

Past to Present

The Newsletter of the New Haven Museum



Summer 2011

The Hill Captures Imagination & Nostalgia



Left: The crowd takes their time to view the artifacts, photographs, maps and postcards on display.

Below, from left: A line forms for the food generously provided by Leon's Restaurant, which has deep roots in The Hill; Two guests take a closer look at one of the maps that detail the changes in the demographics and population density in The Hill; Walter R. Miller, Jr., the Museum's Executive Director with Kathy Garre-Ayars and Barbara Lamb.



On March 22, *The Hill: New Haven's First Suburb*, the second in the Museum's continuing series of exhibitions that explore all of the city's neighborhoods, opened to a crowd of over 150 guests. Since then, many visitors have come to the Museum in search of what the exhibition has to offer, and it is clear that The Hill is of great interest to New Haveners and visitors alike.

The exhibition features photographs, postcards, artifacts, paintings, maps, oral history, and a textile piece that together tell the stories of the various ethnic groups that lived in The Hill and significant people who shaped the neighborhood. In particular, the artifacts on display represent a variety of factories and businesses that were trademarks of The Hill. One of these businesses is Leon's Restaurant, which, thanks to Executive Chef and Owner Edward E. Varipapa,

provided delicious refreshments during the exhibition's opening reception.

With the help of David Phillips, Professor of History at Wesleyan University, the maps on view illustrate the population changes of the neighborhood over time based on census data. The postcards and many reproduction images were drawn from Joe Taylor's collection. In the spring, Joe Taylor gave talks on the neighborhood and shared some more postcards from his collection.

A particularly captivating component is the audio, which features interviews with people from the neighborhood, that plays in the background of the "Modern" display about The Hill.

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Celebrating the City's Summer Traditions



From left: Children on board the *Quinnipiack* learn about the marine animals from the Long Island Sound through a touch tank; Gaddis Smith speaks to a full house about the influence of the harbor on New Haven's development; Summer Education Interns help children make sailboats for the *Sails Away!* Family Day.

This summer, the New Haven Museum celebrated two seasonal pastimes that are particularly meaningful to New Haven's history: sailing and baseball.

In exploring sailing, a Harbor Discovery Cruise was arranged with Schooner Inc. as a family-friendly event on Sunday, June 5. On board the schooner *Quinnipiack*, guests set sail from Long Wharf Pier into the harbor. Children helped raise sails and met marine animals in a touch tank, while the adults learned how to tie nautical knots (pictured above).



On Tuesday, June 7, Gaddis Smith, Larned Professor Emeritus of History at Yale University and expert on maritime history, offered a lecture entitled "New Haven & The Sea in History" at the Museum. He discussed how the harbor has played a role in New Haven's development. Professor Smith did not disappoint a full house.

The Museum offered a Family Day on Saturday, June 18 from 10 am to 2:30 pm. This time around, *Sails Away!*, the Family Day, provided children with three art workshops. One featured miniature wooden sailboats that children decorated, the second taught children how to fold paper sailboats and allowed them to use their imagination to transform these boats into pirate ships and beyond, and the third showcased ship models from the Museum's collection from which children practiced sketching. In addition, Schooner Inc. brought a touch tank and showed children how scientists study marine animals. Families had a chance to see and feel blue crabs, moon snails, a sea star, and other

marine animals.

Schooner Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting environmental awareness and personal growth by providing educational experiences in marine science, sailing, and the history of Long Island Sound and its watershed. The organization's mission made it an ideal partner in celebrating the tradition of sailing in New Haven.

The month of July has been dedicated to celebrating the city's baseball history. The Friends of Vintage Base Ball's historian "Pops" O'Maxfield spoke about baseball during the Civil War era on Thursday, July 7 (pictured below). He shed



light on the origins of baseball and the differences in the early variations of the game. Pops was a great resource in sharing how baseball shaped American culture, most notably during the time of the Civil War.

Another Family Day, *Let's Play Ball!*, was offered on Sunday, July 17. Friends of Vintage Baseball stopped by with 19th century reproduction baseball equipment and bases for children and families to test out. In addition, children designed baseball advertisements and pennant flags. The Family Day offered families the chance to learn about baseball as it was over 100 years ago.

Make sure to check in for updates on family programs later in the summer and in the fall at the Museum and at the Pardee-Morris House. Keep an eye out for the summer series to continue next year. Also, look for the Museum at upcoming community events, such as the East Rock Street Festival, Sunday in the Park at Edgerton Park, and more!

Moving Forward

A Message from Executive Director, Walter R. Miller, Ph.D.

As our fiscal year ends on June 30, we can look back on a year of significant and unique accomplishments for the New Haven Museum, including two new exhibitions and many other new programs. The Yale-China exhibition, which ended on June 30, attracted much attention. The latest in our continuing series of exhibits celebrating the city's neighborhoods, *The Hill: New Haven's First Suburb*, has attracted so much interest and attendance that we have extended it into the fall. These most recent exhibitions have brought through our doors significant numbers of visitors of different backgrounds, many of whom had never visited before. Michelle Cheng, Director of Education, has made alliances with other institutions, allowing us to significantly expand the programs we can offer to all age groups. We continue to strengthen our ability to attract new and different audiences that reflect our city and region as it grows and changes.

As to my personal role, I have served on the Museum Board for six years as President and CEO. My term is up. I was asked to stay on as Executive Director until the end of July. After that I will remain on the Board until our Annual Meeting in November to assist in the transition to a new administration. It is with great sadness that I am stepping down, but I am not stepping away.

As the New Haven Museum approaches its 150th anniversary, we feel confident that, with the new programs we have begun over the past three years, we will continue to reflect the changing environment of our city not only as it is, but as it will be.

This Museum has so many unique treasures that remain hidden because of lack of display space. They need to be seen by a wider public. A major part of our plan for the future is to open new doors and windows to preserve the past, to illuminate the present and to anticipate the future. In this manner, we will be able to continue to serve our city and region well in the years to come.



Our Annual Appeal for 2011 will have two goals to which we will ask you to contribute:

1. To open at least one new gallery for the display of hidden treasures;
2. To clean, repair and present ten historic objects and paintings that need to be exhibited.

Finally, I want to thank the membership of this organization for the opportunity to be able to work together with you and with all our associates and friends. For me, this has been a very exciting and rewarding period. I also want to offer a special thanks to all the volunteers who devote so much time and energy to make this Museum everything that it should be.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter R. Miller, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director

The Hill, continued from page 1

The section is devoted to showcasing contemporary life in The Hill includes photographs of various professionals who live and work in the neighborhood. There is also a family quilt, on loan for the exhibition courtesy of the Monk family.

In addition, school outreach programs were designed by Michelle Cheng, our Director of Education, to correspond with the exhibition. The programs elaborated on particular themes, such as the immigrants who called The Hill home, the postcard images, and Louise Gaffney Flannigan, the railroad poetess.

Wilbur Cross High School was one of the schools that

took advantage of the outreach programs, which were generously paid for by The Jane Marcher Foundation. A number of Wilbur Cross students live and spend time in The Hill, so the outreach program was ideal in approaching new audiences. After the exhibition comes down, the school programs will still live on and be available for future use.

Furthermore, the grant from The Jane Marcher Foundation allowed the Museum to invite the residents of Casa Otoñal, a senior center in The Hill, and their families to see the exhibition and to offer to cover their transportation costs.

The exhibition is on view through the fall of 2011.

From the Photo Archives

By Jason Bischoff-Wurstle, Director of Photographic Archives

The Bridge between East Rock and Fair Haven

In 1959, East Street resembled a mixed-use neighborhood, complete with industrial business, used car lots, and most importantly residential buildings. East Street runs from State Street to Water Street, and aside from the Mill River, serves as a physical border between the Wooster Square neighborhood and Fair Haven to the east.

East Street linked Upper State Street, one of New Haven's original "highways" to the waterfront, and the various industries in Wooster Square. Through the last quarter of the 19th century, the city's population expanded at an alarming rate, and the area around East Street seemed a natural place for growth. As new immigrants moved into the more developed areas of Wooster Square and Fair Haven, the prosperous members of the community tended to move outward and came to fill in areas along State Street and especially Jocelyn Square.



Jocelyn Square grew to have its own markets, bars, and assorted shops that catered to local residents. As the use of the automobile spread by the 1920's, the suburban movement intensified and was again a natural progression for those who were able to afford a car and a home further away from the bustle of the urban core. By 1959, East Street was in derelict shape, and for the most part was razed in the early 60's for the new industrial park. Today, the street is home to a few businesses and the headquarters for the construction crew preparing the overhaul of the Interstate 95/91 interchange as the city again plans to breathe life into this corridor.

Volunteer Spotlight

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our members and friends whose tremendous response to the call for donations of items resulted in a very successful Spring Tag Sale that took place on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1. The wide variety of items we received, ranging from books to furniture to housewares, provided us with an outstanding collection of items for sale.

The Tag Sale was in good hands under the supervision of Allene Kelly and Shelli Eason. With the help of volunteers, the Tag Sale raised over \$1000 for the Museum.

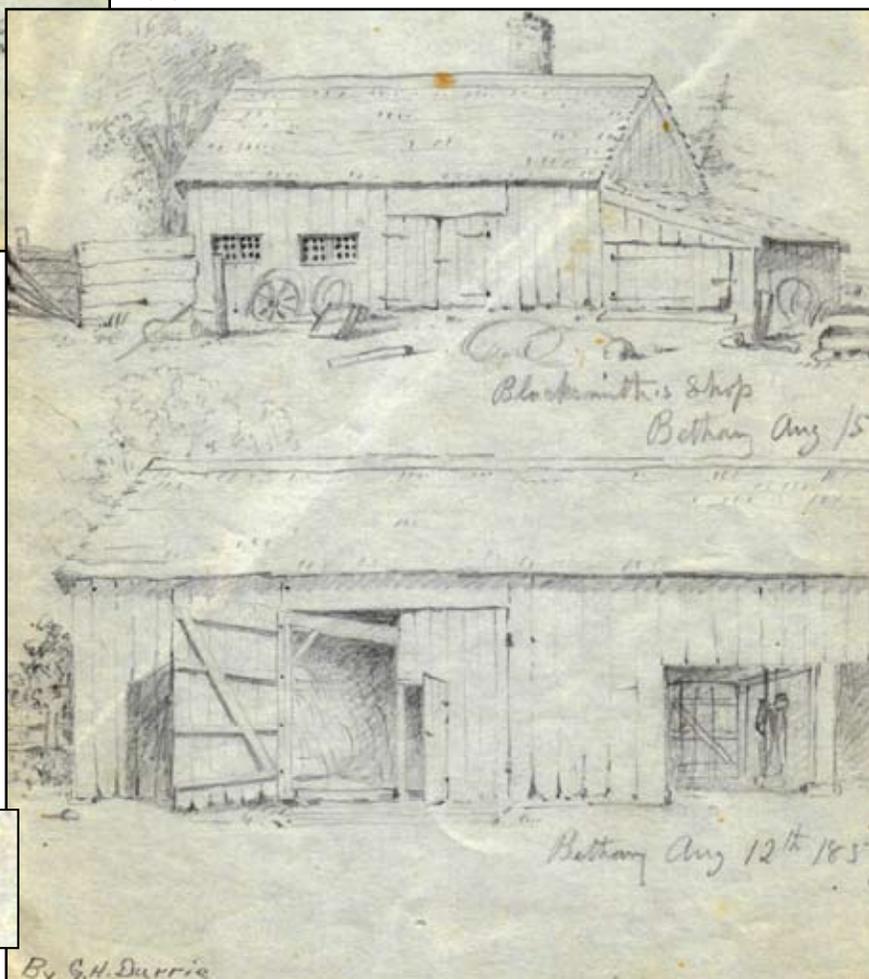
From the Whitney Library

By James W. Campbell, Librarian & Curator of Manuscripts

Pencil Sketches by Durrie



The paintings of George Henry Durrie (1820-1863) are well represented in the Museum collections. In addition, the Whitney Library has a small, but interesting, collection of his papers. Our Manuscript Collection #16 includes correspondence, a diary kept by GHD in 1845 & 1846, and a number of pencil sketches. These sketches are found both in a bound sketch book and also individual sheets. While noted for his oil paintings, especially rural scenes, these sketches also show his skills as an artist in a different medium. These loose sketches were given to the Whitney Library in 1961 by Mrs. Philip English. The two represented on this page are "Birch, Cold Spring, July 1859" and "Blacksmith's Shop, Bethany, August 1859." The other drawings show the Whitneyville Armory and the Judd place in Bethany. In 1966, the New Haven Colony Historical Society sponsored a major exhibition of Durrie's work. The catalogue of that exhibition is still available for purchase [here](#).



G.H. Durrie

Pardee-Morris House Opens with Photo Show

The Pardee-Morris House will be open to the public free of charge on Sundays in July and August from 1 to 4 PM. During July, the Pardee-Morris House will feature *New Haven Perspectives*, a show of photographs by New Haven photographer Tom Peterson. On July 15, an opening reception for the show attracted many interested neighbors in the East Shore as well as many other local artists.



Gradually, the family sold off parts of their original 170 acres, including the parcel sold to the United States government for construction of the lighthouse, and the house today sits on a little less than one acre. The property was acquired in 1915 by William Pardee, a collateral descendant of the Morris family, who wished to make it his home. At his death in 1918, the property was left to the New Haven Museum.

Located at 325 Lighthouse Road on the city's East Shore, the 6000 sq. ft. house is one of the oldest surviving colonial structures in the state. The original Morris homestead house was built shortly after the founding of the New Haven Colony in the mid-17th

century and was burned by the British during their invasion of New Haven in 1779. Once the invaders had been driven off, the Morris family rebuilt their home around 1780. It was occupied by seven generations of the Morris family.

In August, an exhibition of local artists' work will feature unique interpretations of the House and the East Shore neighborhood in different media. Look for more events to come in August and September.

What's Going On at the Museum?



Top, from left: Music Haven's Haven String Quartet delivered a stunning performance, showcasing the music of Beethoven, Ives and Volans; Director of Education Michelle Cheng leads a craft activity during the Rock to Rock Bike Ride; Elif Armbruster returned to New Haven to discuss Edith Wharton, William Dean Howells, Henry James and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Bottom, from left: Michelle Cheng offered a free lecture on the history of the railroad in New Haven at Union Station as part of Amtrak's National Train Day event; Joshua Kendall signs a copy of his new book, *The Forgotten Founding Father*, after his lecture at the Museum in April; A young girl is captivated by the Museum's reproduction Quinpiac artifacts on display during a Pow Wow at Old Stone Church in East Haven.

Upcoming Events

Exhibitions

New Haven Perspectives (at the Pardee-Morris House) The photography of local artist Tom Peterson. On view until July 24, 2011.

Local Artists' Work (at the Pardee-Morris House) Opens August 4, 2011.

Summer in New Haven On view Summer 2011.

The New Haven Preservation Trust: 1961-2011 On view through Summer 2011.

The Hill: New Haven's First Suburb On view through Fall 2011.

To Make a World On view at the Smithsonian American Art Museum until September 5. Dee Dee Plummer's painting, *New Haven Green, Winter's Day, 1944*, from the New Haven Museum's collection is on display in this exhibition.

Family Programs

Coming in August & September *In the Garden*, a Family Day, and other outdoor activities at the Pardee-Morris House. Stay tuned for more details to come.

Lectures

Wednesday, September 21 6:00 PM Talk & Book Signing by Dr. Matthew Warshauer, author of *Connecticut in the American Civil War: Slavery, Sacrifice and Survival*.

You May Have Missed...

Friday, April 29 8:00 PM The Wall Street Chamber Players; Music of Haydn, Puccini and Dvorak.

Saturday, April 30 10:00 AM-3:00 PM Museum Shop Tag Sale

Saturday, May 7 7:30 PM Concert featuring Sergio Pallottelli, flute, and Irene Veneziano, piano; Music of Mozart, Faure and a Brazilian sonata for flute and piano.

Saturday, May 7 11:00 AM Lecture on the history of the railroad and Union Station featuring Michelle Cheng, Director of Education, at Union Station. Free.

Tuesday, May 31 6:00 PM Lecture & book signing by Elif Armbruster. Free.

Tuesday, June 7 6:00 PM "New Haven & The Sea," featuring Professor Gaddis Smith. Free.

Thursday, July 7 7:00 PM "Baseball During the Civil War," featuring Gary "Pops" O'Maxfield from Friends of Vintage Base Ball. Free.

Wednesday, July 13 5:30 PM "Baseball in Manuscripts and Photographs," featuring Director of Education Michelle Cheng and Librarian James Campbell. Free.

Friday, July 15 5:30 - 7:00 PM Artist's Reception at Pardee-Morris House

Sunday, July 17 10 AM - 2:30 PM Let's Play Ball! Family Day, featuring uniformed players from Friends of Vintage Base Ball, art activities.

For more information on upcoming programs and events, please call (203) 562-4183 ext. 11 or visit www.newhavenmuseum.org.

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Museum & Library Hours
 Tuesday - Friday 10:00-5:00
 Saturday 12:00-5:00

Admission
 Adults: \$4.00
 Seniors: \$3.00
 Students (12+): \$2.00
 Children: Free

Free First & Third Sundays
 The Museum is now open free to the public on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 1 PM to 4 PM.

Pardee-Morris House
 Open Sundays in July & August from 1 PM to 4 PM. Free admission.

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New in the Museum Shop
 The New Haven Museum's 150th Anniversary



Above are 3 brand new items that commemorate the Museum's 150th Anniversary. The plate (\$25), mug (\$8) and trivet (\$10) are now for sale at the Museum Shop.

Look for upcoming events that will celebrate the anniversary in 2012.



Consider the Museum for your rental needs!

For more information, please contact Donna Wardle at (203) 562-4183, ext. 19 or dwardle@newhavenmuseum.org.

Want email updates on upcoming events? Send your email address to Donna Wardle, Executive Assistant, at dwardle@newhavenmuseum.org.