

# Lyme Public Hall Newsletter



*The Lyme Public Hall Association, Inc.*

*Vol. 13, No. 1 Spring 2014*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Help Wanted—No Experience Required!

One of the great things about Lyme is the small-town atmosphere. Don't you often feel like you know everyone? For local organizations, this is both a blessing and a curse. Many groups, including the Lyme Public Hall Association, are looking for volunteers to help them carry out their mission and provide services to the community. It seems, however, that the same people say yes to these organizations, be it as board members or as general helpers. There often aren't enough of these "yes men and women" to go around.

So here I am, making my yearly pitch for helpers. Most of you know that the Lyme Public Hall carries out a number of programs of community interest. First and foremost is the Lyme Local History Archives, led by Carolyn Bacdayan. If you have an interest in Lyme and time to spend cataloging and scanning documents and images, taking oral histories from long-time residents, or helping to set up exhibits, perhaps you could give a morning or two a week of your time and energy. Have you ever wanted to try your hand at communications or public relations? We have openings on our program committee and could use help with our once-yearly newsletter. Do you like to garden? We can put you to work once a month or so. We can always use people at our large fundraising events like the tag sale and chowder dinner. You can find other opportunities to get involved in this issue. You'll be surprised how much fun you can have.

In 2014, we will continue to prepare for the Local History Archives to move to the new library building. This move will ensure that the irreplaceable historical materials



*Volunteer Susan Fontanella at work in the Lyme Local History Archives*

that the Lyme Public Hall has collected over the years will be housed in a purpose-built space instead of in the basement of an old fire house. We are also preparing a full slate of programs and events. Look inside for a full listing of these activities. Finally, thank you all for your continued support of the Lyme Public Hall Association through your memberships. We look forward to seeing you in the coming year.

—Leslie Lewis

#### **Membership information enclosed.**

This will be your only membership mailing of the year. Your support makes everything we do possible. Please consider joining or renewing today!

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# 150 Years Ago in Lyme

The following appeared in the New London Daily Chronicle on October 17, 1864

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**FLAG RAISER:** It was our good fortune yesterday in company with W.C. Robinson Esq. of this city to attend the Democratic pole and flag raising in (Hamburgh), Lyme. Although Lyme is cursed with a preponderance of Republicans and some of the meanest kind at that, nevertheless about a thousand persons were present at the meeting in the afternoon. They came from all sections of the country round about-sturdy, unflinching Democrats with their wives and daughters.

Early in the morning some low-lived blackguard or blackguards posted on the blacksmith shop in Hamburgh a burlesque of a Democratic handbill. This would have been well enough if it had been decent but the last line of the burlesque handbill contained an indecent fling at the Democratic ladies. After its discovery by James A. Bill, Esq. the blacksmith was given five minutes in which to take down the offensive bill, and although his friends were in the majority, he considered it good policy to accede to the demand and before the expiration of five minutes down came the bill. If it had not *come down* an opposition blacksmith shop would have *gone up* in an incredible short space of time. The Democrats of Lyme under the lead of the Bills are not to be frightened or intimidated.



*An anti-war Democrat, James A. Bill (pictured) was Lyme's leading supporter of McClellan for president in 1864.*

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The meeting was a most enthusiastic one. Cheer after cheer for McClellan and Pendleton rang out on the air, and was echoed back from the mountain tops. Lyme is aroused and the Black Disunion Republicans may well tremble, as they do, at the grand uprising.

*Note:* In the presidential election of 1864, the McClellan-Pendleton Democratic ticket lost to Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson running on the National Union Party ticket put together by a coalition of Republicans and pro-war Democrats.

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## Who to Contact:

*Local History Archives:* Carolyn Bacdayan, 860-434-9292,

acbacadayan@sbcglobal.net

*Programs:* Leslie Lewis, 860-526-8886.

*Rentals:* Kathy Tisdale, 860-434-1920

*Bequests and Donations:* Jerry Ehlen, bloodst@sbcglobal.net

*Newsletter editors:* Ann Brubaker, Leslie Lewis

*Writers for this issue:* Carolyn Bacdayan, Ann Brubaker, Jim Beers, Bill Denow, Leslie Lewis

*Newsletter layout:* Lisa Reneson

**Questions? Comments?** Email the Lyme Public Hall Association at [info@lymepublichall.org](mailto:info@lymepublichall.org)

For the latest information on events, check [www.lymepublichall.org](http://www.lymepublichall.org)

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Membership in the Lyme Public Hall Association is open to anyone with an interest in the Lyme community. The Association receives no town funding and is supported through tax deductible membership fees, donations, and fund raisers. We invite you to join. The membership year runs from May 1-April 30. Select the support level that works best for you. Make checks payable to Lyme Public Hall Association, Inc and remit to P.O. Box 1056, Lyme, CT 06371.

Supporting - \$15

Subscribing - \$25

Contributing - \$50

Sustaining - \$100

Additional donations of cash, appreciated securities, or future bequests are also welcome. Thank you for your continued support. To join our e-mail list for notice of upcoming Lyme Public Hall events, send a request to: [info@lymepublichall.org](mailto:info@lymepublichall.org)

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## LPHA Loses Two Long-time Supporters

The Lyme Public Hall Association lost two good friends in 2013, Gertrude Harding Emerson and Doris “Doad” Reynolds Jewett. Both were enthusiastic supporters of the Public Hall and particularly of its Lyme Local History Archives. Each contributed family photographs and papers helping to build a lasting record of Lyme’s long-time families. And both had been interviewed for the Archives’ oral history project.

Doad, who died at the age of 100, volunteered in the Archives for a number of years right up to her 96th birthday. She would walk across the street from her home in Hamburg Cove usually on a Tuesday afternoon, always game and ready to help with whatever task needed doing.

When *Things Remembered*, Doad’s memoirs of her childhood in Lyme, was published she specified that any profits from the sale of the book were to go to the Public Hall, and she signed copies of the book at several public hall events. She also assigned the copyright of the publication over to the Public Hall.

Like Doad, Trude Emerson came from one of Lyme’s long time families, with deep roots in Sterling City and on Bill Hill. In her oral history she describes her childhood at Ashlawn Farm on Bill Hill. A farm girl, Trude, recalls driving a truck in the hay fields at an early age when she was so little she couldn’t reach the pedals. “I could get the hand throttle down and then skinny on down and put the clutch in and shift it. And then you had to keep out of the woodchuck holes and keep going from one row to another picking up hay”.

Both Trude and Doad recalled walking each day to their local one room school houses. Trude remembered the bitter cold in the classroom at the start of the day . . . so cold the ink wells were frozen. And Doad recounted coming to school with snakes and toads in her pockets to “test” new school teachers. Their love for Lyme and for the natural world shines through all their interviews. They will both be remembered for their candor, common sense, and ability to age with grace.

The Lyme Public Hall Association is particularly grateful to Trude Emerson for a generous gift from

her estate. Trude valued the many key Lyme civic organizations including the public hall run largely by volunteers.



*Doad Jewett (left) and Trude Emerson*



*Trude Emerson haying at Ashlawn Farm, one of the photos of farm life given by her to the Archives.*



*An album of 19th century family photographs, one of Doad Jewett’s gifts to the Archives.*

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# Lyme in the Civil War: The 18th Regiment of the Connecticut Volunteer Infantry

*Lyme resident Jim Beers has been sharing his knowledge of the American Civil War for the past three years. His fourth talk this June will focus on the 18th Regiment CVI and their role in the battle at Piedmont, Virginia. (See programs calendar)*

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In response to President Abraham Lincoln's third call for men in July 1862, Connecticut's governor formed six volunteer regiments. The 18th, one of the six, was organized in Norwich in August with volunteers from New London and Windham counties. Lyme provided eighteen volunteers to the regiment.

On August 11, Lt Colonel William Ely assumed command of the 18th. Although related to the Ely family of Lyme, Colonel Ely was a resident of Norwich at the time. Of note is Colonel Ely's remarkable ascendancy in the military ranks. He enlisted in April 1861 as a private in the 1st Connecticut Infantry Regiment, and was promoted to Captain to fill a vacancy in the 1st brigade. At the first battle of Bull Run, he fought gallantly as an aide-de-camp for General Keyes and as a result was recommended for promotion and command. In September 1861, he was commissioned a Lieutenant Colonel of the 6th Connecticut Regiment until his transfer to the 18th CVI in August 1862.

At the end of the recruitment campaign, the 18th CVI had ten companies of 100 men each: the best recruitment results of the six regiments formed during this call up. On August 22 the 18th traveled by steamer to New York, and from there, by rail, to Ft McHenry, Baltimore Maryland, where they remained on garrison duty until May 1863.

On May 15, General Robert E Lee put in motion a plan to invade the North and attack Harrisburg and Philadelphia. This was seen as a means of relieving the Union pressure on Vicksburg, Mississippi which at the time was under siege by General Grant's forces. It was thought that a successful Confederate campaign in Pennsylvania would cause General Grant to disengage and come to the defense of Washington.

As Confederate troops moved north, the 18th CVI was moved to Winchester, Virginia to reinforce the Union garrison commanded by General Robert Milroy. At the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester would need to be taken by the Confederates to allow unimpeded movement into Pennsylvania. While the Union Army fought for two days from fixed positions, the Confederate Army with its superior strength, threatened to encircle the Union forces. General Milroy decided to evacuate the town and move north to Martinsburg. The result was a disaster. With the Confederate forces already north of Winchester and blocking the escape route, Colonel Ely surrendered the column. Of the seven thousand Union soldiers at Winchester, five thousand surrendered. The 18th lost 597 killed, wounded or captured. In the confusion, General Milroy escaped.

All of the captured Union prisoners were moved to Libby prison in Richmond, Va. As was the custom at that time, all of the enlisted men were paroled and released by October 1863. The officers remained confined with the last being released in March 1865. Libby was notorious and was considered inescapable. Nevertheless in February 1864, Colonel Ely and 180 other officers tunneled out through the prison basement and remained at large for a number of days. Fifty were recaptured including Ely who in four days travelled 42 miles toward Union lines before being caught.

In September 1863 the 18th was reestablished using the uncaptured members and new replacements, totaling 600 men. Major Peale was assigned as commanding officer of the regiment. Because a majority of the regiments officers were still prisoners at Libby, several of the companies were commanded by sergeants. The regiment was assigned to provost duty at Hagerstown, Maryland until transferred to General Franz Sigel's division at Martinsburg on April 27, 1864.

On April 29 Sigel's division, which included the 18th CVI, started south in to the Shenandoah Valley. Progress was slow, with the lead unit far ahead of the main body. On May 14, Union cavalry with a small unit of infantry surprised

a much larger force of Confederates at New Market. The Confederate forces counterattacked late in the day and the Union forces struggled to hold on. Word was sent back to the 18th CVI, which was two miles from New Market, to reinforce the beleaguered Union forces. The 18th along with the 123rd Ohio force marched and arrived at dawn at the Union lines. However, the 1,200 man Union force was no match for the 7,000 man Confederate force. After a brief, but intense skirmish, which included several charges by the 18th, the Union units were forced to retreat. The result was an overwhelming defeat for General Sigel's division. The 18th CVI alone lost one fifth of its five hundred men, including several of its most respected officers. But most disturbing, was the fact that the 18th had been bested by the Confederates for a second time.

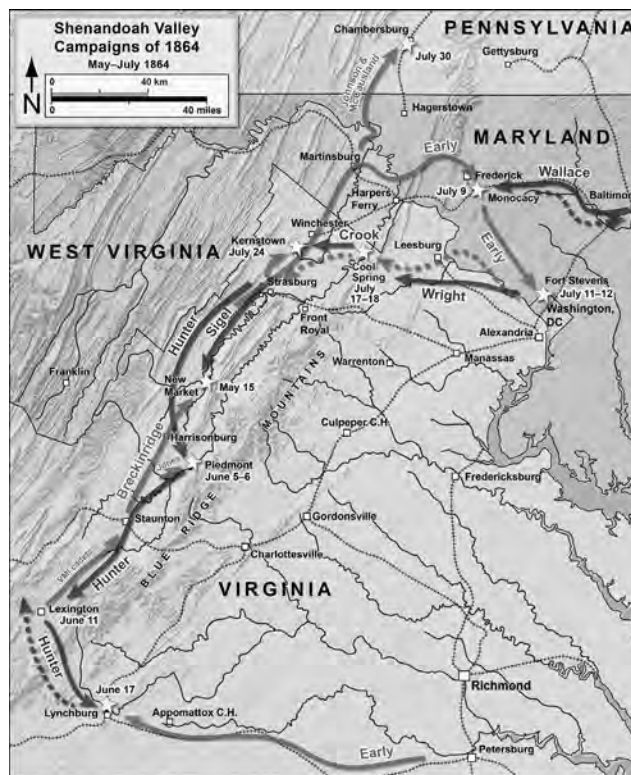
In the next nine days several events took place that had a profound impact on the 18th CVI. First: General Sigel was relieved by General David Hunter with new orders to reenter the Shenandoah and march to Lynchburg. Second: Colonel Ely, having been released from Libby prison in March 1864, returned to the 18th along with six of his subordinate officers. This reinforcement of officers inspired new confidence in the depleted 18th CVI.

On May 27, 1864 General Hunter's forces started their march to Lynchburg. Arriving two days later at New Market, the scene of their defeat on May 15, 1863, the 18th searched the battlefield for remains of their fallen and provided for proper burials. On June 2 they left New Market for Harrisonburg and on arriving found that the advancing cavalry had driven the rebels from the town.

On the morning of June 5th General Hunter engaged the Confederate Army north of the town of Piedmont, Virginia. As the 18th advanced, firing was heard up ahead. A Union cavalry unit had overrun a rebel skirmish line, exposing a rebel fortified position a mile away. The rebel position had an elevation advantage over the advancing Union forces, which had to cross a five hundred yard wide wheat field to gain the rebel position. The advancing Union line was subject to withering artillery and musket fire, with the 18th taking the worst of it. But the Union line did not

falter and the rebel position was overrun. The rebels fell back to another defensive position at the edge of a woodlot, but the Union forces did not advance. On orders from Colonel Ely, artillery was brought up and engaged the enemy position, with excellent results. General Hunter sent several units around the rebel position to attack from the rear. To keep the rebels pinned down, several charges were mounted by Union forces, further aggravating the casualties on both sides. With Hunter's rear flanking units in position, the signal was given and an all-out assault on the rebel position began. It was at this point that the Confederate General, William E. Jones, was fatally shot, leaving the rebel position leaderless. The rebels then broke and ran, fifteen hundred threw down their arms and surrendered.

For the 18th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment it was its first victory over rebel forces. The cost was high, 127 casualties. Jabez Bogue of Lyme was one of the dead. The regiment was then below three hundred men. Many credit the dogged performance of the 18th under fire to the drills and training tactics received while on garrison duty in Baltimore. The record shows that the 18th CVI never faltered regardless of the situation.



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## Lyme Public Hall Association Members May 2013 – April 2014

Ahnell, Paul & Jane	Denow, Bill & Sara	Kurlansky, Steven & Patricia	Rand, Doris
Amacher, David & Charlene	Dill, Erwin & Jean	Kyle, Flora	Reddy, Michael & Judith
Anderson, Kathryn	Doming, Richard & Carol	Lander, Mark & Ann	Reed, Carolyn S.
Bacdayan, Albert & Carolyn*	Donkin, Connie & Bessinger, August	Larson, Charlie & Elin B.	Reneson, Aaron & Lisa
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Barringer, Charlotte	Ehlen, Jerry R. & Jenkins, Gary L.	Lee, Jean	Roche, Frank & Nancy
Barth, Phil & Mazer, Mary	Ellison, Todd**	Lee, Richard & Heidi*	Ross, Phyllis & Herb
Baxter, Matthew A.*	Ely, Morgan & Angeles	Lenhart, Mark & Sara	Rosenshine, Allen
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Beers, Howard & Charlotte	Eno, Ralph & Penny	Lightfoot, Ann*	Saxton, Craig & Pietrina*
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Bladen, Ashby & Ginger	Evankow, Steve	Lombardino, George & Nina	Schroeder, Mary
Bloom, Barry & Joan	Evans, Douglas & Lacey, Ann*	Lombardino, Joseph & Roberta*	Shaffer, Leslie & Russell
Boehning, Bill & Diana*	Falstrom, John & Angie	Long, Barbara & Walters, Roxann	Shoreline Eye Group*
Boyd, Thomas & Jane	Feltham, Ethel H.*	Lord, Parker & Diana	Sisk, Brand & Donna
Brautt, Conrad & Judy	Fennema, Jim & Ellen	Lubow, Oscar B & Mariam	Slater, Bernard
Brennan, Andy & Adrienne	First Congregational Church of Lyme	Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc.	Spencer, Catherine
Brockway, John A	Friday, John & Judith*	Lyme Public Library, Friends of	Steiner, Christopher & Rebecca
Broom, Skip	Gaskell, John & Greenbaum, Suzanne	Lyme Veterans Memorial Committee	Sulger, Jack & Laurie
Brown, Suzanne*	Gerber, Donald & Carleen	Martin, Fred & Marie*	Sullivan, Anthony & Jerilyn
Brubaker, Ann H.*	Giaconia, John W., Sr.	Matschulat, James O. & Mabel*	Sutton, J. David & Barbara Bennett
Burns, Peter & Dolly	Gibbons, James & Elizabeth*	Mathers, Kevin	Talsey, Robert
Buttrick, Harry & Ann	Gibson, Andrew & Katherine	Matthew, Jim & Jill	Thurston, Tony & Sandy
Carpiniello, William	Goodall, Tennant & Susan	Matthews, Mary*	Timken, John & Polly
Carpiniello, Mr. & Mrs. V. J	Gourlay, Mimi	Mattson, Steve & Maddy*	Tracy, John & Sharon
Charnok, C.J.	Gravatt, Scott & Denise	Mazer, K.C & Deborah	Tuck, David & Lina
Chestnutt, Jane	Guitar, Mary	McCarthy, Lisa*	Wakeman, Carolyn
Childs, Thomas & Susan	Gustafson, Barbara	McCawley, Chris & Susan	Walters, Milton & Caroline*
Clement, Carl & Anne	Gustafson, Barbara "Bobby"	McEwen, Adam & Gina	Wardlaw, Stephen & Lynne*
Clippinger, Rich	Hansen, Judy	McFarland, James & LeRay	Webster, Bob & Betsey*
Collins, Patti	Harper, P.C.	Melchreit, Richard & Anna-Marie	Weed, Gary & Carol
Condron, Lou & Toni	Harris, Randy & Pat	Mildrum, Louis & Jacquelyn	West, Eugenia L.
Cone, Alione S.	Heap, Roger*	Miller, Thomas & Wendy	West, Tina*
Cone, Les & Marta	Heuser, Jonathan E & Nicola T*	Mitchell, Alison C.	Wieschenberg, Peter
Cooksley, D. & T.	Hill, Wendolyn & Sutton, Richard	Monroe, Julian & Margaret	Wilkins, Richard & Marilyn M.*
Cooley, Benjamin & Lieberman, Alexandra	Hosley, Charles & Carolyn	Moore, George & Rosemary	Willauer, George & Cynthia
Courtney, Carter & Linda	House, George & Linda	Mosser, Dot	Wininger, Amy M.
Critchett, Donald & Jane	Huber, Stephen & Carol	Mulligan, Sandy	Winzer, Linda
Crowley, Juliette	Hungerford, Doris	Nelson, David	Witkins, Jim & Janis
Crowley, Patrick & Halvorsen, Kim	Huntley, William & Loisann	Nelson, Jil	Wood, Bob & Nancy
Crowther, Beverly	Irving, Anthony & Lees, Deborah	Nuzum, Bonnie	Wood-Muller, R. G. *
Czikowsky, Dorothy	Jackson, Mark & Hagberg, Karen*	Paonessa, Kenneth & Mary	Woodward, Betsy
Dahle, Karen & Hessel, Sue*	Jones, Richard & Carol*	Patterson, Michael & Elena*	Woody, J. Melvin
D'Arista, Jane	Kathe, Paul & Cynthia	Platner, Brian & Beverly	Young, Ruth E.
David, Barbara O.*	Kneen, Martha & Lord, Hercy	Platt, Robert & Mary	Zelek, Jason & Christy
Davies, Tom & Judy	Knight, Douglas & Williams, Susan	Plikus, A. John & Christine	
Deane, Curtis & Shoemaker, Tom*	Krusen, Gordon & Cole, Susan	Plimpton, Allan	* Sustaining Members
Dempsey, Jim & Alice		Plimpton, Kenneth D. Jr.**	** Life Members
		Pritchard, John & Lee*	

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# Upcoming Programs 2014



**THE LYME PUBLIC HALL**  
*Historical Organization and Archives*

## **Weekend of April 26 and 27**

### ***Lyme Spring Clean-Sweep***

Town-wide roadside clean-up. Free trash bags at Jane's and Hadlyme stores.

## **Sunday, May 4, 1 p.m.**

### ***Annual Lyme Public Hall Open House***

Tour the Lyme Local History Archives, find out about LPH volunteer opportunities

## **Sunday, May 4, 2 p.m.**

### ***Talk: Grave Concerns: Helping to Preserve Lyme's***

#### ***Historic Cemeteries***

Parker Lord kicks off a season-long study of one of Lyme's major historical assets.

## **Saturday, May 10, 9 a.m.**

### ***Demonstration: Grassy Hill Cemetery***

Parker Lord and his team demonstrate techniques for preserving an old burying ground.

## **Thursday, June 12, 6 p.m.**

### ***Annual Meeting & Community Potluck Dinner***

Featuring Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, executive director of the Connecticut Gravestone Network with an Introduction to Old Burying Grounds

## **Saturday, June 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**

### ***Regional Workshop: Preserving Old Burying Grounds***

Ruth Shapleigh-Brown at the North Lyme Cemetery. Assessing an old burying ground, & demonstrations of basic care including low-tech conservation methods. Advance registration required. Contact Bill Denow: wdenow@comcast.net

## **Sunday, June 22, 2 p.m.**

### ***Talk: Lyme and the American Civil War : 1864***

Jim Beers discusses the Connecticut 18th Volunteer Regiment and its involvement in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia campaigns.

## **Thursday, July 3rd, Friday, July 4th, Saturday, July 5th**

### ***Exhibit: Stories in the Stones: Lyme's Ancient Burying Grounds***

What cemeteries tell us about our town, and its cultural landscape reflecting religious, social, economic, health and aesthetic trends.

## **Saturday, August 2, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

### ***Annual Tag & Bake Sale***

A bargain hunter's delight! Check website for drop off dates.

## **Sunday, September 21, 2 p.m.**

### ***Walk: A Geology Ramble in Lyme***

Learn how geology influenced Lyme's development with retired state geologist, Ralph Lewis. For directions, see [www.lymepublichall.org](http://www.lymepublichall.org)

## **Sunday, October 26, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

### ***RiverQuest Cruise: Geology of the CT River***

A late afternoon cruise with Ralph Lewis \$45. for non-members, \$40. for members. Wine and refreshments included. Call Leslie Lewis at 860-526-8886 to reserve a place on this trip.

## **Saturday, November 6, 5-7 p.m.**

### ***The Lyme Public Hall's Traditional Chowder Dinner***

Join us for this delicious Hall tradition, featuring homemade corn chowder, clam chowder, cole slaw, breads, and apple crisp. Charge.

All events are free unless indicated. For details about this year's events go to [lymepublichall.org](http://lymepublichall.org)

# Help Save Lyme's Historic Cemeteries

Have you ever thought about how important our historic cemeteries are? They not only function as final resting places; they are outdoor museums. Looking at the ancient headstones, you can appreciate them not only as mementos of past lives, but also as truly beautiful folk art.

Around the state, many of these old burying grounds have been lost due to lack of maintenance and the resulting decay. Lyme has done a pretty good job of mowing and maintaining the historic cemeteries, but there is only so much that can be done with the limited funds and manpower at the municipal level. To truly take care of these local treasures properly, it takes committed volunteers as well.

There are 26 cemeteries in town. Four are private associations (Cove, North Lyme, Pleasant Valley, and Ely), none of which have plots left. The town of Lyme is responsible for another 13, and nine are on private property. Out of the 13, the Eight Mile Cemetery on Mount Archer is the only active burial area in town. The town's Cemetery Commission is responsible for basic care.

In 2007 Selectman Parker Lord started a volunteer clean-up project in Selden (aka Cedar Hill) Cemetery off Joshuatown Road. Removing brush, overgrown trees, and other debris, the team cleaned the interior of the cemetery. In 2009, headstone restoration work was begun. Toppled and severely leaning stones were reset, and broken stones were repaired and then put back in place. All told, almost 25-30 were restored to their former glory. In 2013, the Joshuatown Cemetery was the main focus. About half a dozen stones were repaired at that location. This spring, a planned restoration project will begin at another ancient Lyme cemetery.

Moving forward, volunteers are needed who would serve as stewards for these areas. Similar to the Land Trust, the stewards walk the properties a few times a year to check for problems and to ensure that no damage, encroachment or vandalism is taking place. Many of you take a daily walk already - maybe you could work one of these lovely places into your routine and report on anything that needs to be addressed. In several neighborhoods, people have gotten together not only for stewardship, but also for some of

the general maintenance. These beautiful burial grounds add to the unique sense of place that we so value in Lyme. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Parker Lord at 860 526-1436 or [banningwood@juno.com](mailto:banningwood@juno.com).



*Humphrey Tyler and Bill Denow repairing a plot marker at Selden Cemetery*



## **LPHA programs this spring highlight Lyme's historic cemeteries.**

Look for talks by Parker Lord and Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, an on-site demonstration at Grassy Hill Cemetery, a regional workshop on conservation, and a special exhibit showing how cemeteries reveal Lyme history and broader cultural trends. See Upcoming Events in this issue.

The Lyme Local History Archives, a project of the Lyme Public Hall Association, has recently made Lyme cemetery records available online. Go to [www.lymepublichall.org](http://www.lymepublichall.org) and click on Archives.



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## Lyme Local History Archives

The Archives is now on the Internet at [lymepublichall.org](http://lymepublichall.org) with interesting history blogs, photos and indexes. The next important change is its relocation to dedicated space within the new Lyme Public Library, a wonderful setting for growth and service to the community. In 2013 fifty-three requests from individuals, organizations, the Town and media were responded to by the archivist. The geographic origin of the requests were: Lyme 25; other Connecticut towns 13; other states—Massachusetts to California 9; and Old Lyme 6. Genealogy and house histories remain popular. Historical documentation and photographs were contributed toward the Town Hall/former Baptist Church renovation, the Lyme Public Library's 100th anniversary observation, dam removal study for Ed Bill's Pond, and the Lyme Annual Financial Report.

Four Lyme history table-top exhibits were presented at the Lyme Public Library. The major exhibit at the Lyme Public Hall, *Lending Libraries of Lyme: 1790-1950*, was also a collaboration with the Library. Regional visibility for Lyme and the Archives was received with twelve historic Lyme photographs that were included in *Looking Back. A Photo Retrospective of New London County*, a 2013 publication of the *New London Day*.



*Teddy (Cecil) Kenyon (1905-1985) was a pioneer aviatrix and test pilot during World War II. She and her inventor husband Ted moved to Lyme in 1952.*



*Lt (jg) Charles W. Jewett USNR, Asiatic-Pacific Theater, 1943.*

One of the thirty accessions of 2013 is a scrapbook about the late Charles W. Jewett of Mt. Archer compiled by his wife, Molly. It contains materials about his youth, military service, legislative, legal and political careers, often in service to Lyme. Other accessions included records from Peck's Early Dawn Farm on Lord Hill, deeds for 19th century Hadlyme and Joshuatown properties, papers of former Town Clerk William Marvin and the Zebulon Warner family, and a collection of 19th century "cartes de visite" photos.

More than 1200 volunteer hours were provided by the volunteer archivist and assistants—Suzie Brown, Ann Brubaker, Sara Denow, Susan Fontanella, Carol Jones, Jerry Ehlen, Wendy Hill, Patty Kurlansky, Mary Paonessa and Roxie Walters, each in special ways. Grateful appreciation is extended to them and the Lyme Public Hall Board.

*Archives Hours: Tuesdays 10-noon*  
For appointments, donations or volunteering,  
contact Carolyn Bacdayan  
[info@lymepublichall.org](mailto:info@lymepublichall.org)  
(860) 434-9292



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

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*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.*

**POSTAL  
 PATRON**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Leslie Lewis, *President*  
 Bill Denow, *Vice-president*  
 Bethany Clark, *Secretary*  
 Jerry Ehlen, *Treasurer*

Barbara Carlson	Lisa McCarthy
Morgan Ely	Doris Rand
George House	Kathy Tisdale

## Volunteering at the Lyme Public Hall

Here are a few opportunities to support the mission of the Hall that you might consider:

- Archives:** Transcribe a letter or document so that someone 50 years from now can enjoy reading it.
- Events:** Help with our annual fundraisers—the Tag and Bake Sale in August and our Chowder Dinner in November.
- Exhibits:** Using Archives materials, develop a table-top display or assist with the annual July exhibit in the Lyme Public Hall.
- Grounds:** Prune and maintain the landscape plantings/ gardens in the front of the Hall.
- Hospitality:** Bake some goodies for the Bake Sale in August or the Chowder Dinner in November.
- Newsletter:** Write for or edit our annual newsletter to the community.
- Website:** Keep the LPHA website updated.

For more information or to get started as a volunteer, come to our Open House on May 4 (see Programs insert) or contact Leslie Lewis at llewis81051@gmail.com

Special thanks to the following for supporting the Lyme Public Hall through grants or donations of goods, and services:

- Ashlawn Farm Coffee
- Coffee's Country Market
- Essex Savings Bank
- Lyme Garden Club
- Two Sisters Design
- Brett Enman
- Joy Hanes

And thanks to everyone who donated baked goods and volunteered time to LPH functions in 2013.

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