

FRIENDS OF FORT TRUMBULL TO PRESENT JAMES STREETER DISCUSSING “PHILANTHROPIST- MORTON PLANT”

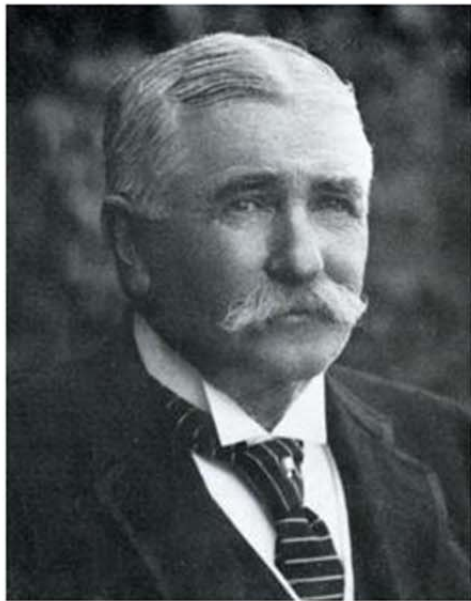
As their September speaker in the series *Historical Notables of New London County*, The Friends of Fort Trumbull are pleased to present James Streeter, President of the Groton Historical Society, who will present a lecture on Morton Plant, a colorful and valued benefactor whose generosity was felt throughout the Groton Area.



Mr. Streeter is an alumnus of the University of New Haven with a BS in Criminal Justice and an MS in Industrial Relations (Human Resources). He has had a wide-ranging career. For 17 years, he was the Chief of Investigations at General Dynamics/Electric Boat; for 9 years, he was a patrolman of the City of Groton Police Department. In 2009, he was elected as the Mayor of Groton. In 2010, he was appointed Historian for the Town of Groton and serves as the President of the Groton Historical Society.

In 2014, he donated an invaluable collection of Groton memorabilia to the Groton Library. Of his interest in starting in 1960 this vast collection of historical documents, he said, “History doesn’t belong to me. It belongs to everybody”. When he turned over the collection to the Library, he said, “Groton is so rich in history that this material, it’s so important that it has to be preserved and documented. If you don’t preserve it, it’s gone. It’s gone forever.”

His presentation on Morton Plant will touch on some of the generous donations made by this philanthropist such as the land for Avery Point in Groton, Stones Ranch in East Lyme, Fort Trumbull in New London, and a million dollar donation to Connecticut College in New London. Although he only spent summers in Groton, Morton Plant's love of the region induced him to become a major benefactor to the entire area.



Mr. Streeter will also discuss the summer "cottage" Plant built, now called The Branford House at Avery Point, named after the town where Plant was born. The summer home was interestingly designed by his wife Nellie, who had studied architecture at the Sorbonne in Paris. This mansion, with a panoramic view of Long Island Sound, has had a long and varied history as a summer refuge for the Plant Family, eventually a Coast Guard Installation, and finally a branch of the University of Connecticut.

The lecture will be on Thursday, September 29, 2016, at 7 p.m. at the Fort Trumbull Conference Center at 90 Walbach Street, New London, CT. The public is welcome to attend this free presentation. New members are always welcome. Come early as seating is limited.