A Close Call
During World War II the New England coast was equipped with many reinforced concrete watch towers that were manned 24/7 on the lookout for enemy ships, planes or submarines. In addition the Portsmouth Naval base was guarded by a number of 12 inch guns emplacements plus a net strung across the harbor entrance which only opened to allow military vessels or supply ships to pass. One evening the net was opened to allow a tanker to enter. Unbeknownst to the guard detail a Nazi submarine was closely following in the tanker’s wake, obviously hoping to evade detection; however an alert sonar operator picked up the sound of two vessels, not one, and quickly reported his finding. Searchlights were brought to bear on the sub which quickly reversed course and ran for the open sea before shore batteries could open fire. The damage to the shipyard could have been severe if the sub’s mission had been successful.

Upcoming Events
Strawberry Festival  
June 14, 10 AM to 4 PM
Doll Tea  
August 27, 2 to 4 PM

From the Essex Gazette, Aug. 4, 1772
Abigail, my wife, obstinately refusing to continue with me in Obedience to marriage Covenant, in that she refuses to bed and board with me; Therefore these are to forbid all Persons from harbouring and entertaining the said Abigail as they would avoid the Penalty of the Law: but if the said Abigail will return to her Husband, and behave agreeably in her marriage station, then I stand ready to forgive all former pardonable offences, as though they had never been: Furthermore, I the said Joseph forbid all Persons contracting any Debts with the said Abigail, for I will not pay one Farthing of any Debt contracted by her from the Date hereof.

Joseph Bradstreet

Congratulations to this year’s Kimball Scholarship winners:
Sarah Barrett, UMass Amherst Master of Education
Andrew Boepple, Salem State Master of History
Matthew Chadwick, Westfield State
Emily Coffin, Connecticut College
Jeffery Daniels, College of the Holy Cross
Brian Dierze, Lafayette College
Jacob Gillespie, Tufts University
Katherine Guinee, Mount Holyoke
William Guinee, Dartmouth
Madison Kelly, Northeastern University
Aliya Kitsakos, McGill University
Emily Mcllvaine, Bates College
Kyle Quimby, UMass Lowell

Editor: Anne H. Barrett
Contributors: Norm Isler, Hannah Barrett

Kid’s Corner
by Hannah Barrett
I recently visited the house of Mark Twain in Hartford, Connecticut, home of the author of Huckleberry Finn, Tom Sawyer, and many other wonderful classics. Mark Twain was actually his pen name; the real name of this famous author was Samuel Clemens. Clemens was born in 1835, and lived in this beautiful house in Hartford from 1874 until they moved out in 1903 after the tragic death of his beloved daughter Susy. Clemens’ wife Livy sketched out plans for their new home when they first moved to Hartford; she had strong opinions for how she wanted their home to look. Construction of their remarkable mansion began in 1873 while Sam and Livy were away. Each room of their home was influenced by different countries they had traveled to, and was decorated as such. The dining room, for example was influenced by Japanese culture, and the parlor had lavish furnishings from India. The Clemens took much care to make their house more than just a house, each room was ornately decorated with fascinating mantles and fireplaces, or ceilings and walls decked out in painted designs. The outside of the mansion has bricks painted to create different patterns and designs, very creative. The Clemens’ home was full of wonders bound to spark the imagination, which was partially Sam Clemens’ intention. Clemens wrote some of his most famous works while living in this house, such as The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The Prince and the Pauper, Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court, Life on the Mississippi, and arguably his most famous novel, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Clemens once said: “To us our house was a heart, and a soul, and eyes to see us with; and approvals and solicitations and deep sympathies; it was of us, and we were in its confidence and lived in its grace and in the peace of it’s benediction.”