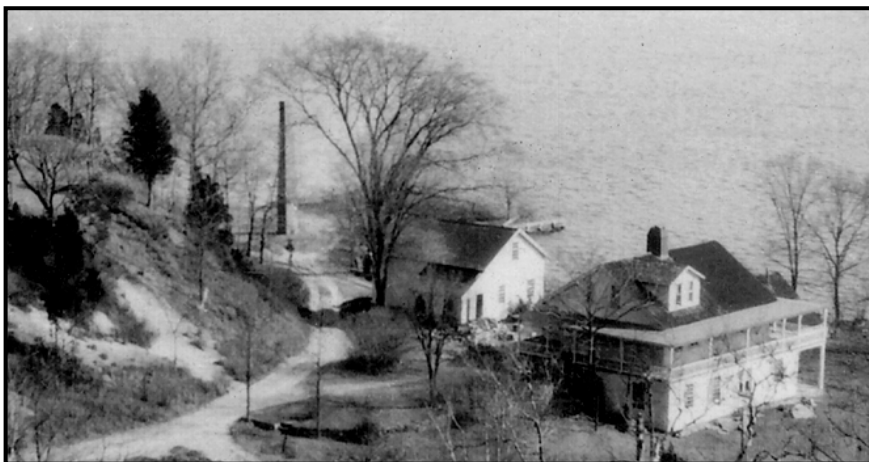


## History Thru Song

On a chilly day in March 2002, lovers of folk music and history alike turned out for an entertaining evening with folk musician and former State Troubadour Mike Kachuba.

Accompanying himself on a variety of instruments including the hammered dulcimer, guitar, and concertina, he sang tales of Connecticut history.

Through song we learned of the origin of the Frisbee flying disc—tin pie plates at Bridgeport's Frisbie Pie Company; Connecticut's first prison escape—John Hinson the Newgate prison walk-away; Gustave Whitehead—the Bridgeport aviator whose flying machine preceded the Wright brothers; and closer to home, the 1672 Lyme/New London boundary dispute settled through fisticuffs!



*Brockway's Ferry before the Hurricane of 1938. The old Oakum Mill chimney was still standing as evidence of a bygone industry.*

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Lyme Public Hall Association is open to anyone with an interest in the Lyme community.

If you're not a member, please consider joining. Send tax deductible fees to Lyme Public Hall Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1056, Lyme, CT 06371.

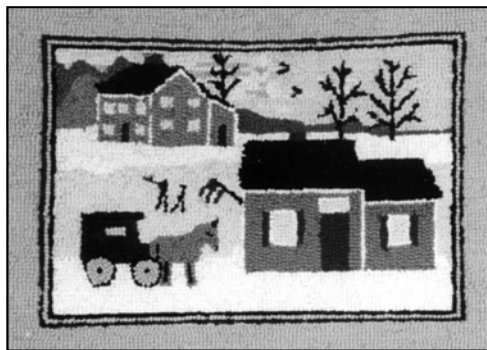
### Annual dues (May 1-April 30)

Individual	\$ 5.00
Family	10.00
Subscribing	25.00
Contributing	50.00
Sustaining	100.00

**Fourth of July Exhibit:  
A Tribute to Jennie Stark**

In what has become a Fourth of July tradition, the Hall prepared an exhibit to mark the holiday. The 2002 exhibit was a **Tribute to Jennie Stark**, one of Lyme's own folk artists. For over seventy years, Jennie has been creating colorful hand hooked rugs. And at age 100, she's still at it!

Over thirty of Jennie's scores of rugs and wall hangings, on loan from private collections, were on display. Designs featured in Jennie's work are scenes familiar to the area: local landscapes, barns, churches, schoolhouses, and animals. Memorabilia from Jennie's 100 years of life were displayed and a rug hooking demonstration was provided by Irene Corsino. We were especially honored to have Jennie herself on both days of the exhibit—despite July's brutal heat—to visit with the many admirers of her work.



**Putnam Honored** *continued from page 1*

teacher, a 1938 hurricane survivor, a wife and mother. Elizabeth served on Lyme's Bicentennial Commission and has been active in the Lymes' Senior Center. Her love of Lyme and interest in preserving its history has made her an informal historical resource.

Elizabeth remembers attending dances on Saturday nights at the Hall in the late 1920s when she was in high school—there was an orchestra from Meriden and the kids from Camp Claire came to dance. Thus she was instrumental in the revival of the Public Hall as a community gathering place and historical organization.

When the Lyme Fire Company prepared to vacate the near century-old building in 1983, following its thirty year use as a fire station,

Elizabeth and Mary Sterling Bakke (mother of archivist Carolyn Bacdayan) were among those who approached First Selectman John Yeomans with the idea of preserving the Hall and restoring it to its active role as a community center and home to the previously disbanded Public Hall Association. Elizabeth chaired the committee which was formed to create and run the re-established association. She remained active on the association's Board of Directors for many years.

Also a strong proponent in the creation of the Hall's archives of local history, Elizabeth has made many contributions to the Archives including an extensive collection of newspaper clippings pertaining to Lyme's people, events, and issues throughout the entire 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Thanks to the following who made the *Tribute to Jennie Stark* possible through the generous loan of their rugs.

- Charlotte Barringer*
- Ginger Bladen*
- Dorothy Brubaker*
- Tedi Cavicke*
- Barbara Chapman*
- Alione Cone*
- Gwen Cooper*
- Beverly Crother*
- Marian Daniels*
- Gretchen Gaughran*
- Liz Lawlor*
- Jennie Stark*
- Judy Ulrich*

# Notes from the Archives

*As the Archives embarks on its sixth year of operation, it continues to grow. The all volunteer staff processed thirty-four new accessions in 2002. To date there have been ninety-two donors of materials. There were twelve research requests in the last year— up from nineteen total in 2000-2001.*

## Keywords

Archivist Carolyn Bacdayan has developed a subject classification system that uses both *general* subject and *specific* subject descriptions which helps the researcher in locating material in the Archives' computerized database.

This has been an extensive project which could come only after all the individual items in the Archives had been sorted and organized into meaningful collections.

Now the individual items are being entered into the database with their assigned general and specific subject descriptions. According to Carolyn, after handling and evaluating the hundreds of items that have traveled through the full process from donation to entry into the database, one can say that the Archives is truly *hand-crafted history*.

## Wish List

Limited funds from the shrinking interest rate on the Archives' endowment have been supplemented by some generous gifts of equipment and cash for supplies noted in last year's wish list. We thank the donors for these much appreciated contributions.

Items on our wish list for the coming year:

- Photographic storage supplies
- Tabletop and floor easels
- Tabletop display cases
- CD-RW drive
- Paper cutter

Also, items needed for the Hall itself:

- Public address system
- Vacuum cleaner

## SPOTLIGHT ON ACCESSIONS

Among the thirty-four accessions received in 2002 were the following items of particular interest:

- \* **Photographs of Lyme scenes and homes by Kenneth Chandler, 1921-2002, former Vassar professor and Main Street News photographer.**
- \* **The Articles of Association and By-laws of the North Lyme Cemetery Association at its creation in 1854 with the names of the original subscribers.**
- \* **Scrapbook of Lyme native Charles Jewett Harding, 1912-2002, documenting his experience as a naval officer aboard the USS AUBURN, an amphibious force flagship, from 1942-1945 in the Pacific Theater.**
- \* **Various maps with information about Lyme including: 1910 and 1925 New England school wall maps that depict steam and electric railways, and a U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey map covering Deep River to the Sound based on 1883 and 1915 surveys.**

*Housed in the lower level of the Lyme Public Hall, the purpose of the Archives is to collect, preserve, document and make available the historical heritage of Lyme.*

*The archives depends upon donations of items of historical significance, cash, supplies and equipment as well as the help of our many volunteers.*

*Please think of the Archives before disposing of materials with a connection to Lyme.*

*The archives are open by appointment. For information about using the archives, making a financial contribution donating materials or volunteering, please contact Carolyn Bacdayan, Archivist (860) 434-9292.*

## SPECIAL THANKS

Our maps, over-sized photographs, full sheet newspapers, drawings, and posters are now enjoying life-extending storage in their new home—three steel, flat files—donated by Fleet Bank, through the good offices of Steve Hoyt of Lyme.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO MY DONATION?

Most of us know that the materials donated to the Archives get indexed, cataloged, boxed and set upon the shelves. But occasionally someone asks, “What happens with all that stuff once it’s on the shelves?” In response, here are a just a few examples of the Archives’ collections at work.

- \* Last spring, members of the Daniels and Pierce families had an *archival* reunion at the Hall as they gathered to do joint family history research.
- \* In January, using illustrative materials from the collections, Carolyn spoke to the children at Lyme Consolidated school about various livelihoods that have depended on the Connecticut River. They incorporated some of the information into the school’s lovely mural with the theme: *Lyme Then and Now*.
- \* Frequently, people turn to the Archives for historical information about the houses they live in.
- \* Last, but not least, the Hall is able to build interesting exhibits by drawing on materials from within our collections.

## A Special Satisfaction

The Archives was visited last summer by two professors from California and Pennsylvania who were collecting biographical material for a paper about the late Dr. Alice Hamilton, famous chemist and former Lyme resident.

Dr. Hamilton’s Lyme home was the former ferry operator’s home, still standing, at the Hadlyme Ferry Landing. The paper was to be presented at the American Chemical Society’s annual meeting concurrently with a posthumous award to Dr. Hamilton for her work as a leader in the field of chemical health and safety and industrial toxicology.

To our special satisfaction the researchers indicated that their visit to our archives was the most productive of their research visits to institutions in New England. Most of our materials—primarily news and feature articles from regional newspapers based heavily on personal interviews with Dr. Hamilton—had not been previously seen by the researchers.

## HISTORICAL IMAGES OF LYME

Sales of five previous sets of *Historical Images of Lyme* note cards have earned more than \$6600 for the Hall. Work is in progress on a new set of note cards featuring nautical themes from the Hamburg Cove shipping manifests of the 1860’s schooner Sterling captained by John Heber Ely. Look for the cards at our Fourth of July exhibit.

## FARM VIDEO PROJECT

*Jackie Sullivan*, film & video teacher at Lyme-Old Lyme High School, reports that senior *John Beyer* is nearing completion of his video documentary of *Tiffany Farms*. Included on the video will be historical scenes of the farm depicted in old photos, interviews with *Jack Tiffany*, and footage of the farm in its present day operation.

This is the second video produced in a partnership between the school and the Archives. The intent of the partnership is to document some of Lyme’s oldest farms as a means of preserving their character and place in the community for future generations. *Harding Farm* was the subject of a video completed last year. *Beaver Brook Farm* will be the subject of a third video planned for production work beginning this spring.

## New Project Digital Photo Collection

We now have the capacity to scan our growing photograph collection thus creating a *digital* photo collection. By assigning subject keywords to the images and entering them into our computerized database, we will be able to quickly locate and view the images.

Photographs stored in digital format can be easily reproduced for researchers and for use in exhibits.

Additionally, through scanning, we are able to expand our digital photo collection through the *loan* of photographs that people wish to retain in their personal collections.

We are interested in all kinds of photographs—including picture postcards—that reflect the history, traditions, and life ways of Lyme, its institutions, and families.

We would like to hear from anyone interested in supporting the growth of our collections in this way

## Lyme Artist: Thomas Nason

By Art Reichenbach

Several holiday cards which the Public Hall has featured over the past few years have been based on engravings by a well-known Lyme artist. Thomas W. Nason found his way to Lyme in the 1930s when, as a guest of his summer resident artist-sister, Gertrude, he found his bucolic site on Joshuatown Road. Nason, his wife Margaret and sister picnicked on Shippee Hill in 1931 on a plot where stood a giant five-fireplace chimney stack. It was all that remained of a 1740s house which had fallen into decay and long been dismantled. In Depression-wrought 1931, the Nasons purchased the property and six years later, with meager funds, built a house, putting down roots that would make it *home* for the rest of their lives.

Thomas Nason was to become a prominent American engraver, whose work usually reflected the quiet country life he found here. Born in Dracut, Massachusetts in 1889, he was the son of a poor minister/farmer with little hope of a career away from the family farm. After serving in France toward the end of World War I, he found apprentice work in Boston. He was drawn to printmaking by show windows he passed on his way to and from work on Beacon Hill. On his meager salary he started to collect 19<sup>th</sup> century prints which he studied closely. This led to his interest and study of the technical aspects of engraving from books borrowed from the Boston Public Library.

His early experimentation with woodblock engraving paid off. In 1923 he sold some woodcuts of backstreet Boston, which encouraged him to refine his techniques. Finding his financial situation improving, he was eventually able to build a house on the Joshuatown property with the help of friends Alberta and Homer Pfeiffer, both architects.

In 1938 the Nasons occupied the house and he executed, on copper, a map of the area to show his friends exactly where the house was situated in this Connecticut wilderness.



Thomas W. Nason (1889-1971)

Wood engraving

Detail from holiday greeting card 1949  
used for Lyme Public Hall 2001 holiday  
Historical Images of Lyme offering.

Happy in his new surroundings, he proceeded to refine his work by shifting from woodcuts to wood engravings. He also experimented with copper engravings, but preferred to work on wood, which was a popular medium at the time. Hence began his production of landscapes, Christmas cards, book plates, pamphlets and eventually a contract for engravings for the magazine *Atlantic Monthly*. He never had a publisher, but chose to market his prints *on consignment* to some twenty different print sellers. He refused demands by the print sellers to make large prints, even though the retailers said they would sell better. He explained that he preferred small works because "it is better to be exquisite than to be ample." He never altered his philosophy on this stance.

A major opportunity arose when he was asked to illustrate a book by the American poet Robert Frost. The two seemed a natural pairing; both spent most of their lives in New England and found its spare landscape their inspiration. He illustrated other books for Frost, including *The Collected Poems of Robert Frost* in two volumes.

Locally, by the late 1930s, the age of the Old Lyme Artist colony was already over and the national taste in art was on the path to modernism. When the Nasons moved to Lyme this

changing taste added to a sensible distance between the Old Lyme artists and Lyme . . . not only in miles but also in spirit. Lyme simply did not offer the *sophistication* found in Old Lyme. For example, beyond the Grange Hall in Hamburg, the unfinished dirt road was narrow, dusty in summer and deadly when frozen in winter. However, it gave the Nasons the desired and enjoyable sense of isolation. Here Nason continued to make furniture, to garden, to practice his art and to enjoy the amenities of nature. Thus the Nasons did not welcome the later paving of Hamburg Road beyond the Grange. It opened the way for other artists to settle in Lyme in the late Depression years because this poor farming community offered cheap properties.

The twilight of local agrarian life was illustrated in "Lyme Farm" (1929) the first of Nason's popular prints with a Lyme subject. The success of "Lyme Farm" prompted a number of other engravings showing decaying barns, untilled fields and abandoned houses. Nason found a melancholy beauty in this passing of an era. His landscapes now tended to show man's relationship to nature with figures or animals in his quiet country scenes. His success with these representations lay partially in the revival of wood engraving as an art form in the 1920-30s, leading to a surge in collecting. Homely art now found a niche in American taste. Farmhouses, silos, rolling pastures, wind-swept hills now conveyed a poetic essence across America of the bucolic New England landscape

Nason was basically self-taught, having no formal art education. He was awarded an honorary Master of Arts degree by Tuff's College in 1945, thereby establishing him as one of America's foremost graphic artists; his work now familiar to a larger public through exhibitions and its appearance in reproduction in newspapers and magazines. However, by the end of World War II, all that was to change. The war had opened eyes to a new world and changing society. Nason's quiet and restrained art was almost totally eclipsed by modernism and abstract art. He began soliciting

*continued on page 7*

## Treasurer's Report

The year 2002 was a disturbing year in the financial markets but a successful one for the Lyme Public Hall thanks to the continued support of our members. Membership and financial support increased over the prior year. As you may be aware, our building is town owned but all maintenance, insurance and restoration is the responsibility of The Lyme Public Hall Association, Inc. All programs, activities and maintenance of the Archives are provided by Association and member support. Membership support accounts for approximately 60% of the Association's annual income. The remaining 40% comes from rental of the Hall and fundraising events, including the annual tag and bake sale, chowder dinner, sales of *Historical Images of Lyme* note cards and donations. We thank you for your continued financial and personal support.

The Public Hall is a tax-exempt organization. All contributions are tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. We welcome your donations of cash, appreciated securities or a future bequest.

I encourage all of our Lyme neighbors to continue in the tradition of supporting the efforts of the Hall—both financially and through participation in our educational and social events.

**Jack Leonardo**, *Treasurer*

*Nason* continued from page 6

commissions from universities, and preparing book illustrations and dust jacket decorations. Even his Christmas cards and engraved bookplates for clients were eclipsed by four-color modern printed boxed works.

At home in Lyme, he and Margaret were becoming unhappy as the village grew increasingly suburban.

On March 2, 1971, Nason suffered a heart attack and died. Margaret lived to be 100, passing away in 1988. They are buried together in the Cove Cemetery near the Chester ferry landing. But his wonderful engravings of our community live on. They can occasionally still be found at local estate sales, antique shops and auctions. Local residents had purchased them because they were such honored reminiscences of Lyme and its environs in a much quieter time. Sometimes, when you drive our by-ways, you can still see a vision of him beside the road, sketching a meadow, grazing sheep or gathering storm. You just have to be visually alert!

If you're not already on our email list and would like to receive notice and reminders of upcoming Public Hall events, send us a note at:

[lymepublichall@earthlink.net](mailto:lymepublichall@earthlink.net)

## Thanks

Thank you to *Essex Savings Bank* for including the Lyme Public Hall on the ballot again this year for their *Community Investment Program* and to those of you who voted for us. The Hall was pleased to receive a total of sixty votes—\$477—in last year's distribution of funds among participating non-profits.

Thank you to *Computer Sciences Corporation* for their donation of a laptop computer that will be used for managing membership records.

## FOR RENT

Need a place to hold a party, meeting, reception, reunion or other gathering?

The Lyme Public Hall is available for full or partial days at reasonable rates.

Capacity: 65 for dinner or 140 for lectures

Phone: (860) 434-7715 or (860) 434-6115

### Who to contact:

**Membership:** Diana Lord, 526-1436, [banningwood@juno.com](mailto:banningwood@juno.com)

**Programs:** Melodee Leonardo, 434-5715, [lymack@aol.com](mailto:lymack@aol.com)

**Archives:** Carolyn Bacdayan, 434-9292, [bacdayan@aol.com](mailto:bacdayan@aol.com)

**Rentals:** Eleanor O'Connell, 434-7715

**Bequests & Donations:** Jack Leonardo, 434-5715, [lymack@aol.com](mailto:lymack@aol.com)

**Historical Images of Lyme:** Carolyn Bacdayan, 434-9292

**Newsletter:** Sara Denow, 434-1929, [sdenow@earthlink.net](mailto:sdenow@earthlink.net)

## Upcoming Events

### Friday, March 28

Explore the history and mysteries of Selden Island, Connecticut's largest island, through *The Quarries of Selden Neck*, a multi-image presentation by David H. Wordell. The site of a major quarrying operation in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, much of its granite was used in the construction of New York. Time: 7:30 p.m. Admission: \$7, \$5 for members, under 12 free.

### Saturday & Sunday, April 26 & 27

Take part in the annual town wide *Clean Sweep* roadside cleanup. Clear away the winter's accumulation of litter along your property frontage—and a little more. Trash bags will be available at *Reynold's Store* and at *Hadlyme Country Store*. Leave filled bags at the closest intersection for town pickup on Monday, April 28.

### Sunday, April 27

Join us for a *Walking Tour of Historic Hadlyme* with Jim Leatherbee. This program is our first in collaboration with the Hadlyme Hall. Meet at the Ferry Landing. Time: 1:00 p.m.

### Thursday, June 12

*Annual Meeting & Potluck Supper*  
Watch for details.

### Board of Directors

Parker H. Lord  
*President*  
Melodee Leonardo  
*Vice President*  
Jack Leonardo  
*Treasurer*  
Angie Falstrom  
*Secretary*  
Carolyn Bacdayan  
James Beers  
Gwen Cooper  
Sara Denow  
Russell Fogg  
Diana Lord  
Eleanor O'Connell  
Francis Rand  
Arthur Reichenbach  
Hannah Schillawski



**THE LYME PUBLIC HALL**  
*Historical Organization and Archives*  
 249 Hamburg Road  
 P.O. Box 1056  
 Lyme, CT 06371

Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Permit No. 68  
 Lyme, CT  
 06371

*The Lyme Public Hall Association is dedicated to the appreciation of Lyme's history, culture, and community through the preservation and use of the historic hall, its archives, and historical programs.*

**The Quarries of Selden Neck**

A Multi-media Presentation By

**David H. Wordell**

Friday, March 28, 2003  
 7:30 p.m.

Members \$5 Non-members \$7  
 Under 12 Free

**POSTAL  
 PATRON**

*The Big Flush, or Moving Forward*

Although the Lyme Public Hall Association strives to appreciate Lyme's history, it doesn't mean that progress is to be shunned. When it comes to restroom facilities at the Hall, it's time to move forward.

It's safe to presume that the earliest restroom was an outhouse as depicted by artist Richard L. Brooks in his painting *Hamburg Cove, 1906*. For those folks who remember life with an outhouse, it's doubtful that anyone bemoaned giving up an old two-holer for indoor plumbing.

In the early 1950's when the Lyme Volunteer Fire Department leased the building, the ground beneath the building was excavated to provide garage space for fire trucks. Installation of our present restrooms—in the basement at the bottom of the stairs—probably took place as part of the fire department renovations.

Thinking of the installation of a

new john as a big to-do may bring a chuckle, but it is, nevertheless, a big to-do!

When the present day Public Hall Association organized in 1985 in the aftermath of the fire department tenancy, the building was in poor shape. Funds were scarce. The earliest efforts were spent on saving and stabilizing the building. A 1988 *Pictorial Gazette* article about the Hall stated that the *next* phase of improvements would involve the installation of restroom facilities on the main meeting room level.

At long last, fifteen years later, Treasurer Jack Leonardo reports—albeit not in these exact words—that the pot is sufficiently flush to initiate action on this long awaited improvement.

Plans are in development to convert the storage room in the north vestibule into a modern unisex restroom. It will be a convenience and

blessing for all—young and old alike—to no longer be required to navigate the steep back stairs when nature beckons. Foremost in the minds of the planning committee is ensuring that the new facility will be fully accessible to all.

At this time, the committee is engaged in getting the necessary permits. The Town Sanitarian has given his informal approval of the project stating that anything that's done will be an improvement over the present lower level restrooms.

We're looking forward to having that first BIG FLUSH in the not too distant future!



*Detail from Richard L. Brooks painting Hamburg Cove, 1906*