



# GUILFORD PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2015

## Letter From the President



From left, Information Plaza; Boynton Schmitt at the "soft" opening; Dennis Culliton, Joel Helander, and architects Russ Campaigne and Mary Jo Kestner.

The mission of the GPA is to "preserve and protect the built and natural heritage of the Town of Guilford." Nurturing heritage tourism is one of the ways we are working to achieve this mission. Our work has already resulted in an unprecedented collaboration with dozens of community organization partners to increase local awareness and pride in Guilford's unique historic, natural, and cultural assets – while sharing Guilford's story with a wider audience of visitors and generating economic activity.

Two and a half years ago, GPA's board decided to build an Information Plaza with an electronic Kiosk as the centerpiece of our Heritage Tourism Initiative. In June of this year, groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the plaza, which is located on Town property next to the Community Center. The plaza was designed by Campaigne Kestner Architects and built by Hanler Building Company. A "soft" opening took place on September 18th. Plans call for the plaza to be staffed five days a week from early May to October. In the short time since its opening, our team of volunteers has provided assistance to hundreds of local residents and dozens of visitors from around the United States and many other countries.

The interactive electronic Kiosk, located on the information plaza, is scheduled to go live in early November. Developed in cooperation with mediaBoom, a digital marketing agency in Guilford, it will provide consistent 24-7 information on Guilford's history, cultural and natural resources as well as on visitor services and amenities such as shopping, dining and events year around. A list of donors and events that made this project possible is listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are very pleased to announce that all of the content of the electronic Kiosk will also be accessible to residents and prospective visitors on the

internet via a new Guilford community website, [visitguilfordct.com](http://visitguilfordct.com). It will complement GPA's existing, extensive website of historic resources, have links to dozens of other community organizations, and have an interactive calendar of community events.

Another related effect of the Heritage Tourism Initiative is a new level of collaboration in promoting Guilford's five, unique historic house museums as the unified centerpiece of a visitor's Guilford experience. mediaBoom is also at work on the development of a joint brochure for the five museums.

Other related activities, described in this newsletter, include a report on our successful walking tours, augmenting our historic plaques program, and expanding our successful historic photo display at the train station to include the new north platform. We also continue to focus on other preservation efforts, including protecting the 19<sup>th</sup>-century railroad station buildings, an expansion of our research and inventory of significant historical structures, preservation awards, public presentations, and support of Early Guilford Days.

With a nod to the next generation of scholars interested in history and preservation, we include in the newsletter a history of Jacob's Beach, written for a class by a 2015 graduate of Guilford High School, Frank Spencer.

We are proud of all of our efforts to make Guilford an even better place to live and visit, and we depend on your financial support to make this work possible. I encourage you to renew your membership today.

Shirley Gironi  
President

### Electronic Kiosk: Content Development



Electronic Kiosk Homepage

Early this year, a group of GPA board members interested in the idea of a Guilford Information computer kiosk met for a brainstorming session. We came up with a list of content and features that we'd like to see included. This list looks far into the future, and some of the more adventurous ideas have not yet been incorporated - but who knows what might be added in the future?

Frank DePino, the president of mediaBOOM, a Guilford-based creative digital marketing agency, had already been hired to work on this project, and agreed to donate a significant amount of his staff's time as well.

GPA's Guilford Heritage Tourism Initiative consultants Carolyn Brackett from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Nancy Morgan from Point Heritage Development Consulting, each agreed to research and produce significant amounts of the content that dealt with Guilford's history and historic sites, such as Guilford Stories, based on themes that Nancy had developed, and Historic Sites, including Guilford's five museums, the Town Green, Faulkner's Island Lighthouse, the cemeteries, and the Historical Room at the Guilford Free Library.

(continued on overleaf)

## GPA Electronic Kiosk Goes LIVE!

GPA Board of Directors  
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www.visitguilfordct.com  
www.guilfordpreservation.org  
Guilford, CT 06437

GUILFORD PRESERVATION ALLIANCE



*Electronic Kiosk (continued)*

Other topics included in the website are a photo gallery, shopping, dining, lodging, services, tours, events, recreation, hiking trails, and the arts. Viewers can also create an itinerary as they go through the site, and have it sent to their email address.

There are two ways to present the electronic information: one being the interactive touchscreen located near the Kiosk building; the other a website named VisitGuilfordCT.com.

In early spring our committee met with Frank's team to work out the process as well as begin to develop the layout and content. Shirley Girioni and Veronica Soell became the point people for working directly with mediaBOOM. They reported back to the rest of the committee and transmitted information to mediaBOOM. Gradually the content was refined to include everything we wanted.

When we were fully satisfied, the mediaBOOM development team built the site.

Meanwhile, the consultants and our committee members created content, solicited advertisements from Guilford shops and services, and sent it all on to the designers, who used it to begin populating the pages as they were built. Committee member Ellen Ebert took many beautiful photos of our town for use throughout the site.

In mid-October, three of our group (Tracy Tomaselli, Roberta Flannery, and Veronica Soell) were trained by mediaBOOM to manage the site. Most of it is now complete and we expect to launch it in November 2015.

*-Veronica Soell*

## Information Kiosk Volunteers



*Board members Tracy Tomaselli & Marcia Safirstein, Volunteer Managers*

The GPA kiosk committee, upon deciding the kiosk hours of operation (Thursday – Monday, 10:00 am – 4 pm), was in need of volunteers. Recruiting began back in February. Facebook, flyers, and newspaper articles were used to obtain volunteers, and nineteen volunteers came forward to staff the ten shifts. Retired teachers, high school students, seniors, and other Guilford residents were on the list. After some delays, these patiently waiting volunteers were trained on the mission of the kiosk committee, what to expect from kiosk visitors, what was available at the kiosk for visitors, as well as the functionality and features of the upcoming touchscreen and website.

In the short time the kiosk was open, hundreds of visitors were assisted. In addition to many local residents, other kiosk visitors were from Germany, Australia, and several states within the U.S. who expressed how impressed they were with the building design. Brochures available at the kiosk include information on the five

historic Guilford house museums—the core of our Heritage Tourism Initiative—as well as events, tours, community and arts programs, and maps. Local information such as emergency preparedness and recycling was also available. Visitors came with their questions and were provided with directions, information and ideas where to spend their day, where to shop and dine, and other information they were looking for.

When the kiosk closes on October 31<sup>st</sup>, and once the touchscreen and website become active, the information will be available 24/7. The touchscreen (located at the kiosk), and the website ([visitguilfordct.com](http://visitguilfordct.com)) will provide further information pertaining to the town's history and resources, in addition to shopping, dining, lodging, and tours provided by local advertisers.

We look forward to welcoming our returning volunteers when the kiosk re-opens in May, 2016, and to recruit even more! If you'd like to be a kiosk volunteer, please contact Tracy Tomaselli ([tomasellitracy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tomasellitracy@sbcglobal.net)) (203) 671-9351, or Marcia Safirstein ([safirstein1428@gmail.com](mailto:safirstein1428@gmail.com), 501-912-7536).

*- Tracy Tomaselli*



*Guilford Train Station (1930's), Courtesy of Dick Otto*

## Train Station Preservation News

The Train Station Committee is pleased to announce that the GPA has reached an agreement in principle with Amtrak, the Town of Guilford, the Connecticut Department of Transportation, and the State Historic Preservation Office on a strategic plan to preserve Guilford's historic railroad buildings.

Erected in the mid-1870s, the octagonal brick water tower—one of a handful of such iconic structures surviving in the Northeast—and the adjacent engine house are part of the Town Center Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Although both buildings have long been recognized for their historic and architectural significance, the GPA's attempts to preserve them have been stymied by legal issues relating to Amtrak's ownership and the possible presence of underground contamination on the site.

Under the proposed plan, the water tower would be restored in situ to serve as a distinctive focal point for the neighborhood around the Shore Line East Commuter Rail station, which is earmarked in the current Town Plan for transit-oriented development. The brick engine house would be dismantled and moved to a new location in close proximity to the water tower, thus preserving the historical integrity of the train station site while distancing the building from the high-speed rail line (and the associated high-voltage electrical wires) and taking the vexing issue of liability for toxic cleanup off the table.

Over the coming months, the GPA will continue to work with our fellow stakeholders to flesh out details of the plan, evaluate the structural condition of the water tower and engine house, and identify potential sources of funding for their restoration. The Train Station Committee wishes to thank architect Chris Widmer for contributing his technical expertise to the project, and state Rep. Sean Scanlon and GPA President Shirley Girioni for their stalwart support.

*-Harry Haskell*

## Historic Walking Tours

This summer we continued with the fourth year of the Historic Guilford Walking Tours with a shortened schedule run by one of our top guides, college student Megan Vanacore. She was busy most weekends and we received regular requests for specially scheduled tours. There seemed to be an increase of folks interested in moving to Guilford taking the tours with local friends or acquaintances who wanted to share the beauty and history of Guilford.

We look forward to next year's tours, which will be advertised through, and commencing from the Information Kiosk. We also hope to bring back the Historic Bus tours with the assistance of our partners at Guilford Parks and Recreation. We are developing a plan to have on-call tours available throughout the calendar year.

*-Dennis Culliton*

## From the donors' placque on the information Kiosk:

# GUILFORD PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

The Guilford Preservation Alliance planned, built and operates this information plaza for the benefit of Guilford residents and visitors. Dedicated in 2015 in memory of Marjory W. Schmitt, the first president of the GPA, its realization was made possible though the generosity of the following:

The GPA Marjory W. Schmitt Fund  
State of Connecticut, through the efforts of  
Former State Representative Patricia Widlitz

•  
Connecticut Humanities Council

•  
Media Boom, Digital Advertisement  
Town of Guilford  
Kenneth and Lynn Horton

•  
The Howard and Michael Brown Families  
The Stone House Restaurant  
Guilford Savings Bank  
The Guilford Foundation  
Nancy R. Brown and Robert R. Rakauskas

•  
Sunset Creek Development

•  
Sharon and Donald Baechler

•  
The Guilford Garden Club  
Sextant BTS

•  
Guilford Rotary Club



Design donated by Campaigne Kestner Architects  
Construction by Hanler Building Company



## Early Guilford Days Fall Activities



The Early Guilford Days program organized by the Dorothy Whitfield Historic Society (Hyland House) and the Guilford Keeping Society (Griswold House) that culminates in May, with four days of workshops at the Griswold House and the Hyland House, really begins in the fall.

Tassy's trunk of colonial artifacts, named for Tassy Walden, former Cox School librarian, begins its yearlong journey through Guilford's four elementary schools. Pat Lovelace and Hope Ryan, (both retired Guilford fourth grade teachers) present the trunk to the students and explain the artifacts and items in the trunk. Each school keeps the trunk for six weeks. During that time the students do hands on activities with the items in the trunk. Instructions for the items and worksheets that the teachers can use accompany the trunk.

Some of the items in the trunk include: quill pens and powdered ink, inkwell, Boot Jack, berry basket, carders for wool, wool, drop spindles (for spinning the wool) small weaving looms, games - such as pick-up sticks, clay marbles, ball and cup, nine pins, dominoes, etc., sewing kit, slate, slate pencils, knitting needles, yarn and crochet hook, mortar and pestle, knot tying kit and various artifacts. The original trunk, made by retired Guilford custodian Harry Martindale, has been outgrown! Two plastic boxes containing the games and sewing, weaving and knitting items, now accompany it.

The fourth graders also visit the Hyland House, Griswold House or the Medad Stone Tavern for a Scavenger Hunt for items used in the house. Each student has a booklet of riddles or pictures and must locate the item described and write its name on the appropriate lines. The students thoroughly enjoy these activities that give them a taste of what life was like in Early Guilford.

Last May, for four days, over 250 students were able to step back in time and feel what it was like to live in early Guilford. Then on the last weekend in June all five museums hosted Early Guilford Days Family Festival! This was a time for visitors to get a chance to experience life in early Guilford and to see Guilford's wonderful five historic museums.

Thanks to donations made during GPA's membership drive, and through a generous grant to GPA from the GHS Interact Club (through the Guilford Foundation), we will be able to add some new activities to Early Guilford Days this year.

The Early Guilford Days Program is supported by the school PTO's, the school system, the two historical societies and the GPA. It is truly a community effort!

-Pat Lovelace

## GPA BOARD NEWS

**Sharon Olson** is our only board member who serves "out-of-state," as she moved from Guilford to Lawrenceville, New Jersey, in 2012. When she first joined the GPA Board in 2010, she expressed an interest in improving the website and found a designer to transform it into a WordPress-based website, so that she could contribute content using plain English instead of complicated http code. Sharon was familiar with the non-professional WordPress blog, which she had used as a website for such Guilford organizations as the Guilford Poets Guild, and the General Andrew Ward Cemetery Association, where she is also a board member.

Sharon calls herself a retired librarian and "active poet." Her many years as a reference librarian in Palo Alto, California, have given her great skills to manage the GPA website's contact form. She fields questions about local Guilford history and buildings, and when she doesn't know the answer she contacts other board members or local historians and librarians. She also mastered Mail Chimp to be able to send colorful emails about upcoming events and issues to GPA members. One of her proudest accomplishments on the website has been the compilation of an illustrated survey of Guilford significant structures fifty years old or more.

THANK YOU SHARON!

**Kristen Popolizio**, a Guilford native, is an Assistant Branch Manager at the Guilford Savings Bank main office. She began her professional career in banking as a teller at GSB in 2009. Through training, experience and self-development, she worked her way into a Customer Service position. Kristen completed a two year Leadership Development Program that ran through 2014 and was promoted to Assistant Branch Manager in March 2015. She specializes in customer service, account finances and relationship building.

Kristen currently lives in East Haven CT, however having grown up in Guilford, she has a strong connection to the town. After graduating from GHS she received her Associates Degree of Fine Arts at Paier College of Art and pursued a career in photography. She worked at an independent photography studio in Cheshire for five years as a photographer, designer and sales/office manager. After relocating back to the Guilford area she worked at Whitfield's on the Green before joining the GSB team, while still enjoying photography during her free time. She's passionate about running, enjoying the company of friends and family, her beloved dogs and being involved with the local community. Kristen was pleased to join the Guilford Preservation Alliance Board in June 2015 as the Assistant Treasurer.

## GPA Inventory of Historically Significant Structures Update

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, GPA and the Guilford Free Library hosted a presentation on recent architectural additions to GPA's 1981 Historic Resource Inventory for the Town of Guilford.

Two hundred and thirty historically significant houses, commercial buildings and cemeteries were added, dating from the early 1800's through the 1960's, making a total of 680 structures on the Historic Resource Inventory for the Town of Guilford. The recently added second phase of inventory was funded by grants from the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Hard copies of the survey will be available in the Guilford Free Library and the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation Office in New Haven, and in the State Historic Preservation Office in Hartford in December. Town Building Department officials will have copies of the entire combined survey to consult as well. Digital copies of the entire survey from 1981 to the present will also become available in those locations in December, as well as on the GPA website.

These 680 historic structures are protected by Guilford's Delay of Demolition Ordinance. In cooperation with this ordinance, when a property owner applies for a demolition permit, GPA advises owners on alternatives to demolition. As a result, structures have been saved in place or moved.

Architectural historians Kristen Nietering, a Guilford native and project manager for the Historic Barns of Connecticut, and Jordan Sorenson of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, did the field work for the second phase survey, with the help of John Herzan, Preservation Services Office for the New Haven Preservation Trust and former National Register Coordinator at the State Historic Preservation Office, and Joel Helander, Municipal Historian.

The talk included an architectural overview of the buildings, as well as interesting histories of the properties, and anecdotes of the buildings and the people who used them.

## 2015 Guilford Preservation Awards



Eight individuals and groups were honored at the June 17 meeting, as the 2015 recipients of the Guilford Preservation Awards. The awards are presented to those who have demonstrated a commitment to preserve and protect the built and natural heritage of the Town of Guilford.

**Eamon Roche and Sarah Blanton** were the recipients of an **Award of Merit** for sensitive restoration and renovation of their home at 34 Broad St. In partnership with Campaigne- Kestner Architects and East River Construction Co., they kept to the original Federal style of the house, adding a balcony to the third floor, and preserving the crown moldings and rectangular panels over the windows. The basic footprint was preserved, while the front porch and rear addition were restored.

An **Award of Merit** was given to **Terry Wall** for restoration of a barn at 645 Great Hill Rd. Over a four year period, Terry and his father repaired the old pegged beams, siding and roof. The barn is believed to have been constructed in 1783 by Eber Hall Jr. The **Jane Berger Award** was given to **Jonathan Wuerth**, a longtime resident and Master Builder who is committed to restoring and preserving barns and houses along the Shoreline. Examples of his work are the John Benton barn, the award winning Medad Stone Tavern barn, and the Justice Norton House.

A **Letter of Appreciation** was awarded to the **Guilford Garden Club** for the creation of a beautifully landscaped park around the foundation of the Governor Rollin Woodruff house on Stonehouse Rd. Lillian Comstock chaired the project and received the award for the club.

The **375th Anniversary Celebration Committee** received a **Letter of Appreciation** for planning and producing events, activities and programs for this monumental anniversary, with a focus on preserving our heritage and resources. They provided yearlong education and entertainment for thousands of residents and visitors, and supported local businesses. The award was presented to Chair Veronica Wallace for the committee.



A **Letter of Appreciation** was awarded to **Edie Brown** for her inspiration in conceiving of and carrying out the Civil War Reenactment Day. Participants could watch military drills and other demonstrations by soldiers in uniform. Plays depicted Guilford residents during this time, and visitors could sample food and music, and take bus tours to museums and soldiers' homes.

**The Charles Hubbard Award** was given to **Tracy Tomaselli** for her painstaking genealogical research on the 56 soldiers listed on the Civil War Monument on the Green, and 6 soldiers not listed there. During the Civil War event, she displayed memorabilia on each of the soldiers. She also placed signs on the Civil War soldiers' homes, which were the focus of the bus tours.

**Paul Mei** received **The Marjory Schmitt Award**. Paul was instrumental in establishing the "gateway" of the New England Trail. He closed the trail gap between the East River Preserve and

Long Island Sound at Chittenden Park. Hikers are now able to "walk through time," following the trail through town, the Green and the house museums.

-Annis Homer



**Jacobs Beach**  
by  
**Frank Spencer**



Jacobs Beach is located near the Town Marina, an important area during colonial times when harbors and import shipping drove an enormous portion of the area's economy, later aided by the famous lighthouse on Faulkner's island when it was commissioned by Thomas Jefferson in 1802. Areas at the Town Marina and Jacobs Beach were constructed as a conservation against erosion project in the 70's. The marina acted as a type of levy in order to keep the powerful Long Island Tides from creeping up to the low-lying shoreline residences (its usefulness as a sail and Catch bay proving commercially healthy as well), while the Beach area was, and still is, used to measure and study the rates of erosion in proportion to vegetation allowed to grow in the area as well as the influence of man-made structures. The beach's popularity as a meeting place and public gathering area has clashed with its purpose as a conservation study zone, but only briefly. Some documents on this topic are available on the Guilford town website: <http://www.ci.guilford.ct.us/town-documents.htm>. These studies are also key in the Community Coastal Resilience Plan.

The earliest accessible record of ownership of the property, which would later be named Jacobs Beach, names an early proprietor as a Dr. G. Franklin Anderson. In 1923, this property was sold to Edward Elliot upon Anderson's leaving the town. A year later, in 1924, Lyman Jacobs, a farmer turned boat builder and lobsterman who lived on Seaside Avenue, purchased the property for an unknown price for his son, David K. Jacobs. <sup>1</sup> For the following decade, David Jacobs is written to have used the area for a beach open to the public, with his permission. His father, Lyman Jacobs, may have also used this area for harvesting shells or seaweed, or for launching his boats.

In 1940, the earliest incarnation of the erosion project began as a sluice basin development. This mammoth project was initiated on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May under the contract of the John Holbrook and Sons Company of Westbrook. The endeavor ultimately sought to prevent erosion of the residential areas located up the street from the beach. The sluice basin and connected channel and levy would stop the tide from creeping inland and destroying homes and property. For almost 5 years, massive quantities of mud and sand were pumped out of the underwater surface about 100 feet out from the beach's current shoreline. This project's budget, though constantly in flux due to additional grants and fundraisers, created dozens of new jobs and funneled ample money into the beach's future development. <sup>2</sup>

On August 1, 1949, David K. Jacobs put the beach property up for sale for a price of two thousand dollars. Development on the sluice basin had ended, and the property had scarcely been able to be used as a public beach for some time. After convening in council, the Town of Guilford decided to purchase this property. On Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1949, the transaction was made. <sup>3</sup>

Beginning in the 1950's, Jacobs Beach was the subject of many improvements and budget focuses. In the summer of 1950, Erwin Griffiths was given permission to institute the first public bathrooms and bathhouse the beach had seen. <sup>4</sup> The location of the current bathroom reflects the location of the original building itself, to the prospective right of the driveway. In 1971, students from Yale underwent a project after approved funding from the state to construct a refined pavilion, <sup>5</sup> the model that sat until recently this decade. Also, a playground had existed on the beach since a few years after the town had purchased it, and in 2002 a new playground began construction in accord with contemporary design.

The property known as Jacobs Beach has in itself been an obscure location, but made popular and to prosper through its association with a sluice basin project against erosion in 1940, which would mature into a conservation against further erosion study that is still prevalent today and encompasses the entire marina area.

Regarding its public stance, the beach is owned publicly, with the official deed respectfully resting in the hands of the town legislature. Its ownership by patrons of the shoreline community would help to define it early on as a family beach open to the public, and that purpose was kept alive after its purchase by the town of Guilford.

**Frank Spencer**, a 2015 Guilford High School graduate, researched and wrote this paper for a class assignment. He is currently attending UCONN-Avery Point.

## Slavery in Guilford and Madison, Connecticut

Dennis Culliton, GPA board member, local schoolteacher, and student of Guilford History will be giving a talk about slavery in Guilford and Madison, Connecticut. The talk will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, which freed the slaves after the American Civil War.

Slavery was a part of the fabric of Colonial Connecticut and Guilford had its share of slaves. There may have been as many as 60 slaves in Guilford in 1774 and the first U.S. census tells us that there were over 40 slaves in 1790. The talk will look at who the slaves were, and will introduce the idea that early on, Native Americans were also possessed as slaves.

Dennis will share an analysis of census data, manumission papers, wills and probate records, and stories of slaves and free Blacks in Guilford. He will also tell the story of three Guilford and Madison families of color and how they transitioned from slavery to free members of society.

Please join Dennis at the **Guilford Free Library on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December at 7 pm** for his talk, co-sponsored by the Library and the Guilford Preservation Alliance.

## Historic Plaques Update

Over the past couple of years, a partnership has formed between the GPA and the Guilford Keeping Society, led by Ellen Ebert and Carl Balestracci, to create and place signs on local businesses and landmarks that tell a part of Guilford's history. Plaques were created with a brief description of the building, and space for a future QR code. The QR (quick response) code allows someone with a smart phone to access online files posted on websites.

This spring, a few members of GPA met with Virginia Gresham, former Walking Tour guide and current student at Connecticut College, to hear her proposal about applying recently developed software from the college to create a tour using the Historic Plaques. Connecticut College had developed their "Camel Tours" as a way of creating self-guided walking tours using smartphones, available to communities and non-profits using web-based software.

Virginia worked this summer as an intern using the resources of the Guilford Keeping Society, the Edith B. Nettleton Local History Room at the Guilford Free Library, and under the guidance of Joel Helander, the town historian. She developed a dozen tour stops, each one including up to six historic photos and a two-minute audio file.

The job is almost complete and we expect to put the QR codes on the plaques this winter and have the tour up and running for the spring 2016 tourist season. Thank you so much to Virginia Gresham for continuing to add to Guilford's history and Heritage Tourism Initiative.

-Dennis Culliton

## Photo Display Coming to the North Platform of the Train Station

A committee is forming to begin work on a permanent historic photo display for the north pavilion at the Guilford train station. It will be similar to the display that is already installed on the south side, which focuses on the story of the railroad in Guilford and the structures which made up the nineteenth-century station complex, but will focus instead on early industry in Guilford.

Research will soon begin on industries such as iron working, vegetable canning, ivory button manufacturing, shipbuilding and more.

-Ellie Green

## GPA Mission Statement

**Guilford Preservation Alliance, Inc.** is a community advocacy organization constituted to preserve and protect the built and natural heritage of Guilford.

### Activities and Achievements

GPA creates educational programs; makes temporary and permanent installations of educational displays; sponsors forums; and surveys and makes drawings of buildings for the historical record.

GPA has joined with several organizations to begin the Heritage Tourism Initiative, to foster economic growth for town merchants and increased visitation to the five house museums and Guilford's wealth of cultural and natural resources. The centerpiece of Heritage Tourism is the visitors' information/interactive Kiosk.

In cooperation with the town's Delay of Demolition ordinance, GPA maintains a master list of historic properties, and advises owners of alternatives to demolishing houses and other historic buildings.

GPA also provides funding with grants and loans, through its Jones Trust Fund, to private and institutional owners of properties for repair and restoration; accepts easements for monitoring on a long-term basis; and is chartered to buy and sell real property for repair, restoration and resale. Guilford Preservation Alliance has a citizen Board of Directors, and shares board members with the house museums in Guilford. GPA meets monthly in the Community Center.



<sup>1</sup> Newspaper Issued to the towns of North Branford, North Guilford, North Madison and Clintonville; October 27<sup>th</sup> 1949

<sup>2</sup> Newspaper Issued to the towns of North Branford, North Guilford, North Madison, and constituents of Clintonville; June 1940 (This newspaper is the earliest incarnation of what would soon become the Shoreline Times, and inspiration for the Guilford Courier in later decades)

<sup>3</sup> Newspaper Issued to the towns of North Branford, North Guilford, North Madison and Clintonville; October 27<sup>th</sup> 1949

<sup>4</sup> Shoreline Times, first edition, August 1950

<sup>5</sup> Shoreline Times, October 1971

U.S. Census Records

Joel Helander

Photo credit: Guilford Free Library