

Westbrook History Quarterly

*The Newsletter of the Westbrook Historical Society:
A Society That Preserves The Past*
Fall 2011 - Donna Cousens Conley, Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that Summer is just about over, it seems to have gone by so fast. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you at our Monthly Meeting on September 7, 2011.

Our anticipated move to the Community Center is still on hold and I am continuing to try and get a confirmation date so we can start the huge task of sorting, logging and packing our collection. Hopefully I will have some news about this real soon.

I am looking forward to having some great programs in the months ahead and I am still working on some programs that we can take into the elderly housing units. Many residents are unable to attend our monthly meetings for one reason or another and I would like to share our programs with them.

Once again I would like to say Thank You to the Officers, Board of Directors and faithful workers that have been there to help me carry on the mission of the Westbrook Historical Society.

Mike Sanphy, President

The Society is saddened to announce the deaths of members:

Mae Batchelor

March 23, 1937 – May 29, 1911

Mae was a life-long resident of Westbrook and an active member of the community.

David W. Gordon

January 24, 1921 - August 14, 2011

In Rochester, NH

Life-time Society member and husband of member Jane Gordon

[The full obituaries are on file at the Society.]



The Westbrook Historical Society is pleased to announce its

1ST ANNUAL WESTBROOK HISTORY CONTEST

The **purpose** of the contest is:

- To record a history of Westbrook's People, Places, Events.
- To preserve a record of Westbrook's history through resident's memories
- To preserve a record of Westbrook's history through illustrations
- To prepare for the Bicentennial of the City of Westbrook – 2014

All entries will become the property of the Westbrook Historical Society and will be placed into the Society's public reference collection.

-TWO ENTRY LEVELS -

Adult and **Student** (K through 12)

- 1st prize: \$50, plus 1 year membership in Westbrook Historical Society
- 2nd prize: \$25, plus 1 year membership in Westbrook Historical Society

There will be duplicate prizes for each entry level

Winners will be announced at the Westbrook Together Days event, June 2012
Decision of the judges will be final

Entries must be submitted to the Westbrook Historical Society by May 1st, 2012
For further information and/or questions, contact:
Donna Conley 854-2464 or
info@westbrookhistoricalsociety.org

GENERAL RULES:

Anyone is eligible to enter but entries **MUST be about Westbrook**

Typed entries should consist of 500 words or less
Video or Power-point presentations should be 20 minutes or less

Oral interviews should also include a typed transcript

Some suggested ideas for entry (see articles in this newsletter):

- Interviews of Westbrook residents
- Memories of events/childhood/neighborhood
- Memories of Westbrook visits/Westbrook family
- House history or stories
- Poster presentation
- Photographic history or scrapbooks

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*****All articles in this newsletter are from the Historical Society's collection and are items similar to ones that could be entered into the contest. (The editor has condensed some of the articles due to space.) *****

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**A family history:**

**BANKS-HARTLEY FAMILY**

[Written and donated to the Society's Genealogy section by Grayson Hartley]

It was a foggy misty May 5, 1914 on the Mersey River when Henry Banks, 55, his wife, Sarah Wooding Banks, 56, their daughter, Martha, 24, and the family friend, William Hartley, 24, boarded the passenger ship ARABIC in Liverpool, England for their voyage across the Atlantic to Portland, Maine. Their plan was to visit Henry's son, William, who had migrated to Canada in 1910 with his wife Elizabeth and son William Henry and moved to Westbrook in 1912.

William [Banks] and his family made his home at 300 Park Road, Westbrook, until his death in 1949. Upon his arrival in Westbrook, he found

employment at S.D. Warren. In the 1916 strike he took an active part. After his employment in the mill, he worked as an oil delivery man for Paulsen's Garage, later Marsters' Chevrolet Garage.

During World War II he worked at the South Portland shipyard and after the war until his retirement, at Southworth Machine Shop on Warren Avenue, Portland. During World War I William served in the Canadian Army. William and Elizabeth Banks had three children; William Henry, Ethel Lavina, and Emily Banks Chretien.

Henry and Sarah, during their two-year stay in Westbrook, lived on Power's Hill, Cumberland Street with their daughter Martha and William Hartley, before returning to England in 1916.



Westbrook 1916  
Front: Henry and Sarah Banks  
Back: William Hartley and Martha Banks

Martha Banks and William Hartley lived with Martha's brother, William and family until their marriage in 1918, when William H. entered the Army. Following his service time William and Martha both worked at S.D. Warren and made their home on Brown Street and later on Forest Street where their twin children, Florence and Grayson, were born in 1931. Later they made their home on Rochester Street.

William Hartley worked at S.D. Warren until his death in 1944. He served in the Westbrook Fire Department and died from injuries he received when the chimney collapsed on him while fighting a fire at the Phillips farm on Spring Street and County Road (where Eisenhower Drive is now located). During over 100 years since the founding of the Fire Department, he is the only fireman to die from injuries sustained while fighting a fire.

Martha Hartley continued to make her home on Rochester Street until her death in 1975.

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A photographic history:

W. PAULSEN CHEVROLET CO.

[Photographs and information submitted by
Beth Paulsen-Olmstead]

Many people are familiar with Marsters Motors at 511 Main St. but many have forgotten – or never knew – that the building and car business actually began with a prior owner, Walter Paulsen, and was known as “W. Paulsen Chevrolet Co.”



October 1933



The building was built by Walter Paulsen, (my grandfather), and was also owned and operated by him. I am not sure when he started the business. Prior to this car business he was a housing contractor and built many houses in Westbrook and the surrounding area.



Oct 11, 1933

Paulsen Chevrolet was built with an inside ramp that enabled to-be-sold cars to be driven and stored on the second floor. There were two gasoline pumps on the sidewalk.

In 1936 Walter sold his business to his brother-in-law, Harry Marsters (Sr.). I believe Uncle Harry was my Grandfather’s sales manager. While it was Paulsen Chevrolet, I believe the Marsters family ran

a little restaurant/coffee shop connected with the building.



January 1935 – Everett Paulsen, (father of writer) is seen on the bumper; he would have been 10 years old

In recent times the building was owned by Aubuchon Hardware and it now contains a furniture rental business.



A Neighborhood History:

COUNTY ROADS AT DUCK POND

[Authors unknown; this is a composite of two 1970s articles on the Duck Pond/Highland Lake roads]

The first road to be laid out in the Duck Pond area was the Bakerstown Road, now Blackstrap Road, and was surveyed by the County in 1773. The road at that time ran up over Leighton Hill and Mount Independence; at a later date it was altered to the east at the intersection of the Hardy and Blackstrap roads and resumes that same course today. The old section, the records state, was altered to avoid the steep inclines. Some of this old road is still visible today.

Another old artery through this section was the Windham Road, now the Duck Pond and Sawyer Roads and was laid out by the County in the early 1780's. A petition was received and reviewed by the General Sessions of the Peace in Oct 1783 from residents of Bridgton, Otisfield and Raymond, requesting a road from Bridgton to Falmouth, Portland. This road traveled down from Windham via the Pope, Land of Nod, Sawyer, Hardy, Duck Pond Road to Pride's Corner and across the

Presumpscot River. The Bridgton Road, Route 302, has been altered many time over the years, thus little of it passes over the old original course today.

The record of the General Sessions of the Peace states the road as passing by Joshua Lowell's of Windham, across the Falmouth line and by the Easterly corner of Jonathon Sawyer's house over the Duck Pond Brook and passing one rod from the Southerly Corner of Joseph Conant's barn, East of the Twombly house and South of James Gowen's barn, passing by the northerly side of Nathaniel Hale's and down to the Presumpscot River.

It may be interesting to note the homes on Duck Pond Road that are mentioned in [the original] County Record, together with the owner's names. Passing the Duck Pond Bridge the first one mentioned was that of Joshua Woodbury, great grandfather of Lyman Woodbury, living in the home now owned by Robert and Rhoda Gordon. Then moving on one comes to the James Gowen two-story house, it being the second beyond Neal Brown's. James Gowen built the home during the Revolution, Gowen descendants still live on Duck Pond Road. The large early American home beyond Swainhurst was built by Nathaniel Hale whose home in Portland was burned in the British bombardment. He was the great grandfather of our neighbor on Craig Road, Leon Hale.



Highland Lake church and the county road

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**THANK YOU:**

We wish to thank so many of our Historical Society friends for their cards and concerns, and for their kind and comforting words for the loss of our grandson, Mark Goyet, who recently lost his life in combat in Afghanistan. He was a precious part of our family and will be missed forever. We have forwarded your sympathies to his parents, Martha and Ray, and sisters, Brianne and Jenna, who are most grateful for your thoughtfulness.

Phil and Nancy Curran  
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**1951 Suburban All Stars at
 Little League World Series**



This team's journey will be the subject of the first program for the 2011 – 2012 year.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Fran Fritzsche-Jensen, Westbrook
 Susan and John Ham, Scarborough
 Beth Paulsen-Olmstead, Westbrook

QUESTION: How does a car from Maine end up in British Columbia?

This is what a man from North Vancouver is trying to find out; he is doing his 'car history'. His 1966 red Corvette convertible with black interior was sold at Jackson Chevrolet in Westbrook in September 1965. Its serial number indicates that it was the 905th out of 27,720 Corvettes built for the 1966 production year. If you have any information on an owner of this automobile, please let the Society know.

So You Think You Know Westbrook....

(a quiz produced by the Westbrook Historical Society for a past Westbrook Together Days.

1. In what year was Westbrook incorporated as a town?
 2. Who was the first mayor?
 3. What type of cloth was made by the Westbrook Manufacturing Co.?
 4. What did the Indians of the area call the "high fishing place"?
 5. What was Col. Westbrook's royal position other than military?
5. Mast agent 4.Saccarappa 3.Canvas 2. Leander Valentine 1. 1814

MEETINGS AND PROGRAM LISTINGS 2011 - 2012

September 7, 2011 – **The Boys of Summer 1951** – This is the story of Westbrook’s Championship Little League team which contained our late member Jim Burrill. Program will be presented by Nancy Crump

October 5, 2011 –

November 2, 2011 – **Using Deeds in Genealogy Research**, by professional researcher Dr. Carol McCoy of Falmouth

December 7, 2011 - Meeting

December 17, 2011 **SATURDAY PROGRAM Remembering the Civil War** as told by Scott Dyer, Civil War enthusiast, re-enactor and Society member

January 4, 2012 –

February 1, 2012 –

March 12, 2012 –

April 4, 2012 –

May 2, 2012

June 2, 2012 – SATURDAY – Westbrook Together Days & **announcement of the winners of the 1st Westbrook History Contest**

June 6, 2012 – Annual Meeting and election of Officers - Recognition of the History Contest winners

***NOTE:** Programs may change due to weather or speaker cancellation
If Westbrook schools are cancelled, the Historical Society is cancelled

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Cut here, return with your dues for 2011 – 2012

DUES REMINDER

WESTBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY DUES FOR JULY 1, 2011 – JUNE 30, 2012

\$10.00 per member may be paid anytime by mail or at the June or September business meeting. Please put your name (and any address or phone number corrections) on the notice and attach to your payment.

Name _____

Corrections to address or telephone (Check the label on this Quarterly to see if changes are needed)

E-mail address _____

Check here _____ if you prefer to receive your newsletter by email.

**Mail to: Nancy Curran, Treasurer and Membership Chair
Westbrook Historical Society
17B Dunn Street
Westbrook, ME 04092**

Westbrook Historical Society

Purpose and Principle

The purposes of this Society are to bring together those people interested in the history of Westbrook, Maine, and to discover, collect, and preserve any materials and objects that establish and illustrate the history of the area. The Society shall make all such materials and objects accessible for viewing or study on the premises. The Society shall arouse interest in the past by holding meetings open to the general public, by marking historic buildings, sites, etc. and by using other media to gain public interest in Westbrook history.

The membership meets regularly for business and entertainment at 1:30 o'clock on the first Wednesday of each month, with the exception of July and August.

Officers

President- Mike Sanphy

Vice President- Roberta Wyer Dutton Morrill

Secretary- Andrea Vasquez

Treasurer- Nancy Joy Curran

Immediate Past President – Donna Cousens Conley

Directors

Alwyn Waite - Diane Turgeon Dyer
Nancy Crump – Suzan Norton

Email address

info@westbrookhistoricalsociety.org

Webpage

www.westbrookhistoricalsociety.org

Tel: 207-854-5588

The doors of the Westbrook Historical Society are open to the general public every Saturday morning, 9:00 o'clock to noon. Capable volunteer staff is present at that time to help visitors with their interests and their needs.

The doors are usually open again on Tuesday mornings while volunteer workers are doing their chores, at which time the general public is also free to visit.

Westbrook Historical Society
17B Dunn Street
Westbrook, ME 04092

Meeting: Wednesday September 7, 2011
Program: The Boys of Summer 1951
Time/Location: 1:30 PM at 17B Dunn St.