



The **ICRC INSIDER**

Indian and Colonial Research Center

39 Main Street

P.O. Box 5 2 5

Old Mystic, Ct. 06372

www.indianandcolonial.org

ICRC06372@yahoo.com

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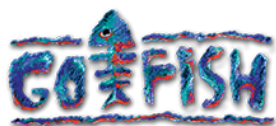
The Mission of the Indian and Colonial Research Center
is to preserve and make accessible to the public, the collected works of Eva Butler and additional historical materials of the people of Old Mystic, Connecticut and surrounding areas.



THE INDIAN & COLONIAL RESEARCH CENTER, Inc.

**Annual Luncheon Meeting
Was held on 16 November 2019**

Many thanks to our host Jon Kodama whose generosity made it possible for all proceeds to benefit the ICRC. We had a great turn-out, and it was a joy to see old friends and new!



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**Speaker at our annual meeting:
Dr. Walter Woodward,
Connecticut State Historian**

Indian and Colonial Research Center
Secretary's Report
November 16, 2019

We are proud of what we have accomplished this year and owe much of this to our members and dedicated volunteers.

This year:

- We were able to provide research services to the public Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the year and were able to add openings on Saturdays starting last summer.
- We presented an exhibit based on Charles Q. Eldredge, an old Mystic original.
- We participated in the Connecticut Open House Day.
- We maintained an active Facebook Page.
- We participated in the Groton History Fair.
- We continue to digitize the scrapbook collection.
- We became a member of the Blue Star Museums.
- We received a grant from the Pomeroy Foundation for a street sign recognizing that the Mystic Bank building has been placed on the Register of Historic Places.

Our goals for the next year:

- Continue fundraising efforts to ensure ICRC remains a viable and stable organization.
- Continue to enter our scrapbook collection into the Past Perfect database
- Continue to offer outreach to the community with new exhibits and visits. (Packer Pine Tar Soap).
- Continue to upgrade our website to promote the ICRC and its research possibilities.
- Continue to digitize our video collections.
- Recruit a volunteer to digitize negatives from our extensive photo collection.
- We will be included in the 2020 Membership Directory of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce increasing our exposure to the public.

These new and continuing initiatives are important because they will help us carry out the mission of ICRC and reach a wider audience.

There are currently 132 members, 8 volunteers and 7 Board Members. The Board meets monthly at the ICRC building.

We continue to reach out for volunteers.

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Respectfully submitted,,
Sharon I. Maynard Secretary

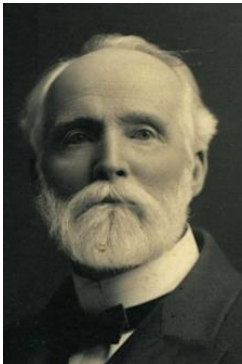
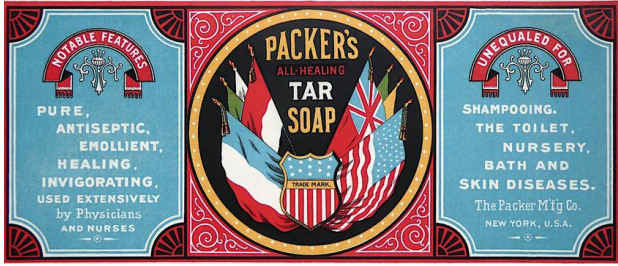
The ICRC Has New Signage

Thanks to a grant by the William Pomeroy Foundation, we have a new sign out front commemorating the Mystic Bank's placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Special thanks to Bob Mohr (pictured below) and Richard Guidebeck for their hard work installing it!



– Packers Tar Soap New Exhibit at the ICRC

Curated by Marcus Maronn ICRC volunteer



When Daniel Packer (1825-1904) was 16, he went to sea, and after learning the ropes he voyaged to France on the packet ship Emerald. He later traveled to Key West with Captain Charles H. Mallory of Mystic. In 1851, gold rush fever enticed him to California

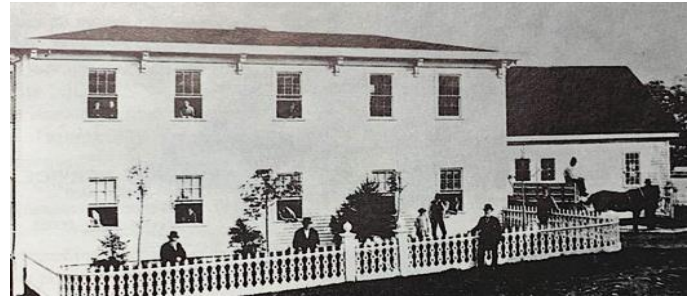
where he spent 3 years mining with little success, however he noticed that one thing in short supply was SOAP – so he began making and selling it. Business was brisk – and he soon cleaned up! When he returned to Mystic in 1868, he began

making Packers All Healing Tar Soap at his new home which still stands on High Street. This product was developed and manufactured from 1869 until 1965. It was said that daily use of Packer's provides effective natural protection against mosquito, chigger, tick and other insect bites, as was recognized by the Army Corp of Engineers who used Packer's ingredients as the insect repellent of choice prior to World War II. *It* is still manufactured today in Illinois. Packers Pine Tar Soap was sold and shipped all over the world



including on boats that were built right here in Mystic.

Stop in and enjoy this charming exhibit of antique advertisements and pictures of Mystic in yesteryear.



Packer's home and business on High Street.

Note: The ICRC library has a pamphlet and a few articles by Carol Kimball that reference Packers Tar Soap. Here is one example you might want to check out when you stop by to see the exhibit..

Title: Requiem for a house in Mystic

Author: Kimball, Carol W.

Subject: Mystic Home, built 1908, 23 Library Street, destroyed

Scrapbook Object ID: Kim12-062

Summary: The blackened hull of the once beautiful house at 23 Library St. in Mystic that stood near the Union Baptist Church is gone now (as of 2009), a year and three months after an act of arson. The home had been built in 1908 by Albert George, superintendent of the Packers Tar Soap factory. Later, it became the popular boarding house run by Mrs. Stacia McGuire where ladies relaxed on the wide front porch.

More School Days Memories

By Joyce Tessier, ICRC Member

Editor's note: Last September ICRC volunteer Angie Stanfield wrote an article about the history of Groton public schools. Her essay inspired ICRC member and Old Mystic resident, Joyce Tessier, to recall her knowledge of the subject.



The article on Groton schools brought back a lot of memories. Angie Stanfield spent a lot of time going through information. Nice job!

Having been in the Groton school system and gone to the one room school in the 12th district on Welles Road, I have some firsthand information.

The children on the Groton side of Old Mystic did attend the 6th district two room school on the Stonington side of the brook. In 1932 the parents on the Groton side of the brook asked permission to build a school. The Welles Family provided the land and in November, 1932 the 12th District one room

(1-8) School opened.

Both Burnett's Corners School and the 12th District's School were used until 1942 when Burnett's Corners School closed. The grades dwindled over the years from eight to three. Having finished third grade, my class went on to Mystic Academy.

The 12th District School still is used for church and community activities. The slate blackboards are still on the walls. The 12th District school never merged into Stonington.

In Carol Kimball's "The Groton Story," page 49; "From 1929 to 1944 no new schools were built..." is not accurate, but by the time of press the 12th District School had closed.

I'd like to see the last remaining Groton One-Room Schoolhouse get the recognition it deserves. I'm an Old Mystic person at heart!



In the Old Days We Walked Up Hill, Both Ways

In 1987 one of the ICRC founders, Noank historian Mary Virginia Goodman, wrote about the challenges of high school attendance back in 1916 when she was a Williams Memorial Institute student. No yellow school bus rolled conveniently up to your door and you probably couldn't borrow dad's car. In fact, going to high school was a choice you made, and often required considerable effort.

Goodman wrote: "There was no high school in the town of Groton in my young womanhood. The state of Connecticut ... made it mandatory for every town to furnish high school education for pupils who desired it, build a public high school, or pay tuition to a neighboring town school for those who wished to attend. Not every grammar school pupil in those days attended a high school, only those who really had an interest in furthering their education ...

Pupils from Groton, Poquonnock Bridge, Noank, West Mystic, and Mystic traveled back and forth to New London to school daily. Young people from the villages...rode to Groton on the trolley cars to the ferry at the landing at the foot of School Street in Groton and took the ferry to New London and then walked across the railroad tracks to Williams Memorial Institute for girls ,, the boys attended Bulkley. ...Some attended Chapman Technical School, several from Groton attended Norwich Free Academy, riding on the train from Groton."



Source: ICRC Scrapbook 26 page 17A, "Wheeler High School Graduation Evokes Fond Memories of 1916,:by Mary Virginia Goodman.



We are delighted to welcome new members

Richard Callan, Steven Chapman, Chris

Cox, Ken Davison, Andy Halsey, William

Hargraves, Christopher Harris, Brian Gill,

and Christine Krzemien.

When John Winthrop Jr. Doctored the Connecticut Colony - for Free

By Cora Grunwald

Early Life. John Winthrop Jr. was born Feb. 12, 1606, in Suffolk, England, the son of the Puritan leader John Winthrop and Mary Forth, who died before he turned 10. He studied at Trinity College in Dublin and briefly studied law in London. Winthrop apparently didn't want to practice law, and he had a keen interest in science and in travel. Before he followed his father to Massachusetts in 1631, he went to western France and to the Near East. Winthrop also attended medical lectures at the University of Amsterdam. John Winthrop Jr. died on April 6, 1676.



Today, people know John Winthrop Jr. as the founder of the town of Ipswich and the Saugus Iron Works in Massachusetts. In Connecticut, he founded Saybrook and New London. For most of the years from 1657 to 1676, he served as governor of Connecticut.

Though he wasn't a doctor, John Winthrop Jr. diagnosed and medicated hundreds of New Englanders in the latter part of the 17th century. He ministered to an estimated one-tenth of Connecticut families. At the time, the colony had only about 5,000 inhabitants, and John Winthrop Jr. tried to heal at least 500 of them.

Few physicians lived in Connecticut in those days, and they had scant medical knowledge. John Winthrop Jr., for example, concocted remedies that seem bizarre even by 19th century standards. Oliver Wendell Holmes, a physician, studied Winthrop's papers and tried to figure out what he had given people. Holmes concluded he concocted his favorite remedy, rubila, from nitre (saltpetre) and some antimony (also known as kohl). "A little salt of tin may have been added, and there are hints of the presence of powdered 'unicorn's horn' (narwhal tooth)," Holmes wrote in a medical essay. "One can imagine yet other horrors." From about 1650 to his death in 1676, post riders along the Boston Post Road routinely carried Winthrop's diagnoses and medications from his home in New London.

Walter W. Woodward described John Winthrop Jr. as 'one of New England's leading practitioners of alchemical medicine.' Sick people inundated him with medical requests. In his book, *Prospero's America: John Winthrop, Jr., Alchemy, and the Creation of New England Culture, 1606-1676*, Woodward wrote, "New London became a hospital town to which patients came from all over New England seeking cures for a host of medical conditions."

Winthrop loaned a mysterious book to his friend, Jonathan Brewster, with recipes and directions for the "Elixir of Life." Brewster never doubted for a minute that he alone had stumbled on the secret that philosophers and necromancers had sought for ages. Brewster spent 5 years preparing the different "secret" elixirs, afraid that either he would die or encounter another Indian War before the products were complete. He wrote letters to Winthrop about his progress, always asking Winthrop to keep the information secret.

To help meet the New England-wide demand for Winthrop's medicines, he distributed them through a network of female practitioners, who incorporated Winthrop's color-coded packets of medicines into their own healing services. His female practitioners included Elizabeth Davenport, wife of John Davenport, the Puritan minister who co-founded New Haven; Anna Mason, wife of John Mason, Winthrop's deputy governor, and Mrs. Newton, probably the wife of Roger Newton, Milford's minister.

Strange Medicine. In the 17th century, doctors considered purging a remedy for all kinds of illnesses. "I purges, I pukes, and I swets 'em! And then if they dies I lets 'em" was standard practice in those days. John Winthrop Jr. used his reddish powder, rubila, to stimulate powerful diarrhea and vomiting. His rubila belonged to the category of mineral drugs, such as lime, saltpetre, Armenian bole, crocus metallorum, sulphure of antimony and nitre. Nitre, wrote Holmes, was a pretty safe medicine in moderate doses, 'and one not likely to keep the good Governor awake at night thinking whether it might not kill, if' Continued page 6

Winthrop tried to cure plague, smallpox, fevers, king's evil (scrofula), insanity, falling sickness,

broken bones, dislocations and burning with gunpowder. For inflammations, he recommended bloodletting; for fevers, fasting in the early stages. And then there were his medications. He used herbs like St. John's wort, Clown's all-heal and parsley. John Winthrop Jr. had his mystical drugs, like the one he called his black powder. It supposedly cured the plague, smallpox and all sorts of fevers. He made it by putting live toads into an earthen pot so as to half fill it. He then baked and burned them in the open air until he could pound them first into a brown, then into a black powder.

Eels and Good Wine. Winthrop's recipe for curing fever and ague: "Pare the patient's nails; put the parings in a little bag, and hang the bag around the neck of a live eel, and put him in a tub of water. The eel will die, and the patient will recover." Another cure was a little more straightforward. Good wine, he wrote to a friend, was the best medicine for the friend's wife.

A spoonful of brimstone and treacle. Brimstone, a form of Sulphur, and treacle or molasses were commonly used as a cure-all at a time when medicine was not readily available to the masses. Charles Dickens mentions its use in Nicholas Nickleby, showing that even 150 years after the following recipe was written, its popularity had not decreased. It is the threat of this treatment that makes Michael and Jane Banks write their definition of a good nanny in Mary Poppins, when their father's choice and former nanny says "Brimstone and Treacle and cod liver oil, liberal doses of each. These are the treats from which children recoil, the lessons I'm going to teach."



A Reicut to Coore the Eche

A hanfull of box, a hanfull of wormwood
A hanfull of isope (hyssop)
A hanfull of Rewe (rue)
A pound of Lard
Boill it well together
Strain it and take a litell brimstone and store
it together till its cold
Take trekell (treacle) and brimstone for five or
six days
Drive it out well, then take the ointmeny and
anint yourself

From a book held in the Eaton College Archives, dated 1693

Genealogy: Behind the Dry Statistics, Real People Waiting to be Found

By Carol Sommer ICRC volunteer

After I retired, I took on what promised to be a tedious project: entering all my mother's hand-written genealogical notes (covering nearly 2,000 relatives and more than 700 years) into a computer data base. My plan was to donate the result to a historical society and be done with it. I thought it would be a belated tribute to Mom, but as it turned out it was a gift I gave myself..

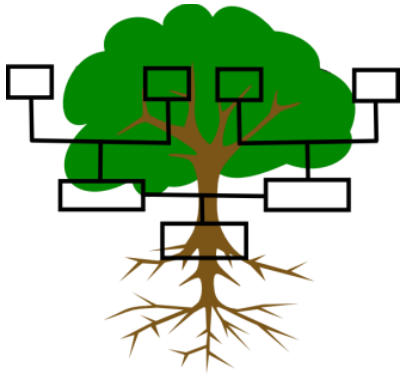
As I entered all the birth, marriage, and death dates, I started thinking about this parade of strangers in the context of what was going on in the world during their lifetimes. I began developing affection for these real people who had real personalities, hopes, and dreams. Their statistics told stories I wasn't expecting.

Nancy Mitchell, one of the volunteers cataloguing newspaper clippings in the ICRC's extensive scrapbook collection, found an article that nicely captures this thought. The piece cites this quotation from a book about the Morgan family:

"Nothing seems at first sight less interesting, or less instructive, than a genealogical table - a mere register of names and dates. But such a passage as the following:

Martha b.22 Sept., 1667, died single 23 Nov. 22, 1678. She was engaged to be married, but died unmarried. Leaving a will in which she directed that at her funeral her betrothed husband, John Morgan, Jr., be all over in mourning, and follow next after me.

... such a passage as that ... so touching, so dramatic ... when it occurs in the midst of these dry records throws out an electric light at every link in the chain of the generations ... each of these names is a memorial, perhaps the only memorial, of a human heart..."



12/06/2019 ICRC Treasurer's Report Fiscal year – 11/1/2018 – 10/31 2019

On 11/1/2018 our checking account balance was \$28,524.91 and on 10/31/2019 it was \$25,539.42 for a decrease of \$2985.49. Our savings account has a balance of \$1003.54 which is about the same as last year. Total income for the year was \$9459.62 and expenses were \$12,445.11.

The year saw both a decrease in income and an increase in expenses from the previous fiscal year. Major differences were a decrease in donations of about \$1600 dollars and a decrease in membership fees of about \$1600 dollars. Increased expenses came largely from security system upgrades and repairs, costs for exhibit materials, a five year renewal of web services, replacement of our photocopier, maintenance, insurance and utility costs.

The membership renewals, in terms of numbers of members, are about 25% behind what they were last year at this time. Last fiscal year's donation total benefited from two \$1000 donations which we did not receive this year. We are still in excellent financial shape but we must be aware of this year's trend.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Mohr, Treasurer

ICRC Leadership

Founders 1965

Eva Butler & family
Mary Virginia Goodman
Carol Kimball
Harry Nelson
John Bucklyn
Ken Medbury
Joe Rattigan
James Spellman

Board of Directors

George Crouse
Tobias Glaza
Paul Grant-Costa
Cora Grunwald
Richard Guidebeck
Sharon Maynard
Robert Mohr
Christopher Rose

Honorary Directors

Adella Backus
Donald Chapman
Joanne Fontanella
George Hamell
Jack & Jane Pillar
Allen Polhemus

MEETING MINUTES

THE INDIAN & COLONIAL RESEARCH CENTER, Inc.

16 November 2019 – Annual Luncheon

Meeting – Held at GO FISH

- Call to Order
- Welcome – George Crouse
- Moment of Silence

George Crouse mentioned that the ICRC was incorporated on December 9th, 1965. The first ANNUAL MEETING was held on November 28th, 1967. December 2019 will start the 55th year of the established ICRC.

On behalf of the ICRC, George then expressed the ICRC's gratitude to Jon Kodama of Go Fish for hosting our Annual Meeting and Luncheon and for allowing all proceeds collected to go directly to the ICRC. The donation will be used to replenish ICRC's operating budget. A special thank you to Kodoma's staff was offered for their outstanding service.



There followed an introduction of Current Board Members: Chris Rose (Board Director), Tobias Glaza (Board Director), Paul Grant-Costa (Board

Director), Sharon Maynard (Board Director, Secretary), Robert Mohr, (Board Director and Treasurer), Richard Guidebeck (Board Director) and George Crouse (Board Director). Our Honorary Board Members: Adella Backus, Donald Chapman, Joanne Fontanella, George Hamell, Jack & Jane Pillar and Allen Polhemus .

Volunteers were acknowledged and presented with a gift card to show the Board's appreciation.

The Annual Secretary's Report was presented by Sharon Maynard (see attached). Toby Glaza made a

motion to accept the Annual Report. Paul Grant-Costa seconded the motion and passed by a majority vote of the membership.

The Treasurers Report was presented by Bob Mohr (see attached). Sharon Maynard moved to accept the treasurer's Report and the motion was seconded by Richard Guidebeck and passed by a majority vote of the membership.

Board Nominations and Confirmations: A motion was made by Toby Glaza to nominate Cora Grunwald to the Board of Directors and to re-nominate George Crouse to serve for another term on the Board. Motion was seconded by Paul Grant-Costa and was passed by majority vote of the membership.

Meeting Adjournment: A motion was made by Chris Rose to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Paul Grant-Costa.

There followed our annual luncheon and program.

This year's guest speaker was Connecticut State Historian, Walt Woodward. Mr. Woodward's topic: "The Cost of Battles Not Fought: Wars and Rumors of Wars in Colonial New England".

Tickets for a 50/50 raffle were available for purchase throughout the meeting and luncheon. Christopher Harris was the winner of the 50/50 raffle. Three raffle tickets were then drawn for a door prize consisting of bars or Packer's Pine Tar Soap, in keeping with the spirit of our courrant exhibit of the same name.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon I Maynard, Secretary

