



PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

Welcome Spring!



From The President

Spring is a few days away. It is a time of transition from the cold bleak days of winter, to a season of renewal.

The Westbrook Historical Society is also undergoing changes. Two of our long term board members have stepped down from their positions. The society is grateful to ex-president and board member Donna Conley for her years of service to the history of Westbrook and the community. Likewise Vice President Roberta Dutton Morrill faithfully served the society as vice-president for many years. She will continue her work in the community, the Cornelia Warren Thrift Store as well as her church. Rebecca Boaz also resigned from the board as well as her duties as Historical Society Secretary to devote full time on her new job assisting the needs of American Veterans. Lastly, board members have assumed the job responsibilities once held by Tom Clarke and Martha Brackett. We wish all of them happiness and success.

Other important changes includes a complete makeover of the historical society office and display areas. It is exciting to see the progress that we have made in only two months. More to come.

Did you get our books "Westbrook Memories" and "Westbrook More Memories?" They are selling fast.

... Mike Sanphy



The Nathan Harris House

Gazing at the wooden floor in the parlor of the **Nathan Harris House**, envisioning the countless individuals who once walked it through the annals of **Saccarappa and Westbrook**, is like taking a journey back in time. Concealed from sight for generations, initially obscured by a layer of grey paint and later concealed beneath a carpet that was recently removed, this floor bears witness to centuries of history. The craftsman who meticulously hammered the nails into place over 194 years ago could never have imagined that in 2024, members of the **Westbrook, Maine Historical Society** would be studying his handiwork, contemplating plans to meticulously restore it to its original condition.



The Harris House is undergoing extensive renovations, including the installation of a new roof, replacement of the east side exterior wall, addition of a new bulkhead, as well as a steel door in the cellar.



Demon Booze



July 5, 1841, **The Temperance Society of Saccarappa** published a pamphlet featuring the signatures of over three hundred citizens committing to a year of abstinence from alcohol. Ten years later Maine became the first state in the country to pass a prohibition law banning the manufacture, sales and transportation of alcohol with the exception of "medicinal, mechanical and manufacturing purposes" Other states soon followed. The law had teeth, but the enforcement difficulty, coupled with some authorities looking the other way, as well as the demand for the forbidden liquid, was too much for it to make a significant impact.

The Temperance movement, churches and organized religious groups kept pounding away at their message of no alcohol consumption. The famed charismatic evangelist **Billy Sunday** (the Billy Graham of his day) took his message of "Getting On The Water Wagon" across the country drawing massive crowds to his tent meetings.



During the 1900s, individuals brought before Municipal Court **Judge J.A. Tolman** for drinking infractions were labeled as "drunks." However, sometime after 1910, with **Judge Stephen Lyon** presiding, the terminology shifted to "intoxication."

In 1919, the federal government followed Maine by establishing the **Eighteenth Amendment** prohibiting the production and sale of alcohol, but it did not address consumption. **The Volstead Act** corrected that and defined intoxicating drinks as anything over 0.005%.

Prohibition was fertile ground for bootlegging, speakeasies, and later organized crime, the first two not strangers to Westbrook. The alcohol industry flourished, generating profits for some while quenching the thirst of customers. However, Frank Gurry, supported by the Danas and the Warrens, took action. As an overseer at Dana Mill and a reform advocate, Gurry organized



synchronized citywide raids on January 1, 1933, just before midnight. His group of "Crusaders" comprised of **City Marshal George Bennet** (right), police officers, mill workers, civic-minded individuals, influential businessmen, and **Reverends Hudson and Keedy**.



Their operations targeted notorious spots like "**The Palace**" on 25 Bracket Street, as well as "**The Bullpen**" and other establishments associated with **Joe Dow**, a prominent figure in the area.

During the raids, they discovered a stash of 1,400 bottles of beer at 6 Fitch Street, near the Police Station. They also confiscated money from gambling, seized alcohol, and identified prohibition offenders.

Gurry had pledged to reveal the names of violators at a public gathering in the **Methodist Episcopal Church**. However, when he spoke to the eager crowd, he disappointed them by refraining from naming anyone. Gurry indeed intended to fulfill his promise, but he encountered an unexpected setback: a few days earlier, he himself was arrested.

84

Westbrook Municipal Court, in account with **J. H. Tolman, Judge.**

DATE	No. of Cases	Name of Respondents	Offense	Cost City	Service of Warrant	Witness Fees	Fines payable to City	Amount of Fines due County	Other Fees
1916		George Gurry	Intoxication	2.00	2.11			63.00	
April 3 2.336		John Swinsky	Intoxication	2.00	2.11			3.00	
" 3.25.17		John Swinsky	Intoxication	2.00	2.11				
" 3.25.18		Thomas Boyd	Intoxication	2.00	2.11				
" 3.25.19		Robert Boyd	Intoxication	2.00	2.11				
" 28.12.16		Robert Taylor	Intoxication	2.00	1.99			5.00	
Aug 1 2.5.17		Joseph Buecher	Intoxication	2.00	1.99			3.00	
" 5.25.20		John J. Quinn	Intoxication	2.00	1.99			5.00	
" 5.25.21		Peter Gurney	Intoxication	2.00	1.99			1.00	
" 8.25.22		Frederic Carrigan	Intoxication	2.00	1.99			2.00	
" 12.25.26		Henry Harris	Intoxication	2.00	1.99			1.00	
" 15.25.27		Nathanial Davis	Intoxication	2.00	1.99			1.00	
" 16.25.28		Arthur Lewisville	Intoxication	2.00	1.99			3.00	
" 17.25.23		George Anderson	Intoxication	2.00	1.99			3.00	
" 22.25.20		Leo Fisher	Intoxication	2.00	2.22			3.00	

As moving and powerful as the message was many did not buy it including some in Westbrook.

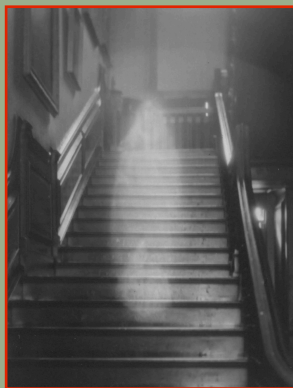
Continued on page 3

His mistake was including Joe Dow in the raid, as Dow was a “well-connected” individual privy to many secrets within the city. A complaint filed against Gurry accused him of “associating” with a woman known as “Peggy Doe,” allegedly the sister of the prominent figure “John Doe.” Gurry was released on bond awaiting a Grand Jury review, with the complainant surprisingly being Joe Dow himself. Gurry’s attempt to shame alcohol offenders publicly ended up backfiring. Eleven months later, the **Twenty-First Amendment** was passed repealing *Prohibition*.

Some individuals saw the distribution of illegal alcohol as an opportunity to supplement their income. While most transactions went smoothly, there were instances where the business model collapsed. A 21-year-old employee of the S.D. Warren Paper Mill was arrested in Norway, Maine, and charged with “transportation of liquors without a federal license.” He was convicted, fined \$300.00 plus court costs, and sentenced to three months in jail, with an additional three months added for non-payment of the original fine. In another case it was revealed that the manager of the **Woolworth Five & Ten Cent Store in Westbrook** was caught dealing in merchandise for *special customers*. He was arrested for “unlawful possession, a seizure of bay rum having been made at the local store.” Even women seized the financial opportunity by supplying “rum-dumbs” with “demon booze.” Among them was **Miss Gladys French** of Westbrook, who was arrested, fined \$200.00, and sentenced to three months in jail. This wasn’t her first offense.

The combined endeavors of government Prohibition and religious attempts to uphold morality were ultimately doomed to fail. Not only were they hindered by enforcement challenges, but the relentless demand for alcohol ensured its continued accessibility.

Both advocates of Temperance and the Westbrook “Crusaders” would likely be dismayed by the extent to which their efforts fell short. ... Mark Swett



“During the day, I don’t believe in ghosts, At night, I’m a little more open-minded.”
Do you live in Westbrook and is your house haunted? If so, the historical society would like to interview you. Call us at 207-854-5588 and leave a message, or email us at - westbrookmainehistorical@outlook.com



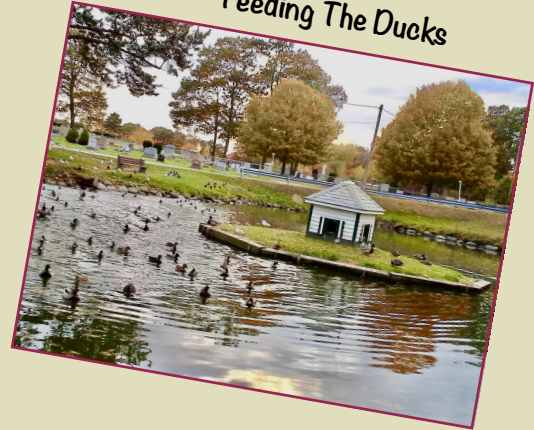
- Battle of Fredericksburg
- Battle of Chancellorsville
- Battle of Gettysburg
- Battle of Wapping Heights
- Bristoe Campaign
- First Battle of Auburn
- Battle of Bristoe Station
- Mine Run Campaign
- Battle of Mine Run
- Battle of the Wilderness
- Battle of Spotsylvania
- Battle of Cold Harbor
- Siege of Petersburg
- Appomattox Campaign



Riverbank Park Dances



Feeding The Ducks



Sitting In The Star Theater Theater



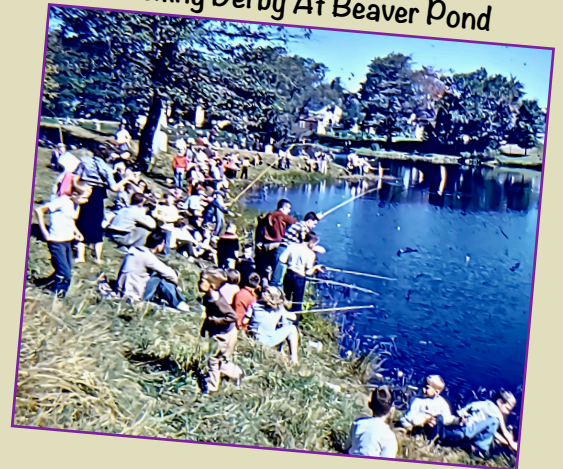
Cooling Off In "The Tank"



Simpson's Hamburgs



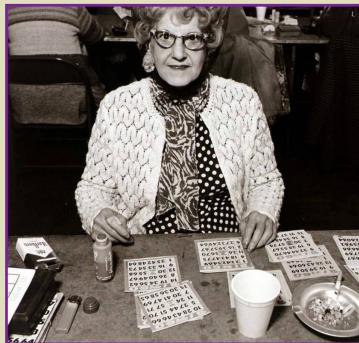
Fishing Derby At Beaver Pond



Walking On Top Of The Black



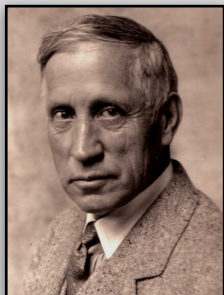
Playing Bingo



Halidon

Westbrook's Single Tax Colony

Born July 2, 1862 in Waltham, Massachusetts, **Frederick Fiske Warren** (below left) was the youngest son of the Warren children. In 1884 Fiske became a mill partner with his brother Samuel Dennis II and a cousin. Four years later S.D. Warren died.



Shortly, Fiske made a name for himself in the paper industry, and he would also become a leading advocate of the **Single Tax Colony Theory**.

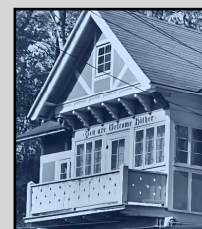
Fiske was a devoted traveler and when traveling abroad he gathered information regarding Single Tax Colony.

He made his last world tour in 1931 and visited his summer home in Andorra, Spain in 1933 where he had helped establish another single tax colony known as Sant Jordi. He was 49 years old when the Halidon Colony was established in 1911 and by 1914 the total land consisted of 180 acres.

Construction of *Welcome Hither Inn*, started in 1911 and two years later the Gordon House was built directly in back of the Inn half way up the hill. The Inn was built as a guesthouse for mill worker's friends, guest, vacationers, and was used as an Inn until 1936. Written on the face of the Inn facing the mill are the words.

"YOU ARE WELCOME HITHER"

The trustees decided it was time to turn control of the property, including all the land, over to the residents currently living on *Halidon*. On October 8, 1952, the Single Tax Colony was no longer operational or functional. Each lot, numbering 72, was individually deeded to its present occupant freely without any charge. However, for deeded document purposes, Halidon residents paid one dollar for their property and the transaction was recorded in the city of Westbrook on October 21, 1953. City tax records show there was no sales tax, estate tax, or business tax for the transfer of land. The Halidon Colony survived from 1911 to 1952. by *Paul St.Cyr*



Site of Portland Pie Corner of Bridge and Main Street



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



Bob Bob Bobling Along



Every week, Diane Dyer from the Historical Society purchased Bobble Heads at the local Dollar Dollar, placing them in a window where the sunlight would activate them, causing their heads to sway with a gentle tic-tic sound. As the collection grew, a surprise donation filled empty shelves, prompting the need for creative displays. Now, with over 100 pieces on display, Diane invites you to stop in to see them. And be sure to bring your children and grandchildren. Visit her at the Society on Tuesdays or Saturdays from 9:00 am to noon, call 207-854-5588, or mail to Westbrook Historical Society, 426 Bridge Street, Westbrook, Maine, 04092.



PARADES

FRANK SINATRA
July 18, 1977
(New York City)

Dear Hubert:

I received your letter and my translators are working on it for me.

I am sorry to hear you are in trouble in Las Vegas, but having been in trouble in Las Vegas, New York, Chicago, Hollywood, and more recently Australia and Berlin, I must tell you, you are an amateur at getting into trouble.

As for my helping to secure a booking for you at the Del Webb Hotel in Vegas, don't believe everything you read in the papers. Mickey, it's true, has picked up some Del Webb stock, but I hasten to caution you that is purely on an investment basis at the present time. So we neither have nor seek any control of the holdings of the Del Webb Corporation. On the other hand, if you want me to I will have Mickey take my proxy to the next stockholders meeting and I will write on the back of it "Save the Vagabond Lover".

Quite to the contrary, I have never been "alienated by rumors that you preferred Como and Crosby to me... Singin'wise!" I have been very fair about that. I have played Bing's records, I have played Perry's records, and I have played my own records, and there is no question you have made a good decision.

But seriously, folk, if the Del Webb situation ever changes, I will get back to you.

Regards,
Frank Sinatra

FAS:d

Note to Dorothy: Send this letter to the only two Huberts we know - Vallee and Humphrey - everything in it applies to both of them since they have both written they like me better than Crosby and Como and they both want to work Vegas.

F.A.S.

Mr. Rudy Vallee
7430 Pyramid Place
Hollywood, Calif. 90046

T.R. Teddy Roosevelt



Frank Sinatra & Rudy Vallee



THE KANSAS CITY STAR

OFFICE OF
THEODORE ROOSEVELT
NEW YORK OFFICE
347 MADISON AVENUE

May 2nd, 1918.

My dear President Hay:

I am very deeply touched by the silk service flag presented to me by the Westbrook Republican Club, through you. Will you give my particular thanks and regards to Mr. Phillips? Mrs. Roosevelt thanks you as much as I do. I extend my best wishes to all of you, and especially to the 80 members of your club in the service of the United States.

With hearty good wishes,
Faithfully yours,
Theodore Roosevelt

President Harry F. G. Hay,
Westbrook Republican Club,
885 Main Street,
Westbrook, Maine.

Menu



Tom's
RESTAURANT

Rudy Vallee Square
Westbrook Maine

STEAKS AND CHOPS	
BROILED TENDERLOIN STEAK, FR.FR.POTATOES, SLICED BEETS	75¢
BROILED SIRLOIN STEAK (SMALL) FR.FR.POTATOES, SL. BEETS	60¢
BROILED SIRLOIN STEAK (LARGE) FR.FR.POTATOES, SL. BEETS	90¢
SIZZLING SIRLOIN STEAK, FR.FR.POTATOES, SLICED BEETS	90¢
SALISBURG STEAK, FR.FR.POTATOES, SLICED BEETS	40¢
BROILED CULED STEAK, FR.FR.POTATOES, SLICED BEETS	40¢
HAMBURG STEAK, FR.FR.POTATOES, SLICED BEETS	40¢
BROILED HAM STEAK, GR. LINEAPPLE, FR.FR.POTATOES	50¢
BROILED LAMB CHOPS, FR.FR.POTATOES, SLICED BEETS	50¢
FRIED PORK CHOPS, FR.FR.POTATOES, SLICED BEETS	40¢
FRIED VEAL CHOPS, FR.FR.POTATOES, SLICED BEETS	40¢
SINGLE PORK CHOP OR VEAL CHOP, FR.FR.POT. SL. BEETS	30¢
SINGLE LAMB CHOP, FR.FR.POTATOES, SLICED BEETS	35¢
CHICKEN CHOP SUEY, NOODLES, FR.FR.POTATOES	40¢
SALADS	
FRESH LOBSTER SALAD, FR.FR.POTATOES, SL. BEET, PICKLES	75¢
CRABMEAT SALAD, FR.FR.POTATOES, SLICED BEETS, PICKLES	50¢
TUNA FISH SALAD, FR.FR.POTATOES, SL. BEETS, PICKLES	40¢
SHRIMP SALAD, FR.FR.POTATOES, SLICED BEETS, PICKLES	40¢
SALMON SALAD, FR.FR.POTATOES, SLICED BEETS, PICKLES	40¢
CHICKEN SALAD, FR.FR.POTATOES, SLICED BEETS, PICKLES	50¢
SARDINE SALAD, FR.FR.POTATOES, SLICED BEETS, PICKLES	40¢
EGG SALAD, FR.FR.POTATOES, SLICED BEETS, PICKLES	40¢
VEGETABLE SALAD	40¢
FRUIT SALAD, MAYONNAISE OR WHIPPED CREAM	40¢
LETTUCE AND TOMATO SALAD	30¢
LETTUCE SALAD	20¢

On November 26, 1937, the day after Thanksgiving, Edward Marshall left his second-floor photography studio in Vallee's Square. Whether he was in a hurry to cross Main Street or did not pay attention, the result was tragic. Ed was struck and killed by a car.

Marion Richards started working with Ed in 1920. 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 until 1974

An accident took Ed Marshall, Urban Renewal took the Marshall Studio building, and old age took Marion Richards. Many of the glass plates, photographs, and original negatives still survive. Though not yet positively identified, the photographer on the right could be Ed Marshall. ... Mark Swett



GORHAM MAN KILLED CROSSING A STREET

**Police Say He Was Hit by One
and Possibly Two Cars at
Westbrook**

Westbrook, Nov. 27. (AP)—Struck by an automobile while crossing Main street, Edward M. Marshall of Gorham, 30 years proprietor of Marshall Studio here, died Friday. He was 64.

His death brought to 159 Maine's automobile fatality toll for 1937.

Police Chief Edward A. Reny, Westbrook, said Marshall may have been struck by two automobiles. It was possible, he said, the Lewiston native was thrown in front of an automobile driven by Jesse Smith, 20, Westbrook, after another machine hit him.

Marshall's mother, Mrs. Mary G. Marshall, survives.

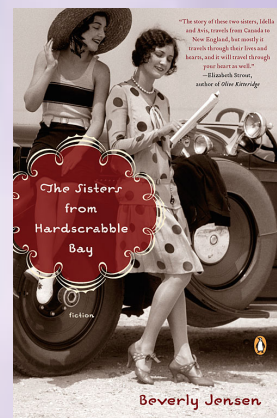


Marshall Funeral Held

Gorham, Nov. 29—Funeral services for Edward M. Marshall of Fort Hill had were held in the Neal Funeral home, State Street, this afternoon. The Rev. J. Shelley officiating. The funeral pieces included a basket from the Gospel Mission, Westbrook. Interment was in Laurel Cemetery, Gorham, and the bearers were Joseph Graham, John B. Billings, Arnold Field and Frank Hall, all of Westbrook.



Remembering Beverly Jensen



In 1969, the Westbrook High School Drama Club showcased the play "You Can't Take It With You," featuring **Beverly Jensen** in the lead role of Penelope Sycamore. Her performance left a lasting impression on the audience, with some believing she had the talent to pursue a career in acting, either on stage or in movies. Fifty-five years later, a classmate still remembers her as "talented, popular, funny, and wicked smart."

Post-graduation, Beverly pursued her passion for acting while attending the *University of Maine*, later earning her *Master of Fine Arts in Acting from Southern Methodist University*. She sharpened her skills in regional theaters, notably at the *Barter Theatre in Virginia*, before moving to New York in 1978.

In 1984, Bev wed Jay Silverman, an English Professor at *Nassau Community College on Long Island*. While balancing her new role as a wife, Bev pursued part-time work and continued her passion for acting, notably studying under renowned coach *Larry Moss*, known for his work with *Leonardo DiCaprio* and *Hilary Swank*.

In 1986, Bev faced a tough decision when offered a three-month theater opportunity in St. Paul, Minnesota, with the lead role in *Chekhov's Uncle Vanya*. After deliberating the pros and cons with Jay, they reached a tie. Considering an alternative, Bev asked: "What could we do that's special if I stay?" The answer came with the birth of their son, Noah, followed later by a daughter, Hannah.



Juggling the roles of wife, mother, part-time worker, and homemaker, Bev pursued writing with the same dedication as acting. Despite time constraints, she took advantage of moments that her husband called "stolen time," often jotting down paragraphs, writing fast, and leaving "typos" to be corrected later. She shared her work with him during quiet evenings, frequently receiving suggestions and questions.

Their world shifted in December 2002 when a CT scan unveiled lesions on Bev's pancreas and liver. Though the doctors attempted optimism, Bev faced the harsh reality: "I've got pancreatic cancer, and I'm going to die." The news evoked a whirlwind of emotions for her and Jay, as well as concern for their children.

The new year brought challenges as Bev underwent cancer treatments, enduring pain and illness. Jay stood by his wife, witnessing her decline, offering unwavering love, and support. Sadly, the disease forced her to stop writing.

Continued on Page 9

Amidst the difficulties, memories of their annual Maine vacations offered a fleeting escape. Bev longed to revisit Maine to find solace at *Crescent Lake* cottage they rented each year, even contemplating spending her final days there sitting on the porch. With approval from her oncologist, they set off on a journey to Maine, unaware that it would be Bev's final visit.

During their vacation, Bev mustered the strength to swim briefly with Jay on the first day. However, her health deteriorated rapidly, prompting him to rush her to *Mercy Hospital* in Portland. Three days later, on July 13, 2003, with her husband by her side, Beverly Jensen passed away just four days before her 50th birthday.

The funeral service was in South Portland. Bev's ashes were scattered in places she loved, including *Crescent Lake*, *Two Lights State Park at low tide*, and a blueberry patch on top of *Douglas Mountain*.

Despite the absence of videos capturing Bev's stage performances, her legacy lives on through her book, "***The Sisters From Hardscrabble Bay***," a collection of short stories chronicling the lives and escapades of *Idella and Avis Hillock*, based upon her family, spanning from 1916 to 1987.

The stories were compiled into manuscript form by her husband and writing teacher, *Jennifer Levin*, and were published posthumously by *Penguin Publishing Group* in 2010.

Bev never knew that *Stephen King* would choose one of her stories for inclusion in *The Best American Short Stories 2007*, nor that her book would be on a list of books to read in *Oprah Winfrey's "O Magazine."* It is unclear whether she intended to publish any of her writings. Had she lived, they could have remained saved on a hard drive - digital proof of her creative passion - and hidden away from the reader's eyes.

Beverly Jensen passed away twenty-one years ago, but her presence continues to resonate in the hearts of those who cherished her through her enduring characters and poignant words in "*The Sisters From Hardscrabble Bay*." ...*Mark Swett*

Bev's book can still be found online and in used book stores. It can also be downloaded as an eBook from various sites including Barnes & Noble at the link below.

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-sisters-from-hardscrabble-bay-beverly-jensen/1100316947?ean=9781101190241>.

You can listen to audio snippets of Bev reading from "*The Sisters From Hardscrabble Bay*," by clicking the icon below.



*Audio File and Picture
Copyright 2024 Beverly Jensen. All rights reserved.*

Coming in the Summer Newsletter

Finding Col. Westbrook

History Off The Westbrook Rescue Unit

Is This Florence Barrett?

Growing Up In Westbrook - by Cynthia Knight McGary

So You Think You Know Westbrook Crossword Puzzle

And More.....

BUCKET BRIGADE



Clyde "Chappy" Chapman



Bob Lefebvre



Left to Right - John Skolas, Bob LeFebvre, and Clyde Chapman president a \$500.00 check to Historical Society President Mike Sanphy for the joint purchase of a video camera that will be used to film interviews and presentations.

WESTBROOK OLD TIMERS GET TOGETHER
THE BUCKET BRIGADE
 426 BRIDGE ST. WESTBROOK

- ✓ MAY 18 FROM 9AM -2PM
- ✓ POTLUCK LUNCH WITH BURGERS AND HOT DOGS - BRING A DISH TO SHARE IF YOU'D LIKE!
- ✓ RSVP @ CAPTAINCHAPPY1303@GMAIL.COM

ALL PRESENT AND PAST MEMBERS OF FIRE/RESCUE AND POLICE WELCOME. COME AND JOIN US FOR SOME FELLOWSHIP AND WAR STORIES!

Trip to Portland Fire Museum
 + Lunch at Firehouse Subs!
Saturday, April 27 9:30am-12:30pm
 Start & Finish at Westbrook Historical Society inside Westbrook Community Center.
LIMITED BUS SEATING!
 Pre-Registration Required at:
www.WestbrookCommunityCenter.org
FIRE MUSEUM
FIREHOUSE SUBS
 "Firefighters Preserving Their Past"
 JUST ... **\$5** *Cost of Lunch!



Westbrook Bucket Brigade hats are in stock. Do you get yours yet? Choice of dark blue or fire engine red. \$20.00 each.

REMEMBER YOU CAN SUPPORT THE BUCKET BRIGADE





65th Anniversary Police Chief Pierre Harnois



Pierre Harnois was a four-letter scholar and athlete at Cheverus High School. He served his country in World War II before pursuing higher education at Miami University in Florida. Following his military service and academic achievements, he embarked on a career with the FBI, where he served as a Special Agent in various field offices, including Colorado and California.



In 1958, Pierre Harnois assumed the role of Westbrook's inaugural full-time Police Chief. Among his initial actions was a crackdown on illegal parking, which he believed had been neglected. His enforcement efforts stirred controversy in July of that year when he refused to renew licenses for seven taxi cab drivers due to traffic violations, with four additionally charged for falsifying statements on their applications.

Chief Harnois prioritized the law and public safety, as evidenced by his commitment to enforcement. On June 11, 1958, he addressed the Pride's Corner Kiwanis Club, delivering a speech titled "The City Police Department and What We May Expect From It." Shortly thereafter, two individuals experienced firsthand the implications of his message.

Two drivers on Main Street found themselves trailing a slower-moving vehicle. As they approached the curve by Simpson's Hamburg's, they both attempted to overtake it, unaware that the driver of the unmarked vehicle was Police Chief Pierre Harnois. The following day, they appeared in Municipal Court and pleaded guilty to passing on a curve. Consequently, each driver received a \$10.00 fine and a 10-day license suspension.

During Youth Day in 1959, the city appointed several outstanding students to hold various city positions for the day under the guidance of the office holder. One of them was Robert Anderson, who was Police Chief for the day. Chief Harnois took him under his wing, teaching him how to use the police radio. That student later became known as Bob Anderson, one of the most popular DJs in the area.

On May 8, 1959, Chief Harnois played a pivotal role in the installation of newly painted "zebra stripe" crosswalks in Vallee's Square. These crosswalks allowed pedestrians to walk in any direction when the traffic light indicated "Walk."

On Monday, May 11, 1959, Chief Harnois delivered a speech at the Lafayette Hotel in Portland. In hindsight, his words proved prophetic as he stated that he believed he faced "greater danger as a small city policeman than an FBI Agent."

On Thursday, May 14, 1959, Westbrook Police Chief Pierre Harnois had a reason to feel good. The day before, he and the Westbrook Police Department had won a three-month battle with Westbrook Municipal Judge Francis Rocheleau over the accuracy of radar evidence used in speeding cases. The judge dismissed cases to protect people's civil rights while law enforcement was fulfilling its duty to uphold the law. Chief Harnois, showing frustration, publicly accused the judge of issuing "licenses for people to speed." It became so contentious that Harnois said he would bypass Rocheleau and bring the charges to the Grand Jury himself. The legal issue was finally settled by a demonstration after which Rocheleau, satisfied, stated that he would accept radar findings as evidence.

At around 4:15 pm, just twenty-one miles away in Limerick, Maine a dangerous incident was unfolding in the home of Gordon Hamlin. In a desperate attempt to escape, Rose, his wife, fled to a neighbor's house across the street. Tragically, as she reached the porch, she was fatally shot in the back by her husband. All hell broke loose.

Westbrook had its share of bad news that week with two employees of the S.D. Warren Paper Company tragically killed while working. It was about to get much worse.

A call for assistance was issued to Police Departments as the standoff unfolded. With one of the few tear gas kits in the area at their disposal, Chief Harnois wasted no time. He promptly loaded it into the car alongside Sergeant Phil Hansen. They then drove down Carpenter Street, turned left onto Main Street, and sped towards the scene and his destiny. ...*Mark Swett*

The tragedy that followed can be watched in a special 16 minute video recorded by Mike Sanphy on the 60th anniversary of the events in 2019. You can watch it by clicking the link below.

<https://vimeo.com/332734924?share=copy>

Westbrook Maine Historical Society
426 Bridge Street Westbrook, Maine 04092
Email: westhistorical@myfairpoint.net
Phone 207-854-5588

President
Mike Sanphy

Vice-President
Deb Shangraw

Secretary/Membership
Patti Swett

Welcoming Committee
Diane Dyer

Acting Treasurer
Deb Shangraw

MAL
Julie Peterson

Accessions
Wayne Chick

Bucket Brigade
Robert Lefebvre MAL

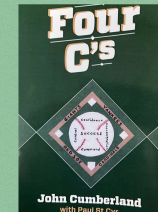
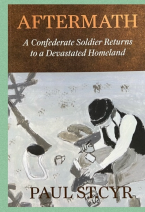
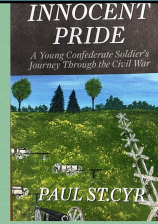
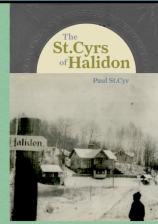
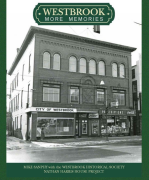
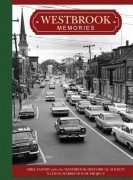
Newsletter Editor/Necrology/Obituaries/Web Page
Mark Swett
Email: markroger1951@gmail.com

Mike Sanphy Books

Westbrook Remembered
\$20.00

Westbrook Memories Vol 1 & 2
\$30.00 each

Historical Society 2024
Calendar \$10.00



Paul St. Cyr Books

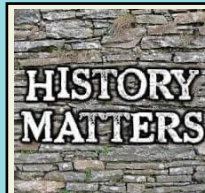
All Books \$15.00 each

The St. Cyr's of Halidon

Innocent Pride

Aftermath

Four C's



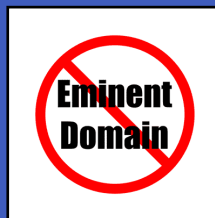
To See What They Saw

To Touch What They Touched

To Preserve What They Left



WE SUPPORT
SMILING HILL FARM



We'd love to hear from you
westbrookmainehistorical@outlook.com