



WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Navigating the unpredictability of 2021 has been a challenging exercise. The gradual reopening and return to near normal life presented the Historical Society with a more complex set of options than the previous year, requiring quick judgement calls to gauge the ever changing Covid -19 situation. Fortunately, the Historical Society has continued to embrace creative and meaningful ways to fulfill its mission during the ongoing pandemic. Most importantly, our organization has been sustained and inspired by the generosity and kindness of our community.

The Board of Directors welcomed new member Steve Fletcher. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of outgoing board members Emily Hoeffel and Sean Leach.

The year was eased by the ongoing support of our members, the enthusiasm of our volunteers, dedication of committee members and the care shown by many individuals for the health and well-being of this organization.

Special thanks to our many volunteers and committee members:

Artisan Fair Committee (Katrina Strozik, Chair)

Collections Committee (Yvonne Barr, Chair)

Development Committee ('Buzzy' Baron, Chair)

Facilities Committee Yvonne Barr, Chair)

Finance Committee (Cindy Brown, Chair)

Handy House Heritage Trail Committee (Libby Baylies, Chair)

Leadership Committee (Breck Arzen, Chair)

Research Committee (Jenny O'Neill, Chair)

Handy House docents

"Buildings are much more than bricks and sticks, paint and putty. They are containers of memories; evocative spaces that allow us to remember the past and dream of the future. The Bell School is one such place, a living reminder of that which once was, and also that which might be. Now is our time to write a new chapter in the history of this building, this village, and our town. What that might be only time will tell, but we have no choice but to march forward." (Remarks by Al Lees)

Thank you!



THE BELL SCHOOL

In January the Westport Historical Society marked the completion of the restoration of the bell, tower, and roof at the historic Bell School House with a bell ringing ceremony. The restored bell rang nineteen times, once for each of Westport’s historic one-room schools, reviving a sound that had not been heard at the Head of Westport for many years.

The Westport Historical Society gratefully recognizes the generous support provided by a Community Preservation Act grant for the restoration of the tower and roof, and the restoration of the bell made possible by a gift in loving memory of Elizabeth Brownell (Petty) Grundy by her grandson Albert E. Lees, III, President, Westport Historical Society.

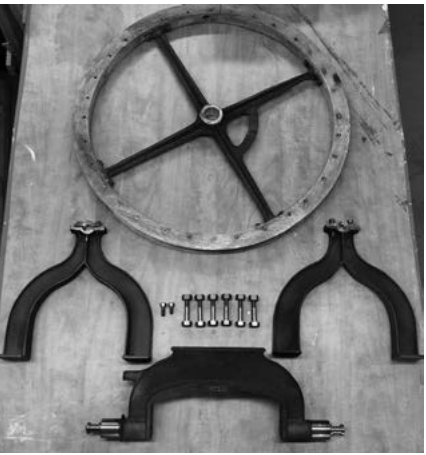
Rehabilitation efforts are ongoing. Repair of the foundation is slated to commence this winter.

HANDY HOUSE

This summer the Westport Historical Society augmented ongoing interpretation of the Handy House with two new visitor experiences. “Eleanor’s Tour” offers a fascinating and touching glimpse of Eleanor Tripp’s experience as owner of the historic Handy House. This outdoor audio experience enables visitors to listen to Eleanor Tripp’s personal recollections of restoring the Handy House. These short recordings, dating from 1976, can be accessed via QR codes using a smartphone.

As part of an ongoing effort to broaden awareness of Paul Cuffe, a new exhibition presented vividly depicted paintings of scenes from Cuffe’s life. Although there are many written documents relating to Paul Cuffe, there are few contemporary images to help us envision his life. Created by Ray Shaw, a Westport resident and graphic artist, these watercolor sketches portray Cuffe’s early life on Cuttyhunk, his shipbuilding activities and his ship, The Traveller.

Local craftspeople returned to the Handy House for our Artisan Fair and Vintage Market. This year’s fair also attracted extremely enthusiastic crowds, eager for in-person connections and interactions.



Listen to the bell ring!



HANDY HOUSE HERITAGE TRAIL

As part of a continued effort to interpret the history of Westport’s forests and landscape, the Westport Historical Society, with the help of two voice-over artists, Greg Morton and Dori Rubbicco, has given voice to some special trees along the Handy House Heritage Trail. A new audio experience “Tree Talk” enables visitors to the trail to listen as each tree tells its own story about how they were utilized by early settlers and by Native Americans. Visitors will meet the magnificent white oak, the tough black gum, the majestic white pine, the medicinal sassafras, and the lustrous birch. Their stories interconnect with themes of shipbuilding, medicine and food, heating, and tools for daily life.

A second mobile tour designed for use on a smartphone provides visitors with their personal guide along the Handy House Heritage Trail. The tour focuses on the theme of archaeology. Visitors can walk the Handy House Heritage Trail in the virtual company of Holly Herbster, a professional archaeologist who has worked in southern New England for more than 30 years. As visitors walk along the trail, she will guide them through the more than 10,000-year human history of Westport. From the era of woolly mammoths to the current future advances in archaeological techniques, her tour enables visitors to see the landscape from a new perspective.

The trail remained a busy destination throughout the year, as families enjoyed our Thanksgiving and Spring StoryWalks and the highly popular Halloween Trail.

WESTPORT GRAVESTONE CLEANING AND RESTORATION GROUP

During the spring, summer, and autumn months, the team worked in eleven different burial grounds, cleaning close to 1,000 gravestones. All of the stones at the Westport Point Cemetery, Friends Central, Friends North, Gifford-Richmond-Mosher, Brownell-Handy, Tillinghast Tripp, Silas Kirby, and Rufus Wordell burial grounds and others have now been cleaned by our team of volunteers. In addition, approximately 200 stones were cleaned at Beech Grove in the oldest sections and over 350 stones at Linden Grove Cemetery. This work has been done with private funding including the support of Ted Kinnari, owner of D/2 Biological Solutions, who continues to donate his product. D/2 is used to clean headstones in cemeteries across the country and is recognized as the leading product of its type. Plans for cleaning in 2022 include completion of all the gravestone work at Linden Grove,





continuing to clean the oldest sections at Beech Grove and beginning of work at Maple Grove. Smaller, private cemeteries will be added to the cleaning schedule based on interest and permission from the property owners. Expenses for this work have been met by grants from BayCoast Bank and CVS.

Town Meeting awarded \$55,000 in CPA funding for gravestone restoration in town-owned cemeteries: Linden Grove, Maple Grove and Beech Grove. With this funding, in July and August, a group of volunteers underwent four full days of gravestone restoration training with Jonathan Appell of Atlas Preservation, Inc., one of the nation's leading gravestone restoration and conservation experts. Specialized equipment was purchased. Currently, our team has four volunteers who are fully trained to assess and complete restorations and several others who are skilled in various aspects of the process. Other volunteers assist them. To date, approximately 206 stone restorations have been completed of various types. Restorations will continue through the autumn until consistent temperatures below 45 degrees are realized. Work at Westport Point will be completed in the spring of 2022.

More volunteers are needed and welcomed. See the Westport Historical Society website and the Facebook Westport Gravestone Cleaning and Restoration Group for more information about the work.

(report submitted by Todd Baptista and Betty Slade)



WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

Even though we were unable to hold our House Tour fundraiser this year, the Historical Society's balance sheet is healthy as a result of a successful membership drive and a generous response to the annual appeal. A major gift by Sharon Connors given in memory of Tony Connors forms a founding gift for a future project to rehabilitate the Bell School. Significant support was gratefully received from the Rathmann Family Foundation for general operating support, The Island Foundation to support the Native American interpretation on the Handy House Heritage Trail, the David and Charlene Howe Foundation, BayCoast Bank, and Westport Cultural Council. Long-term assets such as the Sylvan Endowment and board designated endowment have continued to perform well.

BETTY F. SLADE SCHOLARSHIP

The Betty F. Slade Scholarship was awarded to Westport High School senior Isabella Glennon. This scholarship was established in honor of Betty F. Slade whose research and preservation activities have greatly benefited the town of Westport.

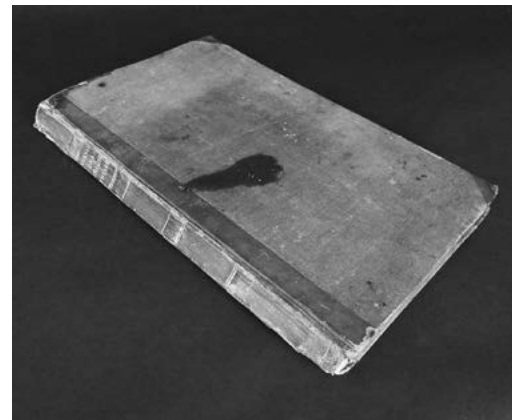
ANNUAL HISTORY AWARD

The annual history award was given to Russ Hart. At the age of 93, Russ Hart is one of Westport's most senior local historians, whose experiences as selectman, highway surveyor, and fisherman contribute to a wealth of personal knowledge about Westport's past. The Westport Historical Society honors his contributions to our understanding of Westport past.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Head of Westport provides a unique physical space in which to explore history. Building on opportunities offered by smartphone technology, a new app -- "Westport History Tours" -- enables smartphone users to explore the architectural, social, cultural, and industrial past of the Head of Westport. The tour offers context for some commonly asked questions: Where did shipbuilding take place? How were ships launched? Who lived at the Head? What's the story of the iconic stone house? Special features of the tour include a GPS enabled map with more than 20 tour stops, narrated by Greg Morton and a curated selection of historical images, allowing users to compare "then" images with the present day.

Public programs continued to be presented via Zoom covering topics such as the history of Gooseberry, cemeteries, North Westport and the life of a Westport Farmer.



COLLECTIONS

Our collection currently includes 7,000 photographs, 2,000 objects, 5,000 documents, and 400 books.

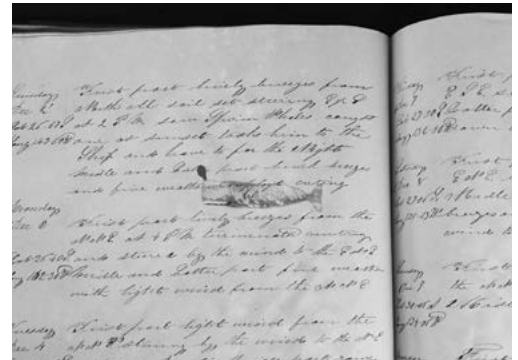
The Historical Society acquired the following items by purchase:

- Logbook of the whaling ship Harbinger on a whaling voyage to the Pacific Ocean, kept by Francis Fisher, Master, 1848 – 1851.
- A Chippendale desk with a history in the Cory family, exceptional and unique, dating from the 1780s.

Donations included:

- Logbook of the whaling ship Mexico (donated by Albert Lees)
- An extensive collection associated with the Preston/Hall family of Westport Point (donated by Elizabeth Preston)
- Diaries chronicling daily life at Westport Harbor kept by Lena Meader (donated by Janet Turner)

A collection of more than 150 videos has been preserved and made accessible on our website with funding from a Community Preservation Act grant. This effort was spearheaded by Betty Slade. Rick Tabit processed the videos. Videos can be viewed at: <https://wpthistory.org/video>.



BALANCE SHEET

September 30, 2021

Current Assets

Cash	\$73,000*
Accounts receivable	\$1,700
Other current assets	\$1,279
Sylvan Endowment	\$116,721
Board designated endowment	\$720,965
Handy House restricted funds	\$271,396

Total Assets **\$1,185,061**

Liabilities

Total current liabilities	\$16,043
Total equity	\$1,169,018

Total liabilities and assets **\$1,185,061**

(Please note that our fiscal year is Oct 1 to Sep 30)

*includes an emergency reserve fund

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

(Operating expenses only, excludes special projects at the Handy House and Bell School)

October 1 2020– Sep 30 2021

Revenue and support

Direct Public Support	\$90,187
Grant Revenue	\$21,700
Investment transfers	\$27,792
Sales of merchandise	\$7,205
In-kind goods and services	\$5,591
Other	\$10,079

Total Revenue and support **\$162,554**

Expenses

Fundraising	\$8,814
Contract Services	\$13,969
Facilities	\$555
Utilities	\$8,653
Operations	\$9,440
Program	\$3,276
Other	\$29,829
Payroll	\$66,846
Total Expenses	\$141,382

Thank you!

DONATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN OCTOBER 1 2020 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions by many individuals at all levels. Given space limitations, we are unable to list all donors in this publication. This list includes contributors of \$100 and above.



\$100 – 499

Milton and Marilyn Adams
Kristi and Lucien Agniel
Carol and Paul Aguiar
Jon and Suzanne Alden
Nathaniel Allen
Joel and Lisa Alvord
Charles and Pat Appleton
Buzzy and Dianne Baron
Yvonne Barr
Lin Beck and William Pardee
Stefanie Blomquist
Caroline Bolter
Ruth and David Bourns
Stephen and Maura Bracken
Barbara Brewer
Cindy Brown
Gioia Browne
Nils Bruzelius and Lynne Weil
Norm & Irene Buck
Jeff Bull and Marilyn Packard-Luther
John and Laurie Bullard
Sarah Bullard
Susan Bush
Edward and Peggy Champion
Charles and Pamela Carey
Barbara Chadwick
David Chase
Nicholas and Meg Christ
Philip and Adriana Christianson
Nicole Cloutier Plante
David Cole and Betty Slade
James and Carol Constantine
John and Christine Conway
Harold and Geraldine Cooper
Michael and Carol Corbett
Bess Coughlin
James Coyne Jr.
James and Edwina Cronin
Michael and Marian Cronin
Nancy Crosby
Carl Cruz

John Dean & Nancy Weinstein
Charles Deknatel
Jack and Bette DeVeue
James and Wendy Dorsey
Henry and Deborah Drinker
James and Barbara Faria
Barbara Faria
Elizabeth Farley
Eileen and Bradford Faxon
Ross and Suzanne Forbes
David Forney and Elizabeth Cox
Steven and Lyn Fors
Marc Fournier
Gay Gillespie
Sarah Godfrey
Peter & Tracy Greenwood
Michael Habib
Penny Hadfield
Janet Hadley
Gerald Hall
Russell and Jean Hart
Wendy Henderson
Hope Hickok
Anne Higgins
Emily Hoeffel
Anne Hopkins
Joel Howe
Sandra Hutton
Barbara Kaplan
Keith Kauppila
Lynn Keith
Judy Keller
Thomas and Suzanne Kendig
Ronald Knapp
Max Kohlenberg and Rebecca Minard
Robert and Naoko Kugler
Tim Lamarre
Patricia Lawrence
Sean and Valerie Leach
Claude Ledoux
Florence Lees
Lucy Ann Lepreau

Vicki LeValley & Donna Lubell
Diana Levy
Marcia Ligin
Steven Lubar and Lisa Thierle
Roger and Nancy MacKay
Nancy Mailhot
JoAnne Makely
Sam and Julie Manley
Maury May
Richard and Margaret McNally
Mark Medeiros
Charlotte Metcalf
Tony Millham
Richard and Nancy Mobley
Robert and Susan Montgomery
Leslia Morrison
Ernest Patrikis
Richard and Patricia Paul
Susanne and Richard Peck
Celeste Penney
Rosemary Pereira
Robert Pozzo
John and Camilla Raposa
Dennis and Ruth Rog
James and Sharon Rosenfeld
Robert and Carol Russell
Tanja Ryden
Kathy Santos
Paul and Tina Schmid
Tom and Kate Schmitt
Norma Sears
Ray and Susan Shaw
Eileen & Kevin Shea
George Sherman
Elizabeth Shorrock
Kenneth and Marilyn Simon
Paul and Elizabeth Sittenfeld
Martha Slaughter
Barbara Smith
D. Alan Smith
Terry Somerson
Lois Spirlet

Louisa Spottswood Coughlin
 Greg and Brenda Stone
 Katrina Strozik
 Garrett Stuck and Pamela Coravos
 Quentin and Sacha Sullivan
 Michael and Martha Sullivan
 Jerry and Liz Sundheimer
 Henry and Judy Swan
 David Swift and Carolyn Duby
 Mark & Constance Thompson
 Constance Thompson
 Joan Thompson
 Ted Titcomb
 Dawn Tripp
 Pamela Trippe
 William and Charlotte Underwood Jr.
 Henry and Janet Vaillant
 Douglas and Madeleine Vrona
 Elizabeth Wade
 Russell and Pam Walters
 Sandra Watson
 Bonnie and Bob Wax
 Dale Weber
 Bob and Joyce Weiss
 Eileen Wheeler Sheehan
 Carroll and Kate Williamson
 Anne Connors Winner
 Lynne Yost

\$500 – 999

Richard Armstrong
 Breck Arnzen and Lani Peterson
 Robert and Sue Daylor
 Eleanor Hall
 Barbara Hanley
 Jamen Howe
 Janet Jones
 Mary Ellen Kennedy
 Jane Loos
 Trip and Dora Millikin
 Hugh and Diana Morton
 Joop and Ria Nagtegaal
 Mary Ries
 Martha Sears and Gary Baker
 Anne Snyder
 David Tobias
 Jack and Kristin Wilkinson

\$1000 – 4999

Peter and Rosanne Aresty
 Nick Burns and Libby Baylies
 Peter and Alison Fenn
 Kristin Fennelly
 Charles and Linda Findlay
 Steve Fletcher



David Jones
 Martin and Judith Kelly
 Theodore Kinnari
 John and Carol Moriarty
 Paul Pannoni
 Daisy Paradis
 Melissa Pelletier
 Dick and Eleanor Phillips
 Jim Rathmann and Anne Noonan
 Tom and Barbara Slight
 Steven Syre and Laura Raposa
 Keith and Susan Watson
 Elizabeth White

\$5000 and above

Albert and Cindy Lees
 Neil van Sloun
 Sharon Connors

Foundations and grants

CVS Health Foundation
 Helen E. Ellis Charitable Trust
 Howard Bayne Fund
 IBM International Foundation
 The Charlene and David Howe Foundation
 The Island Foundation
 Rathmann Family Foundation
 Community Preservation Act grant /
 Town of Westport
 Massachusetts Cultural Council
 Westport Cultural Council

Businesses

BayCoast Bank
 Partners Store
 Lees Market
 Country Woolens
 D2 Biological Solution
 Jack's Landscapen'
 Tim's Lawncare
 Westport Sea Farms



DONATIONS IN HONOR

In honor of David Cole & Betty Slade
 Gay Gillespie

In honor of Barney & Amanda Freelove
 Stefanie Blomquist

In honor of Ed Howe
 David and Charlene Howe Foundation

In honor of Rick Martori
 Brenda and David Massa

In honor of Jenny O'Neill
 Rosemary Pereira

In honor of Betty Slade
 Janet and Henry Vaillant

In honor of Ted & Billie Tabor
 Marcia Drumright

In honor of Poo White
 Sarah Godfrey

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of William H. Barker
 Tim Lamarre

In Memory of Barry Beaulieu
 Marguerite and John Perry

In memory of Arthur Chandonette
 Andrea Tremblay
In Memory of Lorraine Greenwell Cole
 Gerald and Norma Hall

In memory of Tony Connors
 Kristi and Lucien Agniel
 Sharon Connors



Neil Van Sloun
Carol Bonnar
Susanne and Richard Peck
Dawn Tripp
Mary Ries
Vicki LeValley

**In Memory of Janet Coyne and Stacy
Coyne Leger**
James and Derek Coyne

In Memory of John Faria
Barbara Faria

**In Memory of Elizabeth Brownell
(Petty) Grundy**
Al Lees III

In Memory of Al Hadfield
Penny Hadfield
In Memory of Hartley Howe
Merlin Camozzi

In Memory of Norma Judson
Eleanor Hall

In Memory of Sidney Kaplan
Barbara Kaplan

In Memory of Al Lees Jr.
Barbara Hanley

In Memory of Peter Lenrow
Westport Art Group

In Memory of Rick Martori
Kathleen Wildanger

In Memory of Tom Moran
Karla Moran



**Donations in memory of Geraldine
Millham**
Charley and Pat Appleton
Carl Cruz
Tony Millham
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Montgomery
The Charlene and David Howe
Foundation
Constance Thompson

In Memory of William Morrison
Leslia Morrison

In Memory of Russell Nauta
Steven Syre and Laura Raposa

**In Memory of Hannah Gertrude
Palmer**
David and Melissa Bellavance

In Memory of John & Gladys Potter
Jonathan and Robin Potter Jr.

In Memory of Agnes Potter
Leonard and Mary Potter

In Memory of Kathy Preston
Inge Van Pelt

**In Memory of Donald and Marilyn
Rounds**
Dawn Houlker

In Memory of Alex and Edale Smith
George and Susan Smith

In Memory of Elvira Smith
Alice and Robert Huff

In Memory of Kendrick Snyder
Larry and Ellie Rink

In Memory of Irene Soloway
Jerome and Constance Dyer

In Memory of Richard Spirlet
Tom Flynn

In Memory of David W. Tripp
Judy Tripp

**In Memory of Jabez, Jonathan,
Ebenezer, Joseph and John Tripp**
Janet Andrews

In Memory of Lorman Trueblood
Ernest Patrikis

In Memory of Dixie Lee Vrona
Douglas and Madeleine Vrona

**Family resting at Maple Grove
Cemetery in Westport, be at peace**
George Sherman

In Memory of Gurdon B. Wattles
Howard Bayne Fund

In Memory of Patricia Weeks
Richard Weeks

In memory of Frances White
Cynthia Cabral