

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE NEW BEDFORD WHALING MUSEUM

HARBINGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY www.wpthistory.org

PO BOX N188, WESTPORT, MA 02790-1203, WESTPORTHISTORY@WESTPORTHISTORY.NET

Winter 2022

ANNUAL APPEAL

Dear Friends:

Our heartfelt thanks to those of you who have already donated!

Shakespeare had it right. "Sweet are the uses of adversity." We continue to respond to the unpredictable path of the pandemic with successful and creative solutions to further our mission.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has cut into some of the sources of income that we have relied upon in the past to support our operating expenses such as the Annual House Tour. This makes your contributions to the Annual Appeal more important to us than ever. Happily, with the easing of Covid -19 restrictions, we have once again been delighted by the sound of chattering families along the Handy House Halloween Trail, felt overwhelmed by the enthusiastic crowd at our Handy House Artisan Fair, and found ourselves surprised to be able to re-open the Handy House with new experiences and exhibitions for our visitors. We have been inspired by the tireless enthusiasm of the gravestone cleaning and restoration group.

Also, we are now in the process of planning positive and necessary changes for the Bell School! During the coming months, WHS staff and office will be located at the Westport Town Farm, 830 Drift Road to allow for repairs to the Bell School foundation. An exciting vision for the future of the Bell School is taking shape. We look forward to sharing our ideas with you soon!

Finally, in the short term, with your support, we look forward to offering some winter activities -- virtual and outdoor (see enclosed schedule).

As the world around us continues to change so rapidly, our mission of public engagement, preservation of local history, and education grows ever more relevant. Our organization can help illuminate issues of today as well as provide an anchor for community cohesion. We ask for your support once again for our annual appeal which will power the coming year's activities.

If you are a previous donor --Thank You! Would you consider a move to a higher gift level via a recurring monthly donation? You can donate securely in memory of/in honor of an individual and set up recurring monthly donations using a credit card via our website. If you are a new donor, please understand that your participation is critical to our success. Whatever level you choose, you have our heartfelt thanks for the support.

Thank you!



Don't forget to save your Lees Market receipts and bring them to the Westport Historical Society. Lees Market generously donates **1%** of the total receipt value.

You can drop them off at the Bell School or bring them to a historical society program.



THE WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The mission of the Westport Historical Society is to engage the public in the exploration of the town's rich history and culture, to inspire a spirit of discovery through educational programs and encourage active participation in the preservation and interpretation of our past.

The Society collects and shares this history. Its goal is to foster the imaginative process of connecting to the past, making it relevant to our present and vital to the future of our community.

25 Drift Road, PO Box N188,
 Westport MA 02790
www.wpthistory.org
www.PaulCuffe.org
 508 636 6011
westporthistory@westporthistory.net

Find us on Facebook



All programs will be presented via Zoom. To participate, please pre-register at www.wpthistory.org FREE!

A WESTPORT FARMER GOES WHALING

2 PM Saturday January 15, 2022

(presented via Zoom)

Join us for a conversation about the adventures of Frederick Allen during his whaling voyage.

Westport farmer Frederick Allen (1819-1874) shipped out on the brig "Mexico" from Westport Point on April 21, 1837 sailing to the Bahamas, the Azores, the Canaries, and to the Caribbean. The voyage lasted one year and 11 days. His journal chronicles the voyage in detail and provides us with a fascinating insight into his experience. This conversation will include whaling historian Judy Lund, antiquarian Richard Donnelly, maritime historian Michael Dyer, and local historian Maury May.

You can read Frederick Allen's journal at <https://wpthistory.org/explore-2/journal-of-frederick-allen/>





A HISTORY OF LEES MARKET PRESENTED BY AL LEES III

2 PM Saturday February 19, 2022

(presented via Zoom)

For 70 or so years, Lees Market has carved out a unique place within the town of Westport and surrounding communities. Part grocery store, liquor store, employer to thousands, and unofficial “town center” (among other things), this fixture in our community has a story to tell ... a story that is worth telling. For the story of Lees Market is really a reflection of our town and its changes over more than seven decades.

Join us to hear Al Lees, former owner of the market and current WHS President, speak about the evolution of an 800 square foot general merchandise store to an over 50,000 square foot building that contains not only food and adult beverages but more importantly memories for so many of us for so many years.

MINING CLIMATE CLUES FROM OUR WHALING PAST PRESENTED BY PROFESSOR TIM WALKER AND DR. CAROLINE UMMENHOFER

2 PM Saturday March 19, 2022

(presented via Zoom)

Climate scientist Dr. Caroline Ummenhofer and Professor Tim Walker discuss how whaling logbooks are providing weather data to document climate change and predict future changes.

Captains and first mates of whaling ships kept a daily log of events including detailed records of wind speed and direction, sea conditions, and temperature. Moreover, whaling voyages covered vast areas of the ocean and provide data for remote locations. Ummenhofer and Walker have embarked upon a project to convert weather data into digital format, forming a team of oceanographers, climatologists, and historians to gain a better understanding of climate variability.

ASK A LOCAL HISTORIAN

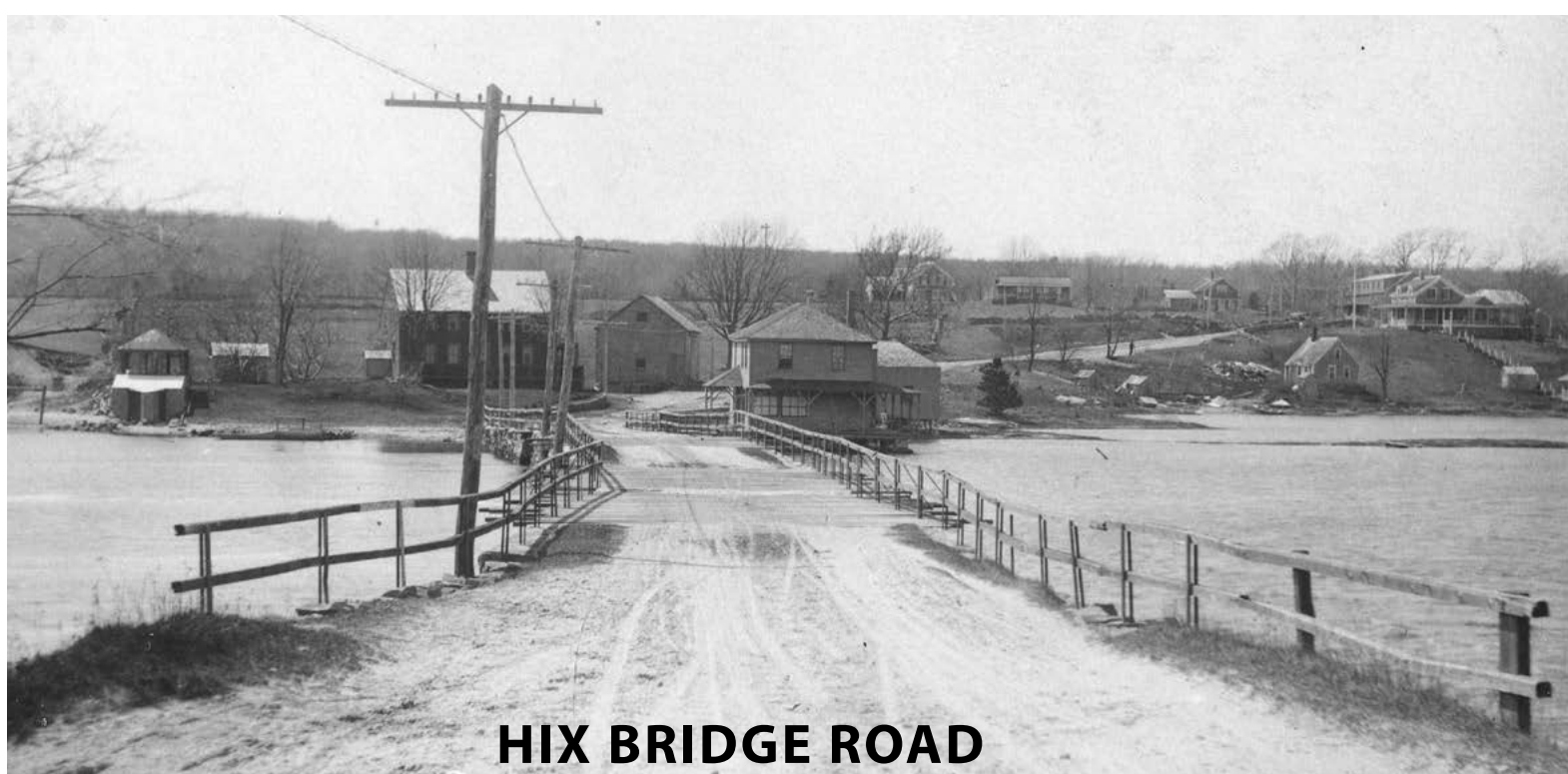
(Date TBD)

Do you need assistance with research or do you have a general question about Westport’s history? Ask our group of local historians about any topic relating to the history of Westport. How best to research the history of your house, how to access resources, what are some of the best sources of information for local genealogy? Our local history experts will do their best to assist you! You can submit your question in advance by email to: westporthistory@westporthistory.net or join the webinar to ask a question.



Keep up-to-date with the gravestone cleaning activities:

Join the Facebook group: “Westport Gravestone Cleaning and Restoration Group” or join their email list by sending a request to: westporthistory@westporthistory.net



HIX BRIDGE ROAD

By Richard Gifford



The Dartmouth highway records from the early 1700s note the existence of a ferry in the area where the bridge now stands, but do not mention who operated the ferry. By tradition, George Cadman operated the ferry before Mary Hix took it over ca1710. The highway records do state that a suitable crossing point across the East Branch had been searched for, and the location chosen was found to be the best. The highway records noted that “Earle’s stockyard” was on the east side, and the highway proceeded eastward from that point past the homesteads of Valentine Huddleston (north side of Hix bridge Road in the area of the Boan farm) and Samuel Cornell (the Westport Vineyards area).

The ferry operation, which included land, buildings and wharves, was sold by Mary Hix to her son William in 1736. Bristol County Deeds (NB) v. 4 p. 95, where the area is referred to as “Hixes’ Ferry.” By tradition, William Hix erected the first bridge in the 1740s and owned it until his death, when it was inherited by his sons Joseph and Durfee, and daughter Sarah. In 1774 Robert Crossman, whose interest in the bridge property was received through his deceased wife Sarah (Hix) Crossman, sold his interest to Joseph Gifford. BCD v. 8 p. 566. A house and other buildings are mentioned in this deed.

The bridge property was sold for \$3800 in 1804 to William Ross and John Avery Parker, both New Bedford merchants, in three parcels totaling 80 acres. The largest parcel was located on both sides of Drift Road, with the river on the east and Hix bridge Road to the north, this parcel including a house, the bridge, and on adjoining land owned by the town a barn and sheds. A second 0.75-acre parcel on the west side was located on the north side of Hix Bridge Road. A third parcel of 6 acres was located on the east side of the river.

One of the most enduring --- and misleading --- anecdotes of Westport history is how John Avery Parker was “warned out” by the Town of Westport, whose selectmen anticipated that he would end up bankrupt and a ward of the town. Parker was so outraged by being warned out that he immediately shook the dust from his feet and left Westport, vowing never to return, and settled in New Bedford, where through whaling, real estate and banking he became New Bedford’s first millionaire.

In truth, Parker was warned out not because he was considered a potential financial liability, but because he was an outsider. Warning out was a process established by statute, and was common in all Massachusetts towns. If a new resident was not warned out within 6 months of arrival, the town would be liable for all “welfare” expenses for that person in the event they became indigent. In reality the statute made no difference to the indigent



recipient, he was going to get benefits either way, and was never escorted out of town by a sheriff, but the process of warning out allowed the town to claim that the town of origin (for Parker, Rochester) was financially responsible and Westport had a right to reimbursement for all amounts expended. A remarkably large percentage of the business of selectmen in those days consisted of bringing such claims, and refuting the claims of other towns where Westporters had moved to and become indigent.

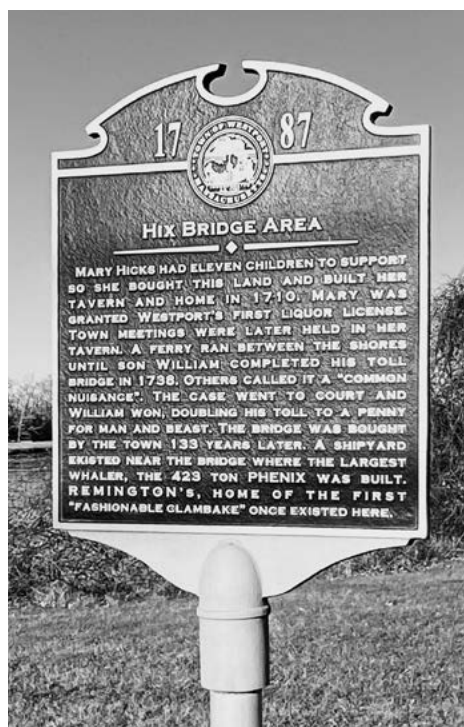
Parker resided in Westport by 1793, living where the Stone House now is at the Head, and did not move to New Bedford until a decade later, and continued to own properties in Westport for yet another decade after that, so if he was offended by being warned out his reaction was delayed. Parker was a noted raconteur, and like many wealthy people his favorite story was his own rags to riches tale. His being warned out formed a critical part of his schtick. One can imagine the Parker of later years, entertaining guests after dinner over cigars and brandy at his Greek Temple mansion on County Street, gesturing to the surrounding chandeliers, paintings, and fine furniture, saying "Look around you, gentlemen --- does it look like I ended up in the Poor House?"

During the Parker years of ownership Ross was dropped as a partner, replaced by Parker's brother-in-law Levi Standish, who the deeds indicate was living in Westport at the time and having the occupation of merchant, perhaps operating the general store west of the bridge. The store/toll house/post office/ house is still in existence at 249 Hix bridge Road, dated to 1710 (although much altered) and attributed to Mary Hix in the MACRIS listing. Compared to his New Bedford real estate ventures, Hix bridge did not work out well for Parker, as after a decade of ownership he sold the property to Dr. James H. Handy for \$4050, for a capital gain of less than 10% in 10 years.

Dr. Handy, according to another Westport legend, never sent his patients a single bill --- and never paid a single bill sent to him. His account books seem to belie the first part of this assertion, but the second part seems largely confirmed by land and probate records. At the time of purchase, the Hix bridge property consisted of some 62 acres, with 6 acres on the east side of the river and the remainder on the west side. It would be 15 years before Dr. Handy would bother to record his deed in the Registry, and to judge from the land records Dr. Handy remained the sole owner of the Hix bridge property until the end of his life.



John Avery Parker



The truth about the ownership of Hix Bridge did not become apparent until after Dr. Handy's death. The Town of Westport decided to take the bridge by eminent domain in order to remove the toll, and a condemnation proceeding established a value of \$1800, which was paid into escrow. Dr. Handy's estate claimed the money, but a new claimant arose --- Frederick Brownell (1787-1873), who had operated the store and been the bridge keeper for over half a century. In order to support his claim, Frederick Brownell testified in a deposition that was placed in the land records in 1871.

According to Brownell, then 82 years old with a paralyzed right arm, he reached an agreement with Dr. Handy prior to his purchase of the bridge. Brownell and Handy were first cousins, as Dr. Handy's mother was the sister of Frederick's father. Brownell paid Handy \$1400 immediately, and agreed to pay an additional \$700 over time. In exchange, Dr. Handy would provide a deed to Brownell conveying the bridge itself, the 6 acres on the east side of the bridge, and the 6 acres east of Drift Road on the west side of the bridge, including the toll house/store and a nearby barn and storage sheds located on town-owned land. Dr. Handy was to retain approximately 50 acres located on the west side of Drift Road, across Hix bridge Road from his house.

It was anticipated that Dr. Handy would "get his pay by taking it out of the store" until the \$700 remaining due was paid. Dr. Handy rang up large bills at the store, and incurred other expenses paid by Brownell over the remainder of his life totaling \$3,648. The other expenses including paying real estate taxes on the whole parcel (Brownell was town treasurer and tax collector for much of this period), letting Dr. Handy cross the bridge toll-free, and paying Dr. Handy's postage for newspapers and mail while Brownell was postmaster. (In those days, postage was not prepaid with stamps --- the recipient paid postage at the post office when he picked up his mail). Brownell testified:

Q. What was Dr. Handy's habit about settling up unfinished business?

A. Very slow.

Q. [asked whether he requested Dr. Handy deliver a deed]

A. I asked him quite often, until I got tired of it, and he used to say "Oh the devil, that will do [i.e. get done?] any time."

Q. [asked if he was friends with Dr. Handy]

A. We were good friends --- too good.

Hix bridge was not the only financial imbroglio Dr. Handy was involved in.

Read more about Dr. Handy's dealings at: <https://wpthistory.org/2021/11/hix-bridge-road-by-richard-gifford/>



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.

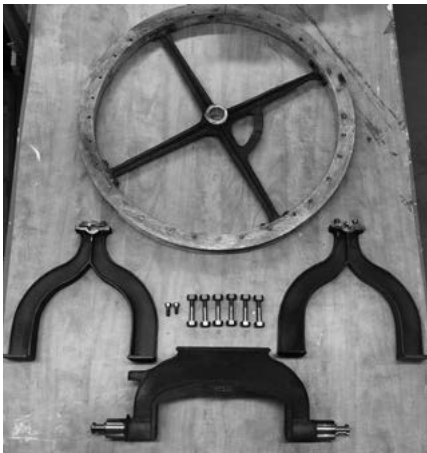
Rehabilitation efforts are ongoing. Repair of the foundation is slated to commence this winter.

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.

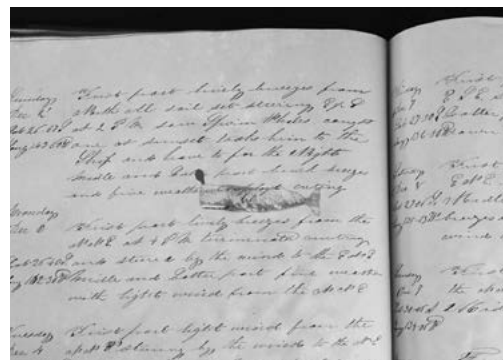
The Historical Society acquired the following items by purchase:

- 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

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CVS Health Foundation
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 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
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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

WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
25 DRIFT ROAD, PO BOX N188, WESTPORT, MA 02790

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WESTPORT HISTORY TOURS

Head of Westport Walking Tour

Our new mobile app offers a walking tour of the Head of Westport “where the past meets the present!”

Explore the early beginnings of this historic village – water power, shipbuilding, commerce!

Discover the special architecture of the houses!

Compare “then and now” photos of the Head as you walk! The tour features narration by Greg Morton and a fascinating array of historic photos from the collection of the Westport Historical Society. Visit our website to download the app. FREE.

Handy House Heritage Trail

Open year round dawn to dusk.

The trail provides a link to multiple themes of local heritage from the presence of Wampanoags to the changing nature of the forest, and the impact of settlement on the land. Take a smartphone tour with archaeologist Holly Herbster or Talk to the Trees!

Explore Westport’s history @ our Website

Share memories and knowledge @ our Facebook page

Connect with our collections @ our collections database

You can read more about the history of Westport’s roads at:
www.wpthistory.org/2021/06/on-the-road-tracing-the-history-local-lore-and-controversies-of-westports-highways-ancient-ways-streets-and-corners/

What’s new on our website?

- Highway Records 1705 – 1786 by Richard Gifford
 - We share a recent discovery of letters written by George F. Sisson during his service as a private in the 3rd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment.
 - An encounter with three runaway slaves near Hix Bridge by Jenny O’Neill
 - Westport’s Poetic History by Jenny O’Neill
 - John Stevens of Annibon Island and Westport by Betty Slade
- If you missed a lecture, you can view recordings at: www.wpthistory.org/westport-historical-society-programs/



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