

River & Sound

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Old Lyme Historical Society
"The history of Old Lyme – the people of Old Lyme"

Issue 26 🦉 November 2017

Old Lyme Historical Society Launches the 2018 *Then & Now* Community Calendar

In 2012, The idea of producing a *Then & Now Community Calendar* was presented to the Board of Trustees, which gave a tentative yes to the project with the proviso that if the Calendar didn't generate any sponsors, the Society would cover the costs and move on to other ways of promoting Old Lyme's past. Fortunately, Lady Luck smiled on us and 12 sponsors were found in three weeks. One of the sponsors remarked at that time that it was a great idea and wished they had thought of it first! Now six years later, prospective sponsors come to us. The Society is very pleased to announce the publication of the sixth annual calendar, released on November 9, 2017 at a festive reception at our 55 Lyme Street headquarters. This year the discerning calendar buyer will notice a few changes in upgraded card stock cover, a new selection of sponsors, and interesting photographs. The Committee charged with choosing sponsors and shepherding their page through the process have included Ned Farman, Alison Mitchell, Michaelle Pearson, John Pote, and Mark Terwilliger. Jim Meehan has been our designer, photographer and all around taskmaster since the beginning. Obviously, we wouldn't have a calendar without him.

It is a pleasure to thank this year's sponsors. They are in chronological order: The Town of Old Lyme, The Chocolate Shell (look for a surprise addition to the dollhouse photograph), Essex Savings Bank, Coldwell Banker, Lyme Art Association, Old Lyme-Phoebe Griffin

Noyes Library, Sound View Beach Association, Black Hall Outfitters, Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts, Florence Griswold Museum, The Bowerbird, and the Old Lyme Children's Learning Center. When you visit any of these important Old Lyme institutions, please thank them for choosing the *Then & Now Community Calendar* as a way of communicating with the public.

At the November 9th reception, we also had the pleasure of hearing our very own Skip Beebe play guitar; and watching the Connecticut Handweavers' Guild, who demonstrated weaving the amazing catalogue on the community loom, and exhibited their individual

skills with examples of handwoven scarves, rugs, towels, and other items all of which were for sale.

The *Then & Now Community Calendar* may be purchased at a number of venues around town, or online at www.OLHSI.org

—Alison Mitchell



"Village Scene, Old Lyme," Winfield Scott Clime (1881-1958). Watercolor. Jewett family collection.
Old Lyme Village Scene, 2017. Photograph by James Meehan.



Old Lyme Historical Society, Inc.
55 Lyme Street, P.O. Box 352, Old Lyme, CT 06371
OLHSI.org



The mission of the Old Lyme Historical Society, Inc., is to collect, preserve, and interpret the rich history of Old Lyme and its environs for the benefit of residents and visitors.

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NEWSLETTER

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Photograph by James Meehan

OLHSI 2017-2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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From the Co-Chairs

The highlight of our summer season was Old Lyme's Annual Midsummer Festival. The Weavers' Guild was hard at work, Jim Lampos provided music in the afternoon and a '39 Ford Woody station wagon graced our lawn. Autumn got off to a good start with our second "*Dinner On the Rocks*" fundraiser at Fox Hopyard. Our thanks to Trustee Bob DiNapoli for arranging it. Shortly after was our fourth Annual Plant Sale, thanks again to Bob for his efforts. Despite the wet weather, we took in over \$1000 to be added to our general fund. About the same time, our beautiful new sign, arranged by Trustee Edie Twining, was installed. Right after the Plant sale, the ubiquitous Bob DiNapoli created planting beds around the sign and along one side of the building. Plants remaining from the plant sale then appeared in the beds, lending an elegant touch to our building.

The 6th annual *Then & Now Community Calendar* for 2018 (see article on page one) was launched at a festive reception on November 9 at the Old Lyme Historical Society Community Hall. Thanks to this year's twelve sponsors, as well as the entire calendar development team we look forward to bringing the rich history of Old Lyme into your homes throughout another new year.

On November 15 OLHSI hosted a regional meeting of the Connecticut League of Historical Organizations, the theme of which was "*Acquiring, Funding and Renovating a Building*". Co-Chairmen Mark Lander and Ned Farman attended individually or together, other regional gatherings, as well.

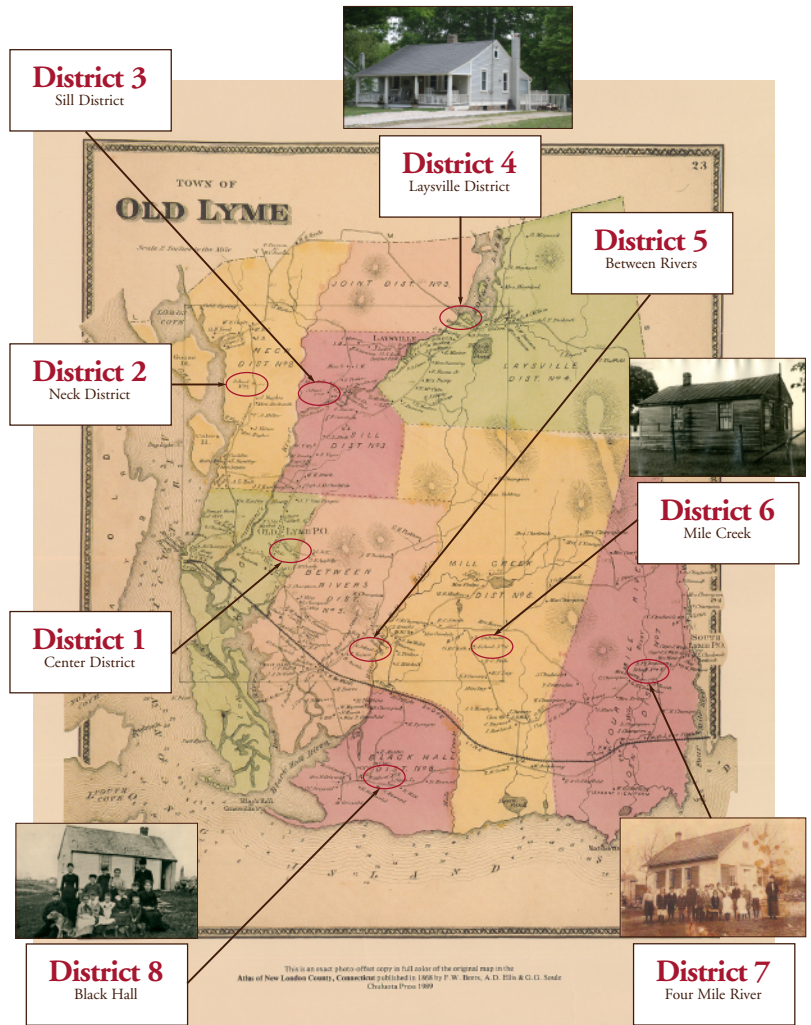
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People, Places & Things

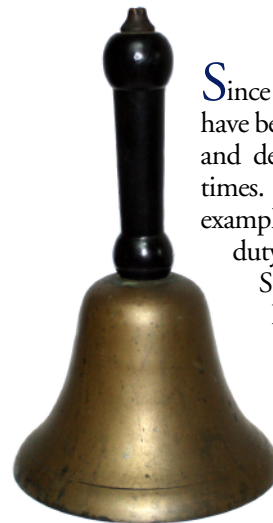
FROM THE OLD LYME HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES

—Michelle Pearson

This 1868 Beers map provides an interesting glimpse into life in 19th Century Old Lyme. It shows that the town had eight public school districts – quite an accomplishment for a town with a population of approximately 1300 people! The school districts corresponded to the various neighborhoods of the town. The schoolhouse buildings were simple one-room constructions with windows and a fireplace (later converted to a wood or coal stove) for heat. Children attended the school within the shortest walking distance of their home, and families were expected to support the school by providing fuel for the winter months.



The Black Hall School was started in 1806 as a one room schoolhouse by the citizens of Black Hall “in the first Society of Lyme”. Its dimensions were given as “seventeen feet in length, and fourteen feet width in the clear, and to be seven and a half feet between joints, to be covered with pine boards and plastered with lime mortar...” This photograph of the Black Hall Schoolhouse was featured on the frontispiece of May Hall James’ 1939 book, *An Educational History of Old Lyme 1635–1935*.



Since at least the 18th Century, school bells have been used to summon students to school and denote class periods, recess, and break times. This wonderfully preserved, working example of a late 19th Century brass bell saw duty for many years at the Neck Road Schoolhouse. It was given to the Old Lyme Historical Society by the late Gloria Pendleton, who had herself attended school at the one room schoolhouse in the Four Mile River District, South Lyme.

From the Co-Chairs

(Continued from page 1)

Bob DiNapoli will be spearheading our annual holiday book sales at the Old Lyme Marketplace on Saturdays, December 9, 16 and 23. Great Christmas gifts available!

Again thanks are due to Edie Twining for her latest display at the Post Office: a tribute to Shirley Temple comprised of items donated by late Old Lyme resident Mary Janvrin, who also donated the beautiful doll houses on display at 55 Lyme Street.

The Archives Committee continues to work on accessioning and organizing large quantities of materials donated to us by the good folks of Old Lyme. If you have anything of local historical value, for which you would like to find a good home, please call 860-434-0684. The Committee is now able to work in the comfort of the completed Archives and Reading Rooms, thanks to the efforts of the Tuesday Morning Work Crew. A new rear entrance has been completed and a new rear lobby is nearing completion. The next big step will be finding and installing a wheelchair lift to provide handicap access to both levels of the building.

Our new Facebook and Twitter accounts are up and running and proving very popular, thanks to Trustee Michaelle Pearson. Our website is being updated and should soon be displaying news of the Society. Watch all of these sites for information about upcoming events.

As always, we thank the residents and businesses of Old Lyme, the Town Government and even friends from out of town, near and far, for your support.

*Mark Lander & Ned Farman
Chairs, Board of Trustees,
Old Lyme Historical Society, Inc.*



From the Archives

For those of you who do not use the Old Lyme Post Office on Halls Road, The Historical Society invites you to make a point of visiting it soon, so you will have the pleasure of viewing the display case nestled in the corner where the mailboxes are. We are indebted to the Post Office staff who asked us three years ago to refurbish the case. This has afforded the Society an opportunity to mount mini exhibits on various themes of local interest. These mini exhibits are curated by Board member Edie Twining, who has done an amazing job.

The current display is "*All Things Shirley Temple*" and includes a sampling of accessioned items from the Historical Society's Archives. The featured Shirley Temple doll is a numbered original given to Mary Janvrin circa 1936. This doll, and many other related items were given to the Old Lyme Historical Society by Ms. Janvrin, who spent summers visiting Old Lyme with her family either at the Old Lyme Inn when it was located on Ferry Road or the Bee and Thistle on the Post Road. Later on, she lived with her sister Natalie Janvrin Wiggins on Homestead Circle. Ms. Janvrin also donated the two completely furnished TynieToy doll houses made in 1936 which are on permanent display at the Society's headquarters at 55 Lyme Street.

—Alison Mitchell

An Overdue Thank You

In the last issue of the newsletter, we inadvertently neglected to thank Susan Morrison for her wonderful contributions to our Archives Reading Room. The Old Lyme Historical Society is now the proud owner of a tall reception desk with accompanying stools as well as a credenza in which to store Archives materials. We also have an additional work table. These new acquisitions have provided valuable storage space as well as a comfortable place to work, greatly enhancing our new research facility. When Susan is upstairs working on the community loom, we can thank her with a tap on the ceiling! When you see her, please give her a hearty thanks from all the volunteer Archives staff.

Can You Help Identify This Mystery Photo?

The Old Lyme Historical Society Archive is seeking info regarding the women pictured and also the location of the photo. It seems that it might be a school photo, and judging from the clothing, was likely taken circa 1900-1910. Can you help us? Do you perhaps recognize a relative or ancestress? Please let us know by email: olhistory1665@gmail.com or telephone: 860-434-0684.