

WESTBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE




Saccarappa Cemetery

Located on a hill off Church Street, the Saccarappa Cemetery is a historic burial ground in Westbrook dating back to the early 18th century. It is more than just a resting place for early settlers and pioneers; it is a reminder of Westbrook's rich heritage and the many individuals who played a role in shaping it. The families of Babb, Conant, Brackett, Haskell, Knight, and Quinby are buried there to name a few. Sadly, vandalism has taken its toll on many of the monuments. Put on a comfortable pair of sneakers and take a walk into the past with a friend or loved one.

WM. P. HODSDON,
UNDERTAKER,
ALWAYS HAS FULL LINE OF

GASKETS,
COFFINS,
ROBES.




EMBALMING
A SPECIALTY.
Has Cooler for
Preserving Bodies.

Takes Charge of Funerals, and Furnishes all kinds of Designs in Flowers.
Hearse and Carriages Furnished.

WAREHOUSES: 32 MAIN STREET,
RESIDENCE: PRESUMPCOT HOUSE.
Saccarappa, Me.

C. T. AMES,
DEALER IN



Granite and
Marble
Monuments.

Office—18 Main St., West End.
House—29 Church Street.

Cemetery work
of all kinds.

WESTBROOK, MAINE.

J. F. SPEAR,
Furnishing Undertaker,



Coffins, Caskets and Robes.
FLOWERS AND WREATHS FURNISHED.
Hearse and Carriages Furnished for any part of the town.

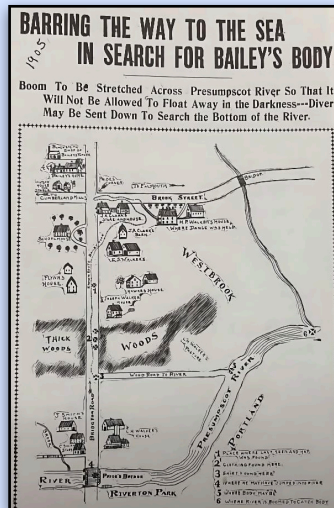
A Note From The Editor

As you can see, we are changing the format of our newsletter. This one is temporary. The final version will be in place soon. Members of the historical society who would like to contribute short articles about Westbrook's history to include in our quarterly newsletters are invited to contact us. The submissions can be a creative work, or historical articles that would be of interest to our members. If interested contact: markroger1951@gmail.com

THE DEATH OF ARLIE BAILEY - H. B. Walker hosted dances on the second floor of his home on Bridgton Road. Area fiddlers supplied the music. In 1905, an incident caught the city's attention and drove local news for two weeks. Arlie Bailey, the only son of blacksmith George Bailey, attended a Saturday night dance there. Hard cider was available for the festivities, and his friends urged him to drink. Later, they would say that the drinks affected him and that he seemed to be acting crazy. No one recalls seeing him leave. Those who looked for him later thought he had wandered off and went home to sleep off the enjoyment. That was not the case. The following day searchers found a clothes trail leading to the Presumpscot River's bank. There was an extensive hunt to find him. Meanwhile, Arlie's mother kept a candle burning in a window, hoping that he would return home. Searchers located his body downstream two weeks later, tangled in fallen tree branches near the shore. His cause of death was "drowning." Arlie's mother blew out the candle. The family mourned.



H. B. Walker House

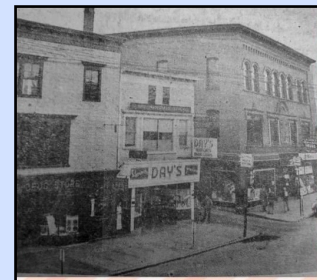
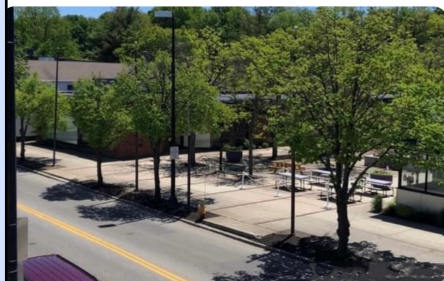
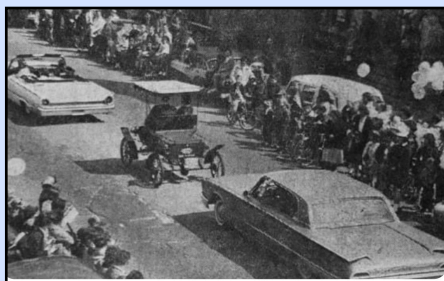


The Search



The Find

WESTBROOK
YESTERDAY AND TODAY



Meet Diane Dyer



In 1980 Diane Dyer and a friend walked into the Westbrook Historical Society on Dunn Street and offered their assistance.

Diane's long-standing interest in history and her children, who were now grown up, gave her more time to pursue her passion. Over four decades later, she remains an active member and volunteer of the society.

Diane's love of history has continued to grow, and she is well-versed in the items on display and their accompanying stories. Her favorite exhibit is the section featuring period clothing and antique furniture. Pose a question to her, and her eyes will light up with excitement.

Diane's husband, Byron, also volunteered at the society, offering his expertise in building, repairing, and maintaining historical artifacts. Sadly, Byron passed away. His contributions continue to be felt today.

While cleaning the military collection, Diane accidentally knocked over a 1916 37MM artillery shell and heard a rattling inside. She unscrewed the top and found a small military pin and a homemade ring inside. The shell, along with the newly discovered items, remains on display.

Over the years, Diane has seen an increase in visitors of all ages, especially since the society relocated to the Community Center. The vast array of items on display take many by surprise.

In December 2022, the Westbrook Historical Society acquired the Nathan Harris House, one of the city's oldest homes. Diane eagerly anticipates her 2023 assignment, which will involve assisting in relocating historical items for the new Harris House exhibits.

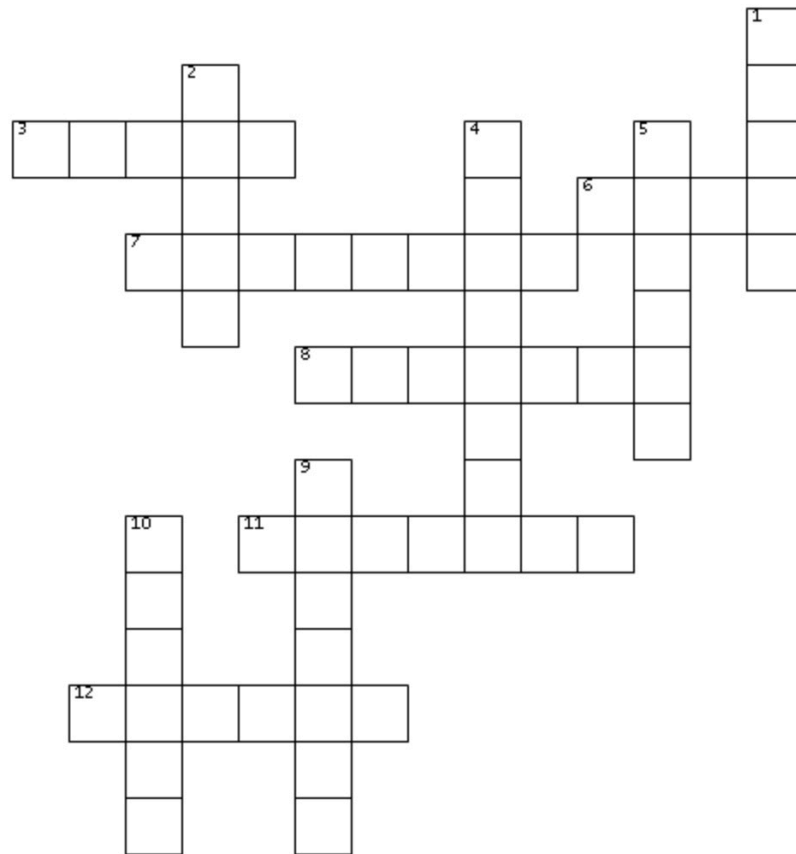
Every Tuesday and Saturday from 9:00 am to noon, Diane can be found at her desk, ready to welcome visitors and answer questions.



Watching parades from windows on Main Street early 1900

	<u><i>To See What They Saw</i></u>
	<u><i>To Touch What They Touched</i></u>
	<u><i>To Preserve What They Left</i></u>

WESTBROOK CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

3. Famous sculptor born in Westbrook in 1825
6. Another name for the Cornelia Warren pool
7. Mr Dana owned a mill. His first name was
8. A tax free colony that failed
11. One Star was a theater. The other was a
12. Stan Laurel was funny. This Stan made some people angry

DOWN

1. His name was Homidas, but Westbrook knew him as
2. Rudy Vallee's middle name
4. Street name that has something in common with Lincoln
5. Block that was located on the corner of Brackett and Main Street
9. Fire whistle sounded when this President stopped in Westbrook in 1921
10. Believed to be the first white settler of Westbrook

Answers On Page 9



The late Nellie D. Spiller was a fierce opponent of Urban Renewal and battled the "Authority" in an attempt to save and preserve the Scates building as a historical site. She never gave up the fight. It was eventually demolished after standing for 76 years. The beautiful stained glass that decorated each side of the building can be seen at the Walker Memorial Library.



History of the Scates Block

By NELLIE D. SPILLER

The impressive Scates Building, dedicated in 1903, was built by a prominent Westbrook citizen and businessman, John Clarke Scates.

Standing on the site of the Old Presumpscot Hotel, looking down Bridge Street, it towered above the other structures in Westbrook's main business district. Indeed, it was the center of activity for nearly half a century.

The old Presumpscot Hotel was moved to Fitch Street and survived until Jan. 8, 1978. That day it was partly burned in the fire that gutted the old building which for many years housed the Men's Shop. Both these ancient buildings were scheduled to be torn down the following day as a part of the urban renewal.

Mildred Stevens Whitney, born in 2885, widow of Dr. Ralph Whitney, whose dental offices looked upon the Scates Block, remembers her father taking her to the dedication of the Scates Block in 1903. Such a crowd had assembled in the second story hall that the floor began to cave in. It has never since been level.

The architect was S.W. Cunningham of Portland, and the contractors were Gray (George) and Huston, builders, of Westbrook.

Mildred Stevens Whitney's father, Fred Stevens, was an architect with the S.W. Cunningham Company for the Scates Block.

Before moving next door in the Scates Block, the Westbrook Post Office was in a small wooden building, left of the Scates Block. In the right side of the first story was Scates Drug Store, which about 1914 was sold to Raymond and Marr. Next it was Raymond's alone, then it became the B and B Drug Store and lastly, Tommy Lachance's Drug Store.

This store then had a variety of uses, such as vacuum cleaner sales, a beauty parlor, and lastly Phil's Pizza.

The left half of the first story of the Scates Building was

occupied by the Westbrook Post Office until 1936, when it was moved to the new Government Post Office building on Brackett Street. Postmasters who served at the Scates Building office were as follows:

Benjamin J. Woodman, appointed Oct. 9, 1901.

Clinton S. Eastman, appointed May 20, 1914.

Carroll Richardson, appointed April 12, 1922, and May 29, 1930.

Eugene I. Cummings, appointed Jan. 7, 1935.

George C. Robinson, appointed Jan. 9, 1936.

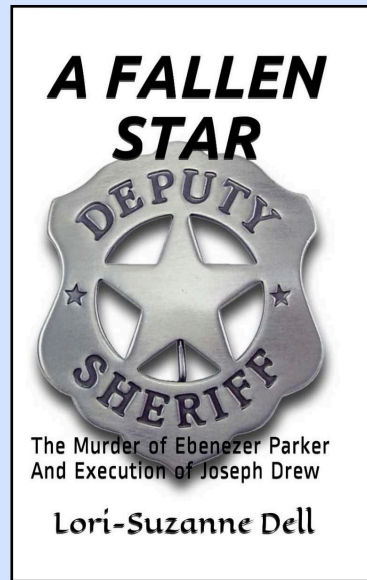
The space in the Scates Block vacated by the post office was then used for many years as an office for the Central Maine Power Company. Next it was used for offices of the City Clerk and Treasurer, until all the city officers were moved to the modern building (purchased by the city) located between the Walker Library and Spring Street. The Hub Furniture Company was the last tenant of the Scates Block first floor left.

The second story of the Scates Building was reserved for Westbrook City Offices with the Municipal Court Room in the rear. During the years that court was held here (until about 1965), the Westbrook lawyers serving as judges were Tolman, Fabius M. Ray, William Lyons, Frank Pride, Wade Brigham, Armand LeBlanc and Francis Rocheleau.

The top story of the Scates Block was occupied by the Masonic Order. Here the various affiliated groups conducted their meetings and other activities. The lodge room is almost majestic, with its Ionic-column decorations, arched windows and domed ceiling having a mural painted by Ansel Sterling, for many years art director of the Westbrook schools. Marvelous views of the city may be seen from the windows of the top story.

About 1920, a Masonic Corporation purchased the Scates Block from its builder, John Clarke Scates.

A few years ago, Urban Renewal purchased it with plans for its demolition.



Sheriff Kevin Joyce, Raymond Parker, Author Lori-Suzanne Dell, Paul Parker

On May 13, 2023, The Westbrook Historical Society hosted a book release presentation for author Lori-Suzanne Dell's new book, "A Fallen Star." Her book settles the myths surrounding the 215-year-old "Cold Case" murder of Deputy Sheriff Ebenezer Parker on Main Street in Saccarappa in 1808; the first law enforcement officer killed in New England. Special guest Cumberland County Sheriff Kevin Joyce spoke about the importance of finding the Parker grave and updated the efforts to find it. Lori took the audience back in time, going over the tragic events that led to Parker's murder and the subsequent execution of his killer near Munjoy Hill in Portland, Maine. Also in attendance were Raymond Parker and his brother, Paul, who represented the Parker family. Following the presentation, there was a reception with party platters and cake. "A Fallen Star" is available in hardcover and paperback at Amazon. <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C1J5J4TT>



School Days Bridge Street School Circa 1920



Did You Know?

Westbrook Man Held As 'Lincoln's Assassin'

Janice Littlejohn, the American Journal Gorham-Scarborough correspondent, has a family story to add to last week's William Williamson column on the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

It's about a Westbrook man who was detained on his honeymoon as a suspect. She writes:

Harlan Raymond of Westbrook married Harriet Swan at about the time that Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth. Police, of course, were looking for Booth, and suspicious of anyone answering his description.

Harlan Raymond walked with a limp due to an accident; a meat hook fell and injured his leg (he

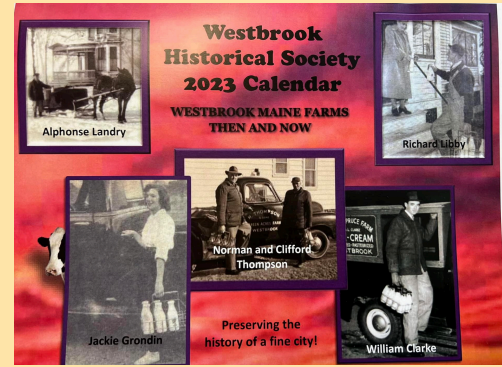
sold beef to the Army during the Civil War). As he and his bride were leaving by boat from Portland for Boston, the police took him into custody. He was held in the brig until the steamer arrived in Boston and papers proved his identity.

The arrest was made because he walked with a limp, was small in stature, was about the height of Booth, and also wore a black silk hat, the style at the time.

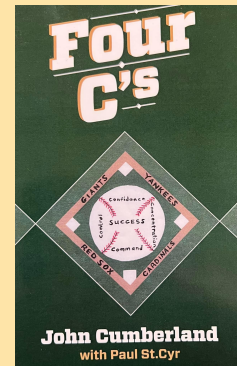
There was quite a write-up in the Portland papers at the time Harlan Raymond was from the family of one of Westbrook's settlers. My mother, Beulah Fox Raymond, gave this information to my half-brothers, John Raymond, Rockland, and Robert Raymond, Standish.



In 1851, the Argus newspaper printed a short article that was written by a native of Saccarappa Village. According to the editor, it was written twenty-five years before. It is a less than flattering snapshot of early life there at the time. "Saccarappa was once exceedingly immoral not absolutely wicked - but low, loose and reckless. Its citizens were made up of all sorts, open, free, and generous, but full of high life: drinking, swearing, wrestling, bragging and not infrequently fighting. Oh my! What a place for tobacco, rum and mud."

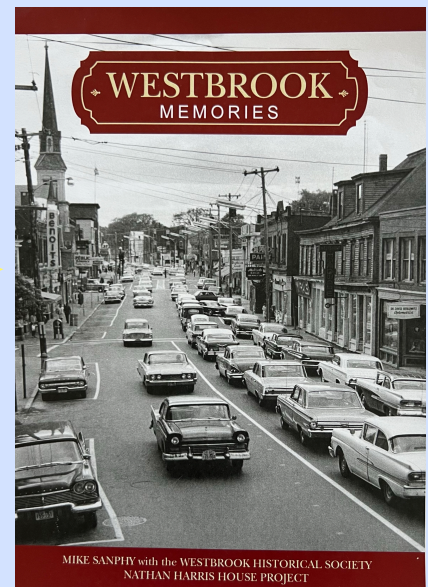


50% off 2023 Calendars

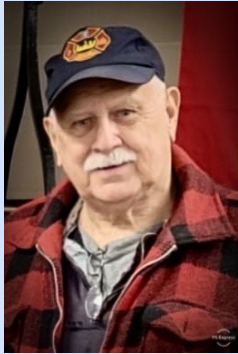


Copies Still Available

Coming Soon



Westbrook Historical Society Bucket Brigade Report For June 2023



Clyde "Chappy" Chapman



Since our formation in November 2022, the Westbrook Historical Bucket Brigade has been dedicated to preserving the rich history surrounding the Westbrook Public Safety Departments, including the Police, Fire, and Rescue Unit.

With a clear vision, we established guidelines and quickly gained recognition as the Westbrook Historical Bucket Brigade. Our call for volunteers resonated with many, resulting in new individuals eager to join our cause and assist us with designated projects.

After paying the annual dues of \$10.00, each new member received a membership card from The Bucket Brigade and The Westbrook Historical Society. We are delighted to share that our membership has experienced significant growth, and we now have approximately 70 dues-paying members on our roster.

Our initial project has centered around the restoration of the old fire wagons. The Saccarappa Hand Pumper, which traces back to 1867, and the Hook and Ladder Wagon from 1860 required attention. Through countless hours of donated time and materials, we have gradually revitalized these historical pieces of equipment, returning them to a remarkable showroom condition. This labor of love has brought us immense pride and allowed us to preserve our heritage. Still, there is much more work ahead. We extend an invitation to anyone who wishes to join us.

As we continue to honor and pay tribute to those who preceded us, we remain steadfast in our commitment to preserving history.

Clyde Chapman
Chief Engineer
Westbrook Bucket Brigade

THE MARSHALL STUDIO

Early Westbrook photographers like Gooding, Poisson, Wright, Pike, and Marshall preserved important images of people and places in Westbrook’s history. William “Ed” Marshall and his Marshall Studio had the longest run. Had it not been for Miss Marion Richards, his business would have stopped the day after Thanksgiving in 1937 when he was struck and killed by an automobile while crossing Main Street in front of his studio.



Marion Richards came to Westbrook from New Hampshire in 1920 and immediately started working with Ed Marshall. Her experience was coloring pictures, but she wanted to learn the art of photography and darkroom techniques. Not only did they work side-by-side, but she also lived with Ed and his wife. After his death, she carried on the business by herself.

Time and change catch up with everyone and everything. In 1974, Urban Renewal announced plans to demolish the building on the corner of Main and Carpenter Streets, where the Marshall Studio was located on the second floor above Day's Jewelry Store. Miss Richards's photography business had ended, but she had another problem; what to do with over fifty years of tintypes, glass plates, black and white, and color negatives - all of which recorded generations of the people and city of Westbrook.

Besides being a police officer for the Westbrook Police Department, Mike Sanphy was also a historian. He had let Marion borrow negatives of some pictures that he had taken while flying over the city. When she contacted him and said she was closing the business, she asked if he would be interested in buying the material she had. It was a great opportunity that he could not pass up. He bought all of the glass plates and celluloid negatives of the buildings that she had. There were others, too, primarily people, but he could not take them because each box weighed around 75 lbs, and he had storage issues at the time. Later, he and a friend helped Marion move back to New Hampshire to live with her sister. Before he left to return to Westbrook, she gifted him three boxes containing her scrapbooks and many hand-colored pictures.



Mike Sanphy remembers Marion as “ a very nice woman” and kept in contact with her for several years after she moved. His last letter to her went unanswered. Her sister called and notified him that she had passed away. Many of the pictures Marion Richards left behind “contribute to the only awareness generations will have of old landmarks in Westbrook.” Thankfully, many of them are now in the archives of Westbrook’s Chief Historian, Mike Sanphy.



REMINDER

2023 Membership Dues Are Do In June

Crossword Answers

- | Across | Down |
|-------------|-------------|
| 3. Akers | 1. Husky |
| 6. Tank | 2. Prior |
| 7. Woodbury | 4. Garfield |
| 8. Halidon | 5. LaFond |
| 11. Laundry | 9. Harding |
| 12. Laffin | 10. Conant |

A Message From President Mike Sanphy

It's hard to believe that June is here already. It has been a hectic year so far. I was pleased to conduct a bus and walking tour of Historic Westbrook that was thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated. The Nathan Harris House (that you can see on the right) is coming along slow but sure. Once completed, it will be a historic gem that everyone will enjoy. The Bucket Brigade is doing a fantastic job adding to our archives and restoring artifacts. My new book, "Westbrook Memories," will be available soon. Have a fun and safe summer. *Mike*



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 Mike Sanphy

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 Roberta Morrill

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 Rebecca Boaz

Treasurer
 Tom Clarke

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 Mark Swett
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Please support local history. The Westbrook Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Help the Historical Society by purchasing a Community Bag from Hannaford's throughout the month of June.

Take the "OLDER THAN DIRT" quiz
 HOW MANY DO YOU REMEMBER?

1. Pizza at Phils
2. The cop in the square directing traffic.
3. Dance at the armory
4. Rope swing on the river
5. Parking meters on main street
6. Yellow fire trucks -yuck.
7. Service stations on most every corner
8. Green stamps gold bond trading stamps
9. That store with a creaky old wood floor
11. The smell of money being made
12. Fire horns blasting in the night
13. Jumping off the black bridge
14. Railroad tracks going into Gorham
15. Burgers at Simpsons
16. Penny candy at Joes
17. That lady city clerk with the flower in her hair.

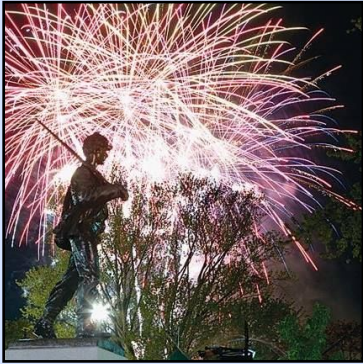
IF YOU REMEMBER 0 TO 5 - YOU ARE A WHIPPERSNAPPER
 IF YOU REMEMBER 6 TO 10 - YOU ARE GETTING THERE
 IF YOU REMEMBER 11 TO 17 - YOU ARE OLDER THAN DIRT!

A STROLL UP SACO STREET
 OVER THE YEARS



A PRESENTATION BY TOM CLARKE
 AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023 1:30 PM

The Westbrook Historical Society Wishes You



July 4, 1919 Riverbank Park



July 4, 1899 Brown Street Turning Left Onto Bridge St.



We'd love to hear from you
westhistorical@myfairpoint.net