

Westbrook Historical Society

"A Society That Preserves the Past"

Winter 2015

Purpose:

The Westbrook Historical Society meets regularly in its rooms at the Community Center at 426 Bridge Street, Westbrook at 1:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month.

The purpose of the Society is to bring together those people interested in the history of Westbrook, and to discover, collect, and preserve any materials and objects which establish and illustrate the history of the area.

*Winter - Now winter nights enlarge the number of their hours,
And clouds their storms discharge upon the airy towers.
Let now the chimneys blaze, and cups o'flow with wine...*

By Thomas Campion (1617)

Seems like a good time to relax around our own hearths and enjoy a bit of reminiscence – here are some old postcards of Westbrook to help ponder the City's changes. Main Street and Cumberland Street – Looks like



Cumberland Street was still dirt.

Below- Bridge on Cumberland St and Dana Warp Mill by falls.





Walker Memorial Library and the Warren Block

Old site of Warren Congregational Church and St. Hyacinth before being torn down and re- built across the street.



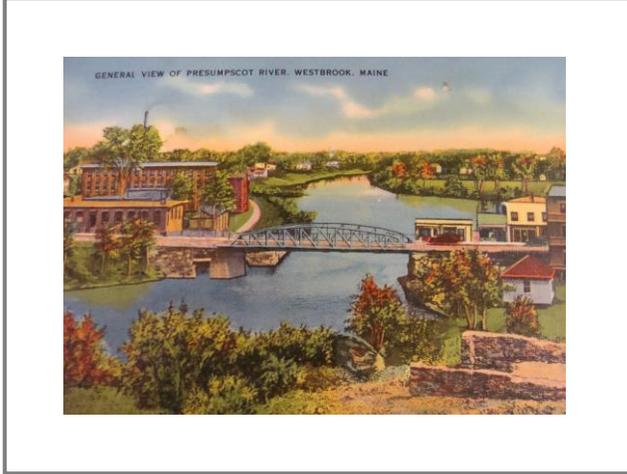
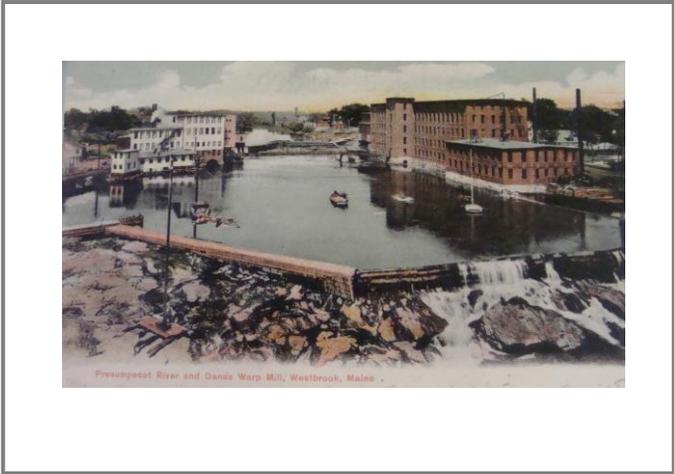
Westbrook Inn ..and stores downtown (fondly remembered)



Aerial view of S. D. Warren – Bridge Street Buildings



Mills and dam – Bridge Street bridge



Many more postcards and pictures of Westbrook are available at the Westbrook Historical Society. If you have any of old postcards of Westbrook, the Society would appreciate your donation.



Here are some Trivia questions and answers to while away those winter times we must stay indoors because of cold or storms. List was originally compiled by Percy Conant and his daughter, Eleanor Conant Saunders for the dedication of Bicentennial Park in 1976. How many neighborhood locations can you recall and identify?

- 4 Corners** – (1) Bridge & Cumberland St; (2) Spring & County Rd
- Little Canada** – North St. area of St. Hyacinth School
- Hottentot** – Old name for Cottage Place
- The Flats** – lower Main St. from City Hall to Riverside St.
- Cellar Field** – sunken field bordered by Conant, New Gorham & Saco St.
- Scotch Hill** – Bridge, Walker, Pike & Webb St.
- Irish Hill** – from Saco to Spring St, the hill area

Dagger Town – Polish neighborhood, Falmouth and & George St.

French Town – Brown St from Bridge to Cumberland St.

“Pork Hill” – old name for what’s now Park Hill (this was a corruption of the name Park Hill because the English garrison was situated there and the English ate a lot of pork, whereas the locals ate more beef)

Lost Nation – area off to the left side of Longfellow St (after 108 Longfellow) that was not passable in mud season.

Duck Pond – US Rte 302, Highland Lake region

Saccarappa – original name of village at west end of Westbrook

Pride’s Corner – Rte 302 from Presumpscot River to corner of Brook & Bridgton Rd (actual corner)

The Village – Saccarappa Center

Ammon Congin – old name for Cumberland Mills, original name of village at east end of Westbrook

Cumberland Mills – area near Sappi (SD Warren Paper Mill); old village at east end of Westbrook

Bird Land – development off County Rd near Spring St: Oriole, Cardinal, Finch, etc Streets

Brickyard – Hawkes Brickyard, Hawkes St (where Hannaford’s is now)

1st Spring – on Spring St (area of golf course)

2nd Spring – on String St (area of golf course)

Old Car Barns – (1) on Conant St where bike shop is (2) at corner of Main & Saco St

Centerville – Riverbank Park; this was the division between Saccarappa & Ammoncogin

The “Star” – movie theater on Main St & corner of Central St (where Hub Furniture is)

Underground Railroad – Brackett House, later LaFond’s Store corner Main & Brackett St

The Sakokis – a river steam boat that went from Saccarappa Falls to Windham (another boat was named The Washington)

1st Saw Mill – Conant Mill on Pork Hill

Rialto – theater on Main St, beside Star Theater; was on 2nd floor, later the Brook Theater

Coconut Beach – east side of the river upriver, up above the falls

Presumpscot – the river that divides the town; also the Presumpscot House, downtown Main St.

Site of Corn Shop – on riverbank in Cumberland Mills, where the swimming pool is now

De Clintons – Hockey Team

Roosevelt Trail – US Rte 302, name used only on the Windham end now

King’s Cove – Lincoln St, now skating rink; formed when Mr. King filled in the area on which to build a house on his farm (Haskell bought land from Mr. King in order to build his Silk Mill)

Lamb’s Hill – off Main St as you enter the city; now called Deer Hill; the hilly area behind City Hall

The Island – (1) at foot of Ash St. Indians lived there, when people fell in the river, their bodies washed up there (2) off the river bank below Fredette House

Kind’s Orchard – Lover’s Lane: Chestnut to Lincoln St

Bean House – 3-story mansion built by Joshua Webb;. Later converted into an apartment house by Woodbury Dana; torn down in 1970s, was on Bridge St near Brown St (remembered for its circular stairway and skylight)

North School – originally at corner of Bridge & Pierce St, moved closer to Mill & made into private home in later years

Christian Hill – Bridge St in area of old Bridge St School; house at 146 Bridge St was hayled from King’s Orchard and used as the meeting house

Berry’s Pond – beyond Bermside (large white house on right side of New Gorham Rd)

Danish Neighborhood – Haskell St, Libby & Boothby Ave

A few more tidbits to help you win on Westbrook Trivia:

Crusaders – hockey team

Silk Mill – Haskell Silk Mill on Lincoln St, now condos

Poor Farm – on Saco St at top of hill, now site of Public Works garage

Holy Ground – tenement house with a bad reputation, now Shell station on Main St, across from Profenno’s

The Canal – The Cumberland & Oxford Canal: from Stroudwater, through Beaver Pond, beside Bermide, to Conant St to the river

Grist Mill – on Pork Hill” only one north of Kittery

Colonial Acres – DiBiase development (1960) off E. Bridge St; Colonial, Puritan, Mayflower St, etc.

The “Mill” – S.D. Warren, now Sappi Paper Mill

Halidon, Tax Free Colony – homes on lower end of Halidon Rd

Saunders – Saunders Dowel Factory off Forest St, on left just beyond the RR Tracks

The Black Bridge – RR bridge across the river up river from the Elms; has a footwalk across the river
“Tit-ile” – petit ile, “little island” (in French); the island behind St Hyacinth Church used for skating

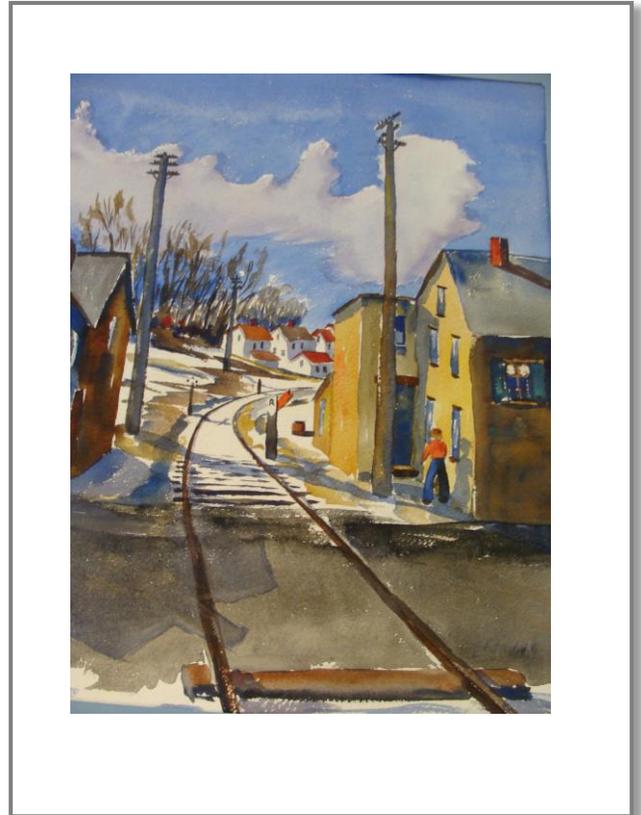
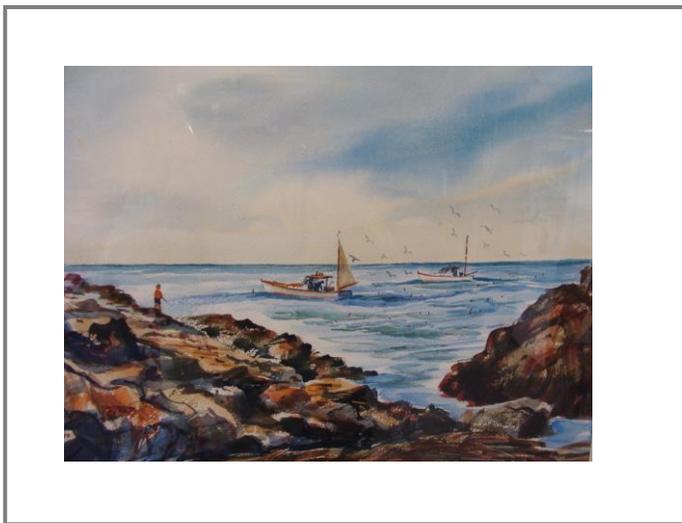
Much more information on Westbrook is available in the extensive collections at the Westbrook Historical Society. Come visit, on Tuesday or Saturday morning.

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Paintings at Westbrook Historical Society by Edward Linwood Mayo, local artist and humorist.

Seascape of lobster boats.

Tracks were replaced by Wm. Clarke Drive.



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Edward L. Mayo

Excerpts from his obituary...

Arundel – Edward L. Mayo, 72, a prominent Maine artist, humorist and newspaper columnist, husband of Doris Myer Mayo, died Sunday at a Biddeford hospital after a brief illness.

He was a noted humorist in Maine who gained national attention as the founder of the Kennebunkport Dump Association.

Mr. Mayo donated his art to local and national charities and for several years appeared with the Portland Symphony Orchestra in a series of concerts that put art to music for area schoolchildren.

A resident of the Arundel-Kennebunkport area since 193, he had operated an art gallery on Ocean Avenue for 25 years. His work is well-known and collected internationally.

Mr. Mayo had taught art at St. Anthony's Preparatory School, Kennebunk, and in the Biddeford High School adult education program. He was also a well-known commercial artist.

In 1975 he received the Man of the Year Award from the Kennebunk-Kennebunkport Chamber of Commerce.

He was active in the boy Scouts and was a member and past president of the Kennebunk-Kennebunkport Lions Club and the Kennebunkport Parent Teachers Association.

Mr. Mayo served in the U.S. Merchant marine during World War II. In his youth he was a semi-pro baseball player and in later years, was a supporter of Triple A Baseball in Maine.

Born in Westbrook, he was a son of Clifford and Rose Duchaine Mayo. He graduated from Westbrook High School and the Portland School of Fine and Applied Art.

Notice of change to By-laws: Board voted to change **Article III Membership, section 2** to read as follows: "The Board of Directors, by majority vote, may honor by Lifetime Membership any member in good standing who has made substantial contributions to the Society. A Lifetime Member shall enjoy all the privileges of active membership but is relieved of any obligations." This shall be voted on by the Membership at the January meeting.

President's Message

The Holiday Season is once again upon us and with it comes a time for families to gather together, celebrate and give thanks for the Blessings and Freedoms we enjoy.

The Westbrook Historical Society continues to grow and I am grateful to the members that continue to volunteer their time and labors to make the Society the great organization that it is.

The latest addition to our collection are the photo files and hard bound editions of the Westbrook American and the American Journal from 1951 to the present. Current Publishing is merging with the Lewiston Sun Journal and moving their offices to Falmouth and I convinced them to donate these items to the Westbrook Historical Society as they are certainly a big part of our history.

In closing I want to wish everyone a *Merry Christmas, Happy New Year* and I am looking forward to seeing you at the Society.

Mike Sanphy, President

Contact Information: info@westbrookhistoricalsociety.org Telephone 207-854-5588
Officers: President- Mike Sanphy , Vice President- Roberta Wyer Dutton Morrill , Secretary- Martha Brackett, Treasurer- Tom Clarke

Open Saturday and Tuesday mornings from 9 am to noon.

Our website: www.westbrookhistoricalsociety.org – gives a fascinating outline of the Collections, Research Library and Exhibitions of the Society.

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