



# The Ridgefield Encyclopedia

*A compendium of more than 4,800 people, places and things  
relating to Ridgefield, Connecticut.*

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**[Note: Abbreviations and sources are explained at the end of the document. This work is being constantly expanded and revised; this version was updated on 9-23-2022.]**

A

**A&P:** The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company opened a small grocery store at 378 Main Street in 1948 (long after liquor store — *q.v.*); moved to 378 Main Street in the Bissell Building in the early 1940s. It became a supermarket at 46 Danbury Road in 1962 (now Walgreens site); closed November 1981. [JFS] [DD100]

**A&P Liquor Store:** Opened at ONS133½ Main Street Sept. 12, 1935; [P9/12/1935] later was located at ONS86 Main Street. [1940 telephone directory]

**Aaron's Court:** A short, dead-end road serving 9 of 10 lots at 45 acre subdivision on the east side of Ridgebury Road by Lewis and Barry Finch, father-son, who had in 1980 proposed a corporate park here; named for Aaron Turner (*q.v.*), circus owner, who was born nearby. [RN]

**A Better Chance (ABC)** is Ridgefield chapter of a national organization that sponsors talented, motivated children from inner-cities to attend RHS; students live at 32 Fairview Avenue; program began 1987 with six students.

**A Birdseye View:** Column in Ridgefield Press for many years, written by Duncan Smith (*q.v.*)

**Abbe family:** Lived on West Lane and West Mountain, 1935-36: James E. Abbe, noted photographer of celebrities, his wife, Polly Shorrock Abbe, and their three children

Patience, Richard and John; the children became national celebrities when their 1936 book, *Around the World in Eleven Years*. written mostly by Patience, 11, became a bestseller. [WWW]

**Abbott, Dr. Joel** (1776-1826), a physician, was the first native Ridgefielder to be elected a U.S. Congressman; served from Georgia, 1817-1825, where he had moved in 1790s; in 1820, was a delegate to the convention in Philadelphia, Pa., that prepared the original edition of the National Pharmacopoeia; Dr. Abbot was one of 1,800 congressmen known to have enslaved African Americans. His house in Washington, Ga., is a National Historic Landmark and Georgia state historic site (but under the name of subsequent owner, Robert Toombs, a congressman and U.S. senator). [WWW]

**Abbott, David:** *See* Abbott's Mill Road.

**Abbott, George Irving**, (1857-1932), a village businessman who was born in Irvington, N.Y., lived on and probably developed Abbott Avenue (*q.v.*). He was an early leader of the RVFD and served as a Republican state representative, 1903-05.

**Abbott, Rev. Larmon Wooster**, (1818-1900), was a Methodist minister who served at Jesse Lee Methodist Church, 1870-72, but lived in Ridgefield at least until 1882. He was a state representative in 1881 and a longtime school board member. He died in Waterbury, where he is buried.

**Abbott Avenue:** Between High Ridge and Gilbert Street, ca. 1900; probably named for George Abbott, businessman, who owned and probably developed the neighborhood. [RN]

**Abbott's Mill Road:** 18th Century name for Florida Hill Road (*q.v.*) because it led to grist mill of David Abbott (now site of Moongate — *q.v.*); name appears 1745 deed. *See also* Iron foundry. [RN]

**ABC:** *See* A Better Chance.

**Ability Beyond** is a regional non-profit, based in Bethel, that helps persons with various disabilities and that has been very active in Ridgefield. "Our programs empower individuals, no matter their ability, to live with independence, work with dignity and thrive in their communities," says their website. It was formerly known as DATAHR, the Danbury Association To Aid the Handicapped and Retarded. (JFS)

**About Ridgefield: What We Were - What We Are:** 80-page, comprehensive, illustrated report on many facets of Ridgefield, including architecture, neighborhoods, history, landmarks, natural resources, cultural and religious centers, open spaces, cemeteries; by Madeleine Corbin, produced in 2002 by Ridgefield Design Council (*q.v.*); soft-cover, extensive index.

**Ackworth Cottage:** Home of Mary Linda Bradley (*q.v.*), ONS33 West Mountain Road (now 143?). Ackworth was the Yorkshire home of Rev. Thomas Bradley, chaplain to Charles I, and ancestor of the Connecticut Bradleys.

**Acorn Cottage:** Name Herschel Brickell (*q.v.*) used for his home at 569 Branchville Road. Torn down December 2021.

**Acorn Place:** 1,200-foot, dead-end road off lower Silver Spring Road, approved 1976; developed by William Hornibrook; only road in town named for a nut. [RN]

**Acorn Press:** Name of parent company for The Ridgefield Press and other weekly newspapers from 1938 until 1997, when merged with Hersam Publications of New Canaan to become Hersam Acorn Newspapers, then HAN Network; headquarters were at 16 Bailey Avenue;

purchased November 2018 by Hearst Media; all Ridgefield operations closed by end of 2018.

**Acoustic Celebration**, an affordable Sunday evening singer/songwriter series, produced by Barbara Manners (*q.v.*), usually at Congregation Shir Shalom or St. Stephen's Church.

**Acre Lane**: Off Wilton Road West, developed around 1964 by brothers Frank, John, and Robert Symone as Parkview Estates; 23 one-acre lots; size inspired name. [RN]

**ACT of Connecticut** was founded and is led by Katie Diamond, Daniel C. Levine, and Bryan Perri, and presents limited engagement runs of well-known Broadway musicals and plays, as well as world-premiere productions by the next generation of writers and composers. Normally four shows per season are produced, with each show featuring Broadway professionals and Fairfield and Westchester County talent. ACT also offers youth education classes, camps, workshops, and a conservatory program for high school students. [JFS]

**Actors from Ridgefield**: David Cassidy, Crocker family, Kay Young Eason, Miles Eason, Gene Ellis, Tom Gilroy, Giancarlo Esposito, Ellen Hanley, Glynis Johns, Don McKay, Douglass Montgomery, Olaf Olsen, Cyril Ritchard, Hilda Spong, Erland van Lidth de Jeude, Robert Vaughn. [WWW]

**Adam Broderick Salon and Spa**: Established 1986 at 89 Danbury Road by Broderick, a well-known Manhattan colorist.

**Adams, Dr. Daniel L.** (1814-1899), a physician known as "Doc Adams," has been called the "father of baseball" because he set down many of the rules by which modern game is played; member Knickerbocker Base Ball Club in New York City, serving six times as president; Yale, 1835; lived here 1865-88, in old Philip Burr Bradley (*q.v.*) house, now Ballard Park (*q.v.*); was the first president of Ridgefield Savings Bank (*q.v.*), 1871-79; first president of Ridgefield Library, 1880; served as Republican state representative, 1870; died in New Haven where he was buried. [WWW, RSB21]

**Adams and Keeler**: 1. A real estate and insurance firm established 1892 by Russel R. Keeler or son William R. Keeler; were lumber dealers and had a livery stable; in 1941 became Keeler and Durant (*q.v.*), a real estate and insurance firm. 2. A large livery stable on southern Main Street that burned down Oct. 15, 1912. Some 40 horses and many carriages are rescued from the fire. [RT]

**Adams Road**: Between Lincoln Lane and Jefferson Drive at Washington Park Estates off Branchville Road; named for second president, John Adams, at suggestion of Selectman Paul J. Morganti (*q.v.*); developed by Bert Ison; town road, 1956. [RN]

**Addessi Block**: The two brick buildings of stores and offices, originally called Scott Block (*q.v.*), from 387-395 Main Street; owned by the Addessi family whose jewelry store is one of the shops in the block.

**Addessi Jewelry Store** opened in 1966 at 387 Main Street in a spot that had been the post office; owned then by Rick and Donna Addessi; later taken over by son Wayne Addessi; [RP5/1966]

**Adler, Larry** (1914-2001), harmonica virtuoso, gave concerts around the world; made many recordings; lived at James Waterman Wise house on Pumping Station Road in early 1950s; wrote film scores including "High Wind in Jamaica" and "Genevieve," the latter nominated

for Academy Award, was probably written here; accused of supporting communism, which he denied; discouraged by communist witch hunt, moved to England in 1952. [WWW]

**Address numbers:** *See* Renumbering.

**A Dying Fall:** Murder mystery by Hildegard Dolson, Lippincott, 1973: The victim supposedly slips on a step in the Aldrich Museum sculpture garden, falls and is mortally impaled upon a sharp work of art. Dolson lived in Lewisboro, married to Richard Lockridge (*q.v.*).

**African Americans:** The first known African American living in Ridgefield was Mingo (*q.v.*), an enslaved man who ran away from his owner, Timothy Keeler, in 1734, but there were probably enslaved Blacks before him. The first free Black to own land here was Michael Dimorat, who bought a lot on West Lane in 1736 and apparently built a house there. He was soon followed by Robert and Samuel Jacklin, who owned sizable farms; at least two of Robert's sons fought in the Revolution. At least seven men from Ridgefield served in the Revolution. At least 83 African Americans lived in town in the 18th Century, of which 53 men, women and children were enslaved. Two African Americans, Edward and Betsey Armstrong (*q.v.*) operated an Underground Railroad station in the first half of the 19th Century in Ridgebury. Four Blacks — two of them Armstrong grandchildren — who grew up at the station served in the Civil War. Ridgefield's Black population through its first three centuries has been around 1% or less of the total population. It was the greatest (2.3%) in 1860. Blacks in the 18th and early 19th Centuries were prevented by law from holding office (or voting), but that ban vanished in 1870 with the passage of the 15th amendment, and the following year, Thomas F. Brown and Hart Stiles, were elected town haywards (*q.v.*). It was not until the 1970s that a major African-American official — Clifford V. Smith — was elected to the school board. William Henry Slater (*q.v.*), organist and choir director for his church at age 13, studied at the New England Conservatory of Music, was a bank executive, and served on the Republican Town Committee.

**Age:** The media age of a Ridgefielder in 2017 was 44 compared to 40 in the state and nation. 33% of the residents were 45 to 64 while 5 to 14 was the second largest group, 20%. [RP1] *See also* Oldest resident.

**Age of Video:** Shop with movie rentals, TVs, recorders, etc., opens Oct. 10-12, 1980, at Girolametti Court, 19 Danbury Road [P10/9/1980]

**Airdrifts Farm:** Spread on both sides of Ridgebury Road, south of Regan Road, owned by Ellis B. and Mary McLaury in the 1930s.

**Airplane crashes:** *See* plane crashes.

**Airplane spotting posts** were maintained from December 1941 into 1945 and again during the Korean conflict. They were designed to spot and report enemy aircraft in the days before radar became extensive and effective. The first, briefly used post was at Wadsworth Lewis's estate, Taghkanick (*q.v.*), but was soon permanently established on East Ridge east of the high school where, eventually a tower was built next to a small octagonal office that had once been a boathouse on the F.E. Lewis estate. Between Dec. 7, 1941 and May 29, 1944 during World War II, some 200 men, women and children staffed the airplane spotting posts in town, which reported more than 7,000 aircraft to military officials. [P8/23/1945]

**Airport noise:** The North Salem-North Ridgefield Environmental Improvement Association filed in 1983 a class action lawsuit against Danbury Airport, seeking \$15 million in damages and a reduction of aircraft noise over their homes. [P9/22/1983]

**A. J. Carnall Inc.,** an insurance and real estate office, was established in 1922 by Thaddeus Crane and in 1930 was taken over and renamed by Arthur J. Carnall (*q.v.*). It became Ridgefield's largest insurance business. Keeler and Durant Inc. (*q.v.*) merged in 1987. Originally located at ONS123 Main Street; moved to the corner of Main and Catoonah Streets around 1965. In the 1990s it became Fairfield County Bank Insurance Services (*q.v.*).

**Alcohol:** Ridgefield has had a long love-hate relationship with alcoholic beverages. During the 18th Century and the first two-thirds of the 19th Century, state laws guided the establishment and regulation of taverns and the like. The selectmen and constables were the local regulators, but they pretty much had to allow the serving of alcoholic beverages. Ridgefield had a tavern on Main Street as early as 1720, probably operated by the Smith family and, according to the Rev. Samuel Goodrich, had at one point in the 18th Century, 10 taverns. In 1800, it had only five. The town also had several distilling operations (*see* Still Road, Hezekiah Scott), probably mostly making apple brandy. "Hard" apple cider was commonly made by most households; cider mills around town helped farmers produce the liquid for cider from apples. By the mid-1800s, temperance movements were gaining popularity in town. In 1872, the General Assembly passed a law, allowing a town meeting to vote to ban the licensing of outlets to sell alcoholic beverages. Starting that year and for the next 40 years, Ridgefield had many votes on the question, but the temperance supporter usually won, and Ridgefield was a dry town for most of the years until Oct. 7, 1912 when alcohol sales were finally permitted, only to cease in 1920 with the arrival of Prohibition (*q.v.*). Since Prohibition ended in late 1933, Ridgefield has never banned alcohol sales. In pre-Covid 2020, eight stores and more than 30 restaurants sold hard alcohol (several like Stop & Shop could sell beer only). The town even had a Nod Hill brewery (*q.v.*). *See also* Prohibition, Package stores.

**Aldrich, Lawrence "Larry,"** (1906-2001), was founder of women's fashion company in NYC, 1927; moved to Nod Road, 1939; established Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, 1964, in "Old Hundred" (*q.v.*) building, 258 Main Street; donated Aldrich Park, 1958; wife, Winifred Payne Aldrich (1914-2003), was an artist and museum co-founder. [WWW]; Aldrich discusses his love of art in talk [P1/7/1965]

**Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum:** Founded in 1964 in the "Old Hundred" (*q.v.*) at 258 Main Street by Lawrence Aldrich (*q.v.*), New York City designer of women's clothing; expanded several times in subsequent years; now a major venue for contemporary art in America. The modern exhibition building opened in 2004; the administrative offices in front, once the "Old Hundred" (*q.v.*), had previously been the museum's exhibition venue.

**Aldrich Park:** 37 acres donated in several pieces by Lawrence Aldrich, founder of the museum; first grant was May 1958, in honor of town's 250th anniversary; more gifts during 1960s and early 70s; park now 65 acres.

**Alexander Hamilton High School,** Ridgefield's first public secondary school, opened 1915 in former Center School on Bailey Avenue (now municipal parking lot); moved in 1926 to

East Ridge School after a 1925 remodeling of what was originally Benjamin Franklin Grammar School (*q.v.*), built in 1915; first graduation was in 1917. [JFS]

**Alkiewicz, Andrzej**, (1924-2000), a native of Poland and World War II resistance fighter who spent time in concentration camps, was president of the Wall Street brokerage, Hoppin Watson Inc., 1971-76; founded Perception International in 1983, a consulting firm on business strategies with many leading clients, including U.S. government; lived on West Mountain Road for 25 years. [JFS]

**All for Kids**, a preschool operating 2003-2013, founded by Nan Howkins (*q.v.*).

**All That Glitters**: Store selling “contemporary jewelry” at 409 Main Street; most pieces produced in Armonk by owner Nancy Galli and her husband, Patrick; opened November 1980; gone by 1983.

**Allan, Edwin B.**, (1929-2012), was co-owner of Allans’ Men’s Store (*q.v.*), 1955-1981, later commercial real estate agent; active in community: clerk of the Board of Finance 17 years, member of Parking Authority, a director of Habitat for Humanity and Ridgefield Bank, served on the Boards of the Ridgefield Cemetery Association, Branchville Fresh Air Fund, Boys and Girls Club, Wadsworth R. Lewis Fund, Family Y, and District Nursing Association; one of the original 16 members of the Chamber of Commerce; Rotary Club (*q.v.*) Citizen of Year 2006. [WWW]

**Allans’ Men’s Store**: Name employed by brothers Edwin B. (1929-2012) and Donald G. Allan (1930-2014) after they purchased former Paterson’s Clothing Store in 1955, eventually relocating it to 440 Main Street. They retired in 1981. [P1/29/1981] *See also* Edwin B. Allan.

**Allee, Dr. William Hanford** (1872-1929), native of New York, was a physician and advocate for improved schools in Ridgefield; was a leader in effort to build Benjamin Franklin Elementary School (*q.v.*) and establish Alexander Hamilton High School (*q.v.*); supported woman suffrage; lived at 304 Main Street, 1906-29, practiced in Wilton and is buried there; married to Laura Curie Allee (later Shields — *q.v.*).

**Allen, Steven or Stephen**, (1766-1852), a Ridgebury farmer, was a private at age 15 in the Connecticut Continental militia in 1781. He helped escort home American prisoners released by the British in a 1781 exchange. He is buried in Ridgebury Cemetery. His wife was named Weighty! [JW]

**Allen, William I.**, (1933-2001), was a local insurance businessman; early member of Connecticut Fifth Regiment; town Civil Preparedness director for five years; he was a founder of town’s Independent Party in 1990s; hobbies included owning DUKW amphibious vehicles from WW2; threatened to sue town, 1980, after two of his “ducks” stored at the town dump were chopped up and hauled away (P9/11/1980). [WWW]

**Allen, William W.**, (1919-93), was popular athletic director at RHS, from 1950s until 1979; started as a physical education and math teacher in 1947; known as “Coach Allen,” he led baseball team to five straight Fairfield County Class B League titles in the 1960s — 1966 team went undefeated, winning 15 straight games; also coached football and basketball; a founder of Little League; retired to Rhode Island. [WWW]

**Alligator Farm:** Estate of Arthur and Teddy Edelman (*q.v.*) at 129 Spring Valley Road, so called because the Edelmanns were involved in the reptile leather business; the house was built 1969 around a dismantled barn from old Stonecrest (*q.v.*) estate on North Street. [WWW]

**Almost A King:** 1917 movie starring Evelyn Greeley, with scenes shot in Ridgefield by W.A. Brady World Film Company; one scene involved a car being blown up.

**Aloha** was the name given to the brick mansion at Peaceable Street and High Ridge by owner Amy Low Huntington in the 1920s. She had earlier used this name for her rented estate on West Lane in Lewisboro. [DD192]

**Alpert, Norman,** (1925-1981), was founder of Alpex Computer Corp. and held patents on such devices as point-of-sales systems; was instrumental in creating computerized TV games; around 1980, he developed a small computer designed to “communicate over telephone lines and to transmit information to a screen or printer,” said NYT. He lived on Old West Mountain Road from 1972 until his death from suicide.

**Altnacraig:** mansion at 55 High Ridge, also spelled as two words, Altna Craig and as Altna-Craig, was built 1908-09 by Alonzo Barton Hepburn (*q.v.*) and his wife, Emily Eaton Hepburn (*q.v.*). Hepburn first called it Breezy Nook (*q.v.*). In the 1950s it became a nursing home. After the home closed, while it was on the real estate market, it burned down in a suspicious fire in 1994. [WWW] [DD156ff]

**Alvord, Dr. Elisha,** an early Ridgefield physician, was one of 22 people who died “of a prevailing fever” between Feb. 14, 1812, and Feb. 14, 1813. [RidgefieldBirths Marriages Deaths, Vol. 2, 1745-1852, p. 216]

**Amateur Dramatic Club of Ridgefield** was staging productions in the Town Hall in the 1870s. [P7/16/1879]

**Amatuzzi, John, Gigi and George,** brothers and natives of Italy, came to the U.S. in 1958 and began working in restaurants around Mamaroneck, N.Y. They became partners with Joseph Gigliotti in Roma Pizzeria (*q.v.*) in 1967 and soon took it over, making it one of the most popular and praised restaurants in Ridgefield history, famous for donating pizzas to community organizations, sports teams, honor roll students, and others. They bought the “Telephone Building” that quartered the pizzeria, and renovated it. Family member Dr. George Amatuzzi has his optometry practice there. The family has received many community service awards. John died in a 1983 auto accident. [JFS]

**Ambulance** service began in 1938, taking its first passenger to the hospital Jan. 4 (Aldo Casagrande, injured in a fall on the ice). The new service was free to townspeople; the ambulance was acquired by the fire department, which raised \$2,000 by public subscription to buy it. By the end of the year, 54 ambulance calls were received. [P1/6/1938]

**American Legion,** Everett Ray Seymour Post 78, began Aug. 20, 1920, by World War I veterans. Its name recalls the first Ridgefielder to die in combat in WW1. One of its first projects was to erect the War Memorial on Main Street at the head of Branchville Road in 1925; it lists the names of all service people from Ridgefield in all wars through WW1. Aside from providing support for local veterans, the legion also organizes the annual Memorial Day Parade, sponsors military band concerts in town, conducts Veterans Day ceremonies each year, sends honor guards to the funerals of area veterans, and sponsors two local baseball teams for older teenagers. Early meetings were on the top floor of the

Martin Block (*q.v.*), but in 1939, the Legion began leasing the old Titicus Schoolhouse (*q.v.*) from the town as a legion hall. The organization has had as many as 151 members.

**American Legion Auxiliary** was organized in 1923 for the wives of American Legion (*q.v.*) members and has served as a supporter of Legion activities and other community service.

**American Mercury, the:** A popular magazine, founded by H.L. Mencken, which published major authors and thinkers of the 1920s and 30s moved its offices to 360 Main Street in 1936, [P9/1936]; was still publishing there in 1938. Paul Palmer (*q.v.*) of Wilton Road East was editor and publisher in 1937 and Gordon Carroll (*q.v.*), also of Ridgefield, was managing editor. [JFS, P9/25/1941]

**American Women's Voluntary Services** was a World War II organization that in Ridgefield provided a "motor corps" of drivers for essential war-related services, including military personnel, and helped with various war support missions; in 1958, it donated the Town Clock (*q.v.*) on Main Street, using funds left over from collections during the war. It had its headquarters on Catoonah Street [P12/11/1941].

**Anascote:** Name that Richard A. Jackson (*q.v.*) used for his estate, the former King homestead, at Main Street and King Lane; anascote is a kind of Spanish fabric, but also a pun on the name of his wife, Anna Scott. [RN]

**Anchorage, The,** was the home in the 1920s and 30s of Edward S. (*q.v.*) and Molly Beach

**Ancient Mariner:** Restaurant in CVS shopping center opened in 1974; Jessica Wilmot started working there in 1978; in 1992, she bought the place [P4/12/2007]

**Ancona, Joseph,** (1890-1958), came to the U.S. in 1912 as a poor immigrant from Italy; served in US Army, World War I, and was gassed — he was awarded Purple Heart; established grocery and general store in Branchville, ca. 1920, that grew into Ancona's Market (*q.v.*); opened liquor store, 1933; a founder of Branchville Civic Association; sons Nazzareno, John and Joseph took over business. [WWW]

**Ancona's Market:** Established 1920 by Joseph Ancona (*q.v.*); new 20,000 square foot store opens July 14, 1980; operated by Joe and John Ancona; new Ancona's Wines and Liquors (*q.v.*), managed by Nano Ancona, opens same day; market closed January 2014 and most of its space became a CVS.

**Ancona's Wines and Liquors:** Successor to Joe's Package Store (*q.v.*); name first used when enlarged store opened August 1962 at 49 Ethan Allen Highway; moved to new store next to market at 720 Branchville Road in 1980; Wilton store opened 2009; Ridgefield center store in 2018; store founded by Joseph Ancona (1890-1958) after Prohibition; after he died son Nazzareno "Nano" Ancona (1931-2004) took over; after Nano's death, son Mitchell assumed ownership; in 2020 it is the oldest family owned business in Ridgefield.

**Anderson, Harry,** (1906-1996), was a noted American artist and illustrator who worked for Saturday Evening Post, Redbook, Collier's Cosmopolitan, Good Housekeeping, and Ladies' Home Journal; also known for religious art, often as book illustrations; lived on Old Branchville Road from 1950s until death. [WWW]

**Anderson, Henry Burrall,** (1863-1938), native of NYC, was Yale/Harvard educated NY industrial lawyer; built original house on West Lane (later Upagenstit estate), but then built a new mansion on West Mountain in Lewisboro, but left it after wife died, 1903; bought some 3,000 acres on West Mountain, including 600 in Ridgefield, rest NY state, hoping to sell



sites for fancy estates and also to develop the Port of Missing Men (q.v.) resort, in partnership with Ogden Mills; Eldridge N. Bailey, later a first selectman, was his superintendent; also established Ridgefield Water Supply Company; was in Navy in World War I, and loaned his yacht for Naval service. [WWW] [DD69] He purchased the largest tract left on West Lane to build a home [P7/3/1902]. [DD134,135,136]

**Anderson, Jesse Ebert “Bert,”** (1879-1939), the town’s night constable, was the second Ridgefield policeman to die while on duty; killed Oct. 9, 1939 when his service revolver discharged after he accidentally dropped the gun in the town hall. *See also* John Palmer. [WWW]

**Anderson’s Tea House Road:** Another name for Old Sib Road, used informally in 1920s, 30s, because the road led to H.B. Anderson’s Port of Missing Men resort (q.v.); when Prohibition banned alcohol sales, the place picked up this name or just “Tea House”; appears on a 1928 property map.

**Andrews, Charles Sperry,** (1917-2005), and **Andrews, Doris Bass,** (1920-2003), both artists, met at Art Students League in NYC and were married 55 years; he, known as Sperry, was native of NYC who served in Army munitions in World War II and landed at Normandy; she, a native of Lexington, KY, served in Army Corps of Engineers in World War II as telegraph operator; they lived here first at former Book Barn (q.v.) on Route 33, arriving in 1948; in 1957, they bought farm of sculptor Mahonri Young (q.v.) that had earlier belonged to artist J. Alden Weir (q.v.) on Nod Hill Rd.; in late 1970s they began efforts to preserve the farm and with help of The Nature Conservancy, and others, got Congress in 1990 to create Weir Farm National Historic Site there. [JFS]

**Andrieni, Joseph Manuel,** (1852-1932), a native of Spain, was a banker, writer and printmaker whose work is in major collections such as the British Museum. Wrote *J. Winifred Spenceley. His etchings and engravings in the form of book plates*, New York, 1910 and his collection of Spenceley works is now at Yale University. He also wrote on Cuban postage stamps and acted as an anonymous private publisher. He was a benefactor of the North Ridgefield Schoolhouse in the 1890s. [NB11/9/1894]

**Andrus, Lynn,** who moved to Ridgewood Road in 1976, was a potter. She was married to Robert Andrus.

**Anglican Church:** *See* St. Stephen’s Church and Ridgebury Episcopal Church.

**Amici’s** was one of the many restaurants that have occupied 37 Ethan Allen Highway since the 1930s when Jean’s (q.v.) opened.

**Animals:** *See* under Livestock, Dogs, Mammals, or individual species names.

**Ann Stephen’s:** Women’s clothing store opened Oct. 11, 1972, in Copps Hill Plaza by 26-year-old Stephen Zemo (q.v.), who later became a longtime town selectman and a major commercial developer; brother Don, 28, opens Zemo’s Men’s Store at same time. [JFS]

**Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Auditorium** is housed in the Diamond Properties Performing Arts Center, 36 Old Quarry Road. The theater features an intimate viewing environment, with 182 seats and a turntable (rotating) stage, the only stage of this type in the region. It is the venue for ACT of CT’ (q.v.), a contemporary theater company. [JFS]

**Antiques Flea Market:** Longtime fundraiser for Community Center (q.v.), usually in early June; was on Veterans Park Field many years — 1982 heavy rains led to deep ruts and much

damage to turf (P6/10/1982); when town refurbished fields and installed underground irrigation, cars were banned from the field and sale moved to center grounds. [JFS]

**Anyan, Sally Bishop**, was a popular music teacher, hired in the fall of 1966. Her husband, Joel, was also a local musician. She started at Scotland School and later worked at Veterans Park. [RT]

**Aokeets**: (also Aokeels, Aokkeels) American Indian name for Little Pond, on the west side of Route 7 south of Route 35 intersection; said to mean “hornet place” or possibly “adversary’s place,” in Siwanoy language, suggesting ancient battles may have occurred here; appears in 1708 deed from Indians to proprietors. [RN]

**Apgar, Allen Stoddard**, (1841-1905), came here 1900 at recommendation of friend, Gov. Phineas Lounsbury (*q.v.*); built Stonecrest (*q.v.*) mansion on North Street in design similar to Lounsbury’s Grovelawn (*q.v.*). He was a Manhattan bank executive, and had served in the Civil War. His widow moved away 1907. [JFS]

**Aquarion**: New name for old Bridgeport Hydraulic Company. *See* Ridgefield Water Supply Company.

**AR Kids** was a children’s clothing store that closed in 2019 at 416 Main Street, a sister business of Audrey Road, a clothing store at 7 Bailey Avenue. [P7/26/2021] Became Candlelight Shoppe,

**Archer, Donald Hull**, (1912-1978, was an arborist who came here in the 1940s to work for Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*), later for Bartlett. From 1974 until his death, he was town tree warden, establishing the town’s first tree nursery, and working closely with community organizations to plant more trees. He served on the Parks and the Conservation Commissions, was active in Rotary and the Masons, and lived on North Street. [JFS]

**Architects**: Notable architects connected with Ridgefield include Cass Gilbert, Cass Gilbert Jr., Philip Johnson, Walter Kerr Rainsford, David Scott, Robert L. Shape, Bert Tydeman, Ralph Thomas Walker, (*q.v. each*).

**Arden Lake**: A name for Great Pond, probably coined by Camp Arden (*q.v.*), which had a summer camp on the northwestern side of the pond in the late 1930s, early 40s. [JFS]

**Are You OK?**, also called R.U.O.K, is a free service in which volunteers telephone each morning to make certain elderly or disabled residents are all right. It was established and is operated by the Ridgefield Women’s Club, with the help of the Ridgefield Firefighters’ Association, at the Ridgefield firehouse. (*q.v.*).

**Area of Ridgefield**: About 35 square miles, including 34.4 land and 0.5 water; 22,400 acres; 9,065 hectares; 975,744,000 square feet; 140,507,000,000 square inches. Before Ridgefield ceded its northern tier to Danbury in 1846, becoming the western fifth of that town, Ridgefield was 57.7 square miles.

**Arena, Joseph R.**, (1925-2007), a native of Stamford, landed in Normandy on D-Day and earned the Purple Heart for combat wounds when he was 19; grand marshal of the 2000 Memorial Day Parade. He had been a manager at Bob’s Sports in New Canaan and later worked for Squash’s Ridgefield News Store; moved here in 1962 with wife, Sylvia. [JFS]

**Arent, Arthur**, (1904-1972), was a Depression-era playwright, prolific early TV screenwriter, and novelist whose summer home was on Saw Mill Hill Road for 30 years. [WWW]

**Arigideen Farm:** “Gentleman’s farm” of Daniel and Louise McKeon (*q.v.*); 135 acres around intersection of Ridgebury and Old Stagecoach Roads; house address, 11 Old Stagecoach Road; name sometimes appears as Arigideen or Arigadeen; “Arigideen,” said Louise McKeon, is “the name of a small river in County Cork, Ireland, where Dan’s grandfather was born. It means ‘little silver stream’ because the salmon would go up river and in the water cast a silver shadow.” The farm specialized in Guernsey cows, then switched to Brown Swiss in the late 1940s and sold unpasteurized milk for many years. The farm was sold in 2005 for \$12 million, then the highest price ever paid for a residential property in Ridgefield; became Double H Farm, named for its owner, E. Hunter Harrison (*q.v.*), a noted railroad executive [RN] *See also* Zack’s Ridge, Henry Whitney, David Hunt, and Knap’s Farm. [JFS]

**Arma Tool & Die Company,** a rare manufacturing facility in Ridgefield, opened in June 1975 in a new building on 1.3 acres at 845 Ethan Allen Highway, Route 7 just north of Haviland Road. Tools and moldings were manufactured in its 7,400 square feet building. The business closed in 2004 and the property, under Siema Company, sold in 2005 for \$1.25 million. In 2020, the building was used by 845 Wireless Investments LLC and other LLCs. The property is also the site of a Cingular cellular telephone antenna. [JFS]

**Armand, Col. Charles** (1751-1793), officially, Charles Armand Tuffin, marquis de la Rouërie, was a French cavalry officer and wealthy French nobleman who fought with colonists during Revolution; In summer 1779, he established a barracks for his Partisan Legion near the intersection of Barrack Hill and Old West Mountain Rds. from which his men attacked the British and protected patriots in Westchester and Putnam Counties. Some of his cavalymen also patrolled area to apprehend marauders, deserters, rioters, stragglers, and other soldiers found guilty of violating the General Orders. [RIR]

**Armand Place, Road:** In and adjacent to Eleven Levels (*q.v.*), developed in late 1970s, early 1980s; named for Col. Charles Armand (*q.v.*), Revolutionary War figure, who had camp nearby. [RN]

**Armstrong, Edward,** (ca. 1790-1851) and wife **Betsey,** (-1858), known as Uncle Ned and Aunt Betsey, operated a station on the Underground Railroad in the 1840s, maybe earlier, on Ned’s Mountain; they lived off Ned’s Lane and sheltered runaway slaves in a small cave in Ned’s Mountain. Both are buried in Ridgebury Cemetery. [JFS]

**Arnold, Benedict,** (1741-1801), a general in Continental Army in the Revolutionary War, led local troops at Battle of Ridgefield (*q.v.*), especially at the north end of Main Street. Legend says his horse was shot out from under him near the driveway to 563 Main Street. [JFS]

**Arnold, Paul Dean,** (1908-85), was a former Nabisco executive who, in 1940, despite being allergic to flour, founded Arnold Bakers in garage of his Stamford home; by 1964, one Greenwich baking plant alone was producing 10,000 loaves of bread an hour; in 1952 he and wife Betty bought the Eleven Levels (*q.v.*) estate on West Mountain, living there until 1959 when they returned to his home town of Greenwich; he was active in scouting and brought Admiral Richard E. Byrd to Ridgefield for a scout benefit — as consultant, Byrd had helped Arnold pioneer techniques for freezing bread; also active Rotary, Red Cross. [WWW]

**Arnold, Wayne Ragsdale**, (1920-1955), a native of Kansas, was a very early atomic scientist.

He was present at the Chicago Pile Experiment, Dec. 2, 1942, which was the first time man had initiated a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction, and controlled it. He died in a car crash at the age of 34 and is buried in Maple Shade Cemetery. He was chairman of the Zoning Commission at the time of his death.

**Arnold's Way** is a private road off northern Main Street that leads to several houses, built 2003; the name recalls Gen. Benedict Arnold (*q.v.*), hero of the Battle of Ridgefield. [RN]

**Arrowhead Camp**: Name of Henry B. Anderson's estate on Round Pond in 1910s. [SR1916]

**Arrowhead Place**: Short, dead-end road off Ramapoo Road, in a 1998 subdivision of Rolf Almgren and Birgit Almgren Lindeberg, brother and sister of 8.7 acres of Almgren family property into 10 half-acre lots; George Hanlon, who built houses, selected the name to be in keeping with the American Indian theme of Ramapoo (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Arrowitz, Rand**, was an artist turned sign-painter, operated Old Ridge Studio, at his home on Pin Pack Road, 1980 [P10/30/1980]

**Artists** of note from Ridgefield include: Harry Anderson, Doris Andrews, Sperry Andrews, John Atherton, Charles Roswell Bacon, Harry Bennett, Edwin Howland Blashfield, Charles Cobelle, Ernest Benham Dielman, Frederick Dielman, Carlus E. Dyer, Herb Eilertsen, Robert Franco, Arthur H. Frentrop, Leon Gordon, Simon Greco, Fred Greenburg, Van Kaufman, Bob Knox, Uldis Klavins, Ruth Kobler, Nicholas Krushenick, Donald Moss, Elizabeth Atkins O'Brien, Herb Olsen, Bernard Perlin, George W. Picknell, Frederic Remington, Alexander Ross, C. Chandler Ross, Adam Salvo, John Walter Scott, Charles Sheeler, Frederick Shrady, Howard Silverman, George Henry Smillie, George Karl Sottung, George Stengel, Paul Ullman, J. Alden Weir, Peter Wick, Mahonri Young. (*q.v. each*) *See also* Illustrators.

**Ascot Way**: Short, dead-end road off lower Main Street, named for the subdividing company, Ascot Associates (William Wade and Anthony Ricardo); why Ascot is unknown; developed ca. 1969; town road, 1974. [RN]

**Ashbee, Charles**, (1872-1962), was a local banker who was famous for playing Santa Claus for many years in the village; collected autographs of U.S. presidents — had all but Washington; also had most Civil War generals. *See also* Ashbee Lane. [WWW]

**Ashbee Lane**: Off Route 7, south of Cain's Hill Road; developed by Everett Lounsbury Jr. in the late 1950's, early 1960's; honors Charles F. Ashbee (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Ashland Cottage**: Victorian house at 321 Main Street, long painted pink and called informally the Pink House, was built around 1850. In 1852 it became the parsonage for St. Stephen's Church. It was later the residence of "Lawyer Sam" Keeler and in 1931, first home here of Joseph H. Donnelly (*q.v.*); once was The Pines Inn (*q.v.*). Fried Chicken and Waffle Shop plus The Maple and Fine Antique Shop open there May 27, 1925 [P6/11/1925]

**Ashton Croft**: The name of the 207 Main Street mansion built by Henry E. Hawley (*q.v.*), now the Methodist church's Wesley Hall (*q.v.*). Also sometimes called Hawley Cottage. [JFS]

**ASML Holdings NV**: Advanced Semiconductor Materials Lithography; took over Silicon Valley Group in 2000, occupying former Perkin-Elmer (earlier, Benrus Center) building on Route 7; announced Dec. 13, 2001, it was shutting down here, consolidating operations in Wilton; Dutch company supplies photolithography systems for the semiconductor industry. [JFS]

**Asoquatah:** Native word for West Mountain, appearing in the 1708 deed for the first purchase of land from the Indians; never commonly used; meaning uncertain, but theories include (1) “pine tree sap place,” (i.e., good source for adhesive or sealer); (2) a place where the ruler lived, (3) “backward” or perhaps “turning place” in an old Indian path (*see* Oreneca Road), (4)

“something that is not crooked.” [RN]

**Aspen Ledges:** The steep cliffs on the north side of Ledges Road; aspen is corruption of old Indian word, “asproom,” as in Asproom Mountain (q.v.), which is nearby. [RN]

**Aspen Ledges Road:** Extends from the end of Old Stagecoach Road to Bob Hill Road; built around 1959 by Robert Kaufman at Ridgefield Knolls (q.v.); *see also* Aspen Ledges. [RN]

**Aspen Mill Road:** Off Ledges Road; William Peatt Jr., developer in early 1960’s, proposed “Asproom Mill Road,” after Indian name for nearby ledges and the fact that Hezekiah Scott’s grist and cider mill was only a short distance away (*see also* Kiah’s Brook, Asproom). [RN]

**Asproom Boggs:** A swamp along the Titicus River first mentioned in 1721 — *see also* Asproom Mountain. [RN]

**Asproom Loft:** Probably an early term for Barlow Mountain (q.v.); mentioned in 1756; also appears as Asproom Loaf and Aloft. [RN]

**Asproom Mountain:** Common 18th Century name for ridge or hill that extends from Limestone Road westerly to Spring Valley Road, now sometimes called Ridgebury Mountain, and including Barlow Mountain and Sugar Loaf Mountain; word “asproom” is corruption of Asprumquak, used for the mountain by John Copp in 1716; said to mean “lofty place” in native language. [RN]

**Asproom Plain:** Flatlands south of the range or perhaps in the area of Regan Road, first mentioned 1724 — *see also* Asproom Mountain. [RN]

**Asproom Peek:** Possibly the area around Summit Lane with an elevation of 860 feet or perhaps Asproom Loaf (q.v.); mentioned in 1722 deed. [RN]

**Atherton, John Carlton,** (1900-52), was a major American illustrator who produced scores of magazine covers — more than 40 for Saturday Evening Post — and countless inside illustrations; in 1948 was among founders of Famous Artists School in Westport; an expert fly fisherman, he wrote and illustrated *The Fly and the Fish*, still in print more than a half century after his death; lived on Branchville Road starting in 1932. He was married to Maxine Atherton (q.v.). [WWW]

**Atherton, Maxine “Max” Breese,** (1903-1997), a native of California, was an expert fly fisherman who wrote for sporting magazines and whose posthumous memoir, *The Fly Fisher and The River*, was published in 2016. She also wrote *Every Sportsman’s Cookbook*. She was married to artist and angler John Atherton (q.v.).

**Atlases:** *See* Maps of Ridgefield.

**Auerbach, Jessica,** is a novelist whose *Sleep, Baby, Sleep*, became an ABC TV movie in 1995. A New Jersey native and Vassar graduate, she taught high school and at Wesleyan University, has lived in Ridgefield since 1983 and has served on the Conservation Commission. Her first novel, *Winter Wife*, was published in 1983. Other novels include

*Catch Your Breath* (1996) and *Painting on Glass* (1988). She received a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship in 1985.

**Autarkes:** Name of the Dexter L. Stone estate on West Mountain, 1900. [Kendall] The name suggests self-sufficiency.

**Authors and Writers:** John Atherton, Peggy Bacon, Preston Bassett, Silvio Bedini, William Blankenship, James Blumgarten, Joseph Epes Brown Jr. and III, Eli Culbertson, Rosamond Dauer, Charles A. Goodrich, Samuel G. Goodrich, Scott Langdon Fagley, Ellen Greve, Max Gunther, Roger Kahn, Bettina Liebovitz Knapp, Clare Boothe Luce, Mary Main, Deirdre Mardon, Hildegard Oskison, William Pfaff, Florence Powdermaker, Hortense Powdermaker, Philip W. Quigg, Frederic Remington, Donald I. Rogers, Cornelius Ryan, Kathryn Morgan Ryan, Maurice Sendak, Eric Sonnichsen, Alvin Toffler, Jane Trahey. *See also* novelists, poets, playwrights.

**Automobiles:** The first automobile seen in Ridgefield was in 1898 when one from Norwalk passed through town [RP 10/?/1898]; first mention of a locally owned car in Press was 1901, Dr. R.W. Lowe's Locomobile [RPC]. Francis D. Martin listed the following first owners of cars in town: 1. Burgoyne Hamilton. 2. W.S. Hawk. 3. Dr. R.W. Lowe. 4. George Johnson and Frank Hurlburt. 5. Peter McGlynn. 6. L.L. Beckwith. (*q.v. each*).

**Axolotl:** Name of Ridgefield High School's jazz band in the 1970s.

## B

**Babe Ruth baseball** for older youths, past Little League age, was established in 1961 when it became a separate league. Charles Coles was the first president.

**Babbitt, Jacqueline,** (1921-2001), was one of first female head producers of TV shows, working for David Susskind's production company in 1950s and 60s. She won both Emmy and Peabody awards, and lived with companion Jane Trahey, a famous ad executive and writer, at 174 New Road, from 1961 to the mid 70s, when both moved to Kent. [WWW]

**Bacon, Charles Roswell,** (1867-1913), was a noted landscape and figure painter; ran The Ridgefield Inn (*q.v.*) from ca. 1894 until 1903; father of artist Peggy Bacon (*q.v.*). He is buried in the Scott section of Ridgefield Cemetery. [WWW]

**Bacon, Francis McNeil,** (1835-1912), was head of Bacon and Company, a dry goods and woolen firm in Manhattan; director of a bank and an insurance company; built Nutholme mansion on Peaceable Street, later called Westmoreland (*q.v.*), and in 2022, the Jewish temple, Congregation Shir Shalom; graduated Harvard 1884; liked to skate on New Pond, and would toss coins to children skating there, sometimes resulting in mad scrambles and bruises. [JFS]

**Bacon, Margaret "Peggy,"** (1894-1987), born in Ridgefield to artist Charles Roswell and Elizabeth A. Chase Bacon, became noted American illustrator who also wrote children's books, satirical cartoons and caricatures for The New Yorker and other magazines. She also wrote acclaimed mystery novels. [WWW]

**Bahr, Abel "Billy,"** (1877-1959), was one of 20th Century's top experts on and collectors of, ancient Chinese art; many works in his collection are now in major museums; came to Ridgefield 1951, living in The Coach House (*q.v.*), [WWW]

**Bailey, Dr. Annie Keeler** (1855-1927), a Ridgefield native, was one of first women physicians in Connecticut. She graduated in 1876 from State Normal School (now Central Conn. Univ.), and studied medicine from 1881 to 1886. She established practice in Danbury in May 1886, was associated with Danbury Hospital, was mentor to many nurses, wrote articles on healing for medical journals and also spoke on religious subjects at Danbury churches — two of her lectures were turned into books still available. In 1908 she petitioned the Superior Court to allow name change to Annie Keeler because she so much disliked her abusive father, Halcyon Gilbert Bailey (*q.v.*). She died in an auto accident in Danbury. [WWW]

**Bailey, Eldridge Nettleton**, (1876-1955), a native of Shelton, was Republican first selectman most years from 1911-26, having been elected to the office 11 times. He was a construction engineer for H.B. Anderson, and was head of the Anderson's Ridgefield Water Supply Company. He was also superintendent of the Ridgefield Electric Company, 1919-1925, and a director of the Ridgefield Savings Bank. He was later mayor of Bradford, Vt., but returned to Ridgefield and spent his last years at The Elms. [WWW, RSB28, DD136]

**Bailey, Halcyon Gilbert** (1828-1905 ) married Emily Keeler of Ridgebury Road in 1854; Bedini describes satirical campaign Gilbert ran, complete with posters, for office of town hayward — posters generally made fun of women and promoted drinking; Emily divorced him by 1880; in 1908, national news stories reported his daughter, Dr. Annie Keeler Bailey (*q.v.*), asked court to change her name to Keeler to “free the honor of her mother's family from the taint arising from the name of her father.” “Father,” she was quoted as saying, “was a man addicted to excessive dissipation, shocking immorality and profanity. He was a disgrace to the family”; buried in Peach Lake Cemetery, North Salem. [WWW]

**Bailey, Lewis H.**, (1818-1899), a native of Kent Falls, NY., who came here in 1839, was a leading Ridgefield businessman, a founder and second president of Ridgefield Savings Bank (*q.v.*) and its first secretary-treasurer; established the Bailey Inn (*q.v.*); built Bailey Avenue (*q.v.*). He was also a partner in the Bailey and Gage Store (*q.v.*), which was also in the undertaking business by the 1870s. He served as a state senator in 1875. In his youth he played clarinet in the Ridgefield Band (*q.v.*). His daughter was Arvilla Bailey Keeler (*q.v.*) [JFS, RSB22] His and David Hurlbutt bought a saw mill in 1855 [RLR21.204]

**Bailey and Brothers** was an undertaking establishment in the mid-1800s; acquired in 1866 by Jacob M. Lockwood (*q.v.*). The main Bailey was Lewis H. Bailey (*q.v.*).

**Bailey and Gage:** A late 19th Century general and hardware store at 404 Main Street, predecessor of D.F. Bedient, a partnership of Lewis H. Bailey and D. Smith Gage. Gage had been a clerk at the Old Hundred (*q.v.*), bought the place around 1880 and moved it two blocks north. Both Bailey and Gage were among the town's wealthiest businessmen.

**Bailey Avenue:** Dog-leg road between Main and Prospect Streets, in 1879 by namesake Lewis H. Bailey (*q.v.*) to serve as a shortcut to the small freight yard along its eastern leg, where the Ridgefield branch railroad line ended, and allowed development of Main Street backland; first one-way road in town (starting 1973). [RN]

**Bailey Inn:** Established 1870s by Lewis H. Bailey, the four-story building near 293 Main Street was originally a cabinet factory, built 1830 by Rufus H. Pickett, Samuel Hawley, and Thaddeus Hoyt; by 1850s, part of old factory removed and rest used as a hall; by 1860,

owned by Bailey, was converted to a tenement; in 1870s, reconfigured and expanded into inn; demolished 1919 after a rear wing was moved to rear of neighboring King mansion. [DAUB]

**Bailey's Backyard:** restaurant established 1999 at 23 Bailey Avenue, formerly site of Ridgefield Coffee Shop (*q.v.*) and many earlier businesses of all sorts.

**Bailey's New Road:** Neighborhood name in early 20th Century for the straight stretch of Farmingville Road from Lee to Limekiln Roads, built about 1914 as bypass — Farmingville Road originally traversed today's Lee and southern Limekiln Roads; named for E.N. Bailey (*q.v.*), the first selectman who approved the project. [RN]

**Baja Cocina,** a Mexican-style restaurant, opened in 2018 at 426 Main Street.

**Baker, Dr. Amos,** (ca.1753-1823), was a Ridgefield physician who “discovered” the “Baker apple” in the late 1700s; the variety was once fairly well known in the region, but is now probably “extinct.” He served in the Revolution as a surgeon's mate under Col. Philip Burr Bradley (*q.v.*). He was a state representative in 1792 and was an organizer of the Methodist congregation in Ridgefield. He lived at 536 Main Street and was married to Sarah Stebbins, daughter of Benjamin Stebbins (*q.v.*), who lived where Casagmo is. [WWW, DD113]

**Baker, Paul** (*nee Paul V. Baldaserini*), (1920-2014), was a longtime radio and television personality in Danbury area, especially on WLAD in 1950s and 60s, and later WREF; also did cable TV Channel 10 news broadcasts with Abe Najamy; was voice of the stock car races at Danbury Racearena at Danbury Fairgrounds. [WWW]

**Baker apple:** *See* Dr. Amos Baker; also DD113.

**Bakes, George L.,** (ca. 1923-2016), a Norwalk resident, was a photographer who became a developer and spent 25 years trying to get the Planning and Zoning Commission to approve a new use for the former Camp Adventure (*q.v.*), which he bought in 1971 for \$600,000. Among other proposals were a corporate headquarters and high-density apartments. The town finally agreed to age-restricted multifamily housing in the mid-1990s. The result is Ridgefield Crossings, Laurel Ridge Health Care Center, and Regency at Ridgefield (*q.v.*). The town also got a large chunk of open space, including much of the western and northern shore of Great Pond (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Baldaserini, Gino L. “Jinx,”** (1917-2018), Ridgefield native who died at age of 100; was master golf club maker for Pedersen in Wilton; brother of Paul Baker (*q.v.*); [P3/3/2018].

**Baldaserini, Jack,** is a longtime Ridgefield real estate agent and manager. *See* Comstock Court.

**Baldaserini, Paul:** *See* Paul Baker.

**Balducci:** Chain, high-end supermarket buys Hay Day (*q.v.*) at 21 Governor Street in 2004; closed April 2009 [P4/9/2009]; became a food wholesaler called Baldor, which distributes to many local stores and restaurants. [JFS]

**Baldwin, Karen,** was town's 17th school superintendent, 2015-18.

**Baldwin, Mary Ann** (1944-2022), a native of NJ, was chairman for four of her nine years on the school board in the 1980s and later became the long-time director of social services for the town, retiring in 2020. She was the wife of Dr. Randall Baldwin, dentist. [KFH]

**Ball, Rev. John P.** (1908-1992) was pastor of Goodwill Baptist Church (*q.v.*) from its founding in 1940 until 1959; returned in 1969 and served several years before congregation disbanded for lack of members; lived in Norwalk where he was pastor of a larger church



and active in the African-American community and in city government, serving on the Common Council; helped pass Fair Housing Law; co-founded NEON, anti-poverty agency. [WWW, RPJ8/5]

**Ballantyne, James Douglas**, (1871-1948), was a superintendent of Upagenstit (*q.v.*) estate. [DD144, P7/29/1948]

**Ballard, Elizabeth Biglow**, (1876-1964), bequeathed Ballard Park, which had been her family homestead called Graeloe (*q.v.*) to the town, and ordered the historic house on the property to be razed. She was active in the Ridgefield Garden Club and one of the 11 founders of the Ridgefield Boys Club. Her father was Lucius H. Biglow; husband, Edward L. Ballard. [WWW]

**Ballard Backland**: *See* Ballard Park.

**Ballard Green**: Town's first housing for elderly or disabled, opened in 1979 with 40 independent living units on Ballard Backland, west of Ballard Park (*q.v.*); in 1982, 20 more units were completed; 3 apartments added in 1983 in Ballard Carriage Barn.

**Ballard Greenhouse** was part of the estate of Elizabeth B. Ballard (*q.v.*) that she gave to the town; now used by the Ridgefield and Caudatowa Garden Clubs for growing plants and as a venue for programs and center of the clubs' annual Mothers Day plant sale. [JFS]

**Ballard Park**: This 5-acre park on Main Street, opposite south of Gilbert Street, was the 1964 gift by bequest of Elizabeth B. Ballard (*q.v.*), whose home, Graeloe (*q.v.*), was there; earlier, had been home of her father, music publisher Lucius Horatio Biglow (*q.v.*); before that, Dr. Daniel L. Adams (*q.v.*), who some call the father of baseball, and in 18th Century, Col. Philip Burr Bradley (*q.v.*). Edward L. Ballard hired Frederick Law Olmsted's firm in 1932 to redesign his homestead, now the park; *see also* Bandstand. [JFS]

**Ballou, Lance Chaffee**, (1920-2016), graduated Dartmouth 1941 and was a Naval captain in World War II, spent 35 years in sales at NBC TV network. He began Lance Ballou Productions whose shows included *Andrea Doria: The Final Chapter*. In 1987 he launched a new weekly TV show, Airshow, an hour-long report on the world of flight, broadcast on ESPN. [P2/26/1987] With second wife, Margaret Sweeney, M.D., wrote several film scripts and books for children and families. He lived on Main Street. [JFS]

**Balne, H&J**: "Coffee factory store" opens Feb. 16, 1981 at 17 Danbury Road (Girolmetti Court) with 30 coffees and blends plus teas and equipment. [P1/29/1981, 2/5/1981]

**Bancroft, Lindgren**, (1916-1942), a member of the Merchant Marine who was RHS 1934, died early in WW2 after the Esso T.C. McCobb tanker he was an engineer aboard was torpedoed by an Italian submarine off northern South America; he survived 35 days in a lifeboat only to fall overboard and drown. [WWW]

**Bands**: The Ridgefield Band was founded in 1837 and was giving concerts by 1877. [RP] A "Ridgefield Brass Band" played for Independence Day in 1852. The Ridgefield Boys Band was disbanded in December 1932, and was replaced in April 1933 by The Oreneca Band, "a new and better band."

**Bandstand**: In Ballard Park was built by the Ridgefield Woman's Club and dedicated May 17, 1975, three years after Ridgefield Press carried an editorial recommending such a structure in the park. It was designed by architect James Hancock. The cost of \$6,000 was raised by the club. [JFS]

**Bank robberies:** Connecticut National Bank, Danbury Road, 1964, two suspects apprehended; Branchville office of Ridgefield Savings Bank, 1975, Ridgefielder convicted; State National Bank office on northern Route 7, late 1970s, robber waited for police in parking lot; Ridgefield Savings Bank drive-in, Governor Street, 1984, one robber arrested.

**Banks, David and Daniel,** owned the woolen factory on Route 7 at Topstone Road in 1839; had been Cain's Mill. [RLR 16/328]

**Banks, Hugh S.,** (1805-1892), a native of Westchester County, NY, operated a private "Classical and English School" for up to 25 boys in the former Goodrich homestead ("Peter Parley House") in 1843. Around 1847 he left town and by the early 1850s was in Newburgh, N.Y., where he taught for many years, was on the school board, and died in 1892. [JFS, DD152]

**Banks:** These are banks that have had offices in Ridgefield since first, Ridgefield Savings Bank, opened in 1871: Bank of America, Chase Bank, CitiBank, City National Bank, City Trust Company, Connecticut Bank & Trust Company, Connecticut National Bank, Constitution Federal Savings & Loan, Danbury Savings & Loan, Eagle Federal Savings and Loan, Fairfield County Trust Company, First National Bank & Trust Company of Ridgefield, First Niagara, First Union Bank, Fleet, Hartford National Bank and Trust Company, HSBC, Hudson City Savings Bank, M&T Bank, National Bank and Trust Company of Fairfield County, NewMil Bank, People's Bank, Ridgefield Bank (which had been Ridgefield Savings Bank), Shawmut Bank, State National Bank, Union Savings Bank, Union Trust Company, Village Bank & Trust Company, Wachovia, Washington Mutual, Webster Bank, Wells Fargo (*q.v. most*).

**Banks Hill Place:** A dead-end road serving the 1983 "Lounsbury Ridge" subdivision (*q.v.*) ; Banks family was farming in this neighborhood as early as the 1850's and the family was in town at least a half century earlier. [RN]

**Banks Mill and Pond:** Banks Mill Pond, cited 1795, was on Norwalk River, north of Topstone Road; stored power for "woolen factory" operated by David and Daniel Banks; earlier, mill/factory had been owned by Hugh Cain (*see* Cain's Hill), who operated a fulling mill there; Banks family had mill till at least 1839. [RN]

**Bannerman, Lois,** (1920-1992), was an internationally known harpist who, as wife of John L. Senior Jr., lived on the Senior farm off Turner Road on Danbury-Ridgefield line in Ridgebury in the 1960s; they were divorced 1969. Her first husband, Capt. Harold J. Heinrich, died in a plane crash in 1955. She subsequently married architect-builder Howard Crawford and retired to Savannah, Ga. [WWW]

**Bar & Grille,** a "sports bar" restaurant on Route 7 just south of Route 35, was opened in 2009 by Anthony Wilmot (*q.v.*) and his wife, Kristina Traynor.

**Barbers:** Notable barbers in Ridgefield have included Paul Laszig, the Mugavero family, Mike Pontello, Conrad Rockelein — *q.v. each*.

**Barbour Collection:** *Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Records, Volume 36* in a statewide series of books, reproduces Barbour index to all Ridgefield births, marriages and deaths recorded from 1709 to 1850, 167 pages devoted to Ridgefield, Genealogical Publishing Company, 2000.

**Bard, Harry Erwin**, was Ridgefield's third school superintendent, serving 1924-28; lived Florida Road and had land there long after he left Ridgefield. He was an unsuccessful school board candidate around 1931.

**Bare Mountain**: Name in 1752 deed for Bear Mountain (*q.v.*); may be more accurate spelling, reflecting a bare or treeless top to the hill. [RN]

**Bareburger**: Restaurant, opened 2013 in the former Chambers Army & Navy Store (*q.v.*), which began as a gas station; part of a small, NYC-area chain.

**Barhite, Philip**, was a founder with Lewis C. Seymour of Seymour & Barhite, a 19th Century dry goods business in the village. He was the father of William C. Barhite who succeeded him in the business. [CBRFC]

**Barhite, William C.**, (1855-1937) was a Republican state representative, 1893-95, 1919-23. A local merchant who was a partner in Seymour & Barhite, they owned the building just north of the Bedient building on Main Street. His father, Philip (*q.v.*), was a founder of the firm. He grew up on what is now Stepping Stone Farm in Ridgebury.

**Barhite Building**: Just north of the Bedient building, named for William C. Barhite (*q.v.*), its owner; later known as the Denton Block (*q.v.*)

**Bark Park**, a town-owned recreational facility for dogs, was opened in 2002 on the former Holy Ghost Novitiate (*q.v.*) property at 58 Prospect Ridge Road. The fully fenced playing park has separate areas for small dogs and all dogs, built-in toys, and water, and is overseen by the Parks and Recreation Department, with help from Ridgefield Operation for Animal Rescue (ROAR).

**Barlow, John** (1744-1786?) was a blacksmith who lived on Barlow Mountain; came here from Fairfield in 1769; had his shop and home near the top of the mountain along old highway, once the eastern end of Barlow Mountain Road (now a hiking path through Pierrepont State Park); he may have served stagecoaches that traversed this route; made wrought iron objects, such as shoes, hinges, and nails, and may also have produced parts for guns (contrary to an old legend, he did not invent the "Barlow knife," which came from England); Bedini says he moved west around 1802, but other sources say he died in Fairfield 1786 (may be confused with another John Barlow); apparently had a son, John Jr., (1769-1848), who is buried in Titicus Cemetery. [CBRFC]

**Barlow, Samuel J.**, (abt. 1842-?), was a tinner and coppersmith (the 1870 census calls him a "tinman"). A Democrat, he was a state representative in 1876.

**Barlow, Marvin Kellogg "Tony,"** (1906-), a native of Bellingham, Wash., was a cartoonist and illustrator in the 1930s through 1950s whose work appeared in many magazines and advertisements. Said to have lived here.

**Barlow Mountain**: In the 19th Century for the eastern end of Asproom or Ridgebury Mountain (*q.v.*) where it joins with the northern end of Stonecrest or Copps Mountain; now part of Seth Low Pierrepont State Park (*q.v.*); named for John Barlow, peak about 950 feet above sea level — one of the highest points in town — is in park; peak known in the 18th Century as Asproom Loaf or Loft (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Barlow Mountain School**: Opened March 1971 on Barlow Mountain Road; closed June 1979 due to dwindling enrollments in town; sold in 1983 to Ridgefield Family Y (*q.v.*), which used it until bankruptcy in 1990; town voted to buy it back in May 1993 from Village Bank,

which had foreclosed the Family Y mortgage; building is used as the Ridgefield Recreation Center; in 2000, voters approved funds to restore it as an elementary school and to build new Recreation Center.

**Barn, The:** Teen center opened in an old Lounsbury estate barn in Veterans Park in December 1994. It was overseen by the town and Youth Commission, but was eventually taken over by the Boys and Girls Club. It is aimed at Ridgefielders 13 to 18 years old. *See also* Teen centers.

**Barn Door** is a restaurant at 37 Ethan Allen Highway, opened around 2010. *See also* Luigi's, Cooper Tavern, Jean's, Cella's.

**Barnes, Katherine Moore** (1868-1927), built in 1906 the Mediterranean-style mansion at 105 Branchville Road (also addressed as 18 Ivy Hill Road). She was active for many years in the Ridgefield Garden Club and maintained her primary residence in New York City She left town in 1925 Her brother, Joseph, lived with her. [JFS]

**Barnhizer, David George**, (1929-2015), who grew up in Iowa, was an Emmy Award-winning television director and producer who lived in Ridgefield for 27 years until 2015. His work included producing and directing NBC's "Children's Theater" series in the 1960s, directing the Dick Cavett show from 1969 to 1972, and directing the 1969 film, "Here's Dick Cavett." (In 2017, Cavett coincidentally moved to Ridgefield.) Barnhizer was a frequent opinion contributor to newspapers such as *The New York Times* and *Ridgefield Press*. His longtime companion was fellow Iowan Bette-Barron "B.B." Stamats (*q.v.*), a noted landscape designer. Their antique house at 153 South Salem Road is believed to have been the childhood home of Cyrus Northrop (*q.v.*), longtime president of the University of Minnesota. [JFS]

**Barnum Place:** Off Turner Road at Turner Hill (*q.v.*) subdivision; named for Phineas T. Barnum (1810-1891) of Bethel, whose circus lived into the 21st Century as Ringling Bros., Barnum and Bailey Circus; while Barnum never lived here, Ridgefield native Aaron Turner (*q.v.*) in 1836 hired a young P.T. Barnum as a ticket-seller, secretary and treasurer of the Turner circus.

**Baroness von Wächter-Lautenbach, Josephine**, (1833-1930), nee Josephine Louise Lee, was the daughter of Ridgefield native, David Lee (*q.v.*). She married in 1855 Baron Johann August von Wächter-Lautenbach, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Württemberg, and later became one of the richest women in her country. [RT]

**Barrack Heights:** Francis D. Martin's 34-lot subdivision on Barrack Hill Road (*q.v.*) and North Salem Road; mapped in 1956; approved in 1966; served chiefly by Continental Drive (*q.v.*).

**Barrack Hill Road:** Off North Salem Road; easterly half quite old; first recorded use of its current name, 1857, in deed for 4 acres on "Barac hill Road"; named for the cavalry barracks of French troops, led by Col. Charles Armand (*q.v.*) near corner Old West Mountain Road; H.B. Anderson improved western portion for the Port of Missing Men (*q.v.*); eastern end may have been called the Toilsome Path in the early 18th Century (*see* Toilsome).

**Barrack Hills:** 1965 subdivision of 9.6 acres into six lots along Barrack Hill Road between Blue Ridge Road and Hillcrest Court by John F. Coyle *et al.* of New Canaan, who was then also a Ridgefield junior high teacher.

**Barrackhill** was the estate of Eustace and Maud Conway (*q.v.*) in the early 20th Century [SR1911S]

**Barrows, John A. “Jack,”** (1932-1995), a Massachusetts native who grew up in Ridgefield and was RHS 1950, was a cartoonist and illustrator who also taught at Silvermine Guild and Wooster School. He illustrated several books including *Socks Says*, about the Clintons’ White House cat. He lived in Danbury for many years. [JFS]

**Barry Avenue:** State Route 822 (old Route 102 — *q.v.*) from High Ridge Avenue to the intersection of West Mountain and Ramapoo Roads; R.C. Barry family had a sizable farm on the north side of the road, almost opposite Fairview Avenue, at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century; called Barry Avenue at least by 1908; earlier known as New West Lane (*q.v.*); road is relatively modern, built probably in the early 1850s as shortcut to West Mountain (instead of using the older Ramapoo Road).

**Bartolo:** Restaurant at 103 Danbury Road, with chef-owner Arthur Michaelson (*q.v.*).

**Barton, Rev. Susan:** *see* Susan Davies.

**Baseball** was being played formally in Ridgefield as early as Sept. 28, 1874, when the Highlands of Ridgefield were among the teams competing in a “base ball” tournament in Danbury. On Sept. 2, 1887 The Ridgefield Press Nine played the Danbury Club at baseball on the fairgrounds off Wilton Road West. The early 20th Century Ridgefield Baseball Club, sponsored for a while by Wadsworth R. Lewis, is described in DD146, including its use of professional players from teams like the Yankees. [JFS] *See also* Little League, Babe Ruth, Daniel L. Adams

**Basketball:** A Ridgefield basketball team was formed in 1908 and plays its games with other towns’ teams in the Town Hall. *See also* Katoonah Basketball Club.

**Bassett, Francis Joseph,** (1911-1995), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1929, was an RHS teacher, from 1933 until the war when he served in the U.S. Navy stationed in London. He later taught college in NY and PA. Wrote countless, usually brief commentaries to many newspapers over the years. Died in Florida. [JFS]

**Bassett, Preston,** (1892-1992), an engineer and inventor who held 35 patents for aeronautical inventions, was the former head of Sperry Gyroscope on Long Island; counted the Wright brothers, Charles Lindbergh, Eddie Rickenbacker, Wiley Post, and Amelia Earhart among his friends; president of Keeler Tavern; autobiography, *The Life and Times of Preston R. Bassett*, appeared in 1976; wrote children’s book, *Raindrop Stories*, published on his 89th birthday by Atheneum in 1981 [P3/19/1981]. [WWW]

**Bates, Herb,** operated a taxi business in the 1920s from a garage at 16 Bailey Avenue, later Jacob Walters (*q.v.*) auto repair, and then The Ridgefield Press building. [DD100]

**Bates, John S.,** (1848- ), was born on a Ridgefield farm and learned the stone-cutting trade. After working for other companies, he founded John S. Bates Monuments in Norwalk in 1902, a cemetery stone business that still exists in 2022. *See also* Bates Farm Road. (JFS)

**Bates, Taylor,** bought a saw mill from Abner Gilbert on the east side of New Road in 1852. [RLR 20/52]

**Bates Farm Road:** An old highway between Bennett's Farm and Limestone Roads at the Ridgefield Lakes, dates from before 1856. The Bates family living in the area by 1835; John Bates and Taylor Bates were farmers 1840s. Before 1961, it was considered a portion of Limestone Road, but selectmen defined its extent, paved it and gave it its name, suggested by Selectman Paul Morganti, who remembered a Bates farm there when he was a child. [RN] *See also* John S. Bates.

**Batson, Dr. Ramon,** a native of Aruba and Harvard graduate, is an acclaimed neurosurgeon who specializes in spina bifida when he lived in Ridgefield in late 1980s. Moved to Redding.

**Battle of Ridgefield:** April 27, 1777 pitted British troops marching to Compo in Westport after having burned a part of Danbury against local militia and Continental soldiers under General David Wooster and Benedict Arnold; skirmishes fought along North Salem Road and upper Main Street; the British encamped for the night east of Wilton Road West opposite Olmstead Lane. *See also* Farmers Against the Crown, Benedict Arnold, Battle of Ridgefield Monument.

**Battle of Ridgefield Monument** was erected in the Casagmo wall by estate owner George M. Olcott (*q.v.*) in 1909 as a memorial to those who died in the skirmish that took place along this stretch of Main Street. The monument says: *At the Battle of Ridgefield, April 27, 1777, Died Eight Patriots Who were laid in these grounds Companioned by Sixteen British Soldiers. Living, their enemies, dying their guests. "In honour of service and sacrifice This memorial is placed For the strengthening of hearts."* In December 2019, at least four skeletons believed to have been soldiers who died in the battle were unearthed in the cellar of a house at 536 Main Street (the house was built some years after the battle), just south of the monument. *See also* Revolutionary War cemetery.

**Baxter, D(arius) Crosby,** (1942-1923), native of Somers, NY, founded Baxter's Monthly, first issue Jan. 13, 1875, which quickly became weekly Ridgefield Press; sold the publication in 1880 to Charles W. Lee; later opened what was to become the first livery stable in town; then operated Lakeview Store (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Baxter's Monthly:** Founded Jan. 13, 1875, by D. Crosby Baxter (*q.v.*); first news publication in Ridgefield; within a month or so, it was renamed The Ridgefield Press (*q.v.*).

**Bayberry Hill Road:** Off lower Branchville Road to and including a circle; serving a 1955 subdivision by the Stam-Nor Holding Company of Raymond Wennik and George Bossert; town officials deemed original name of entrance road, Lakeview Road because it overlooked John's Pond, confusing since a Lakeview Drive already existed; circle was called Boswen Drive — residents didn't like latter and both entrance and circle roads changed to Bayberry Hill Road in 1959. [RN]

**Beach, Edward Stevens,** (1857-1931), a native of New Britain, was a "distinguished patent lawyer" [NYT8/24/1931] who died at his home, The Anchorage, 58 West Lane, while talking on the telephone. A Trinity graduate and award-winning orator, he was known internationally for his expertise in patent law and was the author of *Digest of the Decisions of Law and Practice in the Patent Office from 1880 to 1890*.

**Beacon Hill Cottage:** Estate of Dr. Newton B. Shaffer (*q.v.*) in the early 20th Century on east side of Wilton Road West, north of Soundview Road; house still standing at 316 Wilton

Road West, but is smaller and mostly hidden from road; named for fact that British signaled their ships at Compo from encampment here after Battle of Ridgefield, April 27, 1777.

**Bear Mountain:** A ridge up to 794 feet above sea level, south of the eastern end of George Washington Highway; runs north-south between Old Mill Road on the west and Pine Mountain Road on the east; first mentioned in 1739; may reflect bears in the area or may be misspelling or misunderstanding of Bare Mountain (*q.v.*).

**Bear Mountain Road:** Short road up the west slope of Bear Mountain, developed by Otto H. Lippolt as part of his Hemlock Hills subdivision, designed in 1959; on a 1957 map, Lippolt called the planned road “Bare” Mountain Road, suggesting he may have supported the “bald top” theory (*see* Bare Mountain). [RN]

**Bear Swamp:** Near Round Pond, mentioned in 1800 deed; quite possibly the swamp east of and parallel to Oreneca Road near Sturges Park. [RN]

**Bear’s Den:** A location on old Stonecrest (*q.v.*), so called at least by 1795 and mentioned by Rockwell. [RN]

**Beaver Brook:** Probably stream that runs along Wilton Road East, called by U.S. Geological Survey as East Branch of Silvermine River; name used in 1770 deed.

**Beaver Brook Road:** Main roadway through Ridgebury Estates (*q.v.*), between Briar Ridge Road and Shadow Lake Road; probably a modern name by one of developers; became town road, 1970. [RN]

**Beaver Dam:** Locales appearing in late 1700s deeds; one may be near junction of Silver Spring and St. Johns Roads; another west of Tanton Hill Road on Ridgefield Brook/Norwalk River. [RN]

**Beck & Quint:** Ridgefield outlet of local group of electronics appliance stores; at 88 Danbury Road in 1980, selling TVs, audio components; gone by 1983.

**Becker, Bruce,** (1925-2011), was an attorney and writer who lived on Hillcrest Court from the late 1960s until his death. His practice specialized in the entertainment industry. He was also a backgammon expert, author of *Backgammon for Blood and Decisions*. He was also a producer of the movie, *Three*. He was active in Ridgefield Playhouse and Community Center. In the 1960s and 70s, he was married to Andrea Eastman (*q.v.*).

**Becker, George H.,** (abt. 1851-1923), was third RVFD chief, 1904-09, and a Republican state representative, 1907-09. A native of New York City, he lived on Catoonah Street and was a news dealer in 1917.

**Beckwith, L.L.,** owned much land along eastern Peaceable Street in the early 20th Century [DD203] He was on the board of the Ridgefield Water Supply Company in 1913.

**Bedford Road:** Old name for Route 35 — West Lane-South Salem Road — from Main Street to colony line; first mentioned in 1717; so called because Bedford, N.Y., was next town of significance to the west (in 1790, Bedford had the largest population of any town in Westchester County); term shows up as late as 1902 on a map; this was a stagecoach route from New York to Hartford; *see also* West Lane. [RN]

**Bedient, David Francis** (1862-1929), called Frank, a native of Wilton, owned D.F. Bedient Hardware (*q.v.*); lived at 34 Catoonah Street; he was also a licensed mortician; a Democrat, he was a state representative, 1913-15, and a town assessor. He was a vestryman at St. Stephen’s Church. [JFS]

**Bedient's Hardware:** Operated by D.Frank Bedient (*q.v.*), at the corner of Main Street and Bailey Avenue, 404 Main Street (ONS101); store sold hardware, appliances, and other items. Store was a descendant of King and Dole Store, opened in 1783 at the Old Hundred (*q.v.*), what is now Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum offices (*q.v.*); in early years, Bedient's was also a funeral home in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. Starting in 1953, it was; owned by the Morelli family till closing 1998. The Morellis sold the building to Urstadt Biddle Properties. [JFS]

**Bedini, Americo Anthony "Ben,"** (1921-2008), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1939, was a star baseball player at RHS taught and coached football at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, then at Rye (NY) High School, 1954-1961. At Housatonic Valley, his football record was 26-1; at Rye he had 69-5, with five undefeated seasons and six league championships. Then established and coached football many years at Iona College, where he is called "the father of Football." In 1967 Iona had a perfect 9-0 record and a 20-6 bowl win over Kings College, to become the 1967 National Club Football Champions. At age 60, he became a college scout for the Cleveland Browns. [WWW]

**Bedini, Dominic "Poni,"** (1920-2004), who overcame polio as a child, died one day after the 60th anniversary of his parachuting into Normandy on D-Day as a member of the 101st Airborne Division, "the Screaming Eagles." He was wounded that day in France, but later fought in Holland where he was taken prisoner by the Germans, but soon released in an exchange. Then fought in Battle of the Bulge where he was seriously wounded and spent more than a year recuperating in military hospitals. Earned two Purple Hearts. He was a mason for Morganti Inc. and Ippoliti Construction Company.

**Bedini, Ferdinand B.,** (1913-2002), a Ridgefield native who was RHS 1931 and a WW2 veteran, operated the Vincent Bedini contracting firm, taking over from his father in 1947. He was an outstanding community volunteer, active with the 4-H, Boy Scouts, American Legion, Men's Club, Italian-American Club, Community Center, Red Cross bloodmobiles, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Received ROTA Civic Award 1996. Brother of Silvio Bedini (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Bedini, Michael,** RHS 1966, often called "Buddha" from the way he would sit, was a leader at the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club for 32 years and was head of Ridgefield Men's Softball League for 43 years; honored by Ridgefield Old Timers, 2019.

**Bedini, Silvio** (1917-2007), was born and grew up in Ridgefield, served in Army Intelligence in WW2, and became a Smithsonian Institution historian and deputy director. He wrote more than 20 books of history, including "Ridgefield in Review" (1958); he was an expert on antique clocks, and early scientific instruments, especially surveyors' tools.

**Beechwood:** Charles Szentkuti's 1987 25-lot subdivision on the north side of Farmingville Road, served by Norrans Ridge Drive and Linden Road. [RN]

**Beechwood Lane:** Short road off Pelham Lane to a cul de sac at Twin Ridge (*q.v.*); connects with Rising Ridge Road; name suggested to developer Barry Montgomery by author Max Gunther (*q.v.*) when he bought a lot there 1968 with a large, 200-year-old American beech tree; it became town road in 1968. [RN]

**Beers family** moved from Norwalk to Ridgefield in the 1790's when Anthony Beers bought a house on Nod Hill Road on the Wilton line. It later became the home of artist J. Alden Weir



and is now a major historic center at the Weir Farm National Historic Site (*q.v.*). Anthony and other family members are buried in the Beers Cemetery (*q.v.*) which was adjacent to the house. The Branchville district was once known as Beers Station (*q.v.*) because Sherman Beers operated the first station there on the Danbury and Norwalk Rail Road.

**Beers, Bradley**, (1819-1880), was a Branchville farmer who sold his clover and plaster mill on the Sugar Hollow Turnpike (Route 7) north of Branchville to Willis Edmonds and Lewis H. Mead in 1856. [RLR 21/50] *See also* Eleazer Beers.

**Beers, Eleazor**, (1781-1851), son of Anthony, was a prominent Branchville farmer and businessman; owned the clover mill on the Turnpike north of Branchville, taken over by son Bradley (*q.v.*). At his death, his estate was worth \$5,100 [\$162,000 in 2022], a sizable amount. He bought a half acre of land on the Sugar Hollow Turnpike “with a privilege of raising a pond on said river by means of a dam across the same” in 1840 [RLR 16/168] and four years later, sold the land “with the clover mill standing thereon.” He apparently built the mill, then sold it. [RLR 17/155] His sons, Sherman (*q.v.*) and William B., were prominent in late 19th Century Branchville. In 1842 he pledged \$50 [\$1,200] toward the building of a Baptist church in Wilton.

**Beers, Henry I.**, (1830-1917), a Ridgefield native, became a millionaire as an oil wildcatter in PA. He ran a restaurant in San Francisco during the Gold Rush era and became a major businessman in CA. Joined with Peter Cornen (*q.v.*) in buying a farm in 1863 in northwestern PA that wound up providing large amounts of oil. Also invested in NYC land, and with Cornen, sold Cornelius Vanderbilt 16 of the lots on which Grand Central Terminal was built. He settled in Oil City, Pa., but is buried in Ridgefield (Scott’s) Cemetery. [WWW]

**Beers, Orrin and Marion**, were Ridgefield real estate agents and developers in the mid 20th Century. [RN] *See* Settlers Lane, Wooster Heights.

**Beers, Sherman**, (1809-1878), son of Eleazor (*q.v.*), operated the Halfway House, a small inn, on the Sugar Hollow Turnpike in the mid-19th Century. The building, now 38 West Branchville Road, was the first Ridgefield station on the Danbury and Norwalk Rail Road in 1852. He sold the “hotel” in 1868 to Seth J. Benedict. He was a farmer and is buried in Beers Cemetery. *See also* Beers family.

**Beers, W.C.**, in an 1899 bill to Herbert Mead is described as a “dealer in fish, oysters & clams” in Ridgefield, Conn.

**Beers, William H.**, (1834-1925), a Ridgefield native, was the third president of the Ridgefield Savings Bank, and served as a director for 54 of the bank’s first 100 years, longer than anyone in the bank’s history. He was a teacher at Farmingville, Florida, Whipstick, and Center Schools. [RSB23]

**Beers, William Woolsey**, (1822-1879), a Ridgefield native, was a teacher in Bethel and Hawleyville for 13 years, and ca. 1852, became Branchville businessman; was first postmaster and first station-agent at Branchville. Cousin of Sherman Beers (*q.v.*) [Hurd]

**Beers Atlas**: Formally known as “Atlas Of New York and Vicinity From actual Surveys by and under the direction of F.W. Beers...”, published in 1867, contains a detailed, hand-colored map of Ridgefield, with names of almost all building owners; also, on a different page, a

close-up map of Main Street; electronic versions readily available on the internet; also, reprints are sold.

**Beers Cemetery:** on the south end of Nod Hill Road, near Weir Farm; about 30 graves, mostly Beers, Bouton, Sanford, Jellick families; established 1830s. Owner unknown. [RN]

**Beers Station:** Early name for the corner of town today called Branchville; first used in an 1854 deed; named for Sherman Beers who, in 1851 leased two front rooms at his house to serve as a station (one room had been a “bar room”); William W. Beers served as first stationmaster, 1852 until death in 1879; term last used 1868; area was more officially known as Ridgefield Station (*q.v.*) [RN]

**Bell, William Patterson,** (1924-1943), an aviation radioman, was flying a routine patrol off Florida Sept. 20, 1943, when his plane disappeared. He had enlisted while a junior at RHS. [NR]

**Bell at Community Center:** Mounted over concrete on the front lawn, it belonged to Gov. Phineas Lounsbury (*q.v.*), a gift from a Union Army colonel and friend; cast in 1845 in Ohio, had been captured by Confederate troops to be melted for cannons; Bedini says when the bell and other scrap metal were captured by Col. Alexander Warner, commander of a Connecticut unit, it bore the painted inscription: “This bell is to be melted into a cannon – may it kill a thousand Yankees!”; colonel acquired the bell and later gave it to Lounsbury; it was rung for the signing of the armistice at the end of World War I, and again in September 1945 at the end of fighting in World War II. [RN]

**Bell, Book and Candle,** was a book and gift shop at the Donnelly Shopping Center in the 1960s and early 1970s in the spot later occupied by Colby’s of Ridgefield for many years. [P8/2/1962, 5/20/1965]

**Bell District** schoolhouse was on the west side of the south end of Main Street, almost opposite and a bit south of Rockwell Road; district formed about 1846 [P10/23/1913]; school burned in 1865 and Rockwell says its 30 students were absorbed into Flat Rock, West Lane, and Whipstick school districts to avoid having to build a new school. *See also* Belltown. [RN]

**Belltown:** Southern Main Street neighborhood so-called in the mid-1800’s when a schoolhouse there was said to be the only one in town with a bell to summon pupils; name never appears in the land records. *See* Bell District School. [RN]

**Belote, Thomas H.,** (1947-2015), was an immigration attorney and former federal prosecutor who wrote “Looking Back” history columns for Ridgefield Press for 15 years; was active in Ridgefield Old Timers Assn. (*q.v.*), Ridgefield Historical Society, Tricentennial; Museum in the Streets; Land Conservancy; and aided other groups; was chairman of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) in Washington, D.C.; RHS 1965. partner with wife Jane in Belote & Belote, with offices Bailey Avenue; grew up in Ridgefield and had license plate, TOWNIE. [JFS] Profile of him and his work for the federal government [P2/24/1983]

**Belsky, Dr. Joseph,** an endocrinologist, lived on Stonecrest Road many years and was medical chief of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission in Hiroshima, Japan, 1969-72; recognized for his work [P7/2/1981]; elected in a landslide to school board in 1965; moved to Danbury, 1990s. [NR]

**Belvedere Court** serves Anthony J. Czyr's 1997 subdivision of nine lots from 27.9 acres off east side of Limekiln Road; name has no historical connections, based on Italian for "beautiful view." [RN]

**Belzer, Arnold Mark**, was rabbi at Temple Shearith Israel from July 1969 until 1981 when he sued the congregation for breach of contract after the trustees discharged him in a dispute over his management. [[P4/16/1981}]. Since 1990, has been rabbi and rabbi emeritus at Congregation Mickve Israel, Savannah, Ga., third oldest Jewish congregation in the U.S., founded 1733.

**Benchmark Senior Living**: Also called Benchmark Assisted Living; *See* Ridgefield Crossings.

**Bender, Rev. Fred**, (1923-2013), a musician and minister, was rector of St. Stephen's Church, starting May 10, 1981; selected March 15, 1981 [P3/26/1981]; retired here in 1988; earlier, had been an organist; was a pilot and flight instructor in the Army Air Force, World War II; served Pennsylvania parishes early in his career; came here from Darien; retired to NH, then NC. [P12/19/2013]

**Benedict, Daniel**, bought in 1752 from Jonathan Olmsted a house, barn and "grist mill" at the south end of "Titicus Hill." [RLR 4/26] This mill, much closer to the village than the Mamasco Mill but perhaps smaller in capacity, was on the Titicus River probably along Saw Mill Hill Road. He sold it to Epenetus How in 1771. [RLR 5/133]

**Benedict, Delight**, (1759-1812), a Ridgefield native, was a teacher at the West Lane schoolhouse who was made "famous" by Samuel G. Goodrich in his *Recollections of a Lifetime*, which devotes several pages to "Aunt Delight Benedict," his first teacher. He did not find her inspiring and called her an "old petticoat and pen-knife pedagogue." Her father, John Benedict, had graduated from Yale in 1747. [WWW]

**Benedict, George E.**, (1877-1942), a Ridgefield native, joined the Ridgefield Savings Bank in 1899 and was secretary and treasurer when he died. He was a member of the school board and, in WW1, the Draft Board. He was an amateur photographer whose pictures appeared in area newspapers. [RSB27]

**Benedict, Gamaliel Northrop**, (1760-1835), was a Ridgebury farmer who was a sergeant in the Revolutionary War. He was a selectman in 1811. He served as a state representative in 1811 and 1817, and was the father of State Rep. Gamaliel Northrop Benedict. [JW]

**Benedict, Gamaliel Northrop**, (1793-1856), was a Ridgebury farmer who was appointed Ridgebury postmaster in 1848. He was a selectman in 1829 and 1830, and a state representative in 1831 and 1834. His father was State Rep. Gamaliel Benedict.

**Benedict, Jesse L.**, (1878-1956) was a Republican state representative, 1919-23. A Main Street merchant, he was for nearly 40 years the town's treasurer.

**Benedict, John**, (1753-1823), was a state representative in 1777 and 1779. He served as a corporal in the Revolutionary War and was a selectman in 1770, 1774 and 1777. He died when a tree fell on him.

**Benedict, John**, (1821-1889), was a farmer who lived near the corner of Silver Spring Road and West Lane. He married Harriet Olmstead (1818-1850) and then her sister, Sarah W. Olmstead (1813-1862).

**Benedict, Samuel A.**, son of Jesse and Polly Benedict, drowned off Kenzies Point in Fairfield July 30, 1842, aged 20 years. His gravestone is in Titicus Cemetery.

**Benedict, Sarah**, daughter of James and Sarah Benedict, is the first non-native person born in Ridgefield, May 23, 1709.

**Benedict, Timothy**, (1709-1791), served as a captain in the British army during King George's War, 1744-48, fighting in Nova Scotia. He was an early settler of Ridgebury and a leader in the community and church; a selectman in 1750. His gravestone is the oldest extant stone in Ridgebury Cemetery. [JW]

**Benedict, William N.**, bought a saw mill "and fixtures" from Thomas N. Couch in 1864 on Route 7 near Florida Hill Road. [RLR 23/486] In 1870, he bought "the saw mill property" south of Main Street with the mill dam, pond, mill and machinery from Phoebe and Henry Johnson. [RLR 15/45] This mill was probably at the intersection of Wilton Road East and Whipstick Road.

**Benel, Harold F.**, (1922-1999), developed the Ridgefield Manor (*q.v.*) subdivision from the old Upagenstit (*q.v.*) estate starting in 1954. [RN, DD150] Benel was later a building inspector in New Jersey, where he lived.

**Benenson, Edward Hartley**, developed in 1957-59 the Ridgefield Shopping Center, which began with Grand Union as anchor, and included a post office wing at the north end, and now houses CVS and other shops.

**Benjamin Franklin Grammar School**: Town's first "modern" school opened 1915; built with the help of donations of land by town's "summer people" (*q.v.*); when it opened, schoolhouses at Flat Rock, West Lane, Whipstick, West Mountain closed; and Alexander Hamilton High School (*q.v.*) opened in former Center School; became East Ridge School (*q.v.*), then Ridgefield High School (*q.v.*); is now the core of the Richard E. Venus Municipal Building (*q.v.*). The Ridgefield Playhouse (*q.v.*) is the former school auditorium, and the Yanity Gym (*q.v.*), its gymnasium. [JFS]

**Benjamin Rockwell House**: Applied to one-and-a-half story center chimney house at 113 West Lane, which 1970-2010 served also as Red Petticoat Antiques; said to date from 1740; probably owned by the Smith family in the 19th Century. [JFS]

**Bennett, Abraham**, bought the grist mill on the Norwalk River at Florida Hill Road (see Moongate) from Elijah Hauley in 1740.

**Bennett, Daniel**, (1794-1877) was a farmer whose small 18th Century house on Silver Spring Road almost opposite the current entrance to Silver Spring Country Club is still standing in 2020.

**Bennett, Eli**, operated a store in Branchville in 1878. [P5/13/1878]

**Bennett, Harry Raymond**, (1919-2012), a South Salem native who came to Ridgefield when he was one, was among the most prolific paperback book cover artists in the United States — more than 800 during a 17-year period from 1965 to 1982 alone. He graduated RHS in 1937; was a major in the U.S. Army in Pacific in WW2; studied at Institute of Chicago and American Academy of Art; began his career as an advertising artist; many of his book-cover models were Ridgefielders. He lived for many years at 599 Main Street, a Victorian that's been turned into condominiums called "Bennett House." Around 1982, he moved to Astoria, Ore., and turned to expressionist painting from a studio overlooking the Pacific. [WWW]

**Bennett, James,** (1675-1725or7), founder of what was to be a sizable clan here, came to Ridgefield in 1721; born in Fairfield (perhaps what is modern-day Redding). Bennett bought a house on Danbury Road, possibly near Grove Street, from Alexander Resseguie in that year; soon began amassing much land a couple of miles to the north where he evidently lived. In 1740, his estate was divided among his heirs: Gershom, Ephraim, Samuel, Abraham, and Deborah Bennett, Elizabeth (Mrs. Jonah) Smith, and Hannah (Mrs. Israel) Mead. By 1835, the "Widow Lucy Bennett" was living on Great Hill Road but by 1867, not a single person named Bennett still owned a farm in all of Bennett's Farm District. Size of James Bennett's farm is difficult to determine, but it apparently included most of the present Ridgefield Lakes area, as well as Fox Hill and the ponds to the north. Bennetts also had land to the west, near Lake Windwing, possibly part of the same farm. See also Bennett's Farm. [RVR, JFS]

**Bennett, Jeremiah,** was a Ridgefield farmer and shoemaker who, in 1876, was arrested along with his wife, Adeline, and four of their sons, on charges related to a rash of burglaries in Ridgefield and neighboring towns. He and sons George and Arthur were convicted and sent to state prison for five to 15 years. Their farm was just south of 430 Silver Spring Road. [WWW]

**Bennett, Josiah,** (1754-1848, a native of Fairfield, served in the Revolution and is buried in Ridgebury Cemetery. He was probably a Danbury farmer and shoemaker. [JW]

**Bennett, Thomas,** a Ridgefield native and son of artist Harry Bennett (q.v.), is a commercial and fine artist in NYC.

**Bennett House:** Small-scale conversion of a large old house at 599 Main Street to condominiums, by Stephen Zemo (q.v.), in the 1980s. Had been home of artist Harry Bennett (q.v.) family and before that, the Lee family (*see* Robert A. Lee). [JFS]

**Bennett's Farm:** As an area of town, Bennett's Farm so known from 1730's; one of the town's oldest names; James Bennett came here, 1721, from Fairfield; his farm probably included most of today's Ridgefield Lakes; some of his offspring settled in Bennett's Farm area; first recorded use of the term, 1739 deed; in 1756, town meeting voted to establish a schoolhouse — one long soon at corner of Bates Farm and Bennett's Farm Roads; in 1867, Bennett's Farm school district was #2, encompassing almost all of Limestone and Bennett's Farm Roads, the whole of the Ridgefield Lakes, and most of Great Hill Road; name has four variations, including Bennetts' Farms, but the original seems based on one Bennett having one farm, so Bennett's Farm is probably correct.

**Bennett's Farm Cemetery:** *See* Selleck Cemetery.

**Bennett's Farm Road:** An old highway, today defined as running east-west from Route 7 through the Ridgefield Lakes to Old Stagecoach Road; route appears on the earliest map of town (1856), but probably most sections were 18th Century; however, 18th Century Ridgefielders probably considered Bennett's Farm Road — or Bennett's Path, as it was called in 1743 — to be today's Limestone Road from Danbury Road to Great Hill, and Great Hill Road to Bennett's Farm Road since it was the most direct route from town to the farm — *see also* Great Hill Road; today's section between Route 7 and Great Hill Road was formerly Maplewood Road (q.v.), but changed in 1973 to Bennett's Farm after

residents petitioned selectmen; segment of Old Stagecoach from Ridgebury Firehouse to Ridgebury Road was before 1961 part of Bennett's Farm Road. [RN]

**Bennett's Farm School:** Stood at corner of Bennett's Farm and Bate's Farm Roads; was District 2 in 1867; closed 1915 but reopened as enrollment grew; finally closed 1928; building stood unused for many years, finally torn down in the 1970s. Historian George L. Rockwell believed the building was the second oldest schoolhouse in the state, but he could not get support to maintain it as a historic building.

**Bennett's Long Pond:** Another name for Bennett's Pond(s) — *q.v.*

**Bennett's Path:** *See* Bennett's Farm Road.

**Bennett's Pond(s):** Pair of ponds west of Route 7 and north of Bennett's Farm Road, now owned by state as park of Bennett's Pond State Park (*q.v.*); name first appears 1745; in 1700s, this term is always singular, but it's invariably plural on modern maps because there are now two distinct ponds connected by a stream; singular form in 18th Century indicates only one large pond existed then — a 1779 deed refers to "Bennets Long Pond," suggesting its oneness as well as its shape; Clark's 1856 map of Fairfield County shows two distinct ponds; the ponds are probably a "dying" body of water, the remnants of a small lake formed after the last glacier some 15,000 years ago; water flows into Saugatuck River and feeds Saugatuck Reservoir in Redding/Weston; 1818 Town Meeting banned fishing on the pond and later that year, a man was fined \$10 for breaking law; ponds were part of Col. Louis D. Conley's Outpost Farm (*q.v.*) from ca. 1915-47; later owned by IBM.

**Bennett's Pond State Park:** Created 2004 when town gave land to the State after a long zoning battle; land was farm and woods for two centuries; from 1915-47, was Col. Louis D. Conley's Outpost Farm; 1947-68, core of property was Fox Hill Inn; in 1968, IBM purchased hoping to put a corporate school there, but abandoning plans after town objected to helicopter pad; in 1990s, IBM offered to sell land to town, but town — for reasons never clear — declined; IBM then sold to Eureka V LLC, an arm of a major Northeastern developer, which proposed huge housing development on its 458 acres north of Bennett's Farm Road; town objected, and an organization called Ridgefield Open Space Association (ROSA) urged town to buy the land; on Dec. 20, 2001, town took title by eminent domain, then turned property over to state in 2004; the 456 acres adjoin other town open spaces totaling more than 1,500 acres.

**Benson Road:** Short, dog-leg, dead-end road off Ridgebury Road, developed by William Mannion in the 1960's; accepted by town, 1968; named for farm of Frank Benson (1867-?), native of Canada who came to Ridgefield from North Salem in 1908; house is on the southeast corner of the intersection of George Washington Highway with Ridgebury Road.

**Bent Garth** was the name Louisa (Mrs. Gerald) Gray gave to her house at 50 High Ridge ca 1910. It was later the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Teviot Livingston [DD155, 195]

**Benrus Center:** Opened 1967 at 901 Ethan Allen Highway (Route 7); 203,000 square foot headquarters and factory for Benrus Watch Company, founded 1921 in New York City; then largest commercial buildings in Ridgefield; 47 acres purchased June 1964; Gov. John Dempsey broke ground for center August 1964; company ceased operations here early 1970s; bankrupt in 1977; brand is still used for watches, apparel, handbags; Route 7

property later became a Perkin-Elmer (*q.v.*) facility, then Silicon Valley Group (*q.v.*); ASML Holdings; now called Pond's Edge Professional Office Park and used for medical offices, storage; during World War II property was site of large Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*) saw mill, which fashioned large beams for wooden vessels such as PT boats.

**Benton, Suzanne**, (1936-), a native of NYC, is a sculptor, printmaker, and painter who is well known for sculpting metal masks which she uses with myths and legends to tell stories. Her masks have appeared in dozens of solo shows and are in many museum and private collections. She has been active in feminist work, and helped found Women's Political Caucus. In 1996, the Veteran Feminists of America honored her as a pioneering feminist. She moved to Donnelly Drive in 1965 and is the author of a book on metal sculpture.

**Benusis, Alison**, of 2 Peaceable Street was Miss Connecticut in 1993; had been Miss Connecticut Teen, 1990.

**Benusis, Jennifer**, of 2 Peaceable Street, was Miss Connecticut in 1986,

**Bercovici, Konrad**, (1882–1961), was a prolific writer of novels, travel books, and Hollywood movies. His novel, *The Volga Boatman*, was turned into a movie directed by Cecil B. De Mille. He was a friend of such actors as Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks and Charlie Chaplin — though he later successfully sued Chaplin for stealing the plot Chaplin used for his 1940 hit film, "The Great Dictator."; lived on West Lane just across Ridgefield line in Lewisboro; had Ridgefield mailing address. *See* The Orchard. [JFS]

**Berquist, Philip**, (1924-2016), was longtime chairman of the Housing Authority in the late 1970s, 1980s; was CPA; moved in 1954 to North Salem Road where he maintained a small farm or large garden. [P7/16/1987] active in Grange. [P1/28/2016]

**Bernard's**: Restaurant at 20 West Lane, opened March 2000 by Bernard and Sarah Bouissou; includes Sarah's Wine Bar on the second floor; formerly the Kane Inn, Tode's Inn, the Inn at Ridgefield (*q.v. each*).

**Bernstein, Jared**, RHS 1974, lived on Tanton Hill Road, was the Chief Economist and Economic Adviser to Vice President Joseph Biden in the Obama Administration and was named in 2020 to serve on the Council of Economic Advisors by President-elect Joe Biden. He was a bass player in local bands as a teenager and graduated from the Manhattan School of Music. His mother, **Evelyn Bernstein**, was a longtime RHS physical education teacher, and his sister, Judy Bernstein, also taught in Ridgefield schools and was president of the teacher's union.

**Berthier Place**: Dead-end road running south off Chestnut Hill Road, serving about nine houses on 3-acre lots; approved 1987 as part of 61 acre Dillon Estates subdivision by Dillon Associates (*q.v.*); name recalls Alexandre Berthier, French military officer under Comte Rochambeau, who led French troops who encamped in this vicinity 1781 — *see* Rochambeau.

**Besse, Alice Stefanelli**, (1918-80) was Ridgefield tax collector 1965 until her death.

**Bessette, Aime Raymond "Ray,"** (1930-2013), a Massachusetts native with degrees from RPI and MIT, was a Wall Street investment banker who was the founder, chief backer and longtime leader of the Ridgefield Athletic Association Corporation, which built the Ridgefield Skating Center in the early 1970s. He helped many youngsters learn and play hockey, his favorite sport. He was also a school board member. He lived at the former

Albert H. Wiggen (*q.v.*) home on Peaceable Street, coming here in 1961 and moving to Naples, Fla., in 1989. [P3/7/2013]. [JFS, DD156]

**Bessette, Bernadette B.,** a native of Hartford, was appointed principal of RHS in October 1987 [P10/22/1987]. She had been an assistant principal in Ellington.

**Bessette, Mimi,** is an actress who grew up in Ridgefield; RHS 1974, and was Miss Ridgefield, 1975. She performed in at least nine Broadway and Off Broadway shows including in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* on Broadway, 1982 (P3/25/1982), and musical *Bonnie and Clyde*, 2011. She has several albums of her song plus appears in a half dozen cast albums.

**Best Division:** 1709 subdivision of meadowland which, as name suggests, was prime property, deeded out to lucky proprietors; most was along Danbury Road, from the vicinity of Fox Hill condominiums northward; also called Best Meadow.

**Betts, Matthew,** (1830-1915), was a civil engineer. For many years he split his time between living on Madison Avenue in Manhattan and Ridgefield; married to Margaret Keeler in 1856 in Ridgefield. He was a Republican state representative in 1877.

**Betty Grant, the:** In 1739, Indian named Betty, with Jacob Turkey and Mokquaroose, sold Ridgefield settlers land that extended from modern-day Ridgebury north to the New Fairfield line; much of this land became annexed to Danbury in 1846, and Danburians apparently called it “the Betty Grant.”

**Betty’s Corner:** Old name for the intersection of Ridgebury and Old Ridgebury Roads in the end of the town, maintained Daniel M. McKeon; another source said it’s in Danbury, just south of Interstate 84; mentioned by Rockwell; supposed to come from Indian Betty— see Betty Grant.

**Biagiotti, Aldo P.,** (1929-), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1947, is the author of *Impact: The Historical Account of the Italian Immigrants of Ridgefield, Connecticut*, published in 1990. He also wrote children’s stories and gardening articles for magazines and had a radio show on Italian heritage on WREF (*q.v.*). He was an intelligence officer in the Army, then worked for the State Department, and was an agent for the CIA, and finally, the Department of Agriculture. [NR]

**Bicentennial,** of Ridgefield: *See* Ridgefield, Conn., 1708-1908 Bi-Centennial Celebration.

**Bicycles:** Despite at least two attempts to repeal the ordinance, bicycles were banned from Ridgefield sidewalks from 1893 until the 1980s. Skateboards are still prohibited (2018) from sidewalks in business districts. One of the earliest dealers in town was Abram Dann, who advertised Columbia bicycles in 1895 — “they are the leading wheels. Guaranteed for one year” [P11/22/1895].

**Biddle Hill:** The rise along the “top” of Branchville Road near the western intersection of Old Branchville Road; named for the Edward R. Biddle family who lived in a large house atop the hill in the early 20th Century on formerly farm of Ebenezer W. Keeler, included much of the modern Twin Ridge development.[RN] *See also* Biddle sisters, Nutmeg Ridge, Woodlands.

**Biddle Sisters — Christine** (1878-1972), **Harriet Louise** (1875-1963), and **Edna Biddle** (1889-1967), daughters of **Edward R. and Harriet Wilmerding Biddle**, were longtime residents of Ridgefield in the first half of the 20th Century, members of a well-to-do family



who had their weekend and summer homes here. (Their brother, **H. Wilmerding Biddle**, was a frequent visitor until his death in 1962.) They lived in an estate at 306 Branchville Road, an area called Biddle Hill, until around 1940 when they bought a mansion at ONS8 Peaceable Street. They were active in St. Stephen's Church and in the Ridgefield Garden Club. Christine volunteered for the Red Cross during both world wars. *See also* Woodlands.

**Big Shop:** 2½ story building at north end of Bailey Avenue municipal parking lot; built ca. 1830 on site of present First Congregational Church; housed a carriage factory and other small industries in 19th Century; also a community meeting place — Hannibal Hamlin, vice-president under Lincoln, once spoke in second floor hall, called Jones Hall (*q.v.*); room in southeast end was used for many years by “Judge” John Gilbert, trial justice, as his courtroom; later used as meeting room for organizations [P3/13/1924]; owned by Willis S. Gilbert in 1924; building moved ca. 1888 to make way for the church; continued to house businesses until the mid-20th Century when it was converted into apartments; those were condemned ca. 1971; building remained vacant until 1977 when Bartholomew T. Salerno purchased it from G.M. Zandri family; he renovated and restored it as a location for restaurants, shops and offices.

**Big Shop Lane:** An old path, only the ends of which are readily distinguishable today; extends from Main Street between #426 and #440 eastward to lower Bailey Avenue; does not appear on 1856, 1867, 1893, or 1900 maps of the village, but engraving called “View from East Ridge,” drawn in 1853, seems to show a path extending from Main Street to East Ridge in this vicinity; named for the Big Shop (*q.v.*), whose front borders the “lane”; 1972 investigation by town concluded road is private, not owned by town. [RN]

**Biglow, Lucius H.**, (1833-1909) was music publisher, mostly hymns, in NYC; partnered with Sylvester Main (*q.v.*) for many years as Biglow & Main; friend and publisher of hymns of Fanny Crosby (*q.v.*); president of L. H. Biglow & Co., printers and stationery suppliers; president of the Metropolitan Realty Company; and, according to NYT, “Director in a dozen other concerns”; in 1888 he bought the former Philip Burr Bradley property and turned it into an estate, called Graeloe (*q.v.*); daughter Elizabeth Biglow Ballard (*q.v.*) later lived on estate and bequeathed it to town, now Ballard Park (*q.v.*). He is said to have built the Telephone Building (*q.v.*) on Main Street. [JFS]

**Biglow Block** was an informal name given to Tudor-style building at 411-419 Main Street, completed in April 1913 [P2/6/1913] by Lucius H. Biglow (*q.v.*). It was more formally known as the Telephone Building, and later, the Martin Block, and Amatuzzi Block and even the Pizza Block. [JFS]

**Bike Peddler** was a bicycle shop behind Friendly Ice Creamer (105 Danbury Road, *q.v.*), which closed in 1975 [P3/13/1975]

**Billboard** signs were banned in Ridgefield by zoning rules in the mid 20th Century.

**Biow, Milton**, (1892-1976), an advertising executive credited with coming up with the idea of mailing in box tops from cereals for premiums, owned the Mimosa (*q.v.*) estate in the 1950s. He also created the famous cigarette advertising slogan, “Call for Philip Morris.” Wrote books on his ad career; owned radio station WNEW in NYC. [WWW, RN]

**Birarelli, James**, (1915-1943), was the first Ridgefield native serviceman to die in World War II; killed April 23, 1943, when his small patrol was ambushed “by a vastly superior force”

in North Africa, said his Silver Star commendation. "Private Birarelli refused to surrender. He opened fire on the enemy and assisted in driving them off. As a result of this action, he was mortally wounded." He was son of Mr. and Mrs. Nazzareno Birarelli of Colonial Park [WWW]

**Birch Court:** Short lane off Walnut Hill Road at Eight Lakes (*q.v.*); town road, 1964.[RN]

**Birch Lane:** Dead-end road off Poplar Road; developed and named by Armando Salvestrini in early 1960's; birches in this area may have been planted as stock for Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*); some maps label as Birch Road. [RN]

**Birch Pond:** Mispronunciation of Burt's Pond (*q.v.*), an old name for Lake Mamasco (*q.v.*), appearing in the 19th and early 20th Centuries; Burt family once owned mill and much land at the lake. [RN]

**Birchglade:** Name of Blanche Shoemaker Wagstaff (*q.v.*) home in the mid-1930s.

**Birdseye, Agnes Elizabeth,** (1900-1931 ), whose family had a home on Peaceable Street in Georgetown, became famous in 1931 when she shot her physician lover and then killed herself in NYC. She was buried in Branchville Cemetery, but her gravestone has vanished. [WWW]

**Birth, first:** The first person born in Ridgefield was Sarah Benedict (*q.v.*).

**Birthday, town's:** The first purchase of Ridgefield land from the American Indians was completed Sept. 30, 1708, which is generally considered the date the town was born.

**Bishop, Rev. David D.,** was rector of St. Stephen's Church from 1873 to 1878.

**Bishop, Sarah** (?-1810) was a "hermitess" who lived in a cave in southwestern corner of North Salem, NY, just over the state line on today's Bulkeley estate called Rippowam, off Rippowam Road. She would visit villages of Ridgefield, South Salem, and North Salem, especially for church services. Her origins and cause of her seclusion are unknown, although legends include being distraught over abandonment by a sea captain lover on Long Island, or shamed by being assaulted by a British soldier on Long Island. She froze to death on the way home and buried in an unmarked grave in North Salem. She is extensively described by Samuel G. Goodrich in his *Recollections of A Lifetime*; also the topic of a Goodrich poem. She was the subject of a highly fictional novel, *The Ridgefield Tavern, A Romance of Sarah Bishop, Hermitess, During the American Revolution*, by Dr. Maurice Enright (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Bissell, Harvey Platt,** (1866-1930), was pharmacist whose name appears on the town's oldest business, Bissell Pharmacy (*q.v.*), which he owned as H.P. Bissell Company from 1895 until 1928 and which he brought from Judge Hiram K. Scott (*q.v.*); elected state representative, 1901-03, state senator, 1914-20; elected Connecticut comptroller, 1921-23, with a reputation for efficiency; named by President Harding as collector of customs for Connecticut, 1923, serving until death; also served on the school board, Republican Town Committee 16 years, and was a burgess; his house is now West Lane Inn at 22 West Lane. [WWW, DD98]

**Bissell Building** at 378-382 Main Street was erected ca. 1896 by Harvey P. Bissell (*q.v.*), owner of a pharmacy therein, shortly after the original structure on this spot burned down. The building burned to the ground May 26, 2005, and about two years later, was replaced by an almost exact replica of its predecessor. Among the businesses in the south side (#378) of

the old and new version of the building have been the A&P Market, Brunetti's Market, Gail's Station House, Bissell House, Village Tavern, Dog and Pony, and The Lantern (*q.v. each*). The north side store, 382, has been occupied by Interiors & Designs by Ursula for many years. [JFS, DD98]

**Bissell House:** Restaurant at 378 Main Street in the resurrected Bissell Building (*q.v.*). Opened by Roy Reeves in 2009 and closed suddenly in 2015. Reeves was owner of The Deer Park Tavern on Route 22 in Katonah, N.Y. [P7/23/2009] The restaurant was briefly resurrected as the Dog and Pony, with Reeves still owner, then closed again in 2016; replaced by Village Tavern (*q.v.*).

**Bissell Pharmacy:** Earlier, the H.P. Bissell Co. and now commonly called "Bissell's," Ridgefield's oldest business; started 1853 by Col. Hiram K. Scott (*q.v.*); acquired by Harvey P. Bissell (*q.v.*) in 1895; four months later, building burned to ground; Bissell erected new building and pharmacy operated at today's 382 Main Street until 2005, when it, too, burned to ground; soon after, pharmacy moved to east side of Donnelly shopping center parking lot at 23 Governor Street; Bissell's had soda fountain for 68 years until Feb. 3, 1864; was also known as H.P. Bissell Company. For a list of owners, see DD98. [JFS, DD98]

**Black Frank's Corner:** Late 19th/early 20th Century name for intersection of North Salem and Ridgebury Roads; "Black Frank" was reportedly a Micmac Indian who had a shack in the triangle of the intersection in the 1800s. [RN]

**Blackman Road:** Old highway traversing Hawley's Ridge (*q.v.*) from Farmingville Road south to Ivy Hill Road intersection where the Blackman family had a sizable farm or farms. In 1805, John Blackman of Fairfield bought a 54-acre farm in the Hawley's Ridge area; much of the farm is now Hunter Heights (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Blacksmith's Ridge:** Very old name for ridge in vicinity of today's Westmoreland development, particularly the Barry Avenue end; first mentioned 1717; believed to be connected with Benjamin Burt (*q.v.*), town's first blacksmith, who had land thereabouts. [RN]

**Blacksmith Ridge Bridge:** Appears occasionally in mid-1700's deeds; may have referred to Peaceable Street as it crosses the swamp near Golf Lane. [RN]

**Blacksmith Ridge Road:** Serves 1981 subdivision by Lewis J. Finch, son Barry Finch, and Dr. Robert Mead of 59 acres into 18 lots off east side of Peaceable Ridge Rd and the north side of Peaceable Hill Rd, overlooking old Blacksmith's Ridge (*q.v.*) or possibly part of the area of Blacksmith's Ridge. [RN]

**Blackwell, Betsy Talbot, (1905-85),** was editor of Mademoiselle magazine from 1937 until 1960s and tripled its circulation. She inaugurated many innovations and published many leading writers, and lived on West Lane, starting 1971. Son James M. Blackwell IV (*q.v.*) lived nearby. [WWW]

**Blackwell, James M., IV, (1931-2003),** was an executive with Newsweek magazine and member of the Board of Education in the 1970s; lived at 20 Old South Salem Road; wife, Anne (1941-2014) was active in community, especially with Thrift Shop; mother, Betsy Talbot Blackwell (*q.v.*) was Mademoiselle editor. [NR]

**Blaine, James G. 3rd, (1888-1969),** namesake grandson of 1884 Republican presidential candidate and two-time secretary of state, bought the E.P. Dutton (*q.v.*) house on High

Ridge for \$32,650 in 1924 [P7/3/1924]. He was a banker and investment broker in NYC. [DD168]

**Blakely, Peter**, is an internationally known photographer whose work has appeared in most of the major magazines, including National Geographic, Time, Newsweek, etc. He got his start as a photographer for The Ridgefield Press in the early 1970s while a student at RHS, from which he graduated 1973; lived on Barlow Mountain Road.

**Blankenship, William**, (1934-), was an IBM speechwriter who lived in Ridgefield in the 1970s and wrote a dozen novels, many of them best-sellers, including science fiction, mysteries, thrillers, horror and historical tales that were published in 27 languages. *Brotherly Love* became a CBS movie of the week in 1985.[WWW]

**Blashfield, Edwin Howland**, (1848-1936), was a noted American artist who specialized in murals and was president of the National Academy of Design and the Society of American Artists. He was a summer resident, but apparently rented. He was a friend of Cass Gilbert (*q.v.*) and J. Alden Weir (*q.v.*).

**Blein, Sylvia M.** (1890-1980), a native of France, was the companion and housekeeper of Geraldine Farrar from 1925 until the opera star's death in 1967; she donated the stained glass window in the front of St. Mary's Church in memory of Farrar.

**Bliznakov, Dr. Emile G.**, (1926-2003), a native of Bulgaria, was a leading expert on the immune system and aging. From the 1960s into the 1990s, he lived at 189 Ledges Road. He was president of the New England Institute for Medical Research (*q.v.*) in the 1970s. He wrote the book, *The Miracle Nutrient: Coenzyme Q10* (1987). He retired to Florida where he died.

**Blizzards:** See Snow storms.

**Blockbuster** was a chain of video rental stores that had a large outlet at Copps Hill Plaza (*q.v.*) in the 1990s and 2000s. The business was doomed when streaming movies became popular.

**Blodgett's map of 1792:** Drawn by William Blodgett, it attempts to show the local industries; roads are difficult to see, but are quite accurate in reflecting major routes of the period. Also interesting is the little jag at the northwest corner of Redding, just above Great Pond, part of Fitch's Farm (*q.v.*), once part of Redding but eventually ceded to Ridgefield.

**Bloomer Road:** Runs between Old Branchville Road and Branchville Road; named for Thomas S. Bloomer (1859-1916), who in 1890 acquired a 35-acre farm there; son, Frank J. Bloomer (1890-1966) built stone base for part of road by hauling rocks by horse from nearby fields — said to be one of the best-built minor roads in town; may be part of an old highway that today includes Cooper Road (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Blue Beats, The:** 1960s Ridgefield-based rock band whose members included Bruce Boege, Lance Drake, Pete Robbins, Andy Gaeta; cut records for Columbia, "Extra Girl" in 1966, "The Collector," in 1967. [OR]

**Blue Feather Inn** was a restaurant on Route 7, north of Branchville, near the Nod Hill Brewery location in 2021. Operated in the 1950s, it was owned by William DeLaurentis. The building probably no longer exists. [RSD1958]

**Blue Ridge Road:** From Old Sib Road to Barrack Hill Road at Eight Lakes Estates (*q.v.*); accepted as a town highway in 1957; not an old name.

**Bluebird:** Apartment building at 27 West Lane, first built as the West Lane Inn ca. 1900.

**Bluhdorn, Charles G.**, (1926-1983), a native of Vienna, became one of the world's richest and most powerful men. At 16, he came to NYC, studying at City College and Columbia and, in 1946, went to work at the Cotton Exchange, earning \$15 a week. Three years later, he formed a company that became Gulf & Western, a conglomerate that ranked 61st in the Fortune 500 by 1981 and owned Paramount Pictures, Madison Square Garden, and Simon & Schuster publishing. In 1963, he bought a 30-acre estate on lower Florida Hill Road and quietly contributed to the community. Among those who attended the private funeral services at St. Mary's Church was former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. [WWW]

**Blum, Dr. Harry**, (1898-2004), a physician, was also an artist who had his first formal exhibit at a NYC gallery at age 100; owned a farm on Route 7 between Stonehenge and New Roads, 1943-95; in 50s and 60s, raised minks there; moved to Southbury 2005. [WWW]

**Blum, Howard**, is a journalist and author of a half dozen non-fiction works, including *The Brigade: An Epic Story of Vengeance, Salvation and WWII* (2001). As a New York Times reporter, he was twice nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. He lived on High Ridge in early 2000s and now lives in Redding.

**Blume, Robert Nichols** (1925-1945), a descendant of proprietor Jonathan Rockwell, was killed in action in Luxembourg Feb. 10, 1945, age 19. Born in upper NY state and came here as a boy when father, Adrian, became a foreman at Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*); graduated RHS 1943 and immediately joined Army; was a radio operator; killed while fighting snipers; earned Bronze Star and Purple Heart; buried in Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial. [WWW]

**Blumgarten, James**, (1920-2005), a native of NYC who graduated from Harvard, was a screenwriter for early TV, doing such shows as *Doctor Kildare*, *Empire*, *Kraft Theater*, *Playhouse 90*, *Saints and Sinners*, ABC's *Wide World of Mystery*, and *Mr. Peepers*. He also wrote the script for the 1957 movie, *Mr. Rock 'n' Roll*, starring Alan Freed as himself. His books included *Up Against the Wall (Street)* in 1972 and *The Astronaut* in 1974. Lived here from 1957 to ca. 1977 when he moved to South Salem, but he is buried in Ridgebury Cemetery. [WWW]

**BMW of Ridgefield** at 746 Danbury Road acquired Ridgefield European Motors (*q.v.*) in 2008 and greatly enlarged the showroom building. In 2021, it was sold to Keeler Motor Car Company of Latham, N.Y. [P12/30/2021] *See also* Ridgefield Diner.

**Board of...**: *See under* descriptive name of the board, viz., for Board of Education, see Education, Board of.

**Boardman, William Henry**, (-1914) was for many years president of the *Railroad Gazette*, and for eight years its editor. He joined the national newspaper shortly after his graduation from the University of Michigan in 1869.

**Boat launches**, both provided by the State of Connecticut, are located at the south end of Lake Mamasco on Mamasco Road and at the south end of Lake Pierrepont off Barlow Mountain Road. No gasoline-powered boats are allowed.

**Boating**: Boats are permitted on all lakes in town, but gasoline motors are forbidden.. [JFS]

**Bob Hill Road**: Extends from Knollwood Drive to Rockcrest Drive at the Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*) atop Ridgebury Mountain; named for Robert Kaufman (*q.v.*) of Redding, developer of the Knolls, who for many years continued to operate the Topstone Hydraulic Company,

the water firm that served the 250 or so houses at the Knolls; accepted by the town in 1961, [RN]

**Bobby's Court:** Dead-end road off Riverside Drive at Stonehenge Estates, named for Robert Tuccio, son of the subdivision developer, Jerry Tuccio (*q.v.*); Robert was a real estate agent and homebuilder in town; became town road in 1964. [RN]

**Bob's Lake:** Neighborhood name for Lake Windwing (*q.v.*) off Bennett's Farm Road; for Bob Kaufman (*q.v.*), developer of the Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*), who owned property around the lake. [RN]

**Boehringer-Ingelheim** is a Germany-based manufacturer of pharmaceuticals whose administrative headquarters in the US is north of Shadow Lake Road, along with a large R&D facility. B-I came here in 1974, buying 134 acres of old farmland off the north side of Shadow Lake Road as well as the Harry B Mallory (*q.v.*) estate off Briar Ridge Road. In 1977 it established a temporary corporate HQ in the old Ridgefield High School building on East Ridge, now the Venus Office Building (*q.v.*), making many repairs and improvements to the building. Gov. Ella Grasso attended the 1977 groundbreaking in Ridgebury for the R&D facility. By 1985 it was the town's top taxpayer, with an assessment of \$21.8 million. the company opened its new administrative HQ in Ridgebury in 1992, leaving the old high school. By 2003, it had grown in the US to the point where it began a \$500-million expansion of its Ridgebury campus. *See also* S. Scott Faubel. [RT]

**Bogart, Charles D.:** Ridgefield's second school superintendent, serving from 1921-1924.

**Bogot, Rabbi Howard I.,** a professor and an official of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; selected to give Memorial Day address in 1982 [P5/27/1982]; in 2018, lecturer in Jewish studies, Penn State; lived on Harvey Road; moves to town, 1981 [P6/18/1981]

**Bogus:** Section of Ridgebury south of George Washington Highway, the area now called Ned's Mountain; appears in 1782 deed from the proprietors to John Rockwell's heirs, for 2 acres "on the northwest part of Daniel Rockwell's land at Bogus so called" — this is 45 years before first recorded use of Bogus in a print medium, reports Oxford English Dictionary; origin uncertain — word may have been used to reflect poor quality of the land, steep and rocky. [RN]

**Bogus Road:** One of town's oldest road names still in use; first appears in an 1806 deed for land at Ridgefield Short Woods; name today applies chiefly to road running between a point near the end of Sophia Drive south to the intersection of Ned's Mountain Road; However, Rockwell says Bogus Road in 1770s was well-defined highway, extending from George Washington Highway, south across Ned's Mountain Road, through the modern-day Hemlock Hills refuge, and coming out on Bennett's Farm Road near the Ridgebury School; British troops said to have used this path April 27, 1777, on trek from Danbury to Ridgefield after burning of the former. [RN]

**Boland, Elizabeth** (1899-1990), a Westport native who grew up here, taught mathematics in Ridgefield schools for 48 years, including at Center, Titicus and RHS; known as 'Bess'; sister of Mary (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Boland, Mary** (1898-1986) grew up on West Lane and taught English here 45 years, including at Center School, West Mountain School, and junior and senior high schools on East Ridge;

began 1919, retired 1964; when she started teaching, annual salary was \$1,000 [P4/24/1986].[WWW]

**Boland, William P.**, (1901-1998), was a well-known gardener on estates in the High Ridge neighborhood; brother of Mary (*q.v.*).

**Bollenback, Dirk Floyd**, (1931-2017), a native of Illinois, was a teacher at RHS, 1958-96; Social Studies Department chair for 32 years; earned many honors including John Hay Fellowship, John F. Kennedy Library Award, Who's Who among America's Teachers; wrote history of St. Stephen's Parish, covering 1975-2000, a follow-up to Robert S. Haight's 1975 history; member Republican Town Committee; St. Stephen's choir, Danbury Hospital volunteers; wife Beverly was president of District Nursing Association. [WWW]

**Bolling's Wines and Liquors:** At 393 Main Street, former A&P Liquor store became Gristede Brothers package store in 1962, with William Bolling as its manager; when Gristedes (*q.v.*) closed nearby market in 1975, Bolling took over ownership until selling, December 1980, to Michael and Teri Liberta (*see* Liberta's Liquor Store).

**Bond rallies** were conducted during World War II to sell war bonds, allowing citizens to invest in the war effort financially. Rallies were usually accompanied by variety shows of much and other performances, many of them on the stage of the original Ridgefield Playhouse (*q.v.*). One rally Sept. 25, 1943 was broadcast over the NBC radio network [P8/25/1943]. By August 1945 more than \$6 million in war bonds — \$86 million in 2020 — are purchased by Ridgefielders. [P8/23/1945]

**Bones:** Nickname for several members of the Carboni family, including Reno Carboni (*see* Renz), and Olinto Carboni (*q.v.*). A variation was T-Bone (*q.v.*), applied to at least Stephen D. Carboni.

**Bongo's:** A popular, almost legendary general store, affiliated with Western Auto, at 440 Main Street (ONS135), started 1959 by Joseph Bongo of Stamford; sold wide variety of products from soft drinks to TV sets; store closed April 1965 after Bongo said he lost his lease; space taken by Allans' Men's Store. "The sidewalk in front has been a favorite gathering place for the duck-tail haircut, tight-pants young men," said The Press [P4/29/1965]

**Book Barn** was a book shop and tea house operated by Emmy and Fred Gregor (*q.v.*) from 1929 until the early 1940s on Route 33 right on the town line. It was a popular tourist destination in the 1930s. Many postcards of this business, mostly from the 1930s, survive today.

**Book controversy:** Between 1970 and 1973, the Board of Education was accused of "book burning" after succumbing to pressures from some parents — and board members — to remove certain books from the high school and junior high electives. Among the titles were *Soul on Ice* by Eldridge Cleaver, *Boss* by Mike Royko, and *Police, Courts and the Ghetto*. Among the groups opposed to the books were the Ridgefield Taxpayers League and Concerned Parents of Ridgefield. The controversy drew national press coverage and sparked an investigation by the Connecticut Education Association, which issued an October 1973 report, published as a 38-page booklet, called *Responsible Academic Freedom: Challenge to Ridgefield*. In the end most of the books were retained. [WR]

**Books on the Common:** Bookstore established in 1984 at Copps Hill Common (*q.v.*) — hence the name — by Sally and Bob Silbernagel (a few years after his death in 1991, she became

Mrs. Rudy Ruggles Jr.). In 2004, the store was acquired by Ellen Burns and Darwin Ellis, wife and husband, who, in 2009, moved to the former Bedient building at 404 Main Street.

**Books Plus:** Store on Main Street, established by Bernie Learman; Janice Benefit managed store since 1972; purchased by Janice G. Whitney of Wilton from Carol and Henry Hill 1981 [P10/8/1981]. Closed in 1980s.

**Booth, Sheila,** a native of England who grew up in Ridgefield, RHS 1966, and in the 1970s was a reporter and canine columnist for *The Ridgefield Press*, is a widely known expert on dog training. She has written several books including *Purely Positive Training* and *Schutzhund Obedience*.

**Borden & Short,** a short-lived hat-making firm in Ridgefield in 1860, included Edwin Short. It lasted a year, 1860-61. Short moved on to make hats in Bethel with Charles Ahepard, under the name of Shepard & Short. The factory became the site of Bethel Town Hall. [CBRFC]

**Boring, Wayne,** (1905-1987) was one of the major artists for Superman comics from the early 1940s into the late 1960s; drew more than 1,350 Sunday and 8,300 daily Superman strips, plus many comic books and covers; lived on Lincoln Lane 1957-1972. [WWW]

**Borough of Ridgefield:** Incorporated March 12, 1901 for residents of the center of town, who got extra services such as sewers, hydrants, and street lights; borough voters met first Monday after first day of January to elect a warden, six burgesses, a clerk, a treasurer, a collector, a borough sheriff, three assessors and two auditors; [P4/8/1909] The borough also hired a “night watchman.” The borough was abolished in 1921, replaced by the Village District (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Boss:** Nickname for Rufus H. Pickett (*q.v.*).

**Boss Blues, The:** A Ridgefield-based rock band in the 1960s. [OR]

**Bossidy, Lawrence,** (1935-), a Ridgefielder since ca. 1970 and a former GE executive, was a major American corporate leader, noted especially for his work as CEO of Allied Signal Corp., which took over and changed its name to Honeywell. He has supported many community organizations. [NR]

**Bostwick:** *See* Boswyck.

**Boswen Drive:** *See* Bayberry Hill Road, Wenbos Lane.

**Boswyck:** Ca. 1890 estate of Henry de Bevoise Schenck on Florida Hill Road, later Downesbury Manor (*q.v.*); Schenck later built Nydeggen (*q.v.*) on Lake Mamanasco, now a residence at end of Lisa Lane; name appears in 1895 SR; also appears as Bostwick [Kendall].

**Botton, Rev. Pierre A.,** (1929-2010), a native of France, came to Ridgefield as a young man in 1950 when his parents moved to Griffith Lane — his father worked for Schlumberger. He was ordained a priest in 1956 at St. Mary’s Church — the first ordination ever performed in Ridgefield. He served in parishes, as pastors, and as a Catholic high school teacher. He returned to Ridgefield in 2002 when he retired. [P1/7/2010, 4/18/2002]

**Boughton, George,** (1824-1904), a native of Ridgebury, owned the general store next to the Congregational Church in Ridgebury, and served also as Ridgebury’s postmaster much of that time. He was a Republican state representative in 1868 and 1872. He was also a selectman.



**Boughton, Major**, (1790-1859), was a Ridgebury farmer and veteran of the War of 1812, who served as a state representative in 1837, 1838 and 1844. He also served many terms as a selectman.

**Boughton, Seth**, (abt.1754-1840), also spelled Bouton, was a veteran of the Revolutionary War and served as a state representative in 1814.

**Boughton, Thomas**, (1764-1846), was a Ridgebury boy of 17 when he signed on with Rochambeau's army that had encamped in Ridgebury in 1781 and stayed with him to the victory at Yorktown. He returned to Ridgefield in 1782 and became a farmer who was active in the Ridgebury church. [JW]

**Boughton's general store** was on Ridgebury Road, adjacent to and just north of the Ridgebury Congregational Church. It was operated for 40 or so years in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century by George Boughton. It was also the district's post office. (q.v.).

**Boulder Hill Lane, Road**: Off Rockwell Road and Perry Lane; named for the estate of noted artist, Frederick Dielman (q.v.); house there was called "The Boulders"; Jerry Tuccio (q.v.) developed the estate in 1950s; became towns roads in 1957. [RN]

**Boulders, The**: Estate of artist Frederick Dielman (q.v.) — *see* Boulder Hill Lane, Road. [SR1916S]

**Boulton, Joseph Lorkowski**, (1896-1981), a native of Texas, was a noted American sculptor who specialized in wildlife, animals, and American Indians. He was also skilled at taxidermy. He and his wife, the former Helen Woodbury of Ridgefield, lived on Florida Hill Road in the early 1960s before moving to Westport where he died. [P5/21/1981]

**Bouton**: *See also* Boughton.

**Bouton, Elmer**, was the superintendent on the Caudatowa estate at 23 High Ridge Avenue and lived in the house across the street, 28 High Ridge. He was famed for his pea patch. [DD151]

**Bouton, Floyd Benjamin**, (1858-1928), a Ridgefield native, started out operating a livery stable and established the Bouton Funeral Home on West Church Street in Georgetown in 1889. He also operated a branch mortuary at Sperry's Livery Stable on Catoonah Street in the early 20th Century. (JFS)

**Bouton Funeral Home** on West Church Street in Georgetown was founded in 1889 by Ridgefield native Floyd B. Bouton (q.v.), who had previously operated a livery stable. Four generations of his family continued to operate the business until 1982 when Donald E. Wakeman bought it. (JFS)

**Bowling**: The first bowling alley in town was two lanes installed at the Ridgefield Club (q.v.) on West Lane in the 1890s. That building later became the Congregation Church House, and the alleys were retained for many years. Soon after the turn of the 20th Century, six alleys were built behind the Bissell Building and used off and on for several decades until about 1960. RidgeBowl at 11 Danbury Road (q.v.) opened in 1964 and lasted until 1985 when the space was converted into offices and shops. No alleys exist in town in the 21st Century. [DD100]

**Boy Scouts**: Troop 49 was chartered in February 1953.

**Boyajian, David**, is a sculptor specializing in metal media who has exhibited widely. He lived and worked on North Salem Road in the 1990s and early 2000s before moving to New Fairfield.

**Boyce, Charlotte Davis “Lottie”**, (1889-1960), was a concert pianist who had performed at Carnegie Hall. Later, over more than 50 years in Ridgefield, she taught piano to nearly 500 people. Wife of Willis Boyce, a singer and violinist; mother of Walter Boyce (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Boyce, Walter Davis**, (1929-2014), was a meticulous local historian of bowling, and of the late 1940s. He did an extensive biography of his mother, Charlotte Boyce (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Boyce, Willis Gilbert**, (1896-1951), was a bank cashier who was an accomplished violinist and singer; active in Rotary, Masons, Odd Fellows; a native of Newburgh, NY. who came to Ridgefield ca. 1913. Husband of Charlotte Boyce (*q.v.*); father of Walter Boyce (*q.v.*).

**Boyd, Thomas Alexander**, (1898-1935), was a novelist whose portrayal of WW1, *Through the Wheat*, was called “one of the earliest and best of the realistic war novels” by noted critic Granville Hicks. F. Scott Fitzgerald, who mentored Boyd, called it “the best war book since *The Red Badge of Courage*.” A Marine in WW1 he was gassed, probably leading to his early death; received the Croix de Guerre. He wrote more novels, a series of biographies of notable Americans, Hollywood screenplays as well as for the “pulp.” Moved to Ridgefield 1925 to be near his editor, Maxwell Perkins. Spent some time in Vermont where he ran for governor as a communist. His first wife was writer Margaret Woodward Smith (*see* Margaret Shane). [WWW]

**Boyd’s**, a restaurant, opened Feb. 28, 1940, in the former quarters of the Village Grill on Main Street. Proprietor Herbert Brooks, who had worked for the Howard Johnson chain, added a soda fountain. [P2/28/1940]

**Bradley, Jesse Smith Jr.** (1813-1888) was a carriage trimmer who, as a member of the Anti-Masonic Whig Party, was a state representative in 1855.

**Bradley, Jesse Smith Sr.**, (1782-1833), was a coachmaker and the eighth and youngest son of Col. Philip Burr Bradley (*q.v.*). He served as a selectman five years from 1821 to 1825. Like his father and his son, he was a state representative, serving in 1809, 1814, 1827, and 1829. His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. Amos Baker (*q.v.*), who was also a state representative.

**Bradley, Mary Linda** (1886-1966) was an early woman pilot, a poet, and worked extensively on homefront support in WW1. She lived at Ackworth Cottage (*q.v.*), 143(?) ONS33 West Mountain Road; daughter of William Harrison Bradley (*q.v.*), great-granddaughter of Philip Burr Bradley (*q.v.*). [DD107, 285]

**Bradley, Philip Burr**, (1738-1821), a native of Fairfield, was a prominent Ridgefielder in the late 18th and early 19th Century. As a colonel, he was leader of the Fifth Connecticut Regiment during the Revolution, and saw much combat. He also wintered with his troops at Valley Forge. Before the war, he was elected a selectman three times in 1767 to 1769, and served as a Ridgefield representative to the colonial Legislature from 1769 to 1776, when he entered the military. After the war he served in many public offices as a member of the Federalist Party and was Ridgefield’s state representative for almost every session of the Legislature between 1780 and 1791, a critical period when the new “State of Connecticut” was being organized, and when its young government was dealing with heavy

war debts. President Washington named Bradley Connecticut's first "marshal," which at that time made him the top federal law enforcement official in the state. In 1788, he was one of the delegates to sign Connecticut's ratification of the U.S. Constitution. He became a large landowner and operated a tannery at Titicus (*see* Tannery Hill Road). His home was in what is now Ballard Park. [WWW, DD107]

**Bradley, Sturges**, bought from Sarah Couch a "grist or corn mill" and a saw mill, west of the house of the late Thomas Couch, in 1818. [RLR 12/3] Probably today's Route 7 at Florida Hill Road. Bradley, then of Bridgeport, sold it in 1822 to Stephen Jackson. [RLR 12/177]

**Bradley, William Harrison**, (1848-1929), native of Illinois, was U.S. diplomat, built mansion, Felsenberg, on West Mountain; grandson of Philip Burr Bradley (*q.v.*); Yale, 1872, father of Mary Linda Bradley (*q.v.*). [DD285]

**Brady, James J.**, (1896-1976), the town's first police chief, was a North Salem native who grew up here, was a WW1 veteran, and began work as a mechanic and entered law enforcement as a deputy county sheriff in 1931; was a fulltime town constable starting in 1946; named chief in 1955, retired in 1965, and worked part-time as Martin Park guard. [WWW]

**Branchville**: Name for the southwest corner of Ridgefield; created 1870 when branch railroad line from there to village was opened; Community has included a school, post office (located at station), stores, mills, as well as the depot; heavily damaged by 1955 flood, required road reconstruction and alignment, and new bridges; this area has also been called Wheer Cock, Copps Corner, Ridgefield Station, and Beers Station — *see each*. Branchville is in the Georgetown telephone district, with most land-line numbers beginning 544- , earlier LI4 and even earlier, Lincoln. [RN]

**Branchville Cemetery**: Believed to have been established in 1862 by George Gruman and called Gruman or Grumman Cemetery (*q.v.*), this cemetery may also have been owned by the Beers family, which may have expanded it, and was later acquired by Floyd Bouton of Bouton Funeral Home, Georgetown; contained about 1,287 graves (2020); many belong to Georgetown (*q.v.*) residents; located on Brook Lane (formerly part of Branchville Road) off the south end of Florida Road. In 2020 the town was in the process of acquiring title to the cemetery from the Bouton Funeral Home. [JFS]

**Branchville Civic Association** was a 20th Century community organization that promoted the welfare of the Branchville community. It established and maintained for many years the baseball field on Playground Road. Leaders included Americo Ridolfi and Joseph Ancona (*q.v. each*) [JFS]

**Branchville General Store** operated at 14 West Branchville Road from 1907 to 1940s? by Pasquale DeBenigno (*q.v.*).

**Branchville Hill**: Term found on US Geological Survey map for the ridge along Old Branchville Road at Bruschi Lane.

**Branchville Hill Road**: Map prepared for assessors in 1934 labels as "Branchville Hill Road" today's Nod Hill Road; suggests that the ridge traversed by this road was at some time called Branchville Hill, a more likely possibility than the Branchville Hill situation (*q.v.*).

**Branchville Hobby**: Store in Ancona Center, Routes 7 and 102; expanded 1980 [P10/30/1980]; opened 1969 by Edward E. Blackman next to Ancona's Market, but by 1972 had moved space above the market; noted for its railroad displays and equipment; gone by 1983.

**Branchville Livery Service** was operated in the 1960s by Americo Ridolfi. Slogan was: “We’ll Drive You Anywhere 24 Hours A Day.”

**Branchville mica mine:** Famous source of minerals, including quartz; located east of West Branchville Road, probably in the town of Redding.

**Branchville Post Office:** Operated under that name from 1873-1920 mostly from small building northwest of station house; before 1873, it was Ridgefield Station Post Office (*q.v.*); first postmaster probably William W. Beers who was also station agent from 1852 until death 1879 for many years, was responsible to getting main post office mail onto and off of trains

**Branchville Road:** Main route between village and SE corner of town; probably the village end was today’s Rockwell Road; laid out before 1725 as path to the fields to the east of the main settlement; eastern half of the road established by selectmen, 1744, is today’s Old Branchville Road; when railroad arrived 1852, new road built between Biddle Hill (*q.v.*) and eastern end of Old Branchville to avoid swamps and steeper hills; today’s western end probably established before 1831 when section from Main Street eastward to middle school was called “New Lane” (*q.v.*) and later “Railroad Avenue” (*q.v.*) and then “Hawley Street”; entire road is today state Route 102 (*q.v.*); one of first roads in town to be paved by state, as experiment, before 1920; eastern end realigned late 1950s — *see* Brook Lane. [RN]

**Branchville School:** Opened February 1969 [P2/13/1969] on site of old Life’s Farm (*q.v.*); closed 1983 due to dwindling enrollments, became school administration offices January 1988; reopened as school, 1993, to handle rising enrollments (administrators moved to “old high school” on East Ridge). *See also* James B. Leonard.

**Branchville schoolhouse:** On Old Branchville Road, still standing and owned by the town; used for storage (formerly by Jaycees, later by Little League); was District Number 10. Closed in 1939.

**Branchville Silex Mill:** *See* Bridgeport Wood Finishing Company.

**Branchville Soho Gallery:** Art gallery on West Branchville Road, near the train station, in the old Branchville General Store (*q.v.*) building, opened 1980 by Paula Reens of Wilton. [P9/4/1980]

**Branchville Station:** Stop on the Danbury-Norwalk rail line since 1852. Station house, built probably around 1870, went out of service in 1975 and in 1982 became a bakery/restaurant, The Whistle Stop (*q.v.*); *see also* Danbury and Norwalk Rail Road.

**Brand, horse:** In May 1714, the General Assembly in Hartford assigned Ridgefield an official horse brand, which is an upside down heart. Because horses could easily travel long distances — beyond town borders — they needed a town brand to supplement the local owner’s brand (*see below*).

**Brand, livestock:** In 1644, Connecticut’s General Court enacted the first branding law in the colonies, requiring all livestock owners to ear-mark or brand their cattle, sheep, and swine over 6 months of age and to register their marks in the “town book.” The aim was to “prevent disputes and differences that may arise in the owning and claiming of cattle, sheep, and swine that may be lost or stray away.” Ridgefield’s town clerk kept brand records until the late 1700s, but in later years, brands when owners had few livestock and instead a description of the animal’s markings — invariable a cow or bull — were filed.

**Brandman's Paint Store** opened July 1981 at 56 Danbury Road where H&H Paint and Wallpaper had been; family run store founded 1907 with several outlets in nearby towns to the south. [P7/23/1981]

**Brandstrom Instruments** at 85 Ethan Allen Highway (Route 7) in Branchville was founded around 1972 by Arvid A. Brandstrom, moved here in March 1975, and was by 1987 the "largest manufacturer of solenoid actuated power-failure devices in the U.S.," warning indicators which are largely used on aircraft including the Space Shuttle for cockpit panel instruments. Company makes about 450 different types of products. The company is still in Ridgefield in 2020, probably the second oldest industry in town (behind Ullman Devices). Roots of the business was Brandstrom Electric Company, a specialty machine shop operated by Fred Brandstrom (1907-1986), Arvid's father, who built the building and moved here around 1956. That firm made high-precision products such as fuel control valves for Pratt & Whitney engines. [P12/22/1987]

**Breezy Nook** was the original name A. Barton Hepburn applied to his 1909 mansion at 55 High Ridge Avenue. Hepburn soon changed it to Altnacraig; Venus speculates that Breezy Nook "proved to be unsuitable for the home of the president of the Chase National Bank." [DD195]

**Brewer, Arnold**, (ca. 1895-1984), a native of Middletown, lived in Ridgefield from 1925 to 1977, teaching French at the Ridgefield School and after 1938, The Pomfret School, while retaining their Ridgefield home, then the Wooster School, retiring in 1957. He was a decorated WW1 veteran, serving as an Army officer, and was active in St. Stephen's, serving on the vestry. He retired to New Hampshire. [P1/5/1984]

**Brewer, William Dodd**, (1922-2009), who grew up in Ridgefield and was a graduate of the Ridgefield School, was a career State Department employee who was U.S. ambassador to Mauritius (1970-73) and to Sudan (1973-77). He was the son of Arnold Brewer (*q.v.*).

**Brewster, Dr. Blandina Worcester**, (1902-1984), was a pioneering pediatrician and professor of pediatrics in NYC; taught at NYU 38 years; *see* Carroll H. Brewster. [WWW]

**Brewster, Carroll H.** (1888-1952) was a prominent New York City attorney and husband of Dr. Blandina Worcester Brewster (*q.v.*); they bought The Hickories (*q.v.*) in 1936; the family still owns the farm in 2020. [JFS]

**Brewster, Carroll W.**, (1936- ), son of Carroll H and Blandina Brewster (*q.v. each*), is former president of Hobart and William Smith Colleges in New York, Hollins College in Virginia, and a former dean of Dartmouth College; graduated of Yale; worked for judiciary in the Sudan, 1962-63; retired to The Hickories in the 1990s and has been a member of the Conservation Commission on which he first served in 1960s. [P10/8/1981]

**Brewster, Rev. John Gurdon**, (1937-2017), son of Carroll H. and Blandina Brewster (*q.v. each*) of The Hickories, was a missionary to India in the 1960's and the Episcopal chaplain at Cornell University for 35 years; while at seminary, in 1961, he was invited by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to be an assistant minister during the summer, at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta; was a noted sculptor and exhibited widely in retirement. [JFS]

**Brewster, Todd**, is co-author with Peter Jennings of best-seller, *The Century* (1998), chronicle of the 20th Century; moved to Ridgefield in mid-1990s; was senior editorial producer at ABC News, 1994; worked with anchorman Jennings; earlier at American

Heritage, 1977, then Time-Life as a writer and editor for many years, covering such major events as the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe; book, *Lincoln's Gamble*, on Emancipation Proclamation, published 2014; from 2008 to 2013, was director of oral history at West Point; in 2108 is senior visiting lecturer in journalism at Mount Holyoke College. [NR]

**Brewster's Pond:** Off the southeast side of Lounsbury Road; named for Brewster family; in 1936 Carroll H. and Dr. Blandina Worcester Brewster (*q.v. each*) bought former Lounsbury farm, known as The Hickories (*q.v.*), as a weekend and vacation retreat. [RN]

**Briar Ridge Road:** Old highway from the intersection of George Washington Highway and Miry Brook Road in Danbury almost straight north to the extreme northeast corner of Ridgefield in Ridgebury, along town line; turns into a dirt path that is closed to the public, and continues northward a short distinct in Danbury where it becomes paved again, part of a residential subdivision; a small part of very old route from Starrs Plain to Mill Plain; name first appears on 1936 map, probably descriptive of neighborhood vegetation; area in 18th Century known as Fox Hills (*q.v.*). [RN]

**“Brick House”** was the name Mrs. Howard L. Thomas (Adèle B Larocque) gave to her mansion on Golf Lane, according to SR1916S.

**Brickell, Herschel Henry**, (1889-1952), a native of Mississippi, was a prominent NYC newspaper editor and book critic; later was an editor for Henry Holt & Company, book publishers, where he worked with poet Robert Frost and novelist Eudora Welty; credited with mentoring many writers; worked for state department on Latin American cultural matters; wrote column for Ridgefield Press; died of suicide at his 569 Branchville Road home. [WWW]

**Bridle Trail:** A dead-end road off Hawthorne Hill Road; designed by the Connecticut Land Company (*q.v.*); was originally planned to connect to Spring Valley Road — probably because of the rough terrain, idea abandoned; so-called because many bridle paths in the area; often misspelled Bridal; developed in the late 1950's; town road, 1961. [RN]

**Bridgeport Hydraulic Company** bought the Ridgefield Water Supply Company (*q.v.*) in 1991, then became Aquarion. [JFS]

**Bridgeport Wood Finishing Company** operated industrial mills along tracks in Branchville, north of the station, both along the main line and the branch line to Ridgefield center. The mills were for grinding quartz and feldspar mined at nearby former Fillow Mine (*q.v.*) and elsewhere into “silex,” used extensively in making paint and wood fillers. The operations lasted from 1891 to 1917; eventually owned by DuPont. Bridgeport Wood Finishing also owned a factory in New Milford to which the silex was shipped by rail. *See also* Stowell Manufacturing Company.

**Brief Historical Notice of the Town of Ridgefield, A:** 60-page booklet published 1906 by Village Improvement Society (*q.v.*), contains many photographs of streetscapes, houses, gardens and points of interest, all by Joseph Hartmann; includes a brief history of town and of the society.

**Brimstone Swamp:** Location well-known in 1700s at south end of Nod Road on Wilton-Ridgefield line; first mentioned in 1717 deed; last mention, 1777; name may have described the color or the odor of the swamp; or may have referred to the swamp's

tendency to generate methane gas which, under some circumstances, will self-ignite to form what are variously called will-o'-the wisps, jack-o-lanterns, or *ignes fatuus*. [RN]

**Briody, Kevin, RHS 1981**, grew up and lives in Ridgefield, and is a guitarist and songwriter who was named Connecticut state troubadour for the years 2001 and 2002. He has won two Emmy Awards for his work and has produced several albums and owns Tune-Me Music.

**Broad Hill:** In use before 1725 apparently for either the ridge traversed by Peaceable Ridge Road, or the hill just to the south where Yankee Hill Road, Minute Man Road, and Revere Drive are; used as late as 1794. [RN]

**Brolin, Edward M., (1930-2002)**, a native of Massachusetts, was a popular longtime school teacher and administrator in Ridgefield. He started teaching biology at RHS in 1963, chairman of science department, 1968; assistant principal, 1970; principal of East Ridge Junior High School, 1970; About 1984, he became an assistant principal at RHS and retired in 1990. A top Bridgewater State College baseball player, he once tried out for the Boston Red Sox and pitched to Ted Williams. He was 1966 Jaycees Outstanding Teacher of the Year. He lived on Walnut Grove Road.

**Brook Farm:** Playwright Eugene O'Neill's (*q.v.*) home at 845 North Salem Road from 1922-27; then Elis B. McLaury (*q.v.*); attorney and author Lemuel Welles (*q.v.*), musician Thomas Dawes (*q.v.*). [WWW]. In 1950s it was 31 acres; in 2022, 16.35 acres.

**Brook Lane:** Short dead-end road that does little but serve an entrance to Branchville Cemetery and one house; was for over two centuries a portion of Branchville Road; in 1955, a flood washed out the Branchville Road bridge over the Cooper Brook; when state installed new bridge it realigned eastern end of Branchville Road, abandoning the old road, which is now Brook Lane; selectmen chose name; Nov. 20, 1958; ownership transferred from the state to the town June 25, 1959. [RN]

**Brooks Bridge:** Mentioned in land records as early as 1752; crossed the Titicus River at either Sherwood Road or Ridgebury Road (*q.v.*); last deed reference to it was in 1793. [RN]

**Brookside Pines:** 1969 subdivision off the east side of North Salem Road, opposite Barrack Hill Road, bordering Titicus River; William and Lina Oexle (*q.v.*) created the four lots from nine acres of their homestead; Armando Morales (*q.v.*) developed the lots in 1973. [RN]

**Brookside Road:** Developed off southern Great Hill Road after 1955 by the Brookside Development Corporation; so called because it parallels the Norwalk River – sometimes called the Ridgefield Brook; accepted as town road in 1961. [RN]

**Brookside Shell:** Gas station at 60 Wilton Road West [CD1973]; *see* Hilltop Service Station.

**Brookview Estates:** a 1958 subdivision that includes Aspen Mill Road: brook that's viewed is the Titicus River, although Kiah's Brook is close by. [RN]

**Brophy, John, (1841-1922)**, a native of Ireland, was a U.S. customs agent and a first selectman for eight years; also an assessor; a Republican, he was a state representative, 1893-95, 1903-05; director of Ridgefield Savings Bank and First National Bank and Trust; a Fairfield County commissioner 12 years. [WWW]

**Bross, Edgar Clifton, (1863-1936)**, was an editor and writer. His book, *God's Payday* (*q.v.*) was set in part in Ridgefield. Bross was editor of The Ridgefield Press from 1887 to 1899, covering such major stories as the Great Fire of 1895 and the creation of a fire department. He also wrote *A Modern Pharisee* (1895). [WWW]

**Brown, Beatrice**, (1917-1997), native of England, was conductor and music director of Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra from 1970 to ca. 1995, and helped turn a small community group into a professional 75-member orchestra. She was the first woman awarded both Fulbright and Rockefeller grants for conducting. [NR]

**Brown, Earle B.**, (1909-1981), was an optical engineer, taught at the Hayden Planetarium and for U.S. Army Ordnance Department, and was senior engineer at Perkin-Elmer; wrote four books on optics, including *Modern Optics*, 1966; lived Ridgefield 1961-1980, first on Dogwood Drive, then at Casagmo; died in Rochester, NY. [JFS]

**Brown, Eddy**, (1895-1974), a native of Chicago, was an acclaimed violinist, a child prodigy whose teachers included Bela Bartok and Zoltan Kodaly. In 1906, while a student in Hungary, he won the Budapest Concerto Competition (finishing second was fellow student, Jenő Blau, who later changed his name to Eugene Ormandy). He was a soloist with many leading orchestras in Europe and the U.S. but in 1930, turned his interests to radio, becoming music director of WOR in NYC and in 1936, director of WQXR, the classical station still broadcasting in NYC. In 1944 he and his wife moved to Peaceable Street. By 1949 he later worked for the State Department to expand music opportunities for Americans in Europe and then led the music conservatory at the University of Cincinnati.

**Brown, Eliphalet**, (1816-1886), was a noted daguerreotypist who, while accompanying Commodore Matthew Perry's pioneering expedition to Japan in 1853, took what is believed to be the first photograph ever taken in Japan — a country that later became famous for its Nikon, Canon, Fuji and other camera-makers. He probably did not live here, but he is buried in the Scott section of the Ridgefield Cemetery, with the Coolidge family — his wife was a Coolidge. [WWW]

**Brown, Joseph Epes Sr. (1843-1918)**, a Boston native, was a NYC banker who was prominent in Brooklyn civic life and who owned, starting ca. 1910, Wildfarms (*q.v.*) on West Lane. His son and grandson (*below*) were both prominent scholars. His wife, Lavinia, was active in the Ridgefield Garden Club.

**Brown, Joseph Epes Jr.** (1891-1937), a native of Long Island, was a professor, scholar and author, whose father, a banker of the same name, owned the Wildfarms (*q.v.*) estate in the 1920s. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Yale, 1913, he earned master's and doctorate degrees in English at Princeton where he went on to teach many years. He was the author of *The Critical Opinions of Samuel Johnson*, and *American Life and Letters* (1934). He and his wife, Janet, were parents of Joseph Epes Brown III (*q.v.*).

**Brown, Joseph Epes III** (1920-2000), a native of Ridgefield, was a scholar and author who specialized in the study of American Indian religious traditions. Among his works were *The Sacred Pipe*, about his interviews with Black Elk, a medicine man, about religious rites of the Lakota.

**Browning, Kirk**, (1921-2008), a pianist and native of NYC, was an acclaimed director of television concerts for PBS, doing such pioneering works as Frank Sinatra's first TV show and the world premiere of Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors," the first opera written for TV. He won 13 Emmys. He lived on the farm of his parents, William and Elizabeth Miner Browning, on Spring Valley Road where his neighbor, Samuel Chotzinoff (*q.v.*), gave him a job in NBC's music library. His knowledge of music and sense of the



camera led Chotzinoff to make him a director of Arturo Toscanini concerts, and from there, he went on to do 185 broadcasts of “Live from Lincoln Center” for PBS and many other programs. [WWW]

**Brown, Leander**, (ca. 1824-1849), a Ridgefield native and son of Solomon and Sally Brown, had been employed with Brooks Brothers, the clothiers, when he decided to join a group sailing to California to seek their fortune during the Gold Rush of 1849. After a difficult, tempestuous voyage, they arrived in San Francisco in July 1849, and that December, he died of a fever. He was 25 years old. On his memorial gravestone in Scott’s Cemetery is this verse: “Farewell, Leander, hope shall rear an altar at thy tomb, And memory like the evergreen shall ever, ever bloom. Far from his native hills his dust in earth’s green bosom lies, Yet God the precious charge both guard till he shall bid it rise.” [Rockwell]

**Brown, Thomas F.**, and Hart Stiles were the first African Americans elected to public office in Ridgefield, just over a year after the 15th Amendment, allowing Black men to be voters, was enacted. They were both chosen haywards (*q.v.*). [State Correspondence (newspaper), Wallingford, 10/14/1871]

**Brugger, Johannes**, with Rainer Kuhnt, was an owner of the Inn at Ridgefield in the 1990s. [RSD91]

**Brundage, Fred T.**, (1872-1934) operated the Brundage & Benedict dry goods store on Main Street for many years. [JFS]

**Brundage, Lawrence**, (1907-1996), was a Ridgefield carpenter in much of the 20th Century. [DD89]

**Brundage & Benedict**: Dry goods store started by Julius Myers, “a thrifty little German,” in 1897; he sold 1900 to Fred Brundage and Andrew Flood; in 1907, Flood sold his interest to Jesse L. Benedict; moved to new Telephone Building May 1913 [P5/15/1913]; Benedict took over the store in January 1936 after Brundage died.

**Brunetti, Ernest A.**, (1889-1940), was a longtime operator with Nazzareno Gasperini, of Brunetti and Gasperini’s market (*q.v.*); had worked at Port of Missing Men; son, Joseph (*q.v.*), later had his own market.

**Brunetti, Joseph**, (1920-2004), a native and popular grocer, managed A&P and later owned Brunetti’s Market (*q.v.*); was an early sportswriter for The Ridgefield Press; RHS 1938; served in World War II. [WWW]

**Brunetti and Gasperini’s market**: Food store that catered to the Italian community at the corner of Bailey Avenue and Prospect Street from 1914 until 1920s; founded 1904 by Benvenuto Carboni (*q.v.*) as first Italian-specialties store in town; later operated by Ernesto Brunetti and Nazzareno Gasperini; Ernesto was father of Joseph Brunetti, who operated Brunetti’s Market (*q.v.*) on Main Street. [DD51]

**Brunetti’s Market** was a popular village food store, specializing in meats and founded by Joseph Brunetti (*q.v.*), a former A&P manager, in the space A&P had occupied before moving to its supermarket in 1962 (*see* A&P). Brunetti retired and sold in July 1983 [P7/14/1983] to Ed Bowie and Ron Manna, who closed in 1986, blaming high rents.

**Bruno, Michael Edward**, (1910-2003), a native of Bridgeport and a Republican, was a lawyer who served one term as a state representative, 1949-51; lived in Ridgefield 1930s and 40s, died in New Canaan.

**Brunstad, George**, a Ridgefielder and retired airline pilot who turned 70 three days earlier, became Aug. 29, 2004, the oldest man at that time to swim the English Channel, crossing in 15 hours, 59 minutes. He is an uncle of actor Matt Damon. Lived at 14 Shields Lane, sold his house in 2007.

**Bruschi, Luigi** (ca. 1891-1974) was native of Ancona, Italy, and U.S. Army veteran of World War I; was a building contractor who was also the superintendent of an Old Branchville Road estate in vicinity, owned at various times by the Greims, Gerli, Goldsmith, or Petri families; over the years, particularly in the 1930's, he bought and sold much land in the Branchville and Florida districts; developed Bruschi Lane (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Bruschi Lane**: Pronounced *broo-ski*; a 1,300-foot, dead-end road off Old Branchville Road, named for Luigi Bruschi (*q.v.*) who developed it; the town accepted 1967. [RN]

**Brush, Eliphalet**, (1748-1846), was a sergeant in the army during the Revolutionary War, and later served as a selectman and as a state representative in 1818 and 1819. He lived in Ridgebury and is buried in Ridgebury Cemetery. [JW]

**Brush, Platt**, was a part-owner in the mid-19th Century of a saw mill “situated at the south end of the street in said Ridgefield” [RLR 19/121]. Stephen Smith was a co-owner.

**Brush, Olmstead & Company** was a Carriage factory operated in the Big Shop starting around 1825, by Platt Brush (*q.v.*), Chauncey Olmstead, Czar Jones and Abijah Resseguie (*q.v.*), producing carriages sold throughout the eastern United States. In 1854, during a national financial recession, the company “failed,” but apparently was resurrected and lasted till 1875. [RIR, DAR]

**Brushy Ridge** was at the southwest corner of town, probably including the Southridge Court and Silver Spring Road area, and was first mentioned in 1717. Another Brushy Ridge, near and perhaps west of Lake Mamanasco, was mentioned in 1741. [RN]

**Bryan, William Jennings** (1860-1925), the noted orator and three-time Democratic presidential candidate, spoke in Ridgefield town hall April 19, 1907 when he was a guest of Dr. John W. Cox (*q.v.*) at Stonecrest. “Main Street looked as though half the population of the town had turned out,” The Press report later reports.

**Bryon Avenue**: Running from High Ridge to Fairview Avenue,; part of early 20th Century by Dr. B. A. Bryon (*q.v.*), informally called Bryon Park; road was built between 1908 and 1912; sometimes erroneously called Byron Avenue; came here in early 1890s, moved to Norwalk late in life. [RN]

**Bryon, Benn Adelmar**, (ca. 1866-1948), a Ridgefield physician, was also the developer of Bryon Park neighborhood and Lake Kitchawan in Lewisboro, NY; his large house on Main Street stood where the CVS parking lot is in 2022; daughter, Kathryn G. Bryon (*q.v.*), founded the town's first Girl Scout (*q.v.*) troop. [WWW]

**Bryon, Kathryn G.**, (1901-1989) founded in 1921 the town's first Girl Scout troop; daughter of Dr. Benn Adelmar and Vena Bryon; later married Craig R. Vosburgh.

**Bryon Park**: subdivision on the corner of High Ridge and Barry Avenue; so called because, before its development, it was used as a playground, even though it was privately owned — town's first football team played there around 1905-06; includes Bryon Avenue, Greenfield Street, Fairview Avenue — *q.v. each*.

**Bucha, Paul** (1943-) won the Congressional Medal of Honor, 1970, for heroism in a 1968 battle with North Vietnamese troops; graduated from and later taught at West Point; career in business including being chairman of board of a steel company; ran for Congress from NY, 1993; advised 2008 campaign of Barack Obama; moved to Ridgefield 2000.

**Buchman, Dr. Joseph**, cardiologist and native of Brooklyn, opened practice 1964 after serving in the Navy. Native of Brooklyn, he was the moving force behind bringing paramedic service (*q.v.*) to Ridgefield; also created the medical condominiums at 38A,B,C Grove Street; was a founder of Ridgefield Family Y (*q.v.*); retired 1999 when he was living in Redding; moved to Seattle, then to Texas; son Michael is a lawyer in Westport.

**Buck Hill**: The rise on Route 35, Danbury Road, where Buck Hill Road (*q.v.*) intersects; hill-and-curve has been the site of many auto accidents, including several that were fatal (an off-duty Ridgefield police sergeant was killed here in 1980).

**Buck Hill Road**: between Danbury Road (Route 35) and Great Hill Road; designed and named by Richard Conley (*q.v.*), head of the Connecticut Land Company (*q.v.*); once part of his father's Outpost Farm; Paul Morganti (*q.v.*), contractor who built the road, said he suggested the name because Conley had frequently hunted deer in that area; Perry Scott built most of the houses in the early 1950s. Its most famous resident was actor-comedian Godfrey Cambridge (*q.v.*). It became a town road in 1954. [RN]

**Bucks Pond**: Another name for Roberts Pond (*q.v.*); perhaps so-called because deer visited its shores; mentioned in 1976 deed. [RN]

**Buckspen Lane**: 850-foot road off the west side of Limestone Road, serving a 1977 subdivision by Albert Gaeta. A small portion of the road was earlier known as Corbin Drive (*q.v.*); named by Jack Sanders in his capacity as a road name consultant to resurrect an old Ridgefield name that had fallen out of use — *see* Buckspen Swamp. [RN]

**Buckspen Road**: Mentioned in 1855 deed for land bounded "by the Buckspen Road so called"; may be an old path in what's now Bennett's Pond State Park, perhaps the trail that goes north from Bennett's Farm Road past the old site of the Fox Hill Inn and up to Bennett's Ponds — possibly passing Buckspen Swamp (*q.v.*). Name suggested by JFS. [RN]

**Buckspen Swamp**: First mentioned in a 1741 deed for land "lying in Bennits Farm at Buckspen Swamp"; in 1830, a deed says land was "situated in the Buckspen, bounded on the east by highway"; 1914 map of Col. Louis D. Conley' (*q.v.*) property north of Bennett's Farm Road describes "Bucks Pen Meadow," west of Bennett's Ponds, east of today's Shady Lane, and north of Fox Hill Lake; the swamp is nearby. Harold Iles said in severe winters, deer "barn up" — gather in groups in a sheltered part of the woods, stamping down the snow and using their collective body heat to stay warm and that such a frequent gathering place was tagged the "bucks pen" for that reason; Daniel M. McKeon was told him of the existence — in woods off Great Hill Road — of a form of corral into which the Indians would drive deer to trap and kill them for food and hides. Indians — or settlers — could have driven deer toward a swamp thereabouts in order to get them mired and make the animals easier to kill. [RN]

**Buddha**: Nickname for Michael Bedini (*q.v.*)

**Bud's Liquor Store** was operated on Main Street in the 1960s by Bud Mahoney. [10/18/1962, 3/14/1968]

**Buell Street:** Former path from North Street, opposite Mapleshade Road, to Rochambeau Avenue; road never built, possibly to limit traffic in Peatt Park; named by developer William Peatt Sr. to honor his wife, Alice J. Buell Peatt (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Buffalo Creek:** Another name for the Titicus River (*q.v.*), but not found in any 18th or 19th Century records; Adriaen Van der Donck (ca.1618–55), early settler of lower Westchester, says of his neighborhood in 1642: “Buffaloes are also tolerably plenty.” [RN]

**Buffalo Creek Acres:** Name employed in the 1920’s by Munson and Lizzie Wade for their house and 20 acres on North Salem Road; late home of Jan Huton; name also used by James B. Franks (*q.v.*) for his subdivision served by Hessian Drive (*q.v.*). [RN, DD20]

**Bulkley, Jonathan,** (1857-1939), Yale 1879, owned Rippowam (*q.v.*), a West Mountain estate. He was head of Bulkley, Dunton and Company, a paper manufacturing company established by his father in 1833, still existing and one of the oldest continuously operating businesses in NY state. He was a benefactor of many NYC charities. His wife was Sarah L. Tod Bulkley (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Bulkley, Sarah L. Tod,** (1870-1943), president of the Garden Club of America from 1932 to 1935, traveled widely in the U.S. and in Asia promoting the aims of the club. She was also active in Ridgefield Garden Club for 40 years, and was known for her charitable work in NYC. She and her husband Jonathan (*q.v.*) owned Rippowam (*q.v.*), a large estate on Rippowam Road, starting in 1902 (family still owns the estate in 2022). She and her daughter, Sarah Bulkley Randolph (*q.v.*), were among the founders of the Ridgefield Boys’ Club. [NR]

**Bullock, Michael Edward,** (1940-1998), was a former Marine fighter pilot who flew Boeing 747 airliners for TWA; killed in a small plane crash in California. He lived in Ridgefield 1967-1995; active in Republican Party and Lions Club; a founder and commandant of the Marine Corps League. [WWW]

**Bung Town:** Old name for region along North Salem Road, east of Lake Mamanasco; first appears in town records 1798, last 1854; Bedini says one tradition had a child, on first visit to Isaac Keeler’s grist mill near the corner of North Salem and Sherwood Roads, being frightened by sound of the machinery, which the child described as “Bung! Bung! Bung!”; more likely, one or several people in the neighborhood were part-time makers of bungs, the stoppers used in barrels — cutting bungs from wood or cork was probably a winter activity to earn some cash for the family. [RN]

**Bungalow, The:** Name of estate at 47 Peaceable Street, used at least in 1924, when it appears on a postcard; owners have included Albert Wiggin (*q.v.*), the Steele Roberts family, Paul and Sadye Meisner, J. Louis and Asunta Read, the Raymond Sawyers, A. Raymond Bessette [DD197-8]; also called Peaceable Acres (*q.v.*) and Wiggin’s Way (*q.v.*) [OR]

**Bunker, William,** was a wealthy New York City produce merchant who built an estate at 253 West Mountain Road shortly before the turn of the 20th Century. His carriage house and barn are both now also homes. [DD280] He specialized in rare first edition books, [NYT11/2/1924] He was an AKC breeder of collies.

**Burdick, Eleanor L.,** (1897-1979), taught English, history and math at Ridgefield High School, starting in 1920 when it was Hamilton High, and retiring in 1963. She was chairman of the English Department and directed the Drama Club. [WWW]

**Burgess:** A member of the Board of Burgesses of the early 20th Century Borough of Ridgefield (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Burkat, Leonard,** (1919-1992), a native of Boston, was a music writer whose program notes were used by many orchestras and ensembles around the world. In 1946, he became the librarian at the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood, then the administrative director of the Tanglewood Music Center until 1963. He later oversaw classical and Broadway music for Columbia Records' Masterworks and Epic labels. He bought a weekend home at 563 Branchville Road in 1966, retiring there and keeping it until he moved with his wife Marion to Heritage Village, Southbury, in 1975. [NYT8/25/1992, JFS]

**Burman, Albert W. "Bert"**, (1915-1999), was a popular radio organist who provided music for many shows in 1940s-50s, including Sherlock Holmes, Bulldog Drummond, Dimension X, Mr. Keen, and Joyce Jordan, M.D.; later did some TV including Strike It Rich. He lived in Ridgefield 1950-63, first on Branchville Road, later on Main Street, and left upon retirement to return to his native Ozarks where he was closely associated with and a benefactor of the College of the Ozarks. His wife was Darlene Burman. [WWW]

**Burning permits** can be obtained for brush only at the fire marshal's office at Ridgefield Fire Department, 6 Catoonah Street. Leaf burning is never allowed in Connecticut. [RAB]

**Burns, Ellen,** an accountant, was a leader in the Ridgefield Open Space Association (ROSA) (*q.v.*) in the 1990s and its efforts to get the town to buy the IBM/Fox Hill Inn property on Bennett's Farm Road, now Bennett's Pond State Park (*q.v.*). With her husband, Darwin Ellis, she owns Books on the Common (*q.v.*).

**Burr, Bradley and David,** owned 75% of a "flax mill" (*q.v.*) and received the "liberty to erect a charding [carding] mill & distillery" in 1814 [RLR 11/229]

**Burr, Gilbert B.,** (1866-1914), a native of North Salem and graduate of Coleman Business College, Newark, N.J., was a Ridgebury Road farmer, and member of the Boards of Assessors and Relief. A Republican he was state representative, 1905-07. His diary for the year 1888 exists.

**Burr, J. Howard,** a Danbury clothier, had a high-end men's clothing store in the 1920s and early 30s at 384 Main Street, taken over during the Depression by the manager, Samuel Patterson, who ran it till retirement a few years later. A portion of the store was devoted to the wares of another Danbury business, Heim's Music Store. [DD97]

**Burr, Peter,** was in 1737 given permission by the Proprietors to build "a good and sufficient grist hill" on the "Norwalk River", along with a dam, north of Cedar Mountain. [RLR 2/201] This is today's Route 7 at Florida Hill Road (*see* Moongate). In 1740 Burr sold it to Elijah Hauley.

**Burt, Benjamin,** (1680-1759), town's first blacksmith, was born in Northampton, Mass.; in 1704, as young marrieds, he and pregnant wife, Sarah Belden, were captured by French and Indians during Massacre of Deerfield, Mass., went taken mid-winter to Montreal, where Burt was forced to work for a seminary; freed in 1706, was taken with again pregnant wife by ship to Boston — son Seaborn (*q.v.*) born during the journey; came to Ridgefield in 1712; given a home lot and one-28th of the outlying land that had been reserved to attract a smith; agreed to work at least four years to gain full title; soon amassed a considerable

land throughout town; later had a saw mill on Danbury Road and owned the Mamasco grist mill (*q.v.*). [WWW] *see also* Blacksmith Ridge, Burt's Pond. [WWW]

**Burt, Epenetus**, bought the Howe grist and saw mills near Titicus in 1865 [RLR 23/267]

**Burt, Ferdinand W.**, (ca. 1851-1916) was a farmer who sold his farm to Seth Low Pierrepont (*q.v.*) and then became an owner of Titicus Store (*q.v.*). Died while visiting W.J. Humphreys on Danbury Road, the same house in which he was married many years earlier — he died in the same room where the ceremony took place. [P11/14/1916]

**Burt, Seaborn**, (1706-1773), was born on a ship bringing his family to Boston after freed from captivity in Quebec, where taken by French and Indians (*see* Benjamin Burt); came to Ridgefield as a child and in 1759 took over ownership of the Mamasco grist mill (*q.v.*) [RLR 4/155] ; a few years after his death, mill was taken over by Proprietors (*q.v.*), possibly because Seaborn's heirs were Tories; sold then to Benjamin Chapman (*q.v.*). *See also* Theophilus Burt.

**Burt, Theophilus** (1756-1822), a son of Seaborn Burt (*q.v.*), was a Tory who fled to British protection in Revolution; in the 1770s, the state confiscated his property and sold off some in 1781, noting he "hath absconded and taken side with the British troops against the United States of America"; however, after the war, Theophilus petitioned the General Assembly for title to his old land; the assembly in 1792 restored the title to what was left of his property, probably including a share in Mamasco grist mill (*q.v.*) his father and grandfather had owned; he apparently eventually left town; his brothers, David and Benjamin Burt, also fled in the war. [JFS] The proprietors granted him and Thomas Hyatt their right to the Mamasco mill in 1797 [RLR 8/124]

**Burt Road**: Old name for Old West Mountain Road, says a 1941 deed; members of Burt family lived along it in the 19th Century. [RN]

**Burt's Lane**: Earliest name for today's Catoonah Street; Benjamin Burt (*q.v.*) had his house on the north corner of Catoonah and Main. [RN]

**Burt's Pond**: 1. An 18th and early 19th Century name for Lake Mamasco; first used in a 1793 deed; Benjamin Burt (*q.v.*) bought grist mill at lake outlet in 1742; after his death 1759, eldest son, Seaborn Burt (*q.v.*), operated it until his death in 1773; a few Burt properties were confiscated during Revolution because some Burts took sides with the British; in 1800s Burts had interests at Mamasco – Joshua Burt was one of several mill owners in 1817, and Epenetus Burt had grist and saw mills at the lake in 1865; family continued to live in Mamasco neighborhood until early 1900s; sometimes mispronounced Birch Pond (*q.v.*). [RN] 2. Great Pond was also called Burt's Pond during the late 18th Century — it is believed that Benjamin Burt had land there. [RN]

**Burton, Linette M. "Nat"**, (1916-1999), was a longtime reporter and feature writer for The Ridgefield Press, starting in 1958. Wrote two children's books before moving to Ridgefield in 1954 with her husband, Earl. A small garden named for her used to be on the front lawn of South Hall at St. Stephen's Church. [WWW]

**Burying Yard, Ye**; on upper Wilton Road East, just south of Main Street; town's oldest graveyard, established Nov. 25, 1708, but use discontinued by mid 1700s; originally extended across Wilton Road East and included what are now several lots holding houses on Main Street and Wilton Road East. Rockwell said the current burying ground "is only a

portion of the original cemetery, as a road was cut through a section ... about 1850, and the tombstones and remains of the early settlers were carted off. The town in town meeting sanctioned this deed;" no gravestones today extant; a monument bears names of 40 people believed buried there; grounds maintained by The Caudatowa Garden Club & Parks & Recreation Dept. [RN]

**Bus service:** "The Ridgefield and Danbury Automobile Bus" began service in summer 1916, with three trips daily each way, leaving Ridgefield from Scott and Lewis's store on Main Street; fare was 40 cents each way [P8/29/1916]; New England Transportation ran bus between Danbury and Ridgefield in 1920s, reducing service in February 1930 due to declining ridership [P1/30/1930]. A bus to NYC was available by 1930; Greyhound (*q.v.*) stopped at the center of town daily in the 1940s, 50s. After passenger service on the branch train line ended in 1925, buses ran from village to the station. Victory Bus Line (*q.v.*) from Ridgefield to Bridgeport operated during WWII by Leo Pambianchi. HART bus service from Danbury to Ridgefield, begun October 1988 ended Jan. 31, 1992; HART shuttle bus service to Katonah began Aug. 8, 2002. Suspended briefly during Covid epidemic, it soon resumed carrying commuters weekdays. Buses were also used for the Ridgefield schools from the early 20th Century, powered at first by horses. [JFS]

**Bush, Arthur,** a 1931 graduate of Ridgefield High School, was killed in World War II, The Press learned in 1950. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. George Bush; father worked on the Swaine estate on Silver Spring Road just over the Wilton line. [P?/4?/1950]

**Busino, Orlando,** (1926-2022), a native of upper New York, was a cartoonist whose work has appeared in McCalls, Reader's Digest, Good Housekeeping, Saturday Evening Post, and many other magazines, and has three times won the National Cartoonists Society's award for best magazine cartoonist. His "Gus" cartoons appeared for decades in Boys Life magazine, and were featured in two books in the early 1980s. He often visited the schools, giving cartooning demonstrations for the students. He lived on Shadblow Hill Road from 1961 until his death. [NR, WWW]

**Butler, Justine,** (1934-2011), was a prominent professional tennis player in the Northeast in the late 20th Century, who lived in Ridgefield. She was the first pro at the Ridgefield Tennis Club (*q.v.*). The Justine H. Butler Tennis Courts, behind the Venus Office Building and Yanity Gym on East Ridge, were named for her.

**Butterfly:** Home of opera star Geraldine Farrar (*q.v.*) on New Street, so called because she starred in Madame Butterfly at the Met. The house was later owned by Maude Bouvier Davis (*q.v.*).

**Buttery, Stephen,** (1819-?), was a farmer and tavern-keeper on Florida Road. In May 1861, he allegedly shot Abraham Nash (*q.v.*) and another man who had torn down a secessionist flag he had erected to oppose the Civil War.

**Buttonwood Swamp:** A wetland at the east end of Bennett's Pond(s), first mentioned in 1763 deed; last cited, 1940; because of changes in water levels, swamp today may be part of the eastern end of the pond, west of Route 7, a little north of the Bennett's Farm Road intersection; Buttonwood is another, more correct name for the sycamore; tree so-called because the fruit looks like an old-fashioned button. [RN]

**By-The-Green:** Name used by Mrs. David Egleston for her home at 181 Main Street [P7/20/1911]. The name refers to the property's being next to the old village green.

**Bye, Arthur Edwin,** (1919-2001), a native of the Netherlands, was a noted landscape architect who focused on natural landscapes. In the 1950s he was among the first to promote using native plants and restoring native woodlands on residential and commercial properties. He taught for many years at Cooper Union in NYC and was the author of *Art into Landscape, Landscape into Art* (1983). He lived on the Francis D. Martin estate in the 1950s and 60s and later lived on Cottonwood Lane in Fox Hill condominiums. [NYT12/17/2001, JFS]

**Bypass Road:** (1) Old road no longer in use, connected Barry Avenue with Peaceable Hill Road; part is now town open space. (2) Original name of Ligi's Way (*q.v.*). The road bed was created in the 1990s by the town, using leftover fill from many projects around town. [RN]

**Byrne, Rev. Patrick,** was second pastor of St. Mary's Parish, from 1886-92.

**Byrnes, Rev. Horace W.,** (1851-1912), minister at Jesse Lee Methodist Church from 1902 to 1906, preached locally famous anti-liquor and gambling sermons in the early 20th Century. [P7/24/1902, 3/15/1906]

## C

**Cable television:** First cable TV service in Ridgefield was offered in 1980 by TelePrompTer (*q.v.*). Group W took over and reported in 1983 that about 70 miles of cable would be installed by end of that year; 200 miles of roads in all needed cabling.

**Caboose:** *See* Ridgefield Sport and Toy Caboose

**Cadence Academy Preschool:** A chain company that, in 2018, is successor to The Children's Corner (*q.v.*) at 115 Barlow Mountain Road.

**Cady, J. Cleaveland,** (1837-1919), was a noted American architect who designed the First Congregational Church (*q.v.*). His other projects included the south range of the American Museum of Natural History in NYC and 15 buildings at Yale. [JFS]

**Cady, Dr. Philander Kinney,** (1826-1917), was an Episcopal minister and professor, who is said to have maintained two chapels in his house at 94 Main Street. He was a professor and a dean at the General Theological Seminary, 1889-1902. He is not closely related to J. Cleaveland Cady (*q.v.*).

**Cain, Hugh,** (ca.1744-1808), built and operated a fulling mill (*q.v.*) on today's Route 7 (did not exist then) on the north side of Topstone Road. He fought in the Revolution and was a sergeant; *see also* Cain's Mill. [RN] Cain sold the fulling mill, a house, barn, shop, coloring house, hoghouse, and 20 acres in 1789 to David Banks for £250 [RLR 7/77]

**Cain, Stephen,** (1945-2020), a native of England, was a British Army major who served in Northern Ireland and Afghanistan; was presented by Member of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth; came to Ridgefield 1991; was a consultant on international terrorism; organized the Allied Forces Foundation in 2008 when he walked from West Point to Boston to raise awareness of the needs of servicemen and veterans and their families; ran a meat delivery business. [P4/26/2020]

**Cain's Hill:** Ridge across which winds Cain's Hill Road (*q.v.*); named for Hugh Cain who had a fulling mill (*q.v.*) at foot of the hill; name first appears 1855 deed; earlier called Sturdevant's Clapboard Tree Ridge (*q.v.*). [RN]



**Cain's Hill Road:** Steep road between Farmingville/Lounsbury Road junction and Route 7; once part of a major route from Ridgefield to Redding, it became less used in mid-1800s when New Road (*q.v.*) was built as bypass; not paved until the 1960's; one of few town roads with truck traffic ban; in 2006, widened and improved in spots. [RN]

**Cain's Mill:** Hugh Cain (*q.v.*) started a fulling mill in 1770 in 1770 at what is now the northeast corner of Route 7 and Topstone Road, opposite Cain's Hill Road; he sold mill to David Banks in 1789 [RLR 7/77], but seemed to continue to work there into at least 1790s; was enlarged into a woollen mill that burned down in July 1828 [Schenectady NY Cabinet, July 9, 1828]. Later owned by Elias Glover (*q.v.*).

**Caldor:** Discount department store at Copps Hill Plaza replaced Grant's in 1977; went bankrupt and closed, 1999; replaced by Kohl's; chain of stores was named for founders Carl and Dorothy Bennett (Carl had been a liquor salesman whose route included Ridgefield). [JFS]

**Calle, Christopher,** is an artist who has designed more than 40 U.S. postage stamps. He moved here in 1986; lives on Old Sib Road. [NR]

**Cambridge, Godfrey,** (1933-1976), an African-American comedian and movie actor, moved to Buck Hill Road in 1974, and was soon enmeshed in battles with his real estate agents, whom he brought before state regulators for selling him a defective house, and with town officials over a fence he erected too close to the road. While he never charged that the real estate agents or the town acted because of racial motives, he did say his teenage daughter had been threatened and that his car was vandalized because of racial prejudice. A native of Harlem, he got his start as a stage actor on Broadway, earning an Obie. He turned to films, often comedies, but insisted that his roles depict him "as a man, rather than as a Negro." He died of a heart attack while playing Ugandan dictator Idi Amin for an ABC TV movie, *Raid on Entebbe*. [NR]

**Cameron's Line** is a geological fault that runs from Manhattan northeasterly through Westchester and into Ridgefield. The line enters Ridgefield near the southwest corner and almost exactly follows West Lane and High Ridge into the village, continues across Prospect Ridge, through Great Swamp and Farmingville, then into Redding, on up to Danbury and northerly into Litchfield County. The New York Times said the line "marks an abrupt change in the earth's crust that resulted from a collision between North America and a European-African land mass 400 million years ago." Later, the European-African continent pulled away, leaving behind a piece of its edge; i.e., land south of line was once part of today's western Africa while north of line was North America. Thus, soil types south of the line are considerably different from those on the north — *see under* Limestone. [JFS]

**Camp, Herbert Viets,** (1935-2022), an attorney, with offices at 409 Main Street (ONS90). He was a Republican state representative, 1969-1974; lived on Craigmoor Road South; in 1986, he unsuccessfully sought to be GOP candidate for state senator in 26th district, losing in a primary to Judith Freedman of Westport [P9/4&11/1986]. He and wife, Alice, moved here in 1965; closed practice and moved to Stony Point, CT, in 2008.

**Camp, Rev. Samuel,** (1744-1813), was the first settled pastor of Ridgebury Congregational Church, starting in 1769; served as pastor for 35 years, until 1804, when he was obliged to resign, probably due to health; continued to live in Ridgebury until his death in March

1813; had 3 wives, all buried alongside him in Ridgebury Cemetery with matching stones, but half the size of his; in 1769, married Hannah Garnsey, died 1777 age 33; year later, married Lucretia Barker, who died 1782, age 35; eight months later, he married Mrs. Mary Keeler Northrop, who died 1800, age 54. [JFS]

**Camp Adventure:** Began as Arden Lake Camp in 1930s on the northern shore of Great Pond; became Camp Adventure in the 1950s; in December 1963 was purchased by the Volunteers of America to use as a sort of Fresh Air camp for city children. Camping activities ended by about 1970 when property was acquired by George Bakes, a developer, who spent 20 years trying to get town approval of a new use. Property became Laurel Ridge Health Care Center, Ridgefield Crossings Assisted living, and Regency at Ridgefield age-restricted condominiums; also nearly 49 acres of open space donated by Bakes.

**Camp Arden** was established in 1934 by Irving Schoenberg as a Jewish summer camp on the north shore of Great Pond. Advertised 40 buildings, swimming and boating, extensive recreational facilities including eight clay tennis courts, three cement handball courts, a baseball diamond, and more. Offered full-time physician, nurse, experienced chefs, and more. Fee in 1938 was \$225 (\$7,100 in 2020). Lasted until WW2. Later became Camp Adventure (*q.v.*). *See also* Arden Lake.

**Camp Catoonah:** 42-acre Girl Scout (*q.v.*) camp off Rippowam Road on NY state line; most of the land was donated by Ernest Sturges and Warren Keeler to Girl Scouts in the late 1940s; opened in the summer of 1950; closed in 1998, donated to town by a requirement of the original deed, [P2/3/1998] and became Sturges Park (*q.v.*) in 2000; adjoins 1,000-acre Mountain Lakes Park, operated by Westchester County on former Port of Missing Men (*q.v.*) resort land. Part of camp land was earlier sold for development — *see* Kimberly Court.

**Camp Coleman** operated at Lake Mamasasco in various 1910, serving the Boys Scouts, Boys Club and choir of St. John's Episcopal Church in Stamford. The camp was run by the Rev. F.A. Coleman. [SA7/1/1910]

**Camp Comfort:** Although signs describe Camp Comfort, active in late 19th Century, as being in Ridgefield, the hunting and fishing camp was on northeast shore of Lake Oscaleta (a/k/a South Pond) in Lewisboro; however, property on which camp operated was in both Ridgefield and Lewisboro.

**Camp Topstone:** A 1930s postcard shows children playing at this camp which it says is in Branchville. However, may have been an early name for Camp Adventure (*q.v.*).

**Campbell, Betty Lou Hillock**, (1926-2012), a native of Florida, was a musician and singer, and obtained a pilot's license at a time when it was unusual for women to do so. She lived for many years at 164 Main Street. [P11/29/2012]

**Campbell, David Colley**, (1939-2021), a native of Detroit and a Harvard graduate, was a 50-year Ridgefielder who was president of Jaycees, active in Little League and Pony Colt baseball, served on the Parks and Recreation and Pension Commissions, and was, with wife Martha, the first couple to be selected Rotary Citizens of the Year (2004). They were also honored by Ridgefield Old Timers in 2012. [JFS]

**Campbell, Sullivan Graham**, (1922-1972), chairman of the board of Graphic Sciences, was a native of Kansas who was a Ph.D. mathematician and computer expert. He worked for

IBM, became an executive with Xerox. His company, Graphic Sciences, created and sold an early version of the fax machine. He died in an auto accident at the age of 49. He was married to Betty Lou Campbell (*q.v.*) and lived on Main Street. [NYT2/10/1972, P1/28/1971]

**Camps:** Among the private summer camps that have operated here are Arden Lake Camp or Camp Arden, Camp Adventure, Camp Catoonah, Hidden Valley Camp, Life's Farm, Rabbit Hole Farm, St. John's, Camp Topstone, (*q.v. each*). *See also* Camp Comfort.

**Candee's Pond:** A body of water on the north side of lower Branchville Road, west of Florida Road and near the Branchville Cemetery; named for Howard S. and Elizabeth Candee, who owned the estate from 1928-38; the pond already existed by then; he (ca. 1883-1953) was in New York City real estate; later lived on New Street; property later owned by S. Howard Young, whose guests included actress Elizabeth Taylor and Dwight Eisenhower who reportedly made his decision to run for president there.

**Candle Shop:** Store "with gifts and trinkets and candles galore" [PC] at 719 Danbury Road (Route 7) (ONS283); opened late 1950s by Helen Molnar and Lawrence G. Timeus; managed in 1983 by Joyce Buttikofer; by 1999 was mobile telephone store; in 2017, P.T. Cleaners and Tailors; space renovated 2017-18 into Laurent Luxury Lighting, which sells "upscale custom decorative fixtures for high-end residential spaces."

**Candlelight Shoppe,** a venerable Ridgefield women's lingerie shop, moved in 2020 from 407 Main Street to 416 Main Street. Opened around 1965, it was owned by Pam Fitzpatrick in 2020. Fitzpatrick's mother, Alda Carboni started the business with a focus on bra-fitting,

**Candlestick factory:** Brothers John W. and Francis A. Rockwell first operated in the building afterward part of Bailey Inn (*q.v.*), then moved to Catoonah Street in a building which stood on the site of Sperry's Livery Stable. That factory was destroyed by fire in April 1859, with a loss of \$5,000. "More than 20 hands are thrown out of employment," says Hartford Times. DAR DAR4/15/1859 says it was insured. Then was at Catoonah Hall (*q.v.*), 1860-68. The factory chiefly made brass and tin candlesticks, but also produced newspaper holders used by libraries and special patented clamps to keep the covers fastened on a child's bed.

**Candlewood Hill:** 18th Century name, first appearing in 1749, probably for what is today called Pine Hill, northwest of the intersection of Farmingville and New Roads and near Aldrich Park; in colonial times, pines were often called candlewood because wood, especially knots, were used as candles.

**Candoto:** Rev. Samuel G. Goodrich, writing in 1800, says this was Indian name for High Ridge; may be a variation of Caudatowa (*q.v.*), which also appears sometimes as "Candatowa," and which meant "high mountain"; one Indian language authority says the word may be related to *kodtuhkoe*, which meant "at the top of a hill" or "highest place" in the language of some Massachusetts tribes; name never appears in the land records, so the word may be badly corrupted from the original.

**Canestrari, Gena,** (1916-1976), a native of Lewisboro, was a longtime Ridgefielder who was a writer. She wrote at least two TV shows, a 1952 drama called "A Man and His Conscience," for the Armstrong Circle Theater, and a 1958 episode for the popular series, The Millionaire. In the 1940s and 50s she also worked full-time as a writer and editor for

WTIC news in Hartford. She also wrote stories for children. Early in her career she worked at the American Mercury magazine, then based in Ridgefield, and was editor of Great Teacher Magazine. In the 1970s she taught at the Institute of Children's Literature. She lived at 126 High Ridge at the time of her death. [P10/14/1976]

**Canfield, Timothy,** had one of the town's earliest saw mills, which he bought from Moses Northrup in 1726 "standing on Stamford Branch so-called," also subsequently called Canfield's Mill River (*q.v.*). This is the stream running out of Ridgefield south of Route 35 and crossing Route 123, where the mill probably was. This was in Ridgefield before the Oblong (*q.v.*)

**Canfield's Mill River:** 1720s name for Stamford Mill River (*q.v.*); for Timothy Canfield (*q.v.*), who had a saw mill where the river crosses today's Route 123 in Lewisboro. [RN]

**Canine control officer:** A name used by town government for the dog warden. Around the turn of the 21st Century, it became animal control officer (*q.v.*), largely because of the need to deal with some wild animal problems.

**Canine Shelter:** Long called the "dog pound" or just "the pound," the shelter is at 40 South Street, operated by the Animal Control division of the police department. In 2020, Kris Zulkoski was animal control officer (ACO for short). The job has been full-time since 1973. A six-run pound was built in the 1950s, and was enlarged in 1972 to 14 indoor runs. Dog licenses are issued by the town clerk's office but enforced by the ACO. Mandatory registration of dogs began in 1908. [JFS]

**Cannonball House:** Cass and Julia Gilbert's (*q.v.*) name for their Ridgefield home, now the Keeler Tavern Museum (*q.v.*), so called because of cannonball — actually, a defused grenade — lodged in a beam on north side of building, fired by a British cannon during the Battle of Ridgefield (*q.v.*)

**Canoe Brook, Gutter:** the outlet stream of Lake Mamanasco flowing to the Titicus River; 1754, deed called this the "Canoe Gutter" — gutter is an old word for a small brook or stream; 1789 deed calls it "Canoe Brook"; name suggests the Indians had used this stream as a route to the Titicus from the lake, possibly on fishing or hunting expeditions — they maintained a seasonal village or campsite at the south end of the lake.

**Canterbury Gallery:** High-end antiques store opened 409 Main Street October 1981 [P10/18/1981] by Kathy Varisco of Redding [P11/5/1981]

**Canterbury Lane:** begins at Ridgebury Road opposite George Washington Highway, extending westward; originally an old highway to state line and beyond; was called West Lane (see West Lane 2); in 1969, Mutual Land Management and Development Inc. subdivided its eastern end and Planning and Zoning Commission renamed road Canterbury Lane, perhaps because it sounds elegant or maybe even as a pun on horses since there are stables and bridle trails in area. [RN]

**Capobianco, Michael,** (1948-2019), a native of the Bronx and an artist, was creative director for Bantam Books and Kensington Publishing, and was responsible over the years for creating a number of acclaimed book covers for best-sellers. He lived in Ridgefield many years, retiring to Rapid City, S.D.

**Cappiello Brothers Jewelers:** at 424 Main Street in 1981; also had a store in New Milford.

Location had been Hibbart's Market in the 1920s, 30s. [DD37]

**Carbe, Nino,** (1909-1993), a native of Sicily, was a commercial artist who lived in Ridgefield with wife Betty from 1953 to 1964 when he returned to California, where he had started with Disney in 1940. During the 1940s, he worked on Fantasia, Bambi, Pinocchio Dumbo and other Disney classic. Later he worked for Walter Lantz on Woody Woodpecker animations, and Hanna Barbera. He moved to Ridgefield at a time when he was doing work on children's books, and for Book-of-the-Month Club. He did many backgrounds and special effects for Bakshi's Lord of the Rings in 1980.

**Carbe, Victoria "Vicki"** (also known as Victoria Valentino), is a daughter of Nino and Betty Carbe (*q.v.*), and lived in Ridgefield in the 1950s and early 60s. She was an actress who appeared in a dozen films and was a Playboy Bunny in the 1960s — Miss September in 1963. She was one of the women who publicly accused Bill Cosby of sexual assault.

**Carboni, Benvenuto** (1869-1940), a stonemason, was one of first Italian immigrants to settle in Ridgefield; arrived 1901 to work on new water system; in 1904, established first food market catering to growing Italian community; was a founder of Italian-American Mutual Aid Society (*q.v.*); he and wife had six children, including Octavious "Tabby" Carboni (*q.v.*) and Olinto "Lynce" Carboni (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Carboni, John Nicholas,** (1939-1994), a Ridgefield native, son of John P. and Ines Servadio Carboni, served 28 years as an officer in the U.S. Army; was RHS Class of 1957 president; graduated Bucknell, 1961, and was in ROTC.honored by ROTA, 1992; killed with wife Barbara in auto accident in Germany where he lived; had two daughters and three grandchildren. [P9/8/1994]

**Carboni, Octavious "Tabby,"** (1899-1992) was a native of Italy, came here 1903, who became popular local insurance agent; among the first employees of State National Bank (*q.v.*) office here 1959; was town treasurer 1957-59; member of the school board 20 years in 1930s and 40s; War Rations Board; Housing Authority member for many years. He played many sports; said his nickname coined by friends who found his athletic reflexes catlike. [WWW]

**Carboni, Olinto "Lynce",** (1909-2006), a son of Benvenuto Carboni (*q.v.*), was a star athlete at RHS, Class of 1927, served in the Navy in WW2, and worked many years as a plumber, then as head of maintenance for the Ridgefield schools, and finally as a courier for the schools, retiring in 2000 at the age of 92. [WWW]

**Carboni, Reno J. "Renz"** (1913-1992), son of Benvenuto (*q.v.*) and Assunta Carboni, operated Italian grocery store, founded by his father, at Prospect Street and Bailey Avenue, later turning it into a restaurant called Carboni's Cozy Nook or Carboni's Luncheonette, which closed in 1969; in 1962, he reopened the Maplewood Restaurant on Route 7, just over the Danbury line; also longtime custodian for schools and for Ridgefield police. [P12/3/1992]

**Cardinal Court:** A tertiary road (*q.v.*) off the south side of Peaceable Ridge Road, serving John Maggio's 1979 five lot subdivision, Peaceable Ridge Manor, from 12.7 acres; named for the bird. [RN]

**Carey, Richard Owen,** was a founder and chief promoter of Village Bank and Trust Company (*q.v.*) in 1974 and was its chairman of the board; retires April 1981; by then, lives in

Washington, CT; had led Connecticut Land Company, a real estate development firm in town; Yale, 1954 [P4/2/1981]

**Cargon, William H. Jr.**, (1879-1938), a native of Katonah, NY, came to Ridgefield in 1917 when he bought the Ridgefield Lumber Company, now Ridgefield Supply. He served on the Board of Finance, was active in the Lions and Methodist Church, and was a director of the Ridgefield Savings Bank. [RSB29]

**Carnall, Arthur J.**, (1895-1972), a native of England, came to Ridgefield as a boy in 1904. In 1922, he joined the real estate and insurance business of Thaddeus Crane (*q.v.*) In 1930, two years after Crane's death, he took over the business, renaming it A.J. Carnall Inc (*q.v.*) helped negotiate land purchases for Silver Spring Country Club, where he long became active. [WWW]

**Carnegie, Lt. Thomas**, (1945-1968), a native of Chicago, was the second Ridgefield killed in Vietnam — he was trying to help a fellow soldier. He came to Ridgefield in 1965 when his parents moved to Silver Spring Lane. He had worked part-time at the Grand Union while on summer vacation from Belknap College. Enlisted in the Army in 1967. On April 18, 1968, while fighting Viet Cong, "Tommy had gone to aid his wounded radioman when he was killed," said his mother Barbara Carnegie. Awarded Purple Heart and buried in Arlington National Cemetery. [WWW]

**Carnival Shop**: Gift store operated by Mrs. John Farrell Hughes at 408 Main Street (ONS #109) in a small building famous for its leaning to the south; building razed 1977, old safe found in rear; replaced with new structure, occupied since ca. 2010 by Tazza Cafe (*q.v.*). Once was the White Spot (*q.v.*) restaurant. [DD63]

**Carpenter, Hortense** (1818?->?), said to have come from "Ridgebury, Connecticut," was a circus bareback rider who married in 1840 George Fox Bailey of North Salem, head of his family's circus that combined with P.T. Barnum's to result in Barnum & Bailey circus. She reportedly worked for Barnum when she met Bailey. [SHPTC]

**Carpenter, Nellie Crouse**, ( -1943), a native of Ohio and a daughter of a congressman and industrialist, was unsuccessfully wooed by the poet and novelist Stephen Crane. She instead married Samuel Emlen Carpenter (*q.v.*), settled in Ridgefield and had six children before they were divorced in 1914. [OR]

**Carpenter, Samuel Emlen**, (1869-1929), son of an old Philadelphia family, was a real estate executive who built the West Mountain estate called Hillaire (*q.v.*). He is buried in St. Mary Cemetery. His first wife was Nellie Crouse Carpenter (*q.v.*), whom he married in 1897 and divorced in 1914. Three years later, he married silent film star Katharine LaSalle (*q.v.*). They left Hillaire and moved to a large house on High Ridge that later became Frances Cleaners. They had one child and were divorced in 1924. [OR, DD266]

**Carpenter Close**: A lane at Casagmo condominiums off Main and Grove Streets, was named for the Carpenter family, ancestors of the Olcotts who built the estate named Casagmo (*q.v.*); Carpenters among the first in New England and helped found Rhode Island. [RN]

**Carr, Donald**, (1887-1961), a native of NYC, was a writer, real estate executive, top amateur golfer, and expert on springer spaniels. A WW1 veteran, he founded during WW2 Dogs for Defense, and aided in training the animals for defense use. He was married to the poet, Blanche Wagstaff (*q.v.*). He wrote a book, *The People's Martyr*.

**Carriage factory:** *See* Brush, Olmstead & Company.

**Carriere, Winifred Osborn**, (1912-2002), grew up in Ridgefield, a daughter of Richard (*q.v.*) and Beulah Osborn (*see* Beulah France); graduated Syracuse, married Albert Carriere, an aspiring playwright; moved to NYC, divorced, had career editing for Prentice-Hall, McGraw-Hill, and magazines; returned to Ridgefield in late 1960s and had a home on Cedar Lane; author of books, *Cats 24 Hours A Day* (1964) and *An Easy Guide to Artificial Light Gardening for Pleasure and Profit* (1952); her grandfather, Richard W. Osborn (*q.v.*), founded lumber and coal business later called Ridgefield Lumber Company (*q.v.*), then Ridgefield Supply Company (*q.v.*). Her scrapbook is owned by HS. [WWW]

**Carrington, James Beebee**, (1860-1929), was an editor of Scribner's Magazine who lived on Nod Road, in the early 1900s. He dealt with many of the top literary and artistic people at the turn of the 20th Century, including Maxfield Parrish and N.C. Wyeth. He also wrote many articles on nature and art for magazines and newspapers. He was a member of the Salmagundi Club. [NYT7/16/1929]

**Carroll, David Robert**, (1954-2021), RHS 1972, was a native of Bethel who founded D.R. Carroll Construction Company in 1972, starting out and specializing in asphalt paving. Son Christopher took over leadership of the company on his retirement.

**Carroll, Gordon**, (1903-1978), a Baltimore native who lived in Ridgefield in the 1930s and early 40s, was an editor and publisher of magazines, including *The American Mercury*, published for a while on Main Street. He had been a reporter for *The Washington Post* and other major daily newspapers. During the 1930s he was an outspoken critic of President Roosevelt. Later became a senior editor at *Reader's Digest*, an editor at *Time* and editor-in-chief of *Coronet*, published by *Esquire*. He was a founder of Famous Writers School in Westport. His son, Gordon III, was producer of such Hollywood classics as *Cool Hand Luke* and *Alien*. [WWW]

**Carroll, Leo Francis**, (1900-85), a native of Bethel and World War I veteran, was a state policeman, 1921-52, rising to second in command of the entire department; headed Troop A many years; State Liquor Control Commission member, 1953-57; was first selectman, 1957-67; served on the school board, 1969-75; lived on Wilton Road West. [WWW]

**Carroll's Folly:** Jocular name for intersection of Routes 7 and 35 from ca. 1940-1984 when it was a semi-roundabout; said to have been designed by State Police Lt. Leo F. Carroll (*q.v.*), who later maintained "Carroll's Folly" was invented by his political enemies.

**Cars:** *See* Automobiles.

**Carter, Samuel III**, (1904-1989), a graduate of Princeton and Oxford started out as an American magazine writer in Europe during the 1930s, became a Madison Avenue advertising agency executive in the 40s, and then quit in the 1960s to write books. His 20 titles were mostly histories, many of them aimed at teenagers, and included *Cherokee Sunset*, *The Incredible Great White Fleet*, *Cyrus Field: Man of Two Worlds*, *The Siege of Atlanta, 1864*, and *Blaze of Glory*. He lived on Silver Hill Road in the 1970s. [WWW]

**Cartier, L.P.**, a member of the jeweler family, owned Downesbury Manor on Florida Hill Road in the 1920s; in the fall of 1923 he leased it to the Paulist Fathers, a Catholic order of priests, who used it for a short period as a seminary for about 20 candidates for the priesthood.

**Cartoonists** known nationally who lived in Ridgefield: Tony Barlow, Jack Barrows, Wayne Boring (Superman comics), Orlando Busino, Herb Green, Bob Gustafson, Will Johnson, Robert Kraus, Jerry Marcus, Rene Williams. *See also* Illustrators, Artists.

**Carvel:** Ice cream store opened at 680 Danbury Road (Route 7) in a stand in the 1960s; the stand was taken over in 1977 by Ridgefield Ice Cream; Carvel outlet subsequently opened at 113 Danbury Road.

**Carvel Curve:** Local police slang for curve in Route 7 north of Route 35, scene of many accidents; so called because old Carvel Ice Cream stand, 1960s until 1977, was nearby; since 1977 has been Ridgefield Ice Cream, but “Carvel Curve” was still used by police 30 years later; in 1976, the Police Commission began a campaign to have the state straighten or at least improve the curve — in 1987-88, state reduced the severity of the curve in conjunction with widening the road to four lanes at that point, but accidents still occur there.

**Carvell, Kenneth C.,** (ca.1939-2019) became the town’s first, appointed, full-time professional tax assessor in 1975, replacing the elected assessor position. He became Westport’s assessor in 1983 [P7/28/1983] but continued to reside here. He was an expert bowler. [JFS]

**Cary, Melbert B.,** (1852-1946), a Princeton graduate, was an NYC lawyer specializing in railroads as well as an inventor, politician, and writer. In the early 1890s, he built “Wildflower Farm,” on West Lane and Country Club Road. Active in Connecticut Democratic politics, he ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1902. He wrote several books including *The Connecticut Constitution* (1900) and *The Woman Without A Country* and, in his 80s, the novel *Back Stage*. He held a patent for a device for converting a vase into an illuminated lamp. [WWW] *See also* The Connecticut Citizen.

**Cary, Melbert B. Jr.,** (1892-1941), son of Melbert Sr. (*q.v.*), was a celebrated graphic artist and publisher. In 1923, he married Mary Flagler (1901-1967), a wealthy granddaughter of Henry Flagler, a Standard Oil founder and a major early developer of Florida. They acquired an 1,800-acre estate outside Millbrook, N.Y., turning into a vast wildlife refuge called Cannoo Hills which became the Cary Arboretum and the Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies. [WWW]

**Casagmo:** 320-unit condominium community at the north end of Main Street, originally built as apartments in 1968-69 by David L. Paul (*q.v.*) and designed by Lee Harris Pomeroy (*q.v.*); named for 1892 mansion that preceded condos, built by George M. Olcott (*q.v.* and *see also* Olcott Way) and comprised of Italian word “casa” for home, and Olcott’s initials; owned 1960s by Jerry Tuccio (*q.v.*) who obtained the rezoning for apartments at 15 units per acre, then sold to Paul; property was in 18th and 19th Centuries the Stebbins farm (*see* Benjamin Stebbins) and site of part of Battle of Ridgefield (*q.v.*); mansion torn down February 1968.

**Casagrande, Aldo,** (1884-1953), was an accomplished musician who played trumpet; worked for Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill in Georgetown. He was one of first Italian-American members of Oreneca Band (*q.v.*), 1904, and was an organizer of the Ridgefield Boys’ Band (*q.v.*), 1926 into the 1930s. [Impact, Ables]

**Casagrande, Lt. Col. Jeo,** (1921-1996), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1939, was a navigator aboard a B-17 in WW2 when it was shot down over Germany. He was captured and a POW



from January 1944 till the war's end. Continued to serve in the new U.S. Air Force after the war and was one of the first to pilot the new B-36 bombers. He retired in 1962 as a lieutenant colonel in the Strategic Air Command and became a stockbroker in Riverside, CA. [WWW]

**Casagrande, Katherine Finch "Cookie"**, (1924-2010), daughter of Harold Finch (q.v.), RHS 1942, was a longtime and popular employee of Squash's News Store and worked in the school cafeterias for many years. She was married to **Peter Paul Casagrande** (1916-2004), who also worked at Squash's.

**Casa-More**: Country store established April 1940 by Gene Casagrande and John Moore on West Lane between Olmstead Lane and Silver Spring Road; later known as West Lane Pizza & Deli, it is the last neighborhood food store in Ridgefield; the store has existed since ca. 1920, owned by Howard Thomas, then by Carl Gustafson, then by Paul Davis; in 1986, Joe Hahn, formerly of Galloway's Restaurant, bought the business and changed the name to West Lane Market and Spirits. [JFS; DD142]

**Casa-Torch Lane**: A dead-end road off upper Branchville Road, named for John Casavecchia and for Donald and Gina Torcellini, who bought and subdivided the property into five lots around 1953; "Torch" or "Torchy" are nicknames applied to some members of Torcellini family. [RN]

**Casey, Michael D.** (1944-2008), son of William H. and Valerie Casey (q.v.), was a decorated Vietnam veteran of the Green Berets; joined Casey Fuel 1972 and later owned the company; member, Police Commission.[P11/3/2008]

**Casey, Valerie Dyer** (1918-2005), a former fashion model, was active in community and served as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, 1972-80. She founded the Friendly Visitor Program for Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association and was a president of the Caudatowa Garden Club; wife of William Casey (q.v.) [P2/10/2005]

**Casey, William E.**, (1839-1908), was a Ramapoo Road farmer for whom Casey Lane (q.v.) is named.

**Casey, William Henry**, (1917-2002), moved to Ridgefield, 1948; founded Casey Fuel, now Casey Energy, in 1949; added real estate to business, 1961; served on Board of Finance; led Republican Town Committee; wife, Valerie (q.v.); residence is old Gilbert House (q.v.), 536 Main Street. For information on their house, see DD113. [P8/2002] [WWW]

**Casey Energy**: Fuel oil and propane business founded as Casey Fuel in 1949 by William H. Casey (q.v.); changed name around 2010 to reflect the addition of propane delivery service. headquarters at 536 Main Street and depot on Bailey Avenue; later run by son Michael D. Casey (q.v.), and grandson, Shane Casey. [JFS]

**Casey Lane**: runs off Ramapoo Road; named for William E. Casey family who lived at the corner of the two roads; in 1860, Thomas W. Casey of North Salem, N.Y., a shoemaker, bought property on what is now Rippowam Road. Eleven years later, his son, William E. Casey (1839-1908), also began buying land here, but it was not until 1878 that he acquired the little house on Ramapoo Road; he was a farmer, and the road probably led to his fields; house is one of the few genuine saltboxes – with long-sloping rear roof – left in town. [JFS]

**Casino:** 1. A portion of the Ridgefield Club clubhouse on West Lane, site now of Congregational Church's Lund Hall; was used for community events, even dog shows, in the early 1900s [P9/12/1901]. It burned in 1978; also called at times the Playhouse because in the late 1930s, summer stock companies performed there. 2. A building on the Nutholme/Westmoreland estate that was also used for many Ridgefield Garden Club events in the first half of the 20th Century. It included an outdoor "ballroom" for dancing. The casino stood where the Westmoreland Community Association recreation area is today, and was razed in the 1990s.

**Cass Gilbert Memorial:** Brick building at 152 Main Street built 1937 as a library for the architect's papers; designed by his son, Cass Gilbert Jr. (*q.v.*); dedicated Oct. 1937, with Gov. Wilbur L. Cross, speaker [P10/7/1937]; proved too small and was sold as a residence, eventually becoming home and dental office of Dr. Robert Mead (*q.v.*); in 2016, Keeler Tavern Museum purchased the building and 1.1 acre to use as its offices.

**Cass Gilbert Fountain:** Monument was erected in 1916 as a gift from Gilbert (*q.v.*), architect of U.S. Supreme Court building, Woolworth building *et al.*, who lived in what is now Keeler Tavern Museum; base probably designed to serve both as a decoration and as a watering trough for horses; frequently hit by cars; major damage done 1981 by hit-and-run driver; on June 9, 2003, it was hit by a Hummer, driven by a drunken driver, which did extensive damage requiring a year to repair. State highway officials have long wanted it removed and the intersection refashioned, but balked because of local resistance. Police cite the intersection as among the most accident-prone in town. [RN]

**Cassavechia, Dora Conti**, (1922-2003), was town clerk for eight terms, 1980-1995; previously had been assistant town clerk.

**Cassidy, David**, (1950-2017), actor and singer, lived at 43 Olmstead Lane from 1995 to 1998; was star of 1970s TV series, *The Partridge Family*; nominated for an Emmy for a part in the TV series *Police Story*; frequently performed at Las Vegas. [WWW]

**Cats:** for largest, *see* Spice. *Also see* Wild Cat Lot. For a cat-loving author, *see* Winifred Carriere.

**Catch, The:** Restaurant on Route 7 just south of Route 35; successor to King Neptune (*q.v.*). *See* Arthur Michaelson.

**Catholic Church** erected a church building on Catoonah Street in 1879 under the guidance of Father Martin Lawlor of Danbury before there was a settled pastor; it was dedicated Oct. 5, 1879. A 1868 fire destroyed a small building on Catoonah Street that had been used as a church (*see* Fires). *See also* St. Mary Church, St. Elizabeth Seton Church.

**Catoonah:** Indian sachem, sagamore, or leader who sold settlers the first and largest of eight tracts that made up Ridgefield; "I Catoonah sachem of Ramapoo Indians and Associates within her majesties province of New York in America," begins the 1708 deed for an estimated 20,000 acres for 100 pounds; his home-base was in New York where in 1680, he sold 22 Stamford residents a tract called "The Hopp Ground," which became town of Bedford; he sold other parcels in the Bedford-Pound Ridge area around 1701-2; deeds as late as 1743 bear his name; village of Katonah within the township of Bedford is named for him; believed that he was the grandson or great-grandson of Ponus, powerful chief who sold Stamford to its settlers; one legend says he died of grief after wife, Cantitoe, a/k/a

Mustato, and son, Papiag, were killed by lightning; his grave is said to be in Katonah's Woods in the triangle formed by Beaver Dam, Cantitoe, and Girdle Ridge Roads in Bedford [Jay Harris in God's Country]; Bedini says he was buried on a farm beneath two boulders; name also spelled Catona or Katonah. *See also* Camp Catoonah. [JFS]

**Catoonah Basket Ball Club:** *See* Katoonah Basket Ball Club.

**Catoonah Hall:** A large building on Catoonah Street, about opposite today's firehouse, with commercial use on first floor and a large hall on second floor that was named for the Indian chief Catoonah (*q.v.*); around 1859, Catoonah Building Association issued capital stock; one share equaled \$100; leaders were Russell B. Perry, president, and Hiram K. Scott (*q.v.*), treasurer; hall dedicated Sept. 29, 1859. Rockwell candlestick factory was there; A political rally was held in the hall over the shop one evening in September 1868 and that night the building burned, and with it the old Catholic church," which stood next to it (*see* Fires). Thus, Catoonah Hall was opposite the firehouse (which, unfortunately for Catoonah Hall, did not exist then). [JFS]

**Catoonah Street:** 1. Roadway from Main Street to High Ridge was laid out in 1721 and was known by the 1740's as Burt's Lane (*q.v.*); Clark's map in 1856 labels it New West Lane, an extension of the name that was being applied to Barry Avenue; by the 1860's, however, deeds and maps were calling it Catoonah Street, a name probably acquired from the fact that Catoonah Hall was located there; hall was named for the Indian chief Catoonah (*q.v.*); road is an unmarked state highway, Route 822 (*q.v.*); intersection with Main Street was a triangle until early 20th Century; [RN] *see also* story in [P10/1/1981] 2. Restaurant at 23½ Catoonah Street in 1980 advertised itself as "Ridgefield's only dinner club" since it offered live music. Did not last long. [RN]

**Cattle Pen Lane:** A 1,300-foot dead-end road off lower Nod Road, serving the 1983 "Nod Hollow" subdivision of nine lots; Yale alumnus Walter H. Cook had bequeathed it to the university upon his death in 1978; Yale sold to the developers, John J. Murren and Robert J. Kane; when Murren sought name for road, Sanders suggested something to do with Yale — such as Yale Lane — rejected with explanation, "I went to UConn. We always hated Yale"; he chose the name for an old stone-walled livestock enclosure alongside the road; became a town road in 1985. [RN]

**Caudatowa:** (1) Supposedly a native Indians' name for Ridgefield that various authorities translate as "high ground." However, it does not appear in early deeds and grants, but is mentioned in Teller, 1878. Bolton's *History of Westchester County* (1881) repeatedly mentions the word as "Candatowa" as do other authorities, including Huden, who said Candatowa is "a greatly modified" version of the Paugusset word for "great mountain." Candoto (*q.v.*), a word said to apply to High Ridge, may be another form. (2) Name given to the mansion of A. Newbold Morris and MacDouglal Hawkes, no longer standing, at 23 High Ridge early in the 1900s. [DD195] [RN]

**Caudatowa Drive:** A short road between Blue Ridge and Rock Roads, part of the Eight Lakes development (*q.v.*); town road in 1961. *See* Caudatowa. [RN]

**Caudatowan:** Name of the Ridgefield High School yearbook, first used in 1946; before that, had been called Collis Summus (*q.v.*); title reflects the fact that school was located on a hill overlooking the village.

**Cavalry Place:** Dead-end road is situated off Armand Road, part of a 53-acre, 18-lot subdivision by Termont Development Company; 1979 development includes Armand Road, off which Cavalry Place runs; name “Cavalry Court” was suggested by Sanders to recall a French cavalry unit stationed in nearby barracks during the Revolutionary War (*see* Col. Charles Armand) but name was tongue-twister for some and Cavalry Place used instead; “Cavalry” itself is tricky, often confused with “Calvary,” place where Jesus Christ was crucified; town road in 1985. [RN]

**Cave, The:** In 1730, Proprietors granted Lt. Benjamin Benedict 60 acres lying “west of ye Cave”; may be what later became known as Sarah Bishop’s Cave (*see* Sarah Bishop) on West Mountain in adjacent North Salem, N.Y. – then part of Ridgefield – or it may have been a cave in a hill off southern Ned’s Mountain Road. *See also* Bear’s Den, Joe’s Cave

**Cavett, Dick.** (1936-). is a well-known comedian and TV talk show host who, with his wife, author and management consultant Martha Rogers, bought the Sunset Hall (*q.v.*) on Old West Mountain Road in July 2017. [JFS]

**Cedar Lane:** Old road between South Salem Road and West Lane; shown on Clark, 1856, and Beers, 1867; name used as early as 1912 when it appears on the Whitlock; Venus said many cedars once grew in this neighborhood; cedars often appear in fields that are left unmown, but are usually eventually crowded or shaded out by the faster-growing and taller deciduous trees, such as maples.

**Cedar Mountain:** 18th Century name for tall, rocky ridge between today’s Route 7 and Florida Road, first cited as “West Cedar Mountain” in an 1709 General Assembly’s grant of first purchase of Indian land; up to 630 feet above sea level; West Cedar Mountain may have been a name first applied by Fairfield residents, whose border (now Redding) was nearby; Ridgefield settlers soon began dropping the “west” and calling it Cedar Mountain or Mountains by the 1720’s; 1970 US Geological Survey map uses “Cedar Mountain” as the official name.

**Cedar Mountain Road:** Apparently the original name for today’s Florida Road; a subdivision of common land in 1745 mentions 29 acres “lying west of ye Cedar Mountain Road.” *See* Florida Road.

**Cella’s Restaurant** was a turn of the 21st Century establishment at 37 Ethan Allen Highway (Route 7). *See also* Luigi’s, Cooper Tavern.

**Cell towers** and antennas, large and small, are located throughout town, sometimes hidden and a few atop utility poles along power lines. The tallest is probably the monopole at the Ridgefield Police station, erected in the mid-1980s with a height of 130 feet. The 2016 tower off Old Stagecoach Road on Ridgebury Mountain is about the same height. A cell antenna was once located within the spire of Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church, but was eventually removed.

**Celli, Joseph,** (1944-), is a musician and composer who taught at Ridgefield High School, was chairman of the music department, and led the band 1971-75. He developed the marching band and various instrumental music programs. He and wife Jeanann lived on Turner Road. In 2020 Celli, who lives in Connecticut, was both a performer and composer specializing in contemporary and improvised music for oboe and English horn. He has produced many recordings of his work.

**Cemeteries:** Ridgefield has around 20 known cemeteries, some owned by the town and some by private individuals or organizations. Others have no known owners and at least two have vanished. The cemeteries are: Beers, Branchville, (Ye) Burying Yard, Davis, Fairlawn, Gamaliel Smith, Hurlbutt, Lounsbury-Rockwell, Maple Shade, New Florida, Old Florida, Revolutionary Burial Ground, Ridgebury, St. Mary's, Scott's, Selleck, Seymour, Smith, Titicus, (*q.v. each for details*). Columbariums (*q.v.*) are also located at St. Stephen's Church and First Congregational Church. A complete index of all then-extant stones was completed by the state necrologist in 1937 — *see* "Gravestone Inscriptions, Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut."

**Center School:** From 1882 until 1915, grammar school for village children, located on Bailey Avenue ; was School District 6; building became Alexander Hamilton High School (*q.v.*) in 1915, and Garden School (*q.v.*) in 1926; building razed 1955 to create municipal parking lot.

**Central Garage:** Venus says the Pamby station at Grove Street and Danbury Road was earlier called Central Garage, operated by Louis DeVantry; shown as Central Garage, 1933 phone book; sold Tydol gasoline. Became Tide Water Garage by 1935 when RP mentions "Tidewater" garage selling Plymouths; business established 1920s by Gus Constantini, says Venus; sold to DeVantry; Pamby Motors bought Central Garage in 1952; earlier on Main Street where Brunetti's was?

**Century 21:** Real estate group that had its Ridgefield office at 398 Main Street (ground floor of Masonic Hall) at least through 2005; led by John Frey and Jack Baldaserini; in 2018, it is Coldwell Banker real estate.

**CGS Laboratories,** which made radio communications equipment, had a facility in what is now Stonehouse Common (*q.v.*). It became TRAK and after moving to Wilton, Wiltek. [RPC10]

**Chamber of Commerce:** *See* Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce.

**Chamberlain, Rev. Parmelee,** was the first pastor, 1836-37, of what is today Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church (*q.v.*).

**Chambers Army & Navy Store,** a clothing store at 38 Danbury Road selling mostly new products (despite its name), was opened by Steve Chambers in the winter of 1980 in the former Gasland gas station. It's often misspelled Chamber's. The store closed in 2005; after a long empty period, the space became in 2013 Bareburger, a restaurant. [JFS]

**Chambliss, Prince Caesar,** a native and then resident of Birmingham, Ala., is a 1966 graduate of Ridgefield High School, which he attended for two years on a special program. He went on to Wesleyan University, University of Alabama, and graduated from Harvard Law School. He became a leading lawyer in Memphis, Tenn., the first African-American partner in a law firm in Tennessee (1981), the first African-American president of the Memphis Bar Association (1996), and the first African-American president of the Tennessee Board of Law Examiners (2003). He wrote an autobiography, *Prince of Peace*, in 2010. [JFS]

**Chambliss, Samuel,** (1929-2014), was an attorney specializing in environmental law who wrote the first draft of Connecticut's Inland Wetlands Act which to this day governs use of wetlands. He practiced here in the 1970s and 80s, but moved in 1987 to an 18,500 acre ranch on the savanna of Zimbabwe where he and his wife, Janet, were involved in helping

endangered black rhinos. They and two neighbors received a 60,000-acre preserve for wildlife. In 2003 the government confiscated the Chambliss ranch and the Chamblisses fled the country, almost penniless, settling in South Africa, in 2005 and returning to the States in 2012. [WWW]

**Chancellor Park:** Original name of assisted living facility at 640 Danbury Road, later called Great Pond Crossing; in 2003, became Ridgefield Crossings (*q.v.*) when Benchmark Assisted Living purchases the place.

**Chapin, Henry Edward** (1905-1962), was president of Outpost Supply. He is buried in St. Mary Cemetery. [P11/15/1962]

**Chapman, Benjamin,** of Salem bought the Mamasco grist mill (*q.v.*) in 1779 after Proprietors had confiscated it from heirs of Seaborn Burt (*q.v.*).

**Charles Pope Choristers:** Choral group, started in New York and later based in Ridgefield; *see* Pope, Charles.

**Charlie Peanuts:** Nickname for Charles Stannard, a local chauffeur who also was a peanut and popcorn vendor at baseball games and movies. early in the 20th Century.

**Charter Oak Court:** Dead-end road off Limestone Road, serving 19.5-acre 1975 subdivision of Dennis and Linda Moore; one of the earliest of the “Planned Residential Developments” (*q.v.*); seven lots created at about one acre each in a two-acre zone, and 9.3 acres along the Norwalk River declared open space; name selected by Town Planner Oswald Inglese (*q.v.*), to recall Connecticut’s most famous tree, which once stood in Hartford in whose trunk colony officials hid the state’s charter to prevent English Gov. Edmond Andros from seizing it and control of the colony in 1687; earlier plan for the property called the road Riverview Road, which appears on some maps. [RN]

**Chase Bank** opened at 108 Danbury Road (*see* HSBC) in 2021. It had been located for many years at 92-98 Grove Street, opening in the 1990s. The bank has ancient Ridgefield connections: *See* Alonzo Barton Hepburn *and* Albert H. Wiggin.

**Chast, Roz,** New Yorker cartoonist and author of several books, has lived on New Street with her writer husband, William E. Franzen (*q.v.*), since 1990. [NR]

**Chauffeurs’ Ball:** An annual dance, held in the town hall, sponsored by the organization that the town’s chauffeurs belonged to. They were happening at least by 1912, for which a dated photograph exists, and continued until World War II. The ball was opened to the public and attendees included some of the wealthy people who employed the chauffeurs. [DD14, DD73, DD355]

**Chauncey, Mary Jane Potter,** (1847-1936), a native of Schenectady, NY, was prominent in NYC society, head of the Van Cortlandt Manor commission, aided babies’ ward of a hospital. A daughter of Right Rev. Horatio Potter, Episcopal Bishop of NY, she lived late in life with her daughter, Mrs. Seth Low Pierrepont (*q.v.*) at Twixthills.

**Chautauqua** was a non-profit organization from Pennsylvania that sponsored traveling, 5-day programs of entertainment and instruction — plays, concerts, lectures as a sort of “people’s university” — mostly under a tent. Ridgefield’s first program was Oct. 23, 1886 when only a few people showed up [P10/28/1886]. After a hiatus, it returned 1917, continuing annually until 1928 when poor attendance and lack of financial support ended it. [RPJ, DD117]

**Chawla's of Ridgefield**, clothing store for boys and young men, opens Nov. 21, 1981 at 440 Main Street; takes over from Allans' Mens Store (*q.v.*) [P11/12/1981]

**Chayes, Herbert**, (1915-1983), a NYC native, was president of Chayes Dental Laboratories in Danbury, which were pioneers in developing modern dental equipment, and later held executive positions with Technicare, Demetron Research. He was a decorated Navy veteran of WW2, an OSS and CIA employee, a Rotary member, and lived on Grand View Drive. [P8/4/1983]

**C.H.D.:** Found along the state highways (*see* Roads, state), these stones mark the edge of the state-owned right-of-way along each side of the road. C.H.D. stands for Connecticut Highway Department, the name of the agency when they were installed, mostly in the 1930s.

**Cheers:** Liquor store at 393 Main Street, opened by Michael and Kathy Evans September 2015 after buying Liberta's Spirit Shop; closed Dec. 31, 2018 [P12/30/2018]

**Cheesman, Dr. Timothy Matlack**, (1824-1888), son of a physician, was a New York City physician who, in 1887, built the stone house, Matlack, on Prospect Ridge; his wife continued to lived there until her death, 1903; Served as Surgeon in the 7th Regiment NY National Guard in 1853. Mustered into US service April 1861. Surgeon with rank of Colonel on the Staff First Division of the New York National Guard in the Civil War and until 1874. MD Degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City 1859. Married Maria Louisa Smith on 8 Jun 1848. Painting of him is owned by the Museum of the City of New York. His son, Timothy Matlack Cheesman Jr., also became physician; In 1922, the house became Holy Ghost Novitiate (*q.v.*); purchased by town in 1971, used as school administration offices; in 1991, became congregate housing. Surname is often misspelled.

**Chef Scala:** Restaurant on south corner of Main and Catoonah Streets operated by John Scala, former chef at Outpost Inn, in late 1940s until 1951 when he bought The Elms Inn (*q.v.*)

**Chekhov, Mikhail Alexandrovich "Michael"** (1891-1955), nephew of playwright Anton Chekhov, was native of Russia where, by 21, he was a noted actor; by 1923, a director at the Moscow Art Theatre, but his innovative methods led Communists to label him "alien and reactionary"; he moved to Germany and then England, establishing a well-respected method of training actors at a school there; in 1939, as war broke out, moved his Chekhov Theatre Studio from England to former Ridgefield School (*q.v.*) at north end of Lake Mamasasco; made his first appearance in an English-speaking role in public in a Russian War Relief dramatic program on old Ridgefield High School stage (now the Ridgefield Playhouse); ca. 1941 moved to Hollywood where he taught and acted in films – his role of the psychoanalyst in Alfred Hitchcock's *Spellbound* earned Academy Award nomination; among his students were Marilyn Monroe, Jack Palance, Anthony Quinn, Yul Brynner, Gregory Peck, and Akim Tamiroff; school lives on today as the Chekhov Theatre Ensemble in New York City. [WWW]

**Chekhov Drive:** Some maps, including Hagstrom's Atlas of Fairfield County (1966), so label private driveway to old Martin farm/Ridgefield School (*q.v.*) property on North Salem Road; roadway now serves small subdivision; Chekhov Theater Studio (*q.v.*) operated there from 1939-41.

**Chekhov Theater Festival:** Annual celebration of the legacy of Michael Chekhov (*q.v.*) in October in Ridgefield since 2009; stages a variety of plays.

**Chekhov Theater Studio:** Operated 1939-41 in former Ridgefield School at north end of Lake Mamanasco by Michael Chekhov (*q.v.*); moved to California around 1941.

**Chestnut Hill Road:** From Ridgebury Road to the New York State line where it connects with Finch Road in North Salem; existed before 1856, but name does not appear to have been applied until 20th Century — in use by the 1930's; named for American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), common before the chestnut blight of the early 1900's killed all mature trees; most famous resident was Maurice Sendak (*q.v.*), who lived at 400 Chestnut Hill Road.

**Chestnut Hills Estates:** Subdivision of about 40 one-acre lots north of Chestnut Hill Road (*q.v.*) in Ridgebury, developed by Lewis J. Finch, (*q.v.*) beginning ca. 1958; includes Parley Road, Twopence Road, Harding Drive, Finch Drive, Sarah Bishop Road.

**Ches(t)nut Ridge:** (1) In 1710 Town Clerk John Copp drew in town record book a map of the division of "plow lands" into 25 lots for the 25 settling families — two lots were on "Chesnut Ridge"; usually spelled without T in 18th and 19th Centuries; believed to be the vicinity of Ramapoo Road, Overlook Drive and Farm Hill Road; (2) an 1810 deed describes land in Ridgebury "at a place called Chesnut Ridge"; believed to be in area of today's Scodon (*q.v.*) neighborhood.

**Chevrolet** automobiles were sold at George Scott Jr. dealership at 378 Main Street in the 1920s. [DD100]

**Chez Lenard:** Upscale, French-style mobile hot dog stand on Main Street, established summer 1978 by Lenard de Liscinskis (*q.v.*); In 1981, he sold to Michael Soetbeer who, in 1997 sold to Chad and Kirsten Cohen, who sold in 2007 to Michael Principi; celebrities who've eaten there include Paul Newman, Martha Stewart, Barbra Streisand, Diana Ross, Giancarlo Esposito (*q.v.*), and Harvey Fierstein (*q.v.*).

**Chianese, Anthony Peter "Tony",** (1938-2020), a native of Mt. Vernon, N.Y., owned Ridgefield Insurance Agency, 1973-2000, and served on the Police Commission, 1975-79. He was a host of the Buon Giorno American Radio Show on the old WREF and had been chairman of the Republican Town Committee. He moved to Delaware, where he died. [P10-15-2020]

**Chicken's Rock:** Large outcropping at beach at Great Pond (Martin Park), named for the American Indian Chicken Warrups (*q.v.*), said to have enjoyed sitting there to enjoy the view.

**Chief Catoonah Tobacconist:** Store selling tobacco products, including pipes and cigars, opened by Jim Cannatelli in 1976 at Yankee Ridge shopping center; in 1980, moves to rear of 409 Main Street, Hackert and Monti building; later moves to Bailey Avenue.

**Chieftain, The:** Student newspaper at Ridgefield High School in 1950s and 60s; replaced by The Criterion (*q.v.*). *See also* Tiger Paw Press. [RT]

**Children's Corner** child care center at Barlow Elementary School was founded by Nan Howkins (*q.v.*) and operated from 1994 to 2015.

**Chipmunk Lane:** A short dead-end road off Beaver Brook Road in Ridgebury Estates; a rare road named for a rodent (only four other Fairfield County had chipmunk roads by 1985); town road in 1970. [RN]



**Chiropractors:** According to Venus Ridgefield's first chiropractor was Dr. Mary Cooney, who lived over Bissell's Pharmacy. [DD97]

**CHIRP:** Concert Happenings in Ridgefield's Parks is a series of summer concerts, featuring a variety of music genres, mostly Tuesday evenings in Ballard Park, produced by Barbara Manners (*q.v.*); began in 2002.

**Chisolm, Benjamin Ogden** (1865-1944) was a banker and a prisons expert; believed corrections system should rehabilitate; served on NY state and federal prison commissions; produced books and pamphlets on prison reform bearing such titles as *The Man Who Slipped A Cog*, *If It Were Your Boy*, *Man-Power in Prison*, *Making the Prisoner Over*, and *How Shall We Curb Crime*. He lived at Wickopee Farm on Peaceable Street and High Ridge (house no longer standing); called "B.O." by friends; sponsored many movies in town and helped finance the erection of Ridgefield Playhouse in 1940; often misspelled Chisholm (used by some other family members). [WWW]

**Chotzinoff, Samuel**, (pronounced "SHOTzinoff), (1889-1964), a native of Russia, was a pianist who became music director of NBC, who persuaded Arturo Toscanini (*q.v.*) to lead NBC Symphony Orchestra; commissioned Gian Carlo Menotti to write TV's first opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*; both Menotti and Toscanini visited his Spring Valley Road home and Toscanini gave two concerts in Ridgefield; was also a novelist and playwright; founded Chatham Square Music School, now part of The New School. [WWW]

**Chrisafis, Peter**, (1896- ), a native of Greece, operated The Fairfield Lunch (*q.v.*) on Main Street in the 1920s with partner John Papageorge. Chrisafis was a well-known wrestler in the region, and matches often took place in the Town Hall. May have been the first Greek family to move to town. [DD74]

**Christ the King Church:** See Society of St. Pius X.

**Christmas trees:** See Rockefeller Center Christmas trees.

**Christopher Road:** A short, dead-end road off Tackora Trail, named in 1959 for Christopher Franks, son of James Franks, the developer; nearby Lisa Lane named for his daughter.[RN]

**Cider mills:** Cider making, a Connecticut and New England tradition in late summer and early autumn, was an important task. The fruit was crushed in a certain way so that the meat was deliberately bruised, often at a cider mill. Bruising and then exposing the crushed apples to sunlight, or at least the air, for the proper amount of time turned the pomace – or apple cheese – a brown color, a change that added a great deal of sugar and richness to the juice. The cheese was then layered on rye straw or on cloth, and squeezed in a wooden press. A cider mill used water power to operate the bruising machinery. Squeezing the resulting mash for its juice was done with hand-powered screw presses. The liquid was then allowed to ferment in barrels. By 1850, a half dozen cider mills were operating here. Of the half dozen 19th Century cider mills in town, perhaps the largest and last to operate was Goeppler's mill (*q.v.*) at 80 Topstone Road, which made both cider and vinegar. Others were located on Saw Mill Hill Road at Titicus (*see* Aaron B. Gilbert), on the Kiah's Brook, on the Titicus River on lower Ridgebury Road. One on lower Ridgebury Road near Regan, operated by 1796 — several were in operation even earlier. Note that cider then was not the "juice" we today call cider, but an alcoholic beverage, often with quite a "kick" to it.

Cider mills could be dangerous; 3-year-old Betty St. John of Ridgebury was “killed by a cider mill wheel” in 1798 — *see* Samuel St. John. [JFS]

**Cinema**, also called Cinema Ridgefield and Ridgefield Cinema, opened at Copps Hill Plaza (q.v.) around 1973 and lasted until 1990.

**Cingolani, Dino Vincent “Ching,”** (1927-2004), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1945, was among the best baseball players from Ridgefield where he was a top pitcher and hitter, batting .485. On April 26, 1944, when the right-hander hurled the no-hitter against Wooster School, he still lost, 3-2. He faced 23 men in six innings; six reached first — five on walks and one on a fielding error. But RHS committed errors with walked Wooster players on base, allowing three to score. As a pitcher he was wooed by several major league teams, played in the minors for a few years. He settled in Norwalk where he and his wife were major promoters of fishing and the Norwalk Islands. [WWW]

**Circle, The:** A traffic circle, similar to a roundabout, at the intersection of Routes 7 and 35, used from about 1940 until 1984, when converted to a T intersection employing traffic lights. *See also* Carroll’s Folly.

**Circle F Ranch:** A dude ranch operated in 1942 and 1943 at the former Downesbury Manor (q.v.) on Florida Hill Road.

**Circle Luncheonette** : operated on Route 7 just south of Route 35 intersection, by Alice Harding Finch, who also had the Green Doors Motel nearby.

**Circuses:** Circuses visited Ridgefield through much of the 19th Century and into the 1980s in the 20th Century. Ones that focused on exotic animals were called menageries; the world-famous Van Amburgh’s Menagerie brought Hannibal, the largest elephant in the U.S. to Ridgefield Nov. 1, 1861. Twentieth Century circuses that visited here included Hunt Brothers and Sells Floto. They usually set up on empty lots or even parking lots in and around the center of town. Several Ridgefield people were circus founders or executives — *see* Aaron Turner, Lewis June. [DAR, DD117]

**City National Bank of Connecticut:** Opened a branch at new Copps Hill Plaza Dec. 9, 1972.

**Ciuccoli TV:** Longtime business that, in 1980-83, was at 113 Danbury Road, Copps Hill Common; sales and service; sold Zenith and Sony; founded and operated by Nello J. Ciuccoli; ad in 1980 said “in 24th year” [P12/11/1980, 8/18/1983].

**Civil War:** At least 209 men and women who had lived in Ridgefield before or after the war served in the Civil War. [RIR] Ridgefield contributed to the war effort by offering \$200 bounties or bonuses for enlisting in August 1862, twice what the federal government was offering. The local bounties were increased to \$300 the next year. At least 25 men who enlisted from Ridgefield died in or because of the war: William Arvent, Ernest Bahring, Samuel Baxter, Daniel B. Bradley, Charles I. Burt, Lawrence Carney, Albert N. Davis, Ezra Lee Edmond, John G. Fry, Selah Gage, George Gilbert, Sylvester Godfrey, Frederick A. Grumman, John H. Harrington, John W. Hoyt, William Jemmison, Henry Keeler (q.v.), Thomas Payne, Edwin D. Pickett (q.v.), John Scot, Francis E. Seymour, Frederick L. Sturges, John Ward, Rufus Warren, and Joseph S. Whitlock. [Rockwell] *See also* under Samuel Coe, Aaron W. Lee, John Rowley.

**Clague-Davies, Susan:** *See* Susan Davies.

**Clams:** Masses of clam shells are often found in the ground in Ridgefield. Most were probably dug on the shore of Long Island, a popular activity in 18th and 19th Century Ridgefield. Some may indicate the location of an American Indian village. [DJN]

**Clark, Alexandra Grinnell,** is a professional portrait artist who lived at 342 Farmingville Road in the 1980s.

**Clark, Martin,** along with James Gilbert, acquired from Keeler St. John, 1½ acres and buildings plus a “shingle mill,” in 1848 [RLR 19/21].

**Clark, Tom,** (1904-2002), a Ridgefield native, was a popular resident and longtime grocer, who joined First National Market here in 1932 and became its manager, retiring in 1959; then worked at Wayside Market (*q.v.*) for 15 years. He was an expert bowler. [WWW]

**Clark’s Map of Fairfield County:** The earliest detailed map of Ridgefield shows the name of the owner of virtually every building in town in 1856; includes close-up map of Main Street; large format designed to be hung on a wall; copies are owned by Ridgefield Library, town clerk’s office (damaged); detailed electronic versions readily available free on the internet for viewing or downloading. The map was created by Richard P. Clark of Philadelphia, who visited Ridgefield in December of 1856 to promote the new map’s sale.

**Clarke, George B.,** (1861-1934), a NYC native and son of a furniture factory owner, worked in furniture sales for Lord and Taylor in NYC, retiring in 1909 to open a furniture store on Main Street. He sold it to Raymond H. Krotz ca. 1929, and then had an antiques shop on Danbury Road. He was a member of the Board of Assessors and a director of the Ridgefield Savings Bank. [RSB27]

**Class pranks:** Senior classes at Ridgefield High School often celebrated graduation with a prank; among the best known: *1978:* Naked male student rode through school on a motorcycle (some say this was just a prank not a true “class prank”); *1979:* Stacking 79 tires on RHS’s flagpole (generally agreed to be the best of all of them); *1980:* Hanging 80 chairs from goal posts; *1981:* Gluing 81 brassieres on the flagpole; also a life-size statue of a cow from Danbury Fair placed in an interior courtyard; *1982:* Many — probably 82 — real estate “for sale” signs, taken from around town, were posted on the school grounds; *1983:* Huge Paul Bunyan head from Danbury Fair placed in the north parking lot, but police, who had staked out the school, caught pranksters in the act. 83 frogs were let loose in the cafeteria; *1984:* A VW Beetle (without motor) was placed in an interior courtyard; *1985:* Students camped out in the inner courtyard where they had placed a port-o-potty on which they painted “The House That Bernie Built,” referring to the name of the principal, Bernadette Marczely. A junk car was deposited outside the school; *1986:* Stringing a 30-foot banner across North Salem Road, saying “86 We’re Young, We’re Wild, We’re Free.” Also, someone put a layer of grease on hallways on the second floor of the high school. Dead fish were found on the floor and in various file cabinets. Putty or glue was placed in the locks of some school doors; *1987:* Cafeteria windows were painted black. During graduation the band performed “I Sing the Body Electric” from “Fame,” and then “Louie Louie” to which all the graduates stood up and danced; *1988:* Senior Lounge was turned into a beach, complete with sand and volleyball net; also a plan to release 88 mice in the administrative office failed when, the night before the event, the mice were left in the trunk of a car and all died; *1989:* 89 pumpkins were rolled into the smoking lounge; a Town

Spirit Shop sign was mounted in the cafeteria. “Class of 89” was fertilized into the upper field (now part of the Student Center) so grass was extra green for weeks (still legible at least in part for several years); 198?: Three chickens were let loose in the school, each bearing a number, 1, 2 or 4, so that after they were caught, school staff continued searching for #3 — which didn’t exist; 1991: A large number of crickets were released in the library; 1993: 10,000 ladybugs released in the cafeteria during lunch; also, students put a goat, rabbits and chickens in the interior courtyard along with a banner in the shape of a joint, reading “flying high with the class of 93.” Locks to the courtyard were glued; 1996?: Students dumped a huge load of manure at the front entrance with a sign that said “we’ve taken your sh\*t for 4 years, now here’s some of ours”; 1999: Chickens’ feathers were dyed green — the class color for the seniors. Many students set off a bunch of alarm clocks in lockers at a set time; 2001: Most of the class rode bicycles to school on Route 116, taking up one whole lane and severely backing up traffic. Some rode right into the school; 2005: A letter on the school letterhead was sent to each senior family, saying that due to low grades the senior was not going to graduate in June; 2009: The class rode scooters to school along North Salem Road.

**Clattercote Farm:** Name of country home of Mr. & Mrs. Bradford Boardman and family, 1916. The estate was on the north side of West Mountain Road straddling the NY line, and touched on South Pond in Lewisboro, though the house was in Ridgefield. Clattercote is a hamlet in Oxfordshire, England. [SR1916]

**Clayholes, The:** Area around the northern corner of Main and Gilbert Streets was in the 1800s was so called, says Rockwell. Clay dug from this then-swampy area was possibly for use as a mortar in such places as stone foundations and chimney stacks. The resulting “holes” would fill with water and freeze over in winter, making good skating ice. Bedini says the holes were filled in during the 1860’s. The site is across Main Street from one of the campsites of the area’s Indians, who may have used the clay here for making pottery. [RN]

**Clayton Place:** 1,000-foot-long, dead-end road off Barlow Mountain Road, along north side of Pierrepont Pond (*q.v.*); named for Reed Clayton Shields (1956-1995), son of Attorney and Mrs. Reed F. Shields (*q.v.*), who was representing Jerry Tuccio (*q.v.*), the developer of Twixt Hills (*q.v.*); accepted by town in 1964. [RN]

**Clearview Drive, Terrace:** Private roads at the Ridgefield Lakes (*q.v.*), presumably with a good view. [RN]

**Cleves, Mabel E.,** (1867-1952), Montessori-educated kindergarten teacher, came here in 1898 and brought town’s preschool and primary education into 20th Century; in 1901, led founding of Mothers Club, which became PTA; retired 1938; was popular storyteller at library; remembered in Cleves Auditorium (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Cleves Auditorium:** In Veterans Park School, named for a popular educator, Mabel E. Cleves (*q.v.*), holds about 450 people.

**Cliffs, The:** (1) New England Magazine, Oct. 1895, says this is another name for Aspen Ledges (*q.v.*); (2) Informal name for giant rock outcropping near northeast end of Lake Mamanasco (*q.v.*), popular with teenage jumpers and divers.

**Clock, Gilbert:** A large, old grandfather's clock near the selectmen's office on the town hall second floor was a gift from Victor Gilbert (*q.v.*) of Stonehenge Inn when he moved to the Virgin Islands in 1963. [DD87]

**Clock, Town:** *See* Town Clock.

**Clothes District, The:** Women's clothing store at 409 Main Street; closed in January 1981 [P1/29/1981]

**Clover Mill:** Probably the town's first clover mill was built by Eleazer Beers (*q.v.*) on what is now Route 7 north of Branchville, using the waters of — and a pond he created on — the Norwalk River. Bradley Beers, his son, sold this mill for \$980 to Willis Edmonds and Lewis H. Mead in 1856. There was also a plaster mill involved. [RLR21/50] Clover mills crushed the old clover flower heads to obtain and clean the seeds to make available for planting; clover was a major hay crop.

**Coach House:** A stone and wood outbuilding from the old Hawk estate, converted into a house at 80 Branchville Road that has been home to a number of leaders in the arts, including Marthe Krueger (1942-1951), tap dancer Paul Draper (1949-50 lease), Chinese art collector Abel Bahr (1951-59) (*q.v. each*) actor Don McKay, also called the "Old Coach House."

**Coal dealers** in the late 19th, early 20th Centuries included: Ridgefield Lumber (Supply) Company, James F. Kennedy Company, Samuel S. Denton Company, Ernest Scott Company, B.E. Sperry Company [DD39]. The price of coal in Ridgefield in 1912 was \$8.25 a ton [SA11/12/1912]

**Coal mine:** Existed in the ledges along southern Ridgebury Road; in an 1850 document in land records, William Barhite leased to Cedar Mining Company, headed by David Hurlbutt, the right to do "examinations for coal and other minerals and metals" for 99 years on six acres, "it being a cedar hill or mountain," placing it near the intersection of Ridgebury and Mopus Bridge Roads; 1860 description of boundaries for the South Ridgebury School District says southern line went by "the coal mine at the foot of Ridgebury Mountain," so Hurlbutt apparently was successful in mining coal. NY Journal of Commerce reports 10/2/1847: "A bed of coal has been discovered in the town of Ridgefield...Measures are in progress for working it. A gentleman of experience has contracted with the proprietor of the land for the privilege, and is now in pursuit of the proper hands and means for commencing operations."

**Cobbler's Lane:** short road off South Salem Road, serves seven lots, developed in 1963 as Cobbler's Knoll by John W. Huffer and Paul G. Widman on land belonging then to Mr. and Mrs. Ward W. Green; town road in 1964: a cobbler — someone who repairs shoes — had probably once owned the property. [RN]

**Cobelle, Charles,** (1902-1994), an impressionist artist and native of Germany, painted lively French scenes in America. An architect by training, he studied art in France with Marc Chagall and Raul Dufy and his work is filled with Parisian street scenes.. His murals can be found throughout the United States at such places as the Henry Ford Museum, and the offices of Holland American Lines, Neiman Marcus, Gimbels, and Bloomingdale's. In Ridgefield, his murals can be found at Bernard's Inn at Ridgefield and at Boehringer Ingelheim's headquarters. He lived on Seth Low Mountain Road for 32 years and died at 92. [WWW]

**Coca, Imogene**, (1908-2001), was an early TV celebrity and comedienne who starred with Sid Caesar on *Your Show of Shows* and later *The Imogene Show*. She also appeared on Broadway from childhood till late in life, and in movies, and won 3 Emmys. She lived on Silver Spring Lane, especially summers starting in 1953. She was probably introduced to the town by Debbie Rosenberg, her agent and a longtime Ridgefielder. She died in Westport. [WWW]

**Coe, Samuel Augustus**, (1844-1936), a native of North Salem, was a Ridgebury farmer who lost an arm during the Petersburg campaign in the Civil War. He came to Ridgefield in 1886 and was a Republican selectman many years and state representative, 1911-13. Sometimes called “Mayor of Ridgebury,” he owned what became Arigideen Farm (*q.v.*) or Double H Farm (*q.v.*) on Old Stagecoach and Ridgebury Roads. [WWW]

**Cogswell, Staff Sgt. Charles Gardiner**, (1923-1944), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1941, joined the Army in 1942 and flew 43 combat missions as a B-17 waist gunner; was eligible to come home but instead volunteered for more flights; soon after, his plane was shot down in the Adriatic Sea. His remains were never found. His picture appeared in *Life* magazine – in the background of a shot showing columnist Westbrook Pegler participating in a scrap drive in front of the town hall. {WWW]

**Cogswell, Roy**, (1947-2005), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1965, was a popular owner-operator of *The Early Bird* (*q.v.*) restaurant for 15 years in the late 20th Century. He had also been the owner-operator of the meat market within the Hay Day Market on Governor Street, a bartender at Galloway’s restaurant, and a deli owner in *Visita*. He was active in the Lions and other community organizations. [P5/26/2005]

**Cohen, Rich**, is a writer whose books include *Sweet and Low*, *Israel Is Real*, *Tough Jews*, and *PeeWees: Confessions of A Hockey Parent* (2021). He also writes for *The New Yorker* and *Harpers*.

**Colby’s**: One of oldest stores in town, marks the 25th anniversary 1980 (P10/9/1980) at 13 Governor Street; sells comforters, blankets, towels, bedspreads, etc.

**Cold Spring**: Appears first in an 1810 deed for land on West Mountain, described as “beginning at a heap of stones on the highway commonly called Cold Spring Lane”; same year, a deed mentions land as being “near the mill pond, so called, at the outlet of Cold Spring.” An 1818 deed mentions property “west of Mamanasco Pond,” including a parcel at Cold Spring; may have been today’s Turtle Pond (*q.v.*) area, before pond was created by dam for Port of Missing Men (*q.v.*); or may have been connected with Round Pond (*q.v.*)

**Cold Spring Lane**: *See* Cold Spring.

**Cold temperatures**: *See* Temperature.

**Coleman, Rev. James**, (1766-1842), was a circuit-riding Methodist preacher who, after marrying Martha DeForest of Ridgefield in 1804, moved to the Scotland District of Ridgefield. At one time his circuit ran through western New England and eastern NY to the Canadian border. He is credited with establishing the first Methodist congregation in Danbury, and in many other communities. He and his wife are buried in Titicus Cemetery. [WWW]

**Coleman's Lunch:** diner on Bailey Avenue behind town hall opened ca. 1915 by Michael Coleman who died ca. 1927; operated briefly by new owners, but razed in 1930; now a parking lot. *See* DD61

**Coles, Charles H. Jr.,** (1922-2003), was president and/or CEO Ridgefield Savings Bank, 1971-87; joined bank 1946 as teller; native of Canada, RHS 1941; served in Army tank corps in Pacific, World War II; noted collector of antique clocks, Ridgefield postcards, and memorabilia; lived on New Street. [WWW]

**Coles, Ichabod,** bought a house and grist mill at Florida Hill Road and Route 7 (then Redding Road) in 1852 from Ephraim Jackson [RLR 4/27-31] and sells it in 1859 to Obadiah Platt [RLR 4/196]. On or about the site of Moongate (*q.v.*).

**Coley, Daniel,** (1729-1800), probably from what is now Redding, moved to Ridgebury in 1754 and served in the militia in 1775 when colonial forces were besieging Boston. He had a son, **Ezra**, who died in 1776 while “on his way home” from service in the army. [JW]

**Colin, Justin Stanford,** (1924- 2012), who owned Dunrovin (*q.v.*) mansion when it burned down in 1977, was a general partner, Lazard Freres, and senior partner, Colin, Hochstin Co., a brokerage firm he co-founded in 1971. A veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps 1943-46, he graduated from Harvard College in 1949, and Yale Law School in 1952, and worked for a while with the U.S. Department of Justice. He was chairman of the Board of the American Ballet Theater, 1974-78. He was married to Mary Lee Potter Colin.

**College:** *See* Education.

**Collins, Judy,** (1939-), the folksinger, had a home at 210 Mountain Road at the Ridgefield Lakes with husband, designer Louis Nelson, in the late 1900s and early 2000s.

**Collins, Francis** (1879-1980) owned the Ridgefield Water Supply Company in the mid-20th Century and lived in the former Benedict farmhouse on Whipstick Road. [DD157]

**Collins, William,** hired as Ridgefield's 18th school superintendent, at age 56 Dec. 18, 2018, almost immediately resigned due to health problems; had been superintendent at Newington; started his working career as a school bus driver to put himself through college. [JFS]

**Collis Summus** was the name of Ridgefield High School yearbook in 1945; it means “top of the hill.” In 1946, it was retitled the Caudatowan (*q.v.*), which it remains today.

**Colls Point** is found in town records as early as 1717 when a map drawn by the Rev. Thomas Hauley, town clerk, notes “Colls Poynt” near the very south end of Great Swamp — the area north of Ivy Hill Road, east of where it crosses the old railroad bed/rail trail and east of Prospect Ridge. The term was used as late as 1851 and probably later. One old meaning of “coll” is a pile of wood — from earliest settlement, Great Swamp was used as a source of fireplace wood; perhaps trees cut from swamp were dragged to Coll's Point to await sawing into logs and splitting. Wood may also have been stored there to season. The location was sometimes called Colt's Point. [RN]

**Colonial Green:** Four-lot subdivision of 10.2 acres between South Salem Road and Golf Lane, obtained in 1969 by Czyr Construction Company (*q.v.*); once part of Ridgefield Golf Club (*q.v.*); uses old railroad bed as a driveway — *see* Ridgefield and New York Railroad. [RN]

**Colonial Heights:** An 89-lot, late-1960's subdivision including Minuteman Road, Revere Drive, and Yankee Hill Road; developed by Lewis J. Finch (*q.v.*) and Paul J. Morganti (*q.v.*), it was the town's first and biggest development using three acre lots. [RN]

**Colonial Lane:** Developed in the early 1950's, runs off North Salem Road just north of Barlow Mountain Road to dead-end; developer was Harold "Pinky" Gillum (*q.v.*); accepted by town, 1963; name, in use by 1957, perhaps reflects fact that area was one of the first sections of Ridgefield outside the village to be developed by the colonial settlers. [RN]

**Colonial Tea House** was established ca. 1924 at 536 Main Street, but soon became Colonial Tourists (*q.v.*). [DD114] *See also* Gilbert House.

**Colonial Tourists,** The, was a guest house operated by Jennie Pehrson Gilbert and her sister, Emily Davis, in the 1920s and 30s at 536 Main Street, the Gilbert House. [DD114]

**Colt, Harris Dunscombe, II,** (1901-73), was an internationally known archaeologist who specialized in Middle East deserts; also an expert on Rudyard Kipling; also collector of old engraved views of New York City; lived at 15 High Ridge Ave., the Peter Parley House, which his father, a Yale-educated lawyer, had acquired in the late 1910s. [WWW, DD152]

**Columbariums:** The First Congregation, Jesse Lee Methodist and St. Stephen's Churches maintain columbariums at or near their church buildings. St. Mary Parish has a columbarium at its cemetery.

**Commons, Vivian K.,** (1898-1974), was a senior warden in St. Stephen's Episcopal Church for many years, and was the first chairman of the nursery school. He was a Boys' Club president for many years. He owned a family wholesale pharmaceutical business, Commons Brothers, in NYC and while he lived in Redding, was very Ridgefield-oriented and is buried with his wife, Helen, in Fairlawn Cemetery. [JFS].

**Community Center, whose** formal name is the Ridgefield Veterans' Memorial Community Center, is the former Gov. Phineas Lounsbury (*q.v.*) mansion on Main Street, which he called Grovelawn (*q.v.*). The estate was purchased by the town in 1945 to honor veterans; the surrounding estate land is now Veterans Park. Proposals to turn it into a town hall (1949) and a school (1952) were rejected. In 1954 it became "The Ridgefield Community Center" operated by a non-profit group that leases from the town; long called "the Community Center," it was restyled in early 2000s as "the Lounsbury House."

**Community gardens:** Gardening plots are available to the public, first-come, first served, at Edith Meffley (*q.v.*) Garden on Halpin Lane, and planned for 2020, at Farmingville School grounds (20 plots planned). Plots are overseen by the selectmen.

**Composers** and songwriters who have lived in Ridgefield: Aaron Copland, Fanny Crosby, Andrew Gold, Stephen Jenks, Jim Lowe, Hubert Main, Vaclav Nelhybel, Alex North, Noel Regney, Harold Rome, Stephen Schwartz, Ernest Troost, Alec Wyton (*q.v. each*).

**Computer Store, The:** Opens September 1981 at Girolmetti Court, 19 Danbury Road, sales and service of PC's and software [P9/17/1981]

**Comstock Brook:** East branch of this stream, which eventually empties into the Norwalk River at Wilton Center, apparently has its source in a swamp (perhaps Brimstone Swamp — *q.v.*) north of Pelham Lane, between Nod and Nod Hill Roads, just inside Ridgefield; named for Comstock Ridge or Knoll, a hill in Wilton (west of Route 33 and south of Deforest Road),



near which the stream flows; hill named for Capt. Samuel Comstock, said to be the first settler on the ridge; name appears on US Geological Survey maps. [RN]

**Comstock Court:** Dead-end road at the south end of Nod Road at Wilton line; serves 1979 subdivision of Barry N. Finch and Jack Baldaserini; when they started selling in early 1980's, lots shocked many by fetching prices of \$200,000 or more, then extraordinary for building plots without sewer or water service; named for nearby brook. [RN]

**Conant Road:** Only road in town named for a college president. Robert H. Baldwin, president of the Lincoln Development Corporation of Massachusetts, the original subdivider of Westmoreland (*q.v.*), graduated from Harvard College in 1952 when James Bryant Conant was president of the university. Jerry Tuccio, who later took over the subdivision, retained the name for the road, a dead-ender off Remington Road that was accepted by the town in 1969. [RN]

**Concert Happenings in Ridgefield's Parks:** *See* CHIRP.

**Condominiums:** First residential condos in Ridgefield were a portion of Fox Hill Village; David Paul (*q.v.*), who planned rental apartments, agreed to try some units there, ca 1970; experiment was so successful he made all of Fox Hill as condominiums, then converted his earlier Casagmo apartments. The first retail condos were said to be 89 Danbury Road (*q.v.*); first professional condos, 90 Grove Street.

**Conductors, musical,** from Ridgefield: Dan Micciche. Maxim Shostakovich, Charles Spire, Frieder Weissmann.

**Confederate Bell:** Located on front lawn of Lounsbury House (*q.v.*), bell was cast in Ohio in 1845, captured by the Confederate army during the Civil War and slated to be melted with other iron into cannon; recaptured by Union forces and given to Gov. Phineas Lounsbury by a military friend; he mounted it in his backyard, but in 1971 it was moved by the Lions Club to front lawn; bell was run for endings of World Wars I and II.

**Congregate Housing:** At 51 Prospect Ridge, first proposed by First Selectman Elizabeth Leonard in 1987, opened in 1991-92, along with Halpin Court (*q.v.*); employs former Holy Ghost Novitiate (*q.v.*) building with additions, modifications; 34 one-bedroom apartments opened in 1992, providing 24 hour supervision in case of emergency, housekeeping services, and a common dining room with one meal a day. For history of property, *see* Holy Ghost Novitiate, Halpin Lane, Halpin Court.

**Congregation of Notre Dame:** congregation of Catholic nuns, based in Quebec, who had its American novitiate, U.S provincial motherhouse and a retirement home at 223 West Mountain Road from 1962 to 2005, when purchased for \$8 million by Ridgefield Academy (*q.v.*); property had been John Hampton Lynch estate; *See also* Notre Dame Academy.

**Congregation of St. Vincent de Paul:** *See* St. Vincent de Paul novitiate.

**Congregation Shir Shalom** is a reformed Jewish congregation created 2015 with the merging of Temple Shearith Israel (*q.v.*) of Ridgefield with Jewish Family Congregation of South Salem. *See also* Westmoreland, Nutholme.

**Congregational Church:** *See* First Congregational Church *and* Ridgebury Congregational Church.

**Congress, members of:** Ridgefield has had three native-born members of the U.S. House of Representatives: **Dr. Joel Abbot**, a congressman from Georgia; **Henry G. Stebbins**, from

New York; and **Jeremiah Donovan**, from Connecticut. **Clare Boothe Luce** moved to Ridgefield just after having been a congresswoman from Connecticut (*see each person*).

**Jonathan Ingersoll Jr. (q.v.)**, a Ridgefield native, was elected a congressman from Connecticut in 1793, but declined the job before being sworn in; his son, Ralph, not a Ridgefielder, did become a congressman. No U.S. senators lived in Ridgefield, but Ron Wyden (1949-), senator from Oregon (1996-), is the son of author Peter Wyden (1923-1998), who lived in Ridgefield, 1974-1998. [JFS]

**Congressional Medal of Honor:** Winners from Ridgefield: Col. Edward M. Knox, Civil War, 1892; Gen. Wilbur E. Wilder, Indian Wars, 1896; Paul Bucha, Vietnam War, 1970 (*q.v. each*).

**Conklin, Irving B. Sr.,** (1899-1991), was a dairy farmer, operating Conklin's Dairy on Ramapoo Road, 1928-early 1940s; farm became Ramapoo Hills subdivision that includes Farm Hill Road, Overlook Drive, Nutmeg Court; in 1941, acquired Stonecrest (*q.v.*) estate on North Street, raised beef, hogs and sheep for war effort; in early 1950s, he and wife Ethel subdivided part of estate into Stonecrest Road and Ridgecrest Drive; in 1944, he and Leo Pambianchi started Ridgefield Motors, which became Conklin Motors on Danbury Road, then Village Pontiac-Cadillac (building houses Party Depot, 2020); in 1953, started riding school on part of estate; active in Lions, Rotary, Odd Fellows; son, **Irving B. Jr.**, was chairman of Planning and Zoning Commission in 1970s. [WWW]

**Conklin, James,** of Lower Salem bought a gristmill and a house at "Limestone" in 1788, probably on or near the Stonehenge Inn site [RLR7/41]. He also bought a gristmill at Route 7 and Florida Hill Road (Moongate) in 1780 [RLR7/61]. He also had a saw mill on the western side of West Mountain, cited in 1785 and 1788 [RLR6/151]; it may have been gone by 1795 [RLR8/82]

**Conklin Court:** A road never developed that was to serve six lots off North Street, just south of Ridgecrest drive, part of Stonecrest development; instead, St. Mary Parish bought it as part of the cemetery property; named for Irving B. Conklin Sr. (*q.v.*), who had owned and developed Stonecrest.

**Conklin Dairy:** On Ramapoo Road, established by Irving B. Conklin Sr. (*q.v.*) on July 1, 1928.

**Conklin Motors** opened a new showroom on Danbury Road in 1950 [P7/27/1950]. *See* Irving B. Conklin Sr.

**Conley, Edward Thomas "Eddie,"** (1912-1992), a Ridgefield native, grew up in Ridgefield and became a professional boxer from 1927 to 1942, fighting in 68 recorded bouts with 26 wins, 40 losses, and two draws. He later lived in Danbury. [DD122]

**Conley, Col. Louis Daniel,** (1874-1930), a NYC native, was an executive at his Conley Tinfoil, founded by his grandfather, and a leader in NY's "Fighting 69th" in the early 1900s. In 1914, he began building his Ridgefield estate, Outpost Farm (*q.v.*) as an escape from the city; eventually owned some 2,000 acres mostly in Ridgefield but some in Danbury; hundreds are now Bennett's Pond State Park (*q.v.*). In the early 1920s he established Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*), which became among largest nurseries in the East, supplying many campuses, parks, estates, and two World's Fairs with trees; its mill provided wood for boats in WW2; he also established Outpost Kennels and the Outpost Inn (*q.v. each*). [WWW]

**Conley, Richard Ehret** (1903-1984), son of Col. and Mrs. Louis D. Conley of Outpost Farm, Inn, and Nurseries, was head of Connecticut Land Company (*q.v.*); was a pilot; lived in house just north of today's Fox Hill condominiums.

**Connecticut Citizen, The**, was a "weekly" newspaper published in Ridgefield. The first and only issue was Oct. 8, 1892. It said its aim was to "battle on behalf of the farmers, mechanics and laboring class of Western Connecticut in favor of lower tariff taxation, purer politics, and just state representation." The Citizen backed Grover Cleveland and Adlai Stevenson for president and vice president in that year's election (Cleveland defeated incumbent Benjamin Harrison) and may have been backed by Melbert B. Cary (*q.v.*), a wealthy Ridgefielder and a Democrat who was chairman of the Cleveland and Stevenson Campaign Club in Ridgefield and in 1902 ran for governor of Connecticut. [JFS]

**Connecticut Land Company**: Started in the late 1940's as a vehicle for handling the disposition of Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*) property; headed by Richard E. Conley (*q.v.*), acquired by Col. Louis D. Conley, Richard's father, in the 1910's and 1920's and totaling some 2,000 acres. *See* Richard Ehret Conley; Richard Owen Carey took over the company, did developing in 1960s, 70s; subdivisions included Bridle Trail, Buck Hill Road, Copper Beech Lane — all *q.v.*

**'Connecticut Lenox, The'**: Title of long article on Ridgefield in the October 1895 issue of New England Magazine.

**Connecticut Light and Power Company**: *See* Electricity.

**Connecticut Printing and Graphics Inc.**: Printing shop at 971 Ethan Allen Highway; Edward A. Gilchrist and Robert Andreason, owners, 1983; successor to RoBell Printing (*q.v.*) [CD1983]

**Connecticut State Police**: *See* Troop A.

**Connolly, Michael**, (1947-1989), a native of Massachusetts, grew up in Ridgefield, became a professional singer and actor, and appeared in shows around the country. He appeared in several Broadway shows — his first was "Otherwise Engaged," with Dick Cavett (*q.v.*). He appeared in TV soap operas, "All My Children" and "One Life to Live." [WWW]

**Connolly's: Restaurant** at 896 Ethan Allen Highway (Route 7), owned by Bruce and Steve Connolly, opened April 1981 in space formerly The Hungry Knight (*q.v.*); specialized in seafood and steaks [P4/9/1981]

**Conron, Joseph H.** (1871-1931) was a wealthy New Yorker, president of a wholesaling firm. who lived at Hillaire (*q.v.*) estate, 1910-31, on West Mountain. [WWW] *See also* West Mountain Pines, Conron's Pond.

**Conron's Pond**: A small body of water near the northerly side of West Mountain Road, between Sharp Hill and Ramapoo Roads; located on former estate-farm, Hillaire (*q.v.*), owned by Joseph H. Conron (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Conroy, Capt. John and Mary**, operated the Fairhope Country School (*q.v.*) from 1931 to 1936 in Farmingville. Capt. Conroy was a World War I Navy commander and served as a captain in the Merchant Marine in World War II. They lived in NY. (JFS)

**Consentino, Joseph**, (1939-2018), and **Sandra**, documentary filmmakers, moved to West Mountain Road in 1964. He started out as a magazine photojournalist and she, a high school art teacher. Their documentaries have won at least three Emmys and numerous

television awards. He was a graduate of Columbia School of Journalism whose photographs appeared in Sports Illustrated, Look, Life, The Saturday Evening Post. In 1970 he became a documentary film cameraman. He was a director for the TV show Big Blue Marble in the 1970s. Sandra Consentino, an accomplished potter, taught art in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut schools. In 1970, she started her career as a film editor and joined Joseph in making their first documentary together — a PBS special on farming, "Days Have Gone By." Together, they have produced, directed, filmed, and edited hundreds of documentaries for commercial and public television, on such subjects as the conflicts in the Middle East, the Mafia, Lucy and Desi, Muhammad Ali, and World War II. The Consentinos also produced corporate, medical, and sports educational films. Joseph was a former professional baseball player who spent two years in the Boston Red Sox farm system. He founded the Ridgefield Nighthawks in 1981. The traveling baseball teams for high school and college-age players, drawing members from many surrounding towns, are now called the Connecticut Nighthawks. In 1993, Joseph founded the New England Collegiate Baseball League.

**Constable, town:** During the 18th and much of the 19th Century, the constable was the enforcer of Connecticut and town laws. In the 18th Century at least, the post was considered the second most important in town, behind the selectmen. Constables were elected at the ATM and later at semi-annual municipal elections well into the late 20th Century, although by then their powers had diminished. After Ridgefield voted to establish a police department with overseeing Police Commission in 1955, constables were used mostly for directing traffic at emergencies

**Constitution Federal Savings Bank:** Was operating at 107 Danbury Road in 1980 [10/2/1980]

**Contessa, Amedeo "Matty"** (1909-1981), native of NYC, a long-time Ridgefielder and prominent citizen, died at his retirement home in Lebanon CT; had operated Contessa Yarns (*q.v.*) for many years, and had been active in many organizations, including president of the Lions Club in 1949, and being a vestryman at St. Stephen's. [DD64, JFS]

**Contessa Yarns**, which operated on Bailey Avenue during the mid-20th Century, did a large international mail-order business. [DD64]

**Continental Drive:** Part of the Barrack Heights subdivision, runs from Barrack Hill Road to North Salem Road. Francis D. Martin, the subdivider, named it because troops in the service of the Continental Army camped nearby during the Revolution (see Armand Place and Barrack Hill Road); has one of the steepest inclines of any road in town, was accepted by a Town Meeting in 1959. *See also* Peck Hill.

**Contractors**, major, in Ridgefield have included Achille Bacchiochi, David R. Carroll, John Morganti and Sons,

**Conversation Piece:** Antiques, gifts and collectibles shop opened May 1980 at Girolmetti Court, Danbury Road, by Garth and Fran Deitrick.

**Conway, Eustace** (1859-1937) and his wife **Maud Allis** built the estate, Barrackhill (*q.v.*), He was a lawyer and expert on Shakespeare, who had a collection of rare manuscripts and documents including a 17th Century portrait once thought to be of the bard. [WWW\

**Coogan, Theodore Havemeyer**, (1909-1983), was a member of the Board of Finance, 1955-1983; a real estate agent and Harvard graduate whose father was an owner of the old Polo Grounds in NYC. [NR]

**Cook, Jeanne**, (1929-2020), a native of Illinois who owned travel agencies in Chicago and later Ridgefield, was a leading force in growing the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra from the 1970s into the 1990s, and was a member of its board for more than 30 years and president for 9 years. She held annual Derby Day at her home to benefit the orchestra. She was active in and a benefactor of many organizations; lived in a house at 103 Peaceable Ridge Road once the home of Joli Gabor (*q.v.*).

**Cook Close**: Lane at Casagmo (*q.v.*), said to have been named by David Paul (*q.v.*) after distant relatives of the Olcott family, on whose former estate Casagmo was developed. [RN]

**Cooke, John P.**, (1937-2005), Yale 1959 and a veteran of five years in the Marine Corps, was chairman of the building committee that erected RHS on North Salem Road; was the first third-party member ever elected to local public office in the 20th Century (Independent Party, Zoning Board of Appeals, 1993), and ran for first selectman in 1995 with Independents; was executive at Emery Air Freight; moved to Ridgefield Old Branchville Road in 1965. In 1956 he was a member of the U.S. eight-oar crew that won a gold medal in the Olympics in Melbourne. Wife, Torrey, active in community for many years. [WWW]

**Coombs, Elmer R.**, (1928-2018), native of White Plains, was an oil burner technician who owned the Thumpkin Else (*q.v.*); active bowler; wife, **Josephine**, (1931-2007), was manager of RHS cafeteria; lived at 15 Lakeside Drive for many years. [P11/15/2018]

**Cooney, Dr. Mary**, was said to be Ridgefield's first chiropractor. She lived over Bissell's in the 1920s. [DD82, 97]

**Cooper Brook**: Rises at the south end of Great Swamp and flows southeasterly between Florida Hill and Branchville Roads to Branchville where it empties into the Norwalk River near the railroad station; once powered one of the earlier and longest-lived saw mill sites, Hoyt's Saw Mill, at John's Pond (*q.v.*); takes its name from a barrel-maker who lived nearby (*see* Cooper Hill). [RN]

**Cooper Hill Road**: Tradition says named from an unidentified cooper – or barrel-maker – who operated a shop near where Cooper Hill Road crosses the old railroad bed; Col. Edward M. Knox, owner of Downsbury Manor on Florida Hill Road, is said to have built the road to get to a tiny railroad station which he also built and named Cooper Station (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Cooper Post Office** operated 1884-88 at the Cooper Station (*q.v.*) on Cooper Hill Road; discontinued 1888 after postmaster James or John Sammis was charged with embezzling \$81.71 in stamp sales.

**Cooper Road**: Dead end off Branchville Road that was once longer; eastern end is now at Stony Hill Road; had extended easterly to Florida Road, nearly opposite today's Hickory Lane; before Branchville Road was built in the early 1850s, it may have continued southerly, over a path now used by Branchville Road and by Bloomer Road, connecting to today's Old Branchville Road, a route shown on 1745 subdivision map in old town land records. [RN]

**Cooper Station**: On the west side of Cooper Hill Road where it crosses the track bed; included a post office; Samuel Langhorne Clemens of Redding, a friend of Colonel Edward M. Knox (*q.v.*) of Downsbury Manor (*q.v.*), would ride the train from West Redding to Branchville,

to Cooper Station, where he was met by the Colonel; station named for neighborhood, said to have had a cooper with quarters nearby; called the “Milk Station” and “Zallicoffers” [P4/8/1909; [RN]

**Cooper Tavern:** Restaurant at 37 Ethan Allen Highway in the 1990s. *See also* Jean’s Restaurant, Barn Door, Cella’s, Luigi’s.

**Copen, Dr. David,** a cardiologist, was cited in 2000 by New York magazine as one of the best doctors in the NYC area. He was chief of cardiology at Danbury Hospital. He came to Ridgefield in 1974.

**Copland, Aaron,** (1900-1990), the American composer and native of Brooklyn, NY, wrote much of his Third Symphony while living on Great Hill Road. He arrived in December 1945 and wrote here at least into May 1946. “I told almost no one where I could be found,” he said of his stay in Ridgefield. “I felt in self-exile, but it was essential if I was to finish the symphony.” While here he also worked on other projects including the orchestral score of Appalachian Spring, the ballet for which he won a Pulitzer Prize in 1945. Letters from him indicate he lived on Limestone Road, but evidence is that it was today’s Great Hill Road. [WWW]

**Copp, Dr. John,** (1673-1751), of Norwalk was intimately involved in settling the town, but probably never lived here nor owned property here; was first town clerk, first teacher, first doctor, first surveyor who laid out Main Street and many of the first property divisions; family members were early settlers of Boston (Copp’s Cemetery is on Boston Common); John born there, but moved to Stamford by 1698 and, in 1701, was schoolmaster in Norwalk; became by 1705 one of first medical doctors in the colony, perhaps first in Norwalk; served as surgeon in French and Indian War; 1706-08, was involved in surveying new town of Ridgefield, a skill learned from his father in Boston; as register or town clerk, he kept town’s earliest records until 1713 — they are in town hall today, written in his hand; laid out Main Street; later became very active in Norwalk where he lived; Copps Island off Norwalk was probably his; he also had a farm in Branchville — *see* Copps Corner. [WWW]

**Copper Beech Lane:** Short, dead-end road off Lee Road in Farmingville; named for species of tree, bearing copper-colored leaves, that are plentiful in the neighborhood, planted ca. 1940 by former Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*) for nursery stock; road developed by Richard Conley’s (*q.v.*) Connecticut Land Company around 1956; town road in 1959; Selectman Paul J. Morganti (*q.v.*) suggested the name; local legend says that long ago, a murder took place in this vicinity and the corpse was thrown down an old well, which was then filled in and hidden. [RN]

**Copp’s Corner** was an early name for the southeast corner of Ridgefield at Branchville, with Wilton to south, Redding to east, first mentioned in 1716 and so called because John Copp (*q.v.*) had a farm thereabouts in early 1700s. In 2007, a small house in Branchville, said to have been owned by Copp and just across from the Wilton line, was torn down; sometimes spelled Kopp’s Corner. *See also* Wheer Cock. [RN]

**Copps Hill Common:** Shopping center developed in the early 1980s by Stephen Zemo at 103-109 Danbury Road along southwestern edge of Copps Hill Plaza (*q.v.*) shopping

center. Rebranded as the “Marketplace at Copps Hill” in the early 2000s to reflect large number of food-related businesses there.

**Copps Hill Road:** “Copps Hill” is a modern term, not found in the early records; probably stems from the belief that “Copps Mountain” (*q.v.*) exaggerated the loftiness of the ridge to which the original name referred; road is very old — seems to appear in pre-1730 land records, but it’s not known when the current name was first applied; name should be Copp’s Hill Road, but it is never spelled that way. [RN]

**Copps Hill Plaza:** Shopping center was built by Plaza Investors Holmdel Corp.. from Long Island, headed by Harold Lewis, and opened in summer 1972. The first store to open was Genovese Drugs, July 29, 1972 — it was also the first chain pharmacy in town; W.T. Grant opened July 31; Stop and Shop opened a 21,000 square food market Oct. 3; the Zemo brothers open stores Oct. 11: Don Zemo, 28, operated Zemo’s Men’s Store, his second store, while Stephen, 26, opened his third women’s clothing store, Ann Stephens; Venice Pizzeria opened Nov. 20 under owners Dominick Ruggiero and Silvio Dinardo; Randy Ward opened Cycle Circus Dec. 2 — the bike shop, one of 12 in a Connecticut-New York chain, carried Italian, French and Swedish 10-speeds as well as the usual American models; Miller’s Card and Giftique opened Dec. 8; the next day, City National Bank of Connecticut opened at Copps Hill Plaza. The center was purchased by Realco Management Corp., owner of over 30 malls and shopping plazas, in November 1986 [P2/12/1987]. In November 2001, work began on new buildings along Danbury and Copps Hill Roads, expansion of Stop & Shop and the building of a freestanding Eckerd’s Drug Store. Owner in 2020 is Regency Centers [P7/16/2020].

**Copp’s Mountain:** Ridge along east side of North Street, original term for today’s occasionally Stonecrest Mountain (*q.v.*); first used in a 1721 deed in which the settlers purchased land from the Indians; why it was named for John Copp (*q.v.*) is not known — he never lived here on land he owned; frequently used during both the 18th and 19th Centuries, sometimes spelled Kopp’s Mountain, Koppes Mountain or Copse Mountain. *See also* East Mountain. [RN]

**Copps Old Line:** Appears in deeds from 1748 to the end of the 18th Century, apparently referring to an old border between Danbury and Ridgefield on the town’s east side, north of Routes 7 and 35 intersection and running through Spruce Mountain; From deeds, it is certain the line was west of the present boundary between the two towns; also called ye Old Kopp Line; probably so called because the old border had been surveyed by John Copp; the suggestion is the line was a little off. [RN]

**Coq Harde, Le,** was a French cuisine restaurant in the basement level of the Big Shop (*q.v.*) in the 1980s; chef was Carl Wright. Spot later became Luc’s.

**Corbin, Madeleine Kraeler,** (1922-2010), an artist and a longtime voice for preservation of historic properties in Ridgefield, was a founder in the 1970s of the Ridgefield Preservation Trust, an organization that catalogued historic properties and fought for preservation of them, and that grew into the Ridgefield Historical Society. She was director of the Ridgefield Historic Architectural Resources Survey undertaken in the early 1980s and a longtime member of the Ridgefield Design Council. Born in 1922 in NYC, the daughter of a woman’s clothing manufacturer and a mother who became a right-hand man to Fiorello

La Guardia, Corbin studied at Carnegie Tech and at The Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, where she and her future husband, Leonard, met. Her writings included *About Ridgefield: What We Were and What We Are*, a 2002 book about Ridgefield's past and future, and a 1987 guide to American barns, focusing on Ridgefield. [JFS, P11/18/2010]

**Corbin Drive:** Once used for a private road off the west side of Limestone Road that has since become Buckspen Lane (*q.v.*); led to the house of Robert Corbin, a member of the town's first Zoning Commission, who lived there until the early 1970's when he sold the house and more than 20 acres to Albert Gaeta (*q.v.*).

**Cores Bogs:** *See* Kores Bogs.

**Cornen, Cyrus Alexander Jr.,** (1878-1935), was a Ridgefield businessman who was discovered in 1916 to have embezzled ca. \$13,000 from St. Stephen's Parish building fund, where he was the church treasurer; was also town clerk, 1910-16, and probate judge; said to have also taken money from town coffers; friends made up losses and he was never prosecuted, but left town in disgrace; was a grandson of Peter P. Cornen (*q.v.*) [WWW, DD144]

**Cornen, Peter P.** (1815-93) was a pioneer oil wildcatter who made fortune in western Pennsylvania, 1860s-70s, partnering with Henry Beers (*q.v.*), Ridgefield native and brother of his wife, Lydia Beers; had earlier been successful businessman involved in California Gold Rush of 1849; one of Ridgefield's richest residents in 19th Century; came here 1854, built large house at Danbury and Farmingville Roads (*see* Cornen Avenue), now the site of the headquarters of Fairfield County Bank, of which he was a founder; house later occupied by son, Cyrus Sr. In 1887, he started a company to drill for oil and natural gas in Ridgefield — he believed rich deposits were here — but townspeople opposed. He was state senator, 1867, state representative, 1871; first selectman in 1871-72. He was the first vice-president of the Ridgefield Savings Bank and one of its first directors. [WWW, RSB21]

**Cornen Avenue:** Informal but popular name around the turn of 20th Century for Danbury Road in the vicinity of Fox Hill condominiums, including the old Danbury Road that today is the main driveway through the condominium complex; named for Peter P. Cornen (*q.v.*), whose house was at corner of Danbury and Farmingville Road and who planted many maples along Danbury Road. [RN]

**Cornen's Brook:** Name on a 1920's postcard for Norwalk River, also known as Ridgefield Brook in this area, which flows north out of Great Swamp into Outpost Pond at Fox Hill, then across Danbury Road through Recreation Center land; much of land on east side of Danbury Road was owned by Peter Cornen (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Corner Cupboard:** Short-lived restaurant at south corner of Main and Catoonah Streets, opened 1937 by William Pettit; formerly Lorna Doone (*q.v.*).

**Corner Pub:** Restaurant at north corner of Grove Street and Sunset Lane, owned by Barbara McCarthy (*q.v.*) from St. Patrick's Day 1982 until April 2012; original restaurant established after Prohibition by John Pierpaoli; long called Perp's (*q.v.*) or Pierpaoli's Tavern; also known as Joe's Hideaway, The Lyons Den, Village People; in 2018, called The Hideaway.

**Corner Store:** Built by Thaddeus Keeler (*q.v.*) in the early 1800s at Main Street and West Lane, opposite the First Congregational Church, popular during much of the 19th Century and the only place prescription medicines could be bought for many years. In the 1890s at least,



it was owned by Edward Hurlbutt Smith (*q.v.*). In July 1929, the store was torn down and the space made into a lawn on the Herbert Spencer Greims property. Other owners included Judge George G. Knapp (*q.v.*) and S.D. Keeler. For a while it was reportedly a shirt factory owned by D. Smith Sholes. [JFS, P7/25/1929]

**Cornerstone Court** is a short, dead-end road off Great Pond Road at the Redding town line, serving six lots of a 17-acre, 1986 subdivision, "The Knolls," by Lance Constructions. It is next to the monument, or cornerstone, where the eastern border of the town turns from northwesterly to northerly. In 1975 a perambulation of the town was undertaken, father and son perambulators Ted and Bruce Meier described this marker, about 200 feet south of Great Pond Road: "This is not a granite monument [like others], but is a long stone set upright in the rock wall. This is believed to be one of the monuments of the survey and perambulation of March 8, 1888." [RN]

**Cortina Shop**, established in 1965 by Mrs. Sereno Jennings [P5/14/2009], was a children's clothing store, for many years at 449 Main Street, later on the east side of Main. It closed in 2011 after 56 years in business [P1/5/2012]. Pat and Hallie Hepburn, mother/daughter, had owned the business since 1971.

**Cosgrave, Jessica Garretson Finch**, (1871-1949), was a women's rights activist, and founder of Lennox School in New York and founder and longtime president of Finch College in Manhattan. She was in the first graduating class at Barnard College in 1893. Her first husband was James Wells Finch. After a divorce, she married in 1913 John O'Hara Cosgrave (*q.v.*). They had a home on Tackora Trail (probably #71) in the 1930s and 40s. [WWW]

**Cosgrave, John O'Hara**, (1866-1947), a native of Australia, was an editor of New York World; lived on Tackora Trail in the 1930s and 40s; uncle of John O'Hara Cosgrave II (1908-1968), a noted designer. His wife was college founder Jessica Cosgrave (*q.v.*).

**Costanzi, Leno James "Jim,"** (1927-2013), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1945, was an insurance agent who was active in Lions, was a founder of ROTA, helped establish Meals on Wheels, and was a skilled golfer who played in international tournaments. [WWW]

**Cott Liquor Store**, which opened in 1934, was the first establishment licensed to sell alcoholic beverages after Prohibition ended. It was located in the Ernest Scott block on Main Street in a store occupied in 2020 by Addressi Jewelers. Cott is the same company that later specialized in soda soft drinks. [P2/8/1934]

**Cottage Street:** A short road off Barry Avenue, subdivided around 1946 by Harold O. Davis; so called because modest-sized homes were built there. [RN]

**Cotton Carnival:** An event sponsored by Jesse Lee Methodist Church early in 20th Century at which young men had 15 minutes to sew carpet rags brought by young women; "the one who sewed the greatest number of pieces in the neatest manner was to be awarded a prize"; women wore cotton gowns, men wore cotton ties; (P2/6/1908)

**Cotton Patch Designs:** Sewing shop at Yankee Ridge Center, 16 Prospect Street, in 1981; offered many sewing courses [P3/19/1981]; sold Bernina machines [P6/11/1981].

**Couch, Edward J.,** (1828-1907), a native of Redding, was a hatter and real estate investor who became famous as an expert bird taxidermist as well as a pomologist. His art as a taxidermist was the subject of 1999 and 2008 exhibits at the Aldrich Contemporary Art

Museum (*q.v.*). A Republican, he was a state representative in 1882 and lived in the Whipstick district. [WWW] DAR reports that at the 1865 Ridgefield Fair, “Mr. Couch’s collection of birds was an object of special interest, and the chief one,” the fair being otherwise an “inferior” edition. His wife, Mary Hawley Couch (1836-1919), a descendant of the town’s first minister, was a founder of the Village Improvement Society. [WWW, RSB23]

**Couch, Nathan,** (1835-92) was a carriage trimmer and Civil War veteran who served as a Republican state representative, 1886.

**Couch, Simon,** (1830-93), was a farmer and a Democrat who served as a state representative in 1876 and served on a committee that recommended allowing women to vote for president and vice president, a measure defeated by the Legislature as a whole. He was the brother of State Rep. Edward J. Couch.

**Couch, Thomas N.,** had the grist mill at Route 7 and Florida Hill Road (Moongate) in 1831 [RLR14/124-41], and may have sold it in 1865 [RLR23/486] *See also* Couch’s Station.

**Couch’s Station:** Rockwell says this stop was situated between Branchville and Topstone Stations in Redding on the Danbury and Norwalk railroad line; Thomas Couch was a partner in the 19th Century iron foundry (*q.v.*) nearby at the north corner of Florida Hill Road and Route 7. Maps 1856 and 1867 make no note of a station; may have been simply a loading platform or small freight stop, perhaps near where Simpaug Turnpike goes under the tracks today. In that case, the station would have been in Redding. *See also* Iron foundry *and* Furnace Pond [RN]

**Counterfeiters** were acting in Ridgefield in the 1750s, led by David Sanford (*q.v.*) and abetted by Owen Sullivan (*q.v.*)

**Countess von Waldersee, Mary Esther,** (1837-1914), nee Mary Esther Lee, was a daughter of Ridgefield native David Lee (*q.v.*). She married in 1864 Friedrich Emil August, prince of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Augustenburg, later called Prince von Noer, minister of war of the provisional Schleswig-Holstein government. At that time she was properly addressed as princess. After his death, she married in 1874 Count Alfred von Waldersee, a Prussian field marshal, and as Countess Mary Esther von Waldersee, she became a noted German philanthropist.

**Country Carpet Co.** opened a showroom for carpets and wallcovering at 590 Danbury Road January 1987 [P1/18/1987]

**Country Club of Ridgefield:** One of earliest golf courses in the U.S., and one of the first in Fairfield County; covered 65 acres for 9 holes on Peaceable Street and Golf Lane; built by William Sunderland (*q.v.*) of Danbury; opened 1895; layout was: Hole 1. 324 yards, 2. 196, 3. 267, 4. 178, 5. 208, 6. 282, 7. 310, 8. 245, and 9. 260; by 1901, Harper’s Official Golf Guide reported entrance fee—a share of stock—of \$300 (about \$9,000 in 2020 money); annual dues, \$25 (\$580); early officers included George G. Haven Jr., George C. Shelton, M.D., Albert H. Storer; closed around 1932 when 18-hole Silver Spring Country Club (*q.v.*) opened; most of land became an estate, later Ward Acres, now mostly subdivided; clubhouse moved to Grove Street by Francis D. Martin to serve as goat barn; later became part of research center of New England Institute for Medical Research; destroyed by fire 1984 [P12/27/1984].

**Country Club Road**, Narrow dead-end road off lower West Lane; once extended eastward through the present day Silver Spring Country Club to Silver Spring Road; portion still extant was once used primarily as a service road to workers' houses and outbuildings on the Swords, Grant, and Sullivan estates in this neighborhood; while the eastern section of this old farm road stopped being used by the early 1930's when the golf club was built, it was not until Sept. 7, 1957 that the Board of Selectmen voted formally to abandon town title to the section through the course. [RN]

**Country Corners**: Store at 622 Main Street, originally called Joe's Store (*q.v.*).

**Country Diner** at 199 Ethan Allen Highway (Route 7) gives its address as Ridgefield, but it's actually entirely within the town of Redding. [JFS]

**Country Road**: term, common in the first half of the 18th Century, referred to Wilton Road West first appears in 1724; frequently found in old Connecticut land records as a name for a main road that led through the "country" from one village center to another – in this case, from Ridgefield village to Wilton center (then the center of a parish of Norwalk) or to Norwalk itself; Post Road (US Route 1 through coastal towns) was originally called "The Country Road" from as early as 1681. [RN]

**Couri, John**, (1941-), a native of Brooklyn, NY, and a Syracuse graduate, co-founded in 1983 Duty Free International and was president and CEO. The chain of airport stores grew to 187 outlets and employed 2,500 people by the time he sold it in 1997. Its headquarters were on Copps Hill Road. He and his wife, Elaine, who grew up in Ridgefield, moved here in 1974. They established the Couri Foundation to help underprivileged children. [P2/1/2001]

**Cows**: *See* Livestock.

**Cox, James H.**, bought the "grain mill" at Lake Mamasasco in 1855 [RLR21/2].

**Cox, Dr. John Watson**, (1855-1928), a native of Mississippi and a wealthy chemical manufacturer, owned the Stonecrest estate on North Street. He was a leader in the Democratic party and once had presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan as a guest at Stonecrest when Bryan spoke here. He was married to Marian Cox (*q.v.*).

**Cox, Marian**, born Mabel Marian Metcalfe, (1882-1972), was the author of several books of fiction and non-fiction including *Crowds and the Veiled Woman* (1910) and her autobiography, *The Sphinx Wore an Orchid* (1967). She married Dr. John Watson Cox (*q.v.*) at age 16 and they lived for many years at Stonecrest, sometimes called Stonecrest Domain, on North Street. She sold it in 1934, but in 1940, returned to town, acquiring the former home of artist George J. Stengel at 57 Main Street. [P1/23/1941]. In 1943, she married Captain James Fox Logan, a Naval officer, but retained the name Marian Cox for her writing. Her papers are in the Yale University Library.

**Coyle, John F.** (1923-1997 was an East Ridge Junior High School teacher who was also a real estate developer in town in the 1960s (*see* Barrack Hills); lived in New Canaan.

**Coyle, John F., Associates**: Real estate office at 23 Danbury Road; in 1980, Dr. Harold E. Healy (*q.v.*) named office manager [P9/4/1980].

**Cradle Rock**: First appears in 1744 deed for 52 acres "lying at ye Cradle Rock"; another grant, for 64 acres "lying at ye Cradle Rock, back of Round Pond"; in 1790, town officials settled a boundary dispute "at Cradle Rock so called" near the northeast corner of Round Pond; thus, somewhere around Sleepy Hollow, Walnut Hill or Round Lake Roads;

presumably, the rock either was shaped like a cradle or was a balanced rock that teetered like a cradle. [RN]

**Craig, Helen Kiernan**, (1899-1975), bought what became Craig's Fine Jewelry (*q.v.*) in 1950. She was married to Ross Craig (1891-1950). [DD94]

**Craig, Norman**, (1927-2011), a native of Bronxville, NY, who came here in 1946, was a Ridgefield jeweler, longtime volunteer fireman, public servant, and land developer. He served on the Board of Finance and during his years here, was a member of both the Republican and Democratic parties, serving on the town committees of each. His Craig's Jewelry Store on Main Street was acquired by his mother in 1950 from Francis D. Martin (*q.v.*). He was married to Elsie Fossi who had worked in the store for his mother in the early 1950s. [P2/3/2011] *See* Grand View Drive, Sound View Acres. [WWW] [DD94]

**Craig, William**, took over the family jewelry store business when father, Norman (*q.v.*) retired. He has been active in the Chamber of Commerce and other community organizations. [JFS]

**Craigmoor**: 88-acre gentleman's farm of Dr. and Mrs. Fred P. Solley (*see* Solley family); when acquired 1909, Solleys asked family nanny, Christina Graham, a native of Scotland, to name the place; as she surveyed the property, she soon said in her Scots brogue, "Why, there's nothing but craigs and moors out here." *See also* Craigmoor Road. [RN]

**Craigmoor Pond**: Former body of water at the corner of North Salem and Craigmoor Roads, now mostly a swamp; When the Solley family (*see* Craigmoor Road) sold their property here in 1955, they stipulated that "within two years from the date hereof and as part of the consideration of sale, the grantors agree to construct a dam and reflood the pond formerly known as Perch Pond and to be called Craigmoor Pond"; the newly flooded pond was to be used for boating and fishing. Earlier called Forge Pond (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Craigmoor Road**: Part of former Solley family (*q.v.*) farm of 88 acres on North Salem Road road was a path to Lake Mamanasco at the west end of the farm; Craigmoor Road was accepted by the town in 1960; Planning and Zoning Commission named the lakeside wings of the road "Craigmoor Road North" and "Craigmoor Road South"; "Craigmoors" or "Craig-Moors" was a subdivision plan for 56 40-by-130-foot lots on the east side of the lake along this road, filed in 1952 by Margaret Durant, Robert F. Solley, and Frederick W. Solley, children of Dr. and Mrs. Fred Solley; only a few of the lots were developed. [RN]

**Craig's Fine Jewelry**: At 394 Main Street, one of oldest family-owned businesses in town (in 2018); begun in 1950 when Helen Craig purchased Francis D. Martin's jewelry store (*q.v.*); subsequently owned by her son and daughter-in-law, Norman and Elsie Craig (*q.v.*); and in 2018, by her grandson, William Craig (*q.v.*). Granddaughters Karen and Lori Craig have also worked many years at the store. [DD94]

**Cramp, Ralph E.**, (1900-1951), a native of Brooklyn, was a town attorney and probate judge who came to Ridgefield in 1936 and lived at 21 Main Street. He served on the Board of Education, and was active in the Boys Club, Rotary, American Legion, and was a director of the Ridgefield Savings Bank. [RSB29]

**Cranberry Lane**: part of 1956 subdivision by Elizabeth H. Simmons of old farm she and pilot husband, Warren, owned at South Olmstead Lane and St. Johns Road; included 14 lots and private road Orchard Lane; accepted by town 1959; named for cranberry bog found in nearby Silver Spring Swamp in early 20th Century. [RN]

**Cranberry Meadow:** Among the town's earliest place names, usually spelled "Cramberry"; first mentioned in 1709; located in Great Swamp, west of Danbury Road and opposite the Fox Hill condominiums; now town-owned property where the Ridgefield Recreation Center is. Much of the centuries-old bogs were filled in long ago; term lasted until 1820s. [RN]

**Crane, Thaddeus,** (1862-1928), a native of Somers, N.Y., was an insurance and real estate agent whose business later became A.J. Carnall (*q.v.*) insurance and is now Fairfield County Bank Insurance Services. His office was in the Telephone Building (just north of Planet Pizza in 2019) and lived off South Olmstead Lane. He died spectacularly in 1928 in Wilton when a train engine hit his car in a crossing and flipped it into the air. The car bounced off the train and exploded. He was a founder of the Promoter's Club (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Crank, the,** was a rectangular section of Ridgebury broken off to Danbury in 1736, after Danburians argued to the legislature that all of this Ridgefield land was owned by Danbury residents. It extended along nearly all of George Washington Highway from the Danbury line almost to Ridgebury Road, and north almost to Shadow Lake Road and southward about a quarter mile from George Washington Highway, and is shown on Moses Warren's map (*q.v.*) in 1812. By the early 1800s, about 30 property owners in The Crank petitioned to be reunited with Ridgefield; legislature approved 1820. The term, Crank, mentioned in an 1788 deed, probably reflects jog in the town line — OED "crook, bend, winding, meandering; a winding or crooked path, course or channel." [RN]

**Creagh, Agnes,** (1914-2007), a Ridgefield native, graduated from Barnard College in 1935 and did graduate studies in geology at Northwestern University. She joined the Geological Society of American as an editorial assistant in 1936. wrote articles and books on geology, and rose to become executive director from 1962 to 1964. She then joined the College Entrance Examination Board, retiring in 1973. She spent her last years in Ridgefield and was a sister of Mary Creagh (*q.v.*). [P10/25/2007]

**Creagh, Mary,** (1908-2006), was a Ridgefield native and longtime elementary school teacher, began teaching in 1927; taught in Ridgefield 1933 until 1969; member of the last class, 1925, to graduate from Hamilton High School. (name pronounced *cray*).

**Creamer, Charles E.,** was chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals for 42 years, retiring in 2014 at the age of 75. He continued to serve on the board. He joined the board in 1971. He is a chemist and mathematician who worked for Union Carbide 31 years and holds many patents on chemical compounds.

**Creamery:** *See* Ridgefield Creamery.

**Creamery Lane:** Old road, dating into the 18th Century and running between the northern ends of Wilton Roads East and West, was the original northern end of Wilton Road East or the western end of Whipstick Road (today's segment of Wilton Road East from Creamery to Main created around 1850, says Rockwell); named for The Ridgefield Creamery (*q.v.*) along it; selectmen in 1911 referred to it as "the Old Creamery Highway." [RN]

**Creative Jewelers** had a store in Copps Hill Plaza in 1987, also in Danbury; motto: "a gem of a store."

**Crehan, Diane**, was an artist and a well-known storyteller in Connecticut. Her husband is Patrick (*q.v.*). She wrote the 2002 book, *Stories to Tell and How to Tell Them*, aimed particularly at Christian teachers, and lived for many years on Main Street..

**Crehan, Patrick J.**, was a longtime Ridgefield attorney who ran unsuccessfully for state representative on the Democratic ticket in 1968. He and his wife, Diane (*q.v.*), came to Ridgefield in the late 1960s, lived at 181 Main Street most of that time, and retired to Southbury in 2020.

**Crescent Drive**: Private road at the Ridgefield Lakes (*q.v.*), so called because of crescent-shaped route as it extends from Mountain Road to Cross Hill Road. [RN]

**Crest Road**: At the Ridgefield Lakes; accepted as a town road, October 1980; traverses crest of a hill, just west of Bennett's Farm Road, to which it connects at its north and south ends. [RN]

**Cricket Cage, The**: Popular gift shop 1970s, 80s, at 418 Main Street (1980); Ron Kubilius, president (1983). Later was located at 17 Main Street.

**Cripple Bush Wood**: Deeds in 1840 and 1844 mention this location in Ridgebury, probably in the hills east of Pine Mountain Road: OED says an old American meaning of cripple was "a dense thicket or low-lying ground"; DARE says that in our region, cripple was also a word for a creek, based on the Dutch, *kreuple* — cripple land was wet land, and "cripplebush" was another word for swamp. [RN]

**Criterion, The**: Student newspaper at Ridgefield High School during the 1970s; replaced The Chieftain; was replaced by The Voice in 1980.

**Crocker, Anna Seymour Smith**: *See under* William Crocker.

**Crocker, Margaret Mary O'Shea**, (1929-2009), has one of the most unusual gravestones in Ridgefield. The modest, flat, footstone-style monument gives her name, dates of birth and death, and calls her "beloved mother & grandmother." Across the bottom is engraved the quotation "póg mo thóin," Irish for "kiss my arse." She lived in Redding for many years with her husband John, and worked for a real estate firm.

**Crocker, William**, (bapt. 1790-1835), a native of New Haven and a son of a minister, was a harness-maker. Several generations of his descendants — both women and men — were noted actors in the U.S. and Great Britain. With his second wife, Anna Seymour Smith (1792–1866), he had five children including **Elizabeth and Sarah Crocker**, both of whom became stars of the New York and London stage. Sarah was the mother of **Marianne "Minnie" Conway**, also an actress in America and Great Britain. She had two sons, **Frederick Conway Tearle** and **Godfrey Seymour Tearle**, both of whom became noted stage and movie stars in Great Britain. [WWW] He was a state representative in 1825, and the first president of the Ridgefield Union Society (*q.v.*), a sort of private police force founded in 1818.

**Crofut, Robert "Bob"**, a Ridgefield native and RHS 1970, is a noted artist and illustrator of 18th, 19th and early 20th Century American life. His work has appeared in National Geographic, Time, Smithsonian, Reader's Digest, Yankee, American Heritage, and other publications. [NR]

**CROP** was the name of an annual walk of around a dozen miles to fight hunger, sponsored by the Ridgefield Clergy Association and the Ecumenical Youth Council, mostly in the 1980s.

[P10/20/1983] Based on a national program started in 1947, CROP stands for Christian Rural Overseas Program.

**Crosby Court:** Short dead-end road running northerly off Old Trolley Road., part of 1997 Stone Ridge (*q.v.*) subdivision, created by the town of Ridgefield; serves five of the 60 lots there; the name, recommended by JFS, recalls Enoch Crosby (*q.v.*), a Revolutionary War spy. [RN]

**Crosby, Enoch**, (1750-1835), was a Revolutionary War spy and supposed inspiration for James Fenimore Cooper's novel, *The Spy*; Liljegren said Crosby owned land on Shadow Lake Road, and may have lived there briefly; served with the Fifth Connecticut Regiment, whose members were recruited mostly from Danbury and Ridgefield. After the war he and his brother, Benjamin, had a farm in adjacent Southeast, N.Y.; spied on Tories from 1776 onward in the region between White Plains and Fishkill, leading to the capture of many people who were organizing to join the British; lived most of his life in Southeast. [JFS]

**Crosby, Frances J. "Fanny,"** (1820-1915), a native of Brewster, NY, was a prolific hymn-writer and poet, who wrote some 8,000 hymns. She spent her early teenage years, about 1829-1835, in Ridgefield at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Hawley (*q.v.*) on Main Street. Here she met Sylvester Main, a childhood friend who would later publish her hymns at the firm of Biglow and Main. Sylvester's son, Hubert, wrote music for many of her hymns. As a lobbyist for the blind in her early years, she became the first woman ever to speak on the floor of the U.S. Senate. [WWW]

**Crock 'n' Bowl:** Gift shop at 21 Governor Street, between Woolworth's and the First National, in the 1960s, early 70s.

**Cross Highway:** Early name for Topstone Road and probably Cain's Hill Road as well, in use until fairly recent times; first mentioned 1772; road "crossed" into the next town.

**Cross Hill Road:** Private road at Ridgefield Lakes (*q.v.*), from Bennett's Farm Road to Mountain Road, crossing a hill.

**Cross Pond:** Now called Lake Kitchawan on Lewisboro-Pound Ridge line in NY State; before Oblong (*q.v.*) transfer, this was on western border of Ridgefield.

**Cross Street:** Early 20th Century name for Wooster Street, from North Salem Road to North Street.

**Crouchley, Benjamin F.**, (ca.1855-1919), a railroad ticket agent and Adams Express agent, was elected first selectman 1908-10, unusual for a Democrat at that time; was second selectman, 1911-15; member, East Ridge School building committee; born in NYC, he is buried in Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn; founded important Ridgefield family of 20th Century. [NR]

**Crouchley, Charles Deems**, (1879-1961), son of Benjamin (*q.v.*), was a plumber and plumbing supply store owner whose shop was on Bailey Avenue, just beyond the Bedient Building. [DD62] He also had a store on Main Street that sold both plumbing and auto supplies, and had a gas pump (where Ridgefield Office Supply is). He was seventh president of the Ridgefield Savings Bank, a chief of the fire department and a selectman in the early 1930s. [NR]

**Crouchley, Ralph Bishop**, (1904-1981), a Ridgefield native and son of Charles Deems Crouchley (*q.v.*), led the Ridgefield Boys Club from 1942-69; spent several years working

in Mexico for a U.S. corn products company, then joined his father's plumbing and paint store on Main Street before taking over duties at the club, which he led out of financial difficulties. [NR, WWW]

**Crow Hill:** Mid-19th Century name for the rise along Ridgebury Road, just north of Ned's Mountain Road.

**Cugene, Nicholas** (1912-1992) was an electrician who had an appliance store on Main Street for 30 years (next to Ridgefield News Store). [P2/18/1993]

**Culbertson, Ely**, (1891-1955), was anarchist, revolutionary, politician, author, peace promoter, but mostly a contract bridge expert and promoter; owned Upagenstit (*q.v.*) estate in 1930s; wrote books on bridge, but also on world order, including *Total Peace* (1943). [WWW, DD147, DD148]

**Culbertson, Sascha** (1893-1944) was a noted concert violinist, who owned a Stradivarius and lived at the former Upagenstit estate (*q.v.*) with his brother Ely (*q.v.*) during the 1930s. [DD147]

**Cullerton, Brenda**, an advertising copywriter who grew up in Ridgefield, is author of the Ridgefield-oriented book, *The Nearly Departed* (*q.v.*); also three other books; lives in Newtown with husband, commercial movie producer Richard DeLigter. [JFS]

**Cumming, James** (1866-1955), and **Margaret Hendry "Ma"** (1870-1949) were active in Ridgefield. He served on the School Board and, during WW1, as town director of farm resources. His wife, **Ma Cumming**, was active in the Red Cross and was first president of the American Legion Auxiliary. Their son, **William** (*q.v.*) was the first to die in the war. [DD138]

**Cumming, William James**, (1895-1918), was the first Ridgefielder to enlist in World War I. The ambulance driver was also the first to die, succumbing to influenza in France; his name often incorrectly spelled Cummings. [NR]

**Curtiss & Crandon:** Real estate office at 17 Danbury Road, 1981, part of a 12-office regional group. [P9/10/1981]

**Cushman, Dr. William Floyd**, (1839-1904), was a prominent NYC physician and treasurer of the NY Academy of Medicine who established a summer home at 88 Main Street in the 1880s and then retired here full-time. He is buried in Maple Shade Cemetery. [JFS]

**Cushman Lane:** One of several names used for part or all of today's Rockwell Road; Dr. and Mrs. William F. Cushman lived on north corner with Main Street from 1890 until 1904 (when he died) and 1930s when she died; *see also* Lover's Lane and DePeyster Street.

**Cutten, Ruloff E.**, (1896-1961), was a wealthy stockbroker and member of the New York brokerage firm of E.F. Hutton & Company. He and his wife, Ruth "Sunny" Cutton, whom he divorced, owned Sunset Hall in the 1940s (*q.v.*).

**CVS**, the drug store chain, announced in 1983 it would take over the spot long occupied by A&P supermarket at 46 Danbury Road. In 2001, it announced it would move to the old Grand Union. In 2014, opened a second store at the former Ancona's Market, 720 Branchville Road. CVS is an abbreviation of the retailer's original name, Consumer Value Store, which was founded in Lowell, Mass., in 1963.

**Cycle Circus:** Bicycle shop at new Copps Hill Plaza opened Dec. 2, 1972, operated by Randy Ward, one of a small chain of 12 stores in CT/NY.



**Cyphax** was a slave of the Rev. Jonathan Ingersoll who, at the age of 20 was freed by his owner on Nov. 24, 1772. Three days before, the selectman had interviewed him and decided he was fit to be freed [Rockwell, p. 55]. His subsequent history is unknown.

**Czyr, Anthony J.** (1940-2003) built dozens of houses in town over a 40-year career; could quote Shakespeare with the ease of a college professor and was also a jazz guitarist; he donated services to many community groups, and helped build the Ridgefield Historical Society headquarters on Sunset Lane; operated under names of Czyr Construction Company, Red Oak Corporation, and A.J. Czyr Inc.; buried St. Mary Cemetery.

**Czyr Construction Company:** Home building company in late 20th Century, started by brothers Anthony (*q.v.*) and Edward Czyr; Edward soon left. See Colonial Green, Belvedere Court.

## D

**D'Addario, Dominic A. "Dom,"** (1925-2012), a Branchville native and RHS 1843, was a navigator in WW2 and continued in the US Air Force, retiring as lieutenant colonel. Was an engineer for Barden in Danbury and a kitchen designer for Rucon. He was a founder of the Independent Party and attended countless government agency meetings, usually with his wife, Mary. He served on the town Ethics Committee, and was active with the Laszig Fund. [WWW]

**Dairies** in Ridgefield included Conklin's (*see* Irving B. Conklin), Dic-Ree (*q.v.*), Stonehill (*q.v.*), Walnut Grove (*q.v.*), and small operations by Elmer Leeson and Irving Keeler [DD16]

**Dairytown:** Operated a deli-style store at 37 Danbury Road, open daily 10-9, specialized in fried chicken [P7/17/1980]; *see also* Wayside Market.

**Daley, Robert,** (1930-), was a former deputy New York City police commissioner who wrote 31 books, including best-selling novels and non-fiction works with police themes; *Prince of the City* and *Night Falls on Manhattan* were made into movies and TV series; lived on Nod Road, 1984 to 1989. Six of his novels were made into films. [WWW]

**Dana's Restaurant** opened May 31, 1983 in the former Green Doors Motel (*q.v.*) on Route 7 just south of Route 35, operated by Dana Riggs who later owned the Red Lion. [P7/14/1983]

**Danbury and Harlem Traction Company:** Formed around 1900 to run trolley ("traction") line from Danbury to Harlem Valley railroad line at Goldens Bridge, N.Y., aimed at cutting 15 minutes off a trip from Danbury to NYC; tracks laid into Ridgebury along what is now Old Trolley Road (*q.v.*), stopping at Ridgebury center; but continued nearly to Goldens Bridge, but tracks were never laid west of Ridgebury; trolley from Danbury and Bethel to Ridgebury made test runs around 1901 but no regular service was ever established; company eventually went bankrupt. [RN]

**Danbury and Norwalk Rail Road:** First company to provide rail service in Ridgefield; opened line 23 miles from Norwalk to Danbury in 1852; less than a mile of track passed through southwest corner of town, with station at Branchville, originally called Ridgefield Station or Beers Station; service later provided by New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, New Haven Railroad, Penn Central; and currently Metro North; freight service ended 1993; tracks and station owned by the Connecticut Department of Transportation; branch line from Branchville to Ridgefield Station began passenger and freight service in 1879; on

Aug. 8, 1925, the last passenger train from Branchville arrived at Ridgefield station [in 2008 now a Ridgefield Supply Company showroom]. The service is no longer profitable. Buses now run between the station and the village. Freight service continued until 1964; The last train ran on Feb. 8, 1964. *See also* Branchville, railroads.

**Danbury and Norwalk Turnpike:** Toll road first mentioned in land records 1835, also called Norwalk and Danbury Turnpike; company established 1795; generally followed path of modern Route 7 from Norwalk to north of Branchville, then following Simpaug Turnpike through Redding, Route 53 to Bethel. [RN] *See also* Norwalk and Danbury Turnpike.

**Danbury and Ridgefield Turnpike:** Toll road from intersection of Haviland and Limestone Roads following today's Route 35, then up today's Route 7 where it met Sugar Hollow Turnpike (*q.v.*) near the southern end of Danbury Airport; company established by legislative act 1801; road built by 1803; eliminated need to use old route over Moses Mountain from Starrs Plain to Wooster Heights; Joseph M. and Ebenezer B. White were original incorporators; Rockwell says Sturges Selleck completed the road in 1812; Liljegren placed site of a toll station just north of the Ridgefield-Danbury line, on the west side of Route 7, just south of Bennett's Farm Road — a site destroyed by 2005 Route 7 widening; still in use, 1832, [RN]

**Danbury Corners:** Intersection of Main Street and Danbury Road, or Routes 35 and 116, also often called Joe's Corner (*q.v.*).

**Danbury Hill:** Early 20th Century term for the area along Danbury Road from the end of Main Street north to the flats just before Farmingville Road. [RN]

**Danbury Old Cart Path:** Probably the earliest named road in Ridgefield; mentioned in the first purchase of land from the Indians in 1708, describing land in Branchville area; probably followed nearly same path as the present Portland Avenue, West Branchville Road, Branchville Road, Florida Road, a little bit of Route 7, and then over Simpaug Turnpike into Redding and up to Danbury. [RN]

**Danbury Path:** *See* Danbury Road.

**Danbury Road:** Route 35 (*q.v.*) from Main Street to Route 7, then north on 7 to Danbury line; Names first appears in 1718 deed; in 18th Century, Danbury Road's route was from north end of Main Street, on present path to today's Fox Hill Village, where it followed the main road through the condominium development and returned to the present highway; at the intersection of Limestone and Haviland Roads, eastward over Haviland Road, across Route 7 (non-existent in the 18th Century), and over Great Pond Road at Pickett's Ridge Road into Redding; route turned north over Starr's Plain Road into Danbury, passed east of Lake Waubeeka, over Moses Mountain to Wooster Heights. Parts in Danbury were called the Post Road (*q.v.*); today's section from Haviland/Limestone to Danbury line was old Danbury and Ridgefield Turnpike (*q.v.*); old alternate Danbury Road, sometimes called Danbury Path, ran northeastward from the center of Fox Hill condominiums, connected with Limekiln Road, which led up to Haviland; portions of Danbury Road were straightened in 1930s, leaving small pieces such as Old Danbury Road and Fox Hill Drive at the condominiums. [RN]

**Danbury Savings & Loan Association:** Opens Ridgefield branch Oct. 14, 1972, at 2 Prospect Street in new Yankee Ridgefield Shopping Center (*q.v.*); runs into problems in S&L crisis

of late 1980s, gets government bail-out, and is taken over by Eagle Federal, which soon closes branch here.

**Danbury town line:** First surveyed by the county April 30, 1716.

**Dancers** from Ridgefield: Paul Draper, Marthe Krueger, Patricia Schuster.

**Dancing:** Dancing, dances and balls were popular entertainment in the late 19th and much of the 20th Century. The town hall was often the site of balls, sponsored by various organizations, including the local chauffeurs. Outdoor dancing was offered at carnivals. [DD117] Country dancing was popular at the Odd Fellows Hall for many years. Barn dances were also held from time to time.

**Danelagh** was the Great Dane kennel of Nancy-Carroll Draper (*q.v.*) on Old Stagecoach Road.

**Dann, Dr. Jordan Robert** (1926-2022), a native of Pelham, N.Y., was a beloved veterinarian in Ridgefield for 65 years, starting in August 1958 when he opened the town's first veterinary hospital on Route 7. A graduate of Harvard, who earned his D.V.M. degree at Colorado University, he was a World War II Army veteran and a second lieutenant. His wife, Judith Leserer Dann, was active in the community. [OR7/13/2022]

**Darlington, John F. "Jack,"** (1935-1988), was a Union Carbide executive who was a popular leader in youth programs, such as Little League and Boy Scouts, for 20 years. He and his family moved to Ridgefield in 1967. [P2/27/1988]

**Da Silva, Susie,** was named Ridgefield's 19th school superintendent in January 2020. She had been assistant superintendent in Darien since 2015 and before that principal at Kings Highway Elementary School in Westport from 2010 to 2015. She began her career as a language teacher. [P1/2/2020]

**DATAHR:** *See* Ability Beyond

**Daubenspeck, Anita,** (1936-), an Ohio native, was director of the Ridgefield Library from 1975 to 2000 who led growth from fewer than 40,000 books and other media housed in an 8,000-square-foot building to more than 100,000 items in a 26,000-square-foot building. She was named Outstanding Librarian of the Year by the Connecticut Library Association. [NR]

**Daubenspeck, David,** (1933-2021), a native of Pennsylvania, was a Ridgefield historian whose specialty was the houses of Main Street, High Ridge and East Ridge; his detailed research is available at the Ridgefield Library and Ridgefield Historical Society. Husband of Anita Daubenspeck (*q.v.*). A longtime IBM marketing employee, he came to Ridgefield in 1973, living at Twin Ridge and on Main Street, moved to Newtown in 2002 and back to Ridgefield in 2020. He also compiled an extensive genealogy of the Daubenspeck family. [JFS]

**Dauchy, Jacob Jr.,** (1799-1883), was a farmer who served as a state representative in 1858. He was the son of State Rep. Jacob LeGrand Dauchy (1768-1857).

**Dauchy, Jacob LeGrand,** (1768-1857) was a state representative in 1808. He was the father of Jacob Dauchy Jr., a state representative. [JFS]

**Dauchy, Jacob LeGrand,** (1828-1914), was a hatter who lived on northern Main Street and served four years in the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War. He was a Republican state representative in 1881 and was a son of State Rep. Jacob Dauchy Jr.. A longtime

director of the Ridgefield Savings Bank, he was also its first depositor — he was issued passbook #1 on Aug. 6, 1871. [RSB24]

**Dauchy, Keeler,** (1801-1887), was a merchant who had a store at what is now 381 Main Street (Deborah Ann's) where he also established Ridgefield's first lumberyard. Later the store was moved to a house at the south corner of Main and Catoonah Streets. (In the early 1920s the building was disassembled and rebuilt on Ivy Hill Road near the rail trail.) [RIR] Dauchy and his brother were also owners of what is now the Scott House, headquarters of the Ridgefield Historical Society. A veteran of the War of 1812, he served as a state representative in 1840 and was a brother of State Rep. Walter Dauchy (*q.v.*). He was active in St. Stephen's Church. His home was just north of St. Stephen's Church building and after he died, the church bought it and turned it into a parsonage. In 1914, the house was moved to 23 Catoonah Street where today it holds shops and offices. [JFS, Haight]

**Dauchy, Nathan,** (1747-1824), called Capt. Dauchy, was a state representative in 1799, 1805, 1809, 1810, 1812, 1815. (It is unclear whether he or his son filled some of these terms.) He was a pillar of St. Stephen's Church which he joined in 1795 after being a Congregationalist, and lived just north of the church. A plaque on the south wall of the church interior honors him. [JFS] He also sold his half interest in the Mamamasco Mill in 1805 [RLR9/100].

**Dauchy, Nathan Jr.** (1773-1860), son of Nathan Dauchy, was a Main Street merchant and was state representative in 1803 and 1804. He died in the Troy, NY, area, to which he had moved.

**Dauchy, Samuel,** (1769-1800), was a state representative in 1797 and 1798, and a selectman in 1796 and 1797. His gravestone at Titicus Cemetery calls him "Samuel Dauchy Esq.," and several sources refer to him as "Dr. Samuel Dauchy." He was married to Mary Molly Bradley, daughter of Col. Philip Burr Bradley (*q.v.*).

**Dauchy, Samuel S.,** (1838-1894), a Ridgefield native, operated a large coal business in town after working for his father, Keeler Dauchy (*q.v.*). He served several terms as Ridgefield postmaster. [P12/14/1894]

**Dauchy, Vivus,** (1707-1795), a native of France, came to the colonies in 1735 among the many French Huguenots (*q.v.*) fleeing persecution. He came to Ridgefield soon after and became a leader in the community, including the local militia. His descendants were prominent local businessmen for nearly two centuries. [JFS]

**Dauchy, Walter,** (1793-1857), was a businessman who was a corporal in the War of 1812. He served as a state representative in 1832 and was a brother of State Rep. Keeler Dauchy (*q.v.*).

**Daudt, Charles H.,** (1912-2002), a native of Missouri, was an aviation pioneer. After graduating from Purdue and Harvard Business, he became an aviation professor at the U. of Indiana, then joined American Airlines in 1940. During World War II, he was a captain in the Air Transport Command, and pioneered many North Atlantic routes, as well as others around the world to aid the war effort. He flew transports "over the Hump" from India to China. Later as an American Airlines captain, he was involved in testing the 707, Boeing's first airliner, and worked on its instrument panel design. He also designed and developed flight

attitude systems for commercial aircraft. He and his wife, Marie, lived from 1960 to 1974 at Windover (*q.v.*) on West Lane. [P12/24/2002]

**Dauer, Rosamond Mueller** (1934-2014), a *Encyclopedia America* editor at Grolier, was the author of six children's books, including the Bullfrog series (including *Bullfrog Grows Up*, *Bullfrog Builds A House*), *The 300 Pound Cat*, and *Mrs. Piggery Snout*; her poetry was widely published; lived at 90 Olmstead Lane in the 1970s, early 80s. [WWW]

**Davidson, Louise "Lulu"**, (1887-1976), an artist and writer, lived at 93 Olmstead Lane with her stepsister, Lillian Gilkes (*q.v.*) After spending the 1930s writing and painting in Paris, she operated a book shop here during WW2 and then an antiques shop. [WWW]

**Davie, Malcolm**, (1918-2006), a musician and native of Canada, was well-known locally as a bagpipe player in the last decades of the 20th Century; earned four university degrees and over the years worked for the family ice cream business, taught math, was a minister, and served as a counselor at several institutions. [WWW]

**Davies, George**, was a florist with a greenhouse on Danbury Road in 1913 [P2/6/1913]

**Davies, Linda**, (1909-2000), a Ridgefield native, taught elementary and junior high school for 42 years, from 1930 when, at age 20, she started at Branchville Schoolhouse until 1972 when she retired at East Ridge Junior High School. She was active in Grange, the library, Keeler Tavern, and other organizations, and held many graduate degrees. [WWW]

**Davies, Rev. Dr. Susan**, (1942-), a native of Detroit, was Ridgefield's first woman clergyperson, serving as a minister at the First Congregational Church, from her ordination in 1973 until 1976; she had joined the staff as religious education leader in 1971; was divorced and known as Susan Barton then; in 1974, she married Yale theology professor James G. Clague and became Susan Clague-Davies; moved to a pastorate in Maine in 1976 and in 1983, as Rev. Dr. Susan Davies, joined staff of Bangor Theological Seminary, where she as a professor and a dean; retired 2011; lives in Vizea, outside Bangor.

**Davis, Harold O.**, (1905-1986), was the town's last elected chief assessor (from 1952 to 1975); after that assessors were appointed by the selectmen; Davis was also a small developer in town — *see* Cottage Street.

**Davis, Hiram**, (1844-1947), became Ridgefield's last living veteran of the Civil War; native of Wilton, he was one of four brothers who served in that war; he was a stonemason and served as a Republican state representative, 1909-11, as a borough warden, and in the fire department; retired to Florida. [NR] [WWW]

**Davis, Rev. James W.**, (1844-1927), born on the Ridgefield-Wilton line, enlisted from Ridgefield in the Union Army at age 16, saw extensive service, was wounded at least once in combat, and later became a minister and commander of the Connecticut Grand Army of the Republic (*q.v.*). He spoke at the dedication of the War Memorial (*q.v.*) on Main Street in 1925 and was a brother of Hiram Davis (*q.v.*).

**Davis, John H.**, (1929-2012), son of John E. and Maude Bouvier Davis (*q.v.*), spent many summers here with his parents at their East Ridge estate. He was an author of books on the Kennedys and on the Maffia. [WWW] His grandfather, John E. Davis Sr., rented a mansion at 32 High Ridge in 1930s. [DD153]

**Davis, Maude Bouvier**, (1905-1999), aunt of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis, lived at Tower Cottage (*q.v.*), 48 East Ridge from 1930s until 1966 when moved to Butterfly (*q.v.*),

at 34 New Street; Jackie Bouvier would visit her aunt here; Maude was a founder of Silver Spring Country Club, a president of Ridgefield Garden Club; mother of author John H. Davis (*q.v.*). [WWW, DD153]

**Davis Cemetery** is located off the east side of Silver Spring Road near the Wilton line. It contained 21 gravestones in 1934. This is a family cemetery for the Scott, Davis, Hoyt families. The earliest stone was 1832; latest, 1909. This cemetery, which may be seen on a hill beyond the driveway of #6 Silver Spring Road, is landlocked by private property. [JFS]

**Davis Lane:** Now just a short road, once extended farther west from Nod Road, then turned 90 degrees north and ran halfway between Nod Road and Wilton Road East up to Whipstick Road; named for Clinton Davis, a dairy farmer who lived on the corner of Nod Road and Davis Lane from at least 1912 until the 1930's. [RN]

**Dawes, Thomas Webster**, (1943-2007), musician and composer, was a founding member of The Cyrkle, rock band in mid-1960s famed for "Red Rubber Ball"; became TV commercial jingle writer, best known for Alka-Seltzer's "plop plop, fizz fizz, oh what a relief it is"; with wife, Virginia Redington, wrote off-Broadway musical, "Talk of the Town," opened 2004; they also produced books on antique jewelry, he as photographer; they owned Brook Farm (*q.v.*), the old Eugene O'Neill (*q.v.*) home, from the early 1980s until 2005 when moved to Weston. [WWW]

**Dawn Lane:** Dead-end road off Haviland Road, named for Dawn Lounsbury, daughter of Everett Lounsbury, the developer; town accepted it in 1969. [RN]

**Day, Katharine E.**, (ca.1883-1957), who lived on West Lane, was a retired New York city public school principal, who moved to Ridgefield and became a member of the Board of Education. She was also active in St. Stephens Church, the Ridgefield Garden Club, Women's Republican Club and was a director of the Ridgefield Library. [BP5/20/1957]

**Days Inn** by Wyndham at 296 Ethan Allen Highway is a motel that describes itself as in Ridgefield, but which is entirely within the town of Redding. In 2020, it also housed an Indian restaurant called Mint. For many years it was the Ridgefield Motor Inn (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Deakin, David**, who grew up in Danbury, was postmaster of Ridgefield 1991-93, and then Southbury. He retired and became a town official in Bethlehem.

**Dean, Morton**, (1935-), is a veteran of more than 40 years in radio and television journalism, mostly for CBS and ABC; earned an Emmy and many other awards and wrote two books; performed occasionally as a clown for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus; has a home in a former mill on Saw Mill Hill Road. [NR]

**Death, first:** Uzziell Hyatt, son of Thomas and Experience Hyatt, died Feb. 14, 1712, said to be the first death recorded in the new town of Ridgefield.

**deBearn, Prince Gaston, and Princess Frances Georgette Moss de Bearn**, lived on Branchville Road from 1961 until the late 1960s. Their son was Count Gaston de Bearn-Viana, who grew up in Ridgefield, became lawyer who interned with Robert F. Kennedy, worked for Hoffman La Roche for many years, and then became a prominent Washington, D.C., lobbyist.

**DeBenigno, Pasquale**, (1871-1964), native of Italy, operated Branchville General Store (*q.v.*) from 1907 until the 1940s?; husband of Caterina; name sometimes appears DiBenigno.

**deBernard, Catherine “Teddy”**, (1908-1975), graduated from the Army Air Forces Flying School in 1943 and became a Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP), ferrying aircraft “to relieve men flyers for combat and other duties.” A native of Paris, she was the daughter of a World War I French aviator and began flying in 1938, purchasing her own plane. Her first name is variously spelled and her last name sometimes as deBarnard or DeBernard. She was described as a junior champion fencer. She lived at 145 Main Street (ONS34) with Mrs. Thorneycroft Ryle. No other information has been found about her.

**December, Joseph**, (1925-1974), was a pharmacist and manager of Bissell’s Pharmacy who in the 1960s bought Smith’s Pharmacy, changing the name to December Drugs. He and his wife Shirley, office manager, lived at 27 Ritch Drive. [DD100]

**December Drugs**, a pharmacy at 454 Main Street, was owned by Joseph December Jr. (*q.v.*). It had earlier been Smith’s Pharmacy (*q.v.*).

**Decoration Day**, celebrated in Ridgefield from after the Civil War until World War I when it became Memorial Day (*q.v.*). It honored those who died in the Civil War and including decorating their graves, and speeches, usually in the Town Hall. [JFS]

**Deer Hill**: Mentioned in 1744 deer; location unclear, but probably in the Limestone or northern Farmingville districts. [RN]

**Deer Hill Drive**: Dead-end road off Cedar Lane, laid out in 1955 and accepted by the town in 1959; developer Earl DeWitt Etheridge, a Pan-American Airlines captain, named the subdivision Mill River Hollow after the stream feeding a pond then existing at the west end of the 15-lot development. [RN]

**Deer Pit, The**: Name appears in three deeds in 1721 and 1722; location unknown but probably within territory lost in the Oblong (*q.v.*) exchange, perhaps in the Southwest Ridges (*q.v.*), now north of Vista; a deer pit was a hole in the ground covered with sticks and brush, designed to trap deer – *see* The Wolf Pits. This Deer Pit was probably dug by the Indians, who used deer meat for food, hide for clothing, and bones for tools. [RN]

**Deer Track Hill Road**: A 1958 town highway map shows old, abandoned highway that led from the east side of Route 7, about 500 feet south of New Road intersection, northeasterly to Fire Hill Road; part of the east end of Riverside Drive (*q.v.*) was apparently was built atop this path. The road may have been a deer track, but more likely, people, seeing the vestiges of an overgrown old road through the woods, simply thought of it as a deer path. [RN]

**Defense Headquarters**: The American Women's Voluntary Services building on Catoonah Street was used as a headquarters for all local planning and coordination of homefront efforts in World War II, according to a decision by the Ridgefield Defense Council in December 1941, just after the declaration of war. [P12/11/1941]

**DeForest, Elihu**, (1742-1806), was part of Ethan Allen’s forces attacking Fort Ticonderoga in May 1775. He became a captain in the Continental Army as late as 1780. Buried in Ridgebury Cemetery. [JW]

**DeForest, Joseph**, of Danbury bought a third ownership of the Mamamansco mill in 1790 [RLR7/118] and sold it five years later. [RLR8/124]

**DeForest, Uriah**, (1755-1840), served in the Continental Army in 1776, was a blacksmith and farmer, and is buried in Ridgebury Cemetery. [JW]

**Deiches, Walter Harold Goldstein**, (1894-1964), a native of Michigan, was a well-known fashion consultant in NYC and an executive with Bonwit Teller Inc., a major Fifth Avenue women's specialty shop, in the mid-20th Century. He had also worked for Franklin Simon, Saks, G. Fox, and Bamberger's. He and his wife Nancy Westheim bought the former Lewis/Scripps farm at South Salem Road in 1942. They had lived at the corner of Nod and Branchville Roads. [DD102, NYT3/31/1964]

**Deiss, Joseph Jay**, (1912-99), wrote both novels and non-fiction from 1950 until 1995. His first book, *A Washington Story* (1950), was written when he lived on New Street in the 1940s and early 1950s; had career in public relations before turning to writing; later lived in Italy where he was knighted for his work; wrote about archaeological subjects; last years spent on Cape Cod and in Florida where he taught at U. of Fla. [WWW]

**DeJa Vu**: Consignment shop at 23 Catoonah Street (old St. Stephen's rectory); operated 1990s, early 2000s by Nancy Ambler.

**de Liscinskis, Lenard Samuel**, (1922- ), native of Latvia, founded in 1978 Chez Lenard (*q.v.*), an upscale hot dog stand on Main Street; he and father were involved in the cosmetics industry, and he produced several perfumes under name of Leonid de Liscinskis in 1940s, 50s, 60s.

**Delta**: Ridgefield rock band in mid-1970s, early 80s. Performers included Bob Gagnon, Billy Foote, Sean Finch.

**DeLuca, Elvina Franceschini**, (1922-2012), ran Ridgefield's school lunch program for 25 years in the days when meals were "home cooked." director of the School System Lunch Program, a position she held from 1960 to 1985. Wife of the late Sylvester DeLuca, who operated DeLuca's Footwear. [JFS]

**DeLuca's Footwear**, a shoe store, was located at 388 Main Street in 1984 [DD96].

**deMaCarty, Adolf Cormac** (1897-1962), a native of Durham, and **Jane Grant deMaCarty** (1908-1980) lived at Brook Farm (*q.v.*) during the 1950s. He was an insurance broker and veteran of World Wars I and II. She was a great granddaughter of President U. S. Grant and of U.S. Senator Jerome Chaffee of Colorado. She grew up in North Salem and wrote histories about it

**Dembitzer, Louis**, (1900-84), a diamond broker, was a native of Belgium who fought in both World Wars. He and wife, Mauricette, who lived at 124 Mountain Road, adopted five survivors of concentration camps as their children. Interview [P7/9/1981];

**Dempsey, Lillian Loomis Wickes**, (1867-1946), a native of Macon, Ga., was in 1899 the 32-year-old widow of 85-year-old Thomas Charles Dempsey, a wealthy merchant in Macon who also lived in NYC. Mrs. Loomis built in 1901 Northoline (*q.v.*), the 22-room mansion at 209 West Lane that was later Fairhaven (*q.v.*), the home of Geraldine Farrar (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Denton, Samuel Scribner "S.S."**, (1865-1945), a native of South Salem, NY, was a Ridgefield business leader who by 1945 was one of the town's largest property owners; had offices in former Barhite Building (*q.v.*), which he renamed for himself; sold coal, fuel oil, farm machinery, insurance, lumber, and had auto repair service; a Republican, he was a state representative, 1913-15; was a director of the Ridgefield Savings Bank. [WWW, RPJ 5/11, DD39, DD116, RSB28]



**Denton Block:** Building housing stores and offices just north of old Bedient building on the east side of Main Street; named for Samuel S. Denton (*q.v.*), its owner, who has a store there. *See also* Barhite Building.

**DePeyster Street:** Another old name for today's Rockwell Road, so-called for the Misses Augusta, Elizabeth and Cornelia DePeyster who in 1895 bought the former Perry homestead on Main Street at the south side of Rockwell Road; appears on 1900 map. [RN]

**Depot Hill:** The hill traversed by Prospect Street between Main Street and the area of Bailey Avenue; so called because Ridgefield Station (*q.v.*) was at the bottom (opposite Bailey). [DD37] *See also* Station Hill, Library Hill.

**Depot Hill Street:** Prospect Street (*q.v.*) was so-called on a 1941 New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad map of the Ridgefield station area. *See* Depot Hill.

**Depot Road:** A little lane, built in the 1920s, that led from Route 7, opposite Route 102 Branchville Road, across the Norwalk River to the north end of Branchville railroad station or "depot"; was once the eastern end of Branchville Road; road was discontinued in October 2019 because the bridge was in bad condition and no one wanted to pay to rebuild it. [RN]

**Depression, Great,** a major economic recession that began with the stock market crash of October 1929 and lasted through the 1930s, affected many Ridgefielders, rich and poor. By May 1932, the Lions and Garden Clubs were providing free land on which unemployed Ridgefielders could raise food. In the summer of 1933, many businesses adopted Roosevelt's NRA program to improve employment and set a minimum wage. Some of the grand estates shut down while others cut back on staffing. In December 1933, when the town began handing out applications for jobs under the federal Civil Works Administration, 170 unemployed Ridgefield men showed up at town hall. However, some wealthy residents, like B.O. Chisolm (*q.v.*), helped to counteract unemployment; Chisolm created work with such projects as building a new barn (for which he had no need), just to keep workers employed. For some it was financial ruin. On Oct. 15, 1934, Frank L. Hilton, a retired New York banker, stood on the sidewalk in front of the First National Bank on Main Street at 6:45 p.m. and shot himself in the head. "Simply one of the thousands who thought they could not carry on any farther," he said in a note. "Cause of death: suicide. Reason: Financial worry." First Selectman Winthrop Rockwell proposed in March 1935 \$100,000 in projects for the federal Public Works Administration grants that town was eligible for, including a \$50,000 auditorium for the East Ridge School (it's now the Ridgefield Playhouse). The Depression also caused labor disputes. In February 1935, the laborers union petitioned the selectmen to raise the wage of municipal workers from 40 cents an hour to the 50 cents that federal relief workers were getting locally. In April 1935 the local painters' union went on a four-day strike, and won a wage of \$7 for eight hours of work; the painters had been getting \$6 for seven hours. A Torrington company, rebuilding a half dozen town roads in the spring of 1936, had trouble finding laborers willing to work for 45 cents an hour after someone told the workers the union scale was 62 cents. In March 1936 tight times forced the schools to drop the lunch program; the District Nursing Association (*q.v.*) decided to provide at least milk, but had to stop by May because the schools had no

way to refrigerate the drink. Responding to the fact that many people could no longer afford magazines or daily newspapers, *The Press* in May 1936 expanded from eight to 16 pages a week, adding many national features plus comic strips.. [JFS]

**de Reyna, Diane Detzer** (1930-92), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1948, was a science fiction novelist and short story writer of the 1950s and 60s who wrote nine novels under names of Jorge de Reyna, Adam Lukens, and Diane Detzer. She lived on Olcott Way at the time of death. Her father was Capt. August Detzer (*q.v.*).

**Desire Under the Elms:** 1924 play by Eugene O'Neill (*q.v.*), said to have been inspired by the playwright's time spent here. "It was not Brook Farm that inspired his play," says Bedini. "The inspiration came from his view of the smaller white colonial style house across the North Salem Road, owned by Louis G. Smith. From his front door O'Neill could see the Smith house framed behind the heavy drooping branches of two majestically tall elms on either side of it, which grew beside the road. The trees were cut down some years later to enable the road to be widened." [P10/5/1983]

**Detzer, August J.,** (1896-76) was a U.S. Navy captain who served in World Wars I, II and Korea, and owned radio stations WINE and WGHF-FM in Brookfield; wife Dorothy Allee (1909-96) was daughter of Laura Curie Allee Shields and Dr. James VanAllen Shields (*q.v. each*) and was a longtime resident of town.

**Detzer, Diane:** *See* Diane Detzer de Reyna.

**Devil's Run Road:** Early to mid 20th Century informal name for the dirt road that runs from Bennett's Farm Road at Fox Hill north to the Bennett's Ponds, today the main roadway into the Bennett's Pond State Park; the road was part of Col. Louis D. Conley's massive estate, Outpost Farm, begun around 1914, and served as the main route to the pond or ponds; name reflects the roughness of the road, which even today tends to suffer washouts in heavy rains. [RN]

**D.F. Bedient Company:** *See under* Bedient's Hardware.

**Diamond, Katie,** is a singer, actor, writer, and producer who has written, produced, and performed in numerous musical theater and cabaret shows, including on Broadway, over the past 20 years. She moved to Ridgefield in 2014 with her husband Bill Diamond and their three children, and is executive director of ACT of Connecticut (*q.v.*). *See also* Diamond Properties Performing Arts Center.

**Diamond Properties Performing Arts Center** at 36 Old Quarry Road, a former building at the Schlumberger-Doll Research Center (*q.v.*), houses a theater that is in 2020 headquarters of ACT of Connecticut (*q.v.*), a theatrical group. [JFS]

**Diane:** Gift and flower shop at 17½ Danbury Road [P11/6/1980]: owned by Diane Schwartz [CD1983].

**Diary of Jared Nash:** *See* Jared Nash *and* Charles S. Nash.

**Dick, Edwina Eustis** (1908-1997), a Juilliard graduate, was a contralto who sang leading roles with opera companies in New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, and other cities, and was a soloist with the New York Philharmonic and other leading orchestras, singing under Stokowski, Toscanini, Reiner, Iturbi, and Metropoulos. She did many recordings. During WW2 she performed more than 1,000 times during a 2½-year USO tour that took her to all five Atlantic and three Pacific theatres. She married attorney Alexander C. Dick and lived

from the 1950s through the 1980s on Old Branchville Road, and died in Southbury; buried in Branchville Cemetery. *See also* Eustis Lane. [WWW, P6/25/1987]

**Dick, Jack R.**, (1928-1974) was a Brooklyn, NY., teenager who ran away in 1944 and was discovered working on the Ridgebury farm of William C. Browning. He became a millionaire many times over, amassed a world-class art collection, acquired a Greenwich mansion later owned by the Helmsleys, and was arrested for grand larceny and forgery. [WWW, WR]

**Dickinson, Graham:** *See* Graham Dickinson SPIRIT Skate Park

**Dickson, Stewart:** *See* Stewart Dickson & Co.

**Dic-Rie Dairy:** Dairy products delivery service operated by Dick (Richard E.) and Marie Venus in the 1950s until about 1961 from their 80 Olmstead Lane home; they did not have a dairy farm, but bought products from local farmers. *See also* Richard E. Venus.

**Dielman, Ernest Benham**, (1894-1972), who lived here as a boy, was a painter, etcher, and sculptor. He worked in NYC and in Santa Barbara CA.

**Dielman, Frederick**, (1847-1935), a native of Germany, was a noted American artist, especially known for his murals, both painted and mosaic; mosaic panels in Library of Congress, entitled "Law" and "History," often cited as his best-known works; president of National Academy of Design, 1899-1909; taught at Art Students League and Cooper Union. He moved around 1900 to a home off Rockwell Road called "The Boulders," One of his children was painter and sculptor Ernest Benham Dielman (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Dikeman:** *See* Dykeman.

**Dillman Court:** runs off Chestnut Hill Road, serving a 50-acre, 1984 subdivision by the Portland Corporation. The Planning and Zoning Commission selected the name in November 1984 to recognize Michael Dillman of Redding, a civil engineer who was involved in the design of many subdivisions in Ridgefield, and who had died earlier that year. [RN]

**Dillon Associates:** Developed Dillon Estates (*q.v.*); John W. Ryan, its president, had worked for I.M Pei and others in developing corporate headquarters, hospitals and laboratories.

**Dillon Estates:** 17 lots developed by Dillon Associates (*q.v.*) on 61 acres that had been part of Daniel and Louise McKeon's Arigideen Farm (*q.v.*) and in 1781 the location of a French encampment of troops under Count Rochambeau (*q.v.*). Served by Berthier Place (*q.v.*). Groundbreaking took place August 1987 [P8/27/1987]

**Dimitri's Diner**, a Greek-style diner, was established by Dimitrios Paschalidis (*q.v.*) in 1995, and has operated on Prospect Street.

**Dimorat, John**, (1734-1807), lived in Ridgefield as a child, son of Michael. He served in the French and Indian War from both New York and Connecticut, and in the Revolution; He died in Boston's Alms House. Surname spelled many ways. [RLR 1/221, UNM]

**Dimorat, Michael**, was the first free African American known to own land in Ridgefield. He bought a house on West Lane in 1736 and apparently built a house on it, selling it three years later. He had four children. He probably came from Norwalk, the town just to the south of Ridgefield, and returned there after the sale. [UNM]

**DiMuzio, Patricia**, is an amateur actress and a founder in 1965 of the Ridgefield Workshop for the Performing Arts (*q.v.*). She was married to Samuel DiMuzio, who was a school board member in the 1970s. They moved to Florida.

**DiNapoli, Nicholas R. Sr.** (1906-1984) was a residential builder whose projects included Walnut Grove (*q.v.*), parts of Old Sib Road, and the Ridgefield Arms (*q.v.*) apartments; headed DiNapoli Development Company [P5/10/1984] Son Nicholas Jr. opened 30 more units in 1983 at Ridgefield Arms [P4/14/1983]

**Diniz, Al**, native of Portugal (named pronounced *dee-nez*), helped bring soccer to Ridgefield; was head coach of RHS soccer team for more than 20 years; won state championships; came to U.S. in 1948; helped establish Soccer Club of Ridgefield (SCOR) in 1975; [NR] *See also* Diniz Field.

**Diniz Field**: Soccer field built in 1981 next to the skating rink, named for Al Diniz (*q.v.*).

**Dioguardi, Joseph Leo** (1890-1973), a native of Italy, was a farmer who became an early developer in Branchville including Wilridge, Mallory Hill and Old Town Roads; began subdividing in 1914, selling mostly quarter acre lots to people of modest means for \$10 down and equally modest monthly payments; served on school building committees 1960s.

**Diplomats**: U.S. diplomats who've lived in Ridgefield include: William Dodd Brewer, ambassador to Sudan and to Mauritius; George Pratt Ingersoll, ambassador to Siam; Clare Boothe Luce, ambassador to Italy and, briefly, Brazil; George L. Rockwell, U.S. consul in Quebec City; John Gilbert Winant, ambassador to Great Britain (*q.v.* each).

**Discovery Center, The**: founded in 1985, stages scores of programs each year to help increase awareness of the natural world around us. It had no physical facility or headquarters. Appears to have shut down operations in 2019.

**Dissenting Society in Ridgebury**: A contemporary term for the new Ridgebury parish of the Anglican church, so called because the Congregational church was the official, colony-sanctioned church in Connecticut and congregations ("societies") of other beliefs, such as Anglicans and Baptists, were called dissenting societies. *See* Ridgebury Episcopal Church.

**District Nursing Association**: Founded in Oct 15, 1914, at home of Mrs. Ebenezer W. Keeler, who was its first president for 10 years; motto was "assistance with both sympathy and justice"; originally located on second floor of Amatuzzi Building on Main Street; first nurse was Helen Enright (*q.v.*); moved in June 1980 from 13 Catoonah Street where offices had been for 20 years, to 304 Main Street; see also Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association.

**Divide by Two**: 1940 novel set in Ridgefield by Mildred Gilman Wohlforth (*q.v.*) about a child of "modern" divorced parents who tries with unusual results to arrange his life to his liking; published by Mercury,

**Dixon, Courtlandt Palmer**, (1853-1921), was a NYC businessman who, with wife Louise Polhemus Dixon, built starting in 1911 a 27-room mansion [P10/12/1911] later known as Mamanasco Lake Lodge, Manresa and now St. Ignatius Retreat House (*q.v. each*); his grandfather and uncle had been U.S. senators from Rhode Island; he was a member of St. Stephen's vestry, president of the Ridgefield Library, member of the Board of Finance, and vice president of the First National Bank and Trust Company of Ridgefield. [P10/25/1921]

**Dlhy Court:** The road leading into the town-owned golf course, originally known as Dlhy Ridge Golf Course (*q.v.*), but more commonly called the Ridgefield Golf Course today. [RN] *See also* Dlhy Ridge.

**Dlhy Ridge:** Town officials concocted this in the early 1970's when they were looking for a name for the new municipal golf course, opened in 1974. It is the only place name in town that has no vowels, but because it is nonetheless tricky to spell, "Ridgefield Golf Course" has tended to replace Dlhy Ridge. The name recalls Joseph and Suzanna Dlhy (pronounced dill-ee, with the accent on the first syllable) whose farm now forms a large portion of the course (land was also purchased from the Leighton family). Joseph came to the U.S. from Czechoslovakia in 1910 and five years later, when he married Suzanna Boron, moved to Ridgefield. He died in 1965. Suzanna, who sold the land for the course in the late 1960's, died in 1976. [RN]

**Dlhy Ridge Golf Course:** 18-hole, 6,444-yard, par 71 municipal course on 140 acres approved by town meeting in December 1971; designed by George and Tom Fazio; opened 1974; was making a profit in operations yearly by 1980 [P8/28/1980]; by 1989, 2,000 residents were registered as users; fee in 1980 was \$4.50 a round for residents, and \$6.50 weekends, with non-residents paying \$2.50 more; also called Ridgefield Golf Course. *See also* Dlhy Ridge.

**Dog and Pony:** Short-lived restaurant at 378 Main Street in the 2010s, a resurrection of the Bissell House (*q.v.*).

**Dog, Cat and Poultry Show:** Annual benefit, established 1901, for Ridgefield Village Improvement Society (*q.v.*); held on grounds of Frederic E. Lewis (*q.v.*) estate; included judged dog, cat and poultry competitions; 1908 show raised \$170 for society. [P9/17/1908]

**Dog pound:** *See* Canine Shelter.

**Dogs:** Registration of dogs began in 1908. Untagged strays were impounded and owners paid \$5 to get them back. *See also* Kennels, Canine Shelter, Helene Merrick.

**Dogwood Drive:** A dead-end lane off upper Danbury Road; name, inspired by the vast Outpost Nurseries holdings, of which this was once a part, was chosen by Richard Conley of Connecticut Land Company (*q.v.*) for the dogwoods, both wild and planted by his father, Col. Louis D. Conley (*q.v.*). Perr Katz developed most of the lots; town accepted in 1957. [RN]

**Dolan, Martin and Mary,** (-1929) are profiled in DD138. He was a gardener for Casagmo estate early in the 20th Century.

**Dolan, Dr. Walter T.** (1905-1986), a native of Stamford, was a dentist in Ridgefield from 1931 until 1980; last office was at 383 Main Street; turned over practice to Dr. Neil Schwimer (*q.v.*), who came here in 1973.

**Doll, Henri George,** (1902-1991), a native and citizen of France, was a scientist specializing in oil well research and was chairman of the board of Schlumberger Well Surveying Corp., based in France. He lived on Spectacle Lane in the 1950s, coming here as president of Electro-Mechanical Research or EMR (*q.v.*) on Main Street. His first wife was Anne Schlumberger, daughter of one of the founders of Schlumberger. When he retired in 1967, the Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation's research laboratory in Ridgefield was renamed the Schlumberger-Doll Research Center (*q.v.*) in his honor. [JFS]

**Doll hospital:** *See* La Petite Francaise.

**Dolph and Stewart Atlas** of Fairfield County contains very detailed maps of Ridgefield, showing name of owner of every building in town, mostly on a two-page spread; published October 1936.

**Dolson, Hildegard**, (1908-1981), a novelist and second wife of novelist Richard Lockridge (*q.v.*), wrote mysteries set in Ridgefield, which she called Wingate. Wingate books were *To Spite Her Face* (1971), in which thrift Shop is scene of a murder; *A Dying Fall* (1973), death in sculpture garden at Aldrich; *Please Omit Funeral* (1975), about school book banning crisis, and *Beauty Sleep* (1977), murder at a health spa at a former estate. [P1/22/1981]

**Doman, Glidden Sweet**, (1921-2016), a native of western NY, started his career in 1943 as a blade designer for Sikorsky Aircraft. In 1945 he founded Doman Helicopters Inc., which produced small helicopters and was headquartered for many years at Danbury Airport. He developed innovations years earlier than larger competitors; some of them are now standard in today's helicopter technology. Company closed in 1969 and Doman began designing wind turbine blades for his new company, Gamma Ventures Inc. He lived in Ridgefield from 1958 to 1967; wife **Joan** was an RHS teacher. [WWW]

**Donnelly, Joseph Henry**, (1906-1992), was Ridgefield's first full-time resident lawyer; a Republican, he was state representative 1939-41; became one of the largest property owners — for many years was a top-10 taxpayer in town; developed Scodon subdivision, Donnelly Drive, Marcardon Avenue (all names employ his name), Taporneck Court, Ramapoo Hills, and other subdivisions; owned Main Street commercial buildings and in 1960 built Donnelly Shopping Center on Governor Street; turned former Gov. Phineas Lounsbury home on Governor Street into Donnelly Professional Building (*q.v.*), which housed his practice, Donnelly, McNamara and Gustafson, for many years. [WWW, RSB31]

**Donnelly Drive:** Extends from St. Johns Road to Silver Hill Road; built in the 1950's and named for Joseph H. Donnelly (*q.v.*), who, with Perry Scott, developed the subdivision, part of which had been Donnelly homestead on Wilton Road West; accepted by Town Meeting in 1956. [RN]

**Donnelly Professional Building:** at 27 Governor Street; former home of Gov. Phineas Lounsbury, later the House of Friends (*q.v.*) converted to offices by Joseph H. Donnelly (*q.v.*); razed in 2014 to make way for Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association headquarters.

**Donnelly Shopping Center:** at 15-21 Governor Street, opened in 1960 by Joseph H. Donnelly (*q.v.*), occupied originally by First National, Woolworth's, and smaller shops.

**Donovan, Jeremiah**, (1857-1935) was the third Ridgefield native to serve in Congress. Born in Branchville, he was living in Norwalk by 1870 and in 1889 established what became Norwalk's longest-lasting tavern, long called Donovan's and now Donovan and MacKenzie's, at Washington and Water Streets. After serving in the State House of Representatives, he was elected in 1912 to Congress, serving from 1913 to 1915, considered a progressive. He was elected mayor of Norwalk from 1917 to 1921. [WWW]

**Don't Raise the Bridge (Lower the River)** by Max Wilk (*q.v.*), MacMillan, 1960. A humorous novel about life in suburbia, airline pilots and a country inn (what is now Bernard's). Wilk lived on Silver Spring Road when he wrote the book.

**Doolittle, Ichabod**, (1731-1807), a native of Wallingford, was said to have operated a tavern on Ridgebury Road. He was a captain in the Connecticut Militia very early in the Revolution and was at Ticonderoga and the Adirondacks. His commission was May 1, 1775, but he was honorably discharged that November due to illness. He then served as a selectman in 1777 and 1778 and as a state representative in 1780 and 1781. By 1800, he had moved to nearby Southeast in Putnam County, where he died.

**Doolittle's map of 1795:** Amos Doolittle drew a map of Connecticut, published in 1795, showing two churches in Ridgefield center and two in Ridgebury (Congregational and Episcopal); also produced 1797 map without town lines.

**Dot the Mop:** Professional clown portrayed in the 1970s by Beverly Hoffman (*q.v.*).

**Dot's:** Early mobile lunch stand, operated early 1970s on Main Street, etc., by Richard E. Venus Jr. (1944-77).

**Double H Farm:** named for its owner, E. Hunter Harrison (*q.v.*), a noted railroad executive; former McKeon farm known as Arigideen (*q.v.*); acquired in 2005 for \$12 million, on market 2018 for \$33 million after extensive improvements; included three residences, one of them 12,000 square feet built in 2009; stables accommodate 43 horses.

**Doubleday, George**, (1866-1955), an industrialist, came here in 1911, first lived in a house on West Lane. In 1915, he bought the 100-acre estate of Francis M. Bacon (*q.v.*) on Peaceable Street, which they called Westmoreland (*q.v.*), and enlarged it. He joined the Ingersoll Sergeant Drill Company in New York in 1894, became its treasurer. After Ingersoll merged with the Rand Drill Company in 1905, he became a vice president, then president of Ingersoll-Rand in 1913; chairman of the board in 1936, holding the position till 1955, the year of his death. In 1939 he was listed as one of the highest-paid executives in the nation. First wife, Alice Moffitt, died in 1919 and second wife, Mary, who was active in the community, died in 1968. [WWW]

**Doubleday, James**, (1907-1970), son of George Doubleday (*q.v.*) and a Princeton graduate, was a local banker and entrepreneur who with his wife Elizabeth "Betty" Ballard Doubleday, bought and razed several mansions, replacing them with more efficient modern houses. *See* Doubleday Lane.

**Doubleday Lane:** 725-foot road off West Mountain Road, serving part of the 1980 West Mountain Pines subdivision of Carl Lecher; named for James Doubleday, who bought the property in the mid-1950's and built the large house at the top of the hill (replacing an earlier mansion, Hillaire (*q.v.*)). He called the place Hobby Hill. It became a town road around 1985. [RN]

**Douglas Lane:** at Lakeland Hills (*q.v.*) off Bennett's Farm Road was developed in the 1950's by Harold Goldsmith (*q.v.*) on part of the old Todd brothers' farm; named for Douglas Rosskamp, son of Paul Rosskamp, Goldsmith's surveyor, who lived nearby. Douglas was born on or close to the day development of Lakeland Hills was begun. It was accepted as a town road in 1956. [RN]

**Dowling, John Edward**, (1922-2004), was a native-born Ridgefield attorney. During World War II he earned the Soldiers Medal, the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for heroism displayed in April 1945 when his anti-tank gun was blown off a road in France; though he suffered shrapnel wounds to his back and lung, he dragged two of his comrades to safety.

He became an FBI agent, then returned to his home town in 1950 to practice law, serve as probate just at age 29, and in the late 1960s served as town attorney. He was also noted as a teller of grand and often humorous tales. [WWW] Among his homes were 36 High Ridge Avenue and 93 Olmstead Lane.

**Dowling Drive:** Charles Elliott (*q.v.*), who developed the road between Ridgecrest Drive and Stonecrest Road, selected the name of his attorney, John E. Dowling (*q.v.*). Developed in the 1950's, the road was not accepted by the town until 1975. Some subdivision maps show the western end of the road as "Elliott Drive." [RN]

**Downesbury Court:** Dead-end road off the north side of Florida Hill Road, serving a late-1970's subdivision by Roger D. Carpenter and William S. Valus; it became a town road in 1980; named for Downesbury Manor (*q.v.*), an estate it was once part of. *See also* High Valley.

**Downesbury Manor:** 300-acre estate on Florida Hill Road, built by Henry de Bevoise Schenck ca. 1890 (he called it Boswyck), later owned and modified by Col. Edward M. Knox (*q.v.*); Mark Twain said to have visited him there; leased to Paulist Fathers (*q.v.*) in 1923 [P10/9/1923]; Property was later Circle F Ranch, a sort of dude ranch; 32-room mansion was razed in August 1953; much of land now High Valley subdivision, including Downesbury Court; often spelled Downsbury. [RN] Downesbury in use in [P7/20/1911] Patterned after and named for an English estate on the Isle of Wight [P11/27/1941]

**Dr. Mike's:** Popular ice cream parlor established in 1975 in Bethel by Peter Seltzer; moved to 409 Main Street starting 1987 when owned by Robert Allison, who took over in 1983; became part of Deborah Ann's Sweet Shop (*q.v.*). People magazine said it had "the best chocolate ice cream in the country"; "Dr. Mike" was a fictitious person. [P3/12/1987]

**Draft horses,** used for pulling loads or farm equipment, and in construction work, were in use until the 1930s. Some of the last teams in Ridgefield were owned by Frank Bloomer, Clifford Seymour, Edwin Smith, Mrs. John H. Lynch, Joe Pinchbeck, George Doubleday, and Irving Conklin, who had four teams at one time. [DD160]. *See also under* Horses.

**Dragon Inn:** Ridgefield's first Asian cuisine restaurant opens October 1972 in Copps Hill Plaza; survives around 10 or 15 years.

**Dragon Palace:** Restaurant at Copps Hill Plaza opened Sept. 22, 1994, replacing Imperial Szechuan.

**Draper, Nancy-Carol,** (1922-2008), a Republican and native of Boston, was state representative from 1953-61 and lived on Old Stagecoach Road (former Westbrook Pegler farm — *q.v.*) where she was a breeder of Great Danes. She retired to her Wyoming cattle ranch and established in 2002 the Draper Museum of Natural History in Cody, Wyo. part of Buffalo Bill Historical Center. The museum creates, accumulates, and disseminates knowledge about the natural environment and human cultures of the American West, focusing on the Greater Yellowstone region. [NR, WWW]

**Draper, Paul,** (1909-1996), was an internationally known concert dancer; lived at The Coach House (*q.v.*) on Branchville Road, 1949-50; often partnered with harmonica player Larry Adler (*q.v.*); accused of communist leanings, moved Switzerland 1951, but returned to teach, choreograph, and occasionally perform. [WWW]

**Draper, Tara,** then a sophomore at Simmons College, was Miss Ridgefield in 1980.



**Dreger, Frank**, (1872-1941), a native of Germany, was a major burglar whose specialty was silver. After being caught in June 1933 in Darien and interrogated at Troop A (*q.v.*) by Leo F. Carroll (*q.v.*), he confessed to a February break and theft at Upaganstitt (*q.v.*), in which silver worth \$10,000 (\$185,000 in 2020 dollars) was taken. During that winter and spring alone, he stole more than \$2.8 million (2020 dollars) in silver. He also revealed he melted most of the silver and sold it to the U.S. government for coinage. He spent the rest of his life in prison. [WWW]

**Drinkwater, William**, (1701-1758), was apprehended by several women and beaten with rods for abusing his wife and being “quarrelsome with his neighbours,” according to John Peter Zenger in The New-York Weekly Journal Dec. 31, 1731. He and his wife Elizabeth Benedict moved to New Milford and eventually had 12 children, and after she died in 1749, he remarried and had four more. [JFS]

**Drive-in bank, first:** Ridgefield Savings Bank (now Fairfield County Bank) at 3 Governor Street was the first drive-up bank in town, opened 1959; site was old Ridgefield Boys Club (*q.v.*)

**Druid Lane:** so called because people connected Druids with Stonehenge in England. And the development into which Druid Lane leads from Route 7 is called Stonehenge Estates because the Stonehenge Inn was just across the highway. (Druids had nothing to do with the creation of England’s Stonehenge, a Bronze Age creation, going back to the second millennium BC, whereas the Druids arrived in Britain until the middle of the Third Century BC — more than a thousand years after Stonehenge.) originally called Jerry’s Court, after the development’s builder, Jerry Tuccio; residents in the mid-1960’s petitioned the selectmen to change it to Druid Lane; developed in the early 1960’s, accepted as a town road in 1964. [RN]

**Ducey, Kerry Anne**, founded the local-news website, HamletHub (*q.v.*), in 2011, and is head of the HamletHub network of local websites.

**Dump, town:** For many years, Ridgefield’s trash was discarded in an open dump off South Street and Old Quarry Road; in the late 1960s, state required it to be a landfill — i.e., the trash is buried under dirt; in 1978, state ordered the landfill closed, saying it was polluting Great Swamp (*q.v.*); in 1980 town voted to build a transfer station (*q.v.*) from which Ridgefield’s trash is hauled away to a waste-to-energy plant. The dump/landfill officially closed Aug. 20, 1980.

**Dump Road:** Another name for Old Quarry Road, according to the minutes of the Board of Selectmen in October 1957. The road was one of two entrances to the old town dump (*q.v.*). *See also* South Street. [RN]

**Dunbankin:** Name of 100 South Salem Road estate with 23-room house of August Zinsser (*q.v.*), who moved there after retiring as a NYC bank president; house built by Reginald Lewis, son of Frederic and Mary Lewis (*q.v.*) and then owned by Robert P. Scripps (*q.v.*), head of Scripps-Howard newspapers; after Zinsser family sold in 1952, owners included Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ward, real estate agent Harry Neumann, and Paul and Di Masters.

**Dunning, Hubert S. “Hugh,”** (1910-1999), a native of NJ, was president of J.H. Dunning Corp., maker of boxes. He bought Waterfall Farm in 1950 as a dairy farm and also raised

and showed old English sheep dogs there. He and wife Elizabeth left in the early 1970s and he died in New Hampshire.

**Dunning, Richard**, (1814-1877), was a musician who played bugle and instructed the Ridgefield Band (*q.v.*). He married in 1855 Mary Henrietta Olmstead. By 1870 they were living in Wilton where both are buried.

**Dunlap, James**, (1862-1950), a native of Scotland, was a stonecutter who worked for many years on his Ramapoo Road farm and later lived next to a quarry on Silver Spring Road, a site now part of the Silver Spring Country Club property. [P6/8/1950]

**Durant** automobiles: *See* Flint.

**Dunrovin**: West Lane estate of William Mattheus Sullivan (*q.v.*) in the 1930s and 40s, attorney for Metropolitan Opera and many of its singers; included small playhouse where musical productions were staged, mostly as benefits — such as Dunrovin Music Festival — and including major opera and show business stars; originally Wildfarms, home of Melbert Cary (*q.v.*); mansion burned to the ground in 1977 when owned by Justin Colin (*q.v.*); playhouse is now a residence on Country Club Road. [JFS]

**Dunworth, Joseph M.**, (1923-2011), a native of NYC, was a naval officer in WW2 and Korean War, retiring from the reserves as a commander in 1967. He worked for McGraw Hill, Burnham Furnaces and had his own furnace business. He served on the Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education over 18 years, ran unsuccessfully for first selectman in 1969, and was especially noted for his early efforts to fight for tax relief for the elderly. In 1965, he was among the founders of the Ridgefield Workshop for the Performing Arts. [WWW]

**Durant's Party Place**: Party supply store at 15 Danbury Road in 1981 [P2/5/1981]

**Durst, Robert A.**, a New York real estate heir who has become famous for his alleged involvement in the 1982 murder of his ex-wife Kathleen Durst in South Salem, NY., bought a house at 9 Ned's Lane in Ridgebury in 1999.

**Dustin, Robert E. "Rob,"** is a documentary filmmaker who in the 1990s, early 2000s lived at 18 Woodlawn Drive. He has won several Emmy Awards for his work, which often deals with ice skating.

**Dutch Elm Disease** destroyed most of the many American Elms in the town, starting sometime after the winter of 1935 (no examples of the disease had been noted by then). Nonetheless, huge, mature American Elms still live in town in 2020.

**Dutch settlers**: John Sturtevant, Sturdevant or Stirtivant, a native of Holland, was among the original proprietors. He died before he was able to develop his Main Street lot and 22 years after his death in 1718, the land was set aside for building an Anglican or Episcopal church. Dutchman Swamp (*q.v.*) may be named for his family, or for the Dykman (Dikeman, Dykeman) family, early settlers of the Scotland district who were probably of Dutch ancestry.

**Dutchman Swamp**: A 1740 deed describes nine acres "lying in Dutchman Swamp," probably in today's Ridgefield Lakes area, possibly north of Fox Hill Lake (*q.v.*). John Sturdevant (or Sturtevant), one of the original proprietors, came from a Dutch family and may have been nicknamed "the Dutchman" by his fellow settlers. He owned land in this vicinity. [RN]

**Dutton, Edward Payson**, (1831-1923), was book publisher, E.P. Dutton, whose imprint is today owned by Penguin; built a house at 63 High Ridge Avenue (*see* High Ridge Manor *and* On-The-Ridge) and was active in intellectual and religious life of community; helped establish Benjamin Franklin Elementary School and Alexander Hamilton High School; devout Episcopalian. [WWW, DD162-168]

**Dutton Lane:** A 1914 landscaping plan for what is now the Richard E. Venus Municipal Building but was then the site of the new Benjamin Franklin Grammar School (*q.v.*) bears a penciled-in label of Dutton Lane for what is today eastern Governor Street (as it runs between old school and the police station); E.P. Dutton (*q.v.*) supplied much of the funding to buy this land for the grammar school, built in 1915. Dutton Lane may have been suggested to show appreciation for the book publisher's contribution, but apparently town fathers thought extending the name Governor Street was simpler. [RN]

**Dykeman, Niram**, (1823-1880), a Civil War veteran, established the Union Hotel in the 1860s with this wife Mary Jane Smith (1824-1903). Sometimes spelllike Dyckman or Dikeman, the latter used by descendants of this family.

**Dykeman House:** Multistory inn operated by the Dyckman family in 1880s at about 441 Main Street (Toy Chest in 2019); building is now on High Ridge Avenue. *See also* Oreneca House. [RIR] Also spelled Dyckman.

**Dyer, Carlus E.**, (1917-2016), a native of Missouri, was longtime director and curator of exhibitions at the Aldrich Museum. Early in his career, he painted murals for the WPA and his work was exhibited in 1938 in the Museum of Modern Art's New Horizons of American Art and in 1939 at the World's Fair. He joined the MOMA staff as exhibition and publication director in 1940 and designed catalogues for major shows. He illustrated *The Classic Ballet*, a book by Lincoln Kirstein of the New York City Ballet. His paintings and sculpture have been exhibited at MOMA, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Silvermine Guild Arts Center. Lived at 79 Bayberry Hill Road 1969-2006; married to Ruth Kobler (*q.v.*). [P8/11/2016]

**Dyer, Ruth Kobler:** *See* Ruth Kobler.

**Dzielinski, Bernard P.** (ca. 1923-2017), was Democratic town chairman, 1973-83; a selectman 1983-88; and member of the Board of Finance for many years, starting in 1989. He was a program and product manager, retiring in the late 1980s. A Connecticut native who grew up on a farm, he sold produce, especially potatoes, at farmers markets late in life. His wife, **Shirley**, (1928-2018), was a Veterans Park School teacher for many years. They moved here in 1968. [NR]

## E

**Eagle (town hall):** A building committee renovating the town hall voted Jan. 11, 1951 to buy a laminated wooden eagle to place over the doorway; paid Saldarini and Pucci, architectural sculptors, \$340 to carve it from white pine block; donors for the cost included A.J. Carnall, Victor Gilbert, and "Mr. Noel," architect for town hall renovations; was originally painted white; around 1974, painted bronze, prompting much criticism; for U.S Bicentennial, Fred Glissman spent 200 hours restoring and gilding the eagle; gilding deteriorated in 1980s and eagle was painted white; regilded in early 1990s.

**Eagleton, June**, native of England, was program director of Ballard Green Senior Center, starting September 1980 [P9/4/1980].

**Earl, Consuelo Vanderbilt** (1903-2011), called “Consie,” was a descendant of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt; her father was president of NY Central Railroad. In the late 1940s she bought 26 acres on Old Oscaleta Road and established Iradell Farm (*q.v.*) where she kept exotic animals from around the world. She also raised Skye and silky terriers and toy poodles. Fourth and last husband was Noble Clarkson Earl, a Howard-Johnson restaurants executive. She died at age 107, probably the oldest person to have lived in Ridgefield. Buried in St. Mary Cemetery. [WWW]

**Early Bird**, a restaurant that started out in the late 1980s at Copps Hill Plaza and later moved to its current location, 86 Danbury, has long been a popular gathering place for “townies,” especially in the morning. The cafe began as a breakfast and lunch operation, but expanded to dinners a few years later. By 1991 it was owned by Joe Hahn and Roy Cogswell (*q.v.*); after Hahn left, Cogswell continued to run the place until his death. [JFS] See profile feature {P1/4/2002]

**Earthquakes**: Minor quakes felt here from time to time; one of the largest Oct. 19, 1985, at 6:07 a.m., centered near Ardsley in Westchester County, registered 4.0 on the Richter scale; a previous major earthquake, in 1884, measured 5.0; quakes may be felt a bit more because Cameron’s line (*q.v.*) runs through town. [JFS]

**Eason, Kathleen “Kay” Young**, (1912-1994), a native of England, was a British actress who appeared in stage and screen roles in the 1930s and early 40s. She married in 1939 Michael Wilding (later the husband of actress Elizabeth Taylor). She came to the U.S. and married British actor Douglass Montgomery (*q.v.*). They moved to Fair Fields (*q.v.*) on Golf Lane in 1965 but Montgomery died a year later. She later met Myles Eason (*q.v.*), an Australian actor living in Ridgefield; they were married and lived at 43 Olmstead Lane until her death. She was active in the Ridgefield Garden Club. [WWW]

**Eason, Myles**, (1915-1977), a native of Australia, was an actor and director on three continents. He was a Royal Shakespeare Company actor after WW2 in England, then turned to films, and later was on TV, appearing in soap operas *As the World Turns* and *The Guiding Light*. His wife, Kathleen, was a British actress; they lived on Olmstead Lane. He was noted for his gardening abilities. [WWW]

**East Farm Lane**: 1,300-foot road off the easterly side of New Road, part of 1983 subdivision by Michel and Mario Morin; town road around 1985; part of the old Lee property, said that this was part of their “East Farm.” *See also* Lee Road. [RN]

**East Fire Hill Road**: *See* Fire Hill Road.

**East Meadow(s)**: The relatively flat land that lies along the upper Norwalk River, especially around the Great and Little Ponds, and perhaps as far south as New Road; mentioned between 1717 and 1826. *See also* East River. [RN]

**East Mountain**: (1) Deeds from 1820 to 1837 mention East Mountain, which appears to be a Scotland District neighborhood term for Copps or Stonecrest Mountain (*q.v.*); (2) perambulation of the Ridgefield and Redding line in 1828 notes a monument north of the southeast corner of town (in Branchville) “is upon the side of the East Mountain, a few rods

west of the high peak on Elisha Gilbert's lot"; probably steep hill along the east side of Route 7, north of Branchville and south of Redding line. [RN]

**East Ridge:** The ridge east of and parallel to Main Street. Also called Middle Ridge. [RN]

**East Ridge Junior High School:** Built 1966 by Morganti Inc. at corner of East Ridge and Branchville Rds., serving seventh and eighth grades; in September 1985, became East Ridge Middle School (*q.v.*); in 1970, Morganti built addition on the north side to add more classrooms.

**East Ridge Road:** Sometimes called East Ridge Avenue, a fairly modern name for the old road stretching between Prospect Street and Branchville Road, just east of Main Street; has also been called Orchard Lane and Middle Ridge. [RN]

**East Ridge Middle School:** Former East Ridge Junior High School (*q.v.*) converted to middle school, grades six to eight, in September 1986 (P11/20/1984); 900 students in first year of operation.

**East Ridge School:** Name applied to former Benjamin Franklin Grammar School after it was expanded, 1926, to house Ridgefield High School; handled grades 2 through 12; expanded 1940, which allowed elimination of last district schoolhouses; became solely Ridgefield High School in 1955 when Veterans Park School opened; gymnasium added 1960 (*see* Yanity Gym).

**East River:** Early name for the Norwalk River as it flows southerly along eastern edge of town; possibly shortened version of East Meadow (*q.v.*) River; term in use by 1718 [RN]

**East Woods:** Old and lost term for an area in Ridgebury, probably in the vicinity of Ned's Mountain or a little east and north of Lake Windwing; first appears in a 1774 deed [RN]

**Eastman, Andrea,** is a Hollywood casting director who lived on Hillcrest Court in the late 1960s and the 1970s when she was married to Bruce Becker (*q.v.*). While here, she was casting director for such major films as "The Godfather" and "Love Story." She is a major figure in the ethical treatment of horses.

**Easy Living Furniture:** Store opens 80 Grove Street late 1980 [P11/6/1980]; by 1983, located at 440 Main Street; owner Robert Wachsman [CD1983].

**Eckhaus, Ethel Fleischman,** (1927-2020), a native of NYC who had an early career in retailing, was active in gender equality organizations and a founder of the Women's Political Caucus (*q.v.*). She lived in Ridgefield from 1970 until her death and was the wife of Manny Eckhaus.. [P7/30/2020]

**Economists:** Donald I. Rogers.

**Edelman, Arthur,** (1925-2018), and **Theodora "Teddy"** (1928-2016), husband and wife executives and designers in field of high-fashion leathers and reptile hides; owned Fleming-Joffe in NYC, then in 1981 founded Edelman Leathers; lived at 129 Spring Valley Road in a 7-bedroom home they had designed from former Conklin family barn at old Stonecrest (*q.v.*) estate on North Street, 1968; called their 31-acre estate Alligator Farm. [WWW]

**Edith Meffley Garden:** Community gardens on Halpin Lane, established in the 1970s by Edith Meffley (*q.v.*) of the Conservation Commission and named for her in 2017. *See also* Community Gardens.

**Editors:** Newspaper editors and publishers in Ridgefield have included: John O'Hara Cosgrave, Fabian Franklin, John Nash, Karl Nash, Paul Palmer, Robert Scripps, John N. Wheeler, Lee B. Wood. *See also* Magazines.

**Edmond Town:** 19th Century name for a neighborhood along Florida Road, about half way between Florida Hill and Branchville Roads, at the old junction of Cooper Road, long the home of the Edmond family (which is also spelled Edmonds or Edmund). [RN]

**Edmonds, John D.,** (ca. 1832-1865) was probably a Ridgefield native and as a teenager taught school in town. He married and moved first to Benton, N.Y., and then near Grand Rapids, Mich., where he also taught school. In 1861 he enlisted for three years in the Civil War, but was discharged in 1862 after being severely injured in a runaway horse incident not involving battle. Then studied law in Michigan and returned to Ridgefield where he died of tuberculosis at the age of 33. He may have been the town's first lawyer, although he may have been too ill to practice here. He was a son of Robert Chauncey (*q.v.*) and Abby Darling Edmonds of Silver Hill Road, died at age of 33 of tuberculosis. [WWW]

**Edmonds, Robert Chauncey,** (abt. 1801-1884), a Whig, served as a state representative in 1851. A carpenter, he lived on Silver Hill Road and served on the school committee for the Flat Rock School District in the 1840s and early 50s. His son was John D. Edmonds (*q.v.*).

**Edmonds, Willis,** was an owner of the clover mill (*q.v.*) and plaster mill on the Sugar Hollow Turnpike north of Branchville in 1956 [RLR21/50] His partner was Lewis H. Mead.

**Education:** The earliest schooling took place in a private home. In 1721, the town meeting voted to spend "eight pounds for ye support of a school," the first mention of schooling in the town records, but it wasn't until 1723 that the voters approved a "Meeting House," which would serve as a church, a school and a town hall. The first teacher was believed to be the Rev. Thomas Hauley (*q.v.*), the Harvard-educated minister of the Congregational Church. As Ridgefield began to develop outside the village and more people built houses in rural parts of town, school districts (*q.v.*) began to be created, such as at Limestone, Bennett's Farm, and Ridgebury. In 1799, the First Society has 10 schoolhouses serving 433 children. Ridgebury has two more schoolhouses and about 75 children. By the mid-19th Century there was a peak of about 15 districts in all. After motor vehicles became available to provide bus service, many towns later opted for centralized school districts, but except for a brief period in the 1940s and 50s, when all schools were in the center of town, Ridgefield has favored neighborhood schools for its elementary (k-5) schools; in 2020, there are six elementary districts. For middle school (6-8), there are two districts, and only one district for high school. Schools were paid for by taxes collected in each district, with some aid from the town. Parents supplied wood or coal to keep the buildings heated in winter. Parents had to pay for textbooks until 1912 when the town voted to supply them free. [JFS] 75% of Ridgefielders 25 or older hold a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 37% in the state, 4% at least an associate's degree. [RP1]

**Education, Board of:** Nine-member elected commission overseeing the operation of Ridgefield schools; earlier known as Board of Visitors or School Visitors; has considerable powers under Conn. statutes, especially the ability to create budgets that the selectmen cannot adjust. Members are elected to four-year terms (formerly six years); four are elected at one biennial municipal election and five at the next.

**Edwards, Barbara**, a former Ridgefielder, was flying with Wilson and Darleen Flagg (*q.v.*) aboard Flight 77 when it crashed into the Pentagon Sept. 11, 2001. She had been a teacher. [JFS]

**Edwards, Ralph**, (1913-2005), was a leading radio and TV personality in the 1940s and 50s; invented and hosted the show, Truth or Consequences (a town in New Mexico is named for the show); later created such long-running shows as This Is Your Life and Name That Tune. In 1958, he and wife Barbara bought a house on the corner of North Street and Stonecrest Road, living there off and on until 1971. [WWW]

**Egan, Judge Joseph** (1946-), a native of Long Island, was a longtime Probate Court judge. He came to Ridgefield, 1956, graduated St. Mary's School, 1960; Fairfield Prep, 1964; St. Peter's College, 1968; and Fordham Law in 1971, when he returned home and practiced with John E. Dowling (*q.v.*). In 1990, he was elected Ridgefield's probate judge, a position he held through the consolidation of Ridgefield's court into the Northern Fairfield Probate District in 2011 (*see* Probate Court); mandatory retirement, 2016. He held offices in the state judicial organization and is a former president of the National College of Probate Judges. A lifelong athlete, he was on the first Ridgefield Red Raider team, formed in 1958, that played in the Orange Bowl the following year; later coached Red Raiders. He also played baseball at Prep and in college. Married to Ridgefield native Aileen Leary.

**Egleston, David Stebbins**, (1830-1908), was an executive with Egleston Brothers & Company of New York City, iron merchants, and related to Stebbins and Hawley families of Ridgefield; had house at 181 Main Street; wife, **Fanny Hawley Egleston**, gave many of furnishing for new First Congregational Church; was a director of Bank of America and other institutions. [JFS]

**Ehrlickman, Allyson**, a freshman at RHS, won a gold medal at the World Tap Dance Championships in Riesa, Germany, in December 2011. [P1/12/2012]

**Eight Lakes:** Town's largest subdivision, with several hundred lots from tiny ones around Lake Mamasasco to one-acre parcels on West Mountain; part of Port of Missing Men (*q.v.*) property, which included eight lakes and ponds: Lake Mamasasco, Turtle Pond, and Round Pond in Ridgefield; Lakes Rippowam, Oscaleta, and Waccabuc in Lewisboro; and Pine Lake and Hemlock Lake in North Salem; 500-600 acres in Ridgefield acquired 1951, J. Wesley Seward and William H. Hayes of NYC; subdivided 1951-54; roads are Walnut Hill Road, Birch Court, Rock Road, Scott Ridge Road, Blue Ridge Road, Caudatowa Drive, Sleepy Hollow Road, Round Lake Road, First through 12th Lanes, Mamasasco Road, west ends of Barrack Hill and Old Sib Roads. [RN]

**89 Danbury Road:** Advertised in 1980 as "Ridgefield's first office condominium" by real estate agent John F. Coyle; suites sold for \$76,500 to \$169,900; since 1986, the building has mainly housed Adam Broderick's salon.

**Eilenstein, Arthur F.** (1863-1959), native of Germany who had served in German army and came to U.S. in 1890s; was the last surviving Ridgefield veteran of Spanish-American War; served in First Regiment, Second Company of NY Volunteers; a bricklayer, he built many brick buildings, chimneys and swimming pools in town; lived on West Lane [P3/26/1959]

**Eilertsen, Herb**, a native of Pennsylvania, was a longtime Ridgefield artist who operated The Frame Barn (*q.v.*) for 30 years, opening on Danbury Road in May 1980 and later moving to

Main Street in the old Gristedes building. Moved to Gaylordsville around 2006 and later moved to rural Pennsylvania near Lancaster where he has a gallery/studio.

**Electricity** was first provided in Ridgefield just after the turn of the 20th Century by a company founded by H.B. Anderson (q.v.). The generating plant was on Ivy Hill Road near the railroad crossing. After a few years it was sold to Associated Gas and Electric Company and a few years later to Litchfield Light and Power Company (q.v.). In the early 1940s, Connecticut Light and Power took over. [DD135] In 1966, CL&P became part of Northeast Utilities, and in that merged in 2012 with NSTAR to become the company renamed Eversource. *See also* Ridgefield Electric Company.

**Electro-Mechanical Research:** Opened a lab in 1946 on Main Street in what became South Hall of St. Stephen's Church; its president was Henri Doll (q.v.) of Spectacle Lane. The company moved to Sarasota, Fla., in 1958; specialized in research and development of telemetry used in spacecraft, missiles, and aircraft; later known as EMR. EMR has been called "a secret division of Schlumberger" which, among other things, helped to develop the "Uncle Henri" non-metallic mine detector. [JFS] *See also* Schlumberger.

**Elephants:** Hannibal, "the largest elephant in this country," paraded down Main Street with the Van Amburgh's Menagerie Nov. 1, 1861. [DAR] *See also* circuses.

**Elevation of Ridgefield:** Ranges from lowest point, Branchville along Route 7, 342 feet above sea level, to highest, Pine Mountain (q.v.), 1060 feet; village averages 725, but highest village point is 860 at 35 High Ridge Avenue. Round Pond on West Mountain is 778 feet; at its highest point near Sturges Park (q.v.), West Mountain reaches 1,000 feet. Main Street at the town hall is about 735 feet; East Ridge at the old high school and at the Ridgefield Skating Center is 750 feet. The old Ridgefield Savings Bank building at 374 Main Street, now owned by Fairfield County Bank, has a marker on the front at exactly the 745 foot elevation.[JFS]

**Eleven Levels:** Estate on north side of West Mountain Road, east of Old West Mountain Road, amassed by NYC lawyer Arthur Fraser, starting 1907; eventually, 180 acres; named for ripples in eastern slope of West Mountain; owners include Joseph and Nora Shapiro (q.v.), 1930s-1952; Paul and Elizabeth Arnold (q.v.), 1952-59; Jerry Tuccio (q.v.) purchased in 1959 and subdivided after lengthy lawsuit with P&Z; his development of 100 acres into 62 lots, also called Highland Acres, includes Eleven Levels Road, Armand Place, Green Lane, Old Wagon Road, and Trail's End Lane. The 5,500 square foot house, designed by Grosvenor Atterbury in 1911, is at 24 Old Wagon Road. [RN]

**Elfstrom, Barbro,** a native of Sweden, was an actress, journalist and Middle East expert who was the former wife of filmmaker Robert Elfstrom (q.v.), with whom she bought a home on Old Branchville Road in 1965. She lived in Beirut for many years, working as a television correspondent, and wrote several books published in Sweden.

**Elfstrom, Robert,** a filmmaker and director of photography for many TV documentaries, moved to Old Branchville Road in 1965. While here he, often with his wife, Barbro (q.v.) produced several films, including Gospel Road, starring Johnny Cash in which Elfstrom himself plays Jesus; The 13th Guest, a documentary based on a dinner discussion of the Vietnam War, one of whose participants was Elizabeth Leonard (q.v.), later first selectman. He has filmed many documentaries for PBS, National Geographic Explorer, the Discovery



Channel, the BBC, CBS, and many others. He left Ridgefield in the 1980s for San Francisco.

**Elkow, Jon**, was elected chairman of the Board of Education Nov. 21, 1981; the Democrat had served 3½ years on the board. [P11/24/1981]

**Elliott, Charles** (1901-1983), was a Railway Express station agent in Ridgefield, and a longtime owner of KEB gas station, 31 Danbury Road; also operated a refuse collection company for many years. Also developed Dowling Drive (*q.v.*). Tribute to him in DD83.

**Elliott, W.S.**, MD, DDS, of Danbury opened a branch dentistry office in Ridgefield September 1886. [P9/30/1886]

**Ellis, Gene**, (1933-2016), was born Gene Hufeisen in Seattle, grew up in Alaska, and became an actress, specializing in dancing roles. Appeared on Broadway and Off-Broadway in many shows, and performed in summer stock, retiring in 1964. In 1972 she became a full-time writer of soap operas, often working with her husband, scriptwriter Ralph Ellis (*q.v.*). Together they wrote for *As the World Turns*, *Search for Tomorrow*, *The Doctors*. She also wrote for *Loving*, *One Life to Live* and *General Hospital*. She retired from writing in 1994, but was active locally in the Caudatowa Garden Club and volunteering at the Keeler Tavern Museum.

**Ellis, Dr. Joseph**, became principal of RHS in 1990 after 15 years as assistant principal. He retired in 2003 after 41 years in education. In 2020, he is an active member of the Rotary Club.

**Ellis, Ralph**, was a screenwriter for many soap operas in the 1970s and 80s. Husband of Gene Ellis (*q.v.*).

**Elliss, Shoman**, owned Titicus Store (*q.v.*) in the early 20th Century. [DD27, 28]

**Elm, the:** In 1986 plans were announced to realign the entrance to the Grand Union shopping center to be opposite Prospect Street, requiring felling of an American Elm on the west side of Main Street near the southwest corner of Ballard Park; large citizen outcry ensued, with many “Save the Elm” protests [P8/7/1986]; even “Save the Elm” T-shirts were printed; town officials scratched the plan; despite experts saying the elm was dying, the tree lived until, seriously ailing, it was cut down in November 2013 [P11/21/2013]; almost immediately, planning began on realigning the shopping center entrance.

**Elm Branch:** Old name for one of two brooks that rise west of Silver Spring Road and east of the New York State line, and flow south to Scott’s Reservoir in Lewisboro [RN]

**Elm Shade Cottages:** Original name of Elms Inn (*q.v.*) complex on Main Street, now condominiums; used late 1800s, early 1900s. Early versions spell it as Elmshade. *See also* John W. Rockwell.

**Elm Tree School, The:** Private school for girls teaching French, German, music, English, drawing, painting, domestic science, operated in 1913 by Marguerite F. Bunner and Pauline Willing. [P1/2/1913]

**Elms Inn, The:** Main building erected 1760; became an inn in early 1870s, owned by John W. Rockwell, who called it Elm Shade Cottages; called The Elms by 1920s; by the 1940s, was owned by James H. Perry; owned by Scala family since 1951 when purchased by Chef Giancarlo “John” Scala (*q.v.*). Among the people who dined there in the last half of the 20th Century were Robert Redford, Paul Newman, Elizabeth Taylor, Judy Garland, Lily Pons,

Arturo Toscanini, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Restaurant closed 2010; inn operation closed 2013; property developed into 16 condominiums, using two major old Elms complex buildings (but the water tower building was razed). [JFS]

**Emilio Tailoring:** Operated at 113 Danbury Road by Emilio Gallo; advertised custom-made suits for as little as \$300 in 1980 [P9/11/1980].

**Emirill:** “Fine gifts, accessories and furnishings from the Orient,” opened at 440 Main Street July 1981. [P7/23/1981]

**Emmet, Dr. Bache McEvers,** (1843-1921), a native of Hyde Park, NY, was largely educated in Europe. He became a leading gynecologist in NYC, specializing in diseases of women; taught at NY Post-Graduate Hospital; on staff at Columbia University Hospital; published many articles and invented several surgical instruments. He established a summer home on West Mountain Road, ca. 1896, later living there fulltime and dying there; called it Greywacke (*q.v.*); later became Innisfree (*q.v.*), home of Dr. Patrick Neligan (*q.v.*).

**EMR:** *See* Electro Mechanical Research.

**Eng, Larry Fung,** (1938-2021), a native of Canton, China, was the owner of the Rickshaw, a Chinese restaurant on Route 7 for many years until its closing in 1977. He had lived in Ridgefield from 1964. His obituary said: “he survived a Japanese invasion of his village during WWII by fleeing through rice fields and bamboo forests on the back of his mother. He emigrated from China around the age of 10 via pirate-infested rivers of China and then across the Pacific on The USS General W. H. Gordon and began the American Dream through hard work.” [JFS]

**Enright, Ellen,** (1861-1933) was the first nurse to work for the District Nursing Association (*q.v.*) and was very well liked. [P11/6/1980, P3/9/1933, DD145]. Her brother was a physician, Dr. Maurice Enright (*q.v.*). She is buried in St. Mary Cemetery.

**Enright, Maurice,** (1864-1926), was a physician and the author of the 1908 novel, *The Ridgefield Tavern: A Romance of Sarah Bishop (Hermitess)*; practiced in Brooklyn; buried in St. Mary Cemetery; son of James and Jane Enright who lived on Ramapoo Road, opposite Casey Lane. [WWW]

**Episcopal Church:** Ridgefield once had two parishes — St. Stephen’s (*q.v.*) and the Ridgebury Episcopal Church (*q.v.*). They were originally called Anglican churches.

**Eppoliti, Edgardo** (1940-2009) was a Ridgefield builder and developer; he and wife Marcia restored 1868 D.H. Valden (*q.v.*) Victorian house and grounds at 118 North Salem Road; he founded Eppoliti Realty Corp.; business taken over by son, Michael Ippoliti; surname also spelled Ippoliti, the version used by most members of his family.

**Equal Franchise League:** Forerunner of League of Women Voters (*q.v.*), organized 1911; first president was Emily Hepburn (*q.v.*) of Altnacraig on High Ridge.

**Equivalency Line:** An 18th Century term for NY colony/state line so-called because it represented what New York received in exchange for its land in the Oblong (*q.v.*) exchange; i.e., it marked the “equivalent” of the panhandle. [RN]

**Esposito, Giancarlo,** is an actor who, for a while lived at 94 Main Street at the turn of the 21st Century. He believed the house was haunted.

**Essey of Veracruz:** Women's clothing store at 17 Danbury Road, Girolmetti Court, with slogan, "designer clothes at discount prices," 1980. In 1983 it called itself "the first discount store in Ridgefield." [P4/18/1983]

**Ethan Allen Highway:** Also known as U.S. Route 7, only road through Ridgefield that bears same name in 3 states; technically so-called for its 312-mile length from Norwalk to the Vermont-Canada border; some towns use local names, such as Sugar Hollow Road in Danbury, and Danbury Road in Wilton; in Ridgefield, from Route 35 north to Danbury line, it is Danbury Road; Ethan Allen Highway is used for Route 7 south of 35 to Wilton line in Branchville; *The American Guide* (1949) says name is "because it passes through the Green Mountains (Vermont) where Ethan Allen (who was born in Connecticut) and his Green Mountain Boys fought for independence of Vermont from NY domination and at the same time put down Tory opposition during (the) Revolution and in 1775 launched their successful attack on Fort Ticonderoga." *Connecticut*, (1938 WPA guide), says, "US 7 is known as the Ethan Allen Highway because it was the route taken by the eager-eyed recruits from Connecticut who hurried north to join the Green Mountain Boys." [RN] *See also* Route 7, Super 7, Danbury and Ridgefield Turnpike, Sugar Hollow Turnpike, Danbury and Norwalk Turnpike.

**Ethan Allen Preparatory School** is a private high school for golfers established in 2020 at the former Stonehenge Inn (*q.v.*) by the nearby Golf Performance Center.

**Eustis, John R.**, (1882-1955), a retired newspaper man and public relations counsel in New York, moved to Old Branchville Road in 1936; built the pond called Lake Noroneke from a swamp on his property; father of Edwina Eustis Dick, the opera singer who lived on the property until the early 1980s. Eustis Lane (*q.v.*) recalls the family. [JFS]

**Eustis Lane:** Dead-end road off Old Branchville Road serving a 1999 subdivision of 35 acres into 11 lots by John N. Sturges; land had belonged to Alexander and Edwina Eustis Dick (*q.v.*) and earlier by John R. Eustis (*q.v.*) [RN]

**Eversource:** *See* Electricity.

**Evergreen Place:** A short dead-end road off Pheasant Lane, part of the Scodon III subdivision approved around 1974 for Jerry Tuccio, and subsequently developed by Carl Lecher and others. [RN]

**E.W. Morris Memorial Library:** Original name of the Ridgefield Library building, dedicated in June 1903, a gift to the town from James Morris (*q.v.*) in memory of his wife Elizabeth W. Morris, who died in 1899 at her home here; called "one of the finest buildings in town" by Ridgefield Design Council (2002). *See also* Ridgefield Library.

**Executive Pavilion:** Office condominiums developed by Charles Szentkuti (*q.v.*) at 90 Grove Street, site of the former New England Institute for Medical Research (*q.v.*); first proposed as a three-story, 90,000-square-foot office building in February 1984; revised to two stories at 42,000 SF April 1984 [P4/26/1984].

## F

**Factory Pond** once existed east of Route 7, north of Topstone Road; fed by Norwalk River, it supplied water for David and Daniel Banks' woolen factory in 1830s, a successor to Hugh Cain's fulling mill; *see* Cain's Hill Road. [RN]

**Fadiman, Edwin A. Jr.,** (1925-1994), was a novelist and journalist who lived in Ridgefield in the 1970s, early 1980s. His best-known novel was *Who Will Watch the Watchers*, set in World War II Germany.

**Fagley, Scott Langdon** (1945-80) was a fashion writer and editor for *New Woman*, *Esquire* and *Gentlemen's Quarterly*; lived on Ivy Hill Road; obit [P9/11/1980]

**Fainer, Percy** (1925-1994), native of Montreal, was a chemist who worked for Clairol, Seagram, IBM, Perkin-Elmer, but was known locally as an artistic photographer; member Ridgefield Guild of Artists; lived on Lisa Lane. [JFS]

**Fair Fields:** Estate at 35 Golf Lane, featuring brick Georgian mansion, built in 1903. *See also* Cary Wellington.

**Fair Grounds, The:** Site of the Ridgefield Fair and Cattle Show (*q.v.*) from at least 1865 until 1881 on the east side of Wilton Road West opposite Olmstead Lane; included racing track. [RN]

**Faircourt:** Mansion at 77 High Ridge of Helen Minturn Post; later called Herrick House; Gerardus Post Herrick (*q.v.*) inherited Faircourt from Post; also called Grey Shingles.

**Fairfield County Bank:** Name created 2004; former Ridgefield Savings Bank (*q.v.*) and Ridgefield Bank, headquartered at Danbury and Farmingville Roads; offices on Main Street and drive-in on Governor Street; has 16 offices in Fairfield County.

**Fairfield County Courier:** A short-lived daily newspaper founded by Ridgefielder Donald I. Rogers (*q.v.*) in 1969. [JFS]

**Fairfield County Musical Association** was formed June 7-9, 1854, in Ridgefield during a musical convention at which a chorus of nearly 200 singers performed, directed by Professor I.B. Woodbury of New York. Officers included Ridgefielders Rev. Friend W. Smith, minister at the Methodist church, president; G.C. Mead, secretary; and C. Smith Jr., treasurer. More than 100 people joined the association at the meeting, which may have been sponsored by the Ridgefield Musical Association (*q.v.*). [RT]

**Fairfield County Rail Road Company** was incorporated by the General Assembly in May 1835 to build a "single, double or treble rail road or way" from Danbury to either Fairfield or Norwalk, possibly running through Ridgefield. [RT]

**Fairfield Court:** Short dead-end road off Manor Road at Ridgefield Manor Estates (*q.v.*); probably named for the county in which Ridgefield is situated; accepted by Town Meeting in 1961. [RN]

**Fairfield Lunch:** Restaurant in the 1920s where Question Mart was later located, 452 Main Street; established by Peter Chrisafis and John Papageorge. Operated about 10 years when both families moved to Cambridge, Mass.[DD63, DD74]

**Fairhaven:** First Ridgefield home of Metropolitan Opera star Geraldine Farrar from 1924-54; located at 209 West Lane. Earlier called Northoline (*q.v.*). *See also* Butterfly.

**Fairhope Country School** was a private coed school for nursery through eighth grade that operated from 1931 to 1936 at the Hickories (*q.v.*) in Farmingville. Tuition was \$1,000 a year (about \$16,000 in 2022). and a maximum of 25 children were enrolled. Summer camp was also available. Owners were John H. and Mary Conroy (*q.v.*); Mrs. Conroy later operated a nursery school and kindergarten in Scarsdale, N.Y.

**Fairlawn Cemetery,** Ridgefield's "newest" cemetery, was established in 1909 on North Salem and Mapleshade Roads, bordering the Titicus and Hurlbutt Cemeteries, served by a loop road that enters from North Salem Road just south of Settlers Rock and across from New Street. Privately owned, it contains about 630 gravesites and memorial stones, and is still active. (There are 27 Fairlawn cemeteries in the U.S.)

**Fairview Avenue:** Runs between Barry Avenue and Bryon Avenue, part of Dr. Benn Adelmair Bryon's Bryon Park (*q.v.*) subdivision of around 1909; probably named for the "fair view" of both town and West Mountain; originally called Fairview Street. [RN]

**Family Room, The:** Small restaurant catering to teenagers in the 1960s at Grand Union shopping center. [JFS]

**Farm Hill Road:** Part of the Ramapoo Hills subdivision (*q.v.*), developed by Judge Joseph H. Donnelly (*q.v.*), starting about 1956; accepted by town, 1963; traverses pastures of the old Irving B. Conklin Sr. (*q.v.*) dairy farm, operated from around 1928 to 1948. [RN]

**Farmers Against the Crown:** Book containing comprehensive account of the Battle of Ridgefield (*q.v.*), revealing much new information and correcting many old mistakes; by Keith Marshall Jones; 162 pages, paperback, extensively illustrated, privately printed, 2002.

**Farmers Mills District:** A single deed for 3.5 acres in 1869 uses this term for what is now Farmingville area; likely a mistake. [RN]

**Farmersville:** A variant of Farmingville that appears in deeds between 1841 and 1856, once as "Farmers Ville District." [RN]

**Farmingville:** The section of town that extends generally east of Great Swamp to the Redding line; first appears in an 1839 deed; probably named for the excellent farming soils of the area, with the addition of the French word for city that was in fashion in the early 1800s; school district there existed at least by 1784 when it was called the Fifth School District; before Farmingville came into use, the area was simply described as "east of the Great Swamp"; another 19th Century name for area was Woodchuck (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Farmingville Road:** Very old highway from Danbury Road to the junction of Lounsbury and Cain's Hill Roads, but originally included Cain's Hill Road (*q.v.*) and Topstone Road as a route to Redding; once a main route from central Ridgefield to western Redding; shown as such on Blodget's 1792 map (*q.v.*) of Connecticut; originally, it extended across present Lee Road to Limekiln Road and across south end of Limekiln back to the modern highway, thus skirting the northern edge of the main body of Great Swamp; bypass across the swamp was built around 1914 — called "Bailey's New Road" (*q.v.*)

**Farmingville schoolhouse:** Stood opposite present Farmingville School in District Number 10; it and Titicus were last district schools to close, 1939; long empty, building was sold about 1950 to Alexander Alland, photographer, who moved it to North Salem to serve as studio (still there 2019); had been gift of Gov. George Lounsbury in 1900, the last district schoolhouse built in town; the previous Farmingville building, farther east and dating from mid-1800s, was razed ca. 1900 — land on which it stood was given to Louis Morris Starr (*q.v.*) in exchange for the site of Lounsbury gift; George and his brother, Phineas, had been schooled in the older building and both became governors of Connecticut. [JFS]

**Farms of Farmingville, The:** “A two-century history of 23 Ridgefield, Connecticut farmhouses and the people who gave them life”; focuses on Farmingville district but covers greater community from the 1700s into 20th Century; by Keith Marshall Jones; hardcover, 509 pages, many maps, house plans, photos; indexed; privately published 2001.

**Farrar, Geraldine,** (1882-1967), was an opera star, especially at the Metropolitan Opera in NYC. A native of MA, she began her career in Europe where she made her debut with Royal Opera in Berlin in 1901. Her acclaimed debut at the Met occurred in 1906. Over the years she starred with Enrico Caruso, Antonio Scotti, and Louise Homer. She was also a lover of conductor Arturo Toscanini (*q.v.*). She made several films, including *Carmen* and *Joan of Arc*, and retired in 1922, moving to West Lane in 1924, to be near her father, Sidney (*q.v.*); she called her home Fairhaven. She moved in 1954 to a smaller home at 34 New Street. Her companion for 50 years was **Sylvia Blein**. She was active in helping Girls Scouts, Red Cross, American Women’s Voluntary Services, Ration Board during World War II in Ridgefield, and gave many benefit concerts locally. [WWW]

**Farrar, Sidney D.,** (1859-1935), was professional baseball player and father of opera star Geraldine Farrar (*q.v.*); in 1883, joined Philadelphia Phillies (*nee* Quakers) in the National League for the team’s very first season; as first baseman started seven years; his last major league season, 1890, was with the Philadelphia Athletics; lifetime batting average of .253, with 905 hits, 18 home runs; played 943 games as a professional at a salary of from \$900 to \$2,000 a season; after his wife died in 1923 and to be closer to daughter in NYC, Farrar, who’d been a Massachusetts merchant, bought a North Salem Road farmhouse and 30 acres from Joseph T. Hubbard, calling it “Farrar’s Thirty Acres.” [WWW]

**Farrar Lane:** Short old road between Tackora Trail and North Salem Road, recalling Sidney D. Farrar (*q.v.*) who owned a farm bordering the road on the south; appears on Clark’s 1856 map of Fairfield County. According to some deeds, it was formerly considered to be the southern end of Mamanasco Road. [RN]

**Farrar’s Thirty Acres:** Name Sidney D. Farrar (*q.v.*) gave to his farm on North Salem Road; *see* High Pastures.

**Farruggio brothers** were criminals who grew up in Branchville, where they were known as bootleggers; caught there and convicted of receiving stolen goods in 1931. **Salvatore “Sam”** (1913-35) and **Joseph** (1916-35) were wanted in 1934 for killing a New York City policeman who tried to prevent them from burning down a Catholic church; bystander was also killed and another policeman seriously injured in a shootout; brothers were later shot and killed by police in Brooklyn; name sometimes spelled Farruggia. [WR]

**Far-Vu Farm:** Name of Francis D. Martin (*q.v.*) farm on the north end of Lake Mamanasco, 1940s-80s; had earlier been Ridgefield School and Chekhov Theater Studio (*q.v. each*); subdivided in the late 1900s; includes Tea House Lane (*q.v.*) Also appears as Farview, Farvue.

**Fashion Shop, The:** Women’s clothing store in early 1950s at ONS121 Main Street (now part of 418 Main Street [FB].

**Fasolo, George, A.** (1927-2008), a native of Hartford, was the first director of the Ridgefield Community Center, serving from 1954 to 1960, and moving on to Westport and two years later, began a 30-year career with the Cardinal Shehan Center in Bridgeport. While here

founded and coached the first Pop Warner football team in the state, and taught physical education at St. Mary's School. [JFS]

**Fast, Howard**, (1914-2003), was a high school dropout who published his first novel before he was 20; by the turn of the 21st Century, had written more than 80 books of fiction and nonfiction; millions of copies of Fast titles have been printed in a dozen languages, including *Spartacus*, *Citizen Tom Paine*, *Freedom Road*, *The Hessian* (set in Ridgefield). He lived on Florida Hill Road in the 1960s and early 70s. [WWW]

**Faubel, S. Scott**, (1924-1981), a former bus company owner, created Shadow Lake Orchards in Ridgebury; in 1952 and began planting apple trees on his parents' farm on Shadow Lake Road. By 1974, he had more than 1,200 trees and a popular farmstand selling apples and cider [P1/29/1981]; now part of Boehringer-Ingelheim's campus, many of his trees are still growing.

**Fawcett, Robert**, (1903-1967), a native of England, was once called "an illustrator's illustrator." His art was so respected that it was commemorated on a 2001 U.S. postage stamp. He did paintings for virtually every magazine of note in the country, illustrated books, and wrote about his craft — his book *On the Art of Drawing* (1958) was popular for years. He was one of the founders of Famous Artists School in Westport, and lived on Nod Hill Road. [WWW]

**Fayerweather, Frederic**, (1860-1941), a Ridgefield native and lifelong resident, attended Florida Schoolhouse, taught at Limestone and Ridgebury Schools and went to work for Louis Comfort Tiffany; became expert on and designer of stained glass, especially for churches, and traveled widely for Tiffany Studios; commuted to NYC for a half century; active in music program at St. Stephen's Church, for which he left a large bequest; in 1914 he became the first person in Ridgefield to cast a ballot using a voting machine. [WWW]

**Fayette, James**, RHS 1988, became a principal dancer with the NYC Ballet, retiring in 2005. He teaches at the Colburn School, which focuses on the performing arts, in Los Angeles. He grew up on South Salem Road. [P9/3/1987, JFS]

**Faza Motorsport**: Dealer selling Fiat Abarth 1000 sports car in 1963; located at ONS#17 Governor Street.

**FCIAC**: Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference, founded in 1961, to which Ridgefield has belonged for many years.

**Federated Woman's Club**: See Ridgefield Woman's Club.

**Felsenberg** was the estate/mansion of diplomat William Harrison Bradley (*q.v.*), built in the early 1900s on West Mountain, now Blacksmith Ridge Road area. The house burned down in October 1921. The name is German for "rock hill." [P10/1921]. [DD195]

**Fence viewers** were town officials elected annually by the ATM to check on the condition of farm fences in their districts and to order repairs when needed. The aim was to avoid damage to crops by livestock that had escaped their enclosures.

**Feneley, James Nelson**, (1953-1974), RHS 1972, was killed when the small plane he was piloting crashed in a wooded area of Roxbury during a rain storm at 2:30 a.m. Two fellow 1972 RHS graduates died in the same crash. They were returning to Danbury airport from a trip to Block Island. He was the son of James and Hilda Feneley. His gravestone in St.

Mary Cemetery says: “In flying I tasted the wine of the gods of which those on the ground could know nothing.” [P9/5/1974]

**Ferndale Farm** belonged to Arthur W. Northrop from around 1890 to the late 1930s along Spectacle Lane and Gay Road. It was later the estate of Henri Doll of Schlumberger-Doll (*q.v.*).

**Festival 2000:** New Year’s Eve celebration Dec. 31, 1999 to welcome new millennium; included many concerts under tents on Community Center grounds; fireworks at midnight; a 124-page softcover book, “Festival 2000: Ridgefield Enters the 21st Century,” offered a profile of Ridgefield, its many activities, businesses, agencies, etc.; First Selectman Abraham Morelli was chair of the planning committee, but missed event — he was in Syracuse, NY., awaiting birth of grandchild.

**Fiala, Dennison F.** (1935-2014), a mechanical engineer, moved to Cooper Hill Road, 1979, was GOP candidate for congress 1980; headed Ridgefield’s celebration of national Bicentennial 1976.

**Fibber:** Nickname for Fabio Paul Biagiotti, Ridgefield native and longtime resident.

**Field Crest Drive:** Runs from Wilton Road West, apparently along or across the crest of a field, to Silver Brook Road; serves Parting Brook Estates (*q.v.*) subdivided by Charles W. Weitzel Sr., (*q.v.*); name appears first on a 1955 map but development did not begin until the 1960’s; first section of the road, ending in a cul-de-sac, accepted by the town in 1968; road was extended to join with Silver Brook Road around 1976; name often appears as Fieldcrest [RN]

**Fields, Gail Rogers Glissmann,** (1940-2015), who moved to Ridgefield as a child and was RHS 1960, was an artist who created Ridgefield’s commemorative medals (*q.v.*) honoring Benedict Arnold and David Wooster for the 1977 anniversary of the Battle of Ridgefield. She was then known as Gail Glissman and was active in the local arts scene. After divorcing in 1980, she married Charles Fields in 1991, and moved to Cape Cod where she became inspired by the coastal scenery. [WWW]

**Fierstein, Harvey,** (1954-), a native of Brooklyn, is an actor, playwright, comedian, and gay activist, who has won four Tony awards and an Emmy nomination. His acclaimed Torch Song Trilogy is about a homosexual man struggling to live in New York. As a Ridgefielder, he has spearheaded efforts to help AIDS patients, particularly at Bread & Roses, a hospice in Georgetown. He has also led gay pride celebrations here. He has lived on Hawthorne Hill Road since the late 1980s. [NR]

**Fife and Drum:** Restaurant in the 1950s and 60s at today’s 105 Danbury Road; building razed and site later became Friendly Ice Cream restaurant and then a Pizza Hut; in 2010s, site of Kennedy’s Barber Club and other businesses.

**Fifth Connecticut Regiment:** Revolutionary war unit founded 1775, most of whose members were recruited from Fairfield County; fought or was stationed at Fort St. John, Quebec City, Ridgefield, Germantown, Valley Forge, Morristown, Yorktown; disbanded 1783. The regiment was initially commanded by Col. Philip Burr Bradley (*q.v.*) of Ridgefield. In 1974, group of Ridgefielders re-established Fifth as an honorary unit to re-enact the lives and battles of Revolutionary soldiers; founders were Dennis Ambruso, Eric Chandler, Otto



DePeirne, Jim Freebairn, Rick Gillespie, Fred Glissman, John Passiglia, Tom Pearson and James Purcell, Jr.

**Fifth Lane:** Another of the “numbered” dead-end roads at Lake Mamasasco, part of the Eight Lakes (*q.v.*) development. [RN]

**Fifth Purchase** of American Indian land by the Proprietors for the Town of Ridgefield occurred March 7, 1729. Most or all of this land is now in North Salem, thanks to the Oblong (*q.v.*). The sellers were seven natives, including Taporneck, Wett Hams, Crow, Moses, and Sam.

**59 Bank Street:** Restaurant at 37 Ethan Allen Highway operated by Arthur Michaelson (*q.v.*) and wife Julia, who in 2018 own Bartolo at 103 Danbury Road; named for a restaurant they owned simultaneously at 59 Bank Street in New Milford. [JFS]

**Fillmore Lane:** Short dead-end road off Ritch Drive, was named by and for Leslie D. Fillmore of Stamford who, in 1956, developed three lots on this road; he purchased the land from Harold Ritch, the subdivider; town accepted in 1963. [RN]

**Finance, Board of:** Created 1909 (P4/8/1909) with six members, appointed by selectmen; first selectman ex officio chairman; became an elective agency by charter revision in the 1980s.

**Finch, Alice Harding** (1889-1977), a native of NYC, came to Ridgefield in 1913 when she married Harold E. Finch (*q.v.*). In 1927 she and her husband acquired the United Cigar Store (*q.v.*) in the Scott Block (*q.v.*), a business that later became Squash's (*q.v.*). She was the original owner and operator of the Green Doors Motel, 1952-67; also, Circle Luncheonette (*q.v. each*). She was active in the Women's Republican Club and Sunshine Society and, for many years, was Republican registrar of voters. [RN]

**Finch, Harold Everett**, (1886-1952), a Republican leader in town, was state representative, 1947-49; he operated the United Cigar Store (*q.v.*), a forerunner of Squash's (*q.v.*), and was a real estate agent; father of Lewis J. Finch (*q.v.*). [NR]

**Finch, Lewis J.** (1916-2003), a Ridgefield native, was a real estate developer and agent, whose subdivisions included Chestnut Hills Estates, Rolling Hills, Hunter Heights, and Colonial Heights (*q.v. each*). He was president/chairman of Ridgefield Boys' Club, Ridgefield Library board, Village Bank and Trust Company; known as “Bub” or “Bubby”; he owned the building and had his office at 426 Main Street in the last half 20th Century, often working with his son, Barry. [NR]

**Finch Drive:** Extends between Chestnut Hill Road and Harding Drive at the Chestnut Hills (*q.v.*) subdivision in Ridgebury; named for Lewis J. Finch (*q.v.*), its developer; begun around 1958 road was accepted by the town in 1963. [RN]

**Finn, Joel E.**, (1938-1917), a native of NY state, was an IBM executive who was a well-known historian and author of a dozen books on Grand Prix race cars and racing. He once owned a Maserati 250F that had been owned and raced by Stirling Moss. He also drove race cars on the Grand Prix circuit. His collection of historical materials is now in the archives of the Rev Institute of the Collier Museum in Naples, Fla. He lived at 14 Nutmeg Ridge in the 1970s and early 80s. [WWW]

**Finn, Roland E. “Ron”**, (1930-2010), a native of Stamford, was a Planning and Zoning commissioner and president of the Ridgefield Jaycees in the late 1960s, early 70s. Between 1962 and early 70s he and family lived on Grandview Drive, then North Street, when he worked for Perkin-Elmer. [P11/4/2010]

**Fiorentini, Angelo “Angeluci”,** (1870-1937), a native of Italy, was a gardener on estates and an avid reader, especially Shakespeare. After his beloved dog Fanny was crippled by a car, he would bring Fanny to work with him by putting her in a wheelbarrow. He lived on Greenfield Avenue and is buried in St. Mary Cemetery. [Impact]

**Fire gong:** In 1897 when the new Ridgefield Fire Department (*q.v.*) got its quarters in the town hall basement, a new alarm procedure was instituted to replace the tolling of church bells – a metal, wheel-shaped gong was hung at the rear of Town Hall where it could be struck with a sledge hammer to summon the volunteer firefighters. The gong was removed at some point and put in storage. For the Volunteer Fire Department’s 100th anniversary in 1997, the original gong was mounted alongside the town hall on Bailey Avenue where it still stands today.

**Fire Hill** is an oval-shaped hill, halfway between Great Pond and Umpawaug Pond. Most of the hill, which reaches an elevation of nearly 700 feet above sea level, is in Redding, but the southwest slope crosses into Ridgefield along Route 7 at Stonehenge Estates; first mentioned in an 1847 deed; possibly so-called because signal fires were lit here during Revolution, or for some early conflagration on the hill. [RN]

**Fire Hill Acres:** Original name for the 61-lot subdivision, now commonly called Stonehenge Estates, on the southwestern slope of Fire Hill (*q.v.*) off Route 7; approved in 1963, plan includes Jerry’s Court (now Druid Lane), Riverside Drive, Longview Drive, and Bobby’s Court (named for the son of the developer Jerry Tuccio (*q.v.*)). [RN]

**Fire Hill Road** skirts the top of Fire Hill (*q.v.*), extending from Pickett’s Ridge in Redding southward into Ridgefield, then along the Ridgefield town line and back into Redding, emerging at Simpaug Turnpike; Ridgefield section sometimes called “East Fire Hill Road” on maps. [RN]

**Fire of 1895,** Ridgefield’s most destructive fire broke out Sunday, Dec. 8, around 9 p.m. in the Bedient & Mead building (later the Bedient building which, in 2020, houses Books on the Common et al.); by the time it was contained, 3 a.m. Monday, it had destroyed 10 buildings housing at least 13 businesses plus several apartments on the east side of Main Street and north side of Bailey Ave.; cause never determined though arson was suspected; loss was \$100,000 (about \$3 million in 2020 dollars). [P12/13/1895] [DD69] [RIR243]

**Fire police** are a group of volunteers under the Ridgefield Fire Department who direct traffic and perform certain other special services at the scenes of fires, auto accidents, and other emergencies, supplementing the Ridgefield Police. They also may direct traffic at special community events.

**Firehouse, Catoonah Street:** Site approved by town meeting Aug. 10, 1907; meeting also approves \$3,500 toward building cost; completed 1908 in Georgian Revival style. Much of the cost was raised by donations and fundraising such as the Firemen’s Fair (*q.v.*).

**Firehouse, Town Hall (First):** The first fire station in Ridgefield was authorized January 23, 1897, at a special town meeting which instructed the selectmen to fix rooms in the basement of the new Town Hall to accommodate the new equipment. The outline of the original arched equipment bays can still be seen in the lower level of town hall along Bailey Avenue. The first fire engines, holding hose or ladders and other equipment, were pulled by either a team of men or by horses obtained from George Scott Jr.’s livery stable

next to the town hall on the east. Later, at the Catoonah Street firehouse, Sperry's livery stable across the street housed fire horses. *See also* Fire gong and Catoonah Street firehouse.

**Firemen's Ball:** Annual dance, outdoors in June, to benefit Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department. The first Firemen's Ball took place in 1938, but had to be discontinued due to WW2; replaced by a carnival; resumed in 1951 after state outlawed games of chance at carnivals; 300 people attended first ball, at \$2.50 per person [P6/11/1981], continued until 1980s; often held outdoors, such as at old high school field or tennis courts, or in the Ridgefield Skating Center; 1,200 people attended 1966 ball; July 8, 1972, nearly 2,200 people — an all-time record — turned out on the high school tennis courts as Lionel Hampton and his band perform. By 1982, attendance was 600. [JFS]

**Firemen's Fair:** An annual fundraising event for the volunteer fire department, held in August in town hall; included sale of merchandise, an ice cream parlor, cake sale, a "fish pond," candy booth, grab bag, displays, decorations [P8/27/1908]. *See also* Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department.

**Fires:** Noteworthy fires have included: *Sept. 18, 1868:* A blaze destroys the recently built Catoonah Hall (*q.v.*) on Catoonah Street, the first floor of which was used for J.W. Rockwell's candlestick factory for making; upstairs were apartments. Flames spread to some smaller buildings, including one used by Catholics as a church, which was also destroyed. The Middletown Constitution reports "the fire was the largest ever known in Ridgefield. *Jan. 9, 1926:* Much of the mansion of Robert Scripps (*q.v.*) was destroyed; Press called it "The worst and most insidious fire the [fire] department had ever fought." It caused \$20,000 damages [\$230,000 in \$2008]; April 1, 1952: The W. Knox Denham home, a Colonial-era saltbox, burned to the ground. The family escaped through a second floor window. *March 26, 1959,* a cat tipped over turpentine can, starting a fire that destroyed Richard A. Rainsford's barn on Florida Road, full of antiques, rare paintings, and 5,000-book library [3/26/1959]; *Feb. 27, 1960:* A fire guts La Bretagne Inn on West Lane at Olmstead, the second time the inn burned in 13 years. The 1947 blaze helped spark the town to have 24-hour fire protection; this one fires a campaign to buy an aerial ladder truck. *Dec. 3, 1978:* The Congregational Church House was destroyed by a blaze that was started by a child playing with a candle during a Christmas season program. *April 1, 1984:* A defective baseboard heater started a fire at 69 Indian Cave Road, Twin Ridge, that killed IBM executive John Manningham, 54, and his wife, Patricia; *see also* Fire of 1895.

**Fireworks:** A town meeting June 18, 1940 votes 19-17 to ban the sale and discharge of fireworks in Ridgefield. For many years in the 1970s and 80s, fireworks in the village were sponsored by the Rotary Club, but the high cost of insurance led to their demise there. In 1996 Fairfield County Bank began sponsoring them at the Ridgefield High School campus.

**First Congregational Church:** On Oct. 9, 1712, the General Assembly established a church in Ridgefield by allowing the town to tax its residents "toward the settling and maintaining of the ministry." Also known as First Society, it is the town's oldest religious community. First church building, 1726, stood on town green in front of today's Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church (*q.v.*); subsequent church 1800 was a little south of first and remained there until 1888 when new stone building was erected at Main Street and West

Lane, designed by J. Cleveland Cady (*q.v.*) on land donated by Henry K. McHarg (*q.v.*). First minister was Thomas Hauley (*q.v.*), lived in historic Hauley House (*q.v.*), followed by Jonathan Ingersoll (*q.v.*) and Samuel S. Goodrich (*q.v.*); new 11-room parsonage opens April 23, 1913 [P4/24/1913]

**First Congregational Church Fair:** A Christmas-themed event; in 1980, the 16th annual edition took place in the “new” Church House (Lund Hall). [P11/25/1980]

**First Congregational Church House,** where meetings, classes and special events took place, had been the former Ridgefield Club (*q.v.*), built in 1887. It burned down in December 1978; and was replaced by Lund Hall (*q.v.*).

**First Lane:** Northernmost of the “number lanes” off Mamasasco Road, most of which were part of the Eight Lakes development (*q.v.*).

**First National Bank of Ridgefield:** Founded 1900 as town’s first commercial bank, providing checking and other national services; operated from office in town hall; building at 368 Main Street, corner of Governor Street, opened 1911; later called First National Bank and Trust Company of Ridgefield; merged with Fairfield County Bank, 1959; in 2018, through many mergers, it’s Wells Fargo. [JFS]

**First National Market** opened May 1936 in the Scott Block, described as “one of the most beautiful combination meat and grocery markets in Fairfield County.” Tom Clark was manager; in 1947 it moved to the “Heyman Block” near today’s 440 Main Street. Around 1960, opened large supermarket in Donnelly shopping center on Governor Street; name changed to Finast; the store closed around 1974 and was replaced by Grand Central Market. [JFS] In 1941, First National signed a lease for property at 360 Main Street, the south corner of Main and Governor Streets to built “a self-service store or super-market of the kind which has had a rapid growth throughout the country in recent years.” [P8/7/1941] The plan was abandoned in the face of great opposition to expanding commercial uses on Main Street south of Governor Street.

**First Niagara Bank:** Opened office at 108 Danbury Road in 2012 after company purchases HSBC; closed 2015 and customers were sent to its Norwalk branch.

**First Purchase** of land for the settlement of Ridgefield occurred Sept. 30, 1708, when “Catoonah, sachem of Ramapoo Indians and Associates within her Majesties province of New York in America,” sold the Proprietors, the first settlers, an estimated 20,000 acres for 100 pounds. *See also* Catoonah, Purchases.

**Fischer, Marcus,** (1918-1969), a musician and native of Missouri, was with his wife, Marguerite (*q.v.*), one of the five founders of the Ridgefield Symphonette, which became the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra (*q.v.*). He was its first president. From 1946 to 1961 he played French horn with the New York Philharmonic. Moved to Ridgefield 1958, taught RHS two years, then in North Salem. [NR]

**Fischer, Marguerite,** (ca.1918-2006), was a cofounder and first conductor of the Ridgefield Symphonette, now Ridgefield Orchestra. She was the wife of Marcus Fischer (*q.v.*) and later lived in Danbury. [NR]

**Fischer, Robert C.,** (1881-1973), native of German, was called “one of Broadway’s busiest supporting players in the first two decades of the 20th Century.” The actor moved to Ridgefield in 1926 and was directing the Ridgefield Players (*q.v.*) in the 1930s. He

performed on New York City stage in such plays as *Autumn Crocus*, *Sweet Adeline*, *Harem*, [P4/5/1934], and in movies, such as *Watch on the Rhine*. He lived on Silver Spring Road.

**F.I.S.H.** (Friends In Service Here) provides free transportation for medical and therapy appointments for seniors or disabled residents of Ridgefield. *See also* Rides for Ridgefield.

**Fish and Game Club:** *See* Ridgefield Fish and Game Club.

**Fisher, Charles R.,** a native of Waterbury who grew up in Watertown and graduated from UConn, was Ridgefield's full-time town engineer when he came here in 1985. He retired in 2018. He oversaw many major infrastructure projects, including municipal building sewer construction and many new roads.

**Fisher, George,** was Ridgefield's postmaster from 1982 to 1987, the first postmaster in two centuries who was not a resident; left here to be postmaster of Danbury. [P6/18/1987]

**Fisher, Ira Joe,** (1947-), a native of western New York, is American broadcaster, poet, and educator who has lived here since the 1990s and volunteered for countless community fund-raising benefits. He began as a weather reporter in Cincinnati, winning two regional Emmys there for writing; later worked for WNBC and WCBS, and CBS network, in New York. He is an author of three books of poetry and often does poetry readings. He presents *Speaking Fearlessly* seminars and teaches at UConn and Mercy College. [NR]

**Fisher, Susanne,** (1903-1990), was a concert and opera singer who lived on Silver Spring Road in the 1930s. A Juilliard student, she gained fame singing the role of Cio-Cio-San in *Madame Butterfly* at the Metropolitan Opera in 1935, the first West Virginia native to sing at the Met, and was married to Clifford Menz (*q.v.*).

**Fisher Lane:** Short dead-end road running easterly off Old Trolley Road, north of George Washington Highway, at Stone Ridge Estates (*q.v.*); honors Charles R. Fisher (*q.v.*), the town's first full-time engineer who designed the subdivision. [RN]

**'Fishkill Road':** 1783 deed describes 50 acres, a house, and a barn on North Salem Road, noting that "the road from Ridgefield to Fishkill (is) running through said land." [RN]

**Fitch, Thomas IV,** (ca. 1700-1774), lived in Norwalk, was Yale 1721, and served as governor of the colony from 1753 to 1766. He owned a farm in eastern Ridgefield (*see* Fitch's Farm). His son, Thomas V, is said by some to have been the inspiration for the song, *Yankee Doodle Dandy*. [WWW]

**Fitch's Farm:** Tract of 132 acres in Redding on Ridgefield line near Great Pond, acquired in 1700s by Thomas Fitch IV (*q.v.*); part of tract extended into present-day Ridgefield but was then Redding — this section was ceded to Ridgefield in 1786 because landowners at that time felt it was too far from Redding center. [RN] *See also* Blodgett's map of 1792 and Little Pond.

**Fitzgerald, Edward J.,** (1923-1968), was only 44 years old when he died. The Pan-American Airlines pilot had moved to Tannery Hill Road in 1962 and immediately became active in youth sports, including holding offices with Little League, Red Raider football, and active in scouting. He was chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission at his death. [P8/8/1968]

**Fitzgerald Field,** a Little League ballpark located next to Serfilippi Field on South Shore Drive at Lake Windwing is named for Edward Fitzgerald (*q.v.*), longtime youth sports leader. It was opened in 1971.

**Five Gold Rings:** Gift shop in Big Shop, 1980.

**Five Village Walks:** Guided tours of Ridgefield village history, with over 50 pictures from past; by Jack Sanders, 56 pages, indexed, map, published by Ridgefield Historical Society. third edition 2008.

**Flagg, Darlene “Dee,”** the wife of Wilson Flagg (*q.v.*) and a former resident, was aboard Flight 77 when it crashed into the Pentagon Sept. 11, 2001. She had been active in the Ridgefield Woman’s Club and one of the leaders in its building of the Ballard Park Bandstand. She and her husband were living in Millwood, Va., where they had a farm and raised black angus cattle. *See also* Barbara Edwards. [JFS]

**Flagg, Rear Admiral Wilson “Bud,”** a former Ridgefielder who was retired from both the U.S. Navy and as an airline pilot, who was aboard Flight 77 that crashed into the Pentagon Sept. 11, 2001. A U.S. Naval Academy graduate, he served three tours as an F-8 fighter pilot in the Vietnam War, had been both an officer in the Naval Reserve (with an office at the Pentagon) and an American Airline pilot. His Naval decorations included the Distinguished Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V. He and his wife Darleen (*q.v.*) had lived on Scott Ridge Road. [JFS]

**Flaggy Boggs, ye:** In 1717, two proprietors received grants of land at “ye Flaggy Boggs,” possibly, on the fringes of the Great Swamp – perhaps it was the area later called Reed Swamp (*q.v.*), situated in the triangle created by Lee, Limekiln and Farmingville Roads; a flag is an old term for a reed. [RN]

**Flannagan, John Bernard** (1895-1942), a noted American sculptor, spent the summer of 1937 in Ridgefield with a friend, Stephen Luce Brown. He was recuperating from a broken leg after being hit by a car, but he was also suffering from brain tumors and alcoholism.

**Flat Rock:** Term used as early as 1716 (“ye Flatt Rock Ridge”) for area south of village generally along Wilton Road West; named for a massive stratum of rock that surfaces mostly between St. John’s Road and Wilton Road West, but which can also be seen as far north as Prospect Ridge and even in Danbury; said to be part of the same shelf on which Manhattan Island’s skyscrapers have their foundations. [RN]

**Flat Rock Brook:** 1717 deed mentions land “near ye Flatt Rock Brook, east of ye Rhode;” this is the east branch of the Silvermine River, also later called the Beaver Brook, which flows southward east of Wilton Road West. [RN] *See also* Silvermine Brook.

**Flat Rock Corporation:** The holding company of the Silver Spring Country Club (*q.v.*), founded in 1929. *See* Flat Rock Drive.

**Flat Rock District:** Old school district in the south central part of town, including Wilton Roads East and West, and St. Johns Road. [RN]

**Flat Rock Drive:** Dead-end road, off lower West Lane, named for Flat Rock Corporation, formed in 1929 to build the Silver Spring Country Club, from whom developer Perry Katz had acquired his land (the road is not in the Flat Rock District); accepted by Town Meeting in 1965. [RN]

**Flat Rock House:** A name applied to the 160-acre estate between Wilton Road East and Nod Road, owned since the 1950s by the Landegger family; the main house was built in 1936. *See* Flat Rock District. Earlier known as Rolew Farm and Ivanhoe Farm (*q.v.* *each*).

**Flat Rock Road:** So-called on maps published in 1912 and 1936 for today's Wilton Road West (Route 33), which traverses the middle of the Flat Rock District (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Flat Rock schoolhouse:** One of the town's smallest schoolhouses, located on the east side of Route 33, Wilton Road West, nearly opposite Acre Lane; closed 1915; building razed long ago, but was still standing in 1934; was District Number 9 in 1860s; site bordered later "Twin Maples" (*q.v.*) roadside rest area, established when state highway was straightened there in 1928.

**Flat Rock Woods:** Teller says in 1878 that an area around Soundview Road was so-called. [RN]

**Flax Mill:** One was operated by Bradley and David Burr, and Philip Keeler, in 1814 probably along upper Route 7 near Great Pond or the Stonehenge area. [RLR 11/229]. Flax mills turn the flax plant into fibers that could be woven into linen.

**Flint,** a brand of automobile made in Flint, Mich., sold at Jacob and John Walters' (*q.v.*) dealership, 378 Main Street, in the 1920s. Flints were made by Durant Motors, and the Walters also sold the Durant brand. [DD100, 107]

**Floods:** On April 15 and 17, 1854, more than 18 inches of snow fell—unusual for mid-April. Ten days later, temperatures in Ridgefield reached 70 degrees, and a few days after that, rains and the melting snow led to what The Hartford Courant called the worst flood in 200 years. Only two bridges were left on the train line between Branchville and Norwalk and several local mills were swept away. In November 1866, the dam on New Pond broke causing a flood that wept away two small buildings, a bridge, and a woman and child both rescued. [Columbian Register 11/10/1866] In late October 1955, 13.8 inches fell in three days, wiping out roads and bridges on Norwalk and Titicus Rivers. The disaster led to the Norwalk River Flood Control Project (*q.v.*); *See also* rainfall.

**Football** made its first appearance in Ridgefield in 1905 when an adult town team was formed and lasted several years, practicing in a small field on Catoonah Street and playing area towns in a pasture at High Ridge and Barry Avenue. In the 1910s and 20s, the chief football action here was at the Ridgefield School (*q.v.*) on North Salem Road. A town team called the Spartans was formed among adults in the 1930s, playing teams from area towns. The Ridgefield Athletic Club fielded a team in the late 1930s. The first RHS team was organized in 1942 under Squire Burtis, coach for all the school's sports. It was a six-man squad; 11-man football did not arrive until October 1956. In the fall of 1968, the RHS Tigers won 15 straight games, finally falling in state tourney play to Northwest Catholic of West Hartford, 36-22. In September 1958, the Red Raiders, the town's first midget football squad, was organized.

**Flores, Maria,** was a pseudonym for Mary Main (*q.v.*)

**Florida:** First mentioned in an 1827 deed for three acres "at a place called Florida," bounded on the east by the Redding line; origin of name is unknown — for a discussion of many possibilities, see RN; name later applied to two roads and a school district. [RN]

**Florida Cemetery:** *See* New Florida Cemetery; *also* Old Florida Cemetery.

**Florida Hill:** US Geological Survey says this little round hill, 620 feet above sea level, is situated southeast of Florida Hill Road about 1,200 feet west of the Florida Road junction. [RN]

**Florida Hill Estates:** Subdivision of 36 acres into 31 one-acre lots off the north side of Florida Hill Road, served by Ridgewood Road (from Florida Hill Road to Harvey Road) and developed around 1960 by William P. Connors and Harry Richmond (*see also* Meadow Woods). [RN]

**Florida Hill Road:** Fairly modern name for one of the town's oldest roads, was once a major route eastward to northern Fairfield, now Redding; existed by 1744 when it was known as the Mill Road because it led to a grist mill, erected by Peter Burr, on the Norwalk River (present site of Moongate — *q.v.*); continued from there into Redding over what is now called Old Redding Road. [RN] *See also* Abbott's Mill Road.

**Florida Road:** Formally laid out on Dec. 6, 1744, by the selectmen, who described it as starting at the Wilton line, running north to what is now Florida Hill Road, then called Abbott's Mill Road; predates today's Route 7 and is part of an old route from Norwalk to Danbury; neighborhood tradition says that at least one tavern or inn stood along Florida Road to serve as a stagecoach stop in the 1700's. [RN]

**Florida schoolhouse** was on the south side of Florida Hill Road, just west of Florida Road; was a rare brick schoolhouse; razed around 1934 when Florida Hill Road was straightened; served District Number 11.

**Floyd:** *See* storms.

**Flu:** *See* Influenza.

**Fly Brook:** A stream apparently noteworthy for its insect population or for the speed of its waters (a meaning of "fly"); mentioned in several deeds between 1815 and 1828; may have been in the vicinity of Nod, Branchville and Whipstick Roads. [RN]

**Folliott's Ridge:** An area west of North Salem Road near Barrack Hill Road, cited in an 1803 deed, that was derived from the name of landowner Bartlet Folliott (1785). The region was also called Toilsome (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Food Chandler:** European bakery and gourmet food store opened June 1981 at 90 Danbury Road; mother-daughter owners Sigrun and Anna Opgaard. [P6/25/1981]

**Foote, Anna Jenner,** wife of Sterling Foote (*q.v.*) and daughter of William A. Jenner (*q.v.*), summered at 35 High Ridge Avenue for many years. She was listed in the 1914 Who's Who while her husband was not; she was active in many social organizations in NYC and fought for woman suffrage. [see DD154]

**Foote, Sterling,** was a philologist and noted collector of books who taught at Yale, according to DD154, and who summered at 35 High Ridge Avenue many years in the early 20th Century. He was married to Anna Jenner Sterling (*q.v.*) who was a daughter of William A. Jenner, who built the mansion.

**Football:** Only undefeated RHS football team was 1967; *See also* Spartans.

**Foote, Eli** (1799-1864), a blacksmith, was born in Weston. In 1823 he married Mary Edmond of Florida District and two years later bought the house and blacksmith shop from Caleb Grumman on Main Street (possibly opposite the Casagmo entrance) for \$1,200. Mr. Foote died of "acute gastritis" at the age of 65; Foote's Hill (*q.v.*) named for him. [RN]



**Foote's Hill:** Main Street from near Casagmo's entrance north to Pound Street was so-called in the mid-1800's, because Eli Foote, a blacksmith, lived thereabouts. [RN]

**Forbes, James Wendell,** (1923-1999), a native of Alberta, was circulation director of Life Magazine and was president of Life Circulation Company, now DIAL America. In 1970, he formed his own consulting firm in magazine publishing and direct mail marketing and was deputy publisher of Guideposts Associates. In 1979, he founded the School of Magazine Marketing, with the Magazine Publishers of America. He lived on Peaceable Hill Road. [Profile 3/10/1983]

**Fore Hills:** Locality mentioned in early 19th Century deeds was probably just north of our town line in the Ridgebury section of Danbury. [RN]

**Forest Drive:** Short dead-end road off White Birch Road, developed in part around 1962 by a firm called Hanco Inc.; probably named for the woods in the neighborhood. [RN]

**Forge Pond:** Body of water at the southwest corner of North Salem and Craigmoor Roads, so called, at least in the 1830's, because a nearby late 18th Century iron works (*q.v.*) used the water stored there; the pond is now mostly a swamp. *See also* Craigmoor Pond, Perch Pond. [RN]

**Forrester, Lot,** (1782-1854), was a carpenter who served as a state representative in 1822 and 1828 and as a selectman in 1815. He died in Howard, NY. His father was State Rep. William Forrester. In the 1810s he had a cider mill in Ridgebury on the east side of Ridgebury Road south of Shadow Lake Road [RLR12/31, 12/48]

**Forrester, William,** (abt.1744-1809), was a Ridgebury farmer and a state representative in 1777, 1778, 1792, 1794, 1795 and 1796. He is buried in Ridgebury Cemetery. He was the father of State Rep. Lot Forrester.

**Fort Hill:** Name of area around North Salem and Barrack Hill Rds.; name appears Beers map 1867; many people, including Bedini, assumed it was related to the Revolutionary War, but deed dated Feb. 15, 1721 describes "seven acres and three roods, lying in Titicus, north of Fort Hill"; was probably an Indian fort; name appears "Fort Hill, 1777" on two gateposts erected ca 1900 by James F. Kennedy at 224 North Salem Road. [RN]

**Foss, Kassie,** is a Westport watercolor artist who produced a series of note and greeting card views of Ridgefield from 1999 into the early 2000s. They were published by her Onion Hill Press.

**Fossi, Elsie:** *See* Norman Craig.

**Fossi, Louis J.,** (1930-2013), a Ridgefield native, was first selectman from 1973-1981, an uncommon Democrat in that office. He had earlier been a selectman and a member of the Board of Finance. Fossi's career included running a shoe store (Fossi's Footwear), owning a grocery store called Wayside Market (*q.v.*), and selling real estate. He retired to South Carolina. [WWW]

**Fossi's Footwear** was a shoe store on Main Street in the 1950s, as early as 1951, operated by Louis J. Fossi (*q.v.*)

**Foster, Jonah,** had a mill at Asproom Mountain/Aspen Ledges in 1783 [6/101] He had a saw mill and clothing shop, says [RLR17/321] in 1841. He was also a part owner of the Mamasasco grist mill in 1831 and a saw mill "at the old iron works" site [RLR14/118, 16/150, 16/184, 19/338]

**Foster, Richard T.**, (1919-2002), noted American architect who lived in Wilton, designed a Mid-Century Modern home at 805 North Salem Road for his brother, **Dr. Craig R. Foster**. He worked in partnership with Phillip Johnson of the Harvard Five on both the Glass House in New Canaan and Round House in Wilton. His work can also be seen throughout the country at the NYU library & the Kline Biology Tower at Yale University, among others.

**Foster's Mill Pond** appears in several deeds from the early 1840's, and probably referred to Lake Mamasasco (*q.v.*); in the early 1800's, Jonah Foster (*q.v.*) owned several mills in the Scotland District, including a good portion of the gristmill at Mamasasco and a sawmill at North Salem Road opposite Craigmoor Road, using Mamasasco waters; also called Foster's Pond. [RN]

**Foster's Pond:** See Foster's Mill Pond.

**Founders Hall** is Ridgefield's senior center, offering social, educational and physical fitness programs. It was conceived and built by Founders Hall Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization started by the families of Elaine and John Couri and Liz and Steven Goldstone, and opened Nov. 24, 2002, on land at 193 Danbury Road, next to the Recreation Center, that the town leases to the foundation. In 2019, the center had 3,600 members and a staff of nine, and offered 250 semester courses, speakers and seminars each year. [JFS]

**Fountain:** 1. See Cass Gilbert Fountain. 2. "A spring or fountain of water" at the Isaac Lewis (*q.v.*) homestead on the west side of Main Street included lead pipes "laid in the aqueduct" and served at least five properties in the 1830s. [RN]

**Fountain Inn:** Name for a bed and breakfast opened in 2019 at 114 Main Street, the former Hoyt homestead.

**Four Chimneys:** 1. The former E.P. Dutton house on High Ridge was briefly called this by Mrs. Royal C. VanEtten [DD195]. 2. Name of an estate on Mill River Road in South Salem, N.Y., erroneously described as being in Ridgefield in biographies of Czech composer Bohuslav Martinů (*q.v.*) [JFS]

**Four Corners:** Intersection of Barrack Hill Road and Old West Mountain Road so called as early as 1839; while only two corners exist today, junction was four-way until early 20th Century — a road, almost opposite Old West Mountain Road, went northerly down hillside to Tackora Trail, just south of Old Sib Road (shown on maps as late as 1908). [RN]

**Fourth Lane:** Another of the short, dead-end roads off Mamasasco Road at Eight Lakes (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Fourth Purchase:** Proprietors buy from Indians including Taporneck, Wett Hams, Moses, Richard and Samm, paying 18 pounds, two guns, and three bottles of rum; July 4, 1727. The land is now in Lewisboro and North Salem.

**Fowler, Benjamin**, (1761-1801), served in the Revolution and is buried in Ridgebury Cemetery. [JW]

**Fox Drive:** Short, dead-end road off Aspen Ledges Drive at Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*); for many red foxes in the vicinity when development was beginning around 1959; Ridgefield is also home to the less common gray fox [RN] See also mammals.

**Fox Flat:** 19th Century name for flatland on west side of North Street, south of and opposite Pine Crest Drive. [RN]

**Fox Hill:** Fairly modern name for the hill, 740 feet above sea level, to the west of Route 7 along Bennett's Farm Road in Bennett's Pond State Park (*q.v.*). In 1914, Col. Louis D. Conley (*q.v.*), built his Outpost Farm (*q.v.*) mansion at the summit; house later became Fox Hill Inn (*q.v.*) [RN] *See also* Fox Hills.

**Fox Hill condominiums:** 286 units developed 1969-72 by David L. Paul (*q.v.*) on 28-acre former Outpost Inn (*q.v.*)/Shapley School (*q.v.*) property; Ridgefield's first residential condominiums; Paul had planned apartments, but Planning and Zoning Commission suggested trying some units as condos; it was so successful, Paul converted all to condominiums and then did the same with his already built Casagmo (*q.v.*); he chose name Fox Hill after Fox Hill (*q.v.*), two miles north, site of former mansion of Col. Louis D. Conley (*q.v.*), who had established the Outpost Inn and owned this land.

**Fox Hill Drive** is the main road through Fox Hill condominiums on Danbury Road. It had been known as Outpost Drive (*q.v.*) when the property was the Outpost Inn, but was originally a segment of Danbury Road that was abandoned by the state when the straight stretch west of Outpost Pond was built.

**Fox Hill Inn:** Restaurant with French menu was a popular tourist destination; opened 1948 by Frederick F.M. Barker [RPJ7/14]; acquired 1960 by John Yervant, who sold property to IBM (*q.v.*) in January 1971; building had been the mansion at Outpost Farm (*q.v.*); razed by IBM in 1975; Yervant built a new Fox Hill Inn in Brookfield. *See also* Bennett's Pond State Park.

**Fox Hill Lake:** Two bodies of water, connected by a stream and collectively called Fox Hill Lane, just west of and 200 feet lower than Fox Hill; artificial lakes, created by the Pequot Realty Company of Bridgeport in the mid-1920's for the Ridgefield Lakes development; waters flow northerly into the Bennett's Ponds, then into the Saugatuck River and Reservoir. [RN] *See also* Pickerel Pond.

**Fox Hills:** In 1802, Theophilus Benedict of Danbury sold 12 acres "being the west part of my farm, including what I call Fox Hills and sheep pasture" in the vicinity of Shadow Lake and Beaver Brook Roads, west of Briar Ridge Road in northern Ridgebury; term continued to be used through 1846, but morphed into Fox Hill in 1869 and 1876 deeds. [RN]

**Foyt, Mary Hart,** who came to Ridgefield as a teenager in 1965 and is RHS 1968, retired as tax collector in 2004 after 37 years of service to the town. She later worked at the front desk for the Ridgefield Library. She has been active in the community, and was named Rotary Citizen of the Year in 2001 [P3/29/2001]. [JFS]

**Frame Barn, The:** Operated by artist Herb Eilertsen (*q.v.*) at 80 Grove Street in 1980, and continued at least 2006.

**France, Beulah Sanford Osborn,** (1889-1971), a native of Redding, married in 1908 Richard C. Osborn of Ridgefield; they had a daughter Winifred Osborn Carriere (*q.v.*). After Osborn's death in 1919, she became a nurse in NYC, married her university professor, and became a leading authority of child care, writing articles for more than 100 magazines, appearing on TV, serving as editorial director of American Baby magazine, and writing two books: *How to Have a Happy Child* (1952) and *How to Have a Happy, Healthy Baby* (1964). [JFS]

**Frances Cleaners** at 145 High Ridge Avenue was established and operated by Frances Zandri Strouse for more than 40 years. She installed state of the art (at the time) dry-cleaning

equipment and was the first dry-cleaner in Connecticut. The business was acquired at her death by her daughter and son-in-law, Marilyn and Brian Maltas (*q.v.*). The business is housed in a sizable Victorian house built early in the 20th Century by Samuel Carpenter (*q.v.*) and purchased by Strouse in 1943. The business closed July 30, 2016. [P7/25/2002]

**Franco, Robert**, (1932-1983), a native of Yonkers, NY, who grew up in Norwalk, was an artist and former director of the Silvermine Guild College of Art, where he was also an instructor. He specialized in scenes of both New England and the Caribbean and moved to Cape Cod, where he died. He lived on Topstone Road from 1962 to 1972. [P10/20/1983]

**Franklin, Fabian**, (1853-1939), native of Hungary, was a civil engineer, surveyor, professor of mathematics at Johns Hopkins, editor of The Baltimore News and later associate editor of The New York Evening Post, and author of several books on economics and Prohibition; lived on Barry Avenue with daughter, Margaret from 1931 until death. [WWW]

**Franklin Heights**: Small, 1960's subdivision of 11.5 acres between Barry Avenue and Nutmeg Court, which roads serve the lots; named by developer Lewis J. Finch for Professor Fabian Franklin (*q.v.*) and his daughter, Margaret, who owned the property early in this century. [RN]

**Franks, James B.** (1922-1995) was a mid-20th Century developer whose projects included Lisa Lane, Christopher Road, Hessian Drive, Mamanasco Lake Park (*q.v. each*). [RN]

**Franks Restaurant** was on Route 7 in Branchville, operated in the 1930s by Frank Ancona about where the Tusk and Cup is located in 2020..

**Frank's Corners**: Old name of uncertain origin for the intersection of Ridgebury, Spring Valley and Mopus Bridge Roads; in use in 1912. [RN]

**Franzen, William E.**, writer and husband of cartoonist Roz Chast (*q.v.*) has lived on New Street since 1990. He is famous locally for staging elaborate Halloween displays that require New Street to be shut down Halloween evening. [JFS]

**Fraser, Arthur Cleveland**, (1859-1934) was a New York City patent attorney who built the Eleven Levels (*q.v.*) estate in early 20th Century; house is at 24 Old Wagon Road; had estate here from around 1907 until his death.

**Fraser's Pond**: On the north side of West Mountain Road, a little east of Eleven Levels Road, probably created as part of the Eleven Levels (*q.v.*) estate; named for Arthur C. Fraser (*q.v.*) who amassed the 180-acre estate and lived there for many years. [RN]

**Frazier, Mary Fuller**, (1864-1949), was an eccentric heiress who bought a house on North Street in 1946. She gained widespread notoriety for bequeathing \$1.5 million (more than \$15 million today) to the small town of Perryopolis, Pa., where she was born but which she had visited only once in the 61 years after she left. [WWW]

**Fred's EXXON**: Fred Frulla's service station on the east side of "Gasoline Alley" on Danbury Road in 1950s and 60s; originally ESSO.

**Freeholder's Corner**: Early 18th Century name for the junction of the boundaries of the towns of Ridgefield, Redding and Danbury, just east of Route 7 and north of Great Pond; first mentioned in 1734 and as late as 1808 in a perambulation (*q.v.*); also called Freehold Corner; a freeholder was a white male who owned at least 40 shillings' worth of property, free and clear, and thus had a right to vote in certain elections and meetings; why this area was so-called is unclear. [RN]

**Freeman, Martin I.**, (1905-1983), a native of Pennsylvania, was an acclaimed industrial designer, specializing in household products. He received several awards from the Museum of Modern Art. A WW2 intelligence officer, he lived in an old mill on Saw Mill Hill Road since 1960. The U. of Pennsylvania offers a fellowship in his name. [P7/14/1983]

**Freeman, Pat**, was, with husband Jim, owner of Ridgefield Sport and Toy Caboose (*q.v.*), 1966-87. She was for several years president of the Chamber of Commerce, which honored her “significant contributions” to the town in 1997. The Freemans lived here 1962-1999. [NR]

**Freer, Howard C. Sr.**, (1891-1958), owned a car dealership on Main Street during the 1930s, then went on to start Freer and Freer Radio and TV, selling some of the first televisions in town during the late 40s and 50s. [OR9/18/2020]

**Freeston, Kenneth**: Ridgefield’s 15th school superintendent 2003-08; came from Redding, went to North Salem.

**Freezer, public**: In the days before home freezers were widely available, the town had a privately owned “public freezer” at 116 Danbury Road where one could rent space to store frozen foods. The freezer later became part of the Town Spirit Shoppe (*q.v.*). [DD173]

**Frentrop, Arthur H.**, (1924-2002), a native of St. Louis, was a nuclear physicist whose inventions have been used for years to discover oil; in 1951, he worked with the team that designed the accelerator for the hydrogen bomb at the UCLA Laboratory for Nuclear Research, and soon became active in efforts to promote world peace; worked for Schlumberger here for 28 years; was an artist, sculptor and woodworker active in Guild of Artists; lived on Limekiln Road. [P7/11/2002]

**Fresh Air Camp**: *See* Life’s Farm.

**Freund, Sanford H.E.**, (1880-1954), a native of NYC and a Harvard graduate, was an NYC attorney who specialized in corporate and railroad law. In 1924, he bought the Ziegler estate, called Ashton Croft, now Jesse Lee Methodist Church at 207 Main Street. The Odd Fellows bought the estate from the Freund family in 1956.[JFS, NYT11/30/1954]

**Frey, John H. (1963-)**, a Greenwich native who grew up in Ridgefield, is a real estate broker and principal of Century 21 Landmark Properties. He has been a state representative since 1999, longer than any of his predecessors and is a senior Republican whip; he retired at the beginning of 2021. He has been a delegate to national conventions and since 2007 a member of the Republican National Committee; active in many community organizations; as a boy, he was a member of Ridgefield’s “Little Singers.” (*q.v.*).

**Friedman, Peter**, was a New York City developer who proposed a “Rolls Royce” class corporate park on more than 200 acres between George Washington Highway and Shadow Lake Rd. (P3/22/1984) ; later tried to build multifamily housing on 252 acres in Ridgebury, but the town bought him out instead (*see* Stone Ridge Estates)

**Friendly Ice Cream**: Operated a restaurant at 105 Danbury Road, opening July 17, 1970 [P7/23/1970] and closing in late 1980s, replaced by Pizza Hut (*q.v.*). The spot had been the site of Fife and Drum (*q.v.*) restaurant. Friendly’s, the town’s first chain restaurant, had a staff of up to 33 people, many of them teenagers. Difficulty in finding enough workers led to its closing.

**Friendly Town:** Program sponsored by Lions Club in the 1950s, bringing city kids to country; similar to Fresh Air.

**Frigon, George A.,** was a 29-year-old former undertaker from Waterbury, was hired in 1971 as the town's first full-time professional sanitarian. He had received the highest score ever recorded on the state sanitarian's test. His hiring under Health Director Dr. Patrick Neligan led to vast improvements in the installation of septic systems and operations of restaurants, among the many realms that required skilled inspections. [JFS]

**Frog's Point:** Name first appears in the land records in 1842 for land on West Mountain, possibly near the intersection of Peaceable Hill Road and Peaceable Ridge Road. [RN]

**Frulla, Armando,** (1922-1945), was an Army paratrooper who survived D-Day but was killed at Bastogne, Belgium; PFC Frulla earned the Silver Star and Purple Heart. [WWW]

**Fry, Varian,** (1907-1967), was a journalist and classics scholar who, in 1940, went to Marseilles for the Emergency Rescue Committee and set up a network that smuggled more than 1,000 Jewish intellectuals out of Nazi-held Europe, including Hanna Arendt, Marc Chagall, Jacques Lipchitz, Siegfried Kracauer, Franz Werfel, Lion Feuchtwanger and many others. Streets in Berlin bear Fry's name, and high schools in Germany and France are named in his honor. He lived at 78 Olmstead Lane in the 1950s, 60s; taught some Latin classes at RHS; later lived in Farmingville and died in Easton, age 59. In 1994 he was awarded the title of Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Israel. At least two books and a TV movie have been produced about him; he also wrote an acclaimed autobiography, *Surrender on Demand* (1945). [WWW]

**Fuller, Edward W:** Ridgefield's sixth school superintendent, serving 1947-1954.

**Fulling mill:** Once stood at the north corner of Route 7 and Topstone Road; mill treated woollen cloth by removing oils, cleaning and thickening it; waters of Norwalk River used to operate machinery that pounded and otherwise processed the clothing, and then for washing away the chemicals used in the process; cloth could also be dyed at the mill; built 1770 by Hugh Cain who continued to work there into 1790s, though in 1789 he had sold the mill, house, and other property to David Banks for 250 pounds (Banks probably had some tie to the family, for Cain's daughter, Ann, married Thaddeus Banks Jr.); after Banks died in 1847, mill operated by Elias N. and John S. Glover at least through 1867; later by Henry F. Lawton; by 1900s, mill had disappeared but part of stone foundation were declared a town landmark in the late 1960's (many stones stolen for use in walls, fireplaces, etc.); Cain's house burned in the early 1960's, killing elderly occupant. [JFS]

**Fulling Mill Lane:** Road between Cain's Hill Road and New Road, named for Hugh Cain's fulling mill, erected in 1771 on the Norwalk River at the corner of Route 7 and Topstone Road – a site the lane overlooked before the trees returned (*see* Cain's Hill *and* Fulling mill); developed by Harry Richmond and William Connors (*see* Meadow Woods); became a town road in 1964. [RN]

**Funerals:** Among the more interesting ones here were for Annunziata Spadoni, Cornelius Ryan, Henry A. Wallace, Charles G. Bluhdorn. (*q.v. each*).

**Furman, Robert J.**, was Board of Education member, 1975-80, and board chairman, 1978-80; resigned 1980 citing business pressures; resident since 1966; was Branchville PTA president (P8/21/1980).

**Furnace Pond:** 19th Century name for today's Miller's Pond (q.v.), west of Route 7 just north of Florida Hill Road. In the 1800's the Couch family operated an iron foundry here, centered on a furnace (*see also* Couch's Station *and* Moongate). [RN]

## G

**Gabbianelli, Frank**, (1886-1972), operated a shoe store in a building that formerly stood where Fairfield County Bank was; then in early 1930s moved to 390 Main Street until retirement in 1940 when space was taken by Hyde's Liquor Store (q.v.). [DD96]

**Gabbianelli, Ray**, (1914-84), operator of Ray's Liquor Shop (q.v.), ran an advertisement in 1950, saying: "I came to town during World War One as a boy of three. My father opened up a cobbler's shop, waiting on customers, blacking boots. When I was 18, RHS gave me a diploma and I went to Italy to study medicine. Because of my health, I returned after two years, started as an agent with the Prudential Insurance people. The Army singled me out in 1943 and decided I shouldn't settle down yet; three years in Europe was the result. Back to insurance, but what I really wanted was my own business. So, in May 1948, Ray's Liquor Shop came into being...." [RPJ]

**Gabor, Joli**, (1896-1997), native of Hungary, was Miss Hungary in 1936 and operated a Madison Avenue jewelry business. She was the mother of Eva, Magda, and Zsa-Zsa Gabor, celebrities and actresses. In 1966, she and her husband, Count Odon de Szigethy, bought a modest home on Oscaleta Road; they later lived at 103 Peaceable Ridge Road. [WWW]

**Gaddi's:** Restaurant at 5 Grove Street in 1987; Gallo in 2019. [P5/7/1987]

**Gaeta, Albert** (1925-2006), a Ridgefield native, was plumber and village businessman, who owned a small shopping center in the village; served as a member of the Police Commission and as chief of the Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department. *See also* Corbin Drive, Gaeta Shopping Center.

**Gaeta Shopping Center:** Established 1950s by Albert Gaeta (q.v.); purchased August 1984 by Enrico and Donna Addessi, who also owned former Scott block where their jewelry store is [P8/16/1984].

**Gaffney, W.H.**, (1868-1943), was a blacksmith with a shop on Catoonah Street (P7/24/1902); buried in St. Mary Cemetery.

**Gage, D. Smith**, (1844-1923), was a wealthy local merchant who at 17 began as clerk in Lewis H. Bailey's "Old Hundred" (q.v.), bought the store in 1880 and moved it north to larger quarters at 404 Main Street, where it eventually became D.F. Bedient's Hardware (q.v.). He was treasurer of Ridgefield Savings Bank and was one of its first directors. He also served as a town assessor. He lived on Prospect Street. [WWW, RSB21]

**Gage Block:** *See* D. Smith Gage. [DD69]

**Gage's Cemetery:** *See* Scott's Cemetery.

**Gaines Research Center** was headquartered 635 Danbury Road (Route 7) in what is now called Stonehouse Commons main building; opened 1944 and left, 1951; did research into dog nutrition and genetics; made use of old Outpost kennels (*see* Red Lion) at 621 Danbury

Road to house about 125 dogs used in research; main building was originally offices for Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*).

**Galleri Seven:** Store selling art, framing, oriental embroideries at Copps Hill Plaza; existed 1980.

**Gallick, Muriel,** (ca. 1914-1998), was an actress who had appeared on Broadway in the 1930s and later became an American Kennel Club official recognized to judge 26 breeds. She was married to Eric Sonnichsen (*q.v.*) and lived in Ridgefield from the 1960s until her death. [WWW]

**Gallo:** Restaurant at 5 Grove Street, in former Walker home; formerly Gaddi's and many other restaurants.

**Galloway's:** Bar and restaurant in Gaeta shopping center, 439 Main Street, founded in 1980; became famous in July 1985 when, during a propane gas delivery, it literally blew up — no one was seriously hurt; operated by Frank Dolen and Joe Hahn.

**Gamaliel Smith Cemetery:** Established 1830s on the east side of West Lane, a little north of Country Club Road; 14 stones in 1934; about 10 were still standing in 1990; served Smith, Clark, and Whitlock families; earliest stone, 1835, latest 1881. This cemetery is surrounded by a high stone wall, right on the road; it has a gated entrance. [JFS] *See also* Smith Cemetery.

**GAR** (Grand Army of the Republic): *See* Edwin D. Pickett.

**Garden of Ideas** was a privately owned, non-profit public park, created over many years by landscaper Joseph Keller (*q.v.*) with his wife, Ilsa Svendsen, on 13 acres at the corner of North Salem and Craigmoor Roads. It became a non-profit operation in 2011 and a special zoning permit for what Keller called a combination arboretum, botanical garden, and wildlife sanctuary was issued in 2013. It closed in 2019 after a campaign to get donor support for a fund to maintain it permanently failed to raise enough money. [P9/12/2019]

**Garden School:** Name applied to the old Center School/Alexander Hamilton High School building on Bailey Avenue when it was used, 1926-1955, as a K-2 school; closed when Veterans Park School opened; razed 1955 to create a municipal parking lot. *See also* Center School.

**Gardiner, George Schuyler,** (1854-1921), a native of NY, bought the former Cushman house at 88 Main Street in 1916 and called the place Kalmia Lodge. He had a prosperous lumber company, focused on pines from Mississippi. He died here. [DAUB]

**Gasland:** Last gasoline station to occupy building at the north corner of Danbury and Grove Streets which, in 2018, is Bareburger restaurant; building erected early 1960s in design matching the A&P supermarket, built at the same time just to the north (now site of Walgreen); Gasland closed 1979 when company went bankrupt.

**Gasoline Alley:** The section of Route 35, Danbury Road, from Main Street to Farmingville Road; so-called in 1960-80 because of the half-dozen gas stations then along it. [RN]

**Gasperini, Nanny,** was the first chef at the Port of Missing Men (*q.v.*) resort. [DD135]

**Gasperino, Nancy,** operated a number of food service establishments in Ridgefield in last decades of the 20th Century, including the Village Bakery (*q.v.*) and the Ridgefield Coffee Shop (*q.v.*) on Bailey Avenue, often with husband Albert. They lived on Barry Avenue and retired and moved to Florida.



**Gaub, Adolf**, (1907-77), and **Lori**, (?-1982), operated the Ridgefield Diner, 746 Danbury Road, from the middle 1950s until the early 1970s; in 1964, enlarged and changed name to Ridgefield Restaurant; site in 2020 of BMW of Ridgefield.

**Gay, Ulysses Simpson**, (1869-1953), a farmer, was born in Towners, N.Y., the year his namesake was elected president. In 1900, he came to Ridgefield, buying a house and 20 acres from Anna Seymour and establishing a farm on lower Spectacle Lane, which he held until his death at the age of 83. He had a large family, and many descendants still live in the area. As recently as the 1980's, the Gay family had large reunions here. [RN]

**Gay Road:** An old short path between lower Wilton Road East and Spectacle Lane, appearing on maps as early as 1856 and named for Ulysses S. Gay (*q.v.*) and his family, who lived nearby. [RN]

**Gay's Hill:** 1977 subdivision of 15 acres into seven lots on the east side of Spectacle Lane, land once owned by Ulysses S. Gay (*q.v.*); developed by Marcelino Lavin of Wilton, who also did Table Rock Estates (*q.v.*) on St. Johns Road. [RN]

**Gelbin, Allan J.** (1929–1994) a noted American architect and native of NYC, lived on Peaceable Ridge Road in 1960. He had been an apprentice to Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin East in Spring Green, Wisc., from 1949 to 1953. He then worked as a general contractor and supervisor overseeing the construction of three Wright-designed homes in Ohio, and one in New Canaan. Gelbin established his own private practice in Connecticut in 1957 and built the first of his three personal homes in Ridgefield in 1958. Among the contemporary residences he designed here were the Richard Owen Carey (*q.v.*) house (and office building) on Copper Beech Lane.

**Gelfman, Nelson**, (1927-2019), a pathologist, was longtime director of Danbury Hospital's Renal Dialysis Unit, which was named for him; member Planning and Zoning Commission, 1967-2013; earlier member of Conservation Commission; noted amateur expert herpetologist, especially knowledgeable about turtles; lived on Hessian Drive; married to Mary Gelfman (*q.v.*). [P2/14/2019]

**Gelfman, Mary Boyce**, (1935-2020), a teacher and attorney, was school board chairman in the 1970s, serving on the board for 11 years. She became a lawyer in 1981 [P7/2/1981], specializing in special education cases statewide. She was married to Dr. Nelson Gelfman. (*q.v.*).. They came to Ridgefield in 1964. She graduated from Swarthmore, got an MA from Teachers College, Columbia, and law degree from UConn. [NR]

**General Economy Store:** Operating at ONS115 Main Street, according to the 1928 phone book.

**Gengarely, Walter Janvier**, (1935-2010), a native of NYC and an airport manager, was active in the Liberarian movement. He ran both first selectman as a Republican (1979) and Connecticut governor as a Libertarian (1982). He moved to Ridgefield in 1974, later owned the former Hilltop gas station (*q.v.*). He lived his last years in Newtown and Danbury. [WWW]

**Genovese Drugs:** Opened July 29, 1972 as the first store in new Copps Hill Plaza; was also the first chain pharmacy in Ridgefield; chain of about 141 stores purchased by JC Penney in 1998, rebranded Eckerd, but acquired by Rite Aid (*q.v.*) in 2007.

**Geoghan, Michael**, (1863-1928) was a teamster on the Upagenstit estate, a popular man who mysteriously committed suicide in 1928. [DD142]

**George Washington Highway:** Old road from Ridgebury Road at Ridgebury's center to Miry Brook Road at Danbury line; part of the route through Ridgefield used by General Washington in Sept. 20, 1780, on his way to meet Rochambeau (*q.v.*) in Hartford; in 1932, the bicentennial of Washington's birth, Ridgebury Road – from North Salem Road north to Ridgebury Congregational Church – was renamed George Washington Highway to include almost the entire route the general followed through town; in 1959, First Selectman Leo F. Carroll had the original name of Ridgebury Road restored, but the highway running east from Ridgebury retained the commemorative name. [RN]

**Georgetown** is a village, a telephone exchange, a post office, a fire district, a voting district, and was once a school district and had a train station, but it is not a "town" in the Connecticut sense of a legal governmental entity. It is part of Wilton, Redding, Weston and to a small degree, Ridgefield, and grew up around old mills, mostly the Gilbert and Bennett wire mill. Thompson says in 1764, George Abbot built a grist mill and became a prominent man in the community for many years. After the Revolution, neighborhood residents voted to name their community and decided on Georgetown, in recognition of the popular miller. The Georgetown telephone exchange, used also for Branchville, is 544-, originally LI4 or Lincoln 4. Zip is 06829. (A very early history of Georgetown by "H. St. J" can be found in the Feb. 28, 1879 Press.) [JFS]

**Geppetto's Workshop:** *See* Mike Pontello.

**Gerdau, Alan:** *See under* Tontine Emporium.

**Gerli, Francis Michael**, (1914-1992), chairman of the board of Gerli & Co. textiles of NYC, was a Navy commander during World War II, flying search planes in the Atlantic and Caribbean areas. He was a graduate of Georgetown University and Fordham Law; had a doctorate in economics from Assumption College. He is buried in St. Mary Cemetery with his parents (*see* Paolino Gerli) who had a home here many years.

**Gerli, Paolino**, (1890-1982), was a noted silk merchant with a weekend and summer home on Branchville Road. He is buried in St. Mary Cemetery. [P7/15/1982] Son **Francis** (*q.v.*) took over the firm [P3/12/1992]. In 1940, Paolino Gerli sold his home — part of the former Greims estate — to Edward and Elizabeth Petry. One of the features of the estate was a Japanese Tea garden, complete with a tea house that was a gift to Gerli from a wealthy Japanese businessman who had it shipped from Japan to Ridgefield. [P4/4/1940]

**German-American Bund:** A pro-Nazi organization, rumored to be planning to buy the former Ridgefield School/Chekhov Theatre Studio (*q.v. each*) property at the north end of Lake Mamanasco; Francis D. Martin bought it instead, hinting he did so to prevent the organization from coming here.

**Giblin, Karen L.**, of North Valley Road, a Democrat, announced in July 1987 she's running for the Board of Selectmen. She chaired the Parking Authority, belonged to the Route 7 Task Force, the Downtown Committee and other organizations. She once was the mayor of Baltimore's manpower coordinator. [P7/16/1987] Named in 1997 a member of the state's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, She formed in 1992 the Red Hot Mamas, which started locally and became national, as a support group for women experiencing menopause. Lived here from 1981 until early 2000s. [NR]

**Gibney, Frank Bray**, (1924-2006), a Pennsylvania native, was a journalist and author who was an expert on Asia, especially China. He came here when he was 11 and his parents, Frank and Edna Gibney, took over the Outpost Inn. He served in Army intelligence in WW2, interrogating Japanese POWs. After the war he became a writer for Time magazine in Europe and Asia and by 1949, was Time-Life bureau chief in Tokyo. He later became a senior editor at Newsweek and a staff writer for Life Magazine. He also wrote a dozen books including *The Khrushchev Pattern*, *Korea's Quiet Revolution*, and in 1960, *The Operators*, about corporate criminals. His 1992 book, *The Pacific Century*, predicting the rising economic power of eastern Asian nations in the then-coming century, was a companion to a 10-part PBS series, produced by his son, documentary filmmaker **Alex Gibney**. In 1979, he co-founded the Pacific Basin Institute in California "to further understanding, on both sides of the Pacific, of the tremendous importance of their relationship and their shared responsibilities." [WWW]

**Gibney, Joseph**, (-1962), a former singer, managed the Outpost Inn (*q.v.*) from 1933 until the late 1940s. He was a veteran of Longchamps and other prestigious restaurant operations, and turned Outpost into dining destination for many Ridgefielders as well as celebrities, including Lily Pons, Lawrence Tibbett, Gloria Morgan Vanderbilt, Clare Boothe Luce, and Eleanor Roosevelt (who, as first lady, drove herself there for lunch). He hired Giancarlo Scala (*q.v.*) as chef.

**Gilbert family**: Many were millers, particularly in the Titicus neighborhood. For some overview see DD113. Sometimes spelled Gilbart in old records.

**Gilbert, Aaron B.**, bought a house, cider mill, grist mill, workshop, and an acre, with privilege of using Upper Pond Nov. 1 to May 1 for \$1,200 in 1872 [RLR25/287]

**Gilbert, Abner**, (1745-1820), was a selectman and father of Abner Gilbert Jr. An Abner "Gilbart" was a part owner of a grist mill at Limestone in 1788 [RLR7/48]

**Gilbert, Abner Jr.**, (1780-1855), was a state representative in 1815 and operated a store on northern Main Street with partner Richard Randall, his brother-in-law and also a state representative. He built the Gilbert Homestead (*q.v.*) at 563 Main Street. [JFS, DD113]

**Gilbert, Abner**, was, as a Union Party member, a state representative in 1864. [Note: There were two Abner Gilberts in town at the time; one was a son of Abner Jr.; not sure which was the rep. See DD113]. Abner Gilbert sold his saw mill in 1852 on the "east side of said New Road" — probably Limestone Road. [RLR20/52]

**Gilbert, Albert Earl "Gil"**, (1939-), one of the nation's leading wildlife artists, lived at 147 Main Street in the 1960s and 70s. His work has appeared in many nature books, Encyclopedia Britannica and World Book Encyclopedia, on several federal duck stamps, and on many of the famous Christmas Wildlife Stamps of the National Wildlife Federation. [NR]

**Gilbert, Cass**, (1859-1934), was a famous architect who bought the "Old Keeler Tavern" in 1907; wife Julia was said to be a descendant of Timothy Keeler, who owned the place in the Revolutionary era [P8/15/1907]; Gilbert designed U.S. Supreme Court building, Woolworth Building, U.S. Custom House in New York, the state capitols of Minnesota, Arkansas and West Virginia, the main libraries of St. Louis and Detroit, and buildings on

campuses of Universities of Texas and Minnesota; buried in large family plot at Fairlawn Cemetery. *See also* Cass Gilbert Fountain. [WWW]

**Gilbert, Charles**, with Harry Gilbert, in 1858 bought a house, saw mill, grist mill, and use of Upper Pond from Elias Gilbert for \$1,150. [RLR21/175] Located at Titicus.

**Gilbert, Ebenezer**, ( -1852): “Today the bell tolled for Mr. Eben Gilbert, found dead in a ditch, lying with face downward, his bottle by his side.” [DAR]

**Gilbert, Elias**, sold in 1858 his house, saw mill, grist mill, and use of Upper Pond to Harry and Charles Gilbert for \$1,150. [RLR21/175] Located at Titicus.

**Gilbert, Frank I.**, (-1930), custodian of the George Scott block in the 1920s, was injured in a gas explosion [DD96].

**Gilbert, George Washington** (1847-1924) was known as “the hermit of Ridgefield”; lived on the north side of Florida Hill Road near Harvey Road in an 18th century house that was falling down around him; noted for fondness for puzzles and for going barefoot most of the year; liked visitors and telling them stories; Rockwell says, “he related many strange tales and yarns which gained in detail and wonder with each narration”; given a cottage by Edward M. Knox (*q.v.*) to live in; froze to death there in January 1924; buried in New Florida Cemetery. [WWW] *See also* Hermit Lane.

**Gilbert, Harry**, with Charles Gilbert, in 1858 bought a house, saw mill, grist mill, and use of Upper Pond from Elias Gilbert for \$1,150. [RLR21/175] Located at Titicus. In 1841, Harry acquired land “commonly known as the old flax mill,” from Burr, Hull and Philip Keeler et al. [RLR18/29].

**Gilbert, Isaac Henry**, (1742-1822), lived in the Gilbert Homestead (*q.v.*) and was a Tory who fled to Canada and died in Ontario. [DD115]

**Gilbert, Jabez Mix**, (1781-1856), bought the gristmill at Titicus by 1812 from Epenetus Howe and Jeremiah Gilbert [RLR10/90] and also had the sawmill there by 1819. He apparently devoted most of his attention to his tannery, which was operating by 1822 and lasted many decades. [RN] (*See also* 11/221, 12/252, 12/253, 12/265, 12/335, 13/245). He was a founder of the Methodist church in Ridgefield and he served seven times as a selectman in the 1810s and 20s. He was a state representative in 1818, 1827 and 1828.

**Gilbert, James**, had in 1849 a saw mill, possibly at Titicus — *see* RLR18/368, 19/21 20/228. He also bought a saw mill at Titicus in 1852 [RLR20/58, 22/372].

**Gilbert, John S.**, bought part ownership in James Gilbert’s saw mill in 1860 [RLR22/372].

**Gilbert, Josiah**, had a grist mill at Limestone by the time of his death, ca. 1774, probably on the Norwalk River near Stonehenge Inn site. *See* RLR 5/141, 5/138, 6/1.

**Gilbert, Richard L.**, (abt. 1822-?), was a farmer who as a Whig, served as a state representative in 1849.

**Gilbert, Roland L.**, (1875-1951), a Ridgefield native, was a telegrapher for the New Haven Railroad for 15 years, and then worked for 30 years between 1907 and 1946 for the Ridgefield Savings Bank, serving as secretary and treasurer in his last years. Among his hobbies were tatting, lace-making and radio. [RSB27]

**Gilbert, Victor**, (1906-86), opened Stonehenge Inn in 1946, naming it after historic site in England where he served during WW2; called himself a skinker (*q.v.*) and wrote column for Ridgefield Press, called Not Skinking; had weekly celebrity interview program on

WLAD radio in Danbury; a clock collector, he donated the grandfather clock that's in town hall when he moved to Virgin Islands and sold inn in 1963; owned a hotel in St. Croix. [WWW].

**Gilbert, William A.**, (1853-1921), was a prominent Republican who lived at 536 Main Street. He was a co-owner of the lumberyard with Richard Osborn that became Ridgefield Supply Company. He married Jennie Pehrson late in life. [DD113, 114]

**Gilbert, William Henry**, (1842-1916), was a carpenter and partner in the Gilbert mills at Titicus; moved to Gilbert Street in 1885, buying an old Gilbert house at the corner of New Street (razed about 2012 for Ludington Court — *q.v.*); from 1884 to 1888, he was a selectman, buried with other family members under an imposing monument at the Ridgefield Cemetery, the stone for which was quarried from Gilbert land on the west side of New Street, north of Gilbert Street. [RN, CBRFC]

**Gilbert, Willis Sherwood**, (1866-1940), was a postman, and later postmaster from Jan. 18, 1916, to July 1, 1924. He managed the telephone office for 15 years. Later went into the shoe business. He lived on Governor Street where the shopping center entrance is today. [DD1, P6/27/1940, RSB28]

**Gilbert Homestead** was the name of the house at 563 Main Street, later the home of Commander and Mrs. John Jay Pierrepont (*q.v.*). It was built by Abner Gilbert Jr. (*q.v.*). [DD113]

**Gilbert House** was the name for 536 Main Street (ONS169), according to Venus in DD113. *See also* Colonial Tourists.

**Gilbert Street:** A fairly modern name for a very old road, probably among the first to be laid out by the early settlers in the 1710's and 1720's to serve as the main route from the village to the forests and later pastures of West Mountain (until the construction of Barry Avenue — *q.v.*); was called Ramapoo Road (*q.v.*) on 1900 map, but by 1908, "Gilbert Street" was appearing on maps; probably named for William Henry Gilbert (*q.v.*) who lived at the intersection of New and Gilbert Streets.

**Gilbert's Upper Pond:** Another form of the name Upper Pond (*q.v.*), used in the 1840's and 1850's at least; it recognized Jabez Mix Gilbert, who at various times had various mills powered by the water from the pond but was most famous for his tanning works at Titicus. Gilbert owned the water rights to the pond. [RN]

**Gilchrist, Huntington**, (1891-1975), a native of Boston, was a journalist, corporate executive, diplomat, soldier, educator, and political scientist. While he was an executive with American Cyanamid, 1928-55, he also had a long career in international relations. He was the only person from any nation to serve as a senior member of the international staff in the establishment and operation of both the League of Nations and the United Nations; helped draft the UN charter in 1945. In 1950, he was U.S. minister in charge of the Marshall Plan in Belgium and Luxembourg and he helped found the International School in Geneva. He moved to Ridgebury around 1940; in 1960, was chair of the 200th anniversary celebration of the founding of Ridgebury Congregational Church. [WWW]

**Gilkes, Lillian Barnard**, (1903-1977), was a nationally recognized scholar, author and critic whose notoriety here was chiefly civic and political. She wrote *Cora Crane: A Biography of Mrs. Stephen Crane*. as well as short stories and book reviews. She lived at 93 Olmstead

Lane with stepsister, Louise Davidson (*q.v.*), and was active in the community, including Democratic party. Moved to Tryon, N.C., 1962. [WWW]

**Gillum, Harold S. “Pinky,”** (1896-1966), a Ridgefield native, and a WW1 veteran, was a local house builder and also one of the world’s best makers of bamboo-based fly fishing rods, some of which today can fetch prices of over \$8,000. Between 1923 and his death, he produced some 2,000 rods under the name Gillum Fly Rod Company (*q.v.*). Customers included Bing Crosby, Benny Goodman, and Philip Pillsbury.

**Gillum Fly Rod Company,** founded in 1923, was operated in Ridgefield by Pinky Gillum (*q.v.*) and later by his widow, Winifred “Winnie” Beckley Gillum, and her second husband, Marcus Prosser.

**Gilroy, Tom,** (1951-), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1978, is an actor, director and filmmaker; wrote and produced *Spring Forward* (1998), based on Ridgefield experiences and starring Ned Beatty and Liev Schreiber, part of which was filmed here. Other films include *The Cold Lands* (2013) and *Touch Base* (1994). He has appeared in more than 30 films and TV shows. He also teaches acting in NYC. [NR]

**Gino’s Way:** A short, dead-end road off High Ridge Avenue, between Barry Avenue and Ramapoo Road, serving six lots developed around 2010 by Don and Jim Sturges of Sturges Brothers Fine Home Builders. The 2.5 acres at 213 High Ridge Avenue had long been the homestead of the Gino Bob Polverari (*q.v.*) [RN]

**Girl Scouts of America:** In 1921, Kathryn G. Bryon (*q.v.*), founded the town’s first Girl Scout troop, Troop One, consisting of a handful of girls; it disbanded in 1924 when she went off to school. In 1937, Mrs. Arthur Leiby founded a new Troop 1, and Girls Scouting has continued non-stop since then. Early scouting activities included a physical education program (such things weren’t taught in the schools), folk dancing, posture exercises, health games, softball and basketball, hiking, camping, and, of course, crafts — scouts were make such things as leather belts, silver bracelets, wooden bookends, and brass ashtrays. During WW2, scouts helped with the airplane spotting tower and knitted hundreds of socks for submarine crewmen. By 1975, the town had 770 Girl Scouts; in 2020, there were 15 troops. [RPC, JFS] *See also* Camp Catoonah.

**Girls’ Athletic Club:** Existed 1924 when it staged “By Way of the Secret Passage,” a comedy in three acts.

**Girolametti/Girolmetti:** Old Ridgefield family that has used two different surname spellings; original families, such as Paolo Girolametti, who arrived here 1897, used five-syllable version, but some later generations switched to four. *See* Girolametti Court.

**Girolametti, John,** (1933-2010), a Ridgefield native and businessman, was owner of Old Ice House (*q.v.*) restaurant and Girolametti Court; served in the U.S. Army in Korean War; for many years, he spelled his name Girolmetti. [P6/10/2010] His wife and a chef at the Old Ice House, was the former **Dorothy Allegrissa** (1934-2021).

**Girolametti Court:** Shopping plaza at 7-19 Danbury Road was called Girolmetti Court when it was opened by John Girolmetti (*q.v.*) in 1981, with 12 shops and 12 apartments; the name was later changed to Girolametti. Its apartments-over-businesses arrangement was new for Ridgefield and has since been used in many subsequent developments.

**GIST:** Global Issues for Students and Teachers was a 1980s student club at RHS aimed at helping solve social issues, including hunger and poverty. Steve Blumenthal was teacher leader in 1987. [P2/26/1987]

**GL Printing and Graphics** opens Dec. 8, 1983, in the bottom level of Yankee Ridge, 470 Main Street. Also has a Danbury store. [P12/8/1983]

**Glen Acres:** A 32-lot, 1963 subdivision of 35.4 acres, owned by James Franks, on the east side of Tally-Ho Road (*q.v.*) and the north side of Haviland Road, part of the old Elizabeth Glendinning — name may be a pun on the nature of the terrain and its former owner's name; homebuilder was Edward Stoll. [RN]

**Glen Road:** Short, dead-end lane off Buck Hill Road, developed around 1954 by Perry Scott and Richard E. Conley (*q.v.*); named the road because of the glen it traverses. [RN]

**Glenbrook Court:** A short dead-end road off Standish Drive, in a glen near a brook; laid out in 1965 and accepted by a town meeting in 1968; extended in the mid-1980's part of the Meadow Woods development (*q.v.*).

**Glenburg Mills and Chemical Works** was a patent medicine, spice, and chemicals company operated by the Perry family of Ridgefield in Georgetown in the mid-1800s. Samuel Perry sold it in 1869. The operation included a grist mill. *See* Nehemiah Perry Sr. [THOMPSON, ROCKWELL, JFS]

**Glenburgh** was an early name for Georgetown (*q.v.*).

**Glimpses of Ridgefield:** Album-style book of dozens of photographs of Ridgefield, taken in the 1890s by pioneering Connecticut woman photographer Marie H. Kendall (*q.v.*), published in 1900.

**Glissman, Frederick G.,** (1935-2004), a NYC native, was an artisan and historian who had lived in Ridgefield for 50 years. He was closely involved in the founding of the Connecticut Fifth Regiment that re-enacts Revolutionary War events. He restored the eagle on the front of the town hall in 1990, re-leafing it in gold. He managed in 1977 production of the Benedict Arnold medal, designed by his former wife, Gail (*q.v.*).

**Glissmann, Gail:** *See* Gail Rogers Glissmann Fields.

**Glover, Elias,** bought the old Cain's Mill/Banks woolen factory on what is now Route 7 at Topstone Road for \$300 in 1843 [17/260]. John Glover became a partner in 1848 [RLR18/242], but bowed out in 1855 [RLR21/200].

**Glover, John.** *See* Elias Glover.

**Goat barn, the:** Former clubhouse of the Country Club of Ridgefield, near Golf Lane (*q.v.*); moved about 1934 by Francis D. Martin (*q.v.*) to Grove Street, where it housed goats; in 1940s, was home of Ridgefield Silversmiths (*q.v.*); from 1951-53 Oriented Plastics (*q.v.*); in 1954 sold to New England Institute for Medical Research (*q.v.*) which used it as part of its research operations; burned down, 1984 [P12/27/1984]

**God's Payday** by Edgar C. Bross, published by G. W. Dillingham Company, in 1898, was a romantic drama, with scenes in Ridgefield — the main character pays a visit by train to escape the city and stays at the Keeler Tavern. Bross (*q.v.*) was editor of The Ridgefield Press from 1887 to 1899. [WWW]

**Godfrey, Ebenezer,** had the grist and saw mills on the Norwalk River by Florida Hill Road (see Moongate) in 1831 [RLR14/348] but soon sold to Thomas N. Couch [RLR14/124]

**Goeppler's Cider Mill:** Of the half dozen 19th Century cider mills in town, perhaps the largest and last to operate was Goeppler's mill, which made both cider and vinegar, at 80 Topstone Road at the very eastern edge of Ridgefield, overlooking the Danbury and Norwalk Railroad tracks at Topstone. The mill was active in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The building is now a residence. [JFS]

**Gold, Andrew,** (1951-2011), was a songwriter, singer, producer, engineer and musician, who played guitar, bass, keyboards, accordion, synthesizer, harmonica, saxophone, flute, drums, ukulele, musette, and harmonium; member of Linda Ronstadt's band and arranger in 1970s; wrote TV and movie soundtracks; wrote several top hits including "Heatwave," and "You're No Good"; was voice of Alvin, TV cartoon chipmunk; father was Ernest Gold, Academy Award composer of film scores, and mother was Marni Nixon, the singing voice of Natalie Wood, Audrey Hepburn and Deborah Kerr in movies of major musicals; lived on St. Johns Road in the 1990s until early 2000s; had a studio at 18 Bailey Avenue. [WWW]

**Gold Card:** The Senior Gold Card Discount Program, sponsored by Senior Positive Initiative Forum (*q.v.*), provides free Gold Cards to Ridgefield residents 65 and older. Holders receive free and discounted services from many town departments, organizations and businesses, described in a Benefits Guide. Apply at the Town Hall information office.

**Golden Apple:** Name of the farm-estate of Nancy and Col. Edward Meier at 166 Lounsbury Road. [P7/20/1911] The house, ca. 1880, was the earlier Nathan L. Rockwell farm [FoF].

**Goldsmith, Harold,** (1903-1969), a NYC native, was a major publisher of pulp magazines during the 1930s and 40s, including romance, mystery, detective, and Western stories. His Popular Publications turned out more than 40 different magazines a month by the late 1930s. Was also publisher of Argosy. In 1943, he bought Taghkanick (*q.v.*) estate, selling in 1946 to Henry and Clare Boothe Luce (*q.v.*) and moving to Old Branchville Road. In 1954 he developed the Lakeland Hills subdivision with Lake Windwing. His wife, Yvonne, a public relations executive, was a noted breeder of Weimaraners. [WWW]

**Goldsmith's Pond:** Another name for Lake Windwing (*q.v.*), so called because it was created by Harold Goldsmith (*q.v.*) for his Lakeland Hills (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Goldstein, Dr. Mel,** (1945-2012), a native of Massachusetts, was a meteorologist who created Connecticut's only meteorology bachelor's degree program and also established the weather station at WestConn; did radio and TV weathercasting, especially at WTNH in New Haven (1986-2011). His *Complete Idiot's Guide to Weather* (1999) was a top-selling book. Lived on Rowland Lane, 1972-1996. [WWW]

**Goldstone, Steven,** (1946-), a native of NYC, was chairman and chief executive officer of RJR Nabisco Inc., and chairman of the board of ConAgra Foods Inc. In recent years he has managed Silver Spring Group, a private investment firm. He and his wife, Liz, with John and Elaine Couri created Founders Hall (*q.v.*), Ridgefield's senior center. They lived on Silver Spring Road. [P2/1/2001, 10/8/2015]

**Golenbock, Peter,** (1946-) is a sports author who lived in Ridgefield in the 1980s. He has written more than a dozen books on athletes and athletics, most related to baseball. Perhaps the most famous are *Balls*, written with Graig Nettles, and *Number 1*, with Billy Martin.

**Golf:** See Country Club of Ridgefield, Silver Spring Country Club, Dlh Ridge Golf Course, Ridgefield Golf Course.



**Golf Lane:** Old road running between West Lane and Peaceable Street once led to and through the Country Club of Ridgefield (*q.v.*), a 65-acre course built in 1894. Most of the course later became Jack B. Ward's Ward Acres Farm (*q.v.*), where show horses were raised, but in the 1980s and 1990s, was subdivided and today holds houses instead of horses or duffers. [RN]

**Good Cheer:** Home of Dr. A.L. Northrup in triangle of West Lane, Parley Lane and High Ridge [Kendall] [P7/20/1911]

**Good Government Party:** A Ridgefield-only third party, founded in 1963, with members saying they were "dissatisfied with the leadership and control of the two existing parties," especially with respect to the schools; ran candidates in 1963 and 1965. None won, but some came close — one collected 1,295 votes; party membership peaked at 75, and in 1971, though inactive, still had 65 members; GGP discontinued in 1981 due to inactivity. [RPC]

**Goodrich, Abigail:** *See* Abigail Goodrich Whittelsey.

**Goodrich, Charles Augustus** (1790-1862) was a congregational minister and brother of Samuel G. Goodrich (*q.v.*), also known as Peter Parley; he wrote two dozen books of history, biography, geography, and religion; noted for popularizing motto, "A place for everything and everything in its place"; lived most of his life in Berlin, Conn. and Hartford [WWW]

**Goodrich, Rev. Samuel G.:** Third minister of First Congregational Church; husband of Elizabeth Ely Goodrich; among their seven children were Samuel G. Goodrich (*q.v.*), Abigail Whittelsey (*q.v.*) and Charles A. Goodrich (*q.v.*), all major names in letters in the 19th Century; graduated from Yale. His house on High Ridge, built in 1797, still stands at #15.

**Goodrich, Samuel G.** (1793-1860), a Ridgefield native and son of Elizabeth and Rev. Samuel Goodrich (*q.v.*), was a noted American author of more than 100 books, many aimed at school children; had publishing company in Boston; his autobiographical "Recollections of A Lifetime" has more than 200 pages describing what Ridgefield was like at turn of the 19th Century; helped Nathaniel Hawthorne become a published author; was a state senator and representative in Massachusetts where he spent most of his adult life; was U.S. consul to Paris; [WWW]

**Goodwill Baptist Church:** African-American religious congregation; first service March 5, 1941; first pastor was the Rev. John P. Ball (*q.v.*); bought old Ridgefield Creamery (*q.v.*) building in 1942, used it for services on ground floor, apartments above; church disbanded about 1975 due to dwindling membership, and building renovated into apartments.

**Gordon, Frank,** was a commercial photographer who had a store on Main Street, 1940s, 50s; lived in Georgetown when he opened Ridgefield Photo Shop in October 1945 acquired May 1951 by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Korker (*q.v.*).

**Gordon, Leon,** (1889-1943), was a Russian-born painter who specialized in portraits, but also produced landscapes and sculpture. Among his portraits were Willa Cather, Will Rogers, President Calvin Coolidge, Winston Churchill, John L. Lewis, and Helen Keller. Good Housekeeping in 1930 commissioned him to paint "the 12 greatest American women," an acclaimed series that appeared monthly in the magazine (the Eleanor Roosevelt portrait is

in the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery). He lived in Ridgefield for several years in the former Belden Fields home on Bennett's Farm Road. [P1/27/1944]

**Gottlieb, Morris**, who got his start with a pushcart business in town, had a thriving clothing and shoe store at 131 Main Street early in the 20th Century. He eventually moved his business to NYC.

**Goulart, Ronald Joseph** (1933-2022), a native of Berkeley, CA, was a popular culture historian and mystery, fantasy, and science fiction author who published science fiction, mysteries, comic novels, TV and movie scripts, newsletters, cartoon strips, and more. He used such pseudonyms as Kenneth Robeson, Con Steffanson, Chad Calhoun, R. T. Edwards, Ian R. Jamieson, Josephine Kains, Jillian Kearny, Howard Lee, Zeke Masters, Frank S. Shawn, and Joseph Silva.

**Governor Street:** Built from Main Street to East Ridge in the summer of 1887 [P9/16/1887]; Press suggested it should be called Governor Street after Gov. Phineas Lounsbury (*q.v.*), whose property it borders and traverses; from East Ridge to Prospect Ridge probably built around 1914 with the construction of the Benjamin Franklin Grammar School (*q.v.*), now the Venus Office Building. [RN]

**Graduation:** First Ridgefield high school graduation was in 1917 at then Hamilton High School (*q.v.*). First four-year graduating class — 10 students — was in 1919. In 2005, the ceremonies moved to the O'Neill Center at WestConn in Danbury.

**Graeloe:** Home of Lucius H. Biglow (*q.v.*) on Main Street; now Ballard Park; name is combination of his wife's name, Graham, and his name, with E's added for a Gaelic flavor; property and house once belonged to Col. Philip Burr Bradley (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Grafton, Samuel**, (1907-1997), a native of Philadelphia, was a writer who was accomplished in many genres. He wrote the nationally syndicated column, "I'd Rather Be Right," penned several books on politics and economics, freelanced for magazines, published a popular mystery novel *A Most Contagious Game* (1955) and with his wife, Edith, wrote a Broadway play and acclaimed scripts for television. They lived on Barry Avenue from 1948 until 1962. [WWW]

**Graham Dickinson SPIRIT Skate Park:** Built in 1998 and operated by the Parks and Recreation Department, this fee-based facility on East Ridge east of the Yanity Gym (*q.v.*) is named for 16-year-old who was active in efforts to create a skate park and who was killed by a truck while walking along Route 7 a few weeks after the park opened. SPIRIT stands for the fund-raising campaign: "Skate Park in Ridgefield — It's Time!"

**Graham, Laurence I.**, was a Wiltonian who owned the Outpost Inn for a while in the 1940s [RPJ7/14]; he later became first selectman of Wilton.

**Graham, Michael**, is a puppeteer who grew up on Spring Valley Road; started "Michael's Marionettes" at age 13 and began giving shows; in 1977, established Spring Valley Puppet Theater, which is still doing shows in 2018 when he is based in New Haven.

**Grain elevator** on lower Bailey Avenue served local farmers with farm feeds and was owned by Samuel D. Keeler (*q.v.*) [DD58].

**Grand Central Market** opened in the old First National at Donnelly Shopping Center, Governor Street, in 1974; later renamed GranCentral; included a separate liquor store. The market closed in August 1989.

**Grand List** is the compilation of all the taxable property in Ridgefield and has been used since the 18th Century to calculate the town's revenue from local property taxes, the chief source of its income. The more property people own, the more they pay in taxes. The value of the Grand List — which is a percentage of the supposed market value of the property — is multiplied by the mill rate to obtain the potential tax income (if everyone pays up) for the town. In much of the 20th Century, the Grand List has been calculated at 70% of market value, a percentage required by state law.

**Grand Union supermarket:** Opened 1959 at new Benenson (*q.v.*) shopping center, 467 Main Street; closed 2001 and replaced by CVS (*q.v.*), which had been on Danbury Road.

**Grand View Drive:** Road off Barrack Hill Road is somewhat clever pun, descriptive of not only the terrain but also of Jean C. and Nina LeGrand, former owners of the land; serves subdivision about 47 acres; originally, the estate of Benjamin Levy (*q.v.*) — part of estate is now Levy Park; developed by Peter Lorenzini and Norman Craig in late 1950s. [RN]

**Grange:** *See* Ridgefield Grange.

**Grant, Evelyn Alice Lunderville** (1915-1983), a 20-year salesperson at Allan's Men's Store, was also the inspiration for a TV series character. A close friend of Ridgefield author Irene Kampen (*q.v.*), Ms. Grant appeared as a character in Kampen's book, "Life Without George." When Lucille Ball decided to use the book as the basis for a 156-episode TV series, *The Lucy Show*, after her separation from Desi Arnaz, she played Kampen's character while Vivian Vance (of North Salem) played the role written around Ms. Grant. [P9/22/1983]

**Grant's:** Formally, W.T. Grant company, opened July 31, 1972 in new Copps Hill Plaza; included general department store, light auto service, and restaurant; 225 employees, managed by John LaTulippe; chain goes bankrupt and closes store in February 1976; Caldor (*q.v.*) took over spot in 1977.

**Grassi, Sebastiano**, a Ridgefield woodcarver, gave an elaborately carved chair to President and Mrs. Warren G. Harding in June 1922 in honor of the calling of a conference on world disarmament. The chair was placed in the White House. [JFS]

**Grasso, Jack**, (1927-2005), a native of White Plains, NY, was a prominent Ridgefield artist and founder of the Ridgefield Guild of Artists (*q.v.*). He began as an architectural designer, and did many Ridgefield houses. At 40, he quit business and became a self-taught watercolorist. Many of his paintings are of Cape Cod. His works are in many private and public collections. He was a member of the Salmagundi Club in NYC, and supported many local charities with donations of his works. Wife, Carol Pankowsky Grasso, has long been active in the community. [P9/22/2005]

**Grassy Island:** As early as 1717 settlers named the strip of land along both sides of Danbury Road (Route 35) from the foot of Island or Danbury Hill north to the river at Fox Hill Village condominiums; name last appears in land records; so called because of the many reeds growing in the wetlands there, part of Great Swamp, 1789 [RN]

**Grassy Swamp:** Turn-of-the-20th-Century name for the swamp on the north side of Farmingville Road, below Lee Road — actually, a part of Great Swamp (*see* Grassy Island). [RN]

**Gravestone Inscriptions, Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut**, is a 205-page, loose-leaf compilation of all the then extant gravestones in Ridgefield's 20 known cemeteries. It was begun on Nov. 9, 1934, as a Depression-era work project and completed in December 1937 under the supervision of Charles R. Hale, state military necrologist, assisted by Mary H. Babin, secretary. It is completely indexed. Copies are held by the town clerk and the Ridgefield Historical Society, as well as this writer. [JFS]

**Gravitte, Beau**, is an actor who has appeared in films, on stage and in such television series as *One Life to Live*, *Third Watch* and *Murphy Brown*. He has taught acting classes here. He is married to Debbie Gravitte (*q.v.*).

**Gravitte, Debbie Shapiro**, (1954-), a native of Los Angeles, is a Broadway actress and singer who made her Broadway debut in 1979 in the original cast of *They're Playing Our Song*. She won a 1989 Tony for best feature actress in a musical – “Jerome Robbins’ Broadway.” She has also co-starred in the TV series, *Trial and Error*. She has done many benefits for local organizations and for many years led a Christmas special at the Ridgefield Playhouse. She and her husband, Beau Gravitte (*q.v.*), moved here in the 1990s.

**Gray, Philip M.**, was headmaster of the Ridgefield School, 1934-37. [P9/23/1937]

**Gray Court College**: Gray Court School, a prep school, in Stamford bought Upagenstit (*q.v.*) on West Lane in January 1941 to create a junior college for women. The school paid \$72,000 (\$1.2 million in 2017) for the property, including 40 acres of the original estate. In September, 70 students showed up, with a faculty of 14. By 1945, financial troubles closed the school. The name is sometimes incorrectly spelled Grey — it was named for school founder Jessie Callum Gray. For a profile, see DD149.

**Gray Shingles**, was the home of Gerardus and Lois Herrick, 77 High Ridge Avenue, for much of the 20th Century; later owned by Jack Hoeft; originally built by Helen Minturn Post, ca. 1890.

**Great Ditch**: First appears in a 1774 deed for a place probably west of Ridgebury Road, north of Chestnut Hill Road, and south of Old West Lane (Canterbury Lane); may have been excavated by Rockwell family to drain wetlands for crop use; probably fed Mopus Brook (*q.v.*); another Great Ditch mentioned in 1824 deed for Farmingville land [RN]

**Great East Meadow Pond**: Original — and wordier — name for Great Pond, so called because it adjoined the Great Meadow (*q.v.*) , just to the west. [RN]

**Great Fire of 1895**: See Fire of 1895.

**Great Hill**: 1. Mentioned in 1740 for a hill east of Lakes Oscaleta, Waccabuc and Rippowam, south of Round Pond, thus probably along West Mountain Road at Old West Mountain Raod, peaking 880 feet above sea level at Ridgefield Academy; 2. In Limestone District, mentioned as early as 1754, probably today's Great Hill traversed by Great Hill Road (*q.v.*); from where it crosses the Norwalk River (near its south end) it rises 160 feet (from 520 to 680 feet above sea level) in a distance of about 1,000 feet of roadway; 3. Mentioned 1759 as being in “ye New Patent,” now Ridgebury, possibly, in the vicinity of Old Stagecoach and Ridgebury Roads. 4. Yet another Great Hill appears in an 1800 deed for land in the vicinity of Jo's Hill in Danbury, then part of Ridgefield. [RN]

**Great Hill Road**: A very old highway, mentioned in land records as early as 1739, extending today from Limestone Road to Bennett's Farm Road, so-called only in recent times; was

in the 18th Century “the road to Bennett’s Farm”; name probably applied in 1950s; sometimes called the Old Road to Ridgebury. [RN]

**Great Island** appears to have been the ridge along Danbury Road from Fox Hill condominiums north to approximately the intersection of Haviland and Limestone Roads, an area once almost surrounded by swamp or water; first mentioned 1712. [RN]

**Great Ledges:** An early term for Asproom (Aspen) Ledges (*q.v.*); appears in a 1753 proprietors’ deed for five acres lying “at ye Asproom Mountain, west of ye Great Ledges.” [RN]

**Great Meadow** was another of those old terms that was used for several localities in town. In all cases the term probably disappeared because the greatness of the meadows was diminished by original owners’ selling off portions of them to other farmers. 1. mentioned as early as 1780, was situated on lower West Lane, south of Cedar Lane, owned by the Northrup family; so called Great Meadow as late as 1835. 2. first cited in 1781, situated “at the Island so called,” probably Grassy Island (*q.v.*), along Danbury Road. It was owned by the Dauchy family; 3. The Stebbins clan had a Great Meadow “on the Titicus Plain so called...east side of the river,” mentioned in 1797; 4. In 1798, deed mentions an acre “lying in the Great Meadow so called in Ridgebury Parish,” perhaps near Shadow Lake Road 5. The Warren family had a Great Meadow in Limestone District, according to a 1795 deed; probably near Great Pond in a neighborhood called “East Meadow” in the 1700’s and early 1800’s. [RN]

**Great Pasture** was near both Whipstick and Miller’s Ridges in the Nod Road; first mentioned around 1769, still used through 1805. [RN]

**Great Pond:** Largely spring-fed body of water east of Route 7, north of Pickett’s Ridge Road; originally called Great East Meadow Pond (*q.v.*), 1769; first use of Great Pond, 1774; said to be 34 feet at deepest spot; covers about five acres; location of both town public park, Martin Park (*q.v.*), and private Great Pond Club (*q.v.*); Indians called it Nesopack (*q.v.*); most of the shore now owned by town of Ridgefield, most obtained in 1992 when P&Z approved development of former Camp Adventure (*q.v.*) into Laurelwood (*q.v.*) and Ridgefield Crossings (*q.v.*) plus later Regency at Ridgefield (*q.v.*), all to the north and northwest; see also Burt’s Pond and Smith’s Pond

**Great Pond Club:** Private, limited-membership beach on the southeastern side of Great Pond; founded 1950s.

**Great Pond Crossing:** Name of Ridgefield Crossings (*q.v.*) for a year or two; earlier called Chancellor Park (*q.v.*).

**Great Pond Mountain:** Hill just northeast of Great Pond on the line between Ridgefield and Redding; reaches 790 feet above sea level — highest point in eastern Ridgefield; term first appears in 1808 perambulation. [RN]

**Great Pond Road:** Road leading from Route 7 past the entrance to Martin Park and the Great Pond Club, becomes Pickett’s Ridge Road (*q.v.*) in Redding; has also been called Pickett’s Ridge Road in Ridgefield; old highway that was part of route between Ridgefield and center of Danbury before Danbury and Ridgefield Turnpike (*q.v.*) through Sugar Hollow was built — *see* Danbury Road. [RN]

**Great Rocks:** In 1717, deed mentions 19 acres “lying eastward of ye Country Road (Wilton Road), bounded west by highway, south by Norwalk (now Wilton) bounds, east by ye Great

Rocks and common (land), west by ye Country Road”. These Rocks, cited only in this deed, are the southerly extension of Spectacle Lane. [RN]

**Great Rocks Place:** Short, dead-end road off Wilton Road West near the Wilton line; name, suggested by JS, recalls nearby Great Rocks (*q.v.*); accepted by Selectmen in October 1980, but was mistakenly transcribed as Great Rock Place. [RN]

**Great Spring:** Probably situated in what is now western Danbury but what was once northern Ridgefield; cited in a 1734 deed. [RN]

**Great Swamp:** 1. Large wetland west of Danbury Road, north of Ivy Hill Road and east of Blackman Road, traversed by Farmingville Road; northern end variable, but nearly to Haviland Road; headwaters of the Norwalk River (*q.v.*); probably the floor of an old lake created by the melting of the last glacier 20,000 years ago; so-called as early as 1709, but also known around then as “ye 1,000 Acre Swamp” — name probably an exaggeration, but swamp was once larger and has gotten smaller from filling; divided into lots among 27 Proprietors in 1718 used as source of wood, for wildlife, and for berries, including cranberries; elevation 575 feet (U.S. Geological Survey), or 581 feet (aerial imaging, 2004); in 1960s, 1970s, state purchased 341 acres as part of Norwalk River Flood Control Project — dam built at Fox Hill condos can be activated in times of flood; large aquifer beneath the swamp considered important as possible future source of drinking water. [RN]  
2. New Purchase Swamp (*q.v.*) was also occasionally called Great Swamp in 1700s.

**Green Doors Motel:** Ridgefield’s first and only true motel, opened 1952 by Alice Harding Finch (*q.v.*) on Route 7 just south of Route 35. She retired in 1967. The motel closed in the early 1980’s and was remodeled into what became a series of restaurants, starting with Dana’s (*q.v.*) — John’s Best Pizza in 2021. (Note: The Ridgefield Motor Inn, now Days Inn, is in Redding.) [RN]

**Green Lane:** Short, dead-end road of about 950 feet off Eleven Levels Road, used in Jerry Tuccio’s mid-1960’s plans for the property; origin unknown but possibly honors a former town engineer, John Green. [RN]

**Green Willow,** an antiques shop, opened in Copps Hill Common in fall of 1987, moving from Cannon Crossing in Wilton where it started in 1976. It was owned by former actress and singer Lynn Brinker, who named it after the first Broadway play she appeared in. [P11/24/1987]

**Greenfield Street:** off Barry Avenue, part of the early 20th Century Bryon Park (*q.v.*) development. Before the area was subdivided around 1910, the land was a “green field,” at least in the growing season; sometimes erroneously called Greenfield Avenue. [RN]

**Greenridge Drive:** Short, private, dead-end road off Rita Road at the Ridgefield Lakes, traversing a ridge, presumably green at times. [RN]

**Greenwood, Dr. Jacob “Jake,”** was named principal of RHS in June 2020, replacing Stacey Gross (*q.v.*). He taught biology there from 1999 to 2012, was promoted to dean of students in 2006, and science department chair in 2009. He left to become assistant principal at Darien High School in 2013. In 2018, he became principal of Masuk High School in Monroe.

**Gregor, Emma Sloan** and her husband Fred owned the Book Barn (*q.v.*) on Wilton Road West, Route 33.

**Greims, H.S.**, (pronounced *Grimes*) was a family who owned an Old Branchville Road estate in the 1920s. *See* Paolino Gerli.

**Grennan, Augustine “Gus,”** (1924-2006), a native of Stafford Springs, was a banker from 1955 until he retired in 1987 as Union Trust Company’s Ridgefield vice-president; longtime chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals; lived on Cain’s Hill Road; moved to Rhode Island in 1987. [P8/6/1987]

**Greve, Ellen Jones**, (ca.1923-1983) a native of Ohio and graduate of Skidmore, was a writer for such magazines as *Cosmopolitan* and *Harper’s*, and had taught at Famous Writers School and Norwalk Community College. She had lived on Bennett’s Farm Road since 1963. Her name was pronounced *Grev-AY*). [P11/9/1983]

**Greyhound**, the bus company, served Ridgefield for many years; the stopping and ticket selling location was Ridgefield Drug in 1940 and later, Squash’s Ridgefield News Store, both in the Ernest Scott Block on Main Street. In 1940, a ride from Ridgefield to NYC was 90 cents; to Washington, D.C., \$3.30. [P3/28/1940]

**Greywacke**: Name of home of Bache Emmet M.D. (*q.v.*), off West Mountain Road, later Innisfree (*q.v.*) of the Neligan family; in use by 1900; from a gray stone. [Kendall]

**Grimes, Joseph Jr.**: Ridgefield’s seventh school superintendent, serving 1956-62.

**Griffin Hill Road**: Road in the extreme eastern part of Ridgefield, off Fire Hill Road, part of a 1924 subdivision of 63 lots, many of which were purchased by Isabel R. Griffin of New York City; to reach it requires going through Redding. [RN]

**Griffith Lane**: Dead-end road off the east side of High Ridge Avenue, named for Mr. and Mrs. William H. Griffith, who created it under the name of The Rondax Company; Mrs. Griffith was a niece of Governor Phineas C. Lounsbury (*q.v.*), who built the Community Center building as his home and had owned the Griffith Lane property — at the corner of Griffith and High Ridge was a storage tank for his water supply, now converted into a house; she inherited the Lounsbury estate, selling the main portion to the town as Veterans Memorial Park (*q.v.*) [RN]

**Grimes**: *See also* Griems.

**Grimes, Joseph**, was Ridgefield’s seventh school superintendent, serving from 1956 to 1962.

**Grist mills**, also called corn mills, were established as early as 1716 to grind grain, such as wheat and rye, into flour. Major mills existed in the 18th Century on Lake Mamanasco, the Titicus River near the village, Route 7 and Stonehenge Road, and Route 7 and Florida Hill Road (Moongate). *See also* Abbott’s Mill Road, Aspen Mill Road, Bung Town, Burt’s Pond, Jabez Mix Gilbert, Daniel and John Lee, Mamanasco grist mill, Miller’s Pond, Mill River, Moongate, Peter Burr, Ichabod Coles, Benjamin Chapman, Josiah Gilbert, Stephen Hard.

**Gristede Brothers Market**, at 381 Main Street, was part of a chain of 132 small stores and supermarkets owned by Gristede Brothers of the Bronx. It opened in 1949 when the chain bought Samuel Perry’s market (earlier, Stewart’s Market and originally, S.D. Keeler’s market). It closed in fall 1972, citing poor business as its reason. Gristedes also had a liquor store at 393 Main Street, the former A&P Liquor Store, from 1962 to 1975, when it was sold to manager William Bolling (*see* Bolling’s Liquor Store).

**Gross, Stacey Dr.**, was principal of RHS from 2012 to 2020. She was named Connecticut PTA Principal of the Year in 2018.

**Grossfeld, Israel**, (1920-2013), was owner of I. Grossfeld Ltd. at 405 Main Street, men's clothing store; gained national attention after son Fred disappeared in 1966 while a junior at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; maintained that police, both city and campus, routinely failed to act quickly on missing persons reports; believed his son had been kidnapped or somehow injured; body later found in Charles River, an apparent suicide; sold his store in 1980 and moved to Israel; later lived in Florida, where he died. [WWW].

**Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes:** A stone structure at the Prospect Ridge Congregate Housing, dating from 1925 when property was Holy Ghost Novitiate (*q.v.*); statues were removed when the town bought property in 1971. [JFS]

**Grove Inn:** Established in the early 1920s by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Laschka in an 1888 house on Danbury Road, nearly opposite the north end of Tanton Hill Road, it burned down March 14, 1929.

**Grove Ridge:** "A steep ridge east of Pumping Station Swamp," says [CPN], but no mention has been found in land records to 1890. [RN]

**Grove Street:** From Prospect Street to Danbury Road, a popular bypass to Main Street and lower Danbury Road, has been so called since at least 1908, but the road existed by 1856 and probably much earlier. It was probably named for an old fruit tree grove at what is now Casagmo property. [RN]

**Grovelawn**, today called Veterans Park (*q.v.*), was the name that Gov. Phineas Lounsbury (*q.v.*) used for his Main Street estate, whose house became the Community Center and is also called Lounsbury House (*q.v. each*). The house was built in 1896, subject of extensive historical feature story [P10/23/1975]. The cistern for the estate was located at 8 Griffith Lane, converted to a house by Peter McManus (*q.v.*). The estate is also the location for Veterans Park Elementary School and the Veterans Park athletic fields.

**Grovelen** is a brick mansion at High Ridge and Peaceable Street, built around 1915 by Charles Henry Holt of the publishing family, and named for his wife, Ellen.

**Growth of Ridgefield:** The town began settlement around 1709 with about two dozen families moving here. However, the earliest official count of residents wasn't until 1756 when the Connecticut colonial government found 1,069 Ridgefielders. A 1774 enumeration counted 1,708 people and a 1782 Connecticut enumeration found 1,697. The first official population count of Ridgefield was the 1790 federal census which found 1,947 people. The number rose slowly to 2,474 in 1840, then dipped to 2,337 in 1850 and 2,213 in 1860, probably due to the attraction of more open, fertile, and less rocky farming lands to the west. The population dropped 13.3% in 1870 as more people sought better land for farming after the war. The 1870 population of 1,919 was less than the 1790 population. Starting around 1870, town fathers began efforts to make Ridgefield more attractive to visitors, summer/weekend residents and dairy farming, such as by having a railroad spur line into the village. As a result the population grew steadily, helped by immigrants from Ireland, Germany and eventually Italy, who came to work on estates and to build infrastructure and utilities. By 1910, the population was 3,118. However, World War I brought another 13% decline as many young people went off into the increasingly industrialized world. The 1920



population was 2,707; it was the last time the town saw a drop. From then on, it increased, sharply in the 1920s (32% by 1930, when it totalled 3,580 people). And by the 1950s, the town grew more attractive to commuters, thanks to highways like the Saw Mill River Parkway, improvements to Route 35, and the building of I-95. Old farms and estates began to be developed for subdivisions. The population jumped 87% from 1950 to 1960, when it totalled 8,165 people. Then, in what was one of the top growth spurts of any Connecticut town at the time, the population rose by 123% in 1970, reaching 18,188 people. Thereafter growth has been from 4 to 13% per decade, depending on national economic fluctuations. However, the lack of available land available to be developed has slowed growth. Almost all the additional population has come from new multifamily units, most of them in and around the village. [JFS]

**Gruman, George B.**, (1836-1912), a native of Wilton, became a maker of ice-cutting and -handling equipment (*see* Gruman Ice Tool Works); probably started Branchville Cemetery (*see* Gruman Cemetery); spelling of his name often appears as Grumman, but in his will he spells it Gruman. [JFS]

**Gruman Cemetery:** Original portion of Branchville Cemetery, created in 1862 by George B. Gruman (*q.v.*) when he bought 1½ acres off Florida Road, at north end of today's cemetery; most of this land later acquired by Floyd Bouton of Bouton Funeral Home, Georgetown, and merged with additional Bouton land to form Branchville Cemetery; some of 1½ acres may still be owned by Grumman heirs, says surveyor Eric Kristoffersen. George Gruman's gravestone is the tallest in the cemetery. The name may also be spelled Grumman. [JFS]

**Gruman Ice Tool Works Inc.:** Operated in Branchville by G. B. Gruman who said in a 1911 advertisement: "Ice Tools of Quality. We've been making them since 1859."; the company was especially known for ice tongs, which were sold widely, but also made ice cutting tools; the building was located on the west side of the road where 41-49 Ethan Allen Highway is now. [JFS]

**Grumman, Charles**, had a silver plating business in the early 19th Century at 149 Main Street. One of his employees was Isaac Lewis, a noted silversmith (*q.v.*) [JFS]

**Grumman, Josiah N.**, (1823-1904), a Ridgefield native, was a shoemaker who became a shirt manufacturer. He moved to Norwalk in 1872 and retired and died there. [CBRFC]

**Grunig, George Jr.**, operated a "new" real estate agency at 394 Main Street ONS91 in the 1950 [RPJ4/11] [DD94]

**Gun Hill Farms:** Reportedly one of the names of the Robert Roache subdivision that includes Powderhorn Drive and Old Musket Lane (*q.v.*); It has also been called Big Gun Hill. [RN]

**Gund, Adolf** (also **Adolph**), 1869-1945, native of Germany, was a toy-maker who founded Gund Manufacturing Company, now international makers of plush toys or "stuffed animals"; came to US 1894; married Luise Bigler in New Jersey, 1898; same year, started company in Norwalk, later moved to NYC; sold in 1925; held patents on mechanicals for plush animals; came to Ridgefield in late 1920s; lived on north corner of North Salem Road and Wooster Street; had toy-making workshop in barn, now converted to a house; Luise died here 1936 and is buried Fairlawn Cemetery; they had no children; he soon moved back to NYC where died 1945, age 75; his half brother Fritz, who died here 1915, is buried in Scotts Cemetery. [WWW]

**Gunther, Max,** (1927-1998), a native of England, wrote 26 books, several of them best-sellers, about many aspects of American life. He lived on Peaceable Street, then Beechwood Lane, from 1960 to 1987; buried Branchville Cemetery. [WWW]

**Gustafson, Robert “Bob,”** (1920-2001), a native of Brookline, Mass., was a cartoonist for The Ridgefield Press from the late 1960s until his death. He served in the U.S. Army as a pilot, pitched semi-pro baseball in the Boston area, and studied at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts School. Before he was 21, he was sending cartoon gag ideas to *The New Yorker*; several were used. He did cartoons for many magazines, drew the strip, *Tilly the Toiler*; later worked for Mort Walker on *Beetle Bailey* and *Hi & Lois*. He lived on Wilton Road West and on Cedar Lane between 1954 to 1960 when he moved to Old Greenwich. [WWW]

**Gymnasium, RHS:** In the fall of 1939 the town’s first dedicated gymnasium opened at the East Ridge School/Ridgefield High School as part of an addition that included the auditorium (now the Ridgefield Playhouse) and cafeteria. The first basketball games in the gym were played Nov. 30, 1939, and the first RHS dance there was Dec. 22, 1939. Before this basketball games were played in Town Hall. It continued to be used until 1960 when the new and larger gym was opened. [JFS]

**Gypsy Moth:** Asian species introduced to Boston area as a possible source of silk; became a major pest, defoliating countless acres of deciduous trees; mentioned as early as 1908 in Press story about how automobiles may help spread of caterpillars [P3/5/1908]; tended to have population explosions every eight to 10 years; major infestations in Ridgefield occurred 1969, 1970, 1971, 1980, 1982, and 1989 when a fungus killed most of the caterpillars; a 1971 town meeting voted to spray the town with Sevin by helicopter, but local conservationists’ lawsuits prompted the spray company to quit; Conservation Commission voted to oppose widespread spraying [P9/11/1980].

## H

**Hackert, James,** (1925-2010), an owner of the Hackert & Monti real estate agency in the 1960s and 70s, was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of World War II who was active in the Kiwanis Club and enjoyed horses; retired to South Carolina in 1980. *See also* Hackert & Monti Building.

**Hackert and Monti Building:** At 409 Main Street (ONS90) is former Jesse Lee Methodist Church (*q.v.*) rectory; converted to stores and offices around 1964-65 by James Hackert and Sal Monti, real estate agents and investors. [JFS]

**Haddon, Jon R.,** a native of Chicago, was rabbi of Temple Shearith Israel, starting in the summer of 1987, [P8/6/1987, P9/24/1987]. He retired in 2008. He served as Ridgefield Police chaplain for many years. He has been active in the arts here and in Danbury where he lives. He began his career as a cantor. [JFS]

**Hagemeyers’ Pond:** Small, man-made body of water between western Ivy Hill Road and Branchville Road, named for Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Hagemeyer who once owned it and a sizable house nearby. [RN]

**Hagerty, H.J.,** was Ridgefield’s street cleaner, early 20th Century, employed by Village Improvement Society (*q.v.*).

**Haight, John F.**, (1920-2002), a Newburgh, N.Y., native who came here as a child and was RHS 1938, was Ridgefield's second police chief, serving from 1965 to 1977, during which time the department grew from 10 to 30 officers and moved from the town hall basement to the East Ridge headquarters. He joined the town constabulary in 1947. A WW2 Army veteran, he earned a Bronze Star for heroism. [WWW]

**Haight, Robert S.** (1914-2006), an insurance executive, wrote 1975 *St. Stephen's Church: Its History for 250 Years*. He was school board chairman, 1969-70; chairman Elementary Schools Building Committee, 1968; Lions president, 1965; moved to Memory Lane, 1955; retired to NH in 1972. [WWW]

**Haines 5/10 Cent Store:** General merchandise store at about 440 Main Street from 1938 until the early 1950s, operated by Allen and Mary Haines of Lafayette Avenue; site later occupied by Ridgefield Pastry Shop and, in 2018, Harmony Nails and Spa.

**Hair Affair Ltd.**, a shop at 52 Danbury Road in 1981 [P7/23/1981]

**Halfway House:** In the 1860s, Sherman Beers (*q.v.*), operated this as a small hotel and dining spot connected with the railroad. It later became a grocery store operated by Walter Little (*q.v.*) and is now a two-family apartment building at 38 West Branchville Road. [JFS]

**Hall, Fred C.**, a native of England, was a longtime builder and later town building inspector.

**Halloween:** 1. Famous annual display is staged by William E. Franzen (*q.v.*) on New Street since the 1990s. 2. U.S. postage stamps issued in 2016 featuring four jack o' lanterns were photographed by former Ridgefielder Sally Andersen-Bruce, using pumpkins grown on New Street by Paul Montanari. 3. Ridgefield Police have staged an annual Halloween party at the Community Center since the 1980s.

**Halmsted, Prince Albert**, (1847-1864), was an African American who lived on Ned's Lane in Ridgebury. He volunteered for the Civil War December 1863, serving in the 29th Connecticut Regiment, and died of typhoid April 1864 before being shipped into combat areas. [JFS]

**Halpin, James** (ca. 1821-1911), was a farmer and laborer who came here from Ireland in the mid-19th Century and had a small farm on Prospect Ridge. [DD69] See Halpin Lane.

**Halpin Court:** An affordable housing complex built privately by the Nolan brothers of Danbury on land contributed by the town from the old Holy Ghost Novitiate (*q.v.*) property; 16 one-bedroom units and 9 two-bedroom units opened in the fall of 1991. Located on Halpin Lane (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Halpin Lane:** Runs from Prospect Ridge Road opposite the Venus Office Building/old high school, eastward down to the old railroad bed; once led to the small farm of James Halpin (*q.v.*) and on into Great Swamp. The road was first paved around 1970 after the town bought Holy Ghost Novitiate (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Ham Radio:** First amateur radio station in Ridgefield was operated in 1912 by Carlton Ross Stevens (*q.v.*); another early amateur was John W. Hubbard (*q.v.*), who ran a local radio store and who was involved in the earliest shortwave communications with Europe. E. Earl Roberts (*q.v.*) was also an early ham.

**Hamilton, Burgoyne**, (1882-1937) is said by Francis D. Martin (*q.v.*) to have been the first owner of an automobile in Ridgefield [BP6/12/1964]. He became a major real New York

City real estate dealer. [NYT12/27/1937] He was president of the Blue Cockade, an anti-Prohibition group in the 1920s. He was a son of Charles A. Hamilton (*q.v.*) [DD160]

**Hamilton, Charles A.**, (1861-1921) president of International Silver, had a mansion at 61 High Ridge at the turn of the 20th Century; part of the house was later moved across the road to become 72 High Ridge. He was the father of Burgoyne Hamilton (*q.v.*). [DD160]

**Hamilton High School:** See Alexander Hamilton High School.

**Hamilton Road:** Runs between Remington and Holmes Roads at Westmoreland (*q.v.*), named for Alexander Hamilton. As a Continental Army colonel, Hamilton visited Ridgefield with George Washington in 1780, staying overnight in Ridgebury; became a town road in 1969. [RN]

**HamletHub**, a local news website, was founded in 2011 by Kerry Anne Ducey, who had in 2009 created Talk of the Town, a blog that showcased local happenings and stories in Ridgefield, HamletHub LLC grew to a network of hyperlocal news sites.

**Hamlin, Hannibal**, of Maine, vice-president from 1861 to 1865 under Abraham Lincoln, spoke in the hall of The Big Shop (*q.v.*) in 1864.

**Hammel, Dr. Heidi B.** (1960-), is a planetary astronomer whose specialty is Neptune and Uranus and who is noted for her promotion of astronomy, and women in science. In 2002 she received the Carl Sagan Medal given to a scientist whose communications have greatly enhanced the general public's understanding of planetary science. Discover Magazine named her in 2002 one of the 50 most important women in science. She moved to Ridgefield in 1998 and then to Washington, D.C., in 2011 where she coordinated international, space and ground telescope projects. The asteroid 3530 Hammel was named in her honor in 1996. [P4/7/2011, JFS]

**Hampden, Paul**, (1907-2006), born in London but came to Ridgefield at age 4, son of actor Walter Hampden (*q.v.*), was an advertising executive who lived on the family estate on Mopus Bridge Road for many years and was active in the community, serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission from the 1960s and 70s; he ran for first selectman in 1963. He often wrote letters — and poems — published in RP. [NR]

**Hampden, Walter Dougherty**, (1879-1955), was a Brooklyn-born actor who honed his skills playing Shakspearean roles in England. He went on to star alongside many of the stage and film's greatest names in the U.S. His last role was as the father in the film, "Sabrina," starring Audrey Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart, in 1954. He moved to Mopus Bridge Road in 1911 and mained the farm there until his death. [WWW]

**Hancock, George**, is a student of history, including Ridgefield history, and has written three historical books: *This Quiet Place* (2012), a fictional account of life in Ridgefield in the 18th Century through the eyes of Keeler Dauchy as he grows from a boy to a successful merchant; *Until Jacob Comes Marching Home* (2013), a history of Ridgefield in the Civil War, from 1863 to 1865; *A Killing at the Inn*, a fictional tale of a murder at the Keeler Tavern (Resseguie's Inn). [JFS]

**Hanley, Ellen**, (1926-2007), was an actress and singer known for her role as Fiorello H. LaGuardia's first wife in the 1959 Broadway musical "Fiorello!" She lived in Ridgefield, was a sister of William G. Hanley (*q.v.*), and is buried in Mapleshade Cemetery.

**Hanley, William Gerald**, (1931-2012), a native of Ohio, was stage and TV scriptwriter and a novelist. Brother of Ellen Hanley (*q.v.*). He earned a Drama Desk Award for two 1962 off-Broadway one-act plays; his *Slow Dance on the Killing Ground* opened on Broadway in 1964 to good reviews. Soon after he began writing for TV, especially plays and movies, winning two Emmys. He won an Edgar Award for his teleplay for the 1987 miniseries, “Nutmacker: Money, Madness & Murder.” His novels included *Blue Dreams*, *Mixed Feelings*, and *Leaving Mount Venus*, all published in the 1970s. He lived here in his later years and is buried in Maple Shade Cemetery. [WWW]

**Hanneman House:** Name used for the town-owned house at the north corner of Main and Market Streets, acquired 1945 from Lounsbury family as part of Veterans Memorial Park (*q.v.*); in 1986, considered as location for A Better Chance (*q.v.*) [P4/24/1986] but voters rejected the idea; was once the home of radio organist Burt Buhrman (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Hansen, Jeffrey:** short-lived school superintendent, resigned 1997.

**Hanson, Donald P.**, (-1978), was the founder and longtime publisher of Woman’s Day magazine, which was first owned by A&P, the supermarket chain and is today owned by Hearst. The magazine was founded in 1931 and Hanson retired in 1968. He lived in Ridgefield from 1957 until late 1972, and was a founder of the Land Conservancy of Ridgefield. Hanson was the author of the anonymous article, “I Saw A Man Die,” first published in Reader’s Digest and still circulated today, about a friend who was fatally burned after a can of fire-starter fluid exploded while he was spraying hot charcoal for grilling a steak. His wife, **Muriel Ripperger Hanson** (1917-2000) was a feature editor and columnist for Woman’s Day.

**Harahawmis:** Another version of Narahawmis (*q.v.*), Harahawmis is found in histories of Lewisboro, N.Y., for a place in the “Kitchawan-Waccabuc area,” which was part of Ridgefield before 1731 (*see* Oblong). [RN]

**Hard, Stephen and Phebe**, owned Josiah Gilbert’s (*q.v.*) old grist mill at Limestone, and sold it to Hezekiah Smith in 1780 [RLR6/50]

**Harder, Dr. Jean**, (1925-2016), a native of Milford, was a psychologist and psychoanalyst who lived and practiced here from the late 1970s until the mid 1990s. She was a founding member of the Youth Commission.

**Harding Drive:** Road at Chestnut Hill Estates (*q.v.*), named by developer Lewis J. Finch (*q.v.*) for his mother, Alice Harding Finch (*q.v.*). It became a town road in 1964. [RN]

**Harkaway Farm**, on North Salem Road, belonged to Ada Forbes Phair; *see also* Argideen Farm. Later was the home of the Leeman family. Supposedly an inspiration for the play, *Desire under the Elms*, by Eugene O’Neill (*q.v.*).

**Harrison, Ewing Hunter**, (1944-2017), was one of the 20th/21st Century’s leading railroad executives; during his career, he was CEO of Illinois Central Railroad, Canadian National Railway, Canadian Pacific Railway, and CSX Corporation; bought McKeons’ Arigideen Farm (*q.v.*) in 2005, renaming it Double H Farm (*q.v.*), and turning it into an equestrian showplace that was once on the market for \$50 million. [JFS]

**Harrison Court:** A dead-end road off Sleepy Hollow Road, recalls Harrison Horblit (*q.v.*), a renowned book collector; in 1996, John N. Sturges subdivided 43.8 acres into 10 building

lots plus 21.4 acres of open space on the north side of Round Pond, a parcel owned by himself and Jean M. Horblit, Harrison's widow. [RN]

**Harrison's Wine and Spirit** was at 390 Main Street in 1987. It had been Hyde's (*q.v.*).

**HART:** Stands for "Housatonic Area Regional Transit," now formally known as HARTransit, based in Danbury, operates weekday buses between Ridgefield and Katonah station as well as on-demand "SweetHART" buses for seniors, disabled; *see also* Bus Service. [JFS]

**Hartford National Bank and Trust Company:** Opened branch in new Yankee Ridge Shopping Center on Prospect Street Dec. 12, 1972.

**Hartmann, Elsa:** *See under* Joseph Hartmann.

**Hartmann, Joseph,** (1867-1938), a native of Germany, was a photographer who moved to Ridgefield around 1890 and in the next 45 years, recorded many of the people and places in town on glass-negative photographs. Many appear in the 1999 book, *Images of America: Ridgefield*, produced by the Ridgefield Archives Committee. Had his studio in the Bedient building at Main and Bailey. The Hartmann Society was formed in the 1970s to preserve, catalogue, and identify the thousands of negatives, which Hartmann's daughter, Ridgefield High School teacher **Elsa Hartmann**, had given RP. He lived on Catoonah Street. [WWW]

**Harvey Road:** Off the north side of Florida Hill Road, one of two roads in town named for Harvey D. Tanton (*q.v.*), Republican first selectman from 1951 to 1953. The road existed by 1952 and was accepted as a town road in 1961. Some say the name was suggested by Bertha Bolla, who was involved in the development of houses there. *See also* Tanton Hill Road. [RN]

**Hauley:** *See also* Hawley.

**Hauley, Elijah,** bought the grist mill on the Norwalk River at Florida Hill Road (see Moongate) from Peter Burr (*q.v.*) in 1740. He sold it in 1744 to Abraham Bennett.

**Hauley, Rev. Thomas** (1689-1738), the town's first minister, lived in the "town's oldest house," a gambrel-roofed residence at Main Street and Branchville Road. A native of Northampton, Mass., he graduated from Harvard in 1709 and was ordained in 1712. He and his wife, Abigail Gould of Fairfield, came here 1713 as newlyweds as he became minister of First Congregational Church. Then the operations of the church and the town were virtually the same – "government" meetings were held in the church, church records and town records were kept together, and the minister was the only schoolteacher — he was probably the most educated settler. He was also the first town clerk, then called "register." On Dec. 13, 1725, the Town Meeting agreed to pay him 70 pounds a year for three years, and to add 10 pounds a year after that until his salary reached 100 pounds, at which point it would be fixed (he was able to enjoy the full 100 pounds for only eight years before dying in 1738). Hauley was spelled in that fashion until Benjamin Smith became town clerk and register of records in 1785 and began spelling it Hawley, the "modern" version. His predecessor Stephen Smith, town clerk from 1747 to 1785, had always written it Hauley, as had Minister Hauley himself. His slate gravestone is the oldest readable headstone in Titicus Cemetery (*q.v.*) [RN]

**Hauley House:** At 132 Main Street on the north corner of Branchville Road, this gambrel-roofed house is said to date from 1713, built for the town's first minister, Rev. Thomas

Hauley (*q.v.*); a private residence. It may be the oldest house in town. Called “The Homestead” when Sarah Hawley lived there [SR1916] [JFS]

**Hauley Place:** a short, dead-end road off Lounsbury Road, probably located on Hauley’s Ridge (*q.v.*); developed in 1978 by William R. Hornibrook who first proposed using Thomas Hauley Place; Selectmen accepted as a town road in 1980.

**Hauley’s Ridge:** Territory north of Florida Hill Road, generally east of Ivy Hill Road – including Meadow Woods (*q.v.*) and perhaps including the land traversed by Blackman and Lounsbury Roads. [RN]

**Haven, George G. Jr.,** (1866-1925), was a New York City business and railroad leader whose large summer home, Homewood, was on lower West Lane and who had a nervous breakdown in 1924 and committed suicide a year later. [JFS]

**Haviland, Isaac,** (1820-1901) had a store in the Limestone District in 1856 [NG5/1856]. He became a partner in Harvey & Haviland, makers of tobacco products in Brooklyn, N.Y. In 1866 he moved to Bridgeport. where he lived the rest of his life. [CBRFC]

**Haviland, Isaac F.,** (1854-1935), a Ridgefield native, son of Isaac and grandson of Jacob Haviland (*q.v. each*) grew up in Brooklyn, where he had moved as a child. He learned the cigar-maker’s trade from his uncle, Reed Haviland, at South Norwalk. “This occupation injured his health, however, and after 3½ years he gave it up and went into the plumbing business.” He eventually settled on a Danbury farm, and then retired to Florida. [CBRFC]

**Haviland, Jacob,** came from Dutchess County, N.Y., in 1801 and bought a 150-acre farm “at Limestone,” mostly on the north side of Haviland Road (*q.v.*).

**Haviland Road:** An old highway from Danbury Road, opposite Limestone Road to Route 7; from ca. 1720 until the early 1800’s, it was considered part of the main road to Danbury, running from Route 35 over to Pickett’s Ridge — *see* Danbury Road; named for family of Jacob Haviland (*q.v.*), who had a farm along the western part of the road until around 1920 when Reed Haviland sold the homestead and about 100 acres to Charles and Hulda Ritch; the road was so-called at least from 1946. [RN]

**Hawk, William S.** (1859-1935) operated 14-story Hotel Manhattan at Madison Avenue and 42nd Street — built in 1896 next to Grand Central Terminal, one story higher than recently built Waldorf Astoria, it was one of New York’s premiere hotels (razed by CitiBank 1964 to build a 40-story office building); active in civic and social life of town; Mrs. Hawk (Edith Alliene Davis) — was a sponsor of the town's first kindergarten, and Hawks paid for the sidewalk in front of new Library in 1901; huge mansion on Branchville Road burned 1921 (after Hawk had sold it), but its coach house is still a home at 80 Branchville Road. FDM says he was the second person to own a car in Ridgefield. [BP6/12/1964] *See also* Hawk’s Nest.

**Hawkes, Emile McDougall,** (1862-1929) who lived at 23 High Ridge in the early 20th Century, was the first chairman of the Board of Trustees —1911-1929— of the Museum of French Art at the French Institute in the United States. His house has since been replaced by the brick home there now. [DD153]

**Hawk’s Nest:** The mansion of William S. Hawk (*q.v.*) on Branchville and Rockwell Roads; it burned down in 1921.

**Hawley family:** *see also* under Hauley, the earlier spelling of the name.

**Hawley, Charity**, (1760-1860), was five months short of 100 at her death. She was the widow of Deacon Elisha Hawley (*q.v.*). In writing his autobiography, *Recollections of A Lifetime*, Samuel G. Goodrich (*q.v.*) “refreshed his own memory by conversations with Mrs. H. and drew largely upon her stock of information in regard to local matters in the preparation of his volumes.” Her son, NYC business executive **Irad Hawley**, was the only one of six children to survive her. Another son was **Rev. Stiles Hawley** (*q.v.*). [NY Observer 8/9/1860]

**Hawley, Ebenezer**, (1791-1868), was a farmer who served as a state representative in 1830, 31, 34, 43 and 44, and many years as a selectman in the 1820s and perhaps in the 1860s. He is buried in Florida Cemetery.

**Hawley, Deacon Elisha**, (1759-1850), served in the Revolution including the Battle of Ridgefield. A grandson of the Rev. Thomas Hauley (*q.v.*), he was active in the Congregational Church here and was married to Charity Hawley (*q.v.*). He was a furniture maker. Goodrich has a long piece on him [ROAL519]

**Hawley, Ebenezer**, with Samuel Olmsted, leased a saw mill “at Pompion Ridge” from Samuel and Timothy Hoyt in 1816 [RLR11/249] Probably on the Cooper Brooks near Johns Pond.

**Hawley, Enoch**: See Walter Hawley.

**Hawley, Elijah**, (1785-1863), a Ridgefield native was a carriage-maker, who served in the Revolutionary War. He lived at 212 Main Street, across Branchville Road from where his grandfather and Ridgefield’s first clergyman, the Rev. Thomas Hauley (*q.v.*), lived. He and his wife hosted Fanny Crosby (*q.v.*), the famous blind hymn writer, in their home during her early teenage years. He was a selectman from 1817 to 1820 and a state representative in 1820.

**Hawley, Henry Eugene** (1838-1899), a native of NYC and great great grandson of Rev. Thomas Hauley (*q.v.*) was a NYC tea merchant, head of Carter, Hawley & Co., who in 1892 built Ashton Croft (*q.v.*), the Main Street mansion that’s now Wesley Hall.

**Hawley, Irad**, (1793-1865), a Ridgefield native, was founder of the Borough of Hawley in Wayne Co, PA. He was the first president of the Pennsylvania Coal Company, which had its big yards near the Hudson River in the West Village of NYC. He died in Italy and is buried in Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY. The Ridgefield Library has a portrait of him. He was a son of Deacon Elijah and Charity Hawley (*q.v. each*) [JFS]

**Hawley, Rev. Stiles**, (1799-1830), a great grandson of the Rev. Thomas Hauley (*q.v.*), and son of Deacon Elijah and Charity Hawley (*q.v. each*), all of Ridgefield, was a missionary in western states and territories. He was drowned in Illinois while crossing the Kaskaskia River on the ice to fulfill an appointment for preaching in 1830. For a while the family was told he had been captured by the Indians until his body was found time time after by a party of friends who had gone out to search for him. [NY Observer, 8/9/1860]

**Hawley, Rev. Thomas**: See Rev. Thomas Hauley.

**Hawley, Walter**, was killed by lightning, along with son **Enoch** and a grandchild, as they were sleeping in their beds July 11, 1837. Mrs. Enoch Hawley was also struck, but survived. They lived somewhere in western Ridgefield, said a NYT story at the time.

**Hawley, William**, (1785-1863), was a leading businessman who lived in what is now 181 Main Street and served as a state representative in 1816, 1817 and 1824. In the 1860 census, his



occupation is listed as “gentleman and retired merchant.” For many years he was a partner with Lt. Joshua King in operating the Old Hundred store, originally King & Dole, at what is now the second floor of the offices of the Aldrich Museum. He married Catherine, a daughter of Lt. King. [RIR] He was a selectman from 1821 until 1825.

**Hawley and Pickett** was a 19th Century cabinet-making factory, established by Rufus H. Pickett (*q.v.*) and Samuel Hawley in what later became the Bailey Inn (*q.v.*) on Main Street. Among their early employees was Jacob Lockwood (*q.v.*).

**Hawley Cottage:** Another name for Ashton Croft (*q.v.*).

**Hawley Street:** Early name for the portion of today’s Branchville Road, between Main Street and East Ridge area; named for Hawley/Hauley family that owned the house on NE corner of Main and Branchville Roads for nearly two centuries — *see* Rev. Thomas Hauley. [RN]

**Hawthorne Hill Road:** A short lane off Ridgebury Road and partly serving as a route to Bridle Trail. Spring Valley Corporation subdivision was part of the 98-acre former farm, owned by or under option to Richard Conley of the Connecticut Land Company at that time; was once considered as a site for the Ridgebury Elementary School; named for the plant, of which there were many on the property. Thus, the spelling is incorrect and should be *Hawthorn*. It became a town road in 1961. [RN]

**Hay Day Country Market:** High-end supermarket opened June 1991 at 27 Governor Street in former First National, GranCentral space (*q.v. each*); market was satirized in 1994 novel, “Ladybug, Ladybug,” by Susanna Hofmann McShea; sold to Balducci in 2004.

**Hayes, Clifford,** was a developer and restaurant owner — *see* Hayes Lane.

**Hayes Lane:** A dead-end road off Olmstead Lane, named for Clifford Hayes who filed the road and subdivision plan for seven one-acre lots in 1948; later, more lots were developed. (For his own home Hayes built the house on Danbury Road that later belonged to actor Cyril Ritchard — *q.v.*) Hayes also operated a roadside eating place, called Poor Ole Cliff’s, on Route 7 north of Route 35. When he left town in the 1950’s, he took the name with him and opened another Poor Ole Cliff’s on Marathon, one of the Florida Keys. [RN]

**Hayward:** An 18th and early 19th Century town official whose duties included making certain cattle fences were in good repair, to prevent livestock escaping and damaging crops of others. They could also impound stray livestock. “Hay” is from a Middle English word for hedge or fence. Ridgefield was choosing haywards in 1871 when Thomas F. Brown and Hart Stiles were elected to the office — the first African Americans to serve in public office in Ridgefield (it was a year after Blacks gained the right to vote under the 15th Amendment). [JFS]

**Hazel, Edwin Paul** (1944-), author and educator, a native of Nichols, Conn., was Ridgefield education leader, hired in 1972 as chairman of RHS English Department; soon named director of pupil personnel, a post he held through early 2000s; author of three acclaimed fantasy novels and a number of short stories. [JFS]

**Head of the Bogs:** An 1812 describes four acres “at a place called the Head of the Bogs” — the north end of what we today call Silver Spring Swamp and what was then called the New Pound Bogs (*q.v.*).

**Healy, Dr. Harold E.,** was a teacher in Ridgefield, then principal of RHS starting in 1960; led move from East Ridge to North Salem Road campuses in 1972; after retirement in 1978

[P1/12/1978], became Realtor; named office manager John F. Coyle Associates (*q.v.*) office at 23 Danbury Road in 1980 [P9/4/1980].

**Heart Brand Estates:** A subdivision off Route 7 including Ashbee Lane and Richardson Drive, developed around 1962 by Everett Lounsbury Jr.; reason for name is not known. [RN]

**Hearthstone Inn** or **Hearthstone Outpost Inn** were names for the Outpost Inn (*q.v.*) for a while in the late 1940s, early 50s when it was a sister inn to the Hearthstone Restaurants in New York City, all owned by Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Maneck of Ridgefield [RPJ7/14]

**Heartstone** was the name Edward Kidder (*q.v.*) gave to his house at 114 Main Street, 1915-21.

**Heat waves:** See Temperatures.

**Hebert, David,** was parks and recreation superintendent in 1970s; active in Fifth Connecticut Regiment; took care of oxen Jeb and Dan (*q.v.*) at his residence, supplied by town, at Richardson Park (*q.v.*)

**Heckert, Scott,** is a 2011 graduate of Ridgefield High School who became a NASCAR racing driver. He lived on West Lane.

**Heidl, Francis and Theresa,** lived at 128 Silver Spring Road for many years, starting 1943; family sold property 2017 to homebuilder; house torn down summer 2018.

**Heim's Music Store:** See under J. Howard Burr.

**Heirs Highway, Lane, Way:** Are all names that appear occasionally in the land records for what has become a dead-end driveway off Pumping Station Road near NY line; name probably relates to an old bequest. [RN]

**Heller, Georganne Aldrich,** is a theatrical and film producer, co-founder of the Daedalus Theatre Company, and president of Irish Theatre & Film Production, a not for profit devoted to presenting the work of Irish playwrights in New York, London and Dublin. She is co-founder of Women-In-Film. She is also an artist who focuses on collages and assemblages. She is a daughter of Larry Aldrich (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Heller, Howard Joseph Jr.,** (1964-2001), a 37-year-old managed funds expert with Carr Futures, was the only then-current resident killed on 9/11 (*q.v.*). He was working on the 92nd floor of the World Trade Center in Tower 1. A native of Ohio, he and his wife Mary-Jean, and their four children, ages 8, 6, 4 and 16 months at the time, lived in a quaint yellow farmhouse that he had fixed up and restored himself. [JFS]

**Heller, Dr. John Herbert, M.D.** (1921-1995) of Wilton was president of the New England Institute for Medical Research (*q.v.*) [P12/20/1995]; taught pathology and biophysics Yale, 1946-53; in 1954 established institute on Grove Street; active in cancer and radio frequency research; gained some fame for his studies of the Shroud of Turin, about which he wrote a book.

**Helminski, Ed,** (1938-2018), a native of West Virginia, was director of the Boys and Girls Club for 40. He retired Jan. 1, 2001 after 40 years of service.

**Hemlock Hills:** 357-acre refuge purchased by town at \$1,000 an acre in February 1969 from estate of Otto H. Lippolt [P2/6/1969]. — see Lippolt property; this was originally the name of Lippolt's subdivision of the area, including Old Mill Road (*q.v.*); 2,500 square foot lots were planned for summer cottages [RN]

**Hemlock Hole:** Mentioned in a 1742 description of land "at the Hemlock Hole near Mount Robinson," in present-day Danbury, then part of Ridgefield. [RN]

**Henley, Dr. Jean Emily**, (1910-1994), a native of Chicago, was an internationally known anesthesiologist who, during World War II, was one of the few women physicians serving in the U.S. Army. In 1950 she wrote an acclaimed anesthesia textbook published in German that was so popular it went through 13 editions. (Her psychologist father was an immigrant from Germany, and she spoke the language fluently.). She taught at any NYC hospital from 1951 to her retirement in 1972. Her parents, Dr. Eugene and Helen Henley, had a country retreat on Ned's Mountain Road which later became Dr. Jean Henley's home and where she enjoyed studying the local fauna and flora and was active in conservation efforts. She was also a sculptor. [JFS]

**Henrici Associates** was a surveying firm particularly active in Ridgefield in the 1950s to 70s, headed by Henry Henrici, office on Governor Street; office was in Bethel by 1970s.

**Henry, Rev. Francis A.**, became rector of St. Stephen's Church in July 1878 and remained for 10 years.

**Hepburn, Alonzo Barton**, (1846-1922), was president of Chase National Bank in New York City and comptroller of the currency for the federal government, 1892-93. He began as a math professor and lawyer. He built, with wife Emily Eaton Hepburn, the former Altnacraig mansion on High Ridge. He died after being run over by a bus. He was the author of several books about money, as well as *The Story of An Outing*, published by Harper & Brothers in 1913, about a safari to Africa. He was close friends with novelist Irving Bachelor and artist Frederick Remington. [WWW] *See also* Frederic Remington. [WWW, DD156-] Born to a farming family in upper NY state, he owned and worked the former Benedict farm on Whipstick Road with 150-plus acres, calling it Whipstick Farm. [DD157, DD196]

**Hepburn, Emily Eaton** (1865-1956), a native of Vermont, built with her husband Alonzo Barton Hepburn (*q.v.*) the High Ridge mansion, Altnacraig, and after her husband's death, went on to build the New York City landmark hotel, the Beekman Tower, completed in 1928, and designed as a hotel for young working women in Manhattan. She was active in the suffrage movement and later in programs to support women, and was a benefactor of her alma mater, St. Lawrence University. *Daughter of Vermont* is her 1952 biography. [WWW]

**Heritage Day:** sparked by rained-out Memorial Day parade, town had first annual Heritage Day July 4, 1982, with 18th Century military displays, programs on the Battle of Ridgefield, a sidewalk parent, Dixieland band concert (P7/1/1982); some programs, such as Dixieland music, were continued for a few more years on the Fourth.

**Heritage Farm:** Operated at Routes 7 and 35 in November 1980, selling fruits, veggies, flowers [P11/25/1980]; was for many years a popular farm stand.

**Heritage Lane:** Short, dead-end road off Barrack Hill Road, part of the large Eight Lakes (*q.v.*) development. [RN]

**Hermit Lane:** Short, dead-end road off the south side of Florida Hill Road, developed by Carl Lecher; became a town road in October 1980; named for George Washington Gilbert (*q.v.*), so-called "hermit of Ridgefield," whose crumbling family home was nearby. [RN]

**Hernmarck, Helena**, (1941-), a native of Sweden, is an internationally known tapestry artist who has lived and worked at 879 North Salem Road since the 1980s. She is noted for working on monumental tapestries for buildings, especially corporate offices, and has

worked with many of the leading architects of the era. She is married to industrial designer Nils Diffrient.

**Herr, Ralph J. “Jack”** (1930-2017, was a retailer, owning four NAPA auto parts stores; famed for bringing U.S. military bands to Ridgefield, mostly through Kiwanis, for 140 concerts during a 50-year period starting in 1967; “Ridgefield is the only place in the U.S., other than Washington D.C. that can boast of having a military band play at least once a year for 50 years,” said Darla Shaw [P6/29/2017].

**Herrick, Gerardus**, (1873-1955), a native of NYC, was a lawyer and inventor of Convertoplane, a near helicopter, in the 1920s, 30s; Smithsonian has sole working model; he and wife, **Lois**, lived at 55 High Ridge Avenue, starting in the 1920s; he usually went by the name of Gerard. Historical society owns a propeller used on a Convertoplane and exhibits it in town hall basement level. Lois was active in the Ridgefield Garden Club. [WWW] [DD190-192]

**Herrick Lane**: Old, informal name for a portion of an old road that ran west of and parallel to High Ridge Avenue – from Peaceable Street south. Today’s Shadow Lane is the southern half of this road, which served as an access to the rear of the large High Ridge houses, including Gerardus and Lois Herrick (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Hessian, The**: Novel by Howard Fast (*q.v.*), (Morrow, 1972) about a fictional incident involving German soldiers during the Revolutionary War in Ridgefield and Redding. Fast lived on Florida Hill Road.

**Hessian Drive**: Road off North Salem Road, named for skeletons of two alleged Hessian soldiers from Revolution, dug up during an excavation nearby in 1874 by workers for Dr. Archibald Y. Paddock (*q.v.*), who kept the bones himself; developed in 1959 by James B. Franks (*q.v.*) to serve eight lots at his Buffalo Creek Acres (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Hewitt, Mary E.**, (1809-1894), was a poet and editor who produced a half dozen books between 1846 and 1860. As a young widow, she married Russell W. Stebbins (*q.v.*), a NYC merchant and Ridgefield native, and in 1861 they retired to the Stebbins farm at 180 North Salem Road, where she died in 1894, virtually forgotten in literary circles.

**Heyman, Joseph**, of Ketcham Road, a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission in the 1970s, ran unsuccessfully for state senator on the Democratic ticket in 1974 [P2/28/1974]

**Hibbart, Wilmot Lyman**, was a market owner and Ridgefield native.

**Hibbart’s Market** specialized in meats at 424 Main Street in the 1910s and 1920s, established by Wilmot Hibbart (*q.v.*); later became Schultz’s Market, and Capiello Jewelers. [DD37, DD83]

**Hickories, The**: Name, first used in the 19th Century, for the Lounsbury Road farm of the Lounsbury family that produced two governors, Phineas and George, and later became the Brewster family homestead. *See also* Fairhope Country School.

**Hickory and Tweed** was a sports shop, particularly for skiing equipment, owned by Michael Ward in the old Hidden Barn (*q.v.*) building at the north end of Ridgefield Shopping Center (now CVS) in 1960s; burned down around 1971; may have also been called the Ski Hut.

**Hickory Lane**: A short dead-end road off the east side of Florida Road, serving seven one-acre lots; plan filed in 1958 by Kustaa Havunoja of Redding. It became a town road in 1962. [RN]

**Hidden Barn Gift Shop** was a gift and antiques shop operated from a red barn at the north end of the Ridgefield Shopping Center, then more commonly known as the Grand Union shopping center; address was ONS 144 Main Street; operated by Carolyn and Herman Koch; later became Hickory & Tweed (*q.v.*) ski shop; burned down around 1971.

**Hidden History of Ridgefield:** Stories about Ridgefield's often unheralded people, places and things, sequel to *Ridgefield Chronicles*, by Jack Sanders, 160 pages, dozens of pictures and maps, The History Press, 2015.

**Hidden Lake:** Erroneous name for Turtle Pond (*q.v.*) at Eight Lakes Estates (*q.v.*) development. [RN]

**Hidden Lake Court:** A 250-foot-long dead-end lane off Old Sib Road at the southeast end of "Hidden Lake" (*q.v.*); part of Eight Lakes Estates (*q.v.*); was originally (1952) planned to connect with Barrack Hill Road but terrain was simply too steep.

**Hidden Valley Camp** was a Fresh Air camp operating in the early 1950s on the site of the former Life's Farm Fresh Air Farm (*q.v.*) on Florida Road, now site of the Branchville School. It burned down in the mid-1950s.

**Hideaway, The:** Restaurant on Grove Street, opened in 2013 by Patrick Lynch of Easton. *See* Corner Pub.

**Hieeta**, home of Mrs. Cary Selden Rodman (Nannie Van Nostrand Marvin) in SR1916S. Her husband (1869-1911) was a noted architect. Her son Cary Selden Rodman (1909-2002) was a prolific writer of poetry, plays, political commentary, art criticism, Latin American and Caribbean history, biography and travelogs, publishing a book almost every year of his adult life. She died in 1942 in NYC

**High Meadows Road:** 1959 subdivision filed with the town clerk by John and Louise Meyers of nine lots on 12 acres off Regan Road was never developed.

**High Pastures:** Name of 30-acre farm owned by the late Mrs. Mary L. Olcott; was previously gentleman's farm of Sidney D. Farrar (*q.v.*); subdivided in 1965 — *see* High Pastures Court, Farrar's Thirty Acres.

**High Pastures Court**, off North Salem Road; serves subdivision of Sidney D. Farrar (*q.v.*) farm, later owned by Mrs. Mary L. Olcott, who called the place High Pastures (*q.v.*). James Hackert, Ridgefield real estate agent, used the name when he subdivided the property into 17 lots in 1965. [RN]

**High Ridge:** So called from the earliest settlement of the town; it is the loftiest locality in or near the center of town; U.S. Geological Survey measures the top at about 55 High Ridge Avenue at 860 feet above sea level. Rev. S. G. Goodrich say the Indians called the place Candoto (*q.v.*); earliest map of the village area, drawn by John Copp in 1710 to show plowland lots, locates "ye High Ridge," and the name appears frequently in deeds; Copp and the proprietors chose this area as prime planting land – high, dry, open to a full day of sunlight, and very close to the village homes; after Civil War when After the Civil War, J. Howard King (*q.v.*) was promoting the area as ideal for large summer homes of the wealthy, with views westerly to beyond the Hudson and southerly to Long Island. Rev. Goodrich's house, built around 1797 at the southern end, may have been his first residence south of King Lane/Peaceable Street. In the early 20th century, High Ridge was sometimes called West Ridge (*q.v.*) or King's Ridge (*q.v.*). *See also* High Ridge Avenue. [RN]

**High Ridge Avenue:** First called High Ridge Road, as early as 1830, renamed High Ridge Avenue after Civil War when J. Howard King (*q.v.*) was promoting the area for large summer homes; name long applied only to portion of road between West Lane and Peaceable Street, but is now used for road between West Lane and Gilbert Street; in early 20th Century, the road between Catoonah and Gilbert Streets was called Maple Avenue (*q.v.*). South end was probably originally included today's Parley Lane (*q.v.*); High Ridge from Parley Lane to West Lane, passing by Shadow Lane, was probably not established until the 1800s. *See also* Publisher's Row. [RN]

**High Ridge English and Classical Board School for Boys** was operated in the late 1840s and early 1850s by H.S. Banks and then the Rev. Chauncey Wilcox (*q.v.*).

**High Ridge Hall** is the name given to 82 High Ridge, a 16-room brick Georgian-style mansion built in 2008. [CBR]

**High Ridge Institute:** A small private school providing post-eighth-grade education in the 1860s at the "Peter Parley House" on High Ridge. It was taught by William O. Seymour (*q.v.*), who went on to be a civil engineer with railroads in the Midwest. [JFS]

**High Ridge Manor:** Name of recent vintage applied to former home of E.P. Dutton (*q.v.*), 63 High Ridge Avenue; built early 1890s by James "Big Jim" Kennedy; 14 rooms including 7 bedrooms; Tiffany windows. Dutton called the place On-The-Ridge (*q.v.*).

**High Ridge Road:** *See* High Ridge Avenue.

**High Valley:** Subdivision of 23 two-acre lots from 51.6 acres off the north side of Florida Hill Road, obtained in 1969 by Giles and Barry Montgomery (*q.v.*); includes High Valley Court and Road, and North Valley Road; was part of the Downsby Manor (*q.v.*) estate of Col. Edward M. Knox (*q.v.*); name descriptive of territory. [RN]

**High Valley Court:** Long, dead-end road serving part of High Valley (*q.v.*) subdivision.

**High Valley Road:** Serves part of High Valley (*q.v.*) subdivision. [RN]

**Highcliff Terrace:** Off Bennett's Farm Road just south of Bates Farm Road, a private road at the Ridgefield Lakes. There's a steep embankment just to the south. [RN]

**Highest point in Ridgefield:** Said to be Pine Mountain (*q.v.*) at 1,060; *see also* Elevation.

**Highland Acres:** *See* Eleven Levels.

**Highmeadow Estate:** Said to have been the name that Dr. Leopold Weiss (*q.v.*) gave to what was later called Sunset Hall (*q.v.*).

**Hightower, John,** (1933-2013), a native of Atlanta, was a museum executive, who in 1970 became director of the Museum of Modern Art. He later was president of the South Street Seaport Museum in Manhattan, executive director of the Maritime Center in Norwalk, and director of the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Va. Moved to Ridgefield in 1983, living on High Ridge and then Main Street.

**Highview Drive:** off Knollwood Drive, part of Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*), built in the late 1950's and early 1960's; named simply for its view which includes Lake Windwing and Ned's Mountain to the north. Its elevation ranges from 680 to 720 feet above sea level. [RN]

**Highview Road:** Private lane at the Ridgefield Lakes, from Great Hill Road to Lakeview Drive; 590 to 650 feet above sea level. [RN]

**Highways:** *See* Roads, federal, state *and* town; also under route numbers.

**Higley, Robert Dale Warren “Rob” II**, (1971-2001), who was 29 years old and lived in Danbury, died on 9/11 at the World Trade Center, He worked in client services for Aon Corp. and was in Tower 2. Higley moved to Beaver Brook Road in Ridgefield when he was 4 and left when he was 8 years old. He maintained many Ridgefield friends, said his wife, Vycki Higley, who had also lived in Ridgefield. They had a child born after his death. His grave is in St. Mary Cemetery. [JFS]

**Hill, Berkley H. Sr.**, (1901-1981), a Danbury native, was a real estate agent, stockbroker, and early aviator. A private pilot in the 1920s, he was one of the first to fly in this area; lived here 1948-70 on Market Street; active in Boys Club here, retired Heritage Village, then Florida. [P2/19/1981]

**Hill, Peter**, RHS 1968, retired in the spring of 2020 after nearly 45 years working for the public works and highways department, the last two decades as the director. He was the highest ranking African American in town government. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War.

**Hillaire**: Estate of Joseph Conron (*q.v.*) on West Mountain Road, just north of Ramapoo Road. Became subdivision served by Doubleday Lane and Sharp Hill Lane; *see also* Vita Simplic Farm.

**Hillcrest Court**: Short dead-end lane off upper Barrack Hill Road, part of the Eight Lakes Estates (*q.v.*); at the crest of a hill, about 920 feet above sea level. [RN]

**Hillscroft Farm** was a 87-acre estate, now much smaller, centered on house at 133 St. Johns Road. A previous house there was built by Charles T. Root, but destroyed by fire, and the current house was built in the 1930s by Edward W. Simons, president of First National Bank and Trust Company of Ridgefield. It was then owned by Dr. Royal C. Van Etten, noted NYC obstetrician, whose estate superintendent was Richard E. Venus, who became postmaster, a selectman, and town historian [DD169, 170, 171, 172, etc.]; *see also* Table Rock Estates, Charles Root.

**Hillsdale Avenue**: Traverses a hill and a dale, part of an 1910-1927 Mountain View Park subdivided by Conrad Rockelein (*q.v.*); original name on 1927 updated subdivision map was Hillsdale Street. [RN].

**Hilltop Dispatch** was the Ridgefield High School student newspaper from 1935 until the school moved from its “hilltop” on East Ridge to 700 North Salem Road in 1972. For many years the newspaper was published quarterly, but in its later years was issued more frequently.

**Hilltop Service Station**: Small gas station at 60 Wilton Road West, Route 33, near Wilton line; opened in the 1920s and owned by Harry Tripp in 1929; operated by Jensen family from the 1940s into the 1960s; ca. 1970, the original building was razed and by 1973 a new gas station was called Brookside Shell [CD1973].

**Hilltoppers**: Nickname for the Ridgefield High School athletic teams from the early 1940s until around 1964 when Tigers (*q.v.*) began to be used; name referred to the fact that high school building was on the top of a hill, i.e., East Ridge.

**Hilsenrad, Philip** (1905-84), an attorney with a practice in town, operated with his wife, Molly, the Mamanasco Lake Lodge (*q.v.*) from 1940 to 1961.

**Hilton, Derek W.** (1934-2015) was a native of England who was a well-known magician, using the name, Sim Sala Bim. He founded Top Hat Magic Club; worked for IBM; lived 57 North Street in 1970s-80s; returned to England in 1987. [JFS]

**Hilton, Harold Cornelius**, (1919-1994), was perhaps the greatest RHS track athlete ever; considered for a spot on a U.S. Olympics team; born SC, raised by his aunt, Ella Holmes, on Bailey Avenue; RHS 1939; US Army sergeant, WW2; later owned cleaning business in Stamford; taught figure skating; nicknamed “Flash”; posthumously honored by Ridgefield Old Timers, 1999. [WWW]

**Himes, Rose Marie**, (1927-2021), a native of Pennsylvania, was active in Ridgefield Workshop for the Performing Arts, Charles Pope Choristers, and other organizations between 1963 and 1987, and often wrote for the RP. She and husband **George** moved to Manhattan where she was an actress and a model for print advertising. [P4/22/2021]

**Hines, Francis**, (1920-2016) was a noted eclectic artist who from 1960 to 1970 lived in an imposing stone house on a hill at ONS50 Limestone Road. He was a successful commercial artist with a passion for creating avant-garde expressionist pieces out of a wide variety of materials. In 1980, deploying two dozen helpers, he famously wrapped New York's Washington Square Park Arch in synthetic gauze. In the '60s, in a converted barn on the Limestone Road property, he ran the Hines Theater, home to a community troupe that presented plays by Pinter, Albee and other American masters. [John Hallenborg; Peter Hastings Falk, DiscoveriesinAmericanArt.com]

**Hines Theater:** *See* Francis Hines.

**Hirsch, Lawrence**, is an attorney specializing in real estate law who practiced in Ridgefield in the 1970s as a partner with two firms, and then opened his own firm in 1980, based at 470 Main Street; he served as counsel to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals in the 1970s; admitted to bar, 1963.

**Historians of Ridgefield:** Aldo P. Biagiotti, Silvio Bedini, Rev. Samuel G. Goodrich, Samuel G. Goodrich, Keith Marshall Jones, Allen Nevins, George L. Rockwell, Rev. Daniel Teller, Glenna Welsh, Richard E. Venus (*q.v. each*)

**Historic Buildings:** *See* National Register of Historic Places.

**Historic Districts:** Ridgefield has 7 historic districts of which 6 are listed on both the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register of Historic Places. The Ridgebury Historic District is listed only on the state register. Structures within the districts are considered historic resources; some 450 town properties and sites are on the state register. Ridgefield Historic Districts #1 and #2, which are the only ones overseen by the Historic District Commission, include Main Street south from Governor Street to Wilton Road West/East; eastern West Lane; and High Ridge Avenue south of Peaceable Street/King Lane. *See also* National Register of Historic Places.

**Historical Sketch of Ridgefield, An:** 48-page booklet history of the town and a description of what it was like in the early 20th Century, by Allen Nevins (*q.v.*), who later won two Pulitzer Prizes for history writing; published by The Elms Inn, 1922.

**History of Ridgefield:** George L. Rockwell's 583-page book is particularly strong on 19th and early 20th Century history; contains many early birth, marriage and death records; reminiscences and brief profiles; many photos taken by Joseph Hartmann. Cloth and leather editions; privately printed 1928; reprinted by Harbor House in Westchester County in the 1980s. [JFS]



**History of Ridgefield, Connecticut, The**, by Daniel W. Teller, is the first full-sized history of the town, published in 1878 by Teller, who was the minister of the First Congregational church. It is useful today mainly for its large collection of graveur images of Ridgefield, based on 1870s photographs — probably the earliest and most accurate images of the town. 251 pages, no index. [JFS]

**Hoban, Fairfield Wallace**, ( -1997), a lawyer, was a chess expert, whose column on the game appeared in *The Saturday Review* and *World* magazines. He wrote the 1974 book, *The Pleasures of Learning Chess*. During WW2, he served as an ambulance driver in the India-Burma theatre. Lived here from about 1967 to 1975. [WWW]

**Hobby, Jackson**. *See* Hobby Drive.

**Hobby, John**, (?-1954), was a teamster on the Upagenstit estate in the 1920s. He had been a horse driver for the Barnum and Bailey Circus. [DD142]

**Hobby Drive**: off North Salem Road, created by Scotland Knolls company around 1955 to serve about 23 lots; named for Jackson Hobby, who farmed the land there around the turn of the 20th Century; part of his farm had been a portion of the Town Farm (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Hobos**: Hobos, bums or tramps were frequent visitors in the 19th and early 20th Century. The Town Hall cells in the basement were often used for overnight accommodations for these wanderers. The wealthy Richard A. Jackson (*q.v.*) family on Main Street at King Lane provided meals for hobos for many years. [DD81] The often worked as typesetters for The Ridgefield Press in the early 20th Century. [DD93]

**Hockey**: Hockey became an official sport at RHS in 1971-72 and the team compiled a 7-2-4 record under coaches of Ray Bessette (*q.v.*) and Chuck Dean. [P3/16/1972] *See also* Ridgefield Skating Center, Ridgefield Athletic Association Corporation.

**Hodge, Sylvia Elnora Ward**, (1920-2008), was a popular music teacher at RHS from 1964 (when she was **Sylvia Randall**) until about 1988 when she retired. She commuted from her native New Haven, where she was active in the music scene. She studied at Yale, Columbia, and graduated from Juilliard. [WWW]

**Hoelt, Jack**, who lived at 77 High Ridge in 1980s and 90s, headed Bantam Doubleday Dell in the 1990s. In 1979, he became president of the U.S. sales division of Harlequin Enterprises, Ltd. He served as a captain for the U.S. He joined Bantam Books in 1981 and six years later helped form Bantam Doubleday Dell and oversaw the group's 1998 merger with German-based Bertelsmann Publishing. Hoelt is also a New York University faculty member, teaching courses in the master's degree program at the Publishing Center. He was also chairman of the Board at Copyright Clearance Center.

**Hoffman, Beverly**, wife of Robert F. Hoffman (*q.v.*) was a professional clown called Dot the Mop, who appeared frequently in the region in the 1970s. [JFS]

**Hoffman, Robert**, was a Union Carbide vice president who started as an office boy; owned 90+ acre estate on West Lane at NY line, mostly in Lewisboro but house in Ridgefield; wife Margaret; estate contents auction in 1981; house built 1938 by James Doubleday [5/7/1981]

**Hoffman, Robert F.**, was a Republican selectman, 1969-77; ran unsuccessfully for first selectman, 1977, against Louis J. Fossi [P11/10/1977] ; lived on Pierrepont Drive; moved to Raleigh, N.C., 1978; married to **Beverly Hoffman** (*q.v.*).

**Hoffman, William J. Jr.**, operated a paper mill which burned Dec. 19, 1866, at a loss of \$25,000. He had bought the old mill at Mamasasco around June 1866, converted it to paper production, and called it “Mamasasco Lake Mills.” [Commercial Bulletin, Boston, 7/7/1866]

**Hogholler, Smith’s**: 1749 deed mentions 2.5 acres “on Asproom Mountain near Ebenezer Smith’s hogholler”; probably a variation of “hogwallow,” a “hollow or ditch in which pigs wallow.” OED says term can refer to “a natural depression having this appearance.” It was probably at either Ridgefield Knolls or Twixt Hills, but *see also* Wallis’s hoghole. [RN]

**Hogoboom, David Garth**, (1940-2012), was a freelance videographer, director and producer of documentary films for international organizations, including the United Nations and UNICEF, documenting projects in Iraq, Rwanda, the Balkans and Asia. He was also a skilled carpenter and antique house restorer. He is buried in Branchville Cemetery. [P2/16/2012]

**Holleran, Clifford “Kip”**, (1895-1971), was a popular principal of Ridgefield High School; also served as coach of its basketball team for many years. He was the first president of Rotary Club [P1/9/1941]. He came to Hamilton High School in 1921 and retired from RHS in 1957. He was a director of the Boys Club for 14 years. [WWW]

**Hollow, The**: Pre-1840 deeds occasionally refer to land in Ridgebury at “the Hollow”; first mentioned in 1821, probably a shortened form of Ridgebury Hollow (*q.v.*), first noted in 1794 and probably applying to a valley in what is the Mill Plain section of Danbury. [RN]

**Holmes, Jennie**, (1854-1943), was a teacher at Flat Rock School from 1873 to 1883 and was a well-known Ridgefielder. In 1934, many of her former students honored her at a gathering at the schoolhouse, which was then still standing. {P7/5/1934} [Obit P5/20/1943]

**Holmes, John F.** (1847-1906), was a farmer and Civil War veteran who was wounded and captured at Chancellorsville. He served as a Republican state representative, 1887-89.

**Holmes, Orville**, was the first selectman of Ridgefield for three one-year terms from 1916 to 1918 farmer and brother of Irving Holmes; Holmes Road recalls the family.

**Holmes Road**: An unusual circular road at Westmoreland, connected to Hamilton, Webster and Westmoreland Roads; named for the farm of the brothers Irving and Orville Holmes, whose farmhouse on Barry Avenue was in 2009 the home of Fred P. Montanari, a former selectman; was originally called Lincoln Road — name was changed to avoid confusion with Lincoln Lane; before 1966, today’s Remington Road (*q.v.*) was called Holmes Road; accepted as a town highway in 1969. [RN]

**Holt, Charles**, (-1927), a member of the Henry Holt & Company book publishing firm, died at the age of 81. [NYT4/28/1927] At the turn of the 20th Century, he owned Grovellen, the brick mansion at High Ridge and Peaceable Streets. He was a brother of Henry Holt.

**Holy Ghost Novitiate**: School for novices of the Holy Ghost Fathers, members of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, established at Matlack, former Dr. Timothy M. Cheesman (*q.v.*) estate on Prospect Ridge in 1922. The fathers enlarged house, built in 1887, especially for dormitory rooms. The operation shut down ca.1970. The town bought the property in 1971, with 26 acres, for \$395,000 (\$2.4 million in 2017 dollars). The main building was used at first for school administration offices, then in 1991, with renovations, as Prospect Ridge congregate housing (*q.v.*); land and outbuildings are now Ridgefield

Guild of Artists (*q.v.*) quarters; Ridgefield Theater Barn (*q.v.*), Marine Corps League (*q.v.*) headquarters; Bark Park, and Scalzo Field (*q.v.*) for Little League. [JFS]

**Holy Innocents School:** independent Catholic grade school established Sept. 1972 by Catholic parents to fill the gap caused by the closing of St. Mary's School (*q.v.*) lasted five years.

**Home Video Outlet:** had grand opening June 1981 at 99 Danbury Road [P6/4/1981]

**HomeGoods** announced it would open a store of about 20,000 square feet at Copps Hill Plaza, using space that had been part of Kohl's, which downsized to about 70,000 square feet and then closed. HomeGoods is based in Framingham, Mass., and had more than 800 stores in 2020.

**Homeland:** House of Laura Curie Allee Shields, 304 Main Street, south corner with Market Street, 1906-1968; previously Hurlbutt family home, including meat market; later was District Nursing Association offices.

**Homestead:** 1. A real estate firm on Main Street in the 1970s and 80s, established by John J. Baldaserini and Dante R. Brunetti. 2. Name for the Hauley House in the early 20th Century, maybe before.

**Hometown Heroes**, a novel by Susanna Hofmann McShea (*q.v.*), St. Martin's Press, 1990 was the first in a series about a quartet of senior citizen amateur detectives solving mysteries in and around Ridgefield which, in the book, is called Raven's Wing. Other titles in what was called the Hometown Heroes Series were *Ladybug*, *Ladybug* (1992), and *The Pumpkin-Shell Wife* (1994). [JFS]

**Homewood:** Estate of George G. Haven on West Lane and Country Club Road, opposite Cedar Lane; main house 27 Country Club Road; was 56 acres in 1950s when it was broken up into nine lots. Owners included Swords, Wheadon Grant, Delli-Bovi.

**Honey Hollow:** First appears in a deed in 1846 for a locality near the junction of modern-day Aunt Hack Hill Road and Middle River Road, then in Ridgefield, now in Danbury. [RN]

**Honey Woods:** In western Danbury, possibly near Mill Plain intersection of Route 6 and Old Ridgebury Road; mentioned in one 1830 deed when the location was part of Ridgefield. [RN]

**Hop Meadow Branch:** A stream originating east of and parallel to lower Wilton Road East that flows into Wilton, past the Hop Meadow; mentioned in deeds before 1750; today, often called the east branch of the Silvermine River (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Hopper, Richard Sr.**, (1879-1952), was superintendent of the Reginald Lewis estate on South Salem Road and lived with his family in the old Richard Keeler farmhouse at 20 Old South Salem Road. [DD101]

**Hopper's Pond:** Now mostly dried-up pond at the north side of the junction of Old South Salem and South Salem Roads, created in the 1920's as a duck pond by estate owner Reginald M. Lewis (*q.v.*) by damming up a tributary of the Stamford Mill River (*q.v.*); named for Richard Hopper Sr. (*q.v.*), who lived nearby. *See also* Lache Linne. [RN, DD101]

**Horan, William H.**, (ca.1868-1905), was engineer of a train on way from Ridgefield center to Branchville which derailed in April 1905; locomotive overturned and steam scalded and killed the trapped Horan, age 37. He lived in Danbury.

**Horblit, Harrison D.**, (1912-1988), a native of Boston and 1933 Harvard graduate, was a widely known collector of antique books and manuscripts and a philanthropist; his specialty was

history of science, mathematics and navigation; his book, *One Hundred Books Famous in Science*, is considered a bible in its field: much of his collection was donated to Harvard's Houghton Library. Wife Jean Horblit (*q.v.*) gave a large collection of old photographs and daguerreotypes to Houghton; lived at Oreneca (*q.v.*) mansion on Oreneca Road. [RN, WWW]

**Horblit, Jean**, (1910-2009), a benefactor of the Ridgefield Historical Society and other local organizations, was a native of New Haven, who became a textile designer and stylist for Marshall Field & Company. She collected antique Japanese woodblock prints, illustrated books and maps; she was the wife of Harrison Horblit (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Horologist of London:** Clock shop at 450 Main Street operated by Gerald Grunsell, 1978 until 2014. He sold and serviced antique clocks.

**Horse Pound Swamp:** First mentioned in 1717 deed and lastly in 1796, this locality was probably located west of lower Peaceable Street, perhaps near the old Pinchbeck Nursery; the site of the pound itself, a corral to hold stray horses, is unknown — a 1729 deed refers to land “by ye Horse Pound on West Mountain.” [RN]

**Horses:** *See under* Stables, Livery Stables, Ward Acres, Draft Horses.

**Hot weather:** *See* Heat waves.

**Horton, Arthur D.:** Ridgefield's fourth school superintendent, serving 1928-1942.

**Houdini, Harry**, (1874-1926), born Ehrich Weisz or Weiss, was said to have visited his brother, Dr. Leopold Weiss, at Sunset Hall (*q.v.*); however, Sunset Hall was owned by Sady Weiss (*q.v.*), Leopold's wife, whom Houdini hated because she divorced another brother, Nathan, to marry Leopold, ca. 1917; Harry specifically disinherited her in his will and seems to have disinherited Leopold, whom, Houdini students say, Harry also greatly disliked; Sady, not Leopold, owned Sunset Hall, 1924-31; thus, it seems unlikely Houdini visited, or at least visited often. [WWW]

**House, oldest:** *See* Oldest House.

**House numbers:** *See* Renumbering

**House of Friends:** Name given to former Gov. Phineas Lounsbury (*q.v.*) home on Governor Street when it was operating as a rooming house by Mary H. “May” Rockwell (*q.v.*), who lived there from the early 1900s until 1947; residents tended to be educators, such as teachers like John A. White and Mabel E. Cleves. It was the location of Hurlbutt-Rockwell School of Music (*q.v.*) [P8/21/1980]. It was razed to make way for Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association (*q.v.*) headquarters. *See also* Donnelly Professional Building.

**Households:** In 2017, Ridgefield had 9,460 households, of which 81% were single family dwellings. [RP1]

**Housing Authority:** Founded in 1974 to oversee the admissions to and operation of Ballard Green housing for the elderly, as well as later projects since as Prospect Ridge Congregate Housing and 51 Prospect Ridge affordable housing.

**Howard, Richard B.**, (ca1924-2022), established with his wife, Teresa “Lily” Howard, the Ridgefield Tennis Club in 1971 with Justine Butler (*q.v.*), as pro. It was Ridgefield's first private tennis club, at a time when the few public courts were poorly maintained. He was also Democratic Town Chairman in the 1970s.

**Howard-Reddy Gang** was a group of chicken thieves operating in western Connecticut and eastern NY in the 1920s. Fred Reddy, one of the leaders, was a former Ridgefielder. [WR]

**How's Limekiln:** Mentioned occasionally in early records, kiln was owned in the 1790s by Epenetus How(e) (*q.v.*), was near the intersection of Ramapoo Hill Road, Barry Avenue and West Mountain Road. [RN]

**How(e), Epenetus**, was a mill owner at Titicus in the late 1700s, early 1800s. He bought the grist mill at Titicus on the Saw Mill Hill River in 1771 [RLR5/133] He lived in a saltbox-style house still standing at the north corner of North Salem and Saw Mill Hill Roads. How and Jeremiah Smith sold Jabez Mix Gilbert and James Hoyt "our grist or corn mill" and other property in 1812 [RLR10/90]. He is said to have been a Tory.

**Howe, Epenetus:** Nathan Scott sold Epenetus Howe and William H. I. Howe of North Salem the Mamanasco mill in 1860, with the Mamanasco Pond of 150 acres, according to [RLR22/186]. He may have been a son of the Epenetus How(e) of the Titicus grist mill.

**Howe, John Ireland**, (1793-1876), a Ridgefield native and grandson of Epenetus Howe (*q.v.*), became a wealthy industrialist after inventing the first machine to mass produce the common pin. His factory and home were in Derby; the house is now owned by Derby's historical society. A grandson, John Ireland Howe Downes (1909-1987), was an impressionist painter. [WWW]

**Howe, William H. Ireland**, of North Salem sold Epenetus Burt a house, grist and saw mill in 1865 [RLR23/267]

**Howe, William Ireland**, (1807-89), a farmer, was a state representative in 1856. He may have been an owner of the old mill at Lake Mamanasco. He is buried in the June Cemetery in North Salem.

**Howes Court:** At Turner Hill subdivision (*q.v.*), whose roads reflect circus connections — circus animals were once housed for the winter on land near and possibly including Turner Hill, named for circus owner Aaron Turner (*q.v.*); in 1815, Nathan A. Howes of nearby Putnam County, N.Y., established a precursor of the American circus by touring the region with Old Bet, an elephant belonging to Hachaliah Bailey of Somers. [RN]

**Howkins, Nan Lee Rivers**, (1941-2020), a native of Vermont who majored in chemistry in college, founded five preschools and child-care centers, including My Nursery School, from 1975 to 2015; The Children's Corner, operating from Barlow Mountain School, 115 Barlow Mountain Road 1994 until 2015 after which it became Cadence Academy Preschool; All for Kids, 2003 to 2013; and Kaleidoscope Kids, 1991-94, 1997-2015. "Between 1975 and 2015, the schools provided education and care to approximately 15,000 children and parents, and employed thousands of teachers and directors," her family said. She wrote a book, *Profitable Child Care* (1993). [JFS] [P5/21/2020]

**Hoyt family** was among the original settlers of Ridgefield, but the name was often spelled Hyatt. Uzziell Hyatt (*q.v.*) was the first settler to die in the town.

**Hoyt, Benjamin**, received from the proprietors in 1751 7.5 acres "near his intended saw mill." [RLR3/310] (*See Hoyt's Saw Mill*). May be same as Jr. *below*.

**Hoyt, Benjamin Jr.**, was a Tory who lived at 114 Main Street, just south of the Keeler Tavern during the Battle of Ridgefield (*q.v.*). When the British set fire to the tavern, Hoyt extinguished it, fearing that the flames would spread to his house. Later he supposedly

boasted to innkeeper Timothy Keeler, "You may thank me that your house was not destroyed." Patriot Keeler is supposed to have replied, "No, sir! I will not thank a Tory for anything. I would rather thank the Lord for the north wind!" However, as KMJ points out, Hoyt was also Keeler's uncle.

**Hoyt, Charles Franklin**, (1850-1926), a Ridgefield native and a farmer, was one of three Hoyt brothers who had houses next to each other on Main Street north of West Lane. Charles was at 127 Main Street, the large Victorian on the corner, reportedly designed to outsize the once-matching houses of his two brothers, Ebenezer A. and Edwin (*q.v. each*). [RSB26]

**Hoyt, David**, had "one half of a certain saw mill place, east of Pompio Ridge so called," in 1785 [RLR6/189] *See* Hoyt's Saw Mill.

**Hoyt, Ebenezer**, owned Hoyt's Saw Mill in 1813, according to RLR10/235. That deed called him "Captain." He may have been captain in the local militia; he had served in the 1st militia company of Ridgefield in 1777.

**Hoyt, Ebenezer Andrews**, (1846-1923), was a farmer who served as a Republican state representative, 1899-1901. He lived at 139 Main Street next door to his brothers, Edwin and Charles F. (*q.v. each*). He was a director of the Ridgefield Savings Bank for many years and vice-president, 1909-1923. He was also a tax collector. [RWB, RSB26]

**Hoyt, Elias Gilbert**, (1835-1902), was a carriage-maker. A Republican, he was a state representative, 1889-91; his daughter, Josie Hoyt Wright, describes election night celebration, including shooting off cannons, in her published memoirs. [JFS]

**Hoyt, Edwin Keeler**, (1852-1903), a Ridgefield native and a farmer, was one of the Hoyt brothers — *see* Ebenezer A and Charles F. His house at 145 Main Street once matched his brother Ebenezer's next door. Legend has it he had a falling out with Ebenezer and removed various decorative features from his house so it wouldn't look like his brother's. [RSB26]

**Hoyt, Halstead**, appears to have had a saw and fulling mill, with Clark Smith. *See* RLR21/163.

**Hoyt, Col. Heusted Warner Reynolds**, (1842-1894), a Ridgefield native and son of St. Stephen's rector Warner Hoyt, was a well-known Greenwich lawyer and colonel in the CT militia who served in both the state House and Senate in the 1870s and 80s. His father died when he was 3 and he moved with his mother, a Greenwich native, to her hometown where he lived the rest of his life.

**Hoyt, Irene Smith**, (1904-1972), a native of Wilton who grew up in Ridgefield and was RHS 1925, was the extremely popular nurse for the District Nursing Association for 45 years; most of that time, she was the only paid employee. Known as "Our Florence Nightingale on Wheels," she was the Rotary Citizen of the Year in 1962. [WWW]

**Hoyt, James** of South Salem was a partner with Jabez Mix Gilbert in a corn mill [RLR10/90]. He also had a saw mill on West Mountain that he sold in 1818 [RLR 12/24] [*See also* Ebenezer Hoyt.

**Hoyt, James H.**, bought a half share in a saw and shingle mill in 1847 and sold it in 1858. [RLR20/121, 21/163]

**Hoyt, Lawrence C. "Larry,"** (1902-2002), a Ridgefield native, was a blacksmith, estate superintendent, horseman, and longtime custodian of Veterans Park School, serving 17 years from when it opened. A lifelong horseman, he was a member of one of the last

mounted cavalry units, stationed in Brownsville, TX, in 1919; the Third U.S. Cavalry were called the “brave rifles,” a name coined by General Winfield Scott during the Mexican-American War. He was born on Silver Spring Road and lived along that road most of his life. [WWW]

**Hoyt, Munson,** (1827-1906), a native of Westchester County, was a farmer who lived on Silver Spring Road in the house still standing but much modified, just north of the Silver Spring. He served in various town offices, including surveyor of highways in the Seventh School District – West Lane (1859, 1861, 1866). His name also appears as Monson. He is buried in Ridgefield Cemetery. [DJN]

**Hoyt, Samuel:** Ebenezer Hawley and Samuel Olmsted, leased a saw mill “at Pompion Ridge” from Samuel and Timothy Hoyt in 1816 [RLR11/249]. Probably on the Cooper Brooks near Johns Pond. *See* Hoyt’s Saw Mill.

**Hoyt, Theron B.,** a Ridgefield native, headed Hoyt Plating Company, manufacturer of gold- and silver-plated goods in NYC where he lived. His summer residence was The Wayside (*q.v.*) in Ridgefield [SR1916S]. He married in 1915 in Pittsburgh Elizabeth K. Carnegie, cousin of Andrew Carnegie, and was the son of Theron G. Hoyt of Farmingville. [JFS]

**Hoyt, Timothy:** *See* Samuel Hoyt.

**Hoyt, Rev. Warner,** (1810-1844), rector at St. Stephen’s, 1838-44, died young while in office here. His son was Col. Heusted Hoyt (*q.v.*). (JFS)

**Hoyt’s Saw Mill:** At John’s Pond (*q.v.*) southeast of Cooper Road; in 1751, the proprietors deeded Benjamin Hoyt land “near his intended saw mill” [RLR3/310]; by 1752 deeds begin mentioning “Hoyt’s Saw Mill” [*viz.* RLR4/66, 5/44]; by 1816 Hoyt family deeds were referring to “the old saw mill spot” or the “old mill site,” [RLR13/278], but a new mill was erected there in 1824, lasting at least into the 1870’s. In 1816, Ebenezer Hawley and Samuel Olmsted, leased the saw mill “at Pompion Ridge” (*q.v.*) from Samuel and Timothy Hoyt [RLR11/249]

**HSBC:** Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. opened a branch at 108 Danbury Road in 2007; closed 2012, office became First Niagara Bank (*q.v.*), who soon departed town, leaving an empty building for years. In 2021, it became the Ridgefield branch of Chase Bank. [JFS]

**Hubbard, John W.,** ran a radio store on Main Street for many years in early 20th Century; was also amateur “ham” radio operator, call sign 1RZ, who was involved in early experiments with transAtlantic radio transmissions; served in World War I and was a founder of Last Man’s Club (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Huckleberry Hill:** possibly the 817-foot-high hill just west of Bridle Trail and between Spring Valley and Ridgebury Roads, mentioned in an 1810 deed. [RN]

**Huckleberry Lane:** Short dead-end road off Wilton Road East, subdivided around 1960 from Margaret Starr Jessup’s property, which fronted on Main Street; accepted by the town in 1961. said to have been a popular berry-picking spot. [RN]

**Huguenots, French,** were French protestants who fled persecution in their native land, several thousands coming to the American colonies. Settlements nearby included Milford and New Rochelle. Ridgefield had two major French Huguenot families among its early settlers. The earliest was Alexander Ressiguie (*q.v.*), who was a major landowner. Soon after came

Vivus Dauchy (ca. 1707-1795), whose family became major merchants in town for nearly two centuries.

**Hughes, Elizabeth Ingram Deyer**, (1904-1994), a native of Brooklyn, owned The Carnival Shop (*q.v.*) from the 1950s to the mid-1970. A NYC debutante, she married in 1937 John Farrel Hughes, Yale 1924, who was a member of the NY Stock Exchange. [JFS]

**Hughes, John B.**, (1902-1980), a native of Nebraska, was a widely known network newscaster and commentator during the “golden age of radio,” especially the 1940s and 50s. He bought Ontaroga Farm (*q.v.*) in Farmingville in 1950. In the late 1950s he moved to Pittsburgh where he was a TV news anchor. His son **John Hughes** has been active in Ridgefield most of his life, and is a founder of the Soccer Club of Ridgefield. [WWW]

**Hulda Lane**: Runs between Danbury and Haviland Roads, named for Hulda Ritch, mother of Harold A. Ritch, who subdivided the family homestead (*see* Ritch Drive) around 1954. Mrs. Ritch and her husband, Charles, had purchased the former Haviland farm there around 1920 and had lived on it for many years. She died in 1944.

**Hull, Bradley**, (1763-1835), was a state representative in 1819 and a veteran of the War of 1812. He is buried in the Old Florida Cemetery. By 1802 he had erected a saw mill near today’s Route 7 probably in Limestone District [RLR8/302] and it was still in operation in 1834 [RLR15/78] His house and mill were both described as being on the Sugar Hollow Turnpike in 1850, though he was dead. [RLR19/337] His son, Bradley H., sold the mill and 90 acres to George Hull of Danbury in 1860. [RLR22/137]

**Hull, Bradley H.**: *See* Bradley Hull.

**Hull, Elizabeth**, (1900-96), was a philanthropist and conservationist who lived at 478 Silver Spring Road; donated money and land to conservation groups; gave 24 acres in Silver Spring Swamp area to Land Conservancy of Ridgefield (*q.v.*); donation to The Nature Conservancy of her house and 18 acres, now Golf Court subdivision, totalled nearly \$2 million. She was active in the Ridgefield Garden Club. *See also* Renumbering. [WWW]

**Hull, Harry E.** (1899-1987), a Ridgefield native and World War I veteran, was first selectman 1947-51, 1953-57, a then rare Democrat to win that office; he was active in the American Legion and was grand marshal of the Memorial Day parade for 60 years. [P10/22/1981] [WWW]

**Hull Place**: A dead-end road built around 1977 off Ivy Hill Road, was named by Carl Lecher, the subdivider, to honor former first selectman Harry E. Hull (*q.v.*).

**Hungry Knight, The**: Restaurant on Route 7, 896 Ethan Allen Highway, in the late 1970s.

**Hunt, Daniel**, (abt. 1810-?), was a farmer who served as a Republican state representative in 1870.

**Hunt, David**, established in 1836 a stagecoach line from his house later owned by Samuel Coe and Daniel M. McKeon on Old Stagecoach Road (*q.v.*), just below Ridgebury Road. Stage left at 2:30 in the morning, bound for Norwalk to meet the steamboat for New York City; stopped in Ridgefield and Wilton; It waited in Norwalk for the next boat from New York for the return trip. [RN] *See also* Arigideen Farm.

**Hunt, George**, was founder of the Ridgefield Shirt Factory (*q.v.*).

**Hunt, Marcia Marchese** (1940-2013), a native of Bridgeport who was a teacher and a San Francisco business owner, was a feminist and activist in Ridgefield particularly in the



1970s and a founder of the Women's Political Caucus (*q.v.*). In 1975 she was president of the local American Association of University Women. She and Jay B. Hunt were married in St. Mary Church in 1954. [JFS]

**Hunt Court:** Short dead-end road off Lynn Place, another circus-related name at Turner Hill (*q.v.*) subdivision in Ridgebury; a few members of the Hunt family of Scotland District worked for circuses; one Hunt family, says Bedini, "kept an elephant named Bolivar on their farm and utilized it for carrying loads of grain on its back. It frequently terrified horses on the highway." A Hunt farm was later owned by playwright Eugene O'Neill (*see* O'Neill Court). [RN]

**Hunt Mountain:** Titicus Mountain (*q.v.*), the hill along the west side of North Salem Road near the NY line, is sometimes called Hunt Mountain because members of the Hunt family lived on or near its slopes from at least 1800 into the 20th Century; term more properly used on North Salem side of NY line where Hunt name is well established. In Ridgefield, Titicus Mountain is more suitable. *See* Titicus Mountain. [RN]

**Hunter Consignments:** Antiques and furniture shop opened April 3, 1987, on Big Shop Lane. [P4/9/1987]

**Hunter Heights:** Subdivision of about 65 acres of farmland off Blackman Road by Lewis J. Finch (*q.v.*), approved in 1968, consists of 25 one-acre lots along Hunter Lane and Hunter Lane West, plus nearly 30 acres of open space in Great Swamp; named for the Hunter family, who owned the property for 28 years. [RN]

**Hunter Lane, Hunter Lane West:** Road serving Hunter Heights (*q.v.*); became town roads in 1970. [RN]

**Hunting** is permitted on the state-owned portions of Great Swamp, and in Bennett's Pond State Park in the fall for archery only; no firearms. Hunting is also permitted on private property, with the permission of the owner. Hunting is banned on Sundays. Licenses are needed to hunt and are available at the town clerk's office in the Town Hall.

**Hunting Ridge:** 1986 subdivision of 27 acres into 11 lots served by Lost Mine Place (*q.v.*) off the south side of New Road, obtained by the descendants of Robert Lee (*q.v.*), part of whose farmland was developed. [RN]

**Huntoon, David D.,** (1925-2001), a Rhode Island native and Dartmouth graduate, was vice president of the Enforcement Division of the NY Stock Exchange, retiring in 1976 and forming a home remodeling business, Old World Craftsmen. He came to Ridgefield in 1957 and bought a home at 45 Peaceable Street in 1963, later retiring in 1996 to a home on Shadow Lane. She served on the school board, 1969-71, and on the Planning and Zoning Commission, from 1975 until his death, including a stint as chairman. [P3/22/2001]

**Hurlbutt, Aaron G.H.,** (1841-1878), was an early leader of the Mutual Cornet Band (*q.v.*).

**Hurlbutt, David,** (1801-1858), a native of Wilton, began his career as a hatter, but became a butcher who operated a meat market at Main and Market Streets. He was also the owner of a coal mine in town (*q.v.*), and was in the ice business. A Democrat, he was a state representative in 1850. He died when he was gored by a cow he was trying to butcher. His son was State Rep. Sereno Stuart Hurlbutt. [JFS]

**Hurlbutt, Faustina**, had been a teacher at the Titicus School in the 1880s and later joined with her cousin May Rockwell in operating the Hurlbutt-Rockwell School of Music in Ridgefield. [HHR]

**Hurlbutt, Hester Elizabeth**, (1896-1991), a Ridgefield native, became a longtime teacher in Boston and gained national attention in her efforts to fight condominium developers in that city. But she is locally known for a large number of different — and beautiful — portrait photographs of her as a small child by Joseph Hartmann (*q.v.*), which are in the collection of the Ridgefield Historical Society. [WWW]

**Hurlbutt, John**, (1832-1866), a member of the meat marketing Hurlbutt family of Main Street, died from a lion bite. While visiting a traveling menagerie in Danbury, he asked the lion keeper whether he could put his hand in the cage. The keeper said it was safe to do so, Hurlbutt did so, and the lion bit him. He contracted lockjaw, and died 10 days later. He was a son of David (*q.v.*) and brother of Sereno (*q.v.*).

**Hurlbutt, Sereno Stuart** (1825-1904), a Ridgefield native, was a carpenter and one-time partner in the carriage manufactory of Brush, Olmstead & Company (*q.v.*). He was also a clerk in the Rockwell candlestick factory. [RIR] A longtime tax collector, he retired from that post in 1902 at the age of 78. [P10/16/1902] He served as a Republican state representative in 1878. His father was State Rep. David Hurlbutt. His house was later owned and enlarged by Laura Curie Allee Shields (*q.v.*). [RSB24]

**Hurlbutt Cemetery**: The 18¾ square rods of land for this cemetery was purchased in 1858 by John D. Hurlbutt, who was also buried in this cemetery soon after it was laid out. The last remaining lot, number 10 of approximately 27 lots holding in all about 250 graves, was sold by the administrator of his estate on April 19, 1866. This small portion of the “Ridgefield Cemetery” (*q.v.*) is situated between Fairlawn and Titicus Cemeteries on North Salem Road, and borders Settlers Rocks (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Hurlbutt Lane**: Former name for Market Street, so called because Hurlbutt’s Market stood right next to the road near the corner of Main Street. *See* David and Sereno S. Hurlbutt. [RN]

**Hurlbutt-Rockwell School of Music** operated in 1920 until 1938 by Faustina H. Hurlbutt and Mary H. Rockwell (*q.v.*) at House of Friends on Governor Street; chiefly a piano school [P8/21/1980].

**Hurlbutt’s Pond**: One of David Hurlbutt’s (*q.v.*) several interests in town was an ice business to supply local households’ iceboxes; the product came from a pond, now mostly swamp, west of East Ridge, between Branchville Road and Rowland Lane neighborhood. [RN]

**Hurricanes**: *See* Storms.

**Hurzeler, Rudolph and Pauline**, natives of Switzerland and Germany respectively, operated Ridgefield Bakery at 411 Main Street in the 1930s and 40s; The bakery expanded into a restaurant due to Pauline’s cooking talents [DD115]. Daughter **Ruth** (*q.v.*) became town clerk and **Marie**, clerk of the Probate Court.

**Hurzeler, Ruth Mildred**, (1917-77), was the first woman elected, 1949, as Ridgefield town clerk, an office held only by men since 1708. She had been assistant town clerk 1946; re-elected 12 times until 1973 when she was defeated by Terry Leary, a Democrat, over the issue of her failure to tell how much she earned in recording fees — Leary favored making

the position salaried, which it soon became; was a daughter of Rudolph and Pauline Hurzeler (*q.v.*) [WWW]

**Hussar's Camp Place:** Serves part of a 61-acre subdivision west of Ridgebury Road and south of Chestnut Hill Road, once part of the Daniel and Louise McKeon's Arigideen Farm (*q.v.*). Dillon Associates obtained 17 lots in February 1987. The name recalls July 1781 encampment of 4,800 French troops under Comte Rochambeau (*see* Rochambeau Avenue) in this area. Daniel McKeon there were 600 artillery, 600 cavalry and 3,600 light infantry, including hussars — light cavalry — under the Duc De Lauzun. [RN]

**Huton, Jan H.,** (1906-51), was New York City dress designer at Foremost Sportswear Company, whose North Salem Road house caught fire Oct. 28, 1942, leading firemen to discover huge quantities of foods, such as sugar and canned juices, stored in the house, pile of tires out back, and several tanks of gasoline and fuel oil — one holding 3,000 gallons; Huton denied he was hoarding during war rationing, maintaining items were stock for a cruise ship. [DD20]

**Hyatt, Abijah:** *See* Thomas Hyatt.

**Hyatt, Charles,** son of John B. Hyatt, was killed Feb. 18, 1852, on the New York and Erie R.R. at Deposit, N.Y. [RVR 1/242]

**Hyatt, Thomas and Abijah,** bought 75% of the Mamanasco Mill for \$1,991 in 1817 [RLR 11/91] *See also* Theophilus Burt.

**Hyatt, Uzziell, or Hoyt,** was the first non-native person to die in Ridgefield Feb. 14, 1712. He was 3 years old and was buried in the Burying Yard on Wilton Road East. He was a son of Thomas and Experience Scott Hyatt. [JFS]

**Hyde, Edward D.,** (1899-1965), had managed A&P Liquor Store on the west side of Main Street in the 1930s; in 1940 he opened Hyde's Wines and Liquors (*q.v.*), later operated by his sons, Brian and Doug. [DD96]

**Hyde, Elizabeth Alvina and Mabel Lillia,** sisters, came from NJ and built the stone house and compound at the corner of High Ridge and Shadow Lane ca. 1920. [DD152]

**Hyde's Wines and Liquors:** Popular package store at 390 Main Street, opened by Edward D. Hyde April 1, 1940, and lasted until the early 1980s; a later owner was Rosemary McLinden, wife of first selectman Joseph J. McLinden (*q.v.*). Other subsequent owners were Barbara McCarthy (*q.v.*) and in 1984 Frank Zarro. *See also* Harrison's Wine and Spirit. [JFS, DD96]

## I

**IAMAS:** *See* Italian-American Mutual Aid Society.

**IBM** first expressed interest in the town in February 1951 when it proposed turning Sunset Hall (*q.v.*) on Old West Mountain Road into a company country club. The Zoning Commission voted 2-1 in favor, but because two members abstained, they were not a majority of the commission, and the plan failed. In 1970 IBM bought the former Fox Hill Inn on Bennett's Farm Road and other land totaling 700 acres to become a corporate training center. After a public outcry about a proposed helipad there, IBM abandoned its plan. Fox Hill Inn building was torn down in 1975 and in 1998 IBM sold the property to Eureka LLC, a New Jersey developer. Today most of the land is Bennett's Pond State Park (*q.v.*).

**Ice houses:** An ice house was an insulated building used to store ice, cut from local ponds in winter, for use in iceboxes (precursor of refrigerator) in the warm months; among the ice houses in town were ones at Round Pond, on Danbury Road across from Copps Hill common; East Road Road; at 11 Danbury Road (later site of The Old Ice House restaurant), operated by Mario Girolmetti. *See also* Hurlbutt's Pond.

**Ice House:** Informal name for restaurant at 11 Danbury Road officially called The Old Ice House (*q.v.*)

**Ice storms:** *Dec. 25, 1855:* many trees felled [DAR]; *March 17, 1862:* "Large limbs broken from many trees..." in a storm that heavily damages apple orchards [DAR]. *March 3-4, 1940:* Widespread damage and power outages; *January 8-10, 1953:* An ice storm leaves some parts of town without power for five days. *Dec. 1973,* power out for more than a week in places, with temperatures as low as minus 2;

**Idlewood:** Old telephone exchange for Ridgefield, starting in 1955; a number would be Idlewood 8-6544; became ID8-6544, then just 438-6544 in 1962.

**I. Grossfeld Ltd.:** Men's clothing store at 405 Main Street, established by Israel Grossfeld (*q.v.*) in the early 1960s; sold in 1980 to Nick Francella of Riverside. [JFS]

**Illustrators:** Noted Ridgefield illustrators have included: Harry Anderson, John Atherton, Peggy Bacon, Tony Barlow, Harry Bennett, Robert Fawcett, Van Kaufman, E. W. Kemble, Tammis Keefe, Robert Kraus, Franklin Lischke, Donald Moss, Erik Nitsche, Jamison Odone, Herb Olsen, Richard Scarry, Maurice Sendak, John Downes Whiting, Rene Williams. *See also* Cartoonists, Artists.

**Images of America: Ridgefield:** 127 pages of finely reproduced pictures of Ridgefield past: people, houses, businesses, scenes of town life, etc. from 1890s to 1950s, produced by Ridgefield Archives Committee, now the Ridgefield Historical Society; Arcadia Publishing, 1999.

**Imagination Station:** Playground built in Ballard Park in 2015, largely with a \$200,000 gift from George Landegger. *See also* Karl F. Landegger.

**Impact:** Aldo P. Biagiotti's 1990 history of the Italian community in Ridgefield; full title: *Impact: The Historical Account of the Italian Immigrants of Ridgefield, CT*; privately published by Romald Press; 345 pages, indexed, illustrated, hardcover.

**Independent Party:** A third party, founded in 1993 by fiscally conservative Ridgefielders including William I. Allen, Dom D'Addario, and John P. Cooke (*q.v. each*), ran candidates in several elections. Cooke was the only one to win an office (Zoning Board of Appeals, 1993); he also ran for first selectman in 1995. When Allen died in 2001, his family said contributions in his memory may be made to the Open Space Fund, Town Hall, Volunteer Fire Department, "or, in lieu of a contribution, vote Independent!" In 2011, Tony Di Preta, owner of the Ridgefield Sport Shop on Danbury Road, ran for first selectman as an Independent. Soon after, the party switched to endorsing major party candidates they felt were closest to their thinking. In 2016, when only about 70 members were left, Irene and Jeff Burgess, the last official custodians of the Independent Party of Ridgefield, decided to let it "die a natural death." (Connecticut's statewide Independent Party is not the same as Ridgefield's Independent Party.) [JFS]

**Independent School House:** Stood on what is now Veterans Memorial Community Center Park land on Main Street from 1786 until ca. 1820. It was also used for town government and religious meetings; Jesse Lee preached his first sermon in Ridgefield in June 1786 there, leading to the founding of the local Methodist church of the same name here. Town contributed to the cost of building the school, with the provision that government meetings could take place there. [RIR]

**Indians, American,** who inhabited the Ridgefield area, said RIR, were “members of the Ramapo and Titicus villages in the Tankiteke sachemdom of the Wappinger tribe. The name Wappinger meant ‘Easterners.’ This tribe formed part of the Algonquin linguistic family, allied with the Mohican, Montauk and the New England tribes. The Wappingers were among those tribes that manufactured ‘siwan’ or wampum. They occupied much of the mainland territory of Greater New York, exclusive of Manhattan Island. They were generally wanderers, peaceful and friendly towards the white men.” For information on natives who lived here, aspects of their lifestyles, and history, *see* Aokeets, Asoquata, Betty Grant, Buckspen, Catoonah, Chicken Warrups, Jacob Turkey, Kitchawan, Mopus, Oreneca, Peespunk, Ramapoo, Rippowam, Table Rock Estates, Tackora, Taporneck, Tom, Tony’s Cave.

**Indian Cave Road:** At Twin Ridge (*q.v.*) connecting Twin Ridge Road to Rising Ridge Road and then continuing to a cul de sac, was named for “Tony’s Cave” (*q.v.*). Giles and Barry Montgomery (*q.v.*) built and named the road, accepted by the town in 1968.

**Indian Rock Farm:** Poultry farm of Louis G. Smith family, northern North Salem Road, in 1920s, 30s, specializing in white leghorns; later riding school of Ada Phair and then home of George B. Leeman (*q.v.*) family.[DD17]; said to be named for limestone rock outcropping overlooking Titicus River valley, says Paul Biagiotti [OR]

**Influenza:** The “Spanish flu” epidemic of 1918 infected 115,000 in the state, killing nearly 9,000. First Ridgefielder to contract this disease may have been young Edward M. Roach, described by RP as “a traveling auditor, employed by the New Haven road [railroad].” He had come home from Boston, “feeling ill,” Sept. 13, and by Sunday he was bedridden with pneumonia and on Sept. 19, he died. Many others died — as many as seven in one week. Although the Danbury Fair was cancelled, school continued as usual; there were also bond rallies and other large-group gatherings. By the end of March, about three dozen Ridgefielders had died of pneumonia or influenza; many more had been ill. [SHJ April 2020]. *In December 1945*, a flu outbreak had as many as 25% of students absent from classes. *December 1968:* The Hong Kong flu hit town, jacking up school absentee rates to as high as 12% a day, compared to the normal 5%. On Oct. 15, 2004, in a year when vaccine was in very short supply, 500 older Ridgefielders lined up outside the Visiting Nurse Association to get a flu shot. *May 18, 2006:* The town’s Emergency Planning Committee met to consider “what happens in case of an avian flu pandemic.”

**Ingersoll, George Pratt** was a diplomat, former ambassador to Siam (Thailand) who lived at 20 West Lane in what is in 2019 Bernard’s restaurant.

**Ingersoll, Jonathan (II)** (1747-1823), a Ridgefield native and son of Rev. Jonathan Ingersoll (*q.v.*) became a respected political leader in the state, overcoming a handicap. A lawyer, he graduated Yale in 1766, served as a Superior Court judge, 1798-1801 and 1811-16, and as

lieutenant governor of Connecticut, 1816-23; was also elected a congressman from Connecticut, 1793, but declined the job before being sworn in. "He was marked by a nervous twitch of the face, which usually signalized itself when he began to address the jury," Goodrich said in his *Recollections*. (He probably had blepharospasms.) His son Ralph became a congressman, minister to Russia, mayor of New Haven; son Charles, a U.S. District judge; daughter Grace, married French gentleman Pierre Grellet, moved to France and became a celebrity in the court of Napoleon; grandson Colin was a congressman and grandson Charles was governor of Connecticut. [WWW]

**Ingersoll, Rev. Jonathan**, (1713-1778), a native of Derby, was the second minister of the First Congregational Church. A 1736 Yale graduate, he came to Ridgefield in 1739 and served until his death. "He is described as a man of brilliant intellect, of great strength and force of character," said Rockwell. He was chaplain in the town's militia and, during the French and Indian War, volunteered as a chaplain with Connecticut troops — including 22 Ridgefield men — serving around Lake George and Fort Ticonderoga. In 1761, he was invited to preach before the General Assembly on Election Day. He married Dorcas Moss of Derby. Two of their daughters married Revolutionary War officers: **Abigail**, to Capt. David Olmsted (*q.v.*), and **Anne**, to Lt. Joshua King (*q.v.*). He also owned a slave, Cyphax (*q.v.*), whom he eventually freed. [WWW]

**Inglese, Oswald "Ozzie"**, a native of Argentina, was Ridgefield's town planner or "planning director" from 1972 to 2003, one of the longest-serving administrators of the town in the 20th Century during a period of major growth, especially commercially, in the town. Came here in 1972. He wrote the Inland Wetlands Regulations in 1974 and became the wetlands agent for the town. named 1998 Professional Planner in CT by American Planning Association. [NR]

**Ingeside**: Country home of George Pratt Ingersoll (*q.v.*), now Bernard's Inn, on West Lane. Probably a pun on his name. His main home for much of his life was in Stamford.

**Ingold, William F.**, (-1938) owned a large estate on West Mountain Road, later Innisfree. In 1931 he was listed as owning a motor yacht that required a crew of 14 people. He was one of 23 partners for Pinchon & Co., described as "one of the largest financial houses in the country" in [NYT4/25/1931] that was largely involved in the theater and film industry. It ran into serious financial troubles in 1931 during the Depression.

**Inkster, Dr. Evelyn Rogers**, (1900-1987), native of Massachusetts, earned an MD from Cornell in 1932, and was a pathologist in NYC. She practiced here as Dr. Rogers with her husband, Dr. James Henry Inkster (*q.v.*), from 1944 until 1960, at first in a house that once stood next to the library (later home and office of Dr. James Sheehan) and later in a house at 114 Main Street. [P7/30/1987]

**Inkster, Dr. James Henry**, (ca 1900-1985), was a Ridgefield general practitioner from 1940 until 1960 with his wife, Dr. Evelyn Rogers Inkster (*q.v.*), a fellow Cornell Medical School graduate. He was active in St. Stephen's Church. [WWW]

**In Name Only**: Movie starring Cary Grant and Carole Lombard, released in 1939, is set in Ridgefield; opens with the Ridgefield sign. About a young artist summering here who falls for a man trapped in a loveless marriage to a gold digger (Kay Francis).

**Inn, The:** (1) Original name of hotel at the south end of Main Street, operated until 1903 by artist Charles Roswell Bacon (*q.v.*) [P5/7/1903] *see* Ridgefield Inn; (2) In the 1950s, 60s, shortened name of Inn at Ridgefield, 20 West Lane; Bernard's (*q.v.*) in 2019.

**Inn at Ridgefield:** Restaurant at 20 West Lane, so called mostly in the 1960s to 1980s when owned by Henry Prieger. Prieger sold to Rainer Kuhnt and Johannes Brugger (*q.v. each*) in December 1986. [P5/28/1987, P10/29/1987] *See also* Bernard's and Tode's Inn.

**Innisfree:** Longtime home of Dr. Patrick and Veronica Neligan; formerly Greywacke (*q.v.*); razed ca. 2017.

**Inside Out,** a theatrical-style group that lets young people act out extemporaneous dramas about the problems they face -- such as drugs, alcohol, school, peer and parental pressures, founded in 1985 by Ruth Leibowitz (*q.v.*). She retired in 2011 from directing [P11/23/2011] and it faded out after that. [NR]

**Intermission:** Hair salon opened Jan. 17, 1981 where Ye Olde Washtub was at Grand Union Shopping Center, operated by Patricia Tallman, Laura Mancini, and Edward Gotthardt. [P1/15/19881]

**International Business Machines:** *See* IBM.

**Ippoliti family:** *See* Edgardo Eppoliti.

**Iradell Farm:** Established late 1940s by Consuelo Vanderbilt Earl (*q.v.*) on 27 acres along Old Oscaleta Road; focused on exotic animals and fowl from around the world; name comes from name of Earl's daughter, Iris, and Earl's memories of the "dells" on her family's Long Island estate [WWW]

**Ireland, Barbara,** was elected Ridgefield's state representative on the Democratic ticket in 1986, (defeating Jan Johns); served 1987, 1989, 1991 and 1993 terms. She lived at 75 Hunter Lane until moving to Sherman in the late 1990s. She was the first woman member of the Ridgefield Rotary Club.[P7/17/1986, P2/7/1991] [NR]

**Iron foundry:** Operated by Thomas Couch and Ebenezer Burr Sanford (*q.v.*) in the first half of the 19th Century on Norwalk River at what is now the Moongate (*q.v.*) property at Route 7 and Florida Hill Road. Said to have been the only foundry between the Hudson River and New Haven. Turned pig iron into tools, including plows, and even manufactured a cannon. [RIR] *See also* Couch's Station and Iron Works.

**Iron Works:** 1. Deeds in the late 1700's and early 1800's mention the "Iron Works," a short-lived operation by Timothy Keeler Jr., Nathan Dauchy, and Elijah Keeler near Lake Mamasasco whose waters it used; work on it began in 1789 along stream from Mamasasco to Titicus River just east of Route 116 bridge opposite Craigmoor Road; by 1797, it was gone; probably converted iron ore to pig iron. Whether various implements were then manufactured from the iron at that location is unknown. The source of the ore is unclear, although iron ore is known in Ridgefield; a map of Connecticut, drawn by Samuel Huntington in 1792, bears the legend "Iron mines" in a section of Ridgebury north of George Washington Highway and along Briar Ridge Road; may have ceased operation because of difficulty in getting ore, or fuel for furnace; or competing iron works (*see* 2.) at Starrs Plain ran the Ridgefield operation out of business; 2. Ridgefield land records mention an iron works at Starrs Plain in Danbury that received its water supply from Ridgefield. In 1792, Benjamin Sellick of Danbury leased Eliakim and Abijah Peck of

Danbury eight acres in Ridgefield “at Bennits Farm or Pond... for the purpose of raising a dam across the stream that leads to said iron works and save the water for the use of said works during the term of five years.” The works probably stood on or about the pond that still exists along Route 7, opposite Bennett’s Farm Road just into Danbury. [RN] *See also* Iron Foundry.

**Ives Trail** is a 20-mile-long public hiking path from Ridgefield, through Danbury and Bethel, to Redding, named for composer Charles Ives, a Danbury native who later lived in Redding and who reportedly had a shack on Pine Mountain (*q.v.*), which he would visit for inspiration. *See also* Liebowitz-Knapp Preserve, Hemlock Hills.

**Irving Oil Corp.:** Limestone Service Station (*q.v.*), owned by James Giardini, began selling Irving gasoline and products June 2006; had been Texaco.

**I Saw A Man Die**, famous 1962 letter about charcoal fire-starter fluid, sent to *The Ridgefield Press* and then widely circulated by *Reader’s Digest* and others, written by Donald Hanson (*q.v.*).

**Ishmael** was born a slave in Ridgefield in 1739, belonging to Gamaliel Northrop. By the 1770s he ran away from at least two owners and eventually became a free man, reportedly living in Norwalk under the name Samuel Demorat. [JFS] *See also* Michael Dimorat.

**Island, The**, was a shortened form for Grassy Island (*q.v.*), the area along Danbury Road roughly from Copps Hill Common north to the southern entrance to Fox Hill condominiums; term used as early as 1709. The area was called an island because it was almost surrounded by swampland in the 18th and early 19th Centuries. Much of the swamp has since been filled in, particularly on the south and west sides of the Island. [RN]

**Island Bridge:** Mentioned in deeds as early as 1717, Island Bridge now carries Outpost Road (*q.v.*) over the Norwalk River near the south entrance of Fox Hill condominiums. Outpost Road is an abandoned section of the old Danbury Road. The bridge brought the Danbury Road across the river, also called Ridgefield Brook, as the stream came out of its source, the Great Swamp. It connected the north end of Grassy Island to the south end of Great Island (see also Island River). Term fell out of use in the 19th Century. [RN]

**Island Hill:** Island Hill along lower Danbury Road overlooked “the Island” (*q.v.*). In fact, it had views of both Grassy and Great Islands (*q.v. each*); term Island Hill first appears in 1820 deed.

**Island Hill Avenue:** Conrad Rockelein (*q.v.*) subdivided Mountain View Park on Island Hill in 1910 and by 1927 had named one of its roads for the hill.

**Island Meadow:** A 1743 will mentions land at “Island Meadow.” and continued to be used into the 1800; located on the bend of North Street where it curves just before meeting Barlow Mountain Road; appears to have been about 10 acres. This area may have been earlier known as Turkey Island or Jug Island (*q.v. each*) and Island Meadow may have been the last remnant of those names. [RN]

**Island River:** Deeds in 1747 and 1891 for a house “near Island Bridge” described the parcel as bounded on the north by “the Island River.” This was the Norwalk River, also called the Ridgefield Brook (*q.v.*) or Cornen’s Brook (*q.v.*) in this area, and it was so called because it separated Grassy from Great Island (*q.v.*). [RN]



**Italian immigrants, first:** James Costanzi maintained his grandfather, Esperanzio Sorcinelli, was the first Italian immigrant in Ridgefield, ca. 1887. [Impact, DD68] But DD48 said Benvenuto Carboni and John Christopharo were two of the first four in 1902. General agreement that Benvenuto and Assunta Carboni and their children were first family.

**Italian-American Mutual Aid Society:** Organization to help immigrant Italians was founded Nov. 20, 1913 as the Italian-American Political Club, Inc.; changed in 1915 to the “Italian American Citizens Political Club and Mutual Aid Society of Ridgefield, Connecticut, Incorporated”, then on Jan. 14, 1926, to the current name; often abbreviated IAMAS. In 1926 society purchased land at 32 Prospect Street and built a hall, opened Jan. 29, 1927. [RIR] Famed locally for annual September “Field Day” which included Italian foods and games such as bocci; also noted for separate monthly dinners, open to the public, for men and for women — ended June 25 & 27, 2007 when society, due to dwindling membership, decided to lease its main floor and banquet hall to Nature’s Temptations, a health food market; lower level still used as society clubhouse. [JFS]

**Italian American Political Club:** Organized in 1913, later becomes the Italian American Mutual Aid Society (*q.v.*)

**Italian Club:** Informal name for the Italian-American Mutual Aid Society (*q.v.*).

**Ivanhoe Farm:** Early (ca. 1930 and before) name for the farm, developed by William Mead, that later became the Flat Rock House estate. [Palmer, P9/25/1941]

**Ives, Charles:** The American composer may have used Ridgefield land for inspiration — *see* Ives Court.

**Ives Court:** Short, dead-end road off Pine Mountain Road, part of a subdivision of 11 lots by Nancy Purdy of Norwalk. Name was suggested by the Conservation Commission to recall the family, from which the commission had recently obtained 12 acres of open space to the east of the Purdy land. The Ives piece connected two large holdings of town-owned open space – Hemlock Hills and the Pine Mountain refuges, totaling more than 500 acres – and thus was a valuable acquisition. The Ives property is also significant because it is said that composer Charles Ives, a native of Danbury and resident of Redding, used to seek inspiration by visiting a family-owned cabin on the property. [RN]

**Ivy Hill:** Reaches an elevation of about 760 feet above sea level, northeasterly of the intersection of Ivy Hill and Florida Hill Roads on the lower end of old Hawley’s Ridge (*q.v.*); “summit” is at the intersection of Standish Drive and Revere Place. Term first appears in a 1797 deed; area was long known for its ivy. [RN]

**Ivy Hill Road:** An old route from town to the Ivy Hill neighborhood in Farmingville; runs from Branchville Road to the junction of Blackman and Lounsbury Roads; so called at least by 1919 when the name appears on a property survey map filed in the town clerk’s office. The road dates back to the 18th Century. [RN]

**Ivy Swamp Brook:** Deeds from 1838 and 1844 mention on the south end of Lake Mamasasco, probably the brook that flows out of Turtle Pond (*q.v.*) down the side of Titicus Mountain into the lake. This waterway may be the Punch Brook (*q.v.*). **Ivy Swamp** may have been what is now called Turtle Pond, a man-made pond that could easily have been a swamp back then and is gradually reverting to swamp today. [RN]

## J

**Jack Slack** was a 1970s Ridgefield-based band featuring Emmett Halliday on keyboards, James T. Halliday on sax and James McCarty on guitars, specializing in “rockin’ blues.”  
[OR7/14/2021 John Hallenborg]

**Jacklin, Robert Jr., (1715-?)**, was an early land-owning African-American resident of Ridgefield. Son of a recently freed slave, he was among the first settlers of the New Patent (*q.v.*) section of upper Ridgefield, buying 74 acres there starting in 1745. At least two of his sons, Ebenezer and Thaddeus served in the Revolution, and another son, Daniel, probably also served (*q.v. each*). Robert is last reported on the town’s assessed property list in 1781. He was the brother of Samuel Jacklin (*q.v.*), who settled in southern Ridgefield. [JFS]

**Jackson, Barbra B.**, was writer, producer and host of the TV show, “House Dressings,” carried on PBS in the 1980s; she interviewed architects, designers, interior decorators. She lived on New Street and had a career in advertising. She also wrote Western novel, *The Gingham Gunslinger* (1975). [P8/6/1987]

**Jackson, Ephraim**, sold his house and grist mill on Florida Hill Road and Route 7 (then just Redding Road) to Ichabod Coles in 1752. [RLR 4/27-31] On or about the site of Moongate (*q.v.*).

**Jackson, Fielding V.**, (1884-1962), son of Richard A. Jackson (*q.v.*), lived at Anascote (*q.v.*) at Main Street and King Lane and was a Yale-educated stockbroker, member of NY Stock Exchange, and active in St. Stephen’s Church. Wife was Julia Tower Jackson. [RN] *See also* Jackson Court.

**Jackson, Richard Arbuthnot**, (1858-1934), native of Indiana, came to Ridgefield in 1916, buying King family estate as a summer place, which he called Anascote (*q.v.*). He had been a railroad attorney and executive. He once headed the Rock Island Line and at his retirement in 1916, had been vice-president and general counsel for the Great Northern Rail Road. At Anascote he installed the fancy stonewall still surrounding the property. Locals called him “Stonewall” Jackson, partly in humor because he built the stone wall now surrounding Anascote, and partly to distinguish him from another well-known Richard Jackson — a teacher at the Ridgefield Boys School. Wife was Anna Scott Jackson. After his death, son Fielding A. Jackson (*q.v.*) moved into Anascote. [RN] *See also* Jackson Court. DD81 has a report of hobos visiting the Jackson house.

**Jackson Court**: Short, dead-end road off the north side of King Lane with handful of house lots subdivided in 1978 by Carl Lecher and Nicholas DiNapoli Jr. from former Jackson family estate, whose house sits at the corner of Main Street and King Lane (early, it was the King family estate — see Joshua King); [RN] *see also* Richard A. Jackson.

**Jacob, Sereno Thorpe**, (1896-1947), was an early airline pilot and World War I fighter pilot. He grew up in Westport, served in France in the Lafayette Flying Corps during World War I. After doing some regional airmail piloting, he joined the new Eastern Airlines, founded in 1926, and flew airliners for seven years. He retired and came to Ridgefield in the 1930s, working in real estate and becoming a member of the Board of Assessors and the building committee that expanded the “old high school” on East Ridge. He was a proponent of building the auditorium that has become the Ridgefield Playhouse. He was a member of the

Republican Town Committee, Lions Club, Last Man's Club, and the Ridgefield Defense Council in World War II. [WWW]

**Jacob Turkey:** Indian who sold land to first settlers — *see* Betty Grant.

**Jacobsen, Sascha,** (1895-1972), was a violinist; graduated Juilliard 1915 and debut recital Aeolian Hall that year; performed with many leading orchestras; often played with pianist Samuel Chotzinoff (*q.v.*); friend of Jascha Heifetz, Artur Rubenstein, and others from New York Philharmonic whom he'd invited to his home at 257 Old Branchville Road, 1937-44; moved to California, was concertmaster of the Los Angeles Philharmonic; he owned the famous "Red Diamond" Stradivarius. [WWW]

**Jagger, Joseph,** (ca. 1702-1802) bought 2.5 acres "with dwelling house ... lying easterly of Bennets Farm so called" in 1774, probably on the hill southeasterly of Bennett's Farm Road overlooking the valley of today's Route 7. Jagger came here from Redding and was in his 70's. He sold the place in 1792 for six pounds; he was about 90 years old then and perhaps moved into the village. In 1800, Rev. S. G. Goodrich called him a pauper and "an old man about 95 years, an Englishman who served under the Duke of Cumberland at the Battle of Culloden in 1745, and was in Flanders with the regiment previous to that battle," and said he "wrought jet work in cedar since he has been in this country, till he was near 80 years old and he will to this day ... sing a martial air he learned in Flanders and cry, 'God save King George.'" Samuel Goodrich, the minister's son, reported: "We had a professed beggar, called Jagger, who had served in the armies of more than one of the Georges, and insisted upon crying 'God save the king!' even on the 4th of July, and when openly threatened by the boys with a gratuitous ride on a rail." The town was supplying welfare payments of about seven shillings a week to a family to care for "Old Jagger." Town records report: "Joseph Jagger dead December 24th 1802, supposed to be one hundred years old." [RN]

**Jagger Lane:** also appearing as Jaegger and Jaguar Lane, runs from behind the Pamby Motors building on Route 7 up to Bennett's Farm Road, opposite the site of the old Fox Hill Inn, now Bennett's Pond State Park. It may have been the predecessor of the eastern end of Bennett's Farm Road, which now comes out on Route 7 in Danbury just north of the Ridgefield town line. Named for Joseph Jagger (*q.v.*). Cited in deeds as Jagger Road as early as 1817. [RN]

**Jaguar Lane:** variation of Jagger Lane (*q.v.*) appears on Whitlock's 1912 map of Ridgefield. [RN]

**Jail, town:** The town maintained a jail in the basement of the town hall during the first third of the 20th Century. "There were two cells on the north side of the jail and a larger one on the south side. A very dim electric bulb, hung in the center and provided what little light was available." [DD79]

**Jambs, The:** Peculiar name first occurs in 1775 in a deed for three acres "in the eastern part of Ridgebury Society at a place called ye Jambs." Mentioned as late as 1850 "the Jams." In 1978, Ridgebury historian Ed Liljegren wrote: "The definition of 'jam(b)' changes in various editions of Webster's from 'a thick bed of stone which hinders them (miners) when pursuing the veins of ore' (1836) to 'a mass of mineral or stone in a quarry or pit standing upright, more or less distinct from neighboring or adjoining parts.' This latter definition is

more in keeping with the root of the word, meaning a leg or support. In any case, I suspect that this is the definition the settlers had in mind. ...The most probable location was straddling what is now called Ned's Lane, which once went through to Old Stagecoach Road... If you travel down Ned's Lane as far as it reasonably passable, you can see a spectacular rock formation, which could have well given rise to the name of the Jambs.  
[RN]

**Jansen, Jane**, was state representative 1985-86; a Republican, chosen at special election Nov. 1985 to replace Martha Rothman, who resigned; chose not to run again; a former selectman.

**Janick, Dr. Herbert F. Jr.**, (1929-2018), was a professor of American history at WestConn for more than 30 years and wrote several books of local history, including (with William E. Devlin), *Danbury's Third Century: From Urban Status to Tri-Centennial* (2013).. Although he lived in Ridgefield from 1962 until his death, he was a founder of the Danbury Preservation Trust and was active in Danbury organizations. He was a member of the board of the Connecticut Humanities Council.

**Japornick's Division**: Rockwell and several town clerks incorrectly use this name for an early 18th Century proprietors' subdivision on West Mountain, misinterpreting the handwriting of Thomas Hauley (*q.v.*), first town clerk, when he wrote "Tapornick's Division" (*q.v.*), named for the Indian Tapornick. Hauley's "T" looked much like a more modern "J" in script. [RN]

**Jarvis, Rev. Samuel F.**, was rector of St. Stephen's Church from 1868 until 1873. In April 1873, vestry had a disagreement with him over the number of collections he is taking, and he left in August.

**Jaycees**: A service club founded here as Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1961 for people 18 to 35 years old, usually involved in local businesses; sponsored community events, including Teacher of the Year, and gave grants; disbanded in 1987 due to lack of residents young enough to qualify to join; used old Branchville Schoolhouse as storage and meeting place. [JFS]

**Jean's Restaurant**: Opened 1935 by Americo Ridolfi (*q.v.*) at 37 Ethan Allen Highway; became Cella's, Luigi's (*q.v.*), Cooper Tavern, 59 Bank Street (*q.v.*), La Piazza, Coco Bongo's, and in 2018, the Barn Door.

**Jeb and Dan** were a pair of young oxen, owned by the Fifth Connecticut Regiment (*q.v.*), that was used at time of the nation's Bicentennial in many parades and re-enactments; often pulled a cannon; kept by David Hebert (*q.v.*) at his home in Richardson Park; they were retired by 1980 to the Stamford Museum and Nature Center, where they were exhibited for years.

**Jefferson Drive**: Between Branchville Road and Lincoln Lane, developed in the early 1950's as part of the Washington Park Estates, by Bert Ison, who named the road after the nation's third President, who had no other connection with the town. Other roads at Washington Park Estates recall the first, second and 16th Presidents. Road was accepted by a July 1956 Town Meeting. [RN]

**Jeffro Drive**: Otto H. Jespersen (*q.v.*) and William B. Rodier (*q.v.*) modified and combined their surnames to form the portmanteau name, developed this dead-end road off Ivy Hill Road

in the 1950s. Both had worked for Outpost Nurseries. Jeffro Drive appears as Jesperson Drive on at least one (1960) map of the town. [RN]

**Jenks, Stephen,** (1772-1856), was a composer of both religious and secular music; wrote at least 10 collections of works in early 1800s; lived in Ridgefield around 1799-1800, married Hannah Dauchy, daughter of Philip and Mary Dauchy, born 1772; she died Aug. 11, 1800, age 27 [RVR]; he was a teacher of psalmody [RVR]; married second wife, Rachel Travis, 1801, in South Salem; they were divorced ca. 1806 after Jenks accused her of “scandalous behaviour”; he eventually had a farm in Thompson, Ohio, with third wife, Abigail Ross; six children. [WWW]

**Jenner, Anna:** *See* Anna Sterling.

**Jenner, William A.,** a NYC attorney, built the mansion, “Overlook,” at 35 High Ridge Avenue. [DD154] Daughter Anna (*q.v.*) married Sterling Foote.

**Jenni’s Hallmark:** Replaced Miller’s Card and Giftique (*q.v.*) at Copps Hill Plaza, September 1981, operated by Ben Daddona. [P9/10/1981]

**Jennings, Albin “Boss,”** (1790-1887), a native of Weston, was a skilled carpenter who designed and built the Big Shop (*q.v.*) and many houses here and in North Salem, including the house he built for his bride and himself that was later used for decades as the Outpost Inn (*q.v.*). [RIR] He served many terms as a selectman from the 1830s through the 1850s, and was a state representative in 1843. [JFS]

**Jennings, Charles Augustus,** (1842-1933), was a sergeant in the Civil War who was wounded at Chancellorsville, Va., May 2, 1863, and later discharged. He became a foreman at the Gilbert & Bennett wire mill, died at the age of 90 and is buried in Branchville Cemetery. [JFS]

**Jennings, Charles Edgar,** (1848-1865), enlisted in the Union Navy in 1864 when he was only 16 years old, served on two ships, and died of typhoid at Philadelphia in 1865, aged 17. He is buried in the New Florida Cemetery where his military memorial has incorrect information about him, confusing his military record with Charles A. Jennings (*q.v.*). He grew up on Simpaug Turnpike, on the Redding-Ridgefield line, and probably attended Florida School. [WWW]

**Jensen Field:** Little League field built in 2019-20 on Route 7 at Simpaug Turnpike; named for Jensen family of Main Street, a significant donor, who built the Prospector (*q.v.*) [P4/18/2019] The land is owned by the state but has been leased to the town of Ridgefield for 25 years at \$1 per year. Little League subleases the property from the town. [P8/2/2018] The site used to house Walpole Woodworkers, which moved a quarter mile to the south.

**Jerry’s Court:** Road leading into Stonehenge Estates off Route 7 when Jerry Tuccio (*q.v.*) subdivided the property, so called for Tuccio’s son, Jerry. Residents didn’t like the name and petitioned the selectmen to change it to the inappropriately named Druid Lane (*q.v.*) in 1966. Bobby’s Court (*q.v.*), named for another Tuccio son, had better luck surviving. [RN]

**Jerusalem Lodge:** Local Masonic organization; officially Jerusalem Lodge, No. 49 A.F. & A.M. (Ancient Free and Accepted Masons); founded in 1808, it is the town’s oldest non-religious organization; early meetings were in the Smith Tavern, but a Masonic Hall soon established

at 396 Main Street where it has remained more than two centuries; many civic leaders have been members. [JFS]

**Jespersen, Otto H.**, (1901-1981), a native of Denmark, came to U.S. 1924 and here 1936 to work for Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*); also had an upholstery and antiques restoration business; was president of the Boys' Club, a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, Board of Tax Review, Democratic Town Committee — 10 years as chairman; Rotary Citizen of the Year in 1969; lived on Jeffro Drive, named for him and his friend and Outpost coworker, William Rodier (*q.v.*); moved 1975 to New Hampshire to live with son, Otto H. Jr., who'd been a professional photographer here. [P21/19/1981] The Jespersen home was the former Ridgefield Electric Company (*q.v.*) power station from early in the 20th century on Ivy Hill Road. [RN] *See also* Jeffro Drive.

**Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church**: Building erected at 207 Main Street, 1967-68; consecrated May 12, 1968; replaced church at north corner of Main and Catoonah Streets, built 1841, moved back 30 feet and remodeled, 1883, razed 1964; fence that surrounded this campus was said to have 1,063 pickets [KSN]; congregation earlier called Jesse Lee Methodist Episcopal Church; named for famous itinerant Methodist preacher whose first sermon here was June 26, 1789; Limestone Class organized Jan. 28, 1790; first church built, 1824, at corner of North Salem Road and North Street (*see* Old Meeting House Tract), now Lounsbury section of Ridgefield Cemetery — it was third Methodist church organized in New England; society made a station in 1836, with first pastor, Rev. Parmelee Chamberlain; first rectory at 409 Main Street (ONS90) is now stores and offices — *see* Hackert and Monti Building. [JFS] *See also* Rev. James Coleman and Rev. George Lansing Taylor.

**Jessup, Caroline Margaret “Marrette” Starr**, a grand dame of Ridgefield, lived on Main Street; active in Boys Club, Ridgefield Garden Club; wife of Theodore C. Jessup (*q.v.*), headmaster of Ridgefield School (*q.v.*); grew up on the family estate/farm in Farmingville; interview [P6/18/1981]. *See also* Louis Morris Starr. [JFS]

**Jessup, Theodore Carrington**, (1892-1955), a native of New Jersey, was the longtime head of the Ridgefield School (*q.v.*), retiring in 1933. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Hamilton College, he was a captain in the Army during World War I; husband of Caroline Margaret Starr Jessup (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Jinx**: Nickname for Gino L. Baldaserini (*q.v.*)

**Jo's Hills**: Now part of Danbury, just north of Mill Plain, locale was in Ridgefield from 1731 to 1846; appears in Ridgefield records by the 1740's and as late as 1810. Some claimed Jo was an Indian who lived thereabouts, but Danbury historian Imogene Heireth of Danbury said Jo was probably Joseph Crane and Jo's probably comes from Jos., a common abbreviation for Joseph. Mrs. Heireth found an early reference to “Jos. Crane's Hills” in upper Mill Plain. By 1744, Crane had mills near the NY-Connecticut border. Danburians today retain the name as Joe's Hill Road. [RN]

**Joe's Corner**: The intersection of Main Street and Danbury Road (Routes 35 and 116); so called because Joe's Store (*q.v.*) was at the northeast corner for many years. *See also* Danbury Corners. [RN]

**Joe's Hideaway:** Restaurant at north corner of Grove Street and Sunset Lane in 1950s, 60s; named for Joe Pierpaoli, son of restaurant's founder, John Pierpaoli, who took over when father retired and renamed the business — *see* Corner Pub *and* Perp's.

**Joe's Package Store:** Forerunner of Ancona's Wines & Liquors operated from after Prohibition until 1962 when name changed; in the 1940s, 50s was located at 41 Ethan Allen Highway; from 1962 to 1980 (as Ancona's) at 49 Ethan Allen Highway; then to 720 Branchville Road. *See also* Ancona's Wines & Liquors.

**Joe's Store:** Grocery and food store at 622 Main Street, junction with Danbury Road, established in 1918 by Mustapha C. Joseph (*q.v.*), and in 1938 taken over by his brother, James Joseph (*q.v.*); original building moved northerly on Danbury Road, is now 3 Danbury Road; Joe's Store later became Country Corners convenience store. [RN] [WWW]

**Joffe, Louis**, (1868-1948), was a village tailor whose shop was on the first floor front of the Masonic Hall, 396 Main Street. [DD89]

**Joffe Cottage:** Summer home of R.E. Curtis on Main Street in [P7/20/1911]

**Johns, Glynis**, (1923- ), a native of South Africa, is a retired "British" actress who is one of the last survivors of the Golden Age of Hollywood. She created the role of Desiree Armfeldt in *A Little Night Music* on Broadway, for which she won a Tony Award and in which she sang "Send In the Clowns," composed by Stephen Sondheim specifically for her. She is also well known for playing Winifred Banks in Walt Disney's movie, *Mary Poppins*. She also appeared in many TV series. Johns had a condominium at Casagmo from ca. 1981 into the 1990s. Interview [P4/12/1990]

**John's Pond:** North of Branchville Road between Cooper Road and Stony Hill Road, is old mill pond on the Cooper Brook (*q.v.*), created thereabouts around 1751 to supply water power to the saw mill of Benjamin Hoyt (or Hayt, Haight), operated by the Hoyt family well into the 19th Century; an 1866 deed indicates the pond then was called simply "Saw Mill Pond." Modern name came from Norman John, who reportedly repaired the old dam or built a new one in the 1930's and created a new and larger (about six acres) pond. (In 1977, the president of the John's Pond Association of neighboring landowners was Mrs. John Norman!) The pond shore was the site of a camp in the 1930's. For many years, Dr. Alice Paul (*q.v.*), the suffragist, owned much of the pond shore. [RN] The state ordered the dam repaired in 1987 [P8/27/1987]

**Johnny Gelato:** Ice cream shop at 424 Main Street, closed Dec. 21, 2018, after several years in business. [P12/20/2018]

**Johnson, George I.**, (-1940) was Ridgefield's first telephone operator in the 1890s, working his switchboard in a small building on Governor Street, behind today's Wells Fargo Bank, and later in the "Telephone Building" on Main Street (*q.v.*). He was also the town's telegraphy operator for 34 years and carried on a watch and clock repair business when people weren't calling and sending Morse. He was also one of the first Ridgefielders to own an automobile: A one-cylinder 1903 Rambler Runabout. [P2/22/1940]

**Johnson, Philip**, the noted 20th Century architect, designed the Schlumberger Research Center Administration Building, his first non-residential building. It was completed in 1952 and restored in 2018-19. Annette Schlumberger and Henri Doll commissioned it after a visit to Johnson's recently completed Glass House in New Canaan. The single-story rectangular

steel-glass-and-brick building consists of perimeter offices organized around a central core that contains an open-air landscaped courtyard, glass enclosed conference room and library.

**Johnson, Rev. Samuel**, (1696-1772), was an early itinerant Anglican missionary who is credited with helping establish St. Stephen's Church in 1725, but who went on to help establish what is now Columbia University in NYC. He has been called "a key figure of the American Enlightenment." [WWW]

**Johnson, Will**, (1916-1984), a native of Georgia, was a cartoonist who drew gags for Saturday Evening Post, Liberty, and other major magazines, and also assisted Ernie Bushmiller with the daily "Nancy" comic strips, published in most newspapers in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. He lived on Hobby Drive from 1955 to 1983. By 1979 Bushmiller started to suffer from Parkinson's disease and left his franchise to Johnson, who did the daily comic, and another cartoonist who did Sundays. In the 1950s he shared a studio in NYC with Ridgefield artist Franklin Lischke (*q.v.*), and was active in the Rotary Club. [7/12/1984] [JFS]

**Johnson Hill**: Locale mentioned in 1858 deed, possibly around Grove Street or along southern North Salem Road [RN]

**Johnson's Pond**: A pond off the east side of lower Wilton Road East in the early 20th Century. [RN]

**Jones, Czar**, (1789-1869), a Ridgefield native born on the Fourth of July, was a woodworker with the Brush, Olmstead and Company (*q.v.*) carriage factory in the Big Shop (*q.v.*), of which he was an owner. His house still stands at 188 Main Street. He was a veteran of the War of 1812 and served several terms as a selectman in the 1830s and 40s. A state representative in 1837 and 1838, he was the father of State Rep. Ebenezer Jones. [JFS] *See also* Jones Hall.

**Jones, Daniel**, (1770-1835), was a founder of the Jerusalem Lodge of Masons in 1808 and served as a state representative in 1810 and 1814. [JFS]

**Jones, David L.**, (1857-1917), was a farmer in Farmingville in the early 20th Century. His spread, called Walnut Grove Farm, is now a subdivision of that name; the name was later used by a dairy run by the Stolle family. [RN] [P11/6/1917]

**Jones, Ebenezer**, (1822-1889), was a "carriage man" — a partner in the carriage factory in the Big Shop and later operated a boarding house. He lived on Main Street and was a Republican state representative in 1858. He was a son of State Rep. Czar Jones (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Jones, Edward**, (?-1779), a native of Wales, lived in Ridgefield when he was arrested in 1779 as a Tory spy and soon executed at Gallows Hill in Redding. The manner of his execution has evoked much debate; some had reported that 12-year-old boys were forced by General Israel Putnam to pull the ladder from Jones's feet while others say the claim is untrue. [WWW]

**Jones, Fred B.**, (ca. 1907-1999), was among the last of Ridgefield's farmers but was better known as a dog warden, called by a NY newspaper, "the best darned dog warden in Connecticut"; he held the post in the 1950s and 60s. Lived on Lounsbury Road. Also an expert lapidary who operated Fred's Gem Den. [WWW]

**Jones, John "Jack,"** (1917-2012), was a popular state police lieutenant and longtime Ridgefielder. In his younger days, he was an assistant clerk at Hyde's Liquor Store (*q.v.*)



[DD96]. He served at Troop A (*q.v.*) from 1943 to 1959 and became commander of Troop I in Bethany. [P2/2/2012]

**Jones, John**, (1739-1817), was a lieutenant in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. He was state representative in 1807 and 1808. "John Jones, a farmer of the town of Ridgefield, where his birth occurred, and of whom it is said that he was the first man of the locality to offer his service to the Colonial Government at the inception of the war of the Revolution, in which he enlisted and served valiantly, becoming a lieutenant. He was of Scotch origin on his father's side." [CBRFC]

**Jones, Keith Marshall III**, was the first president of the Ridgefield Historical Society. A former advertising executive is also the author of two books of Ridgefield history, *The Farms of Farmingville* and *Farmers Against the Crown* (*q.v. each*), as well as other books of early American history. He now (2020) lives in Arizona.

**Jones, Timothy**, (abt. 1824-1901), was a farmer who was a Whig state representative in 1854.

**Jones Hall** was on the second floor of the Big Shop (*q.v.*) on West Lane at Main Street and was the scene of many lectures and other gatherings in the mid-19th Century. Hannibal Hamlin, vice president under Abraham Lincoln, once spoke there. It was probably named for Czar Jones, one of the owners of the building.

**Jones Pond**: existed early in the 20th century along Farmingville Road, opposite New Road, serving watering needs of livestock on Walnut Grove Farm (*q.v.*), owned by David L. Jones (*q.v.*). Pond was also a source of "bog hay" and of ice for refrigeration. Dam broke years ago, but the land is now open space. [RN]

**Jones Ridge**: Cited in the land records as early as 1789, apparently near the intersection of Branchville and Rockwell Roads, where the Jones family had land, at least from the Revolutionary period. Ebenezer Jones was living thereabouts in 1789. Benjamin Jones had land there in 1838, the last mention of the name in land records. [RN]

**Jones, Slawson & Co.** was a 19th Century hatting shop, the largest in town, located on Catoonah Street. The name also appears as Jones, Slawson & Betts. [RIR, CBRFC] In 1848, the partnership of Jones, Slawson & Co. dissolved after Jesse B. Slawson and Aaron Betts withdrew from the firm, leaving only Russell Jones. [Norwalk Gazette, 2/16/1848]

**Jorgensen, Janel**, won an Olympic silver medal when she was part of the U.S. women's 4x100 medley relay team that finished second in Seoul in 1988. She was RHS 1989. [NR]

**Joseph, Mustapha C. "Michael"**, (ca.1890-1938) and **James "Jimmy Joe,"** (ca. 1881-1972) natives of Lebanon, operated Joe's Store (*q.v.*) for more than a half century. M. C. Joseph, a native of a part of Syria that is now Lebanon, opened "Joe's Store" in 1918 at what was then called Danbury Corners. He operated the business until his death in 1938 at 48. His brother was much longer-lived. James, who had had a store in Georgetown, took over and owned the place until his death in 1972 at the age of 91. The intersection there as long been known as Joe's Corner. [RN, WWW]

**Journalists** who lived in Ridgefield include: Howard Blum, Frank Gibney, Huntington Gilchrist, Richard Kluger, Clare Boothe Luce, Henry Luce, Hugh Mulligan, Mike McIntire, Karl S. Nash, Donald I. Rogers, Cornelius Ryan, Anthony Scaduto, John Scott, Robert Lewis Taylor, John Neville Wheeler, Mildred Gilman Wohlforth, Lee B. Wood, Peter Wyden.

**Judges Lane:** Private road in a small subdivision developed in 1974 off Rockwell Road by Carl Lecher, who named it for Judge Joseph H. Donnelly (*q.v.*), who once lived on the property. Judge Reed F. Shields lived nearby. Both had been Probate Court judges.

**Julian, Alexander,** (1948- ), one of the nation's leading designers of both fashions and furnishings, has had a home at 323 Florida Hill Road since 1988. [NR] Had earlier been the estate of Charles Bluhdorn (*q.v.*). The 29 acre estate is 6,043-square-foot custom shingle style home designed and built in 1994 for the Julians by the late architect John Marsh Davis. Estate includes a 3,346 square foot guest house/design studio built around 1900. It was on the market in 2020 for \$5 million.

**June, Lewis,** (1824-1888), a native of North Salem, was a circus executive who lived on North Salem Road; his house is now on the National Register of Historic Places. He partnered with Aaron Turner in a circus in the 1850s but wound up a co-owner with P.T. Barnum and others of Barnum and Bailey Circus. He was always a specialist in promotion and techniques for advance publicity. [WWW]

**Junior Grange:** *See under* Ridgefield Grange.

**Junior Police Academy** teaches young people about the work of the Ridgefield Police Department. Shawn Platt (*q.v.*) founded the partnership between the department and the Boys and Girls Club in 2002. [P9/16/2021]

**Juran, Joseph,** (1904-2008), native of Romania, was an acclaimed quality control expert and author of 16 books, including the popular *Quality Control Handbook*; taught at NYU; founded 1979 in Wilton The Juran Institute, devoted to quality control; lived on Old Branchville Road 18 years, moving to retirement home ca. 2002; he and wife Sadie were married 81 years. [WWW]

**Jurgensen's Ridgefield Radio:** Radio shop in 1950s at 448 Main Street (ONS141) whose awning also said "sports goods"; it also carried auto supplies; in 1950, was Kremer's Radio Service. "If your blood-pressure and time are worth anything at all to you, bring your radio or television set to us here at Kremer's for the best in repairs. When the job is done here, it STAYS done," says a 1950 advertisement.

**Justine H. Butler Tennis Courts** are the public courts east of the Yanity Gym on East Ridge. *See also* Justine Butler.

## K

**Kahn, Roger,** (1927-2020), was an author who lived at 830 North Salem Road and wrote the classic best-seller, *The Boys of Summer* (1972), about the Brooklyn Dodgers, which Sports Illustrated later ranked #2 in the top 100 books about sports. Moved here in 1971, left ca 1976. Wrote about 20 books, mostly on sports, and including novels. [WWW]

**Kaleidoscope Kids** child care center at the Ridgebury Congregational Church was established by Nan Howkins (*q.v.*) in 1997.

**Kalei-Dis-Scope:** Weekly exercise program offered by Peggy Marks, often at Temple Shearith Israel, 1976-1980s. [P9/10/1981]

**Kalogeras, Dr. Constantine "Gus,"** a native of Pittsburgh, was dean of the Ansell School of Business at WestConn in 1983 [P2/24/1983] and in 1992 became dean of the College of

Business Administration at Niagara University. He was later a professor at Florida International University.

**Kampen, Irene,** (1922-98), produced a dozen humorous novels and memoirs. *Life Without George* (1961), about her divorce, became the basis for Lucille Ball's "The Lucy Show" on TV. She lived off Danbury Road from 1954 until 1988. Her father was a prominent magician, Jack Treppel (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Kane Inn:** Restaurant (and accommodations in early years) opened in late 1930s by Chris and Page Kane in Ingleside, the former home of George Pratt Ingersoll (*q.v.*), at 20 West Lane; became Tode's Inn, Inn at Ridgefield, and in March 2000 Bernard's; Page Kane, a pianist, directed many minstrel shows at St. Mary's Parish; lived on Fairview Avenue in 1920s; a neighbor in Bryon Park, teacher Marion Green, was also a partner in the inn.

**Kaplan, Rabbi David,** a native of Arizona, began leading the Temple Shearith Israel congregation in the summer of 1982. He had been ordained in 1975. He replaced Rabbi Elizabeth Rolle (*q.v.*) [P7/29/1982]

**Kargle, George J.** (1946-1980) was Ridgefield police sergeant, killed in one-car accident on Route 35 at Buck Hill on way home from work early Feb. 26, 1980; joined department 1968; had headed police union; Marine Corps Vietnam veteran; lived in Bethel with wife and 2 sons. [JFS]

**Karlonas, Helen,** acquired ca. 1950 the Altnacraig mansion on High Ridgefield and converted it into a nursing home which she ran for many years. [DD156]

**Katchko-Gray, Deborah,** a fourth generation cantor, has been cantor of Temple Shearith Israel/ Congregation Shir Shalom, since 1999. She founded the Women Cantors' Network in 1982, a national organization of 300 members. She has recorded many songs, written the book, *Katchko Three Generations of Cantorial Art* used at Hebrew Union College, and is an accomplished embroiderer.

**Katoonah Basket Ball Club** was a woman's team founded around 1906 that was captained by Mary Linda Bradley and coached by a young Francis D. Martin (*q.v.*). Members besides Bradley included Bessie McKibben, Susie Olmstead, Lacey Odell, and Flossie Benedict.

**Katz, Dolores "Dee,"** (1924-2017), nee Pracny, was a local artist who, in 1988, was described as a "91-year-old who delivered one-liners with the precision of Jack Benny." The former elementary school teacher was in her 40s when she took up art and became a regular exhibitor at area art shows. She also taught adult education art courses. A native of NY, she was married to Moses Katz. [P12/14/2017]

**Katz, Eugene Joseph,** (1907-2000), a native of NYC, was an ad agency executive whose Katz Communications now has some 1,300 employees in 22 cities, with \$2 billion in sales. After studying at Dartmouth and Oxford, he became a reporter for the *Daily Oklahoman*. In 1928 he joined the family business, working as an advertising salesman; in 1952 he became president of Katz Communications. He was chairman of Planned Parenthood, and active in the Center for Immigration studies which annually gives the Eugene Katz Award for Excellence in the Coverage of Immigration to journalists. In 1936 he and his wife Florine bought a farm at the corner of Ridgebury and Chestnut Hill Roads, much of which is still owned by son John Katz (*q.v.*). He was a major benefactor of the Ridgefield Library as well as many other non-profits.

**Katz, John**, (1938-), a lifelong Ridgefielder who had careers in broadcasting, advertising and social work, may hold the record for volunteer public service in Ridgefield. He has been a member and sometimes chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission for more than 40 years, joining in 1979. He was a founding member of the Youth Commission (*q.v.*) in 1977, on which he served many years. He established in 1984 and has headed ever since the Ridgefield Youth Services Bureau (*q.v.*), providing low or no-cost counseling to families or individuals. He has belonged to the Ridgefield Community Coalition Against Substance Abuse for more than 15 years, and serves on many other committees and groups trying to help young people. In 1996 he was given the Connecticut Youth Services Association's Youth Advocate Award. Also involved in animal welfare, he is a founding member of ROAR (*q.v.*) in which he is still active, and a special agent for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, investigating animal abuse cases. [NR]

**Kaufman, Gert**, (ca 1918-2002 ), was an environmentalist and first chairman of the old Flood and Erosion Control Board. She was a tireless promoter of the Western Connecticut Linear Park, a trail from Norwalk to Danbury that would follow the then-planned "new Route 7" and is now being created as the Norwalk River Valley Trail, sans interstate. She was the wife of Van Kaufman (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Kaufman, Van**, (1918-1995) worked for Walt Disney, drawing animation cells, but later became a leading advertising artist whose specialty was automobiles. His advertisements in the 1950s and 60s are considered classics and works of art today. Most were for General Motors, especially Pontiac. He moved to 100 Cain's Hill Road in 1948 with wife Gert Kaufman (*q.v.*). They moved to Los Angeles in their native California in 1976. [WWW]

**Kean, Geoffrey**, of North Salem Road was a global entrepreneur and adviser to world governments. Interview: [P7/7/1983]

**Kearns, Burt**, was a Ridgefield Press reporter in the late 1970s; became an editor of The Wilton Bulletin; then in 1981 WNEW Channel 5 News in NYC, and in 1983, WNBC-TV. A few years later he became managing editor of A Current Affair, and in 1990, Hard Copy, both tabloid TV programs. He wrote the 1999 book, *Tabloid Baby*, and lives in California where he makes documentary films. [NR]

**KEB**: Name of gasoline station on Danbury Road, founded in 1931 when Warner Keeler (*q.v.*), Charles Elliott (*q.v.*) and Francis Brown bought the station from John Moser (*q.v.*); originally a Socony station; closed 1971 when Elliott retired; now Ridgefield Mobil. [DD83]

**Keefe, Bart**, (1859-1932), was a coachman for the F.E. Lewis "Upagennit" estate who refused to learn how to drive "an infernal machine" (car) and was pensioned off with life use of the house at 70 West Lane. {DD140}

**Keefe, Tammis**, (1913-60), was a noted fabric designer who lived at 174 New Road with partner, Jane Trahey (*q.v.*) from 1956 until her death. She specialized in handkerchiefs and towels; her work is in collections of MOMA, Smithsonian, and many other museums. She is buried in St. Mary Cemetery. [WWW]

**Keeler, Anna**. See Anna Resseguie.

**Keeler, Dr. Annie**: See Dr. Annie Keeler Bailey.

**Keeler, Arvilla Bailey**, (1844-1933), donated a field to the Ridgefield Base Ball Club around 1910 to use for games. The club gave the land to the town to preserve it for future generations of ball players. She was a daughter of Lewis H. Bailey of the Bailey Inn, Bailey Avenue and Bailey and Gage (*q.v. each*), and wife of attorney Samuel Keeler (1845-1932) of Main Street. [JFS]

**Keeler, Capt. Benjamin**, (ca 1762-1791), Ridgefield native, died as captain of the brig Sally, which wrecked at Eaton's Neck, Long Island, on its way to Stamford from the West Indies; buried in Titicus Cemetery; wreck helped lead to building still-extant lighthouse at Eaton's Neck in 1799. [WWW]

**Keeler, David**, (1750-1771), died tragically, according to his gravestone in Titicus Cemetery, which states: "In Memory of Mr. David Keeler Son of Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Mary Keeler who was drowned on the 12th day of June 1771 in ye 22 year of his age."

**Keeler, Ebenezer Wood**, (1840-1900), Ridgefield native, was educated at Rev. Dr. David Short's school (*q.v.*), and became a farmer, surveyor, and builder who worked on many mansions; chaired committee that built First Congregational Church, 1888; state representative in 1865 when he was 24 — youngest in Legislature; later became first selectman from 1877 off and on until 1890; lived on Branchville Road. [WWW, DD69, CBRFC]

**Keeler, George**, (ca. 1805-1882), was a popular harness-maker who lived and worked at what is now 164 Main Street. [DOJN]

**Keeler, Henry**, (1838-1862), a Ridgefield native and corporal in the Union Army, was wounded in the battle of Antietam, only six weeks after he enlisted. He died the next day, the first Ridgefielder to perish in the war. "After his brother, Silas, who was in the Army, heard of his death," wrote Anna Resseguie in her diary at the time, "he walked all the day among the graves full 25 miles and at sundown found two or three graves under an apple tree. One of these, a board at the foot told him, was his brother's." He is buried in Scott's Cemetery. [JFS]

**Keeler, Ira Smith**, (1833-1900), a Ridgefield native, was a farmer and Civil War veteran who, as a Republican, was a state representative in 1875. He died in Florida.

**Keeler, Jeremiah**, (-1853) was a Revolutionary War veteran who witnessed as a teenager the Battle of Ridgefield and then enlisted in the Continental Army. Soon after he was selected by Baron von Steuben to join the Light Infantry under the command of General de Lafayette and was promoted to orderly sergeant. "He was frequently selected for the execution of difficult and responsible duties," says Bedini. [RIR]

**Keeler, John P.**, (1824-1908), was a Ridgebury farmer who was a Republican state representative, 1899-1901.

**Keeler, John S.**, (1829-1904) was a farmer and a joiner who served as a Republican state representative in 1871.

**Keeler, Jonathan**, (1765-1847), a Ridgefield native, was a state representative in 1805 and 1806. He was town treasurer from 1812-13. Sometime after 1830 he moved to Westchester County, NY, where he died and is buried in the Friends Meeting Cemetery in Purchase, NY, suggesting he was a Quaker.

**Keeler, Mary J. Bassett**, (1901-97), a homemaker, was elected in a special election on July 2, 1959 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Robert R. Keeler (*q.v.*), her husband, on May 27 because of schedule of the General Assembly, she never had the opportunity to cast a vote; lived at 35 Nod Road.

**Keeler, Matthew**, (1756-1835) was a state representative in 1812 and 1817, and may be a veteran of the Revolutionary War. He had owned a slave named Dick to whom he granted freedom in 1782 for his long and faithful service. [Note: the Keeler family plot in Scott's (Ridgefield) Cemetery has two monuments with Matthew's name; both give the same death date, but main monument, erected later, gives a birth of 1756 while the older monument says he was 73 years old when he died, making his birth year about 1762.]

**Keeler, Mortimer Cole**, (1868-1940), was a state representative, 1927-31. He was a farmer, bookkeeper and school board member, and lived on Nod Road. His father was State Rep. Russell R. Keeler.

**Keeler, Capt. Nehemiah**, (1753-1838), served in the Revolution and operated a tavern in what was long known as the Pink House (*q.v.*) on Ridgebury Road. Rochambeau celebrated his birthday at this tavern in 1781. He is buried in Ridgebury Cemetery. [JW]

**Keeler, Col. Nehemiah**, (1790-1881), was a Ridgebury farmer who was a colonel in the Connecticut Militia, and a state representative in 1846. He was the grandfather of Annie Keeler Bailey (*q.v.*), one of the first women physicians in Connecticut, and the son of Capt. Nehemiah Keeler (*q.v.*), who operated a tavern in Ridgebury at which **Keeler, Robert M.**, (1903-1959), was a Ridgefield contractor; son of Mortimer C. and Grace Keeler; was known as a local practical joker — *see* DD62 and DD63.

**Keeler, Nehemiah Lyman "Fuzzy,"** (1913-2005), was a Ridgefield farmer who lived and worked on the land his ancestors settled in the early 1700s along the west side of Ridgebury Road. He was the last Keeler to live there; the saltbox homestead, called The Pink House (*q.v.*), was razed in 2009. [WWW]

**Keeler, Richard**, had a small dairy farm on what is now Old South Salem Road early in the 20th Century; became part of Reginald Lewis's estate. He bought one of his barns at the Columbian Exposition, 1893, in Chicago where it was an exhibition hall. It is today a home. {DD101]

**Keeler, Robert R.**, (1898-1959), a Ridgefield native, was state representative, 1951-59; wife Mary Keeler (*q.v.*) elected to replace him when he died in office; he was a farmer, Army lieutenant colonel who served World Wars I & II; a constable, member of the Boards of Assessors, Tax Review, and Zoning Appeals; registrar of voters; active in First Congregational Church; headed Ridgefield Defense Council in WW2. [JFS]

**Keeler, Russell Benedict**, (1800-1879), was a farmer who served as a selectman and as a state representative in 1851.

**Keeler, Russell Raymond**, (1837-93), a farmer, was a Republican state representative, 1891-93. He was the father of two future state representatives, Mortimer C. Keeler and William R. Keeler.

**Keeler, Samuel**, (1845-1932), a Wilton native who was sometimes called "Lawyer Sam," was a longtime Ridgefield resident who practiced law in NYC. When he was 86, he was still commuting to his NYC office, reputedly the oldest commuter on the New Haven line, both

in age and length of endurance; he had started ca 1867 after graduating from Yale. Member of the school board, 1892-1912; fifth president of Ridgefield Savings Bank, 1907-32; a founder of First National Bank; one-time owner of the Ridgefield Press; a staunch Democrat. [WWW, RSB25]

**Keeler, Samuel Dauchy “S.D.”**, (1852-1926), a Ridgefield native, was a merchant and business leader. His grocery store on Main Street was a predecessor of Perry’s and Gristede’s Markets. In 1901, he built the first cold-storage warehouse in town. Owned Titicus Store and Corner Store at times. His grain and feed elevator building on lower Bailey Avenue still stands in 2020; see DD58. Lived on Branchville Road. Fire destroys his cement storehouse on Bailey Avenue [P7/4/1907] [WWW]

**Keeler, Thaddeus**, (1785-1878), was a prominent businessman who probably built the house just south of the Keeler Tavern. He served as a sort of lawyer, and was a longtime justice of the peace. He built the Corner Store (*q.v.*) at Main Street and West Lane, opposite the First Congregational Church, which was popular during much of the 19th Century and the only place prescription medicines could be bought for many years. He was a selectman in 1827 and 1829, and a state representative in 1839. (He was called Squire Thad or Quality Thad to distinguish him from “Wheelwright Thad” Keeler who lived farther south of Main Street.) [RIR]

**Keeler, Timothy**, (1695-1748), born in Norwalk, was a town clerk, selectman and representative to the General Assembly. He owned slaves; in 1734 he advertised for the return of Mingo (*q.v.*), who had run away, the earliest reference to slavery in Ridgefield.

**Keeler, Timothy**, (1764-1831), was a Ridgebury farmer who served as a state representative in 1804, 1806, 1807, 1808, and 1816.

**Keeler, Timothy Jr.**, (1748-1815), was one of the town’s most prominent citizens of his era. He purchased the house that became Keeler Tavern in 1769, opening his establishment in 1772, and it soon became a sort of inn, general store, community center, and a major stage stop. He was the town’s second postmaster, and the post office operated in the early 1800s from the tavern. He owned several retail stores, including one in Scott’s Ridge area, and had one-eighth interest in a brigantine Sally, a ship that traded with the Caribbean that eventually wrecked off Eaton’s Neck — *see* Capt. Benjamin Keeler). He also acted as a sort of attorney, aiding people with legal problems including court appearances. He served in the Fifth Connecticut Regiment during the Revolutionary War, was a selectman for seven years between 1777 and 1805, and was a state representative in 1779 and 1781

**Keeler, Warner Hoyt**. (1894-1981) was the K of KEB gas station (*q.v.*), started the station in 1932. When Mobil took over in 1946, he moved to Vermont, then Florida; was first paid driver for the New Canaan Fire Department [P10/8/1981]

**Keeler, William H.**, (1949-1969), was Army SP4 in Vietnam March 24, 1969 when he was killed in an accident involving removal of a mine; grew up on Cooper Hill Road, attended RHS; son of Robert and Frances Keeler. [NR]

**Keeler, William Raymond**, (1866-1941), a Ridgefield native, was a longtime real estate agent and co-founder in 1941 of Keeler & Durant (*q.v.*), real estate and insurance firm; a Republican, he was state representative 1939 until death in 1941 while in office. His father was State Rep. Russell R. Keeler. [NR]

**Keeler and Durant:** Real estate and insurance firm, established as Adams and Keeler in 1892 created May 1, 1941, when George M. Durant retired from broadcast radio school in Manhattan became the partner of William R. Keeler (*q.v.*), veteran real estate salesman; long headquartered at the south corner of Main and Governor Streets, starting in March 1945. Fred P. Montanari bought the business in 1960. In 1987 it merged with A.J. Carnall Inc. (*q.v.*) [P8/6/1987, P9/24/1987] [JFS]

**Keeler Close:** A private lane at Casagmo (*q.v.*), by the apartments' developer David L. Paul to recall an old Ridgefield family; Casagmo had first use of "close" as a road name in town. [RN]

**Keeler Drive:** The main road through Pleasant View Estates (*q.v.*) in northwestern Ridgebury, named the family of Nehemiah Lyman "Fuzzy" Keeler's family, who had owned and farmed this land for two centuries until around 1968 when some 200 acres were sold to Jerry Tuccio, who subdivided it. The Keeler family lived in the "Pink House," a saltbox on the west side of Ridgebury Road, opposite Shadow Lake Road. The house was built around 1735 and became a Keeler house in 1795 when the heirs of Timothy Street sold it to a Nehemiah Keeler. The Ridgebury landmark was razed in 2009, much to the consternation of the community. The subdivision also has Keeler Court and Keeler Place, very short roads. [RN]

**Keeler Lane:** Old road that apparently connected Barry Avenue below Peaceable Ridge Road to another old lane, called Bypass Road (*q.v.*). Portions of it may now be Woodcock Lane (*q.v.*). A Keeler family that lived on Barry Avenue in this vicinity as early as 1867 and well into the 20th Century. [RN]

**Keeler's Ridge:** Mentioned in the 1786 perambulation of the Wilton and Ridgefield town line; seems to have been near Silver Spring Road, perhaps below Silver Spring Park. Jeremiah Keeler had land in the vicinity in 1792. [RN]

**Keeler Tavern Museum:** In April 1966, Keeler Tavern Preservation Society voted to buy the pre-Revolutionary hostelry at 132 Main Street from Glenna and Vernon M. Welsh for \$85,000; the building had served as an inn/hotel from the 1770s until it was purchased from Resseguie/Keeler family by Cass Gilbert (*q.v.*) in 1907 [P8/15/1907]; Gilberts called it the Cannonball House (*q.v.*); they added Garden House in 1915; after Cass Gilbert's death, widow Julia built brick museum, called Cass Gilbert Memorial (*q.v.*), dedicated 1937, at 152 Main Street; for his papers and paintings, but the collection proved too large and brick building was sold as a house; in early 2016, the museum bought the brick house from the family of Dr. Robert Mead (*q.v.*) to use for offices, classes and exhibits. [JFS]

**Keenan, Cody,** a 1998 RHS graduate, was chief speechwriter for President Barack Obama from 2013 to 2017. Interview [P9/30/2021]

**Kellen Auditorium:** See Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Auditorium.

**Keller, Joseph,** who grew up in Ridgefield, is a landscaper who created the 13-acre Garden of Ideas (*q.v.*) as a free park in the early 2000s; it closed in 2019 [9/12/2019]. For an early profile, see [P10/22/1987]. He is a son of Traugot and Terry Keller (*q.v.*).

**Keller, Terry,** is a noted gardener who wrote "Gardening Guides" column for the RP for many years. She headed the Ballard Greenhouse in the 1970s, was a leader of the Green Guerrillas gardening program in Manhattan, and later started the Bronx Green-Up program



at the New York Botanical Garden. She is the mother of Joseph Keller (*q.v.*) and widow of Traugot Keller.

**Kelley, Jocelyn “Jill,”** (1928- ), was a member of the Conservation Commission, 1971-1985. In 1985 she was a founder of The Discovery Center (*q.v.*). Was school system coordinator of volunteers; married to Sidney G. Kelley (*q.v.*). Lives at 316 Florida Hill Road. [NR]

**Kelley, Sidney G.** (1926- ), a conservationist, has been on the board of the Land Conservancy of Ridgefield since 1972; president for 10 years. Honored for his service [P10/15/2015]. Married to Jocelyn Kelley (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Kellogg, Craig T.**, (1922-2005), was a member of the Police Commission for 22 years, retiring in 1981. He was an owner of the Cadillac-Oldsmobile dealership called Kellogg-Theiss (*q.v.*).[JFS]

**Kellogg, Hiram Jay**, (1850-1938), was a farmer and selectman who, as a Republican, was state representative, 1897-99. He lived on North Salem Road and at various times owned a good deal of land in town. Kellogg was a well-known member of the community, having served as a selectman in 1887 and first selectman a year later. Kelloggs date back to the mid-1700's in Ridgefield. Three Kelloggs from Ridgefield served in the Revolution. *See also* Kellogg Street. [RN] He owned a car in 1911 [P7/20.1911]

**Kellogg Street:** Runs between Mulberry Street and Ramapoo Road, does not appear on maps until early in the 20th Century, and began being called Kellogg Street by the 1930's. Name may recall Hiram J. Kellogg (*q.v.*), who owned land thereabouts. [RN]

**Kellogg-Theiss:** Pontiac, Cadillac, and GMC truck dealership at 98 Danbury, established 1955 by Harry Theiss and Craig Kellogg (*q.v.*); had been Conklin Motors (*q.v.*); building in 2020 is the Party Depot.

**Kelly, John C.**, (1895-1984), Ridgefield native and a Republican, joined the state police, 1920; led Troop A (*q.v.*) in Ridgefield from 1922-31; served as commander of the Connecticut State Police Department, 1953-55; and former chairman of the State Liquor Control Commission; World War I veteran. Was a state representative, 1961-69. [WWW]

**Kemble, E(dward) W(indsor)**, (1861-1933), a native of California, was a nationally known editorial cartoonist and illustrator. He provided the original illustrations for Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*. He was known for his sympathetic portrayal of African-Americans, and went so far as to live for many months on a Southern cotton plantation to gain greater knowledge of Blacks. He moved here around 1930 to live with his daughter on Wilton Road West, and is buried in Maple Shade Cemetery. [WWW]

**Kendall, Dr. Calvin H.**, (1817-1904), was a Ridgefield physician and dentist, 1844-ca.1900; lived and practiced at 85 Main Street, south of the Congregational Church. Dr. Kendall may have first lived and practiced in a house two blocks to the north, now the site of South Hall of St. Stephen's Church. He was the father-in-law of Marie (Mrs. John C.) Kendall (*q.v.*), an early photographer of Ridgefield and a pioneering Connecticut woman photographer.

**Kendall, Marie Hartig**, (1854-1943), was an early woman professional photographer in Connecticut; was taking photographs of Ridgefield from at least 1886 onward. She married Dr. John Calvin Kendall of Ridgefield and probably lived here for several years at the house of her husband's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Calvin Kendall (*q.v.*), at 85 Main Street. She moved to and lived the rest of life in Norfolk, Conn., where she had a photography

business. In 1904, she showed her work at the St. Louis World's Fair. She also published in 1900 a photo book, *Glimpses of Ridgefield*, with more than 100 pictures of Ridgefield in the late 1880s and 90s. [WWW]

**Kendra Court:** Off North Salem Road serves Robert Cioffoletti's 1990s subdivision of the former Bedini gravel mining and septic system waste disposal land; named for his daughter, who was two months old when the family moved from Newtown to Ridgefield in 1981. [RN]

**Kennedy, James F. "Big Jim,"** (1859-1919), a native of Scotland, was a major builder of Ridgefield mansions in the late 1800s, early 1900s, including E.P. Dutton house, Matlack (*q.v. each*). He also built North Hall at St. Stephen's Church campus [Haight] and did the stone work on the First Congregational Church. He lived at "Fort Hill" (*q.v.*) at 224 North Salem Road. [DD22] and was also a coal dealer [DD39, DD163]

**Kennels:** Major dog kennels in Ridgefield were Danelagh, Gaines Research Center, Outpost Kennels, Red Door Kennel, Waldeck Kennels, Warily Kennels (*q.v. each*).

**Kent Lane:** A short, private road, serving several homes off the east side of Main Street, between Branchville Road and the Keeler Tavern Museum, named for Milton R. Kent of Danbury who bought property there in 1945 and established the Kent Apartment House in what had been the Campbell home in recent years. He named the lane after himself. The lane was paved in 1977.

**Kerrigan, Kevin,** is a top decoy artist with a national reputation; lived on Florida Hill Road (1980) and later West Lane; grew up in Ridgefield; graduated Immaculate High School; began painting, 1977; started creating decoys, 1978, also expert at painting fish; profile [P11/6/1980].

**Kessler, Jason,** is a film editor, photographer and documentary filmmaker who with his brother **Doug** created the 2000 film, "A Thief Among the Angels: Barry Moser and the Making of the Pennyroyal Caxton Bible." Jason lived at Fox Hill condominiums until 2017.

**Ketcham Road:** off Pin Pack Road, named for Howard Ketcham, a NYC business executive, who owned a 13-acre homestead on the road from 1938 until 1944, and coined the name. [RN]

**Kiah's Brook:** Name derived from Hezekiah Scott (*q.v.*), who lived and carried on several businesses along the brook and was called by neighbors "Uncle Kiah." Kiah's Brook today flows out of Pierrepont Pond (*q.v.*), also called Lake Naraneka, which in Uncle Kiah's day was but swamp and pasture, and joins the Titicus River west of the intersection of Sherwood and Ledges Roads. [RN]

**Kiah's Brook Lane:** Developed and named by William Peatt Jr. around 1960. Peatt said part of the road, a dead-end off Ledges Road, was laid over the foundation of some building, perhaps the distillery of Hezekiah Scott (*q.v.*), or perhaps a blacksmith shop. It became a town road in 1963. [RN]

**Kiah's Brook Refuge** on Barlow Mountain Road is a strip of brookside open space, once part of the Luquer family property, purchased by the town as a school site. Scotland and Barlow Mountain Schools were built to the south. The refuge has long been used by students for environmental studies. [RN]

**Kick:** Nickname for Aaron Gilbert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roland L. Gilbert of Main Street [DD1]

**Kidder, Edward Hartwell** (1840-1921), a Harvard educated New York City business executive, bought 114 Main Street in 1915 as a retirement home, calling it “Heartstone.” Born in the North but raised in the South, Kidder was studying at Harvard when the Civil War broke out; he stayed in and supported the North while his brother George fought for the Confederacy. He hobnobbed with the national political leaders and was a benefactor of many charitable, educational and religious organizations. In 1902 his daughter’s husband, novelist and biographer Paul Leicester Ford, was murdered by his own brother, Malcolm Webster Ford, a then-famous amateur athlete. Malcolm was having continual financial problems and had reportedly asked Paul to loan him more money. Paul refused and Malcolm shot him, then killed himself. Kidder was the first on the scene, and refused to cooperate with police investigation because of the family involvement. He died at Heartstone in 1921. [JFS]

**Kiddy Shoppe:** Also called Rose’s Kiddy Shoppe, operated at 384 Main Street (ONS81) in the late 1940s and the 1950s; previously had been at 23 Bailey Avenue, operated by Rose Belardinelli. [DD68, 97]

**Kilcoyne, Marie A.**, (ca.1907-2000), a native and 1925 Hamilton High graduate, was a teacher for 50 full years, 43 of them in Ridgefield, starting at Branchville School and ending at Veterans Park. [WWW]

**Killing at the Inn, A:** Book of historical fiction; *see* George Hancock.

**Kiln Hill Lane:** A short dead-end road on the north side of Barry Avenue, recalls an old limekiln that was operated for many years near the corner of Barry Avenue and Ramapoo Road, about three quarters of a mile up the road (*see* Limekiln Hill). serves the subdivision of George and Rose Kaiser’s former poultry farm. Name was suggested by Jack Sanders after his turkey-related names (such as Turkey Ridge) were vetoed by developer Michael Futterman. [RN]

**Kimberly Court:** A dead-end road off upper Rippowam Road near the NY line, just south of Sturges Park, part of a 1989 subdivision by Joseph Mirra; 30 acres was part of former Camp Catoonah (*q.v.*) [RN];

**Kindergarten:** Began being taught in Ridgefield in 1894, established by the Ridgefield Garden Club, which operated it until 1916 when it was taken over by the public school system.

**King, Grace**, (1809-1866), was one of 10 children of Lt. Joshua King (*q.v.*) and Anne Ingersoll King, and was one of five who never married. She lived at the family homestead on Main Street with brother, Joshua Ingersoll King (*q.v.*). [DOJN]

**King, John A.**, was a descendant of Joshua King who, in the late 1800s, sold many of the lots on southern High Ridge to “summer people” who built their mansions there. See DD151 and beyond.

**King, John Francis**, (1791-1838), was a merchant and a son of Joshua King, the Revolutionary War lieutenant and early state representative. He was a state representative in 1826.

**King, Joshua**, (1758-1838), a native of Braintree, Mass., served as a lieutenant in the Revolutionary War, where he guarded the spy Major John Andre and accompanied him to the gallows in 1780. He is often called General Joshua King because after the war he held that rank in the CT militia. He came to Ridgefield in 1783 and with James Dole of Albany, bought property at 267 Main Street and established King and Dole Store at “Old Hundred”

(*q.v.*) across the street. He married Anne Ingersoll, daughter of Rev. Jonathan Ingersoll (*q.v.*), in 1784. He became the town's first postmaster in 1793 and was a state representative five terms (1789, 99, 1802, 12, 16). He was a member of 1818 Connecticut Constitutional Convention, which produced today's governing system for the state. He owned much property and interests in several industries, including a tannery at Titicus with Philip Burr Bradley — *see* Tannery Hill Road. His homestead at Main Street and King Lane remained in family until the early 1900s; the original house, burned July 28, 1889, was replaced by the current larger house of similar design, set farther back from Main Street. His descendants were prominent in town until the early 20th Century. [WWW] *See also* J. Howard King.

**King, J(oshua) Howard**, (1829-1900), millionaire president of National Bank of the State of New York, was largely responsible for development of southern High Ridge for estates after Civil War; main residence, Albany, N.Y.; built "Peaceable Cottage" (*q.v.*) at Main Street and King Lane in the late 1870s, probably moved it to High Ridge where it burned in 1903; he lived his last years in the King homestead, 267 Main Street, which he built 1890 after its predecessor burned in 1889.

**King and Dole**: General store founded in 1783 (some say 1785) by Lt. Joshua King and James Dole in Old Hundred (*q.v.*), what is now the second floor of Aldrich museum's administration building, 258 Main Street; eventually became D. F. Bedient's hardware store (*q.v.*).

**King Homestead**: Formal name of the Joshua King house at corner of Main Street and King Lane. [SR1916]

**King Lane**: The short road from Main Street to High Ridge recalls one of Ridgefield's most prominent families — *see* Joshua King *and* Joshua Howard King; so called from at least 1867 when the name appears on Beers Atlas as "Kings Lane." A 1924 map says "King's Lane," Today, the "s" and the apostrophe are both gone. A ca. 1910 postcard calls it Peaceable Street.[RN]

**King Neptune**: Popular seafood restaurant on Route 7, Danbury Road, opened 1955 by Fred Orrico (*q.v.*) and Joseph Chelednik. In 1986, the restaurant property was sold to Pamby Motors for its new showroom. Orrico family continued to operate the restaurant just south of Route 35 until 2005; in June 1980, 50 employees threw a party for Orrico and Chelednik to celebrate the 25th anniversary. [P6/26/1980]. [JFS]

**King's Ridge**: Informal late 19th Century name for High Ridge (*q.v.*), so called because J. Howard King (*q.v.*) had property there and promoted the development of the ridge for summer homes of the wealthy.[RN]

**King's Way**: Late 1979's subdivision off King Lane (*q.v.*), served by Jackson Court (*q.v.*).

**Kingswood Place**: Meaningless, made-up name for road off Ashbee Lane, developed by Finch Realty Company in 1978. [RN]

**Kinnaird, Margaret Evelyn Thompson**, (1914-2003), a native of Minnesota, created the Ridgefield Scholarship Group (*q.v.*), which oversees the distribution of RHS scholarships. She was treasurer of Ridgefield Thrift Shop, active in St. Stephen's Church, and lived on Peaceable Hill Road from 1946 until retiring to Maine in 1997; wife of Richard Kinnaird (*q.v.*) [P2/27/2003]

**Kinnaird, Richard Farrell**, (1912-2001), a native of Iowa, was an astronomer and a lens engineer for Perkin-Elmer (*q.v.*), who developed many advanced lenses for cameras, telescopes and bombsights for the military and for NASA. His discoveries began being used in World War II and he later worked on such space programs as Mercury, Sky Lab, and Apollo. He lived on Peaceable Hill Road with his wife, Margaret (*q.v.*) from 1946 to 1997. [P12/16/2001]

**Kip**: Nickname for Clifford A. Holleran (*q.v.*).

**Kirk, George Jr.**, was a civil engineer who was president and general manager of the Ridgefield Water Supply Company in 1913. He was an early owner (1911) of an automobile.

**Kitchawan**: Modern name for Cross Pond, which runs along the Lewisboro-Pound Ridge line in New York State, once the western boundary of Ridgefield before the Oblong (*q.v.*); said to be eastern boundary for the Kitchawong Indians, who roamed as far west as the Hudson River but who lived chiefly in Pound Ridge. Dr. Benn Adelmarr Bryon of Ridgefield may have first applied the name when he started the development of summer cottages or camps around the lake (*see* Bryon Avenue). [RN]

**Kitchin's map of 1758**: "A Map of the Colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island" was drawn by Thomas Kitchin in 1758 shows how Ridgefield extended through what is now western Danbury; shows town centers; uses old spellings like Ridgfield, Reading, New Millford.

**Kiwanis Club**: Civic organization founded in 1962; Robert A. Kane was first president; sponsored countless military band concerts thanks to member Jack Herr (*q.v.*); also sponsored many annual fishing derbies for kids, and horse shows; disbanded early 2000s due to lack of members. [JFS]

**Kjoller, Rev. John**, (1936- ), whose name is pronounced "Keeler," was pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church from 1968 to 2001, during which time it built its original church on Ivy Hill and Branchville Roads. [NR]

**Klavins, Uldis**, is a commercial artist who designed many book covers, particularly paperbacks; lived on Topcrest Lane with wife, Dagne, in 1980s [P6/4/1981]; lived in Michigan in 2018.

**Klopper, Bernd and Joy**, who lived on North Street from the 1970s to the 1990s, were husband and wife airline pilots, he for TWA and she, United, one of the earliest women pilots for a major U.S. airline. Son **Glenn Klopfer**, RHS 1988, also became a United pilot, and on Oct. 29, 1999, Joy as captain and Glenn as first officer made history on a flight from Kennedy to Los Angeles: The first mother-son team ever to pilot a commercial airline flight. [NR]

**Kluger, Richard**, (1934-), a journalist, author and former weekly newspaper publisher, wrote *Ashes to Ashes*, an expose of the tobacco industry, which won a 1996 Pulitzer Prize; author of other acclaimed books, including at least two National Book Award finalists; lived at 14 Main Street, 1969-76; wife Phyllis was also National Book Award finalist. [NR]

**Knap's Farm** is an old place name first appearing around 1740 and last in 1790 for the area around Ridgebury and Old Stagecoach Roads (*see* Arigideen Farm), once owned by Moses Knap. (*See also* Zack's Ridge, Double H Farm). [RN]

**Knapp, Bettina Liebovitz**, (1926-1981), a native of NYC, was a Hunter College professor and author of more than a dozen books on a wide variety of subjects ranging from French fairy tales, gambling, women, and Hebrew myths to biographies of such writers as Emily

Dickinson and Jean Cocteau. Her country home at 219 Bennett's Farm Road had been purchased by her parents, author David and violinist Emily Gresser Liebovitz, in 1936, and she bequeathed it to her sons, Charles and Albert, who gave 28 acres of it to the town (*see* Liebovitz-Knapp Preserve). She was married to **Col. Russell Sage Knapp** (1920-2012), a highly decorated WW2 bomber navigator, prominent NYC lawyer, and philanthropist. [WWW]

**Knapp, George C.**, (1882-1924), a Ridgefield native, died in office as the town's probate judge and town clerk; first elected to those offices in 1916. He had been a mail carrier and proprietor of the Corner Store (*q.v.*).

**Knapp, Joseph Lewis**, (1929-2000), a Ridgefield native, founded with brother Robert the Knapp Brothers Inc. tree surgeons. He earned two Bronze Stars in Korean War and was an expert antique car restorer specializing in Stanley Steamers. {WWW]

**Knapp Estates:** Small ca. 1979 subdivision of 10.8 acres off Topstone Road by Topstone Trading Company on land formerly owned by the Knapp family. [RN]

**Knights of Columbus**, Marquette Council, planning begins for the new council, 1897. The council is officially Marquette Council #245, Knights of Columbus. It serves both St. Mary and St. Elizabeth Seton parishes.

**Knoche, Joseph John** (1868-1949), a native of Germany, came to Ridgefield 1893 and became noted for fine stone masonry, especially the walls at J. Alden Weir's (*q.v.*) farm, now a national historic site; specialized in dry walls; did many estates including Oreneca, Sunset Hall, Le Château, Rippowam, Nydeggen, West Mountain Farm (*q.v. each*); pictured in several Mahonri Young (*q.v.*) drawings. Family has lived on Pelham Lane, sometimes also called Knoche Road (*q.v. each*). [WWW]

**Knoche Road:** Another name for Pelham Lane between Nod Road and Nod Hill Road In 1893 John and Joseph Knoche bought property in Ridgefield and Wilton along or near Pelham Lane. Joseph Knoche Sr. (*q.v.*) built the stonewalls along both sides of the road, much of which is now part of Weir Farm (*q.v.*). Family still lives there in 2020. [RN]

**Knolls, The:** *See* Ridgefield Knolls *and* Cornerstone Court.

**Knollton:** Name given by the dePeyster sisters to their home at 54 Main Street, formerly Dr. Nehemiah Perry Jr.'s house, starting in the 1890s. *See* dePeyster Street.

**Knollwood Drive**, from Bennett's Farm Road over Ridgebury Mountain to the intersection of Barlow Mountain and Old Barlow Mountain Roads, was built around 1960 by Robert Kaufman (*q.v.*) as part of his Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*). It was the first road at the Knolls, from which it derives its name. Accepted as a town road in 1968, it was originally called Topstone Drive. [RN]

**Knox, Edward M.**, (1842-1916), a native of NYC, was head of Knox Hat Company, founded by his father; was second lieutenant in Civil War where, for heroism at the Battle of Gettysburg at which he was injured, he earned the Congressional Medal of Honor (*q.v.*); bought country home, Downsbury Manor, formerly Boswyck (*q.v.*), on Florida Hill Road, around the turn of the 20th Century; entertained Mark Twain there; was called "colonel" but never attained that rank. [WWW] *See also* George Washington Gilbert.

**Knox, Robert**, (1953- ), is an artist who painted more than 20 New Yorker magazine covers, mostly whimsical. He has written and illustrated books for children. He lived on Bryon Avenue in the late 1980s and 1990s. [NR]

**Knox, Sophie Cary Bacon Storer**, (ca. 1885-1946), was a founder of the Ridgefield Garden Club and its first president; club's first meeting June 9, 1914, was in her 188 Main Street house. Mrs. Storer was a founder of the Village Improvement Society in 1899, and was active in St. Stephen's Church. She was married to Albert H. Storer (*q.v.*), after whose death she married Harry H. Knox and moved to California where she died. [NR]

**Kobler, Ruth M.**, (ca. 1923-2001), painter, sculptor and native of Scotland, graduated from the University of Edinburgh. She served with British intelligence during the war and later moved to the U.S. She studied art in Florida, lived in Weston/Westport before moving to Ridgefield on her marriage to artist Carlus E. Dyer (*q.v.*). She studied and exhibited at the Silvermine Guild.

**Koerting, Fritz** (1925-2010), native of Czechoslovakia, was president of Rodenstock USA, eyeglass manufacturer; active in community, chair of Municipal Building Committee many years; leader at St. Andrew's Church; president, Treffpunkt 68 German-American club; resident 1961 until death; home 34 Farm Hill Road. [JFS]

**Kohl's**: Discount department store in Copps Hill Plaza; opened in April 2000, replacing Caldor, which had gone bankrupt. It left town in 2021.

**Kopins, Karen**, (1961-), won Miss Ridgefield (*q.v.*) pageant in 1977, went on to win Miss Connecticut and compete in Miss America. She became a film and TV actress, starring in such films as "Fast Forward," "Creator," "Once Bitten," and "Jake Speed", and had a regular role in "Dallas" on TV. She married high school sweetheart Marc Shaw in 1990; they have four children, and live in Redding (2018). [NR]

**Kopps Mountain** is a version of Copp's Mountain, frequently appearing in the land records beginning in 1786. Copp's Mountain, named for John Copp, the man who surveyed the town and was its first town clerk, is the hill parallel to and east of North Street. [RN]

**Kores Boggs** is a version of Cores Boggs or Core's Boggs, a very old name for a locality in the Peaceable Street neighborhood, mentioned as early as the 1720's, and the spelling switches throughout the 18th Century between Cores and Kores. The writers were probably trying to spell "coarse," descriptive of the surface of the bogs or of the vegetation in them. [RN]

**Korker, Clarence "Korky,"** (1925-), is a photographer who, with wife Geraldine "Gerry" Korker (ca. 1929-2015), bought the Ridgefield Photo Shop in 1951. They retired and moved to Fellsmere, Fla., in 1991. He had been a Navy photographer and photographed many dignitaries including presidents Truman and Eisenhower. Many of his photographs are in the collection of the Ridgefield Historical Society. [JFS]

**Kraus, Hans P.**, (1907-1988), a Dachau survivor and world-famous rare book collector, owned the Taghkanic estate on Great Hill Road. He had owned one of the three Gutenberg Bibles still in private hands and whose collection included a copy of the Declaration of Independence and a first printing of the U.S. Constitution. He and wife Hanni donated much to the Library of Congress, including the Hans and Hanni Kraus Sir Francis Drake Collection of early books, manuscripts, maps, and memorabilia related to Drake's explorations.[WWW]

**Kraus, Robert**, (1925-2001), was an author, illustrator, New Yorker cartoonist, and publisher who wrote, illustrated and produced dozens of popular books for children. He and his wife, Pamela, who also illustrated at least one children's book, lived at 212 Main Street. He is buried in Fairlawn Cemetery beneath a stone illustrated with one of his favorite characters, Spider.

**Krebs, Laurie**, (1950-) is an award-winning author of children's books who lived at 570 North Salem Road (the former town farm — *q.v.*); she moved south ca. 2010. Her books include *We All Went On Safari*, *Off We Go to Mexico*, *We're Sailing to Galapagos*, and *We're Roaming the Rainforest*. She taught Farmingville School first grade for 17 years, then three years at St. Stephen's Nursery School. She is married to William Krebs.

**Krehbiel, Edward Benjamin**, (1878-1950), a native of Illinois and son of a Mennonite minister, was a professor of European history at Stanford University who changed careers and became a jewelry executive. He graduated from the U. of Kansas, studied at Harvard and in Paris, and received a Ph.D. from the U. of Chicago, where he taught before moving to Stanford. In 1919, while at Stanford, he took a job in publicity for a Sacramento department store and wound up by 1925 as merchandising manager for a major NYC department store. He soon became vice-president and general manager of Gorham, the silver and jewelry firm. He also wrote books on history and religion.

**Kremer's Radio Service**: Shop at 448 Main Street (ONS 141); 1950 ad said, "If your blood-pressure and time are worth anything at all to you, bring your radio or television set to us here at Kremer's for the best in repairs. When the job is done here, it STAYS done."

**Kristofferson, Kris**, the singer-songwriter-actor, is sometimes reported as having lived in Ridgefield, but he never did; publications such as *Who's Who* gave his address as Bailey Avenue, Ridgefield, because that's where his manager's office was in the 1970s.

**Krueger, Marthe**, (1910-2000), a native of Alsace-Lorraine, France, was an internationally known concert dancer and choreographer who performed in many of the great cities of Europe and America. She studied in Europe and came to the US in 1933 at the age of 23, and taught at leading dance schools in NYC. She established a studio on Branchville Road in the early 1940s at the Coach House (*q.v.*) and later moved to Wilton. She did many WW2 benefits and toured with the USO as not only a performer, but a photographer.

**Kruelski, Maria Kalakura**, (1920-2012), was a musician and artist who lived on High Ridge with her husband Edward, a landscaper and horticulturist, from 1960 until 1997 when she moved to Danbury. She worked in the Town Planning and Zoning office for many years. She started playing violin as a teen in a Ukrainian trio and by her 20s, performed in several orchestras on the radio in New York City. She was one of the original members of the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra, which she played with for many years. Later in life, her musical interests turned to old-time fiddling, especially Cajun and Zydeco dance music, performing in several bands throughout the East Coast and in New Orleans. She also taught origami, was a founding member of The Friends of the Origami Center of America, and also taught the art of Ukrainian egg decorating, at which she was expert.

**Krushenick, Nicholas**, (ca. 1930-1999), was an abstract artist, whose works are in the National Gallery of Art. He taught at Dartmouth, Yale, Cornell, and other universities, and also designed sets for theatrical productions. He lived on West Lane, 1967-1972. [WWW]



**Krushinski, Sarah McGraw:** *See* Sarah McGraw.

**Kuhlmann, Henry G.,** operated his “Modern Grocery Store” at 426 Main Street in the 1920s and 30s.

**Kuhnt, Rainer K.,** with Johannes Brugger, operated the Inn at Ridgefield in the 1990s. [RSD91]

**Kuzia, Leslaw “Les”,** is a cinematographer who lived in Ridgefield in the 1980s with his wife, Caroline Di Diego. He worked with Marty Stouffer on the PBS “Wild America” series. He had homes here and in Nevada.

**Kysor, Lodi Cann,** (1922-2013), a native of Louisiana, was, in November 1970, the first woman elected chairman of the Board of Education. A Democrat, she served on the board from 1966 to 1973. She was president of the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association and lived with husband Harley in the former Varian Fry (*q.v.*) house at 78 Olmstead Lane. [NR]

## L

**La Bretagne:** A French cuisine restaurant that operated from the late 1930s to 1960 on easterly corner of West and Olmstead Lanes; owned many years by Mrs. David Lindsay; popular watering hole for theatrical people, especially local summer theater crowd [RPJ7/15]; burned in 1946 or 1947, helping inspire town to have 24-hour fire department coverage; rebuilt but destroyed by fire Feb. 27, 1960; inn’s site is now three, two-family houses. [JFS]

**La Cave** was a restaurant in the late 1980s, early 1990s in the cellar level of the Big Shop (*q.v.*). Chef in 1989 was Steven Clutter. Ginny Carlotti was manager.

**Lacha Linne:** Name applied to the old Hopper’s Pond (*q.v.*), now mostly dried up, just north of the intersection of South Salem and Old South Salem Roads; Gaelic for “duck pond”; may have been chosen by Reginald Lewis, or by Robert P. Scripps, former owners; owned in late 20th Century by James and Anne Blackwell. [RN] *See also* Scripps Pond.

**Lafayette, Marquis de,** (1757-1834), officially Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier Lafayette, was a captain in a dragoon regiment when, in 1776, he, Baron de Kalb and 10 other officers sailed to help American fight for freedom. He accompanied General Washington, Col. Alexander Hamilton and others from New Jersey to Hartford in 1780. The group stopped in Ridgebury Sept. 19-20, for the night, staying at various houses and taverns near the Ridgebury Congregational Church. He was one of the members of the court which tried and convicted Major John Andre whom Lt. Joshua King (*q.v.*) had guarded. After the war, he returned to France, where, a major general, he served in many military and government positions in times of turmoil and of peace, and was once jailed for five years. In 1824, he made a triumphant return visit to U.S. and was so popular that Congress voted him a grant of \$200,000 and a whole township of land. [RN]

**Lafayette Avenue:** Runs off Copps Hill Road to Washington Street; recalls Marquis de Lafayette (*q.v.*); developed and named by the late William T. Peatt Sr. as part of Peatt Park (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Lahey Studios** sold original and reproduction sculptures and monuments on Ridgebury Road, 1960s and 70s, according to an advertising postcard. Street directory in 1966 showed John P. and Doris Lahey on Ridgebury Roadl.

**Lake Number 1, 2, 3, and 4:** When the Ridgefield Lakes were subdivided in the 1920’s, maps gave the planned, man-made lakes numbers instead of names; some are often still used in

deeds. **Lake Number One** is now called Wataba or Rainbow Lake; **Two** is a small body of water on the north side of Fox Hill Lake, just north of Bennett's Farm Road; **Three** was not developed; **Four** is Fox Hill Lake. [RN]

**Lake Road:** Small loop road off Mountain Road at the west end of Rainbow Lake, one of many private roads at the Ridgefield Lakes (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Lakeland Hills:** Subdivision of 27 lots obtained in 1954 by Harold Goldsmith (*q.v.*) for about 30 acres on the north side of Bennett's Farm Road, opposite the Ridgebury School site; includes Skytop Road, Douglas Lane, and North Shore Drive, and Lake Windwing (*q.v.*), which Goldsmith created. [RN]

**Lakers, The,** was a "hot rod club formed to promote safety" during the 1950s.

**Lakeside Drive:** Including what is probably the last dirt road in Ridgefield of consequence, Lakeside Drive is a nearly mile-long road that connects at each end to Bennett's Farm Road and runs through the Ridgefield Lakes. From its north end, it heads eastward as a dirt road, skirting the south edge of Rainbow Lake. It then crosses Cross Hill Road and becomes paved, heading southerly along the western shore of upper Fox Hill Lake and eventually ending at Bennett's Farm. At least the dirt portion is a private road, although the town provides some maintenance for public safety. [RN]

**Lakeview Drive:** Narrow private road at the Ridgefield Lakes (*q.v.*) from Great Hill Road to Highview Road generally along east shore of Fox Hill Lake. [RN]

**Lakeview Road:** (1.) In the early 1900's, applied, perhaps casually, to Tackora Trail overlooking Lake Mamanasco. (2.) For a while in the 1960's, used for Bayberry Hill Road, from Branchville Road to the loop, because it overlooked John's Pond to the north; changed to avoid confusion with Lakeside Drive. [RN]

**Lakeview Store** was on North Salem Road in Scotland District, near the north intersection of Tackora Trail and overlooking Lake Mamanasco, in the early 20th Century, operated by D. Crosby Baxter (*q.v.*).

**Lancaster, Frank Jr.,** Ridgefield native and RHS 1968, was a star pitcher and hitter on RHS teams with a combined 41-7 record and three straight Western Connecticut Conference titles in the late 1960s. A left handed pitcher, he was 19-4 in his final two seasons, striking out 229 batters in 157-plus innings with an ERA under 2.00; he batted .366. Played at Central Connecticut, graduating in 1973, when he began teaching math at RHS. He coached the boys' varsity baseball from 1975 until 2001, and the girls' varsity volleyball team for 21 seasons. Was NY Daily News Coach of the Year in 1988 and 2000. [NR]

**Lancaster, Steven Michael,** (1953-1971), RHS 1971 and son of Frank and Bunny (Bedini) Lancaster, was a top student and athlete at RHS. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, yearbook staff, Chess Club, and other organizations and had won several scholastic awards, including a Wadsworth R. Lewis scholarship and a VFW Auxiliary Good Citizenship Award. He lettered in football, baseball and indoor track and was quarterback of the 1970-71 football team. He died at 18 and Lancaster Memorial Field (*q.v.*) is named for him.

**Lancaster Memorial Field:** At Ridgefield High School, named for Steven Lancaster (*q.v.*). Field was dedicated in 1973.

**Land Conservancy of Ridgefield** was founded in 1967 as a non-profit organization to conserve open spaces and by 2020 held some 710 acres throughout town. The largest parcel is 50 acres along Silver Spring Road donated by J.T. Jackson in 1975. Some parcels are open to the public while others are not. It is governed by a 12 member board and accepts land or conservation easements from donors who may specify exactly how the land is to be used or maintained, such as with no hunting or trapping restrictions. [JFS]

**Land records:** Land records consist primarily of copies of warrantee (sales) deeds, mortgage deeds, quit-claim deeds, attachments, releases, and other documents related to the ownership of land in town. The records include many surveyor-drawn property maps. Ridgefield's land records are kept in the office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 400 Main Street. They are complete back to the town's founding in 1708 — nothing was lost to fires or the British attack in the Revolutionary War. All the records are indexed by grantor (seller) and grantee (buyer), allowing one to trace property back through many owners.

**Land types:** The surface of Ridgefield consists of 40% "hilly land of medium- to heavy-textured, slowly drained glacial till soils"; 30% "very stony or mountainous land" (useless for crops); 15% "hilly land of light-to-medium textured, moderately drained glacial till soils"; and 15% "stony, hilly land of medium- to heavy-textured glacial till soils." [Mont Morgan, *The Soil Characteristics of Connecticut Land Types*, New Haven, 1939]

**Landegger, Karl F.,** (1905-1976), a native of Vienna, was owner of pulp and paper mills around the world; said during his lifetime to be one of the richest people in the world; was friend of UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who would visit him at his 160-acre estate, Flat Rock House (*q.v.*), off Wilton Road East. [WWW] Son George has been a benefactor of town, donating among other things much of the cost of Imagination Station playground in Ballard Park. [NR]

**Landfall** was, according to a ca. 1958 real estate brochure, a 20-acre farm/estate at 336 Old Branchville Road, then owned by Celestine M. Cronin. Still exists, but with 4.5 acres. [JFS]

**Landis, Jessie Royce** (1904-72), nee Jessie Medbury, was a movie actress famed for playing mother roles (her "children" included Grace Kelly, Cary Grant, June Allyson, Tab Hunter, Anthony Perkins, Jean Peters, and Kim Novak); films included *To Catch A Thief* (1955), *North by Northwest* (1959), *The Swan* (1956);. She also wrote stage plays and did TV shows. Her autobiography, *You Won't Be So Pretty, But You Will Know More*, was published in 1954. She lived at 137 Old Branchville Road from 1966 until her death with husband, Major Gen. J.F.R. Seitz (*q.v.*); buried Branchville Cemetery. [WWW]

**Landon, Dr. Elliott,** Ridgefield's 11th school superintendent, served from 1977 to 1986, and was largely credited with building much support for the schools and better morale among staff. Later became superintendent in Westport. [NR]

**Langstroth, Dr. Francis Ward,** (1878-1962), a native of New Jersey who had been a physician on Long Island, came to Ridgefield in 1922, buying the 79-acre farm of Alexander Baylis of New York City. He did not practice medicine here and for most of his days was retired, but did raise Irish setters. He was a frequent speaker at town meetings and would sometimes deliver "fiery" orations. After he and his wife Sophia moved to Florida in the

1950's, his property was subdivided into the Scodon development that includes Langstroth Drive and Sophia Drive. [RN]

**Langstroth Drive:** extends from George Washington Highway to Sophia Drive; built in the 1960's by subdividers Carleton A. Scofield and Judge Joseph H. Donnelly as part of Scodon development; sometimes incorrectly spelled Langstroff. [RN]

**Lane, Kathleen Elizabeth** (1920-1981) was a teacher at St. Mary School from 1958 to 1968 and its principal from 1968 to 1971 when it closed. She was a president of the District Nursing Association from 1973 to 1975. A native of NYC, she had taught there before coming to Ridgefield in 1955. with her husband, Dr. John O'Gorman Lane. [P2/19/1981]

**Lantern Drive:** When Robert E. Roache subdivided Lantern Hills off Limekiln Road in 1962, he had a pair of pillars erected at the end of the road intending to put lanterns on them. He never installed them, though he did name the road for them. At last look, flower pots topped the pillars. [RN]

**Lapidus, Dr. Herbert "Buddy,"** is the man behind Odor Eaters, the deodorizing shoe inserts used by more than 300 million feet since he invented them in 1974 as a scientist for Combe Inc. He has lived on Nutmeg Ridge since 1972 and has been called "the Einstein of odor" and an "expert in odorology." [NR] [P3/24/1988] [NYT9/2/2001]

**La Petite Francaise Doll Hospital** operated by Francoise Reversade at 605 Ethan Allen Highway in 1981 and by 1983-86, at 9 Druid Lane. [P2/12/1981]. She also sold doll houses.

**Laqueur, Peter,** (1941-2003), a native of Argentina, was a financial services executive and artist who was a Marine veteran who earned two Purple Hearts in Vietnam for battle injuries. He was grand marshal of the Memorial Day Parade two weeks before his death and died on Flag Day. A resident for 27 years, he had been an executive with GE, Marine Midland Bank, ITT Consumer Financial Corp., Angram Inc, and Performance Partnership Group, which he founded. He was active in the Ridgefield Library, Save the Children, Marine Corps League and was a pilot. In 1997 he took up painting, specializing in barns, and studied extensive. He had exhibited in Ridgefield and Vermont. He was listed in Who's Who in America. [P6/19/2003]

**Larson, Dr. David H.,** was school superintendent from February 1987 until July 1988.

**LaSalle, Katharine,** who married Samuel Emlen Carpenter (*q.v.*) of Ridgefield in 1917, was a silent film star who had been John Barrymore's leading lady. As Mrs. Carpenter, she lived on High Ridge and had one child. They were divorced in 1924. [OR, DD266]

**Last Man's Club:** On March 15, 1938, 31 veterans of World War I had a dinner at Kane Inn (*q.v.*) on West Lane for the first meeting of the Last Man's Club; each March 15—the anniversary of the founding of the American Legion—members met at a table set for 31 people — when a member died, his plate was turned upside down and a toast was drunk in his memory: "To our dear departed comrade, may God and this club preserve his memory"; at 1989 meeting, Thomas Shaughnessy (*q.v.*) was The Last Man.

**Laszig, Paul and Johanna H.,** were German immigrants who came to Ridgefield in 1932 where Paul (1900-1974) owned Modern Barber Shop for 33 years. Using tips from his customers, Paul invested wisely and when Johanna (1896-1980) died, she left more than \$1.4 million,

\$371,000 of which established the Laszig Fund (*q.v.*) two years later which awards annual grants to organizations that aid the town's elderly. [WWW]

**Laszig Fund:** Charity that aids Ridgefield's elderly by providing grants to organizations that help the old; created with bequest of Johanna Laszig (*see* Paul and Johanna Laszig) in 1982; in its first 35 years, the fund has given away more than \$1 million; in 2017, The Paul and Johanna Laszig Fund for the Elderly had assets of more than \$1 million, administered by Wells Fargo [WWW]

**Latanzi, Sylvia Celia Parlato,** (1894-1990), was a longtime leader in the Ridgefield Republican Party and frequent speaker at town meetings. Husband was Julius Latanzi (1888-1967).

**Laurel Hill:** Name of estate of Cyril H. Burdette in early 20th Century and later, artist Harry Anderson on north side of Old Branchville Road, east of Nod Hill Road. [OR]

**Laurel Hill Road:** A narrow, dead-end lane running off lower Florida Road, probably developed by William Maki around 1951; name was in use by 1954. [RN]

**Laurel Lane:** Short, dead-end road off upper Route 7 connected Ridgefield with the Starr's Plain hamlet of southern Danbury, and appears in town records as early as 1828; shown as going to Starr's Plain as late as 1936 and even one 1960's map shows it as a through road, although it has not been used as such for many years. [RN]

**Laurel Ridge Health Care Center:** Nursing home opened on site of former Camp Adventure (*q.v.*) at 642 Danbury Road; operated by Athena Health Care Systems.

**Lavatori, Nazzareno "Nanny"** (1889-1980) operated ice business in the early 20th Century, cutting from Robert's Pond; in 1939, he established a restaurant on the front of his house at the north end of Main Street, later Nina's (*q.v.*), later operated by son Eugene and named for Nanny's wife.

**Laviano, William,** (1941-2002) was a special education and civil rights attorney who several times was involved in conflicts with town agencies; sued school board over censorship of high school magazine, *Lodestar* (*q.v.*) in 1988; challenged board's handling of special education cases, 1986 [P2/13/1986]; sued state for racist on-the-job treatment of a black state trooper and won a \$750,000 judgment; in 1997 he won a case against the Diocese of Bridgeport for covering up misdeeds and reassigning an abusive priest [P6/27/2002]; moved here 1970; ran for state representative as Democrat, 1972, but lost; became an attorney, 1981; residences included St. Johns Road; retired to South Carolina; daughter, Jennifer, of Sherman, became an attorney specializing in special education.

**Lawnmower Hospital:** Business as ONS12 Catoonah Street in 1949; also there in 1958, operated by Clark L. Johnson. [CD1958]

**Lawrence, Alice,** (-2008), widow of a New York City real estate developer, spent \$20 million between 1990 and 1993 building a 10,000-square-foot concrete house on Ridgebury Road at Pope's Corner (*q.v.*) to house her art collection. House includes indoor and outdoor pools, three bedrooms, and heated driveway and was designed by Uruguayan architect Rafael Viñoly. After she died, property was donated to Fairfield University, which sold it and its 11 acres plus a 3,500 square foot farmhouse, for \$2.7 million to Fraydun Manocherian, owner of New York Health and Racquet Club chain. Since then property has

been on and off the market for up to \$25 million; in September 2019, asking price was \$9.7 million. [P8/29/2019]

**Lawrence and Gillespie Funeral Home:** Operated in 1950 by Earle W. Gillespie, Edward Lawrence and Edward G. Lawrence) was at ONS147 Main Street where Smith's Pharmacy was in the 1960s; purchased by Robert A. Kane to become Kane Funeral Home.

**Lawson Lane:** A private way at Casagmo (*q.v.*), one of several named for the ancestors or family of Mary L.B. Olcott, the last resident of the Casagmo estate (**q.v.**). Builder David L. Paul picked the names from a genealogy published by Miss Olcott in 1954. [RN]

**League of Women Voters:** Organized here Feb. 23, 1923, first meeting, March 7 that year; first president was Mrs. E. J. Reed, mother-in-law of the Rev. Hugh Shields (*q.v.*); Edna Shoyer took post 1923 for 10 years; league disbanded late 1930s; resurrected 1962 by Mrs. Raymond Runyan; Helen Keeler Kallos, a member of the first league, is secretary of new one.

**Leatherman, The,** (-1889) was a vagabond dressed in 60-pound leather outfit who wandered western Connecticut and southeastern New York from 1860s until 1889, staying in caves and receiving food from friends along his 365-mile route; true name and origins are unknown; he visited Ridgebury regularly [BURR]. [WWW]

**Leavitt, Joan Loire,** (1931-2021), a native of Bronxville NY, was very active in community work, including teaching in schools, Methodist church, FISH, Thrift Shop, AFS, Founders Hall. Graduate of U. of NH. Married Robert R. Leavitt 1954. [P6/3/2021]

**Lebetkin, Glen,** was the music teacher at Ridgebury School from 1973 until 2008. Since 1999 he has been director of Danbury Center Strings at the Danbury Music Centre; violinist.

**LeBoutillier, George,** (1850-1936), was an artist who lived at 78 Olmstead Lane in the first third of the 20th Century; married to fellow artist **Isabel LeBoutillier**, who died 1955. He was an owner of the LeBoutillier Brothers dry goods store on Broadway.

**Le Château:** Restaurant and meeting center in Lewisboro, NY. *See* Savin Hill.

**Lecher, Carl,** is a Ridgefield developer whose larger projects included Quail Ridge condominiums and Turner Hill subdivision. He was a longtime member of the Police Commission. [JFS]

**Ledges Road:** Old roads, existing certainly by 1800, and probably long before, and one of the last main roads to be paved, around 1967; the ledges are the Asproom or Great Ledges (*q.v.*) on the north side of the road; called "Ledge Road" as early as 1909. [RN]

**Lee, Aaron,** (1793-1847), was a Farmingville farmer who served as a state representative in 1821, 22, 23, 29, 30, 35 and 36. He had a limekiln in Farmingville.

**Lee, Aaron W.,** (1828-96), was a farmer and first selectman. A Civil War veteran he was wounded at Gettysburg. After the war he founded Ridgefield's GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) chapter, a sort of American Legion for Civil War veterans, named for his close friend, Edwin Pickett (*q.v.*). He served as a Republican state representative in 1877 and 1880. He died in Redding and is buried there. [JFS]

**Lee, Chapman,** had a cider mill in Farmingville. [RN]

**Lee, Charles William,** (1862-1892), son of Edwin E. and Ruth Lee of Ridgefield, became owner and publisher of *The Ridgefield Press* in November 1880 when he was only 18 years old and a typesetter. That year, he was living with the family of D. Crosby Baxter, the founder

of *The Press*. Two years later, he sold the paper to William W. Whiting (*q.v.*), but remained on the staff for two years, resigning in 1884 due to ill health. He died six years later of tuberculosis and is buried in Norwalk.

**Lee, Daniel**, had a grist mill off Stonehenge Road with John Lee. [RN]

**Lee, David**, (1787-1853), a native of Farmingville district, started his career as a clerk in Abner Gilbert's store on Main Street, and went to NYC where he became a wealthy merchant. Two of his daughters married European royalty: Josephine Louise became Josephine, Baroness von Waechter-Lautenbach (*q.v.*), and Mary Esther became Countess Mary Esther von Waldersee (*q.v.*). Both visited Ridgefield in 1903. Another daughter, Abby (later Blanche), married an English Naval officer. [RT]

**Lee, Fred C.**, a member of the large Farmingville Lee clan, was first selectman in 1893. [RN]

**Lee, James Bainbridge Sr.**, (1916-1964), a native of Danbury and son of Frank H. Lee, the hat company founder, became Lee Hat president in 1950. He sold the company to Stetson in 1960. In 1927 he founded the Danbury Times, now The News-Times, and was president of Berkshire Broadcasting, which owned radio stations WLAD and WREF (*q.v.*). A resident of Wilton Road West for many years, he died of heart failure at 47. [WWW]

**Lee, James Bainbridge Jr.**, (1952-2015), son of James B. Sr. (*q.v.*), grew up in Ridgefield and graduated from Williams College. He became a major investment banker in NYC, at Chase Manhattan and JPMorgan Chase, where he was vice chairman and worked with many of the top financial leaders including Jamie Dimon. He advised on some of the largest deals including United Airlines' acquisition of Continental, General Electric's sale of NBCUniversal, and News Corporation's purchase of Dow Jones. He died at age 62. [WWW]

**Lee, John**, had a grist mill off Stonehenge Road with Daniel Lee. [RN]

**Lee, Robert Aaron**, (1889-1982), son of Fred C. Lee (*q.v.*) and grandson of Aaron W. Lee (*q.v.*), who lived on Main Street, was one of the last of the Ridgefield Lees still bearing the family name. He lived in Greenwich in his later years, but kept property in Farmingville until his death at the age of 94. He left Ridgefield as a permanent residence in 1903, but frequently visited the town and was a director of the Ridgefield Savings Bank for many years. His daughter, **Barbara Lee Johnson**, lived on Lee family land along New Road until her death in 2001. [RN, DD70, RSB31]

**Lee, William**, (1800-1881), a Ridgefield native, was a farmer who also operated a sawmill and a limekiln in the Farmingville district. A Republican, he was a state representative in 1841, 1842, and 1860.

**Lee, William II**, (1710-1785), son of William Lees I (*q.v.*), was the founder of the sizable Ridgefield Lee clan. In 1762, he bought 92 acres and a house in Farmingville. He operated a noted saw mill in Farmingville as early as 1767. He was a half brother of Joseph Lees of Norwalk, and perhaps the first to drop the "s" from Lees. [RN]

**Lee Lane**: Early 20th Century name for Wheeler Road (*q.v.*), so-called because the "Lee sisters" lived in a house at the corner with Spring Valley Road, later owned by Mr. and Mrs. John N. Wheeler (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Lee Road**: Old road that was part of Farmingville Road (*q.v.*) until 1914 when the town built the straight section of Farmingville Road across the swamp from Lee Road to Limekiln and

Blackman Roads; name recalls Lee family long prominent in Farmingville and applies today to the road that extends from Farmingville Road to Limekiln Road — southern Limekiln was also once the route of Farmingville Road — it and Lee Road skirted the north side of the main body of Great Swamp. [RN] *See also* William Lee II.

**Leeman, Evelyn B.** (1908-2002) was a teacher in Ridgefield schools for many years, starting in 1955. She was active in Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra, serving on board for 25 years, and with the Caudatowa Garden Club, Thrift Shop, Red Cross Bloodmobiles. Wife of George B. Leeman Sr. and mother of Jr. (*q.v. each*).

**Leeman, George B. Jr.**, (1946-2017) was a Yale-educated mathematician who was active in local music circles, including the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra, for whom he wrote the program notes for many years. [DNT2/26/2017]

**Leeman, George B. Sr.** (-1978) was a musician who worked for RKO studios in Hollywood, then for CBS radio and TV as a composer and arranger for the likes of Frank Sinatra, Perry Como, Dick Haymes, Paul Whiteman, Andre Kostelanetz, and for 12 years with Arthur Godfrey. A Ridgefielder since 1942, he helped found the Ridgefield Symphonette (*q.v.*). Taught piano and worked closely with Ridgefield elementary schools where his wife, Evelyn (*q.v.*), taught for many years. Two weeks after his death, the Board of Education named the auditorium at Scotland School “the Leeman Room” in his honor. Lived at 822 North Salem Road. [NR]

**Lees, Joseph:** *See* William Lees I. [RN]

**Lees, William I** (1655-1741) was one of the Norwalk residents who petitioned the General Assembly to allow the creation of Ridgefield. Although he probably visited the town, he never lived here. His son, **Joseph Lees**, came to Ridgefield and bought the Matthew Saintjohn homestead on Main Street in 1723, but by 1737 he had moved to Salisbury. *See also* William Lee II. [RN]

**Leete, Rev. William Rockwell**, (1886-1952), a Ridgefield native and Yale graduate, went to China as a missionary in 1912 and remained there for many years. In 1941, when he was a professor at the Nanking Theological Seminary in Shanghai, he was taken prisoner by the Japanese who held him in a prison camp for two years. Freed in 1943, he returned to the states and learned that his son, Lt. Jonathan Leete of the Army Air Force was missing in action in the Middle East. After the war, he returned to teach in China. His father was the Rev. William W. Leete (*q.v.*). He is buried in the family plot at the Lounsbury section of the Ridgefield Cemetery.

**Leete, the Rev. William White**, (1854-1946), a recent graduate of Yale Divinity School, became pastor of the First Congregational Church in February 1882, serving for six years. He went on to become a leader in the New England administration of the Congregational Church, and was a proficient golfer, winning the trophy in Class A for players 75 years old or old at the USGA tourney in Rye, N.Y., for five consecutive years. He was the father of William R. Leete (*q.v.*). [NYT5/3/1946]

**Lefebvre, Archbishop Marcel:** *See* St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary.

**Leibowitz, Ruth**, (pronounced LEE-bowitz), a native of West Virginia, was a professional dancer who appeared on PBS’s Children’s Dance Theatre. She came to Ridgefield in 1976 and taught dance and drama at Wooster School. In 1982 she joined the Youth Commission



and three years later, founded and ran Inside Out (*q.v.*) for 26 years and was active in the Youth Service Bureau (*q.v.*) and the Barn (*q.v.*) youth center.

**Leighton, Curtis Victor**, (1895-1975), a Ridgebury resident, was foreman of the town highway department in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. [P7/24/1975]

**Leir, Henry** (1900-99), a native of Prussia who fled the Nazi regime, owned an ore importing and exporting firm that made millions. He spent much of the last third of his life, with wife Erna, overseeing millions of dollars in grants for education, health, and other causes, and established the Leir Retreat Center at his 33-acre estate on Branchville Road, which he bought ca. 1952. [WWW]

**Leir Retreat Center** at 220 Branchville Road (address is 47 Boulder Hill Road), founded by Henry (*q.v.*) and Erna Leir and opened in October 2007, hosts gatherings aimed at improving society and health. Subjects have included substance abuse, Lyme disease, human rights, assessment and treatment of suicide risk, human-animal interaction, mental health, training of police detectives, dementia, child abuse, and geriatric orthopedics. [WWW]

**Lelak, John M.** (1917-81) operated Lelak's Delicatessen at Grand Union shopping center for many years; sold to Irving Gold; Lelak sponsored many youth sports teams and was a president of the Chamber of Commerce. [P8/20/1981]

**Lelak's Delicatessen:** *See* John Lelak.

**Leonard, Elizabeth Nowotarski**, (1935-1992), a former Danbury News-Times reporter who covered Ridgefield, was state representative, 1977-81, then first selectman 1981-87 — becoming the first female elected to that post. She retired from job due to ill health but remained on the Board of Selectmen until her death at age 56. She moved to Ridgefield 1958 from NYC and was an active Republican; briefly married to James B. Leonard (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Leonard, James B.**, (1936-2016), was the first principal of Branchville School (*q.v.*), serving from opening in 1969 until the school closed in 1983; then became a central office administrator; was a captain in the National Guard; lifelong Bethel resident; briefly was husband of Elizabeth N. Leonard (*q.v.*), whence her surname. [P10/17/2016]

**Les Alpes:** Bakery in the Grand Union Shopping Center, 465 Main Street, in the late 1960s, early 1970s (about the present location of Steve's Bagels); owned by Otto and Mia Hassig. [JFS]

**Levine, Daniel C.**, (1972-), a Massachusetts native, is a Broadway actor who has performed in *Les Misérables*, *Chicago*, *Mamma Mia!*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Tommy*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. He also co-starred on TV's *Beverly Hills, 90210* and *General Hospital*. He is also the owner and director of Big Apple Tutoring LLC, a Manhattan-based academic tutoring agency. Active in Ridgefield, he is artistic director of ACT of Connecticut (*q.v.*), and is an artistic adviser to the Ridgefield Playhouse for Movies and the Performing Arts (*q.v.*). He is a member of the town's Conservation Commission and is married to Bryan Perri (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Levine, Evan S.**, is a cardiologist, medical columnist and author of *What Your Doctor Won't (Or Can't) Tell You* (2004). He has lived on Lounsbury Road since the early 2000s and is known for exposing unethical practices by physicians and drug companies.

**Levy, Benjamin E.** (1879-1952), a native of France, was head of Coty, the French cosmetic firm, in the 1930s; then led Charles of the Ritz; Levy bought home, called Barrackhill (*q.v.*), on Barrack Hill Road, with 80 acres in 1940; portion around house was later developed into Grand View Drive; he aided local groups, like the library and Boys' Club, and his family donated Levy Park (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Levy Park:** 38 acres donated in 1968 to town by Richard Salomon, nephew of Benjamin E. Levy (*q.v.*), whose estate this was part of; official name is "The B. E. and Regine Levy Park and Recreational Area and Wildlife Refuge"; 10 more acres were later added. [RN]

**Lewis, Frederic Elliott**, (1859-1919), was vice president of National City Bank, Manhattan; in 1907 he bought West Lane estate he called Upagenstit (*q.v.*) and greatly expanded house and land holdings to around 100 acres. He was a director First National Bank and Trust Company of Ridgefield (*q.v.*); sons Reginald and Wadsworth (*q.v. each*) also had homes here. [WWW] [*See Upagenstit for list of DD columns about.*]

**Lewis, Helen K.**, (1924-2000), a native of Indiana, was a Ridgefield school librarian and president of the Ridgefield Library during a time of considerable expansion. She lived 43 years at 62 High Ridge Avenue. She had earlier worked for Glamour magazine. [P10/11/2000]

**Lewis, Isaac** (1773-1860), was a silversmith who was active from ca. 1796-1809 in Huntington, Conn, and 1810-20 in Ridgefield; worked for Charles Grumman at 149 Main Street; silverware made by him is stamped "I. Lewis". He probably also worked from his home at 127 Main Street. *See also* Fountain #2 entry. [JFS, DD]

**Lewis, Mary Alice Russell** (1862-1950), a native of Middletown and wife of Frederic E. Lewis (*q.v.*), oversaw sizable gardens and vast greenhouses at her West Lane estate, Upaganstit. She was active in the community, especially after the death of husband: She headed the Red Cross here in World War I through early World War II; volunteered at St. Stephen's Church where she donated the stained-glass chancel window, "Christ Blessing the Children," in memory of her parents; and was a charter member of Ridgefield Garden Club. [WWW, DD145]

**Lewis, Reginald Mentourn**, (ca. 1896-1960), son of Frederic and Mary Lewis of Upaganstit, was an NYC society leader who had a gentleman's farm at 100 South Salem Road in the early 20th Century. His Warily Kennels here (*q.v.*) bred Wire-haired Fox Terriers — in 1928, his Champion Talavera Margaret won best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club show in NYC. He also bred Guernsey cattle. He was known as an expert amateur golfer and was said to have had one of the most valuable antiques collections on the Eastern Seaboard. He moved to Bedford, NY. and died in Maryland.. His estate was later owned by Robert P. Scripps (*q.v.*). [NYT 7/4/1960, DD146]]

**Lewis, Wadsworth Russell**, (1889-1972) was a philanthropist, a son of Frederic and Mary Lewis of Upagentstit (*q.v.*) on West Lane. He built the Taghkanick (*q.v.*), designed by Philip Sunderland (*q.v.*) and later owned by such celebrities as Henry and Clare Boothe Luce, Hans P. Kraus, and Basha Szymanska. He was active in community, serving on the school board, Draft Board, Ration Board, and other agencies and organizations. At his death at age 53, he set up the Wadsworth R. Lewis Fund, which has donated more than \$3 million to local organizations over the years. [WWW] [DD146]

**Lewis Drive** extends from Shadow Lane to Golf Lane, part of the Ridgefield Manor Estates and named for Frederic Elliott Lewis (*q.v.*), who owned the huge mansion and estate there early in the 20th Century. Development began in the mid-1950's, but the road wasn't accepted as a town road until 1969. The older houses toward the eastern end had been used for servants and other caretakers on the Lewis estate. [RN]

**Lewisboro** is the only border town whose name is not used in a Ridgefield geographical name. Eastern Lewisboro was once within Ridgefield before the Oblong (*q.v.*) was cut off in 1731. Originally called Salem, Lewisboro was once one town with North Salem. After North Salem became its own entity, Lewisboro became known as Lower Salem, but changed in 1840 to honor John Lewis, donor of much money to support the town's schools. "Lewisboro" first appears in the Ridgefield land records in 1842. [RN]

**Liberta's Spirit Shoppe** opened May 1981 [P5/21/1981], replacing Bolling's, at 393 Main Street; owned by Mike and Teri Libera who retired in 2015; business became Cheers (*q.v.*).

**Library:** First library of about 150 volumes was established ca. 1795 [RIR]. In 1852 Hiram K. Scott (*q.v.*) established a loaning library at his general store and pharmacy (later Bissell's — *q.v.*) on Main Street. [WWW] *See also* Ridgefield Library.

**Library Hill:** Early 20th Century informal name for Prospect Street between Main Street and Bailey Avenue, so called because of Ridgefield Library on north side at west end. *See also* Depot Hill, Station Hill. [RN]

**Liebovitz, David,** (1892-1968), a native of NYC, was a playwright, novelist, art collector, who had a summer home at 291 Bennett's Farm Road. He was married to Emily Gresser Liebovitz (*q.v.*), a concert violinist. 28 acres of their farm was donated to the town by his grandsons — *see* Liebowitz-Knapp Preserve. He is the father of Bettina Liebovitz Knapp and Dr. Daniel Liebowitz (*q.v. each*). [WWW]

**Liebovitz, Emily Gresser** (1894-1981), a native of Brooklyn, NY, was a concert violinist who toured Europe as a youth and then the US. She was a close friend of Jascha Heifetz and would visit his Redding home to play violin together. She was the wife of David Liebovitz (*q.v.*) and the mother of Bettina Liebovitz Knapp and Dr. Daniel Liebowitz (*q.v. each*).

**Liebowitz, Dr. Daniel,** (1921-2014), also known as Dr. Dan or Rusty, was the son of David and Emily Gresser Liebovitz (*q.v. each*), and spent summers here as a youth. He was a physician, professor at Stanford, and author of a novel, two biographies and a cookbook. He spelled his name with a W instead of V at least since he was 20. [WWW]

**Liebowitz-Knapp Preserve** is 28 acres on the south side of Bennett's Farm Road, connecting the road to Pierrepont State Park and also to Hemlock Hills and the Ives Trail (*q.v. each*) via a pedestrian access on the north side of road.. It was donated to the town in 2012-13 by Charles and Albert Knapp, grandsons of David and Emily Liebovitz (*q.v. each*), who bought the farm in 1936 as a country retreat. Name is spelled differently from most family members, but some use W instead of V.

**Life Without George** by Irene Kampen, 1961: A humorous autobiographical novel of dealing with single life in Ridgefield after Kampen's husband left her for another woman. Book became the basis of Lucille Ball's TV series, "The Lucy Show." Kampen wrote other humorous autobiographical books while living in Ridgefield. [WWW]

**Life's Farm:** A Fresh Air Fund camp established by John Ames Mitchell (*q.v.*), publisher of original Life magazine, on site of present-day Branchville School; in operation as summer camp for city kids from 1899 to at least 1942; 208 kids in 1902; also called Life's Fresh Air Farm [P6/26/1902]

**Lightning:** *July 11, 1837:* Walter Hawley and Enoch Hawley, and two children, were all killed in one house by a lightning bolt around 11 p.m. *July 9, 1853:* A yoke of oxen, owned by David Northrop, was struck and killed by lightning. *Oct. 8, 1859:* The barn of Charles Smith was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. *June 22, 1865:* A small barn belonging to William Howe was struck by lightning, caught fire and burned to the ground. *Aug. 12, 1895:* Farmer William Tiley, 35, was working in a field when he was struck and killed by lightning. *June 23, 1921:* Lightning struck a shed at Mortimer C. Keeler's farm at Whipstick, igniting a blaze that spread to barns and stables. *June 1937:* Lightning struck and killed nine Jersey heifers at Robert Lee's farm in Farmingville. [RT]

**Ligi, Joyce Casavecchia,** a Ridgefield native and RHS 1960, is a retired banker who has spent many years in community service, including leadership roles in United Way, Red Cross, Datahr, Ridgefield Library, Little League, Lions Club, Keeler Tavern, Weir Farm, Girl Scouts, the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra, Community Center and others. She was Rotary Citizen of the Year in 2016. [NR]

**Ligi, Richard,** (1947-2008), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1965, was the fourth chief of the Ridgefield Police Department; joined department 1967 as clerk, became officer, 1969, sergeant, 1977, lieutenant 1980, captain 1990, major, 1996, chief, 1999; noted for his work with youth and support for youth programs. [WWW]

**Ligi's Way:** Former Bypass Road (*q.v.*), between Farmingville Road and South Street/Old Quarry Rd intersection; named in November 2011 for Richard Ligi (*q.v.*).

**Liljegren, Edwin D.,** (1930-) was a local historian who documented the early residents of the Ridgebury section of town in the 1970s and 80s, but did not publish his work. His research was donated to the Ridgefield Historical Society.. He lived at 253 George Washington Highway with his partner, Alfred Zega.

**Limekiln Corner** is an early 20th Century and possibly late 19th Century term for the intersection of Lee and Limekiln Roads, originally part of Farmingville Road (*q.v.*). At the northwest corner, a limekiln stood, probably built and operated by the Lee family. [RN]

**Limekiln Hill** was once commonly applied to a spot near the four-way intersection of Barry Avenue, Ramapoo Road, West Mountain Road, and Peaceable Ridge Road, near which a large limekiln operated from at least 1742. [RN]

**Limekiln Road:** An old highway between Farmingville and Haviland Roads; certainly existed by 1856 when it appears on Clark's map, and probably dates back at least a century earlier, perhaps to the 1730's; south end of the road – between Lee and Farmingville Roads – was originally part of Farmingville Road (*q.v.*); named for old limekiln (*see* Limekiln Corner). [RN]

**Limekilns,** large stone or brick ovens used to bake limestone rock into lime for use as a soil conditioner and for making plaster, were located in several places in Ridgefield, including the north corner of Lee and Limekiln Roads; the north corner of the intersection of Ramapoo Road with Barry Avenue/West Mountain Road; at the Selleck farm, 219

Bennett's Farm Road. These all were north of Cameron's Line (*q.v.*), the line of a continental collision that runs through Ridgefield; limestone was found north of the line, but not to the south. *See also* Limestone.

**Limestone:** A district in town, so called as early as 1740, probably because of the limestone mining operations at Limestone Hill (*q.v.*). Limestone was used in making plaster and mortar, and as a treatment for acidic soil, and was found only in the northern two-thirds of the town, largely because of Cameron's Line (*q.v.*). This prompted the building of several sizable commercial limekilns (*q.v.*) in the neighborhood. The TM in 1752 voted that "there shall be a woman school kept at Limestone ... ye ensuing summer season." This is the first reference to a schoolhouse there, but one may have been established earlier. In 1790, the town meeting decided to erect a pound at "Limestone, near the parting of roads near the dwelling house of Ebenezer Lobdell, and not Bennetts Farm...." By 1834, land records referred to "Limestone District." Limestone school district in the mid-1800's included all of upper Danbury Road, lower Limestone Road, lower Great Hill Road, Route 7 from its intersection with Danbury Road south to New Road, Haviland Road, and upper Limekiln Road. Also called District Number Three. [RN]

**Limestone Acres:** 23-lot subdivision off the western side of lower Limestone Road, served by Shields Lane, filed by developer Jerry Tuccio in 1966.[RN]

**Limestone Hill:** A deed filed in 1712 from the Proprietors to Joseph Keeler mentions nine acres "north of Limestone Hill." A 1717 deed refers to "Lime Stone Hill." The main body of the hill was probably situated just north of the intersection of Limestone, Haviland and Danbury Roads – where the gasoline service station is today. What is now fairly flat was once higher; decades of mining the limestone helped to flatten the territory to its present level. *See also* Limestone. [RN] *See also* Mine Hill.

**Limestone Post Office:** Operated from 1857-1861 by Edwin Taylor on Still Road at the corner of Stonehenge Road. New London Chronicle reports its creation March 4, 1857.

**Limestone Preserve:** 58-acre open space, maintained by Conservation Commission, consisting mostly of swampland along upper Limestone Road; made up of several donated properties; borders Pierrepont State Park (*q.v.*) on the west.

**Limestone River:** Rockwell says people who lived in eastern Limestone District sometimes called the Norwalk River (*q.v.*) thereabouts the "Limestone River." *See also* East River.

**Limestone Road** extends from Danbury Road to Bennett's Farm Road, bearing the name of the district in which its southern end begins but 75% of the road is in Bennett's Farm District; in the 18th Century, section from Danbury Road to Great Hill Road (including Limestone Road Extension) was all part of Great Hill Road when it was part of "the road to Bennett's Farm" or Bennett's Farm Road; section from Great Hill Road north through woods and swamp to Bennett's Farm Road was built ca. 1852 after 31 people petitioned the selectmen for the new road – and offered \$185 toward costs; for a while that section was called "the New Road" or "the New Road from Limestone to Ridgebury." [RN]

**Limestone Road Extension** is the original route of the eastern end of Limestone Road. The straighter, newer section was cut through around 1960. The name is silly since it is not really an extension, but the old route of Limestone Road. [RN]

**Limestone schoolhouse:** In 1867, when it was District Number 3, school was located on north side of Haviland Road, opposite Still Road. Later, new schoolhouse was built on Danbury Road, just north of Limestone Service Station, on land donated by John H. Finch; closed 1925 and children sent to Titicus School; building bought by Col. Louis D. Conley in 1930s as part of Outpost Nurseries (q.v.); remained unused till 1943 when purchased by Lewis J. Finch (q.v.), grandson of John, and converted to a house, which it remains today.

**Limestone Service Station:** at 399 Danbury Road, founded ca. 1950 by Dino Giardini; sold Shell gas; then Texaco; then in 2006, Irving; then; last station to provide service at pumps;

**Limestone Terrace** is a short, dead-end road off the west side of Limestone Road, a little south of and opposite Rita Road, created ca. 1961 by Great Hill Lakes Inc., one of William Winthrop's corporations that developed much of Ridgefield Lakes.

**Lincoln** was the telephone exchange in Georgetown, including Branchville. Phone numbers began LI4, which became today's 544.

**Lincoln Lane** extends from Branchville Road to Old Washington Road, part of Washington Park Estates, a subdivision started ca. 1951 by Bert Ison; named for Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President never visited Ridgefield. [RN] *See also Hannibal Hamlin*

**Linden Road:** A short dead-end road off Poplar Road, developed starting in the 1960's by Armando Salvestrini, who named it for the trees in the vicinity; perhaps part of eastern end of long-abandoned 18th and 19th Century highway from Danbury Road at Fox Hill Village to Limekiln Road, and called Norrins Ridge Road; once the land of Outpost Nurseries, which may have stocked its linden trees here. [RN]

**Lion's Heart** is a national non-profit organization with a chapter in Ridgefield in which students in 6th through 12th grade do volunteer community service. It is not affiliated with the Lions Club. [PR1]

**Lions Club** is a Ridgefield service organization, originally for men but now for women also. At its first meeting April 23, 1929, the club elected Francis D. Martin (q.v.) as president. For many years it sponsored the Friendly Town Program (q.v.), bringing city kids to the country in summer, ran annual antique car shows starting from 1951 into the 1980s, and provided Christmas lights for Main Street. A special interest of Lions is helping the blind and visually impaired. *See also* Roll of Honor.

**Lipper:** Nickname for Larry Leary, a late 20th Century Ridgefield builder.

**Lippolt, Otto H.,** (1891-1965), native of Massachusetts, was a well-driller and land developer who bought over 700 acres in Ridgebury during the Depression, developed some of it in his Hemlock Hills (q.v.) subdivision in the 1950s and aimed to develop more; came here 1920s, buying a 100-acre farm at the corner of Ridgebury Road and George Washington Highway; widow Marion sold 570 acres to the town in 1967 — now Hemlock Hills and Pine Mountain refuges (q.v. *each*). [WWW]

**Lippolt Pond:** Name on 1960's map for narrow body of water on the west side of Old Mill Road as Lippolt Pond, more commonly called Old Mill Pond (q.v.); pond was created by Otto H. Lippolt (q.v.), who developed the neighborhood in the 1950's and early 1960's. [RN] *See also* Hemlock Hills.

**Lippolt property:** A name for Otto Lippolt's huge Ridgebury holdings, involving some 25 parcels, that town bought in 1969 for \$350,000; said then to total 575 acres [P2/6/1969]; became Hemlock Hills (*q.v.*) and Pine Mountain (*q.v.*) Refuges.

**Liquor stores:** *See* package stores.

**Lisa Lane:** Dead-end road off the west side of Tackora Trail, developed by James B. Franks (*q.v.*), who named the road after his daughter; nearby Christopher Road was named for his son; part of 1957 subdivision, Mamanasco Lake Park. [RN]

**Lischke, Franklin,** (1908-1991), a native of New Rochelle, NY, who was an artist and illustrator, was as a boy a model for many of Norman Rockwell's Saturday Evening Post cover paintings. A commercial artist, he was a Ridgefield resident, 1946-1986, living on Olmstead Lane, St. Johns Road, and Silver Spring Road. Illustrated *Ridgefield in Review* and other books about Ridgefield. Moved to Litchfield, where he died. [WWW]

**Litchfield Gas and Electric Company** had an office at 18 Bryon Avenue in 1940. [TD1940]  
*See also* Electricity.

**Little, Walter,** operated a grocery store in the early 20th Century at what is now 38 West Branchville Road. *See also* Halfway House. [JFS]

**Little Brook Stables:** B. Sturges Selleck's stable of racehorses, around today's 23 Barry Avenue. [DD70]

**Little League** baseball in Ridgefield was first established in 1954 with William W. Allen, athletic director at RHS, as its first president. Games were played on Prospect Ridge, where a dugout was constructed in 1955 and a scoreboard added in 1956. Veterans Park field for Little League was built in 1957, the first year when major league players got full uniforms. In 1960, Aldrich Field was added.

**Little Pond:** A natural body of water on the west side of Route 7 just south of Route 35 intersection; complements Great Pond (*q.v.*) to its east; first called Aokeets or Aokeels (*q.v.*) by the natives; perhaps was once part of a small chunk of Redding that extended into Ridgefield — *see* Fitch's Farm. [RN]

**Little Rascals,** a "discount" children's clothing store, opens at Copps Hill Common, 107 Danbury Road. It complements a similar store in Mamaroneck, N.Y. [P9/18.1983]

**Little Red Schoolhouse:** *See* West Lane schoolhouse.

**Little Ridge Road:** A dead-end lane off Indian Cave Road, part of the 1964 Twin Ridge subdivision by Giles and Barry Montgomery; became a town highway in 1968; name descriptive of the land. [RN]

**Little Singers, The:** Catholic boys choir, established and led by Father Francis Medyski while he was pastor of St. Mary's Parish, 1973-76; twice traveled to Europe and sang at the Vatican, Westminster Cathedral and Royal Albert Hall; among alumni is State Rep. John Frey (*q.v.*); resurrected 1978 for a while at St. Elizabeth Seton Church [P1/5/1978, 11/30/1978]

**Livery Stables:** In the 19th and early 20th Century, livery stables provided horses and carriages for rent, and spaces where villagers could house their own horses so they would not need their own stables. Livery stables also provided taxi and "trucking" services. Ridgefielders who operated stables included Morris Whitlock, Hiram K. Scott Jr., B.E. Sperry (*q.v. each*)

**Livestock:** To deal with the problem of roaming livestock, the town voted Oct. 1, 1854 that “horses, neat cattle, mules, swine and geese shall be prohibited from running at large on the highways or commons of this town.” That ban was passed at other town meetings in the mid-19th Century. On Oct. 5, 1857, the TM set the costs for impounding animals: Horses, asses and mules, 25 cent each; neat cattle, 12 cents; swine, 10 weeks old or more, 8 cents; sheep, 6 cents. [RT] *See also* Swine.

**Livingston, Robert Teviot,** (1896-1968), an Indiana native who lived at 50 High Ridge Avenue in the 1950s, 60s, was a professor of industrial engineering and management at Columbia University for more than 40 years. He received the Freedom Foundation Award in 1951, the Gilbreth Award and Medallion in 1965 and the Management Science Marquis Award in 1968. He was president of the Livingstone Institute for Management Research and Training, author of four books on industrial and management engineering, and was an editorial consultant for McGraw-Hill. [NYT1/8/1968, DD155] Married to Katherine Hull Grey whose family built the house at 50 High Ridge. *See also* Bent Garth.

**Loaf Hill:** Mentioned in Geographical Positions in the State of Connecticut Geodesy, an 1890 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey publication. CPN says it is one-half mile west of Fox Hill Lake, what was locally called Asproom Loaf (*q.v.*), Asproom Loft, Aspen Loaf, and Aspine Loaf in various 18th and 19th Century land records, and what is generally called today Barlow Mountain, situated in Pierrepont State Park; elevation of 950 feet; so-call for shape like an old loaf of sugar. [RN]

**Lobdell, Samuel,** (1820-1864), a native of North Salem, was a Ridgefield tailor in the mid-19th Century but eventually moved to Newark, N.J., where he died. [DOJN]

**Local Streets:** Ridgefield teen band in late 1980s featuring Dwaine Bell, Scott Young, John Paquin, Chris Secrest, and John Alexander. [P6/18/1987]

**Locker Room, The:** Sporting goods and clothing shop at Girolametti Court, 19 Danbury Road, opened September 1980 [P9/4/1980]

**Lockwood, Jacob M.,** (1817-1899), a native of Pound Ridge, came to Ridgefield in 1833 to become a cabinet maker. He was a prominent carpenter and builder, and in 1866 became an undertaker. His business and probably his home was on Catoonah Street. He helped build the Methodist church at Main and Catoonah Streets. In 1868 he started the Ridgefield Cemetery Association and laid out the greater portion of Ridgefield Cemetery; he was its superintendent from 1868. [TCA1893, CBRFC, Republican Farmer 16/2/1866]

**Lockwood Cemetery** was a 19th Century name, so-called in [P12/10/1879], for what became known as Scott’s Cemetery (*q.v.*), the largest of the cemeteries within “Ridgefield Cemetery.” Jacob Lockwood (*q.v.*) established it.

**Lockwoods or Lockwood’s Corners:** Intersection of Danbury, Limestone, and Haviland Roads, so called by the mid-19th Century because Charles S. Lockwood lived at the southern corner of Danbury and Limestone Roads; he bought the 29 acres and home from Jacob Dauchy in 1844. Lockwoods were an old but small family in Ridgefield, probably founded by Peter Lockwood of Norwalk, who came to Farmingville in 1744. [RN]

**Loder, William C.** (1843-1905) and Mary (1851-1922) operated a boarding house on Governor Street (*see* Loder House). He had worked for the railroad in the 1880s, then was furniture repairman while also keeping boarders. A Republican, he served as a state representative in



1884. Loder was from an old French family; tradition had it that the first Loder came with the army of Lafayette. [CBRFC]

**Loder House:** A boarding house that stood at 3 Governor Street where the Fairfield County Bank drive-in bank is today; included “Ridgefield Dining Room” in 1920s; became home of Ridgefield Boys’ Club (*q.v.*) from the 1940s until 1959.

**Lodestar:** Ridgefield High School literary magazine, founded 1980; first advisers were Steve Blumenthal and Adam Salvo (*q.v.*) [P6/12/1980]; later gained national attention when in spring 1988, supporters of Lodestar sued the school board, claiming a violation of free speech, after the magazine published an alumni submission with colorful language that prompted the superintendent David Larson to ban non-student submissions; legal battle that lasted a year was finally settled out of court, and cost the school board more than \$400,000 in legal fees. [JFS]

**Lodewick, Philip and Christine,** were the moving forces behind A Better Chance (*q.v.*) and have led fundraisers for ABC, such as Jazz at Maple Hill, their home on Spring Valley Road. Both hold degrees from UConn and have been major supporters of the school; they donated the Lodewick Visitors Center, which opened at the Storrs campus in September 2000. They have been active in St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, the Discovery Center, League of Women Voters, and other organizations. [NR]

**Loeb, Elizabeth A. “Nackey” Scripps,** (1924-2000), a daughter of Robert P. Scripps (*q.v.*), owned the Connecticut Sunday Herald in Bridgeport and was publisher of the Manchester Union-Leaders in NH. Endowed a journalism school at U of NH. She lived here as a child. [WWW]

**Loeb, Robert Herman, Jr. ,** (1913-1996), was author of the best-selling humorous cookbook *Wolf in Chef’s Clothing*. He also wrote *How to Wine Friends and Affluent People* and *She Cooks to Conquer*. and a bar guide called *Nip Ahoy*. He had been food and drink editor of Esquire Magazine. He lived on Farm Hill Road in the 1960s, later in Georgetown, and was living in Woodbury when he died.

**Loitering:** Ridgefield in the 20th Century had several proposals to ban loitering in the center of town, aimed at teenagers. The last effort, an anti-loitering ordinance in 1969, was adopted by the Town Meeting, but the police had a hard time convincing prosecutors in the Superior Court to pursue their arrests. The ordinance was abandoned in the early 1970s after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a similar law in another state.

**Lone Rock:** Home of noted actor Cyril Ritchard (*q.v.*), located on a pond off Old Pierce Road (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Long Bogs:** Situated in northern Ridgebury, possibly near the present-day Mill Plain section of Danbury or somewhat north of it; an 1806 deed indicates it was very near the New York line. [RN]

**Long Bridge:** Probably more a road than a suspended “bridge,” applied to a section of western Farmingville Road, from the first curve just east of Danbury Road to Norrins Ridge, just west of Lee Road; mentioned as early as 1753 deed;

**Long Meadow:** Cited in deeds from 1774, 1802, and 1846 as in Ridgebury, probably along Ridgebury Road near Regan or Old Stagecoach Roads. [RN]

**Long Pond:** 1. 18th Century name for the three lakes (Rippowam, Oscaleta and Waccabuc), once considered a single body of water which, before Oblong (*q.v.*), was in Ridgefield. Environmental changes – filling, siltation, damming — made the lake shallower and created three ponds. [RN] *See also* North Long Pond. 2. As early as 1740, deeds use Long Pond for the Bennett’s Pond(s) (*q.v.*) in what’s now Bennett’s Pond State Park. [RN]

**Long Pond Mountain:** Cited in 1760 deed for homestead “lying near ye Long Pond Mountain” and on “Colony line.” Also mentioned 1815, 1819, and 1827 for the steep hill on the north shore of Lake Rippowam (*q.v.*), once part of Long Pond (*q.v.*) in Lewisboro; hill extends into Ridgefield along Rippowam Road. [RN]

**Long Ridge:** Cited in 1723 deed and on 18th Century map of the Southwest Ridges (*q.v.*), much of which pre-1731 Oblong transfer was in Ridgefield; locality probably today north of Vista in Lewisboro, N.Y. [RN]

**Long Stone:** Boundary marker about 200 feet south of Pickett’s Ridge Road (also called Great Pond Road) on Ridgefield-Redding line, first mentioned in 1786; 1828 perambulation speaks only of “a long stone” in a wall. By 1888, only a “monument” in a “stone fence” was noted. [RN]

**Long Swamp:** First mentioned in 1744 deeds for land along along the Titicus River, east of North Salem Road and west of North Street, south of — and perhaps north of — Barlow Mountain Road; a vestige of a post-glacial lake that covered the Titicus River Valley into New York State; also mentioned in 1807, 1847, and 1848. [RN]

**Longden, John,** of Rising Ridge Road, a former corporate financial officer who had worked for the United Nations, became the town’s first “budget director” March 13, 1972. The job eventually evolved into the controller. Longden has been the volunteer clerk of the Board of Finance.

**Longest Day, The:** A history of D-Day by Cornelius Ryan (*q.v.*) is one of the most popular books ever written by a Ridgefielder, selling millions of copies in 18 languages since its publication in 1959.

**Longview Drive:** off Riverside Drive at Stonehenge Estates (*q.v.*), so called for the view of the Norwalk River Valley and beyond; road rises from about 465 feet above sea level at its west end to almost 580 feet at its easternmost end; built by Jerry Tuccio, became a town highway in 1964. [RN]

**Lookout Drive, Lookout Road:** Private roads off Lakeview Drive at the Ridgefield Lakes; often confused with Lookout Point (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Lookout Point:** At Pierrepont Pond — Lake Naraneke (*q.v.*), dead-end off Barlow Mountain Road, developed by Jerry Tuccio in connection with Twixt Hills to serve homes on a peninsula projecting into the pond. It became a town road in 1961. [RN]

**Loomis, Marianne,** a resident since 1980 with a home on Overlook Drive, was a Board of Education member, served as secretary of the Conservation Commission for seven years, and was on Democratic Town Committee. She served as an East Ridge Middle School secretary. Husband Tony is a physicist.

**Loppacher, Peter Andrew** (1952-2021), a native of Poughkeepsie and RHS 1971, was a professional photographer who did much work for national and regional magazines. He fell to his death while photographing in the Swiss mountains. [P8/5/2021]

**Loren Lane:** A short dead-end road off Mamasco Road, named for Peter Paul Lorenzini (*q.v.*), who developed it in the late 1950's. [RN]

**Lorenzini, Peter Paul** (1916-2004), a native of Mahopac, N.Y., came to Ridgefield around 1940 and after doing defense industry work in Bridgeport during World War II, went into the home-building business. He also subdivided and built the Soundview Road neighborhood, and also built many houses on Split Level Road and at Eight Lakes (*q.v.*). A lifelong member of the Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department, he retired in 1970 to Fort Pierce, Fla., where he died. [RN]

**Lorna Doone:** Popular restaurant started 1921 by Mrs. Edward Hutchison and Mrs. James Hutchison on Main Street near where Addressi is in 2018; when brick building erected 1922, moved to new space in that building at corner of Main and Catoonah; owners retired 1937; restaurant became Corner Cupboard (*q.v.*), then others.[JFS]

**Lorul Place:** The name Frederic Remington (*q.v.*) gave to his home off Barry Avenue when he had it built in 1909; name confirmed by letterhead on correspondence written by Remington from there; sometimes mistakenly spelled Lural [P12/30/1909]; origin unknown; estate was later called Oak Knoll (*q.v.*). In 1965, the house was declared a national historic landmark. The studio he had in the house has been reproduced in detail at the Remington Art Museum in Ogdensburg, N.Y., [JFS, WWW]

**Lost in Place: Growing Up Absurd in Suburbia:** Autobiographical account by Mark Salzman, (Random House, 1995), author of the book and movie, "Iron and Silk," offering a light-hearted autobiographical look at his childhood and youth in Ridgefield. [JFS]

**Lost Mine Place:** Dead-end road off the south side of New Road, serving the 11-lot, 1986 Hunting Ridge subdivision; its 27 acres were originally part of Robert A Lee family's farm; developed by Lost Mine Limited Partnership; name recalled reported silver mine (*q.v.*) that once operated somewhere off northern side of New Road. [RN]

**Lotus** was a restaurant at 90 Danbury Road in the 1980s and 90s, specializing in Mandarin and Szechuan cuisine. It was started ca. 1982 by Geoffrey Liu, who later operated a similar restaurant in Westport. Later owned by Michael Chan. It 2004, when owned by Piu Ling, it closed.

**Lou's Liquor Store:** Operated from Dec. 28, 1954 until April 27, 1987, in Gaeta Shopping Center, 437 Main Street; started by Louise Feduzi whose son, Lou, eventually took it over; Louise was still working there at age 90 in 1987. [P6/11/1987]

**Lounsbury, Delia A. Scofield,** (-1895), a native of Pound Ridge and the wife of Nathan Scofield, was the mother of two Connecticut governors, Phineas and George Lounsbury. During the Civil War she served briefly as a nurse in Washington, D.C.

**Lounsbury, George Edward,** (1838-1904), a native of Pound Ridge, N.Y., and a graduate of Yale, started career as Episcopal priest, but left the ministry due to throat problems and operated shoe factories in Norwalk; was a state senator, 1895-97; served as governor of Connecticut, 1899-1901; lived at family farm, The Hickories, on Lounsbury Road; [WWW] left estate of \$300,000 [P9/15/1904]

**Lounsbury, Nathan,** (1807-94), a native of Stamford, was a farmer, Republican state representative in 1875, and father of two governors, Phineas and George Lounsbury (Phineas was state representative the year before his father). His home is now The

Hickories on Lounsbury Road. He was the husband of Delia A. Scofield Lounsbury, who served as a nurse in the Civil War. [JFS, Rockwell]

**Lounsbury, Phineas Chapman**, (1841-1925), was a shoe manufacturing executive and NYC bank president who was Republican governor of Connecticut, 1887-89. His home, Grovelawn, at 316 Main Street, now called the Community Center or The Lounsbury House. He was state representative, 1874. His father, Nathan, was a state representative the following year. His brother, George (*q.v.*), was also a governor. [WWW]

**Lounsbury Cemetery**: *See* Lounsbury-Rockwell Cemetery.

**Lounsbury House**: (1) Phineas C. Lounsbury's original home at 316 Main Street was moved ca 1894 to make way for new house; razed 2015 to make way for new Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association headquarters; (2) the present Ridgefield Veterans Community Center — see Community Center. [JFS]

**Lounsbury Lane**: Old road that connected Lounsbury Road to Florida Hill Road; appears on Clark in 1856; was for most of 20th Century abandoned, but the late 1980's, John Sturges received approval to develop some lots along the southern end, whose route was modified somewhat to avoid wetlands; named at least by 1946 for Lounsbury family (*see* Nathan Lounsbury) The name, derived from the same source as Lounsbury Road (below). [RN]

**Lounsbury Ridge**: 1983 subdivision by Carl Lecher (*q.v.*) of 21 acres off Lounsbury Road, served by Banks Hill Place (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Lounsbury Road**: Extends from Ivy Hill and Blackman Roads on the west to Farmingville and Cain's Hill Roads on the east; probably existed from the 18th Century, serving as an extension of Ivy Hill Road to Cain's Hill Road, a main route to eastern Redding. By the turn of the 20th Century, it was being called Lounsbury Road. [RN]

**Lounsbury-Rockwell Cemetery**, also called simply the Lounsbury Cemetery, was established in 1894 using land at the tip of the triangle of North Salem Road and North Street that had been the site of the first Methodist church in town. The private family cemetery, usually considered part of "Ridgefield Cemetery" (*q.v.*), contains about 45 gravesites or memorials.

**Lovejoy, John**, (ca. 1835-1853), a sailor from Ridgefield and son of Daniel and Betsie Lovejoy, "was lost at sea Nov. 2, 1854 (sic) in attempting to save the life of a passenger who accidentally fell overboard, aged 19 years," says his gravestone in Scott's (Ridgefield) Cemetery. His heroic deed was in fact in 1853 aboard the passenger ship, *Advance*. [JFS]

**Lovers Lane**: Every town seems to have a lovers lane, whether or not it's on the map – and it's usually not; in the early part of the 20th Century, today's Rockwell Road, or at least its western leg, was nicknamed Lovers Lane, where village sweethearts could find a bit of privacy, probably other little lanes here have been so called. [RN]

**Low, Deborah** was the town's 16th school superintendent, 2007-14.

**Lowe, Jim**, (1923-2016), (pronounced *low*) was a longtime popular disk jockey on WNBC, WCBS and WNEW in New York City who sang "The Green Door," which became a number-one hit song in 1956. He was also a composer and wrote "The Gambler's Guitar," a 1955 hit sung by Rusty Draper, and "Close the Doors They're Coming in the Windows," a million-seller country hit. He lived in Twin Ridge during the 1970s. [WWW]

**Lowe, Dr. Russell W.** (1868-1944) (pronounced *laow*), a native of Oneida, NY, practiced medicine here starting ca. 1891 for 53 years — except for service in the Army Medical

Corps in World War I. He was also the town health officer, the medical examiner, and the school physician much of that time. He was president of the Danbury Medical Society for 40 years and was a community leader whose advice was often sought on non-medical issues. Among the first Ridgefielders to own a car, he lived and practiced at 531 Main Street. [WWW, CBRFC]

**Lower Mill Pond:** Another name for Lower Pond (*q.v.*); first mentioned in an 1846 deed [RN]

**Lower Pond:** The old complement to Upper Pond is now a very small pond along the Titicus River on the south side of Saw Mill Hill Road, just below Roberts Pond (which is much newer than Upper or Lower Ponds). Beers shows Lower Pond was several times larger in the 19th Century than now. These ponds were water storage for several downstream mills at Titicus; also has been called "Saw Mill Pond." [RN]

**Lown, Harvey Bishop,** (1899-1967), a Wilton native, was a popular businessman and World War I veteran who was a Republican state representative, 1935-37. In 1940, after serving 13 years as town tax collector, he was arrested and convicted of mixing tax dollars for his insurance business, the Lown Agency, and spent more than two years in prison. He was so popular among Ridgefielders that, after his release, he returned to business and remained active in the community, especially veterans groups such as Last Man's Club (*q.v.*). [WWW] [DD94,95]

**Lown Agency:** A local insurance business from the 1930s to the 1950s. *See* Harvey B. Lown.

**Luce, Clare Boothe,** (1903-1987), native of New York City, was a journalist and playwright, whose "The Women" was a hit on Broadway and in film in 1930s. Her 1949 screenplay for "Come to the Stable" was nominated for an Academy Award. She was a GOP congresswoman from Fourth District of Connecticut from 1943 to 1947, and ambassador to Italy from 1953 to 1956. She and her husband, Time-Life founder Henry Luce (*q.v.*), had a home in Ridgefield from 1947 to 1961. [WWW]

**Luce, Henry R.,** (1897-1967), born to missionary parents in China, was co-founder and longtime editor and publisher of Time magazine, then founded Fortune, Life, and Sports Illustrated; wife was Clare Boothe Luce, playwright, congresswoman, ambassador; bought Taghkanick (*q.v.*), the former Wadsworth R. Lewis estate, in 1946 and lived there till 1961. [WWW]

**Ludington Court** is a cluster of five, \$1-million-plus houses on the former Gilbert homestead, 509-517 Main Street, on the north corner of Main and Gilbert Streets, developed in 2018-20. The project was developed by Michael Eppoliti of Ridgefield, designed by Mose Associates, and named for Sybil Ludington, the young woman from Putnam County, N.Y., who warned militia in NY about the British attack on Danbury and Ridgefield in 1777. *See also* William Henry Gilbert.

**Luigi's:** Restaurant at 37 Ethan Allen Highway, operated by Louis and Margaret Ridolfi (*q.v.*) from ca. 1960 to 1986. *See also* Jean's Restaurant, Barn Door, Cella's, Amici's.

**Luke, Mary,** (1925-1993), wrote seven, critically acclaimed, historical biographies and novels on Elizabethan and Tudor personalities, including *The Nine Days Queen*, *The Nonsuch Lure*, and *A Crown for Elizabeth* She lived on Hawthorne Hill Road, and active in the Ridgefield Library, Visiting Nurse Association and both Ridgefield and Caudatowa Garden Clubs. [WWW]

**Lund, Rev. Clayton R.,** (1919-2000) was 17th minister of the First Congregational Church, 1956-86; led efforts to rebuild the church house, destroyed in a 1978 fire; new building called Lund Hall in his honor. [NR]

**Lund Hall:** Community center at First Congregational Church, completed 1980, after a December 1978 fire destroyed the old church house (formerly the Ridgefield Club — *q.v.*); cornerstone laid May 18, 1980; in use by December [P11/25/1980] dedicated Dec. 7, 1980; named for the church's minister, Rev. Clayton R. Lund (*q.v.*).

**Lural Place:** *See* Lorul Place.

**Lusk, Rev. William B, “Daddy,”** (1869-1953), a native of Northern Ireland, was rector of St. Stephen's Church from 1915 to 1950; arrived May 1, 1915 [P4/6/1915]. He and his wife, Edna, had chickens, a cow, and some rabbits out back of the rectory. In World War I, he traveled to France to visit and encourage the troops. After World War II, he served on the Postwar Planning Board, and helped rebuild a bombed-out ancient church in London. After working in England, the Lusks returned to Ridgefield, living on High Ridge. [WWW] His retirement home at 42 High Ridge Avenue was built for him. [DD155]

**Lydy, Beth,** (1896-1979), was a Broadway musical actress and wife of violin prodigy Eddy Brown (*q.v.*). She wrote scripts for Brown's radio programs on WOR and WQXR in NYC. They had a house on Peaceable Street in the 1940s.

**Lynch, Alice Rockwell,** (1918-2001), a Ridgefield native who lived on St. Johns Road, was an antiques dealer and a cousin of Pat Nixon, wife of the president, who would visit her here. She also attended presidential events, and wearing a gold lame dress her trash collector had found at a tag sale and had loaned her, she was once widely written about for her partying at a Johnny Cash concert at the White House. “She was almost as much fun to watch as the entertainment,” said the Washington Post. [WWW]

**Lynch, John Hampton,** (1859-1929), an NYC native, was president of the Terminal Warehouse Company in Manhattan [NYT3/21/1929] who established the 50-acre West Mountain Farm estate in 1914, now Ridgefield Academy. Married to Lucy Moffitt Lynch

**Lynch, Lucy Moffitt** (1874-1960), wife of John Hampton Lynch (*q.v.*), was a member of the Board of Finance for 10 years, and was active in the Ridgefield Garden Club and Garden Club of America. She was one of the founders of the Ridgefield Boys Club [P11/17/1960, NYT11/13/1960]

**Lynes, Benjamin,** (1759-1840), was captured as a boy by the British just before the Battle of Ridgefield and was soon released after he refused to help them. He served as a teamster in the Continental Army. He later had a store and a tavern/inn at the top of the hill on Ridgebury Road, land on which William Maltbie Lynes (*q.v.*) subsequently built his house. [RIR] [JW] He was a state representative in 1812, 1820 and 1821. Name sometimes misspelled Linus.

**Lynes, William Maltbie,** (abt. 1818-1882), was a Ridgebury farmer who served as a Republican state representative in 1856. He was a son of Benjamin Lynes (*q.v.*).

**Lyons' Den:** Restaurant on north corner of Grove Street and Sunset Lane, operated 1960s by Bill and Helen Lyons; earlier had been Pierpaoli's Tavern, Joe's Hideaway; later Perp's, Corner Pub, The Hideaway (*q.v. each*).

## M

**MacDonald, Joan Elizabeth Seyfried**, (1931-2019), was a dancer for the Washington Redskins and the Radio City Rockettes summer touring troupe. She and husband Robert moved here in 1970 and she began teaching dance in 1972, mostly through the Parks and Recreation Department. After she retired in 1999, her daughter Carrie Pin, took over the school. [NR]

**Madeline Drive**, off Bennett's Farm Road, created in 1958 when Ridgefield Lakes Inc., headed by William L. Winthrop, subdivided 20 acres just north of Fox Hill Lake. Madeline was the wife of John Tuite, a surveyor with Henrici Inc., which worked on the subdivision. [RN]

**Mafia Blocks**: Informal term, apparently coined in jest by Paul Morganti, for concrete barriers erected Sept. 24, 1984, at top of a connecting ramp between parking lots of Edwin Allan buildings at 440 Main Street and Yankee Ridge Shopping Center [P9/27/1984]; installed by Morganti and partners at Yankee Ridge, who complained that cars sped through the connector, using it as a short-cut to avoid Main Street and creating hazards for pedestrians and cars; merchants said the blockade made parking difficult and hindered deliveries by large trucks; repeated attempts by town to get them removed to improve traffic flow in the lots failed over the subsequent decades. [JFS]

**Magazine** editors and publishers who lived in Ridgefield: Betsy Talbot Blackwell, James B. Carrington, Gordon Carroll, Harold Goldsmith, Henry Luce, John Ames Mitchell, Paul Palmer, Philip W. Quigg, Kathryn Morgan Ryan, Abigail Goodrich Whittelsey, E. Matilda Ziegler. *See also* American Mercury, Editors, Ridgefield Magazine.

**Magicians**: *See* Derek Hilton, Jack Trepel, Houdini.

**Mail carrier, first**: Robert Wilson (*q.v.*) was the first Ridgefielder to deliver mail, 1901.

**Mail Boxes Etc, USA** opened in September 1987 at 54 Danbury Road, owned by John Tarrantino and John Sommers. It grew into the UPS Store. [P9/10/1987]

**Main, Hubert Platt**, (1839-1925), a Ridgefield native, was a publisher and composer of music for more than 1,000 hymns in the 19th Century, some for the words of Fanny Crosby (*q.v.*), of whom he was a close friend. With Lucius H. Biglow (*q.v.*), he owned the NYC music publishing firm of Biglow & Main. He also collected books on music, 35,000 volumes of which were acquired by the Newberry Library in Chicago. [WWW]

**Main, Mary**, (1903-1998), a native of Argentina born of British parents, was a novelist and acclaimed biographer of Eva Peron (*The Woman with the Whip*, 1952). She often wrote under the pseudonym of Maria Flores, and became totally blind by the 1960s, but still produced a historical novel, *The Girl Who Was Never Queen*, in 1962. Her husband, James, was a British engineer. She lived with her son, Jeremy Main from 1973 until her death. [NYT11/16/1998]

**Main, Sylvester**, a Ridgefielder and father of Hubert (*q.v.*), was a musician, music teacher and hymnist who became a partner with Lucius H. Biglow (*q.v.*) in the large, 19th Century religious music publishing company, Biglow and Main. [JFS]

**Main Street**: Originally called the Town Street, Ridgefield Street and Village Street; name was in use by 1818; paved in 1926; existed by 1709, formally laid out Dec. 26, 1721, when the town fathers defined it as "eight rods weadth" (132 feet wide) [RN]

**Maine, Florene**, (1896-1980), was a nationally known antiques specialist and dealer who lived at 113 West Lane at her death where she operated Red Petticoat antiques. She came to Ridgefield 1928, operating a store on Route 7 opposite Florida Hill Road until 1966. After a brief period in Wilton, she bought the antique West Lane house in 1971. Maine sold her first antique at the age of 5 — a jewel box that had belonged to the Duchess de Orleans. The buyer, Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, paid 4,000 times what she had paid for it. [P11/20/1980, WWW]

**Maiolo, Guido**, a physical education teacher, was Ridgefield High School football coach from 1980-1990; guided team to school's first state championship (Class L), 1983; field at high school named for him, 2013; received National Football Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award, 1992.

**Maiolo Field**: Multipurpose field at Ridgefield High school, named for former football coach Guido Maiolo (*q.v.*) in 2013. [JFS]

**Malin, Robert**, (1937-), then of Harding Drive and a graphics director for Perkin-Elmer, designed the official town seal (*q.v.*) in a competition that ended in 1972. More than a dozen artists submitted entries. He moved to Brookfield. [JFS]

**Mallon, Mary**, (1869-1938), also called Typhoid Mary, was said to have been a cook with a Ridgefield family in the early 20th Century and, as a typhoid carrier, was responsible for six cases of the fever in one family in town [P7/22/1909]. A native of Ireland, she worked as a cook for many families and institutions in and about New York City, but was apprehended twice and eventually spent much of her life in court-ordered isolation on North Brother Island, N.Y. [WWW]

**Mallory, Harry B.**, (1874-1964), was a partner in the Mallory Hat Company in Danbury and was a founder of the Danbury Savings and Loan Association. He was very much afraid of fire, and built his house north of Shadow Lake Road, east of Briar Ridge, to be virtually fireproof. Besides having stone walls and a slate roof, the building was equipped with sliding steel doors that automatically closed when unusually high heat was detected, thus confining a fire to one area. Manor house was acquired by Boehringer Ingelheim Ltd., which used it for a while to accommodate visiting executives but tore it down in one of the company's expansions on the site. *See also* Mallory Pond. [RN]

**Mallory Hill Road**: A loop from Wilridge Road to White Birches Road, part of a development begun by Joseph Leo Dioguardi (*q.v.*) as early as 1914; built in the late 1940's, so called at least from 1949, named for the Mallory family, which had lived thereabouts since 1800 when Nathan Mallory had property on the Ridgefield-Wilton line. [RN]

**Mallory Pond**: So-called on Hearne Brothers map, ca. 1965, a small body of water, now owned by the town, south of the eastern end of Shadow Lake Road; better known as Shadow Lake (*q.v.*). For many years in the first half of the century, the pond was owned by Harry B. Mallory, who stocked it with game fish. Mallory's house, on the north side of Shadow Lake Road, was acquired by Boehringer Ingelheim Ltd., to accommodate visiting executives; eventually razed in one of the company's expansions on the site. Pond probably built by Mallory sometime after 1909 for fishing and to encourage wildlife to live on his sizable estate. [RN]



**Malloy, Alexander Graham**, (1938-2019), was an inveterate collector of many things, including ancient coins and artifacts which he sold through his company, Alex G. Malloy Inc., with offices at 15 Danbury Road. He was co-author of the book, *Kiddie Meal Collectibles* (2001). He retired to Summit Point, W.Va.

**Maltas, Brian**, (1943-2020), and **Marilyn**, (1944-2015), operated Frances Cleaners (*q.v.*), the family business, for many years. [JFS]

**Mamanasco**: Name first appears in description the first purchase of land from local natives in 1708 for a boundary that “extends to a place called Mamanasquag, where is a oak tree marked on ye north side of the outlet of water that comes out from a sort of grassy pond, which is known and called by said name...” Some have thus interpreted the word as meaning “grassy pond.” Huden translates the word as “united outlets,” or “two sharing the same outlet,” suggesting Mamanasco may have been two ponds. Mamanasco has at least 12 versions of spellings in land records including: Mamanasquag (1709), Mamanasquogg (1716), Mamanusco (1741), Mamanausco (1745), Mamanusqua (1745), Mamansquog (pre-1750), Mammenusquah (pre-1750), Mamenasco (1746), Mamenasqua (1750), Mammenasco (1790), and Mammenusquag (1797). [RN]

**Mamanasco Farm**: Estate of Anne S. Richardson (*q.v.*), house built ca. 1912, razed after her death in 1965; property is now Richardson Park plus sites of RHS and Scotts Ridge Middle School [WWW, DD13]

**Mamanasco gristmill**: Established about 1717 by Daniel Sherwood; soon acquired by Seaborn Burt; one of Seaborn Burt’s heirs was son Theophilus, a Tory, who fled to British protection in the war; State confiscated his property, including his share in mill; Theophilus returned and state restored some of his property title, including a share in the Mamanasco mill that his father and grandfather had owned; and the proprietors, deciding to give up any connection with the mill, granted for the modest sum of \$50 the remainder of its title in the building and pond to Burt and his partner, Thomas Hyatt, in 1797. [RLR 8/124] Burts continued to have interests in the mill — Joshua Burt was one of several owners in 1817, and Epenetus Burt had grist and saw mills at the lake in 1865. [JFS] *See also* Read’s Mill Pond.

**Mamanasco Hill**: Name for the ridge to the northeast of Mamanasco Lake, an area that includes North Salem Road, upper Pond Road, Circle Drive, Hobby Drive, and Colonial Lane; appears in records as early as 1717. [RN]

**Mamanasco Lake**: Town’s largest body of water has long been an important Ridgefield resource, created by nature, enlarged by the pioneers. Mamanasco Beach Club says lake is 4,750 feet long, 1,500 feet wide, and about 96 acres. The deepest part of the lake, in its central basin, is 10 feet, and it has an average depth of five to six feet. Lake is probably a small vestige of a large post-glacial lake in the Titicus River valley. Rockwell says it was created by beavers damming up the outlet, which is less likely as a cause but possibly helped its size. Indigenous peoples had encampments there, catching the fish and hunting wildlife that drank from it. In the 18th and 19th Centuries, the lake was an important source of stored power for mills (*see* Mamanasco grist mill). With the development of its water basin (such as Eight Lakes — *q.v.*), the lake has suffered from eutrophication related to

excessive nutrients. Gasoline motors are banned from the lake, but boating is encouraged, with a state-owned boat launch at the south end. [RN]

**Mamansasco Lake Lodge:** Resort operated on Tackora Trail by Philip Hilsenrad and Molly Hilsenrad (*q.v.*) at the south end of Lake Mamansasco, 1940-61; accommodated up to 60 guests; offered swimming, boating, tennis, evening shows, etc. in the former mansion of Cortland P. Dixon (*q.v.*). *See also* Manresa, St. Ignatius Retreat House.

**Mamansasco Lake Mills** was a short-lived paper mill at the old Burt's mill site on Lake Mamansasco, created in the summer of 1866 by William J. Hoffman (*q.v.*). [Boston Commercial Bulletin 7/7/1866] It burned down that December with a loss of \$25,000 (\$440,000 in 2020). Apparently the mill was rebuilt and operated for some years in the 19th Century. Hoffman had previously operated in North Salem and Croton Falls, and had three wagons that traveled around collecting old cloth and paper to be made into "rough quality wrapping paper." [RIR]

**Mamansasco Lake Park:** A 1957 subdivision on the southern end of the lake that includes Lisa Lane and Christopher Road, developed by James B. Franks (*q.v.*).

**Mamansasco mill:** *See* Mamansasco gristmill.

**Mamansasco Mountain:** Mentioned in 1809 Proprietors survey; possibly the hill, about 650 feet above sea level, at Richardson Park, west of Ridgefield High School and at the northwestern end of the lake. [RN]

**Mamansasco Ridge:** Mentioned in 1797, probably the same locality as Mamansasco Hill, later Scott's Ridge (*q.v. both*), the ridge crossed by North Salem Road in the lower Mamansasco Lake area. [RN]

**Mamansasco Road** existed before 1856 when it appeared on the first detailed map of the town. However, until well into the 20th Century, it was little more than a dirt path around the lake, providing access to its shores for fishing. Development came to the road in the 1920s or 30s when William Peatt Sr. created his resort, consisting mostly of summer camps. The Peatt beach and recreation area were functioning until the 1980's. At around the same time Peatt arrived, the Helmuth Cottages were built there, also to serve as summer camps. Farrar Lane (*q.v.*) was once considered the southern end of Mamansasco Road. [RN]

**Mammals:** Among the mammals that have been seen in Ridgefield in the 21st Century are: Black Bear, Bobcat, Chipmunk, Coyote, Fisher, Gray Fox, Red Fox, Gray Squirrel, Field Mouse, Mole, Moose (*q.v.*), Opossum, Raccoon, Norway Rat, Flying Squirrel, Gray Squirrel, Red Fox.

**Manderback, Rev. Aaron** (1912-2018), a native of Philadelphia, was rector of St. Stephen's Church from 1950, retiring Oct. 5, 1980 [P8/21/1980]. He continued to serve as a fill-in from time to time and lived many years at Meadow Ridge in Georgetown. In 1951 he helped establish what was to become the Ridgefield Clergy Association. [NR]

**Mandolin Club:** A group of Ridgefield-based musicians who performed in the 1920s, usually with the Village Minstrels.

**Mannen**, a Japanese restaurant, opened in 2002 at 15 Danbury Road. The space had earlier been the Old Ice House restaurant (*q.v.*).

**Manners, Barbara**, first came to Ridgefield 1983. An attorney, she has been a Democratic selectman since 1997. She is the creator, organizer and producer of hundreds of CHIRP

(*q.v.*) concerts in Ballard Park from 2002 onward. Starting in 1994, she spearheaded the creation of Ridgefield Playhouse for Movies and the Performing Arts (*q.v.*).

**Manning, Sue**, a native of Cincinnati who moved to Ridgefield in 1970, was chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission from the late 1970s to the early 1980s and was elected first selectman, from 1987 through 1997. She was president of Ridgefield Family Y, 1981-85; president of the League of Women Voters, and of the Women's Fellowship of the First Congregational Church; and has been active in many other organizations. She later became an executive with Fairfield County Bank (*q.v.*). She lived at 56 East Ridge Road in a house once owned by another first selectman, Winthrop Rockwell (*q.v.*).[NR]

**Manor Road** runs from West Lane to Lewis Drive, the main road through the Ridgefield Manor Estates (*q.v.*). This was earlier the main driveway leading to Upagansit (*q.v.*), the mansion of F. E. Lewis, and included yellow brick gutters and “street lights.” Developed for housing in the late 1950’s, it became a town highway in 1969. [RN]

**Manresa**: Name given to the former mansion on Tackora Trail by the Jesuits when they operated the place as a retreat center from 1960 until 1979. Earlier it had been the home of C.P. Dixon (*q.v.*) and mobster George Scalise (*q.v.*), then Mamanasco Lake Lodge (*q.v.*). Now belongs to the Society of St. Pius X (*q.v.*).

**Manville, Thomas F. “Tommy,”** (1894-1967) married the fifth of his 11 wives, Bonita “Bonnie” Edwards, in the office of Judge Joseph Donnelly Nov. 18, 1941; she filed for divorce 17 days later! [JFS]

**Maple Avenue**: Early 20th Century name for today’s High Ridge Avenue from Peaceable St. to Gilbert Street. The selectmen changed the name to do away with confusion over the use of two names for what amounts to the same road. [RN]

**Maple Grove** was a popular picnicking spot in the early 20th Century, along the original Norran’s Ridge Road, a now-abandoned highway from behind the Fox Hill Village eastward to Limekiln Road, then part of the Outpost Nurseries holdings. [RN]

**Maple House**, a furniture store at 605 Ethan Allen Highway in the 1970s, was involved in a protracted zoning battle with the town — *see* Guy Tavoliero. The building had been a restaurant before the adoption of zoning in 1946 which made the area residential. Because it predated zoning, the commercial use was allowed to continue. However, after the building was vacant for more than a year, the Planning and Zoning Commission maintained it had lost its legal non-conforming status and could no longer be used for commercial purposes. [P3/8/1973]

**Maple Restaurant**: Full-service lunch and dinner restaurant at 621 Main Street (ONS152), operated starting about 1938 by Nazzareno Lavatori; the building was also his home; son Eugene Lavatori subsequently opened Nina’s Restaurant (*q.v.*) at the same site.

**Maple Shade Cemetery**, often appearing as Mapleshade Cemetery, was established around 1850 and so-called at least by the 1880s. It is bordered by North Street and Mapleshade Road, as well as by Scott’s (on the south) and Titicus (west) Cemeteries. The town took over ownership from the Scott family in 2006. In 2020 it had about 855 graves. [JFS]

**Mapleshade Road** from North Street to North Salem Road borders the north side of the Titicus and Mapleshade Cemeteries. Predating 1856, it was created to provide convenient access to the plots at the rear – and oldest – part of the cemetery, or to provide a more convenient

connection between lower North Salem Road and North Street, both ancient highways. Name probably came from the cemetery (*q.v.*), so called by at least 1889. [RN]

**Maplewood:** 19 Main Street home of actress Hilda Spong, 1935-55.

**Maplewood Hotel/Inn:** On Route 7 in Danbury, just across Ridgefield line, opposite Maplewood Road (*q.v.*) (now Bennett's Farm Road); established by Benjamin and Phoebe Selleck of Maplewood Farm [DD234]. Later called Maplewood Tourist Court. *See also* DD321-322.

**Maplewood Road:** Named for Sturges Selleck's Maplewood Farm through which it ran; thus, the name originally applied to road from Great Hill Road to Route 7, but was changed to Bennett's Farm Road after 1973 petition to selectmen from those who thought Bennett's Farm was historically more accurate; Maplewood Road is now a short link between Great Hill and Bennett's Farm Road — one of the last dirt roads to be paved in town. [RN]

**Maps of Ridgefield:** The following are among the most useful historical maps of town (*see also entries for each for details*): Beers Atlas of Fairfield and Westchester Counties, 1867; Blodgett's map of 1792; Clark's Map of Fairfield County; Doolittle's map of 1795; Dolph & Stewart's Atlas of Fairfield County, 1936; Romans map of 1777; Sotzmann's map of 1796; Warren's map of 1812; E. Belcher Hyde's atlas of Westchester County (1908), which covers western half of town.

**Marcardon Avenue:** Often misspelled Marcadon — for many years, street signs were incorrect; the name represents the first three letters of names of the three developers, Francis D. Martin, Arthur J. Carnall, and Joseph H. Donnelly (*q.v. each*). Road serves part of a 1939 subdivision of 35 lots [RN] *See also* Media Lane, Soundview Road. [RN]

**Marconi, Rudy,** a Ridgefield native and a Democrat, was elected first selectman in 1999 and re-elected ever since. He is RHS 1966, graduated from Nichols College, and worked in the paper and printing industry before returning to town in 1986 to join the family contracting business. He served four years on the Planning and Zoning Commission and two terms as selectman before becoming chief executive. [NR]

**Marcus, Delphine** (1931-2005), native of London, England, and former wife of cartoonist Jerry Marcus (*q.v.*), was a longtime announcer on WMNR-FM classical radio station and was active with Aldrich Museum.

**Marcus, Jerry:** Ridgefield's 13th school superintendent, serving 1989-92. No relation to the cartoonist.

**Marcus, Jerry,** (1924-2005), was a syndicated cartoonist, most noted for his daily and Sunday strip, *Trudy*, but also as a magazine gag cartoonist. He lived here 1956-96, at first on Skytop Road, then Stonehenge Road, and frequently contributed cartoons to the Ridgefield Press. He and his friend, Orlando Busino (*q.v.*), would often give presentations in the schools. [WWW]

**Marczely, Bernadette,** (?-2009), was RHS principal from 1982 to 1987. She came here 1976 as assistant RHS principal and later became a college professor who wrote three books, including *Supervision in Education*, 2002. [P5/28/1987]

**Mardon, Deirdre Frances,** (ca. 1943-2012), a native of Chicago, was a romance novelist reported to have lived in Ridgefield in the late 1970s or early 1980s [P7/7/1983]. She wrote

for Harlequin, with such titles as *Canvas of Passion*, *Destiny's Sweet Errand*, and *Reluctant Lover*. She later moved to Bethel, then South Carolina, where she died.

**Margarita 5K** race for runners, benefits Ability Beyond. *See* Southwest Cafe.

**Margrill, Herbert**, (1924-) was an NYC advertising executive whose face appeared in many advertisements in the 1970s, 80s. Head of Herbert Margrill Advertising Inc. [P12/18/1980]

**Mari Clin Bru Farm** was a name for a summer estate, concocted from the names of Clinton R. Irwin Martin, his wife, Marion, and her son, Bruce S. Sheldon ca 1910. The farm was described by the Brooklyn Eagle as 4 miles from the village.

**Marianite Sisters of the Holy Cross**, a French order of nuns, began serving in St. Mary's Parish April 9, 1953 and the following year, started teaching in the new St. Mary's School (*q.v.*). They continued until around 1969 when declining vocations led them to leave Ridgefield. The school closed in 1970. The order still operates the University of the Holy Cross in New Orleans, La. [JFS]

**Marie Lane**: A short road at the Ridgefield Lakes, named for Marie Tuite, daughter of John Tuite, a surveyor of the 1958 subdivision by Ridgefield Lakes Inc. [RN]

**Marine Corps League, Ridgefield Detachment**, was formed in 1971 and by 1975 began using a town-owned, former outbuilding on the Holy Ghost Novitiate (*q.v.*) for its headquarters. First regimental dinner was in 1975. Early leaders included Bill Lawler, Kip Jones, John P. Cooke, Al Pfeifer. Sponsored annual Toys for Tots collections and, in the past, was a major participant in annual April litter cleanup campaigns. [RPC]

**Marjoy Pond**: A modern name for what was for two centuries called Upper Pond (*q.v.*), so called because a subdivision of nearby land was called Mar-Joy. The pond is surrounded by the Mar-Joy open space, donated as part of the subdivision. [RN]

**Market Street**: Old lane running between Main Street and East Ridge, so called as early as 1856 because Hurlbutt's Meat Market was located along its south side, just off Main Street. *See* Sereno S. Hurlbutt and Hurlbutt Lane. [RN]

**Marriage**: *See* Wedding, first.

**Marshall Road**: Dead end road off Peaceable Street, part of the Westmoreland (*q.v.*) subdivision, named by subdivider Lincoln Development Company of Massachusetts, developed by Jerry Tuccio; became a town road in 1969; probably named for John Marshall (1755-1835), third chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, who has no known connection with Ridgefield. [RN]

**Martin, Clinton R. Irwin** and his wife, Marion, of Brooklyn summered at Mari Clin Bru Farm (*q.v.*) ca. 1910. He worked for the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

**Martin, Edward Trueblood**, (1918-1990), was a Pan-Am pilot many years; graduated Univ. of Michigan, 1942, and became Army test pilot, then engineering test pilot for Boeing; in 1949, he was a pilot in an operation that flew thousands of Jews from Yemen to Palestine, an effort he described in 1958 book, *I Flew Them Home: A Pilot's Story of the Yemenite Airlift*; lived on Cherry Lane in 1970s; retired to Heritage Village, Southbury, where he died, age 71.

**Martin, Francis D.** (1893-1982), native of West Park, NY, came here when he was 3; his father J.S. Louis Martin, native of Switzerland, was for 50 years superintendent of Gov. Phineas C. Lounsbury's Main Street estate (now the Veterans Memorial Community Center).

attended Center School on Bailey Avenue and Norwalk High School, then trained as a watchmaker and optician. He operated a jewelry store on Main Street many years (in 1950 when he sold to Craig's Jewelers, he calculated, he claimed he had repaired 125,000 watches and 25,000 clocks). Martin owned much real estate in town, most of it developed commercially, such as along Grove Street, Old Quarry Road, and Danbury Road (including today's Copps Hill Plaza), as well as buildings on Main Street. In 1941 he bought the former Ridgefield Boys School as his home and turned it into a farm. He was active in the community, serving on the board of the Methodist Church, scoutmaster of Ridgefield's first Boy Scout troop in 1912, a founder of the Ridgefield Promoter's Club (*q.v.*), a 27-year member of the Board of Finance, chairman of the Boys' Club, first president of the Lions Club, and chairman of the Red Cross during World War II. He spearheaded development of a swimming beach at Great Pond, then donated it to town — *see* Martin Park. [WWW] *See* [P9/24/1981] for a picture when he was seven years old.

**Martin, J.S. Louis**, (1862-1949), a native of Switzerland, was the father of Francis D. Martin (*q.v.*) and lived in a house on the south side of Governor Street, just west of Veterans Park School entrance. Trained as a watchmaker, he was superintendent of Grovelawn (*q.v.*), the Lounsbury estate, for many years. [JFS]

**Martin, Dr. Philip**, (1920-2013), a Ridgefield native and WW2 veteran, was a Ridgefield optometrist and son of Francis D. Martin (*q.v.*). In 1983, he wrote an essay about life in 1920s Ridgefield that appeared in the 275th Anniversary special supplement in The Ridgefield Press. Married to June Pascoe; office in 1960 at ONS96 Main Street. RHS 1938?

**Martin, Townsend B.**, (ca. 1908-1982), an investment banker, race-horse owners and breeder, and one-time quarter owner of the NY Jets football team, once owned "Twelve Furlongs," what is in late 20th-early 21st Century the Landegger estate off Wilton Road East, Nod and Whipstick Roads. Distraught over the impending death of his seriously ill wife, Irene, he committed suicide by gunshot. Two days later Irene died. They lived in North Castle NY at the time. [NYT10/29/1982, DD157]

**Martin Block**: The Tudor building at 411-419 Main Street, housing, in 2018, Planet Pizza, Dr. George Amatuzzi et al.; formerly owned by Francis D. Martin; originally called Telephone Building (*q.v.*); built ca. 1914, by Lucius H. Biglow (*q.v.*).

**Martin Luther King Day** celebration takes place annually on Jan. 15 to celebrate the Civil Rights leader and his goals, and typically presents an annual the Spirit of Dr. King Ridgefield Community Service Award. The event was founded, is annually organized, and emceed by Mark Robinson (*q.v.*).

**Martin Park** is probably Ridgefield's most popular and populous park, consisting of 9.4 acres on the south end of Great Pond. The name commemorates Francis D. Martin (*q.v.*), who developed and operated the park for many years and who, in 1970, gave it to the town with the stipulation that it be named for him and that it be self-supporting through membership fees. It had been the Great Pond swimming area, developed in the 1950s by Martin as Great Pond Holding Corporation and many community volunteers as a public place to swim. [RN]

**Martin Road** is a name applied to a private road serving a six-lot, 22-acre subdivision of part of Francis D. Martin's Far-Vu Farm, approved in June 1981 [RN]

**Martin's Corner or Curve:** Informal term for the sharp curve in North Salem Road, a little north of Mamasasco Road and Ridgefield High School, bordered on the west by old Francis D. Martin (*q.v.*) farm, whence the name; scene of many auto accidents. [RN]

**Martin's Jewelry Store** opened in a new version on Main Street in October 1935, operated by Francis D. Martin (*q.v.*). It became Craig's Jewelry Store (*q.v.*) in 1950 when it was at 415 Main Street (later the Yarn Bee). [DD94]

**Martinu, Bohoslav,** noted Czech composer, has been said to have spent summer of 1944 at a Ridgefield estate, Four Chimneys. The estate was actually at 18 Mill River Road in the South Salem hamlet of Lewisboro, N.Y. [JFS]

**Marty Motors:** Wholesale and retail used-car dealership at 92 Danbury Road, established ca. 1970 by Marty McDonough; owned by the Keaveny family since 1981.

**Mary's:** Restaurant at 11 Danbury Road, now site of Girolmetti Court [P11/19/1964]; opened in 1933 by Mario and Mary Girolmetti; grew into The Old Ice House (*q.v.*)

**Mary's or Mary Lane** is a short, dead-end road off Barry Avenue, named for Mary McManus, wife of Peter A. McManus, contractor and former Ridgefield state representative. The McManuses owned the property which in 1951 they subdivided into seven lots of about one-half acre each. [RN]

**Mary Rebekah Lodge:** Women's side of Odd Fellows (*q.v.*), formed here April 14, 1905 as Rebekah Lodge No. 51, but since so many of the members were named Mary, they decided to personalize lodge's name; Daughters of Rebekah, the national organization, aims to "live peaceably, do good unto all, as we have opportunity, and especially to obey the Golden Rule: Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so unto them"; disbanded 1990s due to lack of membership. [JFS]

**Masonic Hall** at 396 Main Street is the 2½ story building just south of the town hall. Original hall built in 1817 by the Jerusalem Lodge of Masons. The first floor was originally used by a store. Ground floor was leased as a town house or hall for government use in 1832 with the Masons using the upper floors. Later, the first floor housed The Ridgefield Press; The building burned in the Great Fire of 1895 and was replaced immediately with a building of similar design. The Press and tailor Louis Joffee occupied the first floor [DD89] for many years. Then the Thrift Shop had its store there, and later the Gordon Walsh Agency. In 2020, the Coldwell Banker real estate agency occupied the first floor. [JFS, RIR]

**Masonic Lodge:** See Jerusalem Lodge of Masons.

**Matlack:** Home of Dr. and Mrs. Timothy Matlack Cheesman (*q.v.*) was built 1887; later Holy Ghost Novitiate (*q.v.*), now Prospect Ridge Congregate Housing (*q.v.*); Matlack was an old name in Dr. Cheesman's mother's family. [WWW]

**Matthews, Allan F.** (1920-1986) and **Lillian E.** (1921-2011) founded Spotlight Theater (*q.v.*), a local company for young people in 1974. Both had performed widely together in touring companies of major productions — they had known each other since they were 12 and were married 43 years before Al's death. He was a master sergeant in Patton's army in WW2. They are buried in St. Mary Cemetery. Son **Victor** helped lead Spotlight after his father's death. [NR]

**Matthews, Gerry** (1936-) is an actor who has performed in films and on stage, and who was for 40 years the voice of Sugar Bear in Post cereals' Sugar Crisp commercials; was also the man in tiny boat floating in a toilet for Tidy Bowl commercials; married to actress Pat Stanley; lived on Lounsbury Road in 1981 [P4/2/1981]

**Maxine Furs** opened at 440 Main Street in April 1987; possibly the town's first and last fur store. [P4/16/1987]

**Mayer, Maureen**, (1937-2011), a native of the Bronx, was the longtime owner and operator of the West Lane Inn (*q.v.*). She and former husband Henry Prieger of the Inn at Ridgefield bought the hotel, then used as a boarding house, in 1972 and under Mayer, it became the West Lane Inn in 1978. She was joined by her daughter, Debbie Prieger, in operating the inn for many years. [5/26/2011].

**Maynard, Effingham**, (1835-1918), head of the firm of Clark & Maynard, NYC publishers and wholesale booksellers, built a mansion at 2 Peaceable Street, purchased land from the estate of J. Howard King. It is rumored the house was designed by Stanford White, but no evidence has been found [DD207]; hired Frederick Law Olmsted's firm to design gardens; only verified Olmsted gardens in Ridgefield [LOC], but they have been largely destroyed by subsequent subdivision of the back yard; daughters Mary and Helen Maynard lived there many years; son was Walter Effingham Maynard, involved in NYC real estate.

**McCain, John**, visited Ridgefield April 8, 2000, to stump for Mark Nielsen of Danbury, later of Ridgefield, a candidate for Fifth District Congressman. [OR]

**McCann, E. Armitage**, (1875-1937), a native of Scotland, was a famous model ship maker, noted especially for his sailing ships — he was a former ship captain. He popularized the model-ship hobby especially through his columns in Popular Science magazine in the 1920s and 30, and also wrote books on model making. He moved to Bryon Avenue in 1933. Many of his ships are in major collections. [WWW]

**McCarthy, Barbara**, was owner of Corner Pub (*q.v.*) on Grove Street and Sunset Lane, owned from 1982 until April 2012; before that, owned Hyde's Wines and Liquors (*q.v.*) on Main Street; elected president, Chamber of Commerce, 1981 [P2/5/1981]

**McDonald, Robert**, was the first principal of Farmingville School, serving from 1963 to 1989. He grew up in Danbury and graduated from WestConn. After teaching in Stamford six years, he came here to teach at Ridgebury School in 1961. From 1993 to 2000, he was coordinator of the career center at RHS. [NR]

**McDonald's Mill Pond:** Mentioned in a 1772 deed for today's Miller's Pond (*q.v.*) on the Norwalk River just west of Route 7 and north of Florida Hill Road; Daniel McDonald operated a grist mill that used the pond for water power and that was probably situated on the site of the present stone house, called Moongate. It was one of the town's earliest mills. [RN] *See also* Abbott's Mill Road.

**McGeekin, Molly**, is the town treasurer in 2020, first elected in 2015. She is a Democrat.

**McGlynn, Charles T.**, was a funeral director whose business was on Catoonah Street in 1920. [P9/7/1920]

**McGlynn, Rev. Francis**, ordained a priest in Holy Ghost Fathers (Congregation of the Holy Spirit) March 8, 1924 [P2/28/1924]



**McGlynn, Margaret McAulay**, (1893-1982), a native of Scotland, was a feisty Democratic political leader in town and state for many years. She served on the school board in the 1930s and 40s, as an assessor, a registrar of voters, and member of the Park Commission, and was active in St. Mary's Parish. She was the wife of Thomas J. McGlynn and mother of Fire Chief Richard T. McGlynn (*q.v.*). [NR]

**McGlynn, Michael**, also known as "Tinker Mike," was a partner in McGlynn & Ryan Plumbing Shop (*q.v.*) in the 1930a. [DD96]. *See also* Michael T. McGlynn.

**McGlynn, Michael T.**, (1861-1959), a Lewisboro native who was called "Painter Mike" to distinguish him from cousin "Tinker Mike," served as a member of the Board of Education for more than half a century and despite being a Democrat, was often elected its chairman. A house painter well respected in town, he was on the board of the Ridgefield Savings Bank for 57 years and was vice-president many years. [NR, RSB25]

**McGlynn, Richard T. "Dick,"** (1927-2009), who was born across the street from the Catoonah Street firehouse, was the first chief of the paid fire department. He was a teenage volunteer in WW2 before joining the Navy, and in 1950 became one of the town's first paid firefighters. In 1973, he was named the paid department's first chief, retiring in 1989 after overseeing a tremendous period of growth of services, staff and equipment. [WWW]

**McGlynn, Robert W.**, (1921-1991), a Ridgefield native, was a private school teacher who grew up on Fairview Avenue, a son of J. Edward McGlynn, a house painter and acting postmaster. He was a RHS 1939 and a Wesleyan graduate. He joined the staff of Deerfield Academy in 1948 and became an influential teacher; among his students were John McPhee, the Pulitzer-winning writer, and his admirers included poets Seamus Heaney and Robert Creeley. [WWW]

**McGlynn & Ryan Plumbing Shop** was at 388 Main Street in the 1920s, to the old Catholic church on Catoonah Street (later the Thrift Shop for many years). Michael "Tinker Mike" McGlynn was the senior partner in the firm and his son-in-law, William H. Ryan, was the junior partner. [DD96]

**McGovern, Richard Gordon**, (1926-2014), an executive, started at Pepperidge Farm sweeping floors and became its president, 1968; is named president and CEO of Campbell Soup Company, announced December 1980 [P12/4/1980]; retired 1989; made many contributions to Ridgefield Library; donated lighted basketball courts on East Ridge; lived at 182 Lounsbury Rd. [WWW]

**McGraw, Sarah**, is an actor, director and acting teacher who performed in opera, regional, stock, repertory, and international theaters, including touring across Europe, South America, and the British Isles. She and her husband, Scott Krushinski, PA, lived in the Ridgefield Knolls in the 1990s, 2000s. She now teaches theater outside Pittsburgh. [P11/4/1999]

**McHarg, Henry King**, (1851-1941), a wealthy railroad executive and philanthropist, had a home on Nod Road in Ridgefield from 1925 until death. He was a great grandson of Joshua King (*q.v.*), and great great grandson of Rev. Jonathan Ingersoll (*q.v.*), he donated the land on which First Congregational Church (*q.v.*) is located. [WWW]

**McIntire, Mike**, is a journalist who has won two Pulitzer Prizes. He was hired fresh out of college in 1985 by Acorn Press newspapers, publishers of the Ridgefield Press. He later

was a member of a Pulitzer-winning team at the Hartford Courant, and in 2017 shared a Pulitzer as a member of the New York Times team investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 election. His father, Lee McIntire, was an early director of the Woodcock Nature Center (*q.v.*) [JFS]

**McKay, Don**, native of West Virginia, was a singer and stage actor who appeared on Broadway in 1950s-60s; lived at 80 Branchville Road, the Old Coach House (*q.v.*). He was known for hosting parties with interesting guests from the theater and arts. [P11/5/1969, P12/22/1980]

**McKenna, Arthur J.**, (1913-2000), Yale 1936, was active in the community for nearly 40s years as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Sewer Advisory Committee, and Republican Town Committee, as well as with Keeler Tavern and Community Center. He and wife Marjory, also active in town, lived on Silver Spring Road in Jared Nash (*q.v.*) house. [JFS]

**McKeon, Daniel Manning**, (1906-2001) a native of NYC who was sometimes called “The Squire of Ridgebury,” was a stockbroker and gentleman farmer who was a longtime member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, and a leader in town government, in the Catholic Church, and in local and regional conservation and organic farming movements for more than 60 years. He was a historian of Ridgebury and especially its part in the American Revolution. He and wife, Louise (*q.v.*), bought what they called Arigideen Farm in 1938; it was then 135 acres; some was subsequently subdivided; much of it later became Double H Farm (*q.v.*). Town owns fields at south corner of Ridgebury and Old Stagecoach Roads, used for sheep.[WWW]

**McKeon, Louise Huguet**, (ca. 1917-1993), was a community leader who came here in 1938 with husband Daniel (*q.v.*). She belonged to both Ridgefield and Caudatowa Garden Clubs and, as Caudatowa president in WW2, she helped lead efforts to plant Victory Gardens. Conservation chairman of the Garden Club of America, 1965-1968, and was a leader in its lobbying for the national Highway Beautification Act of 1965. She was a founder and early president of the Keeler Tavern Preservation Society. An active Republican, she was, in 1951, chairman of the Republican State Central Committee. [NR]

**McKeon Place** is a short, dead-end road off Turner Road at Turner Hill (*q.v.*); was once planned to connect at both ends with Turner Road; recalls Daniel and Louise McKeon (*q.v. each*). [RN]

**McKeon Pond**: Hearne map (ca. 1965) shows this name for a small pond on the McKeons’ Arigideen Farm at the northeast corner of Old Stagecoach and Ridgebury Roads. The pond, once used for watering the McKeons’ cows, is a source of the Mopus Brook (*q.v.*). [RN]

**McLaury, Ellis B. and Mary** in 1928 bought playwright Eugene O’Neill’s house, Brook Farm (*q.v.*), on North Salem Road, and also acquired other tracts in the area. Ellis was the head of the McLaury Marble Corporation in The Bronx. Their son, John, had a chicken farm on Ridgebury Road in the 1930s — *see* McLaury’s Hill. [RN]

**McLaury’s Hill**: Ridgebury Road from Spring Valley Road intersection to north of Regan Road so-called in a 1955 Ridgefield Press article. Mr. and Mrs. John E. McLaury once had a house and chicken farm on the hill, just beyond the sharp curve. [RN]

**McManus, Patricia Potter**, (1919-2013), was town tax collector, 1980-86, after the death of Alice Besse; had been assistant tax collector, 1966-80.

**McManus, Peter A.**, (1889-1970), a native of Scotland and a Republican, was state representative from 1941-53, and was one of the first members of State Labor Relations Board, which he helped to establish and on which he served, 1945-67. An architect and builder, he worked on many of the town's mansions. He was a Trial Court justice and member of the Board of Assessors. [WWW]

**McNamara, Walter**, (1938-2015), a native of St. Louis, was a United Airlines 747 pilot who is considered the father of recycling in Ridgefield. Was an early and longtime leader of the Ridgefield Environmental Action Program (*q.v.*), and managed the Recycling Center from 1974 to 1987. Was also active in efforts to control water quality of Lake Mamanasco, where he lived. Moved here 1969, moved to NC ca. 2003. [WWW]

**McShea, Susanna Hofmann**, grew up in Ridgefield, graduated RHS 1967, and wrote three books, set in Ridgefield (which is called Raven's Wing): *Hometown Heroes* (1990), *The Pumpkin-Shell Wife* (1992) and *Ladybug, Ladybug* (1994). Series is about four elderly amateur sleuths who solve murders. [NR]

**Mead**: Old Ridgefield family, here as early as 1722 when Theophilus Mead of Norwalk bought two acres on North Salem Road. Israel Mead had land at Grassy Island in 1729. Meads had generally lived on the western side of town, and in eastern Lewisboro, where there is a Mead Street today. [RN]

**Mead, Harold A.**, sought permission to establish a new restaurant at the old Twin Lakes Inn on Route 7 in 1966. He had operated a restaurant where Nina's (*q.v.*) later ran.

**Mead, Jeremiah**, (1752-1840), was a Revolutionary War veteran who served as a selectman in 1807 and 1808 and was a state representative in 1814.

**Mead, Lewis**, (-1802) died Dec. 5, 1802, "on the coast of Malabar in the Chinese Sea." [RVR 1/211] He was on board the ship, Penman, on its passage from Canton, China, to New York.

**Mead, Lewis H.**, was an owner of the clover mill (*q.v.*) and plaster mill on the Sugar Hollow Turnpike north of Branchville starting in 1856 [RLR21/50]

**Mead, Milan Hoyt**, (abt 1830-1900), was a farmer who became co-owner of Nash & Mead, the general store at Titicus (*see* Titicus Store), for 20 years. He was state representative, 1895-97.

**Mead, Dr. Robert E.** (1931-2015) was a Ridgefield dentist for 40 years; bought former Cass Gilbert Memorial (*q.v.*) in 1958 as home; well known antique car restorer; among specialties was Stanley Steamers; also often called upon to repair the Fountain (*q.v.*). [P3/19/2015]

**Mead, Theodore H.**, (1879-1931), a wealthy New Yorker, was the original owner of the West Mountain estate called Rippowam (*q.v.*), a 500-acre estate that included seven miles of private roads and stretched across the state line. He wrote the book, *Horsemanship for Women*. [P9/12/1901]

**Mead Ridge**, a development of 19 lots on the north side of South Salem Road, is served by Mead Ridge Road and spurs, Mead Ridge Drive and Lane; subdivided in 1958 by Henri Engelbert; named for his wife, Lydia Mead Englebert, descended from an old Ridgefield

Mead family. Englebert in 1948 came from NYC to purchase a house and 49 acres from Eleanor C. Peil that had earlier been part of Reginald M. Lewis (*q.v.*) estate and farm. For many years before Lewis the property had been a Keeler family farm. *See also* Mead.

**Meadow Woods:** A 1965 subdivision of 92 acres into 53 one-acre lots on Lounsbury and Ivy Hill Roads, and served by Standish Drive, Revere Lane, and Glenbrook Court, developed by Harry Richmond and Bill Connors, both of Norwalk, who named the place for the combination of meadowland and woodland that made up the tract. [RN]

**Meals on Wheels** is a volunteer organization that prepares and delivers meals to shut-ins and senior citizens who need assistance. Founded in 1974, it was inspired by Ridgefield Clergy Association and District Nursing Association. By 2018, five part-time employees and over 140 volunteers were delivering 20,000 meals per year. The fee is about 30% of the cost of the meal. The commercial-grade kitchen and administration office is at Ballard Green, 25 Gilbert Street. [JFS]

**Medals, commemorative:** 1. In 1977 a medal commemorating the Battle of Ridgefield was designed by Gail Glissmann for the town's Bicentennial Committee and struck in both silver and bronze. It featured images of Generals Benedict Arnold and David Wooster, both heroes at the battle. The medal was restruck in 2002 for the 225th anniversary. 2. In 1983 the town's 275th anniversary was marked with a medal featuring the town seal (*q.v.*) on one side and the Cass Gilbert Fountain on the other. (For the 300th anniversary, a pewter ornament was issued.)

**Media Lane:** Old name for the northern end of Soundview Road, so called in the 1939 subdivision by Francis D. Martin, Arthur J. Carnall, and Joseph H. Donnelly, that included lots on the east side of "Media Lane"; name probably referred to road's being midway between Wilton Road West and Wilton Road East; term still used as late as 1952 on some maps. [RN]

**Medve, Richard "Rick,"** a Fairfield native, was a popular RHS teacher and coach of track and football. Medve's teams eventually won 670 meets over his 28-year career here. At one point in the 1970s, his track teams were undefeated in 54 straight meets over four years. He came to RHS in 1964, retired in 1990, and coached both boys and girls track teams. He was Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 1977. His teams won 16 FCIAC championships and finished runner-up nine times; won four state championships and finished state runner-up three times; and won a total of 23 FCIAC Eastern championships. His boys' track team compiled the conference's longest winning streak of 54-straight meets between 1974-77, and his girls' cross country team won 39-straight from 1975-77. [JFS P5/31/1973]

**Medynski, Rev. Francis,** (1921-2008), a native of New Jersey, was Catholic priest who was pastor of St. Mary Parish, 1973-76. He was the founding pastor of St. Elizabeth Seton (*q.v.*) parish in 1978; retired 1996 at the mandatory age of 75. While at St. Mary, he established and led a boy choir called The Little Singers (*q.v.*); His parents died in the flu epidemic when he was a baby and he was raised in an orphanage. [WWW]

**Meffley, Edith,** was a leading voice of conservation in Ridgefield, serving on the Conservation Commission from 1965 until 2005 [P9/1/2005], longer than anyone in the agency's history. A resident from 1960 to ca 2014, she was active in the Ridgefield Garden Club, helped

create a conservation program in the schools, and was a founder of the Discovery Center; Rotary Citizen of the Year in 1972, active with Visiting Nurse Association, Child and Family Services; founder and longtime administrator of the Community Gardens on Prospect Ridge, now called the Edith Meffley Garden. Edith Meffley Award given annually by Conservation Commission for major contributions to Ridgefield's environment. Married to C. Fred Meffley, (1922-2007), also active in the community; they lived on Lewis Drive. [NR]

**Meeting House:** The Meeting House was a multifunctional community building that served as a church, a school, and the town hall. On Dec. 19, 1723, the Annual Town Meeting voted to build a "meetinghouse" on the green that was 34 feet wide and 40 feet long, "and 28 feet between the sill and the plate." Eventually, schooling took place in a separate building, but government meetings as well as church services continued to be held in the Meeting House through the 18th Century. By 1818 when the new Connecticut Constitution declared that the Congregational Church was no longer the official state church, town meetings were being held in other public buildings.

**Meeting House Yard:** The formal name for the village green that stood along Main Street at the head of Branchville Road, so-called because the Congregational Church or "meeting house" stood on this land. The Town Meeting defined its location Nov. 12, 1712 term was used as early as as late as 1823. Here many ceremonies took place, and the local militia trained. The "Meeting house yard" was laid out to be 16 rods (264 feet) wide (east-west), twice the width of the Main Street right of way (132 feet), and extended quite a bit to the east, now a private residence at the corner of Branchville Road. It was 20 rods (330 feet) from north to south, making the total area of the green exactly two acres. [RN, POR]

**Meier, Col. Edward D.,** (1841-1914), a native of St. Louis, was a Civil War veteran, who fought at Gettysburg. He became a leading mechanical engineer and president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Among his projects was designing the 10,000-horsepower boilers at Grand Central Terminal. He and his wife Nancy had a summer home, Golden Apple, the former Nathan L. Rockwell Sr. farm, at 166 Lounsbury Road in the early 20th Century. [FoF]

**Meisner, Paul and Sadye,** operated an exclusive hotel in the former Albert Wiggen mansion, Peaceable Acres, for 16 years in the 1940s and 50s. Later owned by J. Louis Read. [DD197]

**Meisner's Inn:** See under Paul and Sadye Meisner.

**Melcombe, Richard,** RHS 1973, is a film, TV, commercial/promo producer and media producer in Calabasas, Calif. He was a producer of many TV films and series in the 1990s, early 2000s, including the The Lost World series. He owns Richmel Media and Entertainment.

**Meltzer, Alan,** (1944-2011), a native of NYC, was the founder of Wind-up Records with his ex-wife Diana Meltzer. They had a home on Old Branchville Road in the 1980s and 90s, and Meltzer operated Rainbow Records, a store at 88 Danbury Road. In 1985 he founded CD One Stop, wholesalers of CD music operating from his house. It later merged with CDNow and eventually became part of Amazon. In 1991 their only child, Michael, 20, RHS 1989, was killed in an auto accident on Danbury Road; a music scholarship at RHS was established in his name. Meltzer was also an expert poker player who played in televised

competitions. At his death, he left \$1 million to his chauffeur and \$500,000 to the doorman at his Manhattan residence. He and his son are buried in Ridgebury Cemetery. [WWW]

**Memorial Highways** are allowed to be created on state roads to honor notable people who've died. Ridgefield Memorial Highways honor Richard E. Venus, Route 35 from the fountain to the West Lane Schoolhouse; Elizabeth Leonard, Route 116 from around Barlow Mountain to Ridgebury Roads; Maurice Sendak, Route 35 from Limestone/Haviland Roads to Route 7.

**Memories:** Autobiography by Laura Curie Allee Shields (*q.v.*), privately printed in 1940 by Acorn Press in Ridgefield; she was an early activist for woman suffrage who lived most of her life on the corner of Main and Market Streets. [JFS]

**Memory Lane:** A short private road off West Lane, serving a subdivision of about four acres into three lots, filed by Myrtle L. Englund (for her husband, Eugene) of Norwalk, in 1956. The land had formerly been part of the Elizabeth Swords Grant estate. [RN]

**Men's Shop, The:** At ONS145 Main Street, opened in 1948, carrying "some of America's great names in men's furnishings," including Puritan, Swank, Jantzen, Arrow, BVD, Paris, Wembley, Plymouth, Lee, and Biltwell; in early 1960s, was Dante's Men's Furnishings but by 1962, it was The Question Mart; in 2018, Touch of Sedona.

**Menageries:** *See* Circuses.

**Mench, George Arpad**, (1930-2017), was a Ridgefield photographer in 1950s and 60s; produced many commercial postcards; lived on North Salem Road; native of Lodz, Poland; naturalized 1961; moved to Hawaii where he died. [JFS]

**Menz, Clifford Willis Jr.**, (1911-1978), a tenor and Minnesota native, was a concert and opera singer who lived on Silver Spring Road in the 1930s. His wife, soprano Susanne Fisher (*q.v.*), was more famous. They gave a benefit concert for the PTA here in November 1941 [P10/30/1941]. They retired to Florida where both died.

**Merrick, Helene** (1908-2009), a native of France, and her husband attorney **J. Harold Merrick**, were active in town in the middle and late 20th Century. She raised and showed Dalmatians for many years, and was the author of the 2004 book, *Barnum and His Friends*, about Dalmatians. During World War II, she volunteered to work in the Women's Land Army at the University of Connecticut. She was long active in what is now the RVNA.

**Merrie Moppet Too:** Children's consignment clothing store in Hackert and Monti Building, 409 Main Street, opened August 1980 by five owners [P10/2/1980]; by May 1981, it had closed and the site became The Red Balloon (*q.v.*) [P5/7/1981]

**Merriemount, Camp**, is mentioned in [P8/23/1934] as being the former Camp Topstone; it was near Great Pond.

**Merry-Go-Round:** Store selling children's clothing at Copps Hill Plaza; existed 1980; went out of business, March 1981. [P3/26/1981]

**Merullo, Matthew**, Fairfield Prep 1983, grew up in Ridgefield and became a minor league all-star, a Triple-A batting champion, and was a catcher for six seasons in the major leagues, playing for the Chicago White Sox, Cleveland Indians and Minnesota Twins for 223 games with a .234 batting average, making only 11 errors and with a .982 fielding percentage. Lives in Madison (2020). His grandfather was **Lennie Merullo**, a shortstop who played for the Chicago Cubs (1941-47), appearing in 639 games in which he scored 191 runs,

drove in 152, had 497 hits and batted .240. Father **Len “Boots” Merullo** played shortstop, third base and the outfield from 1962-64 in the Pittsburgh Pirates farm system, and has been an assistant coach at RHS. Matt’s son, Nick, played in the Baltimore Orioles minor league system in 2014. [NR]

**Methodism in Ridgefield:** *See* Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church, Rev. James Coleman, Rev. George Lansing Taylor.

**Metiticus:** *See* Titicus.

**Miciche, Dan,** was in 2021 music director/conductor of the musical, *Wicked*, on Broadway. He is a graduate of the Boston Conservatory of Music at Berklee, teaches classes and coaches.

**Michael Meltzer Memorial Scholarship:** *See* Alan Meltzer.

**Michaelsen, Arthur,** is a longtime Ridgefield restaurateur, starting with 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  at Copps Hill Plaza in 1980s; later owned The Catch (successor to King Neptune — *q.v.*), 59 Bank Street in Branchville and New Milford, and in 2020 Bartolo (*q.v.*) at 103 Danbury Road; wife Julia is partner in the business; came to Ridgefield as a boy in 1969 and graduated from RHS, 1984. [JFS]

**Middle Ridge** was the early 20th Century name for East Ridge. At that time, what we call Prospect Ridge was considered East Ridge. [RN]

**Middlebrook Lane:** Dead-end road serving nine or 10 lots off Branchville Road, east of Bayberry Hill Road, named by developer Ronald Hubbard in 1979 for the Middlebrook family, which owned the land in the 19th Century. [RN]

**Midrocks Road** runs between Bennett’s Farm and Limestone Roads – amid rocks – built chiefly to serve a subdivision of 15 lots of one-third to two-thirds acre by Nicholas R. DiNapoli Sr. and Jr. in 1961; accepted as a town highway in 1962. [RN]

**Mignerey, George A.,** (1877-1956), a native of Danbury, was a pharmacist whose bought Howard D. Smith drug store in 1911 on the east side of Main Street; later moved it to the west side, 423 Main Street (ONS102); used the name Ridgefield Pharmacy (shown on a bottle of his); retired 1946, and sold to Edward M. Smith; was active in St. Stephen’s, Lions, Masons, and was a director of the Ridgefield Savings Bank, 1931-1956. He published many postcard views of Ridgefield. Name sometimes spelled Mignery.[NR, RSB]

**Military leaders** who lived in Ridgefield: Col. Philip Burr Bradley, Major Stephen Cain, MBE, Col. Louis D. Conley, Lt. Joshua King, Brig. Gen. David Perry, Col. Edward M. Knox, Major Gen. John Francis Regis Seitz, Gen. Wilber E. Wilder (*q.v. each*).

**Milk Station:** An early name for Cooper Station (*q.v.*), probably because its chief function was as a place for dairy farmers to drop off milk cans for branch line trains to pick up to deliver to creameries and dairies.

**Mill Brook:** Old name for the stream that connects Mamanasco Lake to the Titicus River, flowing under North Salem Road near Sherwood Road; first appears in a 1722 deed. [RN]

**Mill Path:** Early name for North Salem Road, so called because it led from the village to Mamanasco Mill, three miles out of town; first appears in 1722 deed; later deeds use “the Mill Road” (*q.v.*) or “the road to Mamanasco Mill.” [RN]

**Mill Plain:** Much of this section of western Danbury was once within the bounds of Ridgefield, having been in the center of New Patent. Mentioned as early as a 1769 deed for 20 acres

near a stream “that runs into ye Mill Plain Pond,” today called Lake Kenosha. Bailey says “Mill Plain...derived its name, according to tradition, from a mill that was a little east of the present Fair Grounds, which had so high a dam that it flooded the swamps by Mill Plain Pond.” [RN]

**Mill Pond:** Term used for many local bodies of water, including Mamanasco Lake, Upper Pond, and Lower Pond. [RN]

**Mill River:** *See* Stamford Mill River.

**Mill River Hollow** is a 15-lot subdivision off Cedar Lane, served by Deer Hill Drive, developed in 1955 by Earl D. Etheridge; so called because it overlooks the headwaters of the Stamford Mill River, or Mill River, just to the west. [RN]

**Mill River Pond:** body of water off the south side of South Salem Road and the western end of Deer Hill Drive, created in the 1940’s by the damming of the Stamford Mill River, though earlier ponds may have existed there for mills; dam burst in the late 1970’s and was never repaired, turning the pond into a meadow, on its way to becoming woods. [RN]

**Mill Road:** Mill Road or Path was an early name for North Salem Road because it led from the village to Mamanasco Mill; also a name for Florida Hill Road (1744), [RN]

**Mill View Terrace:** Short dead-end road off Nursery Road, developed ca. 1963 by Lewis J. Finch, who said he selected the name because the property overlooks the site of what was once “a tremendous mill.” As early as 1745 Richard Olmsted had a grist mill near what became Stonehenge Inn (*q.v.*). Many subsequent mills operated hereabouts. [RN]

**Miller, Van:** Ridgefield’s fifth school superintendent, serving 1942-47 with a break of a year and a half to serve in the Army Air Force during the war.

**Millers Card and Giftique:** Store at new Copps Hill Plaza opens Dec. 8, 1972, closes summer, 1981, replaced by Jenni’s Hallmark [P9/10/1981]

**Millers Lane** serves part of a five-lot subdivision of 11 acres off Saw Mill Hill Road and Kellogg Street by Five Stars Land Development; name suggested by JFS to recall the mills that operated along Saw Mill Hill Road. [RN]

**Miller’s Pond:** Small pond on Norwalk River, created by the Moongate (*q.v.*) dam; while previously mill ponds existed there from the early 1700s, name reflects Nathaniel Miller, who built the current dam for his Moongate estate in the 1950s. [RN] *See also* Platt’s Mill Pond.

**Miller’s Ridge:** Very early name that lasted nearly a century and a half, first shows up in a 1717 deed; ridge extended from Wilton Road East and Whipstick Road southward along the east side of Wilton Road East to around Spectacle Lane where it met Spectacle Ridge; from a very early mill — perhaps town’s first saw mill — that stood on stream here), a short distance below Whipstick Road and just east of Wilton Road East. *See also* Silvermine River. [RN]

**Millionaires:** Nickname for Ridgefield High School sports teams in 1930s and early 1940s, presumably because of the many wealthy people who lived here. *See also* Tigers.

**Millionaires’ Row** was a name informally applied to the southern end of High Ridge, where a half dozen mansions were built and owned by wealthy New Yorkers at the turn of the 20th Century. [DD195]



**Millstone Brook:** Ancient and short-lived name, apparently for the upper Titicus River or one of its branches; mentioned in 1721 deed. Perhaps early millstones were created from a quarry near here, possibly the Millstone Rocks (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Millstone Court:** Short dead-end road off Ramapoo Road, serving some of the seven lots in a 1993 subdivision by Donald and James Sturges; JFS recommended the name because of the subdivision's probable proximity to the Millstone Brook (*q.v.*) and Millstone Rocks (*below*).

**Millstone Rocks,** undoubtedly connected with Millstone Brook (*q.v.*), was cited in a 1722 deed and may have been a place where the first settlers cut millstones from a rock outcropping. [RN] *See also* Millstone Court.

**Mimosa:** Estate off North Street, probably named by Milton Biow (*q.v.*) for mimosa trees planted there (they did not survive); [RN] Jerry Tuccio bought the estate November 1964 and subdivided it in 91 lots cut from 123 acres, served by Mimosa Circle, Court and Place. [P11/19/1964] *See also* Wood Acres, Morris Simon.

**Mindlin, Dr. Raymond D.,** (1906-1987), a scientist and engineer, who made many important contributions to applied mechanics, applied physics and engineering scientists. He earned the National Medal of Science, presented by President Carter, and the Medal of Merit, presented by President Truman. He lived at 89 Deer Hill Drive from 1973 to 1983 and taught at Columbia University.. [P11/24/1987]

**Mine Hill,** mentioned as early as 1789, seems to have been a hill that, because of all the mining of limestone from it, has virtually disappeared; situated along Danbury Road, just north of Haviland and Limestone Roads, near Limestone gasoline service station; may have been earlier called Limestone Hill (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Mingo,** (ca. 1706-??), was the slave of Timothy Keeler (*q.v.*) who ran away in 1734, prompting Keeler to advertise for his return. Mingo was unusual in that he could both read and write. He was about 28 years old when he escaped. It's not known what happened to him. [JFS]

**Minister, first:** The town's first member of the clergy was the Rev. Thomas Hauley (*q.v.*), elected by the ATM Dec. 13, 1714. [JFS]

**Minor, Henry R.,** a South Norwalk surveyor, produced a map of Ridgefield in 1912, showing the location of every house in town, along with its owners and occupant. [NH9/27/1912]

**Minot, Harry,** grew up in Ridgefield and served as general manager of radio station WPKN from 1978 to 2008. Prior to that he had been a producer at Compton Advertising in NYC, and had begun his broadcasting career at WLAD (*q.v.*). Since retirement he has produced a monthly program on WPKN, centered on "antique culture," and including music, readings, and old radio plays. He is a son of Dr. Henry Minot (*q.v.*)

**Minot, Dr. Henry Davis Jr.,** (1919-2004), a native of Massachusetts and Harvard graduate, was a WW2 bomber pilot who became a thoracic surgeon at Norwalk and Stamford Hospitals. Moved to Ridgefield 1960; home was 114 Main Street, then 4 West Mountain Road. When he retired in 1986, he became a school bus driver in Ridgefield and later Wilton, feeling it was a community service; also served as an assistant medical examiner. He also enjoyed breadmaking and driving his antique BMW motorcycle. [WWW] [profile P7/21/1983]

**Mint** in 2020 is an Indian restaurant at the Days Inn (*q.v.*) on Route 7 in Redding, but says it's in Ridgefield. [JFS]

**Minuteman Road** serves part of Colonial Heights (*q.v.*) subdivision, extending from Oscaleta Road to Revere Drive; accepted by the Town Meeting in 1970. Sometimes incorrectly appears as Minute Man Road. [RN]

**Miracle Studio:** On Route 7 just north of New Road; advertised “everything in hand loom weaving”; in the 1930s and early 40s, master weaver Henry Miles Cook created fabrics of intricate design and “remarkable color combinations,” according to 1944 obituary. [JFS]

**Miry Brook** in Ridgebury is alleged in Rockwell to be so called because British troops, on their way to Ridgefield after burning Danbury in 1777, lost cannon because they became mired while being dragged across a brook, whose bridge was removed by patriots. Tale is untrue since the name appears in a deed in 1741, 36 years earlier. Miry was a fairly common name for waterways in Connecticut that were swampy. Most of brook is in Danbury, where it became the name of a school district, but its source is in Ridgebury, possibly including Shadow Lake. [RN]

**Miss Connecticut:** Ridgefield has had three: Karen Kopins, 1977, Jennifer Benusis, 1986, Alison Benusis, 1993 (*q.v. each*).

**Miss Ridgefield:** A beauty and talent pageant operated in 1970s and early 80s; led to Miss Connecticut; awarded scholarships to winners; best-known winner was Karen Kopins (*q.v.*), who went on to become Miss Connecticut, compete in Miss America pageant in 1977, and become a TV and movie actress. Actress Mimi Bessette (*q.v.*) was 1975 winner; 1980, Tara Draper.

**Missionary Society** of the First Congregational Church was formed in April 1875 to raise money to assign missionaries in foreign countries and U.S territories.

**Mitchell, John Ames**, (1845-1918), was founder in 1883 and editor of original Life Magazine; wrote several novels, one of which, *Amos Judd*, was turned into 1922 movie, “The Young Rajah,” starring Rudolph Valentino; graduated from Harvard, trained as an architect; donated watering trough that stood on Main Street in front of town hall, now in triangle at West and Olmstead Lanes; estate at 194 West Lane called Windover; much of land subdivided into Sycamore Lane (*q.v.*) neighborhood early 1970s; established Life’s Farm (*q.v.*), a Fresh Air camp in Branchville; buried in Fairlawn Cemetery. [WWW]

**Moderator:** This is an official town office, one that dates back to the 1600s in Connecticut. It is the present who leads the town meeting, be it the Annual Town Meeting or a Special Town Meeting. Unlike other town officials, the moderator is elected to serve only for the duration of the town meeting. The moderator, elected by those attending the town meeting, may be the same person for a long period of time, or as is usual, a different person for each meeting.

**Modern Barber Shop:** Operated 1932-1965 by Paul Laszig (*q.v.*) on Catoonah Street that was torn down to make way for the parking lot behind Addressi Block.

**Mohr, the Rev. Ursinus O.**, (1862-1929), a native of Pennsylvania, was superintendent of Life’s Farm (*q.v.*), the Fresh Air camp in Branchville, from the late 1890s into the early 1920s, assisted by his wife Mary. He was a minister who often preached in Congregational churches, and was also a Ridgefield justice of the peace. [JFS]

**Mokquaroose:** Indian who sold land to the first settlers — *see* Betty Grant.

**Molly** was a big road grader that the town bought in 1948 especially to handle big snow storms. It was made famous in several Dick Venus columns [such as DD86 & 133].

**Monahan, William Costello**, (1894-1970), founded and ran Monaplastics (*q.v.*), a light industry in Branchville. [P5/7/1970]

**Monaplastics** made precision plastic parts for home appliances, cars, and various pieces of medical and dental equipment from 1938 until the late 1970s on West Branchville Road. It was named for William Monahan, who was an American living in England when he founded the company there in 1932. He moved here as war in Europe loomed. After he died in 1970, his wife took over the business for a few years. [PC]

**Monckton, Donald**, was a Ridgefield police officer, 1972-2011; in 1980 he was named the department's first youth officer [P6/19/1980]. He retired at the rank of major.

**Monderer, Jack** (1925-2005) was school psychologist and director of pupil personnel services for schools, late 1950s, early 1960s; wife Phyllis was an active Democrat.

**Montanari, Frank P.**, (1924-2013), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1944, served in World War II and with brother, Fred (*q.v.*), founded Montanari Fuel (*q.v.*). He served as president for many years. He and wife Linnea lived on Dowling Drive. [P4/25/2013]

**Montanari, Fred Peter**, (1921-2010), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1939, operated Keeler & Durant (*q.v.*) real estate and insurance business which he bought in 1960 and sold to A.J. Carnall in 1987. Early in his career he was a plant manager for Doman Helicopter (*q.v.*). He served on the Board of Selectmen in the 1960s, the Zoning Board of Appeals, as chairman of the Republican Town Committee, president of the Ridgefield Board of Realtors, and on four school building committees: Branchville, Scotland, Farmingville, and East Ridge Junior High. He was a World War II veteran of General Patton's Third Army. He lived on Barry Avenue for many years. [P2/18/2010]

**Montanari Fuel Service:** Family-owned business founded in September 1946 by brothers Frank and Fred Montanari, Ridgefield natives just returned from the war; brother Andy Sr. soon joined to help with deliveries; when Fred left for career in real estate and insurance in 1951, Andy Sr. became vice president with Frank, president; Frank retired 1996, Andy Sr. became president; in 2019, Andy Jr. is president; acquired Ridgefield Oil and the DaSilva Fuel Oil Company of Danbury; headquarters at 15 South Street.

**Montessori school:** *See* Ridgefield Montessori School.

**Montgomery, Douglass**, (1907-1966), a native of Canada, was a British and American actor famous for portraying Laurie alongside Katharine Hepburn in the 1933 film, "Little Woman." He and his wife, Kay Young (*see* Kathleen Eason), moved to a Georgian-style brick mansion in January 1966 and died that summer of cancer. [WWW]

**Montgomery, Giles** (1910-1985) and **Barry** (1939-2018), were father and son developers from Stamford who did High Valley (*q.v.*), Twin Ridge (*q.v.*). as well as, in Stamford, Dolphin Cove and Old Stone Bridge.

**Monti, Salvatore "Sal"**, (1930-2015), a native of Darien, was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, longtime moderator of town meetings, a president of the Rotary Club and helped develop the Dlh Ridge Golf Course (*q.v.*). *See also* Hackert & Monti Building.

**Mont-Lac:** Appears to be a name being used at least in the 1870s for West Mountain; it means "mountain lake" and probably refers to Round Pond near the summit. [*see* P12/11/1878]

**Moongate:** Small estate at junction of Route 7 and Florida Hill Road; so called because of the dam on the river with a circular opening; first called Moongate by Nathaniel Miller, who built the house on the foundation of an old mill (*see also* Miller's Pond, Abbott's Mill Road, grist mills). [RN]

**Moore, Sister Ann,** CND, was principal of Notre Dame Academy, 1968-72, a nun in the Congregation of Notre Dame (*q.v.*).

**Moorhead, Lillian,** (1932-1997), became in 1973 the first woman ever elected to Board of Selectmen, a government body then more than 2½ centuries old. She ran unsuccessfully for first selectman in 1981 [P7/2/1981]. She moved to Ashbee Lane in 1963, served many years on the Housing Authority she helped to create, and was also a Youth Commission member, a trustee of Danbury Hospital, and an NAACP board member and a founding member of the Women's Political Caucus. She moved to Martha's Vineyard, 1991. [WWW]

**Moose:** Rare moose was sighted near Route 7 on Sept. 2, 2008; few days later seen on Great Hill Road and Limestone Road; the moose was possibly the same one that two weeks later was killed on I-684 in Lewisboro, N.Y., causing a nine-car pile-up. [JFS]

**Mopus:** Old name, probably of American Indian origin, connected with several places in Ridgebury; appears in many versions, starting in the early 1700s and including Mopoos, Mopoas, Mopo's, Mopoes, Mopoo, Mopo, Mopoo's, and Mopose; spelling, Mopus, is fairly modern, first appearing around 1841; may be the name of an Indian — perhaps Mopo — who lived thereabouts. [RN]

**Mopus Bridge** was first mentioned in an 1849 deed, but the bridge certainly existed long before the name appeared. [RN]

**Mopus Bridge Road:** In 1841, town officials mentioned an "old Mopus Road" in changing the route of the highway. The older route may be what we now call Wheeler Road. Present-day Mopus Bridge Road extends from Ridgebury and Spring Valley Roads westward to New York State. May have been the original main highway between Ridgefield and North Salem. Road is probably a very early highway, existing at least by the time of the Revolution when General George Washington possibly passed over it with his entourage in 1780. A Washington-commissioned map of the area (Erskine-DeWitt map 43-D, ca. 1779) seems to show Mopus Bridge Road as the best route from Salem Center to Ridgebury center. This same route is also shown on a 1770s map, "drawn by Abraham Close of Salem," as part of the main road from "Upper Salem" (North Salem) to Danbury, while North Salem Road is shown as the main road southward to Norwalk. [RN]

**Mopus Brook:** Little stream that runs under Mopus Bridge Road, mentioned as early as 1721 in the "Third Purchase" from the natives. The brook has two branches: eastern rises in McKeon's Pond near the northern corner of Ridgebury and Old Stagecoach Roads, then proceeds northerly through Chestnut Hill Estates to a swamp west of the Ridgefield Golf Course, then south along Spring Valley Road and westward to connect to the main stream; west branch rises from a small pond and a swamp near Finch Road (the North Salem, N.Y., extension of our Chestnut Hill Road) and flows south to meet the east branch. The Mopus Brook then connects with the Titicus River in a swamp a short distance south of Mopus Bridge. [RN]

**Mopus Ridge:** The “Second Purchase” of Ridgefield land from the Indians in 1713 mentions a boundary crossing the “lower end of Mopoos Ridge,” most of which is in North Salem today, but before 1731 was part of Ridgefield. The ridge runs from western Mopus Bridge Road northwesterly for about a mile and a half to a short distance north of Finch Road in North Salem. [RN]

**Mopus Swamp** or **Mopus Boggs:** Wetland north of Chestnut Hill Road and west of Chestnut Hill Estates and the Ridgefield Golf Course; mentioned before 1750 as “Mopo’s Bog or Boggs” and in 1787 as “Mopoo’s Swamp.” [RN]

**Morales, Armando,** developed in 1973 Brookside Pines (*q.v.*); later moved to Florida. He was a Cuban who fled his homeland after Fidel Castro took over. [RN]

**Morehouse, Charles Burr,** was a Republican state representative in 1883.

**Morelli, Abraham Jr.,** (1940-), an owner of D.F. Bedient Hardware (*q.v.*), spent 25 years as a volunteer in government and community organizations before being elected first selectman in 1997, serving until 1999; he was a Republican. In 2000, he and wife Leslie, also an active volunteer, moved to upper NY state. [NR]

**Morelli, Abraham N. Sr.,** (1911-1995), came to Ridgefield in 1940 to work as a clerk for D.F. Bedient’s store on Main Street. After two years he opened his own electrical and appliance business on Bailey Avenue and in 1952 bought Bedient’s store, which his family continued to operate until 1998, when it was closed — *see* Bedient’s Hardware. He was active in the Lions Club and was a director of the Ridgefield Savings Bank. [RSB31]

**Morgan, Bayeux Badeau,** (1892-1978), a native of New Rochelle, NY, was for many years in the 1940s, 50s, the town’s chief assessor. His wife was Florence Morgan (*q.v.*).

**Morgan, Florence Bengston,** (1898-1988), a native of Iowa, was from the 1940s to the 1960s a correspondent covering Ridgefield news for area daily newspapers as well as The Ridgefield Press. Wife of Bayeaux Morgan (*q.v.*); came here in 1932, retired to NH in 1962. [NR]

**Morganti, John S. (Giovanni Silvio),** (1887-1965), a native of Italy, came to the USA in 1903 at the age of 15. He started work here as a laborer on sewer lines in the village, then worked for contractors on building houses. He served in WW1 in France with the 77th Infantry, fought in major battles, and was wounded in the forehead. He started a contracting firm in 1916 that grew to be among the 400 largest in the nation by 1970s (*see* Morganti Inc.). He remained active in his company until the early 1960s when his sons, Paul (*q.v.*), John, Joseph, and Robert took over. He and former Elizabeth Eramo, marked their 47th wedding anniversary in January 1965; three months later, he died. [WWW]

**Morganti, Paul J.** (1920-1997), a Ridgefield native, was a building contractor who in 1959 became president of Morganti Inc. (*q.v.*); member of the Board of Selectmen, 1955-1965, 1993-95; Rotary Citizen of the Year in 1986; served on boards of Ridgefield Library, Ridgefield Bank and Union Trust Company; was involved in naming many town roads. [NR]

**Morganti Additions:** Informal name for classroom additions quickly and inexpensively built in summer 1970 by Morganti Inc. on north sides of Ridgefield High and East Ridge Junior High Schools, both on East Ridge, to handle burgeoning enrollments; old RHS addition is

used today as town hall “annex”; Paul Morganti’s plan was chosen as less expensive than acquiring portable classrooms. [JFS]

**Morganti Court** is a 900-foot road, serving a 1983 subdivision of 22.6 acres into six lots and 15 acres of open space off the east side of Wilton Road West, near the Wilton line. Open space is a ravine that includes a portion of the Great Rocks (*q.v.*). This land had long been in the Morganti family, and was subdivided by John Morganti and Sons. John S. Morganti (*q.v.*) himself excavated from the backlands of this property years ago; clay for surfacing tennis courts came from here. Morganti also personally planted a row of maples still standing off the easterly side of Wilton Road West, behind some of the houses. [RN]

**Morganti Inc.** has been one of the nation's top 400 contractors, specializing in large buildings, such as schools, hospitals and corporate offices, around the world; founded 1916 by John S. Morganti, an immigrant from Italy; his sons Paul, John, Joseph, and Robert later led company. Paul was president starting 1959; Robert took over 1981 [P10/18/1981]; Ridgefield buildings include East Ridge Middle School, Ridgebury School, Yankee Ridge shopping center, Ridgefield Commerce Park, and 901 Ethan Allen Highway (former Benrus Center — *q.v.*); sold in 1988 to Consolidated Contractors Company of Athens, Greece, which retained Morganti name but moved offices to Danbury; other offices in Florida, Massachusetts, New York, Thanks! and Texas, Abu-Dhabi, Dubai, Egypt, Greece, Jordan, Italy, and Qatar. [WWW]

**Morris, Augustus Newbold**, (1838-1906), was born in the Morrisania section (named for his family) of the Bronx and, though educated as a lawyer at Columbia, became a “man of leisure” who spent much time in social organizations, including managing the Home for Incurables at Fordham. He built a home on High Ridge (no longer extant) ca. 1890 and spent much of his later years in Ridgefield where he was a founder and president of the Ridgefield Club (*q.v.*), active in Democratic endeavors, and where he died. [JFS]

**Morris, Elizabeth W.**, (1834-1899), wife of James N. Morris (*q.v.*), is the person for whom the Ridgefield Library was formally named, i.e., “E.W. Morris Memorial Library.” The Friends of the Library Reading room, to the south just after entering the Main Street entrance, contains a plaque over the fireplace: “This building was erected A.D. MCMII by James Morris in Loving Memory of his wife, Elizabeth W. Morris.” When she died, she left her husband \$200,000 (about \$6.2 million today), some of which he presumably used to build the library as a memorial to his wife. They were married in 1866 in New York City. She was active in the community in the 1890s. Her father, James Winthrop Gray, was engaged in trade with China in the mid-19th Century, and headed a large importing/exporting firm.

**Morris, James N.**, (1840-?), a Wall Street attorney, gave the town the E.W. Morris Memorial Library (*q.v.*), better known as the Ridgefield Library, as a memorial for his wife, Elizabeth W. Morris, who had died in 1899. A summer and weekend resident for many years, one of his homes here was the Old Hundred (*q.v.*), now offices for the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum. [JFS]

**Moser, John M.** (?-1950) opened an early gasoline and service station at 31 Danbury Road in the 1920s that sold Socony gas and oil, Fisk tires, and Weed chains. He sold in 1931 to KEB (*q.v.*); lived at 55 Danbury Road.

**Moss, Donald**, (1920-2010), a native of Massachusetts, was a leading sports artist, painting hundreds of covers and inside illustrations for Sports Illustrated from the 1950s to the 1980s; designed more than a dozen U.S. postage stamps, including the 1976 Olympics set; produced many golfing posters; paintings are in many major collections; author of *How to Paint Watercolor* (1968); lived on Peaceable Street 23 years before moving to Farmington in 1999. [WWW]

**Moss Craggs**: Name of summer home of David Chidlow on Tea House Road, according to [P7/20/1911]

**Mothers Club**: Founded by Mabel Cleves (*q.v.*) in 1901 to involve parents in the schools; became the PTA around 1916.

**Motor Transportation Corps**: World War II subset of American Women's Voluntary Services (*q.v.*)

**Mount Vernon and Eastern Railroad**: Created 1907 to build an electric railroad line on standard gauge track from Mt. Vernon, N.Y., to Ridgefield [P10/17/1907]; company dissolved 1911 with nothing built.

**Mountain lions**, also called panthers, probably once lived in Ridgefield, but by 1800 were driven out or hunted to extinction [RSSG]. In spring 2011, many sightings all over Fairfield County, including Ridgefield, of a mountain lion. In July, a car struck and killed a genuine mountain lion on the Merritt Parkway in Milford. Scientists determined the animal had trekked more than 1,500 miles from South Dakota. [JFS]

**Mountain Park**: 1987 subdivision of 23 acres off Mountain Road into five two-acre lots, plus 11 acres of open space bordering the Hemlock Hills/Pine Mountain refuge complex. The developer was Ridgefield Lakes Partners, which included restaurateur Fred Orrico (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Mountain Road**: 1. Today's Barry Avenue was so-called in an 1856 deed and as late as a 1910 property map. 2. An old highway from Route 7 over the Pine Mountain ridge to Pine Mountain Road, mentioned in an 1854 deed as "the Mountain Road leading to Buttonwood Swamp"; 3. At the Ridgefield Lakes, running around Rainbow or Wataba Lake, from Bennett's Farm Road to Shady Lane; the western section is the southern end of an "old highway" which connects with Pine Mountain Road and leads to Miry Brook. [RN]

**Mountain View Avenue** runs between Hillsdale Avenue and Danbury Road, part of the 1910 subdivision called Mountain View Park (*q.v.*); overlooks Copps Mountain (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Mountain View Park**: 19.4-acre subdivision in 1910 and 1927 by Conrad Rockelein (*q.v.*), with 75-by-250-foot lots off west side of Danbury Road, south of Copps Hill Plaza; includes Island Hill Avenue, Hillsdale Avenue, and Mountain View Avenue. [RN]

**Mouse House**: A Disney-products store that opened May 3, 1980 at Yankee Ridge Center, 20 Prospect Street; lasted several years.

**Movies**: First motion picture shown publicly here was in 1899, an animated short projected in the town hall by the American Bioscope Company; first movie filmed, in part, here, was *His Royal Highness* with Carlyle Blackwell and Evelyn Greeley (first called *Almost A King*), released 1918; a "moving picture machine" was installed in December 1918 in St. Stephen's Parish House to show films "of an educational character" every Sunday night; *In*

*Name Only* (q.v.), a 1939 film, was set in Ridgefield. *Stone Pillow* (q.v.) was filmed here in 1985. *Spring Forward* (1999) was filmed in Ballard Park — see Tom Gilroy.

**Moylan, Francis P.**, (1919-2001), was appointed the town's first full-time fire marshal in 1981 after having served as the part-time fire marshal for 26 years. A Ridgefield native, he joined the volunteer department in 1940 and was a member for more than 60 years. His wife was Pauline Frulla Moylan, longtime Republican registrar of voters.

**Mugavero:** Family of Ridgefield/Branchville barbers began with Vincent Mugavero (1902-1987) of Norwalk who from 1931-38 ran Ridgefield Tonsorial Parlor at ONS89 Main Street (392?); he was joined by his brother Jerry (1904-88) who bought the business in 1938 when Vincent opened B-V Ranch, a restaurant on Route 7; Jerry operated Jerry's Barber Shop many years (for a while with Mike Pontello, who married Jerry's daughter, Agatha); Jerry lived on Route 7 in Branchville; Jerry's son, Peter, operated Peter's Barber Shop in Branchville for many years; Peter's daughter, Linda Mugavero Morganti, operates The Barber's Daughter at 723 Branchville Road in 2018. [WWW] [DD93]

**Mugsy:** Nickname for Mario J. Frulla, former Ridgefield policeman, firefighter and gas station operator. Also appears as Muggsy. [DD10, DD87]

**Mulford, Dr. Roland Jessup** (1871-1951) was founder in 1907 of the Ridgefield School (q.v.); graduate of Harvard, Johns Hopkins; he was author in 1903 of *The Political Theories of Alexander Hamilton*; succeeded 1922 by Theodore C. Jessup (q.v.). He then taught Latin at Princeton and became headmaster of the Lawrenceville School in NJ. [RPJ]

**Mulford School:** Original name for Ridgefield School (q.v.), so-called for its founder, Rev. Roland Mulford (q.v.).

**Mulberry Street:** An old highway that existed by 1856 and probably much earlier; once considered a part of Saw Mill Hill Road (q.v.), connecting the Titicus area with West Mountain; name, applied to the road between Pin Pack Road and Ramapoo Road, was shown on the town's first zoning map, 1946 ; RP in 1942 referred to Mulberry Street as the eastern end of Saw Mill Hill Road; so called for trees in the area. [RN]

**Mulligan, Hugh**, (1925-2008), a journalist and native of NYC, was a longtime correspondent and columnist for Associated Press. He drank with John Steinbeck, covered the death of three popes and President Kennedy, was the only reporter — British or American — at the wedding and the funeral of Princess Diana, and was dining with Salvador Dali when the artist was booted from a restaurant because his ocelot defecated on the floor. Wrote three books including *No Place to Die: The Agony of Vietnam* and *Been Everywhere, Got Nowhere*; lived in Ridgefield from 1977 until his death. [WWW]

**Mundle, The:** A 1721 deed refers to 17 ½ acres “lying on ye west of ye Mundle”; word may have been incorrectly transcribed; mundle is archaic term for a “stirring stick.” [RN]

**Munkoff's Paint and Power:** A store selling paint and power tools in 1960s, located about where Ancient Mariner is in 2018

**Murder and Blueberry Pie** by Richard and Frances Lockridge, Lippincott, 1959: The mystery was inspired by Ridgefield's 250th anniversary celebration. The Lockridges, who wrote the famous Mr. and Mrs. North series of mysteries made into movies, radio and TV shows, lived in Lewisboro.



**Murders, homicides: 1936:** 27-year-old Branchville woman is charged with manslaughter for beating her 3 month old daughter to death [P5/1936]. *See also* Copper Beech Lane.

**Murdock, Harris Hunnewell**, (1879-1959), a 1901 Harvard graduate, was a NYC architect and member of the firm of McKim, Mead and White. From 1919 till around 1960, he had a home at 200 Chestnut Hill Road later owned by Maurice Sendak. His wife, **Florence**, was active in the Ridgefield Garden Club. (*q.v.*)

**Murdock's Corners:** Local name for intersection of Chestnut Hill and Spring Valley Roads; in the 1930s, the family of Harris H. Murdock (*q.v.*) lived nearby. [RN]

**Murmuring Ever** by Lynn Wallrapp (*q.v.*), Manor Books Gothic, 1975: Tale of a family moving to a New England town (Ridgefield), where they discover a terrifying legend that has haunted the town since the Revolutionary War. The family's teenage girl winds up falling in love with the ghost of a soldier hanged 200 years earlier. The author grew up in Ridgefield and wrote the book here.

**MUSE:** A short-lived theater company founded in town in 1975.

**Museum in the Streets:** Installed in 2008 as part of the town's 300th birthday celebration, this network of 30 plaques offer pictures and text describing historic sites around town, installed and maintained by the Ridgefield Historical Society. 27 are in and about the center of town, 2 in Branchville and 1 in Ridgebury. A map of the plaques is available on the society's website. [HS]

**Musicians:** Larry Adler, harmonica; Samuel Chotzinoff, pianist; Sasha Culbertson, violinist; Richard Dunning, bugle; Andrew Gold, multiple instruments; Sacha Jacobsen, violinist, George B. Leeman, pianist, arranger; Emily Gresser Liebovitz, violinist; Maxim Shostakovich, pianist; Dmitri Shostkovich, pianist; Charles Spire, pianist, conductor; Peter Walters, pianist; Alec Wyton, organist; *see also* Composers, Conductors, Singers, Songwriters.

**Mutual Cornet Band** was performing in the 1870s in Ridgefield for many events. [P7/16/1879] An early leader was Aaron G.H. Hurlbutt (*q.v.*).

**Mutigticus:** *See* Titicus.

**My Brother Sam is Dead** by Christopher Collier & James Lincoln Collier (Scholastic, 1974) is a fictional account of teenagers in the Revolutionary War, set in Redding as well as Ridgefield; it won Newbery award; Christopher was Connecticut state historian.

**My Nursery School:** Established in 1975 by Nan Howkins (*q.v.*) and operated until 2015 [P3/12/1981].

**Myers, Debs**, (1911-), a native of Kansas, was a noted political adviser who worked for such political leaders as U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy, presidential candidate Adlai E. Stevenson, and New York City mayor Robert F. Wagner. He was managing editor of Newsweek magazine in the 1940s. He lived on Fulling Mill Lane from 1967 to 1969. In City Hall Park in Manhattan, within view of the window of the office where he worked under Wagner is a monument to him, bearing one of his oft-quoted observations: "Do the right thing, and nine times out of 10, it turns out to be the right thing politically." [WWW]

N

**Nancy's Lane:** Name occasionally applied late 1900s to Regan Road (*q.v.*); reason unknown.

**Narahawmis:** Name used in the first purchase of land from the Indians for the southwest corner of the 20,000-acre tract; north of the Vista section of today's Lewisboro, N.Y.; may mean "He is carrying something on his back." [RN] *See also* Harahawmis.

**Naranauta** was the name applied by George H. Newtown to his mansion at 563 Main Street, later the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Jay Pierrepont. Origin unknown. [DD195]

**Naraneka, Lake:** Pronounced *nair-a-NEE-ka*, the original and accurate name for what is today more commonly called Pierrepont Pond (*q.v.*) off Barlow Mountain Road, created by the late Seth Low Pierrepont, 1936-38; "We are calling it Lake Naraneka after one of the Indian chiefs who signed the deed to the town of Ridgefield," Pierrepont said; water went over the spillway for the first time March 30, 1938; not to be confused with Lake Noroneke (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Nash, Abraham,** (1718-1801), was first of Nash clan to settle in Ridgefield, 1748, on a farm on lower Wilton Road West; had 12 children with Rhoda Keeler, married 1738.

**Nash, Abraham "Abram" St. John,** (1822-1906), was shot in May 1861 in the leg after tearing down a "secessionist" flag at or near the home and tavern of Stephen Buttery, probably on Florida Road. The incident was reported in many New England and New York newspapers. He was accompanied by recently enlisted soldier Lewis P. Fowler of Hartford, a daguerreotype photographer, who was also wounded and had to be discharged from the service. [JFS]

**Nash, Charles S.,** (1865-1929), was the town's leading carpenter and builder for many years. His birth and early life were recorded by his father in the Diary of Jared Nash (*q.v.*). He was the first chief of the volunteer fire department, an early Boy Scouts organizer, a member of the Board of Burgesses and Board of Finance, a trustee of the Methodist Church, a director of the Ridgefield Savings Bank, and vice president of the First National Bank and Trust Company. [NR, WWW, RSB26]

**Nash, Christie Law Jones,** (1882-1967), a Wilton native and graduate of Mt. Holyoke College, was an assistant librarian and later chief librarian at Ridgefield Library, 1922-1955. Father was David L. Jones, owner of Walnut Grove (*q.v.*) farm. Wife of Howard Patterson Nash (*q.v.*). Mother of Karl S. and John W. Nash (*q.v. each*). [NR]

**Nash, Elizabeth Grace Boyd** (1921-2003), a native of St. Paul, MN, who was known as "Betty Grace," was managing editor for many years of The Ridgefield Press and other Acorn Press newspapers, and the wife of Karl S. Nash, publisher. A daughter of novelists Thomas and Margaret Smith Boyd, she had lived in Ridgefield as a child, graduated from Vassar in 1942, and worked as a model and as an editor at 1,000 Jokes magazine. At The Press, which she joined in 1950, she added a strong focus on the human side of the news (rather than just government reporting) and kept the coverage as local as possible. She retired to Cocoa Beach, Fla. One of her children, Thomas Boyd Nash, became publisher of Acorn Press, later Hersam Acorn newspapers. [JFS]

**Nash, Hiram Olmstead,** (1811-67), a Ridgefield native, was a shoemaker and owner of the Titicus Store (*q.v.*), who, as a member of the Union Party, was a state representative in 1857 and 1865. He was the father of State Rep. John Dempster Nash (*q.v.*).

**Nash, Howard Patterson** (1877-1922), native of Norwalk, was a Ridgefield educator who operated a private school at 486 Main Street early in 20th Century (until opening of

Alexander Hamilton High School — *q.v.*); graduated from Harvard, 1901; father of Karl S. and John W. Nash (*q.v. each*) who owned The Ridgefield Press; son on John D. Nash of Titicus Store; husband of Christie Law Jones Nash, who worked at the library [P2/28/1922] [RPJ5/7]

**Nash, Sgt. Jacob**, (1751-1779), was home on furlough when he heard the British were attacking the coastal communities in July 1779. He joined others in rushing to Norwalk where he joined the fight, and was captured and executed by the British. He “was found dead with his Hands bound together & pierced with Bayonets, no Shot having ever entered any Part of his Body.” Another account says his body had seven stab wounds. He is buried in Titicus Cemetery. [WWW]

**Nash, Jared**, was a farmer and shoemaker who lived on Silver Spring Road whose diary for the years 1865-66 was discovered in the 1970s, transcribed and edited by Jack Sanders into *The Diary of Jared Nash*, published in The Ridgefield Press, on RidgefieldHistory.com, and on Facebook’s Old Ridgefield group.

**Nash, John Dempster**, (1838-1902), born in Titicus, learned retailing in Norwalk; in 1859 joined father in operating H.O. Nash & Son store, purchased from S.S. Olmstead; starting 1875, he partnered for 20 years with Milan H. Mead, renaming store Nash & Mead; was postmaster at Titicus, 1882-96; a Republican he served as a state representative, 1880 (first session held in the “new” Capitol building; served in many local offices, including selectman and school board. [CBRFC] His father was State Rep. Hiram Olmstead Nash. He was married to Sarah Jane Holmes (1840-1917). [RSB25]

**Nash, John Wallace** (1912-2013), a Ridgefield native, joined brother Karl in buying the Ridgefield Press (*q.v.*) in 1937; left in 1948 to strike out on his own; owned weeklies based in New Milford, then daily newspapers in Winsted and in Westfield, Mass.; RHS 1931; served in Army in WWII. [JFS]

**Nash, Karl Seymour** (1908-1992), a Ridgefield native, bought The Ridgefield Press (*q.v.*) with brother John (*q.v.*) in 1937 and built the business as Acorn Press at 16 Bailey Avenue until his retirement in the late 1980s; graduated from Hamilton High School, 1926; Harvard, 1930; served on Board of Education for 20 years, 17 as chairman; frequent Town Meeting moderator; helped found Good Government Party (*q.v.*); [P6/4/1987] celebrated his 50 years as an editor and had many reminiscences of his life; grandson of John Dempster Nash (*q.v.*).

**Nash, Luther Roberts**, (1871-1947), son of John D. Nash (*q.v.*), worked at the Titicus Store in his youth, but went to MIT and Harvard, became an electrical engineer and corporate executive, and wrote books with such exciting titles as *The Economics of Public Utilities: A Reference Book for Executives, Investors, Engineers, and Students* (1925) and *Anatomy of Depreciation: A Discussion of Utility Accounting Methods from Time to Time in Effect or Proposed by Regulatory or Utility Representatives, with Particular Reference to Recent Controversies* (1947). He married Bonnibel Remington, a member of the typewriter clan. [JFS]

**Nash, Marion Holmes**, (1862-1930), librarian at Ridgefield Library and a former teacher, was the first female to serve on a major town board after women won suffrage, joining the Town School Committee (Board of Education), in October 1921. [P10/11/1921] She was

struck and killed by a car in front of her home at 486 Main Street Nov. 9, 1930.

[P11/13/1930]. She was a daughter of John Dempster Nash (*q.v.*).

**Nash, Uriah “Riah,”** (1763-1837), a Ridgefield native and son of Abraham Nash (*q.v.*), was a state representative in 1823, and a selectman in 1800 and 1801. He moved to Sullivan County, NY in 1832, and died there.

**Nash** automobiles were sold by Leo Pambianchi in the old Sperry livery stable on Catoonah Street in the 1940s. [DD133]

**Nash Private School:** *See* Howard Patterson Nash.

**Nash & Mead Store:** *See* Titicus Store.

**National Bank and Trust Company of Fairfield County:** Bank that briefly had a branch at Ridgefield Shopping Center (Grand Union) around 1960; Stamford based; after merger with Black Rock Bank and Trust Company in 1960, bank is renamed in 1962 State National Bank (*q.v.*).

**National Charity League** (NCL, Inc.) is an organization of mothers and daughters who work together on community service, leadership development and cultural experiences, including providing volunteers for community organizations and events. When it was started in 1985 by Marie Pinchbeck, it was the first NCL club on the East Coast. By 2012 it had expanded into two chapters, the Ridgefield and the Nutmeg Chapters, serving more than 29 organizations in town. In 2012, there were nearly 300 mother-daughter teams, called patrons and ticktockers, with the girls in grades seven through 12. [P1/12/2012]

**National Education Association-Ridgefield:** *See* Ridgefield Teachers Association and Ridgefield Education Association.

**National Register of Historic Places:** These buildings and sites are listed individually on the register: Keeler Tavern, Governor Lounsbury House (Community Center), Fulling Mill/Woolen Mill Archaeological Site on Route 7 north of Topstone Road, Branchville Railroad Tenement on West Branchville Road; Thomas Hyatt House; Lewis June House on North Salem Road; Benedict House and Shop on Rockwell Road; Rochambeau March Route in Ridgebury; Ridgebury Congregational Church; and the Frederic Remington House off Oak Knoll Lane. Many other historic houses, buildings and site are within the town’s seven historic districts (*q.v.*).

**Native Americans:** *See under* Indians, American.

**Nature’s Temptations:** Organic/specialty food market at 32 Prospect Street; founded by Jeff Konchalski in 1993 at 18-20 Prospect St. in Yankee Ridge shopping center; moved to 32 Prospect Street in 2007. [JFS]

**Nearly Departed, The:** Humorous book about growing up in an unusual family in Ridgefield on lower St. Johns Road, by Brenda Cullerton (*q.v.*); especially features her mother, Mary McLachlan Cullerton (1928-1999); published 2003 by Little, Brown and Company; full title: “The Nearly Departed, Or, My Family & Other Foreigners.”

**Nebel, Frederick Lewis,** (1903-1967), native of NYC, was a “pulp fiction” writer who by his own estimate, produced more than 4,000,000 words on his three typewriters for novels, novelettes, short stories, and articles. He was widely published in magazines. Novels were *Sleepers East* (1933), *But Not the End* (1934) and *Fifty Roads to Town* (1936). Lived here

from 1934 until late 1950s; was chairman of Zoning Board of Appeals and serviced on War Price and Ration Board. [WWW]

**Ned's Lane:** Short dead-end road off the south side of Ned's Mountain Road (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Ned's Mountain:** Elevation south of Ned's Mountain Road and east of Ned's Lane (*q.v.*); about 962 feet above sea level.

**Ned's Mountain Road:** Runs from Ridgebury Road northeasterly to south end of Old Mill Road name recalls Edward "Ned" Armstrong (*q.v.*), an African-American who, with his wife, Betsey, lived and operated an Underground Railroad station near there [JFS, RN]

**Needles**, a yarn shop on Bailey Avenue, was opened in March 1983 by Sandra Greene and her daughter Kim Welch. [P3/31/1983]

**Negro Rocks:** Mentioned in 1855 deed; may have been along Great Hill Road near Buck Hill Road; origin unknown. [RN]

**Nelhybel, Vaclav**, (1919-1996), a native of Czechoslovakia, was a prolific composer — more than 400 of his 600-plus works have been published; many have been performed by leading orchestras such as the Vienna Symphony and the Orchestra de la Suisse Romande; lived on Lake Road, 1968-1973, moving to Newtown; in 1980, the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra premiered his *Six Fables for All Time*; lectured and performed at RHS; over 1,000 people attended the April 1973 Vaclav Nelhybel Festival, with the composer leading junior and senior high bands. [WWW]

**Neligan, Dr. Patrick**, (1926-2014), a native of Ireland who came to the U.S. in 1954, and Ridgefield in 1956, practiced medicine here and at Norwalk Hospital, where he held many leadership and teaching roles. He was director of the town Health Department for 34 years, 1970-2004, during which town hired its first full-time sanitarian and modernized health codes. He founded Norwalk Community Health Care Center to aid that city's poor. He and his wife, Veronica, owned the West Mountain estate they called Innisfree (*q.v.*).

**Nelson, Private John Evald**, (1921-1945), grew up in Ridgefield, married, joined the Army in November 1944, and was killed in the Philippines fighting a month before Japanese surrender. He is buried in Mapleshade Cemetery. [NR]

**Nesopack:** Natives name for Great Pond, mentioned in first purchase from Indians; Huden translates as "double pond" or "two ponds," suggesting the name included both Great Pond and nearby Little Pond. [RN]

**Neumann, Harry Heinz**, (1930-2015), a native of Germany, comes to US in 1938 and served in the US Coast Guard, and worked in photography for Sikorsky Aircraft. He moved to Ridgefield in 1964 and in 1969 founded with wife Lorraine Harry H. Neumann Associates, now Ridgefield's oldest family-owned real estate firm.

**Neumann, Harry H. "Chip,"** is an owner of Neumann Real Estate and served as president of the Connecticut Association of Realtors in 1990-91. He is a son of Harry Heinz Neumann (*q.v.*).

**Nevin, Hardwick Marmaduke**, (1897-1965), a native of Pennsylvania, was a playwright, actor and poet. He was at Princeton when he left to enlist in the American Field Service in World War I, providing medical support for French troops. He received the Croix de Guerre for bravery from the French government. He began his career as an actor on Broadway, and started writing plays in the late 1920s. In 1929, *Young Alexander*, about Alexander the

Great, was staged on Broadway and among its cast members was a young Jessie Royce Landis (*q.v.*). He lived in Ridgefield, then moved to Redding (where his house burned to the ground, destroying much of his writing), and finally in Wilton. [WWW]

**Nevins, Allan**, (1890-1971), an American historian, lived at the Elms Inn in early 1920s and wrote *An Historical Sketch of Ridgefield* (*q.v.*), published by The Elms Inn, in 1922. He went on to win two Pulitzer Prizes for *Grover Cleveland: A Study in Courage* (1933) and *Hamilton Fish: The Inner History of the Grant Administration* (1936). He also wrote an introduction to *Ridgefield in Review* (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Nevins, Barbara**, is a longtime Ridgefield restaurateur — *see* Southwest Cafe.

**New Canaan Road**: West Lane (*q.v.*) from the schoolhouse southwesterly to the NY state line was sometimes called New Canaan Road because it was the main route from Ridgefield to New Canaan; so called on a 1936 map. [RN]

**New England Institute for Medical Research** on Grove Street was founded 1954 by Dr. John Heller (*q.v.*), its longtime president; located partly in the “goat barn” (*q.v.*) which was expanded over the years; produced more than 400 published scientific papers over 28 years; specialized in research into causes of disease, specialized in cancer and radio frequency effects; by early 1980s, it ran into financial problems; state charged mismanagement; debts totaled more than \$1.1 million; filed for bankruptcy in 1982 and closed [P3/4/1982]; 4-hour fire heavily damaged old “goat barn” (*q.v.*) section of building, 1984 [P12/27/1984]

**New Florida Cemetery**, also called simply Florida Cemetery, was created in 1835 and many burials from Old Florida Cemetery were moved here — it is not known why. It stands along Route 7 just south of Simpaug Turnpike. It contains about 97 burials.

**New Joy, The**, was a Ridgefield band from the late 1960's to the early 1970's. It won the Ridgefield “Battle of the Bands” in 1969, 1970, and 1971. The original band consisted of Jim Filgate, Mike Filgate, Ricky Martylewski, and Garry Johnson. [JFS]

**New Lane**: original name of Branchville Road (*q.v.*) as it comes off Main Street; first appears in minutes of Town Meeting Oct. 3, 1831; probably extended only to East Ridge or Ivy Hill Road. [RN]

**New Patent**: Often spelled *Pattent*, the first name applied to what is now Ridgebury (*q.v.*); so called because Ridgefield already had one patent from 1714, in which colony and Queen Anne confirmed the settlers' title to the town's land, when on June 1, 1731, Governor Talcott signed the “New Pattent” for land bounded on the south by Ridgefield, east by Danbury, north by New Fairfield, and west by the colony line, probably in compensation for land lost by Ridgefielder in the Oblong (*q.v.*) settlement. In 1846, upper New Patent was ceded to Danbury. [RN]

**New Pond**: Body of water west of New Road, south of Saw Mill Hill Road, and east and north of Ramapoo Road, built mid-1800s by Aaron B. and William H. Gilbert, who operated mills on the Titicus River near North Salem Road; it was “new” because it supplemented the long-existing Upper and Lower Ponds; all were used to store water to operate the Titicus (*q.v.*) mills. [RN]

**New Pound Boggs:** Original name for Silver Spring Swamp (*q.v.*); origin of name, used as early as 1709, uncertain; may have reflected the creation of a new animal pound just across line in Wilton; *New Pound Ridge* may have been elevation west of Silver Spring Road. [RN]

**New Pound Ridge** applied to the ridge on the west side of Silver Spring Road, running southward from the Silver Spring Country Club to the New York State line near Wilton; first shows up as “New Pound Bogs Ridge” in 1716; soon after, “bogs” or “boggs” was dropped; also occurs as New Poundridge” (1803) and “Newpound Ridge” (1774 and 1784). [RN]

**New Purchase Swamp:** Sizable wetland behind the Ridgefield High School, extending along both sides of the Titicus River from Sherwood Road and lower Ridgebury Road westward into New York State; so called because it was part of the settlers second or “new” purchase of land from the Indians in 1715; *New Purchase Bridge*, mentioned in 1730s, was probably the bridge that carried Sherwood Road over the Titicus River. [RN]

**New Road:** (1) Between Farmingville Road and Route 7, built 1856 as alternative to steep Cain’s Hill Road (*q.v.*), making access easier to new Topstone Station on RR line in Redding. (2) 1830s-1870s name for today’s Limestone Road from Great Hill Road northward to Bennett’s Farm Rd, so called because it was a new route to upper Bennett’s Farms and Ridgebury; (3) early name for section of Branchville Road built early 1850s as alternative to what’s now called Old Branchville Road; (4) early name for Barry Avenue (*q.v.*), built 1840s as alternative to Ramapoo Road as route between village to West Mountain. [RN]

**New Street:** Runs between Gilbert Street and North Salem; south portion, from Gilbert to Pound Street, built first by Fred C. Lee; soon after, Pound to North Salem Road was built; southern end became a town road in 1908; served homes of many new Italian immigrants. [RN]

**New West Lane:** Name applied in mid-19th Century to Barry Avenue, probably because it was a new road westward to West Mountain (*q.v.*), bypassing Ramapoo Road (*q.v.*); name sometimes applied to today’s Catoonah Street (*q.v.*), according to Beers, 1867. [RN]

**New York, Housatonic and Northern Railroad,** was established in 1850 to run a railroad from Brookfield, CT, to White Plains, NY, and issued \$1 million in stock for the 40-mile line. It would have entered Ridgefield from North Salem just north of Chestnut Hill Road, traveled through swamp and the present Dlh Ridge Golf Course, and reached Ridgebury Road north of the church. From there, it may have used the path that is now Old Trolley Road as it headed into Danbury. The endeavor went bankrupt in 1875, apparently without building any bed in Ridgefield. [RN]

**Newcomers Club of Ridgefield** was founded in 1967 by the Ridgefield Community Center as a place where new residents could learn about the town and meet others who have recently moved here. Now an independent organization, the club sponsors many events and groups. [JFS]

**Newton, George Henry,** (1870-1923), a native of Ohio, was a retired banker who owned Oak Knoll, the former home of Frederic Remington (*q.v.*) in the 1910s until his death.

**Nicholas, Lucile** (1903-1982), was a Ridgefield teacher for 36 years, starting at Ridgebury schoolhouse, then Titicus, East Ridge and finally Veterans Park; an amateur archaeologist,

she had an award-winning collection of Indian arrowheads, many found in Ridgefield.  
[P4/28/1960]

**Nigh, William Grant**, (1949-2001), a native of Indiana, began as minister at First Congregational Church in summer 1987. Was president of his class at Yale Divinity School. [P8/6/1987] Served until 1994. moved to Florida where he died at 52, Columbarium at church named for him.[6/23/2005]

**Nigh Memorial Garden and Columbarium**, also called the Nigh Meditation Garden, is located at the First Congregational Church of Ridgefield, 103 Main Street

**Nighthawks** was a Ridgefield baseball team, founded in 1981, that became the Connecticut Nighthawks. *See* Joseph Consentino.

**Nina's**: Restaurant, popular with townies, at north end of Main Street, named for Nina Lavatori, wife of Nazzareno Lavatori (*q.v.*), who established it in 1939; later operated by their son, Eugene "Gene" Lavatori, who opened in 1964; business sold around 1983 and new owners were unable to duplicate Lavatori success; restaurant closed; building razed in 1990s to make way for 621 Main Street, which in 2018 houses Citibank, a cleaners, and upstairs apartments. [JFS]

**Nine/Eleven**: Ridgefield, with the rest of the world, was shaken by the terrorists' attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon Sept. 11, 2001. Churches filled for prayer services, volunteers headed to New York to aid those searching the rubble and caring for victims, and the town came to a halt as it waited for news of victims and survivors. The dead included one then-current Ridgefield resident, H. Joseph Heller, 37, a managed funds expert. Also killed were: Tyler Ugolyn, 23, a research associate who grew up here and had only recently moved to Manhattan; and Robert Higley, 29, a client services representative who spent part of his childhood here and married a Ridgefield woman. Heller, Ugolyn and Higley were in the World Trade Center; their graves are in St. Mary Cemetery. In Washington, Rear Admiral Wilson Flagg, USN ret., and his wife Darlene Flagg, and their friend Barbara Edwards, were former Ridgefielders aboard Flight 77 that crashed into the Pentagon (*q.v. each victim*). New York City firefighters John Williamson and Christopher Blackwell were the sons of Ridgefield residents.. The town's 9/11 memorial on the grounds of the Recreation Center on Danbury Road was unveiled Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011 in a ceremony attended by hundreds. The monument makes use of an actual piece of structural steel from the World Trade Center. The town has an annual memorial service there each Sept. 11. [JFS]

**Ninth Lane**: Short, dead-end lanes off the west side of Mamasasco Road, developed in the 1950s as part of Eight Lakes Estates (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Nitsche, Erik**, (1908-1998), a native of Germany, was called one of the top 10 graphic designers of the 20th century. His 60-year career he was involved in art direction, book design, typography, illustration, photography, film, signage, exhibits, packaging, industrial and corporate design, and advertising. He created scores of posters, book and record-album covers, ads, postage stamps, and even typefaces. Some of his work, particularly posters, are in the collections of top museums. He lived on Lounsbury Road and Old Branchville Road from 1954 to 1974. [WWW]



**Noah's Ark Day Care Center and Nursery School:** Established 1972 at then-former St. Mary's School; Mrs. Anna Capel was first director; school was operated by the parents of the pupils.

**Nod:** Section of Ridgefield just north of Wilton and west of Branchville (also a section of northern Wilton, probably the source of the name); probably Biblical reference to land of Nod, place where Cain went after slaying Abel (*Genesis 4:16*) — thus may suggest a place not very well thought of, perhaps due to hills, rocky soils or distance from the village of Norwalk. [RN]

**Nod Hill:** U.S. Geological Survey maps (1949-1970) name for hill just east of Nod Hill Road, a little north of the Beers family cemetery, reaching 660 feet above sea level. [RN]

**Nod Hill Brewery, 137 Ethan Allen Highway,** was founded in 2017 by the father-son team of Dave and Rob Kaye and in 2020 is operated by Dave and his wife Sarah. Its motto is Brew with Wonder, Drink with Joy. The brewery has a taproom for onsite sales, but also sells beer in cans and kegs to package stores and restaurants. "We gravitate towards brewing hop-forward modern beer, traditionally-influenced European styles, and both clean and mixed ferment oak-aged beers," the company says. "We are a 100% green energy-powered brewery that is dedicated to sustainable brewing practices." The name, based on the nearby Nod neighborhood, was selected to acknowledge "our rich local history, and [as] an evocative yet rooted name that has inspired us to have fun & be creative with the names of our beers." [JFS]

**Nod Hill Road:** Old highway from Old Branchville Road into Wilton where it retains the name; Beers Cemetery and J. Alden Weir house are along its SW segment; has also been called Branchville Hill Rd. [RN]

**Nod Road:** Old highway from Branchville south to Wilton, where it becomes Whipstick Road; may have been earlier known as Whipstick Rd. here, too; runs alongside western slope of Whipstick Ridge. [RN]

**Nod West Drive:** Short, dead-end road off the west side of lower Nod Road, serving four, two-acre parcels, part of a 1964 subdivision by John, Robert, and Paul Morganti. [RN]

**Nook, The:** Antiques business operated by Lydia S. Holmes in the 1930s; location was then on part of Danbury-Norwalk Road (Route 7) which became Stonehenge Road after state built a bypass; Victor Gilbert acquired the place in 1946 and enlarged it to become Stonehenge Inn (*q.v.*). [RPJ7/14] The name was being used for the house as early as 1911 when E.F. Holmes lived there [P7/20/1911]

**Nooricus Ridge:** In his 1800 description of the town, Rev. Samuel Goodrich says: "There is the appearance of sundry Indian graves at a place called Nooricus Ridge"; probably Norrans Ridge, east of Fox Hill condominiums (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Noroneke, Lake:** Lake Noroneke is a private, man-made pond south of Old Branchville Road, west of Nod Hill Road; name appears on current U. S. Geological Survey maps; John R. Eustis, retired advertising executive who came here in 1936, built the pond shortly thereafter; named after Indian Oreneca (*q.v.*); not to be confused with Lake Naraneke (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Norman, Dr. John,** (1912-2002), native of Syracuse, NY, was an expert on fascism who worked for the Office of Strategic Services in WW2, debriefing people fleeing Nazi Germany;

became a college professor who taught course in intelligence and espionage, as well as history political science and government; expert on propaganda; wrote two books, *Edward Gibbon Wakefield, A Political Reappraisal* (1963) and *Labor and Politics in Libya and Arab Africa* (1965). Moved to Cooper Road in 1965 as well as a book of poetry. [WWW]

**Norman, Richard A.**, (1915-1997), native of Ohio, was a radio announcer and producer of classical concert music for WOV and WOR-FM, and other stations; speech consultant to CBS News; professor of English at Barnard college, retiring 1981; captain in U.S. Army Air Corps, World War II; lived in Ridgefield his last 15 years. [P7/31/1997]

**Lake Noroneke**, more a pond than a lake, is a private, man-made body of water south of Old Branchville Road, a little west of Nod Hill Road. Name appears on current U. S. Geological Survey maps (Bethel Quadrant). John R. Eustis (*q.v.*), a retired advertising executive who came here in 1936, built the pond shortly thereafter, naming it after an Indian, also called Oreneca (*q.v.*), from whom the settlers bought land. Often confused with Lake Naraneka (*q.v.*), built around same time. [RN]

**Norranorwa's Sprang**: Locality at Great Swamp whose name appears on Rev. Thomas Hauley's "Mapp of ye Great Swamp," drawn in 1718, and in various deeds; map seems to place it along Farmingville Road (now Lee Road) a little west of Limekiln Road; name is a variation of Oreneca; sprang is old term for spring of water (*q.v.*) [RN]

**Norrans Ridge**: A locality north of Farmingville Road and east of Fox Hill condominiums, whose name came about through years of modification by tongues that found the Indian language difficult to pronounce; possibly originally Nawranawoos; possibly the same name as Oreneca (*q.v.*), the sachem; also called Orange Ridge; variations of the name, mostly in land records, include: Nawranawoos (1712); Nornorways (1717, 1749, 1796); Norranorwas (1718, 1801); Nornornans (1738); Norrons (1738); Norrans (1739, 1801, 1811, 1826, 1858); Norrens (1751, 1785); Norways (1769); Nooricus (1800); Norrins (1958). *see also* Norranorwa's Sprang, Orange Ridge. [RN]

**Norrans Ridge Drive**: Looping road off Farmingville Road, serving the Beechwood subdivision (*q.v.*), a 27-lot development approved 1987 and developed by Charles Szentkuti; uses the old name for the area (*see above*). [RN]

**Norrans Ridge Road**, only vestiges of which still exist, ran from Danbury Road to Limekiln Road from the early 1700s until early in the 20th century, passing through what is now Fox Hill condominiums; was part of Danbury Path (*q.v.*). In the late 1920s, a Town Meeting gave Norrans Ridge Road to Col. Louis D. Conley for his Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Norris, Benjamin Deforest**, (1810-1902), was a Ridgebury farmer who, as a Whig, was a state representative in 1847.

**Norris, Stephen**, (abt.1739-1818) was a selectman in 1778, 1781 and 1782, and served as a state representative in 1779. He was among the Ridgefielders who sought state compensation (4 pounds, 10 shillings) for losses suffered — usually confiscated livestock — during the British invasion of Ridgefield in April 1777. He lived on the corner of George Washington Highway and Briar Ridge Road.

**North, Alex**, (1910-1991), was a major composer of music for many top films, including "Death of A Salesman" (1951), "The Rainmaker" (1956), "The Sound and the Fury" (1959), "Spartacus" (1960), "Cleopatra" (1963), The Agony and the Ecstasy (1965), Who's Afraid

of Virginia Woolf (1968), 2001: A Space Odyssey, “The Shoes of the Fisherman” (1969), “Willard” (1971), “Dragonslayer” (1981), “Good Morning, Vietnam” (1987). He wrote the song, Unchained Melody, which was a major pop hit. He also mentored John Williams, who became one of the greatest film composers. He lived on Great Hill Road from 1950 until early 1960s; [WWW]

**North and South Road:** Mid-1800s term for today’s Florida Road. [RN]

**North District:** A 19th Century school district in northern Ridgefield, probably short for North Ridgebury District; schoolhouse may have been near the intersection of Ridgebury and Turner Roads; probably shared with Danbury, some of whose students attended the school. [RN]

**North Hall:** A multi-use building on the campus of St. Stephen’s Church (q.v.), built in 1908-09.

**North Long Pond:** An early name for Lake Rippowam in Lewisboro, which was before Oblong (q.v.) in Ridgefield. [RN] *See* Long Pond.

**North Mountain:** Old term for Ridgebury Mountain (q.v.) and possibly also Barlow Mountain (q.v.) to the east of Ridgebury Mountain. [RN]

**North Patent:** An old term for Ridgebury, used chiefly 1750s; a variation of New Patent (q.v.); usually spelled *Pattent*; was north of town land of the original patent — *see* New Patent. [RN]

**North Ridgebury District:** *See* North District.

**North Ridgefield Post Office:** Operated 1899-1901, according to Jim Forte postal history.

**North Salem-North Ridgefield Environmental Improvement Association** filed in 1983 a class action lawsuit against Danbury Airport, seeking \$15 million in damages and a reduction of aircraft noise over their homes. [P9/22/1983]

**North Salem Road:** Fairly modern name for an old highway, much of which existed before 1720; parts between village and Mamasasco may have old Indian trail; it is second longest road in town — 4.24 miles from intersection of Main Street to NY State line; named for town it leads to (much of which was part of Ridgefield before Oblong); section from Ridgebury Rd. west may be relatively new, replacing the route over Mopus Bridge Road; a state highway, it was first Route 143, then Route 33, and now 116 (q.v. *each*) [RN] *See also* Fort Hill, Tackora Trail, Mill Path.

**North Shore Drive:** Runs along the north shore of Lake Windwing off Bennett’s Farm Road; part of 1954 Lakeland Hills (q.v.) subdivision; most of road today is dirt, part of Hemlock Hills (q.v.) refuge; some houses at western end. [RN]

**North Street:** Fairly modern name for late 18th Century road running from North Salem Rd. about two miles to Barlow Mountain Road, that served chiefly the farms on Copp’s Mountain, along which it runs; so called because it heads almost directly north out of the village; earlier name was Skunk Lane (q.v.) [RN]

**North Valley Road:** Dead-end road northerly off High Valley Road, part of Giles and Barry Montgomery’s 1969 High Valley (q.v.) subdivision, accepted by the town in 1973. [RN]

**Northoline:** 22-room mansion of Mrs. Lillian Loomis Dempsey (q.v.), built about 1900 and later called Fairhaven (q.v.).

**Northrop, Dr. Aaron L.** (1834-1908), was a NYC dentist who had a weekend and retirement home at 48 West Lane from the 1890s; name usually appears A.L. Northrop. *See* Caroline Hanford Northrop.

**Northrop, Benjamin Keeler**, (1824-1913), was a well-known local teacher in the 19th Century, who served as first selectman from 1867 to 1870. He taught in five districts in Ridgefield as well as in Vista, Lewisboro, South Salem, and New Canaan; taught in the Belltown School on Main Street; among his pupils were Gov. George Lounsbury; member of Board of School Visitors; married 1847 to Catherine Keeler in the Lannon House (*see* Tuppence), [P10/23/1913] and lived on South Salem Road. He was a Republican state representative in 1857, 1861 and 1879. He was a director and vice-president of the Ridgefield Savings Bank. [RSB23]

**Northrop, Caro Holmes**, (1860-1941), a Republican, was state representative 1935-39; a farmer and skilled local house-mover. He is said to have used only one mule to move the Episcopal rectory from 351 Main Street to 23 Catoonah Street in 1914. He claimed he could move a house a mile with the dining room table set, and nothing would be disturbed. He lived on Silver Spring Road and was a son of State Rep. Linus O. Northrup. [JFS, DD160, DD161]

**Northrop, Caroline Hanford**, (1841-1927), was the wife of Dr. Aaron L. Northrop, NYC dentist; lived on West Lane; said by Rockwell to have been an aunt of President Warren G. Harding; said by Bridgeport Telegram as being a cousin of Harding's wife.

**Northrop, Charles Betts "Charlie"**, (1839-1921), was a local builder. He was a Republican state representative, 1909-11, a longtime member of the Town School Committee, and a director of the Ridgefield Savings Bank for 37 years. [RSB24]

**Northrop, Cyrus**, (1834-1922), grew up on a farm in Scotland District near NY line, and at 15 taught at the Center School in the village; graduated from Yale, 1857; was editor of New Haven Palladium in late 1850s, then taught English literature and rhetoric at Yale (one of his students was Wilbur L. Cross, later governor); wooed in 1884 to head University of Minnesota, retiring 1911; huge Northrop Auditorium, designed by Cass Gilbert, honors him at Twin Cities campus; so does Mount Northrop in Sawtooth Mountains near Lake Superior in northern Minnesota and the town of Northrop in the south.

**Northrop, Elbridge Gerry**, (1829-1906), was a farmer and a Republican who served as a state representative, 1887-89. His brother, **Cyrus** (*q.v.*), became a Yale professor and then president of the University of Minnesota.

**Northrop, Linus Olmstead**, (1830-1914) was a shoemaker and harness-maker who lived on Wilton Road West and served as a Republican state representative in 1886. He was the father of State Rep. Caro Holmes Northrop. [P2/19/1914]

**Northrop, Matthew**, (1740-1829), was a corporal in the Connecticut Fifth during the Revolution. He is buried in Ridgebury Cemetery. [JW]

**Northrop Road**: Old name for South Street (*q.v.*), apparently reflecting some past landowner thereabouts; also appears as Northrup. [RN]

**Northrup, Moses**, sold his saw mill to Timothy Canfield (*q.v.*) in 1726 — one of the first such mills in town.

**Northrup's Island:** In 1717, Proprietors deeded Joseph Northrup “one rood and eight pole upon an island in ye New Pound Bog Swamp, called Northrup's Island”; somewhere in or about Silver Spring Swamp. [RN]

**Norwalk and Danbury Turnpike:** Apparently the correct name for the turnpike that ran through southeastern Ridgefield in the early 19th Century; term does not appear in our records — instead, the road seems to be always referred to as the Danbury and Norwalk Turnpike (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Norwalk Mill River:** early name for Norwalk River (*q.v.*); 1712 deed mentions land “lying on both sides of ye branch or river called Norwalk Mill River, about midway between ye Cedar Mountain and ye East Meadow;” reflects use as source of mill power probably downstream in already well-settled Norwalk (Wilton then was part of Norwalk) whence many of settlers came. [RN]

**Norwalk River:** Ridgefield's longest stream, about 7 miles in town, rises in the Great Swamp (*q.v.*), flows north west of Danbury Road, then east to Route 7 valley and then south to Long Island Sound at Norwalk; elevation 590 feet above sea level at Great Swamp to 345 in Branchville; was a source of power for many mills in the 18th and 19th Centuries; caused much damage in an October 1955 flood, leading to Norwalk River Flood Control Project (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Norwalk River Flood Control Project:** In the aftermath of a costly October 1955 flood, the state, working with the Army Corps of Engineers, developed a flood control project that established several areas where earthen dams could be closed to back up and store water in times of unusually heavy rains; the first dam, near Fox Hill condominiums, creates a reservoir in Great Swamp (*q.v.*), which the state purchased as part of the project. Other dams were designed for Miller's Pond on Route 7, Candee's Pond on lower Branchville Road (for the Cooper Brook), and the Spectacle Swamp near Woodcock Nature Center on Ridgefield-Wilton line. State purchased many hundreds of acres as part of the project. In addition, land uses within flood zones along major rivers are restricted by state and local regulations to prevent construction of structures or landscaping that might adversely affect water flow — or be subject to costly flood damage — in heavy rain situations. [JFS] *See also* Floods.

**Norwalk Road:** Early 18th Century name for Wilton Road West (*q.v.*), laid out by town in 1737. [RN]

**Norwalk town line:** See Wilton town line.

**Norways Ridge:** Also Norway's, a, 18th Century version of Norrans (*q.v.*) or Nornorwas Ridge ; no connection with the Scandinavian nation. [RN]

**Not Skinking:** *See* Skinker.

**Notable Ridgefielders:** 88-page, tabloid-newspaper-sized collection of brief biographies of more than 400 people who made news in Ridgefield during the 20th Century. It also contains an extensive historical timeline from 1875 onward. Illustrated, indexed. Published by The Ridgefield Press, 2000.

**Notre Dame Academy:** Catholic girls high school on West Mountain Road, operated by Congregation of Notre Dame (*q.v.*) on their motherhouse campus from 1968-72; closed due

to lack of enough students; Sister Ann Moore was principal; first class was 40 students; school built by Morganti Inc.

**Novelists** from Ridgefield include: Jessica Auerbach, Jacqueline Babbin, Chris Belden, William Blankenship, James Blumgarten, Thomas Boyd, E.C. Bross, Samuel Carter, Robert Daley, Jay Deiss, Diane Detzer de Reyna, Edwin A. Fadiman Jr., Howard Fast, Samuel Grafton, Irene Kampen, David Liebovitz, Clare Boothe Luce, Mary Luke, Mary Main, Susanna Hofmann McShea, John Ames Mitchell, Hugh Mulligan, Frederick Nebel, Hildegard Oskison, Brad Parks, Howard Roughan, Kathryn Morgan Ryan, Margaret (Peggy) Smith Shane, Peter Spiegelman, Robert Lewis Taylor, Jane Trahey, Lynn Wallrapp, Thomas Walsh, Max Wilk, Mildred Wohlforth, Bari Wood.

**Nursery Road:** Built in 1964 as the main route into Rolling Hills Estates (*q.v.*) off Still Road,; in 1985, the Crosswicks Corp. of Wilton subdivided 66 acres between the end of Nursery Road and Limekiln Road and extended Nursery Road to connect with Limekiln. That subdivision, called Overlook Groves, consists of 27 lots. Named for Outport Nurseries (*q.v.*) which owned most of the land in the area in the 1920s and 1930s. [RN]

**Nutholme** was the mansion of Francis McNiel Bacon (*q.v.*) on Peaceable Street, later called Westmoreland (*q.v.*) by subsequent owner George Doubleday (*q.v.*). The house is now quarters of Congregation Shir Shalom (*q.v.*). Name may have meant “wooded hill.”

**Nutmeg Court:** Short, dead-end road off Farm Hill Road, part of Ramapoo Hills, Joseph H. Donnelly’s 1956 subdivision; town road in 1963; name, recalling a state symbol, was a poor choice because of confusion with Nutmeg Ridge (*q.v.*) [RN]

**Nutmeg Festival** was an annual fund-raising fair at St. Stephen’s Church, and was probably the longest running church fair in town, having reportedly begun with an “Apron and Cake Sale” in 1906 (possibly earlier), sponsored by The Ladies Guild. The event grew and, in 1951, the Rev. Aaron Manderbach (*q.v.*) suggested calling it the Nutmeg Festival. The last fair was in 2018; lack of enough volunteers to handle the event led to its replacement in 2019 with a less-taxing “Nutmeg and Neighbors” barbecue and dance. [Haight, JFS]

**Nutmeg Ridge:** Runs between Branchville Road and Old Washington Road, first planned in 1950 by Ridgefield Hilltop Acres Company (*q.v.*), which called it Biddle Lane (*see* Biddle Hill); in 1956, under refiled plan, named was changed to Nutmeg Ridge; accepted by town in two parts, 1958, 59. [RN]

**Nydeggen:** Estate of Henry de B. Schenck (*q.v.*), at 7 Christopher Road, built 1910; its carriage house is now 22 Lisa Lane.

O

**Oak Knoll:** Name applied to former Frederic Remington home after his death; Remington himself called it Lorul Place (*q.v.*).

**Oak Tree Lane:** A dead-end lane so small it doesn’t show up on many modern maps, Route 7 between Wilridge Road and Old Town Road in Branchville, at the north side of the Dunkin Donuts building, part of 1940 subdivision by Joseph L. Dioguardi; name first used 1950; so called because four-foot diameter oak, said to have been the largest of its genus in the Georgetown area, was along the road. [RN]

**O and K Shoe Shoppe:** Store at ONS121 Main Street (now part of 418 Main Street) in 1955

**Oatland:** Main Street home of the Rev. James Tuttle-Smith (*q.v.*); later offices of Electro Mechanical Research (*q.v.*), then from 1958, South Hall of St. Stephen's Church; name sometimes appears Oatlands.

**O'Brien, Elizabeth Whitman Atkins,** (1913-1997), a native of NYC, lived in Ridgefield in the 1930, 40s and 50s, and was an advertising and public relations executive who later in life, living in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, became an acclaimed folk artist. She was predeceased by two husbands, Raymond Gabinelli and Richard T. O'Brien. [P5/1/1997]

**Oblong, The:** Chunk of Connecticut's western border that was ceded to New York in 1731 after years of negotiating the colony's western boundary; the oblong-shaped slice ran from top of New Canaan (Norwalk) border to Massachusetts, and was about 1.75 miles wide; in exchange Connecticut got title to panhandle, mostly Greenwich. *See also* Wilton and Ridgefield Angles, New Patent, Ridgebury. [RN]

**Ochsner, Dr. Edward L.E.,** (1919-2005), a native of Massachusetts and Harvard graduate, practiced medicine in Ridgefield, 1958-1972, living on Bryon Avenue. He was active in Rotary, the German Club, Masons, and the First Congregational Church. In 1973 he and his family moved to Switzerland. [P12/29/2005]

**O'Connor, Flannery,** noted Southern author, has been incorrectly reported as living in Ridgefield, 1949-51; actually lived in Redding with friends Robert and Sally Fitzgerald on Seventy Acres Road, which was served at the time by the Ridgefield post office, which is why she had a "Ridgefield" mailing address. [RN]

**Octagon Office:** The small, octagon building near the curve of Bailey Avenue was built ca. 1915 as a bathhouse at the pond on Lewis Drive at Upaganstit (*q.v.*), the Frederic E. Lewis estate. It was moved in the 1930s to East Ridge School to serve as a changing room for ball teams. It then became an office and warming room for airplane spotters in WWII and Korean War. It was moved in the 1950s to 30 Bailey Avenue, serving as an office for Bacchiochi Inc. and then, for many years, for a novelist. Each side is six feet, and the total space inside is 164 square feet — probably the smallest, heated, usable building in Ridgefield. [JFS, DD59]

**Odd Fellows:** Pilgrim Lodge, No. 46, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, founded June 11, 1847, as a social and benevolent organization for men; usually met in Masonic Hall but other meeting sites included upstairs at 381 Main Street in 1888. In 1928-29 the group built its own lodge hall at 441 Main Street (now the Toy Chest — *q.v.*); that building sold 1957 after lodge acquired in 1956 Freund estate, Main and King Lane, and moved hall to old carriage house at 21 King Lane; in 2006, with few members left, lodge disbanded, selling Pilgrim Hall to Methodist Church. [JFS]

**Odone, Jamison,** a native of Rhode Island, is an author, illustrator and professor of art who specializes in books for children as well as produced graphic tales for adults.. His first, *Honey Badgers*, was published in 2007 while he was living in Ridgefield. Now is associate professor at Frostburg (MD) State University. [JFS]

**Odor Eaters,** a foot deodorizer, was invented by Dr. Herbert Lapidus (*q.v.*) of Ridgefield.

**Oexle, William,** (1908-80), pronounced *OX-lee*, was a local merchant who was an expert antique car restorer. His restorations won many national awards from Horseless Carriage Club of America and the Antique Automobile Club of America. He came to Ridgefield in 1949, and

over the years lived on Wilton Road West, North Salem Road and Ridgebury Road. He owned Oexle Supply, then Taylor Rental. He was the first chairman of the Police Commission in 1955. [WWW]

**Oil:** Peter P. Cornen led movement in 1880s to drill for oil in Ridgefield, especially Farmingville; Press reported in 1886 [P11/11/1886]: “The workmen digging the well on Dr. Bennett’s place found a vein of soft material, greasy to the feel, and resembling tallow in consistency. It was similar to that found in digging a well on Aaron Lee’s place that gave rise to the story of the finding of oil.” Cornen, who made a fortune discovering oil in Pennsylvania, said Ridgefield is situated over an oil field of “considerable magnitude.” On Nov. 19, 1887, a public meeting takes place to discuss forming the Ridgefield Oil and Gas Heating and Gas Lighting Company to begin drilling. [P11/25/1887]. However, drilling never occurs, probably because many townspeople object to the effect it would have on town.

**O’Kane, Sean**, a native of London who spent most of his life in Ireland, opens an architectural office at 387 Main Street. He came to the U.S. in 1979 and lives on Olmstead Lane. Among his large-scale houses is 55 High Ridge Avenue, the former Altnacraig (*q.v.*) site. He also designed the ROAR (*q.v.*) animal shelter.

**O’Keefe, Jack**, of Olmstead Lane was secretary of the Ridgefield Fish and Game Society for many years in the first half of the 20th Century. [DD144]

**O’Keefe, Rev. Joseph**, was third pastor of St. Mary’s Parish; appointed June 9, 1892, served a year. [JFS]

**O’Keefe, Patrick F.**, (1906-1982), a native of Ireland born on St. Patrick’s Day, came to Ridgefield at age of 5 and graduated RHS 1925. A carpenter, he became a building contractor, served on the school board, was a selectman, and was active in Rotary and with the Boys Club. He left town in 1959 to become maintenance supervisor of St. Joseph’s Hospital, Stamford. [P9/16/1982] He owned the former Sperry livery stable on Catoonah Street [DD133]

**Oko, Dr. Adolph Sigmund** (1883-1944) of Whipstick District, a native of Russia, was a librarian, editor of the Contemporary Jewish Record and an authority on the Dutch philosopher Baruch Spinoza. He also wrote several biographies of noted Jewish intellectuals as well as the posthumously published *The Spinoza Bibliography*. [P10/5/1944].

**Olcott, George Mann**, (1835-1917), headed the NYC pharmaceutical and cosmetics firm of Dodge & Olcott. In 1893 he built an estate on the site of former Benjamin Stebbins (*q.v.*) homestead, razing the historic saltbox to build an Italianate mansion whose name, Casagmo (*q.v.*), combined Italian word for house plus his initials. He was an early president of First National Bank and Trust Company of Ridgefield. His daughter, Mary Olcott (*q.v.*), continued to live at Casagmo until 1962. [WWW]

**Olcott, Mary Louisa Beatrice** (1864-1962), a native of Brooklyn, was a genealogist, poet, suffragist, gardener and dog breeder, daughter of George M. Olcott, who built Casagmo (*q.v.*) estate on northern Main Street. She lived there most of her life. She published *Poems* in 1902 and also wrote articles on gardens and flowers, and a genealogy, *The Olcotts and Their Kindred*. [WWW] She was active in Ridgefield Library, woman suffrage and her



interests included gardening and breeding prize poodles, game birds and swans, all at Casagmo. [WWW] *See also* George M. Olcott.

**Olcott, Mrs. Mary Lattin**, (1885-1974), is often confused with Mary L.B. Olcott; Mrs. Olcott lived in Tuppence (*q.v.*), which was also on Main Street, and was also active in the garden club. She is not known to be related to the Olcotts of Casagmo. [JFS]

**Olcott Way**: Private road at Casagmo (*q.v.*) on Main and Grove Streets, named for owners of the original Casagmo estate, George M. Olcott (*q.v.*) and later his daughter, Mary Louisa Beatrice Olcott (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Old Barlow Mountain Road**: Section of Barlow Mountain Road (*q.v.*) now either little-used or abandoned, applied chiefly for a short, dead-end road near the intersection of Knollwood Drive and Barlow Mountain Road; was part of the original Barlow Mountain Road [RN]

**Old Branchville Road**: Part of original main road from village to southeast corner of town, bypassed by newer, less hilly and swampy Branchville Road (Route 102), built in 1851 to improve wagon transportation to and from the new train depot about to open at what we now call Branchville; laid out by selectmen 1744 [RN]

**Old Burying Ground, The**: Town's first cemetery; extant section stands on Wilton Road East below Main Street and just north of Creamery Lane, but has no gravestones left standing; northern portion was developed ca. 1850 for road and homelots after graves were moved to Titicus Cemetery; was laid out Nov. 25, 1708 and at one time contained the graves of 40 pioneers, now listed on a granite monument in cemetery; one of few pieces of original public land still owned by town government; maintained by Ridgefield Garden Club [RN]

**Old Church Road**: Name hand-written on a 1935 assessor's map for a road on the east side of a triangle of land, on which stood the Episcopal Church of Ridgebury; road ran from Ned's Mountain Road northwesterly to Ridgebury Road, now be part of a private path; church existed ca 1750-1810. [RN]

**Old Creamery Highway**: Early name for Creamery Lane (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Old Coach House, The**: At 80 Branchville Road nearly opposite East Ridge Road, probably part of old Hawk estate; built ca. 1890; in 1940s was dance studio for Marthe Krueger; in 1949-50, home of dancer Paul Draper (*q.v.*); in 1951 Abel William Bahr bought it, collector of Asian antiques and art; in 1969, singer Don McKay lived there; also Charlotte Barclay.

**Old Danbury Road**: Short road, just east of Danbury Road, that runs between Haviland and Danbury Roads opposite the Limestone service station; was original lower end of the Danbury and Ridgefield Turnpike (*q.v.*), which ran from Haviland Road north through Sugar Hollow to Danbury, incorporated in 1801; bypassed by straighter Danbury Road around 1928. [RN]

**Old Episcopal Cemetery** was located in a triangle formed by Ridgebury and Ned's Mountain Roads with a third, now-private path to the east of Ridgebury Road. Probably established in the late 1700s in connection with the Ridgebury Episcopal Church (*q.v.*), it was abandoned around 1870 and many stones were moved. Some were reportedly used for foundations and stepping stones.

**Old Farm**: Name of summer/weekend home of Norman Thomas (*q.v.*), six-time candidate for U.S. President; located at 108 Limestone Road. [WWW]

**Old Florida Cemetery** is located off the north side of Old Redding Road, just east of Route 7, and was probably established in the 1700s. Eleven gravestones were extant in 1934, but only five were left by 1958. Many graves in this cemetery were moved to the New Florida Cemetery — it is not known why. The earliest stone was said to date 1761. [JFS]

**Old Hill:** Early 19th Century name for a locality possibly near Lake Mamasasco [RN]

**Old Home Day** was a traditional local holiday in New England, a sort of “homecoming” when former residents would return to their home town to visit with family and old friends. On Old Home Day, July 4, 1914, Ridgefield coincided with an all-day celebration for the laying of the cornerstone for the new Benjamin Franklin Elementary School (*q.v.*). It included a parade, a giant picnic, speeches, a baseball game, concert and fireworks. [JFS]

**Old Horse Pound:** Term appears in a 1796 deed for six acres “on the Mountain near the Old Horse Pound.” *See* Horse Pound Swamp. [RN]

**Old Hundred:** Store and, later, a house on Main Street, owned by Mrs. Grace King, who used the name, which is possibly an old nickname to reflect the age of the original King and Dole store there; *see also* Ridgefield Post Office.

**Old Ice House, The:** Restaurant operated by siblings John (*q.v.*) and Mary Girolametti at former RidgeBowl alleys at 11 Danbury Road; descended from a bar and grill, called Mary’s, opened in 1933 by Mario and Mary Girolmetti was on the property; in 1963, the Girolmetti children built the RidgeBowl alleys and with it a bar and cocktail lounge, opened in 1964; restaurant space occupied in 2019 by Mannen, a Japanese restaurant. [P6/10/2019]

**Old Main Highway:** Earlier name for road east of and parallel to the railroad tracks and Route 7 in Branchville; now stupidly called West Branchville Road (*q.v.*); part of old Danbury and Norwalk Turnpike (*q.v.*) *See also* “Old Norwalk Road.” [RN]

**Old Mill Pond:** Name used by Otto H. Lippolt on the map of 1959 Hemlock Hills (*q.v.*) subdivision for a small body of water on the west side of Old Mill Road (*q.v.*); name suggests a mill, undoubtedly a saw mill, connected with the pond some years ago; also called Lippolt Pond (*q.v.*) [RN]

**Old Mill Road:** From George Washington Highway to Ned’s Mountain Road, past the Old Mill Pond (*q.v.*); main road of Otto Lippolt’s Hemlock Hills (*q.v.*) subdivision, developed in the early 1960s. [RN]

**Old Musket Lane:** Short, dead-end road off Powderhorn Drive, part of Gun Hill Farms subdivision, by Donald Thomas; developed starting 1964 by Robert E. Roche who was interested in guns and things Western; built around 1965; became a town road, 1970. [RN]

**Old Nod Road:** Another name for Old Branchville Road, according to a deed filed with the town clerk in 1946. [RN]

**Old Norwalk Road:** Another name for Old Main Road (*q.v.*); was the original path of Route 7 in this vicinity and, to people to the north, like Danburians, it was the Norwalk Road. It was also often called the Danbury-Norwalk Road or Turnpike; *see* Danbury and Norwalk Turnpike. [RN]

**Old Oscaleta Road:** Short, old section of the west end of West Mountain Road into New York State; once the western extension of Oscaleta Road (*q.v.*) [RN]

- Old Main Highway:** Mid-20th Century name for the road east of and parallel to the railroad tracks and Route 7 in Branchville, now oddly called West Branchville Road (*q.v.*); this was the original path of the north-south highway/turnpike through Branchville. [RN]
- Old Meeting House Tract:** Mid-19th Century term for parcel on the corner of North Salem Road and North Street, once site of Methodist Church (*see* Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church); when church moved south to Catoonah Street corner, old meeting house was turned into a residence; site is now Lounsbury family cemetery. [RN]
- Old Pierce Road:** Little lane off Danbury Road, named for Charles Pierce, who lived there and worked on Outpost Farm (*q.v.*), estate of Colonel Louis D. Conley (*q.v.*), who in the 1920s owned this land; in 1979, the road was improved to serve a subdivision of the property of actor Cyril Ritchard (*q.v.*) who lived at Lone Rock (*q.v.*), his house on the nearby pond [RN]
- Old Quarry Road:** Extends from Grove Street to intersection of South Street and Ligi's Way; so called from early in 20th Century for small, old, stone quarry, still visible on former adjacent Schlumberger-Doll property on south side of the road, worked in 19th Century, perhaps even 18th Century, probably to supply stone for foundations, basements, and fireplaces of early homes. [RN]
- Old Ram Pen:** In 1777, proprietors granted Benjamin Northrup land "lying in the Old Ram pen so called," along upper West Lane, connected with the Ram Pasture (*q.v.*). [RN]
- Old Redding Road:** Correct term for the road that leads from Route 7 near Florida Hill Road into Redding; sometimes incorrectly called Seventy Acres Road (*q.v.*); part of an old highway from at least 1740s between Ridgefield and Redding that included Florida Hill Road (*q.v.*). [RN] *See also* Redding.
- Old Ridgebury Road:** Highway that veers off to the right – northeastward – from upper Ridgebury Road and runs into Danbury where it also bears that name; probably should be just Ridgebury Road since it was the original route and there is no "new" Ridgebury Road there. [RN]
- Old Sib Road,** sometimes **Sib Road,** is a road which begins appearing on maps until the 20th Century, although it may have been an old logging trail in the 19th and even 18th Century; built or rebuilt around 1908 to serve as Connecticut-side access to the Port of Missing Men (*q.v.*) resort, and was earlier known as Port Road or Tea House Road (*q.v. each*). "Old 'Sib' Road" appears on a 1926 property map. Sib may be a corruption of "Sid," nickname of Sidney D. Farrar (*q.v.*), who had a 30-acre farm on North Salem Road from 1923 until his death in 1935 (*see* Farrar Lane). While his land did not border Old Sib Road, it came close to the beginning of the highway at Tackora Trail. [RN]
- Old Society:** The lower half of town – south of Ridgebury – was in the 18th Century sometimes called the "Old Society" to differentiate it from the "New" or "Second" Society, which was Ridgebury (*q.v.*). [RN]
- Old South Salem Road,** dating from the 1720s, was the original route of South Salem Road (*q.v.*) as it entered New York state. The wider and straighter state highway bypassed the road in the 930s. [RN]
- Old Stagecoach Road:** Old highway from Ridgebury Road southward to Aspen Ledges Road; portion between Ridgebury Road and Bennett's Farm Road (*q.v.*) at the Ridgebury

Firehouse was long considered part of Bennett's Farm Road, but after 1961 petition by townspeople, selectmen renamed it; section south of Bennett's Farm Road had been known as Old Stagecoach (or Stage Coach) Road since at least 1946, but was not a developed road until the late 1950s (*see* Ridgefield Knolls); whole route, plus a section now abandoned, were part of a highway dating back to at least the middle 1700s, used by stagecoaches between Ridgebury and Norwalk, operated by David Hunt (*q.v.*) starting 1836. [RN] *See also* Henry Whitlock.

**Old Still Road:** Short, dead-end road off Still Hollow Place; probably not accurately named since it connected to, but was not part of the old Still Road (*q.v.*); name also sometimes applied early 20th Century to Still Road between Haviland and Stonehenge Roads. [RN].

**Old Stone Court:** 600-foot tertiary road off Bobby's Court, created by Lewis J. Finch's 1985 subdivision of 10 acres into five lots. [RN]

**Old Town Road:** Short lane between Route 7 and Wilridge Road, developed 1950s by Joseph L. Dioguardi (*q.v.*); sometimes quaintly called Olde Town Road; Dioguardi said title search indicated that in 1759 this was part of a road extending through Wilton to Pelham Lane at Nod Hill Road [RN]

**Old Trolley Road:** For many years this was a short, dead-end road off the east side of Ridgebury Road between George Washington Highway and Shadow Lake Road; extended in the 1990s in the Stone Ridge (*q.v.*) subdivision and now connects Ridgebury Road with George Washington Highway. The road was built on the bed of a Danbury and Harlem Traction Company (*q.v.*) line that ran from Danbury center by the Fairgrounds to Ridgebury and was supposed to connect to the Harlem Valley train line in Westchester. The company was formed in 1893 and went bankrupt in 1908. Tracks west of Ridgebury may not have been laid, though a bed was built for many miles. Some trolley runs were done around 1901 but apparently no regular service to Ridgebury was ever achieved. [RN]

**Old Wagon Road** is a 1,600-foot dead-end road off West Mountain Road, part of the 1969 Eleven Levels subdivision (*q.v.*) by Jerry Tuccio. It became a town road in 1978. [RN]

**Old Washington Road** is an old road that originally ran between Branchville and Florida Hill Roads, now dead ends before it reaches Florida Hill Road. It was named for George Washington Gilbert (*q.v.*), the "hermit" who lived near its western end. It was called "Washington Street" on a 1946 zoning map. [RN]

**Old West Lane** is a 20th Century term for a road, part of which is now Canterbury Lane (*q.v.*) that led from Ridgebury center south of church to the NY state line. The name was changed in 1969 to lessen confusion with West Lane far to the south in Ridgefield village. [RN]

**Old West Mountain Road** is a very old highway connecting Barrack Hill Road at Four Corners (*q.v.*) with West Mountain Road, probably based on old Indian route from Lake Mamasasco to villages in Westchester. For Ridgefielders, it served as an access to fields and woodlots on the mountain, and to Round Pond, a source of fish and a saw mill. The Burt family had an early farm there, much of which became the Sunset Hall (*q.v.*) estate. [RN] *See also* Burt Road.

**Old West Road** is another name for Pumping Station Road (*q.v.*), used as late as the 1930s and early 1940s but earliest use is unknown. [RN]

**Oldest businesses** in town: Probably Bissell Pharmacy, founded in the 1850s by Hiram K. Scott (*q.v.*), is the oldest. Others include Fairfield County Bank, founded 1871 as Ridgefield Savings Bank; Ridgefield Supply Company, which traces its roots Osborn and Gilbert's lumberyard in the 1870s; Craig's Jewelry Store, founded ca. 1910 by Francis D. Martin; Ancona's Wines and Liquors, ca. 1920 by Joseph Ancona; Ridgefield Hardware, founded in 1938 by Ed Rabin. (*q.v. each*).

**Oldest house:** Probably the oldest documentable house is the Hauley House (*q.v.*) at 132 Main Street, dating from 1713. Tuppence (*q.v.*) at 35 Main Street may be older or about the same age, but was originally about a mile to the north. Parts of other houses, such as 181 Main Street's core, may date from around the same time or earlier. [JFS]

**Oldest resident:** Probably Consuelo Vanderbilt Earl (*q.v.*), who died at age 107. Eliza Gage Wade was 104 at her death in 1934.

**Oliphant, Elmer Quillan "Ollie,"** (1892-1975), was one of the nation's top athletes of the early 20th Century. In football he held many records at Purdue. At West Point, he was the first cadet ever to letter in seven sports (football, baseball, basketball, track, boxing, swimming, hockey). In 1916, as an Army back, he was football All-American; Knute Rockne included him on his own all-time All-American team. During his college career, he was credited with 435 points – 135 at Purdue and 300 at Army. In 1921 for the Buffalo All-Americans in what's now the NFL, he led the league with 47 points (including throwing seven touchdowns, kicking five field goals and 26 point-after-touchdowns). However, he retired from playing after that season. He spent many years working for MetLife. He and wife Barbara moved to Wilton Road West in the 1940s, then to New Canaan in 1952; both are buried in St. Mary Cemetery. [WWW]

**Olley Court** was founded in 2007 by Susan Buzaid as an interior design shop. It operated on Main Street for many years, and then moved to 1 Big Shop Lane.

**Olmstead family:** *See also* under Olmsted, the earlier spelling of the name.

**Olmstead, Chauncey, (?-?),** was a partner with State Rep. Abijah Resseguie in manufacturing carriages, first with Resseguie and then with Brush, Olmstead & Company in the Big Shop (*q.v.*). He was a state representative in 1846. He appears to have later moved to Stamford.

**Olmstead, Frank R.,** (1866-1914), a Ridgefield native, was a well known local carpenter and volunteer fireman who lived on St. Johns Road and later in a house he built on Barry Avenue. [P2/12/1914]

**Olmstead, James H.,** (1830-1899), a Ridgefield native, moved to Stamford in 1851 and became a prominent lawyer there in 1854. He was a member of the Democratic State Committee and became a state's attorney for six years in the 1870s. He was a state representative in 1871 and a Probate Court judge, 1854-59. [FAG]

**Olmstead, Jared Nash,** (1819-1904), was a farmer who held many offices in the town. As a Union Party member, he was a state representative to the General Assembly in 1862 and 1863 and a selectman in 1867 and 1868, a constable (1855, 1863), surveyor of highways (1859, 1862, 1866, 1867), member of the Board of Relief (1861, 1864). He was also active in the Ninth School District affairs. His house still stands at 90 St. Johns Road. He was the father of Frank (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Olmstead, Samuel Smith**, (1806-1872), was a farmer and established the Titicus Store (*q.v.*), which he sold in 1856 to Hiram Olmstead Nash (*q.v.*). He was a selectman in 1839 and 1840, and was a state representative in 1841 and, as a Whig, in 1854.

**Olmstead Lane**: Road dating from the 1700s between West Lane and Wilton Road West, named for four Olmstead families who once lived along it in houses #75, 90, and 91 still standing, and a house no longer standing at what is now #79; one of few roads named for an original founding family, which in the 18th Century, spelled its name Olmsted. [RN]

**Olmstead Scott House** at 508 North Salem Road, corner of Barlow Mountain Road, is a saltbox built ca. 1750, possibly by James Scott 2nd. It was witness to the first skirmish of the Battle of Ridgefield as General Wooster attacked British troops lunching hereabouts. Names for later owner, T. Olmstead Scott. [RIR]

**Olmstead's Corner** was a 20th Century name for the bend in St. Johns Road at the top of the hill, south of Windy Ridge Lane, so called because Robert Olmstead's Windy Ridge Farm was here. Olmstead's house is 90 St. Johns Road. [DD85]

**Olmsted, David**, (1748-1815), a Ridgefield native, was a captain, later lieutenant colonel, in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. He married Abigail Ingersoll, daughter of the Rev. Jonathan Ingersoll, minister of the Congregational Church and niece of Jared Ingersoll, signer of the Constitution. They supposedly lived at what is now 91 Olmstead Lane where she became the subject of the popular "Red Petticoat" legend, involving her waving a petticoat from a window to suggest it was a Tory house to passing British soldiers during the Battle of Ridgefield in 1777 — while her husband was out fighting the Redcoats. (He reportedly later told her if he had seen her do that, he would have shot her dead — probably apocryphal; the couple had four children after this and she remained with him the rest of her life.) From 1781 to 1798, he often served as a state representative, alongside Col. Philip Burr Bradley or Lt. Joshua King, and was generally active in town government. However, in the early 1800s, he moved to Onondaga County, NY, becoming one of the first settlers of the town of DeWitt, where he soon established a well-known tavern and inn. He died there. [WWW]

**Olmsted, Lt. Ebenezer**, (1748-1801), a Ridgefield native and Revolutionary War veteran, was a disgraced collector of state taxes who apparently spent his collections in 1780, causing the town — which was responsible for those taxes — to suffer financially for many years. He was arrested and all his possessions confiscated and sold at auction. He was married to Esther Ingersoll, daughter of the Rev. Jonathan Ingersoll (*q.v.*), and was a prominent citizen. He apparently left town in disgrace. [WWW]

**Olmsted, Frederick Law** (1922-1903), was a noted American landscape architect whose firm did work in Ridgefield: in 1901-03, Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Mass., designed the grounds for the Peaceable Street/High Ridge mansion of Walter E. Maynard — most of this has been destroyed by subsequent subdivision; the Olmsted firm also did work on what is now Ballard Park in 1932, for Edward L. Ballard. Olmsted himself also worked with Cass Gilbert (*q.v.*); David Paul (*q.v.*) maintained Olmsted did work for Casagmo (*q.v.*) estate, but evidence of it has not been found. [JFS]

**Olmsted, Jared** (also Jered), (1753-1825), was an ensign in the Continental Army, serving in Capt. David Olmsted's company during the Revolutionary War. He was a state representative in 1800 and 1801.

**Olmsted, Nathan**, (1717-1805), was a deacon in the Congregational Church who was a state representative in 1777 and 1779 and served as a selectman in 1776 and 1782. Three of his sons fought at the Battle of Ridgefield. Samuel G. Goodrich has a profile of him in his *Recollections of A Lifetime* (q.v.). [JFS]

**Olmsted, Samuel**, (1734-1820), a Ridgefield native, was a farmer and sergeant in the Connecticut Militia during the Revolutionary War. He served as a state representative in 1776 and 1778, one of the first representatives to the Legislature after Connecticut became a state in 1776. He was also a selectman in 1747, 1752, 1755, 1758, 1777, and 1782. [JFS] With Ebenezer Hawley, he leased a saw mill "at Pompion Ridge" from Samuel and Timothy Hoyt in 1816 [RLR11/249] Probably on the Cooper Brooks near Johns Pond.

**Olsen, Herb**, (1905-1973), was a widely known and respected watercolor artist and illustrator who produced paintings for the covers of magazines, won dozens of awards, wrote five instructional books on the subject, and wound up in museum collections. He lived on Peaceable Street in the 1940s and early 1950s.

**Olsen, Olaf**, (1919-2000), a native of Germany, played in 29 British films including *The Man in the White Suit*, *Lili Marlene*, and *We Dive at Dawn*, alongside such greats as Alec Guinness, Deborah Kerr, and Leslie Howard; also had parts in over 1,000 BBC radio and TV broadcasts; came to U.S. in 1953 and joined Ward Acres Studios of New Rochelle, NY, to produce TV commercials and documentaries, led by Jack B. Ward (q.v.). In 1957, he moved to Ward Acres on Peaceable Street, joining Ward in breeding and raising award-winning thoroughbred racing horses while continuing to produce travel documentaries as the Olsen Film Productions Company, including widely seen "Lion Country Safari." He was active locally in the Red Cross. [WWW]

**Olson, Edna-May**, (1912-2003), was an insurance administrator for W.R. Grace in NYC, retiring in 1967. In 1973, she helped found and became first president of the OWLS (q.v.) and wrote the OWLS column for the RP for 30 years. In 1982 she became the town's agent for the elderly, serving about 20 years. She also ran the Food Pantry, and served on the Commission on Aging. She and husband Victor, (1910-1978), began summering here in the 1950s and became full-time residents in 1971. [NR]

**Olympians** from Ridgefield: John P. Cooke (q.v.) won gold in rowing in 1956; Janel Jorgensen (q.v.), won silver, swimming, 1988. Tucker West competed in the 2014, 2018 and 2022 Olympics in luge. Curt Onalfo (q.v.) played on the 1992 soccer team in Barcelona. Erland Van Lidth de Jeude (q.v.) was a backup for the U.S. wrestling team in 1976 and was due to compete in the boycotted 1980 Olympics in Moscow. Ridgefield native Kieran Smith won the bronze medal in the men's 400-meter freestyle final in the 2021 in Tokyo. [JFS]

**Onalfo, Curtis "Curt,"** a native of Brazil who was RHS 1987, came to Ridgefield as a boy, was a county and state soccer champion, and became a college and nationally ranked soccer player. Was on the 1992 U.S. Olympic team at Barcelona. Played several seasons in professional leagues. [NR]

**1RZ** were the call letters for John Hubbard (*q.v.*), a pioneer in ham radio electronics, who was among the first to transmit and receive radio signals with Europeans.

**On-The-Ridge:** A name that E.P. Dutton (*q.v.*) used for his mansion on High Ridge [P7/20/1911] [DD195]. Sometimes later called Four Chimneys [DD195]

**O'Neill, Eugene,** (1888-1953), noted American playwright, owned Brook Farm (*q.v.*), 845 North Salem Road, from 1922 to 1927; won Nobel Prize and four Pulitzers for his work; his popular play, "Desire Under the Elms," (*q.v.*) was said to have been inspired by viewing the house across the road, owned then by Louis G. Smith and later by George Leeman (*q.v.*) [WWW] *See also* Elis B. McLaury. [WWW]

**O'Neill Court:** Short, dead-end road off North Salem Road, part of the 1982 subdivision by Joseph H. Donnelly called "Scotts Ridge," across the highway from former home of playwright Eugene O'Neill (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Ontaroga Farm:** The gentleman farm of Theodore B. Starr and his son, Louis Morris Starr, largest estate in Farmingville in the early 20th century; land now includes the Farmingville School site; name of an American Indian tribe in Orange County, N.Y.; house still standing at the corner of Lounsbury and Farmingville Roads. [JFS, SR1916S]

**Opera house:** *See* playshop under William Mattheus Sullivan.

**Opgaard, Sigrun and Anna:** *See* The Food Chandler.

**Or-Mar Drive:** Original 1963 name for Settlers Lane (*q.v.*), recalling subdividers, real estate agents Orrin and Marion Beers; changed in 1971 because the neighborhood, not surprisingly, did not like the name. [RN].

**Orange Ridge:** Bastardization of Norran's Ridge (*q.v.*), which in turn was a corruption of Nawranawoo's or Norranorwa's Ridge; for rise east of Fox Hill condominiums (*q.v.*) north of Farmingville Road at Great Swamp, traversed in part by Norrans Ridge Road (*q.v.*); term used by George L. Rockwell in his *History of Ridgefield*. [RN]

**Orchard, The:** (1) Estate on West Lane in Lewisboro, right on state line, established early 1900 by Dr. George G. Shelton, wealthy homeopathic physician; later home of the Abbe family (*q.v.*) and Konrad Bercovici (*q.v.*); estate also called Westlawn (*q.v.*); (2) Name for a picnic area often used by organizations in the early 20th Century on property of Dr. Fred Solley on North Salem Road [DD18].

**Orchard Cottage:** Home of Mrs. Mary A. King in SR1916S.

**Orchard Lane:** Private, dead-end, dirt road off St. John's Road, part of a 1956 subdivision by Warren and Elizabeth Simmons; name probably reflects a former nearby use. [RN]

**Orchard Street:** Original name for what is now East Ridge Road; probably named for Lounsbury family orchards at today's Veterans Park and Boys & Girls Club [RN]

**Order of Eastern Star:** The female side of the Jerusalem Lodge of Masons (*q.v.*), known for its community service over many years.

**Ordination:** The first ordination of a Catholic priest to take place in Ridgefield occurred in 1956 when Bishop Lawrence J. Shehan, who was here to bless the new St. Mary's School, performed the ceremony for the Rev. Pierre A. Button (*q.v.*).

**Ore Bed:** In 1830, a deed describes land "near and west of the house of said Haviland and known by the name of the Mine Lot or Ore Bed," a limestone mining operation near or at the intersection of Haviland, Danbury and Limestone Roads. *See* Mine Hill.



**Ore Yard:** About 1717, proprietors sold land at “a place called ye Ore Yard”; location unknown but may have been a limestone bed near the intersection of Danbury, Haviland and Limestone Roads (*see* Ore Bed). [RN]

**Oreneca:** 1. American Indian word that Huden translates as “curved place” or “land at the bend.” 2. Local sachem who was among the signers of deeds to the first settlers of Ridgefield; name appears in various forms — minutes of a 1715 proprietors’ meeting says “Tackora, alias Oreneca”; also known as Narranoke, Naraneka, or Noroneke. 3. A 27-room mansion built in 1930 by Philip D. Wagoner (*q.v.*), head of Underwood; limestone facing was imported from France; later owned by Harrison Horblit (*q.v.*); Jean Horblit sold in 2004; when Horblits bought, included 12 acres, outbuildings, for \$6.9 million (*see also* Oreneca Lodge). [RN] Previous home owned by Mr. and Mrs. Geo Jarvis Geer. Name originally proposed by David L. Paul (*q.v.*) for Fox Hill (*q.v.*) condominiums on Danbury Road. [RN, JFS]

**Oreneca Band:** Boys band established in the 1890s; name was later resurrected and used by what had been called the Ridgefield Boys Band (*q.v.*). [DD59]

**Oreneca Inn**, also called **Oreneca House**, was established on Main Street, about on the site of The Toy Chest (in 2020) in the mid-19th Century. Later became the Dyckman House, the Thompson House, the Ridgefield Inn (*q.v. each*). Lydia Bouton Ruggles took it over in 1896, calling it Oreneca Inn until 1899. In 1903, Samuel S. Denton (*q.v.*) bought the building and moved it through fields to High Ridge at Abbott Avenue, where it became St. Mary’s Convent when nuns taught at the school [RIR]. It is now an apartment house at 192 High Ridge Avenue, with two three-bedroom apartments and two one-bedroom apartments. [JFS]

**Oreneca Lake:** A postcard ca.1905 shows a view labeled: “Lake Oreneca (Round Pond) and Dr. John G. Perry’s Residence.” Maybe have been alternative name for the pond. [RN]

**Oreneca Lodge** was a home on Oreneca Road and built by H.B. Anderson (*q.v.*) When Philip Wagoner, the Underwood Typewriter chief, bought it, he hired workers in 1930 to tear it down and replace it with a new mansion, called Oreneca, of English Georgian architecture, with an exterior of St. Quentin stone, a French limestone. “The roof will be shingle tile and the entire structure will be fireproof in every respect,” The Press reported. Architects were C.B.F. Brill and J. Robertson Ward of New York City.

**Oreneca Road:** Old highway from West Mountain Road northwesterly past Rippowam Road to Sturges Park (*q.v.*); legend says that this road was part of an Indian trail that ran from Lake Mamasasco over Old West Mountain Road (*q.v.*), Rippowam Road and into New York State to Mud Pond in Pound Ridge; named for Indian sachem Oreneca (*q.v.*) [RN]

**Organika Kitchen**, a 100% vegan and organic restaurant owned by Dimitri Pantzos, opened in the fall of 2019 at 424 Main Street. [P11/14/2019]

**Oriented Plastics:** from 1951-53 this company produced extruded monofilament used to weave automobile seat covers in the old Goat Barn (*q.v.*). Moved to New Hampshire.

**Orlan, George**, (1929-2015), of 22 Pin Pack Road was an active conservationist and chairman of Conservation Commission for 12 years, a member for 23 years. He was largely responsible for the town's acquisition of McKeon farmland along Ridgebury Road. [P10/22/2015]

**Ornaments:** From 1989 until 2007, the Ridgefield Women's Club annually issued ornaments commemorating Ridgefield buildings and historic places. They were a fundraiser for the club and were sold at its annual Craft Fair in November and at shops in town. The ornaments, all minted by Woodbury Pewter in Woodbury, CT, were based on the work of various artists; there is no record of the artists' names. The ornaments were: Cass Gilbert Fountain, 1989; Ballard Park Bandstand, 1990; Town Clock, 1991; West Lane Schoolhouse, 1992; Ridgefield Library, 1993; Aldrich Museum, 1994; Town Hall, 1995; Community Center, 1996; Firehouse, 1997; Keeler Tavern, 1998; Festival 2000, 1999; Settlers' Rock, 2000; Scott House, 2001; Ridgefield Playhouse, 2002; Hauley House, 2003; Branchville Station, 2004; H.P. Bissell Building, 2005; Ridgebury Congregational Church, 2006; Ridgefield 300th Anniversary, 2007. Other ornaments issued by other organizations including Scotland School, showing a Scottie dog, 1992; and St. Mary's Parish, showing the church, 1997. *See also* Medals.

**Orrico, Fred G.,** (1923-2006), a native of Greenwich, was a founder in the 1950s of the King Neptune (*q.v.*) seafood restaurant on Route 7. He retired in 1985. Father of John Orrico (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Orrico, John,** (1948-1970), was an Army chief warrant officer who piloted UH-1 Huey gunships in Vietnam; earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, and Air Medal. He and his crew were killed when their helicopter crashed due to a mechanical failure on a mission. [WWW]

**Osborn, Richard Waldo "Dickie,"** (1850-1933), owned and operated Ridgefield Lumber Company (*q.v.*), now Ridgefield Supply; lived at 470 Main Street (ONS149), south corner of Prospect Street, and owned all the land and buildings on the south side of Prospect to Bailey; wife, Annie Talman Osborn (d. 1965); was a member of the school board; house razed for Yankee Ridge shopping center (*q.v.*); later the home of grandniece, Winifred Osborn Carriere (*q.v.*). He was sixth president of the Ridgefield Savings Bank. Surname sometimes appears as Osborne. [DD48, CBRFC, RSB26]

**Oscaleta Road:** Connects with and parallels West Mountain Road; may be original route of that highway; pronounced *oss-ka-LEE-ta*, from a word in a dialect of Spanish meaning "little kiss," taken from lake in nearby South Salem, originally called South Pond, but changed by 1870s owner Richard Hoe Lawrence, who had acquired gentleman's farm on its shores, naming it after a word he heard and liked while living in Spain; old road in Lewisboro picked up the name as well; presumably because it was the road that led to Lake Oscaleta; that road runs into Ridgefield's West Mountain Road; long ago, the western section of West Mountain Road followed the same path as today's Oscaleta Road. [RN]

**Oscar F. Schultze Meats and Fish:** A market "in the old Hibbard Market" on Main Street, 1920s/30s; was one of a small chain of at least 11 stores in southern Fairfield County; motto "The best of goods at the right price."

**O'Shea, Elizabeth Marie,** (1903-1959), was a popular teacher here, sister of Isabel (*q.v.*), and wife of Harvey Lown (*q.v.*)

**O'Shea, Isabel M.,** (ca. 1906-1965), a Ridgefield native, was hired as a teacher here in 1925. She became elementary principal in 1944, when those grades were housed at the East Ridge School and at the Garden School on Bailey Avenue. When Veterans Park opened in

1955, she became its first principal, serving till her retirement in 1960; the school library is named for her. The auditorium at East Ridge Middle School, which she helped to design and whose construction she helped oversee, is also named for her. [NR]

**O'Shea Auditorium** At East Ridge Middle School is named for Isabel O'Shea (*q.v.*), an educator for 35 years who, in retirement, served on the school's building committee.[NR]

**Oskison, Hildegard Hawthorne**, (1871-1952), a granddaughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne, was an author of 23 books, mostly for children, but also some for adults, plus countless magazine articles; began writing professionally at 16. Her biography of Hawthorne, *The Romantic Rebel*, was well known. She moved here during WW2 and became active in the community until her death. [WWW]

**O'Sullivan, Margaret**, (1911-1993), known as "Miss O," was RHS physical education teacher 1943-62. When she started here, no RHS interscholastic sports at all served girls. She established girls field hockey, softball, basketball, and tennis teams and also fought for better facilities for women. In 1962 she became a guidance counselor, retiring in 1973. She was honored posthumously in 2000 by ROTA for bringing girls sports to RHS. [WWW]

**Otter Pond:** An 1835 deed mentions land "at Otter Pond," apparently in the vicinity of today's Ridgefield Lakes (*q.v.*), perhaps at or near Fox Hill Lake; it evidently no longer exists or has been supplanted by one of the more modern, man-made Ridgefield Lakes [RN]

**Our Farmingville School:** 16-page, finely illustrated history of the schools of Farmingville, produced by Farmingville PTA in 1968; rare published history of early Ridgefield education.

**Ousatonic Rail Road Company** was incorporated in May 1836 by the General Assembly to build a line from Sheffield, Mass., along the Housatonic River to Danbury and possibly to Ridgefield, where at the state line, it would "meet a contemplated rail road from Harlem through West Chester County." The line was not built in Ridgefield. [RT]

**Out and About Club**, sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, offers "fun and exciting activities for adults (ages 18+) with special needs," says Parks and Rec. The club was founded by SPHERE in the 1990s. [JFS]

**Outhwaite, Georgia Schofield**, (1896-1950), a native of Florida who lived on Saw Mill Hill Road in the 1930s and 40, was a daughter of Gen. John Schofield who declined to run for president in 1896 because of the impending birth of Georgia (William Jennings Bryan ran instead); he had been secretary of war under President Andrew Johnson and military governor of Virginia after the Civil War. She was active in the community, serving twice as president of the League of Women Voters and a term on the school board. She also ran for state representative on the Democratic ticket. With her ex-husband Leonard Outhwaite, she once made a trip around the world in a 70-foot sloop. [P12/7/1950]

**Outpost Farm:** Estate of Col. Louis D. Conley (*q.v.*), who built his house there ca.1915 and eventually owned some 2,000 acres, much of it devoted to Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*); so called because it was an outpost from the hectic city life. [RN] *See also* Fox Hill Inn.

**Outpost Inn:** Restaurant and accommodations, established 1928 by Col. Louis D. Conley on about 28 acres east side of Danbury Road (now Fox Hill condominiums — *q.v.*) and was managed by L.G. Treadway Service Corporation. Its first manager was Vincent Bordenave, formerly with the Mid-ocean Club of Bermuda [RPJ7/14]. The in catered to both celebrities

and townspeople — Eleanor Roosevelt ate there when she was first lady. The inn closed around 1962 and by 1963 was being used by the Shapley School (*q.v.*). *See also* Hearthstone Inn, Outpost Pond. [JFS]

**Outpost Kennels** were established at today's intersection of Routes 35 and 7 by Col. Louis D. Conley (*q.v.*) to raise and sell Kerry blue terriers (his favorite — he was a pioneer in bringing the breed to America), Sealyham terriers, cocker spaniels, and English setters. The 175-foot-long building was the largest kennel in New England; it later became The Steak House and the Red Lion Restaurant (*q.v. each*). Sold in the 1930s to Waldeck Kennels (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Outpost Nurseries:** Large-scale nursery operation, founded by Col. Louis D. Conley, involving some 2,000 acres in northeastern Ridgefield, provided plantings for many estates, colleges, parks, plus two Worlds Fairs; named for his Outpost Farm (*q.v.*); family operated from ca 1920 until sold to Woodcock Nurseries (*q.v.*) in 1944; during WW2, its large sawmill produced timber for naval ships using wood from its nurseries and elsewhere, including FDR's Hyde Park estate. [JFS]

**Outpost Pond** is a small body of water on Danbury Road, privately owned at Fox Hill condominiums (*q.v.*), that was built by Col. Louis D. Conley (*q.v.*) in late 1920's in front of his new Outpost Inn (*q.v.*). The pond is fed with the waters of upper Norwalk River (*q.v.*), often called here "Ridgefield Brook" (*q.v.*) It was a popular community ice skating spot from the 1930s to the 60s. [RN] *See also* Willow Pond.

**Outpost Road:** A section of the old Danbury Road (*q.v.*), abandoned by the state in the 1920s when it straightened the main highway. Today called Fox Hill Drive, it is now the main entrance-exit route through Fox Hill condominiums; it includes Island Bridge (*q.v.*) over the Ridgefield Brook. [RN]

**Overlook:** Name of estate of William A. Jenner at 35 High Ridge [P1/2/1913, DD154, 195]

**Overlook Drive:** Semicircular road, attached at each end to Ramapoo Road, its "overlook" is to the east from the westernmost curve where the elevation is 720 feet above sea level; part of 1956 subdivision, Ramapoo Hills (*q.v.*), by Judge Joseph H. Donnelly; land was once the Conklin dairy farm (*see* Irving B. Conklin); town road in 1963. [RN]

**Overlook Groves:** 1985 subdivision of 27 lots on 66 acres east of Limekiln Road, served by Nursery Road and Whitewood Hollow Court (*q.v.*); created by the Crosswicks Company of Wilton. [RN]

**OWLS:** A senior citizen group founded in the 1970s that meets at Founders Hall (*q.v.*) to hear informative talks; has sponsored many programs for seniors as well as day trips; name means Older, Wiser, Livelier Set. Edna-May Olson (*q.v.*) was a founder and first president. [JFS]

## P

**Paccadolmi, Phyllis**, (192?-2006), a Ridgefield native, was on staff of Ridgefield Library for 53 years. She retired as librarian in Feb. 1999, but continued to volunteer there for many years. The library's annual Phyllis Paccadolmi Award honors "those whose commitment to the Library exemplifies her spirit and dedication." [WWW]

**Package stores:** The Cott Wine and Liquor Store, which opened Feb. 1, 1934, was the first new liquor store since Prohibition (*q.v.*) was repealed. By 1973, there were exactly one dozen liquor stores in Ridgefield, probably the peak. In 2020, there were eight, including two Ancona stores. [JFS] *See also* Alcohol.f

**Padre Pio Academy** is a K-8 traditionalist Catholic school on Tackora Trail — *see* Society of St. Pius X.

**Paddock, Archibald Y.**, (1827-1888), was a retired New York City dentist and treasurer of First Congregational Church; on Aug. 25, 1888 (his and his son's gravestones erroneously says 1889), during target shooting behind his home on central Main Street, he shot and killed his 18-year-old son, Harry, and then killed himself; incident attracted national attention; in 1874, his workers digging in sand off North Salem Rd. uncovered skeletons believed to belong to two Hessian soldiers (*see* Hessian Drive); one skeleton was later found in a hidden closet as half his house was being moved to 612 Main Street, where it stands today. [WWW] [P8/5/1976]

**Palmer, Charles F.**, (1877-1950), was a Ridgebury farmer who was a selectman, Board of Education member, Ridgefield Savings Bank director. He was a correspondent for the DNT for 55 years and also wrote for the RP. [RSB31]

**Palmer, John K.**, (1880-1932), the only Ridgefield police officer to die in the line of duty, was killed instantly when his motorcycle collided with a car at East Ridge and Governor Street, in front of the state police station July 31, 1932. Chief Palmer, as he was called, was responding to "the East Ridge ball grounds to investigate the authority of a man to peddle his wares during the afternoon ball game." [WWW]

**Palmer, Paul**, (1901-1983), was editor and publisher of American Mercury magazine, which had its editorial offices in 1936-37 at Main and Governor Streets, and which Oct. 1, 1937 moved to Palmer's house, Rolew Farm, off Wilton Road East and Whipstick Roads (later Flat Rock House — *q.v.*) *See also* Ivanhoe Farm. He was a former Sunday editor of NY World and later worked as an editor for Reader's Digest for 33 years. [P9/25/1941, P7/7/1983]JFS]

**Palmer, William E.**, (1844-1917), was a farmer who lived on Ridgebury Road and served as a state representative in 1885.

**Palmer Court** off Route 7, north of New Road, was named for John K. Palmer (*q.v.*), a Ridgefield Police officer killed in 1932 while responding to a call. George Hanlon, who developed the neighborhood in 1996, named the dead-end road. [RN]

**Pambianchi, Armando "Matty"** (1923-1986), Ridgefield native, was a founder and longtime president of Pamby Motors (*q.v.*); World War II veteran; [P12/18/1986]

**Pambianchi, Harry T.**, (-1991), was a co-founder with Armando of Pamby Motors.

**Pambianchi, Leo James**, (1911-1993), was a restaurateur who changed his focus to automobiles and ran a Nash dealership in the 1940s in the old B.E. Sperry livery stable; the business became today's Pamby Motors. [DD133]

**Pambianchi, Tarquinio "Turk"** (1920-95) operated Riverside Motors garage and gas station at 32 Ethan Allen Highway in the mid-20th Century.

**Pamby Motors:** Town's oldest auto dealership, established 1946 by Armando "Matty" Pambianchi as an auto body shop in the Big Shop (*q.v.*), then 18 Bailey Avenue, next to

Press building. He acquired brother Leo's Nash dealership. Matty and brother Harry bought Central garage on Danbury Road 1952; began selling Studebaker and Packard, 1953; Jeeps in 1963; opened new showroom on Danbury Road just west of the garage at Grove Street in 1981, designed by Steven M. Smith of Old South Salem Road; in 1990s, showroom moved to Route 7, and former former showroom on Danbury and Copps Hill Roads became solely a service center; over the years Pamby has sold AMC, Renault, Chrysler, Plymouth, Jeep, Fiat, Mercury, Yugo; body shop and gasoline station is on Danbury Road and Grove Street, whose building was renovated in 2019; gas station is the oldest continuously operated station building in town. Company sponsors many youth sports teams. Family won 1999 Kiwanis Community Service Award[P3/5/1981]

**Pancake breakfast:** Annual fundraising event of Ridgefield Little League, begun before 1980.

**Pankenier, Charles,** (1944-2020), was a local historian who focused on the Keeler Tavern and Civil War. In 2011, Pankenier published *Ridgefield Fights the Civil War*, a book that aims "to represent how Ridgefield, Connecticut soldiers and their loved ones on the home front experienced the desperate 1861-1865 struggle that defined our country." He also produced a monograph on Cass Gilbert, and spent much time researching and portraying history at the Keeler Tavern Museum. He worked in communications and marketing for IBM.

**Pants And...:** Clothing store at Copps Hill Plaza; closes July 1981 [P7/23/1981]

**Papageorge, John:** See Fairfield Lunch.

**Paper mill:** See Mamanasco Lake Mills, and William J. Hoffman Jr.

**Paperback Trader, The:** Used book shop at 15 Danbury Road, Girolmetti Court; opened by Carol Scher and Mary Ellen Bigham Sept. 24, 1980 (P9/11/1980); later owned by Dorothy Halmstad.

**Paramedic service:** Began Feb. 15, 1986 with hiring of Med-I-Chair of Danbury to provide 24/7 service [P2/13/1986] [P1/16/1988]; town soon decided to train its own firefighters as paramedics instead of hiring a service.

**Parent-Teacher Association:** Founded in 1901 as the Mothers Club (*q.v.*), this organization was renamed Parent Teacher Association in 1916. It is designed to support the schools in town; each school has a unit and all send representatives to the Joint Council, which coordinates the association's volunteer work; at RHS, chapter is Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) because students are also involved. In Branchville for many years, the organization was called the PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) because staff and parents opted not to associate with state and national associations which PTAs were a part of.

**Parent Teacher Student Association:** See Parent-Teachers Association.

**Paris Hairstylists:** Moved from 52 Danbury Road to 609 Main Street May 1981 [P5/21/1981]; originally house, built 1918, was home of Lon and Will Stevens. [DD3]

**Park Lane** between Route 7 and Playground Road in Branchville is an old road, based on a private path established by the Ancona family and others, and improved by Morganti Inc. It appears as early as 1934 on a town assessors' map, probably named for the playground/baseball field it leads to; became a town road in 1955. [RN]

**Park View Acres** is a 1964 subdivision of 23 lots from 23 acres off Wilton Road West, served by Acre Lane, developed by the Symon Brothers Construction Company. The only "park" in

the area was a small state roadside rest area on Route 33, called Twin Maples (*q.v.*) that included a picnic table. [RN]

**Parke, William More**, (-1961) was an NYC attorney and a trustee of Colegate University for 35 years. He and his second wife, Ruth, had a summer home on St. Johns Road opposite South Olmstead Lane for 20 years in the 1940s and 50s. He was 83 at his death. (NYT1/2/1962)

**Parker, Albert**, (1897-1983), a native of New York, was a prominent NYC attorney and philanthropist, who was a founder of Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He established the law firm of Parker Chapin Flattau and Kiimpl, and specialized in corporate banking and financial law. He and wife Jeannette and three children moved to the former Hunter home on Blackman Road — now the Hunter Heights (*q.v.*) neighborhood — in 1949. He was chairman of the town's Planning Commission before it merged with the Zoning Commission. In the early 1960s the Parkers returned to NYC where Albert was involved in many Jewish philanthropies and in aiding and leading not only in Albert Einstein College, but Columbia and Brandeis. [P11/22/1983]

**Parking Authority**: The town agency that regulates use of parking lots in the village and at Branchville Station; Town Meeting approved the new agency in June 1980 [P6/19/1980].

**Parley Lane**, perhaps the town's shortest through road, running 200 feet between West Lane and High Ridge Avenue and recalling the pen name of Samuel Griswold Goodrich (*q.v.*), who grew up on High Ridge in a house opposite Parley Lane; the lane may have been designed to avoid the steeper south end of High Ridge Avenue; it was formally established in 1851 when Isaac Lewis sold the town, for \$5, a strip of lane “two by 15 rods” in size; road was called Parley Lane at least by 1912 when the name appears on a property survey. A 1936 map says “Parley Street.” [RN] See also Peter Parley Lane.

**Parley Road**: at Lewis J. Finch's 1958 Ridgebury subdivision, Chestnut Hills (*q.v.*), runs between the northern ends of Harding Drive and Twopence Road; Samuel Goodrich had no connection with the property; often confused with Parley Lane six miles away; became a town road in 1964. [RN]

**Parlor Rock**: Early 20th Century name for a large, flat-topped rock off the west side of lower Ridgebury Road south of Regan Road where Ridgeburians – especially members of the Keeler and Selleck families – used to picnic, overlooking the Spring Valley. [RN]

**Parsonages**: *See* Rectories.

**Parting Brook Estates**: Subdivision from 1955-60 encompassing eastern part of Fieldcrest Drive (*q.v.*) by Charles W. Weitzel Sr. (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Partridge Drive**, part of the 1959 Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*) subdivision, is a dead-end road off Old Stagecoach Road; became a town highway until 1968; named by surveyor Edgar P. Bickford, because of the large number of “partridges” noted by surveying crews. [RN]

**Paschalidis, Dimitrios**, (ca 1941-2021), a native of Greece, established Dimitri's Diner in Ridgefield in 1995. He sponsored many youth sports teams in town, started the Dimitri's Fund for college-bound high school students and helped many in need. [P11/5/2021]

**Passantino, George**, (1922–2003), was an American artist, teacher, and author of several books on painting, including popular *The Portrait and Figure Painting Book* in 1979; taught at Art Students League, Famous Artists School; was widely exhibited; lived at 30 Rising Ridge Road from 1966 until his death at age 80. [JFS, P8/21/2003]

**Pasternak, Nicole**, RHS 1974, is a jazz vocalist who has performed at many venues throughout the region since her high school years. She studied violin, guitar and piano. Her husband was bassist George Sheck. [P8/6/1987] Lives in Yonkers, NY.

**Patent:** On May 22, 1714, representing Queen Anne of England, Connecticut Governor Gurdon Saltonstall signed the patent officially declaring Ridgefield a town within the colony of Connecticut. The patent still exists and is kept in the vault of the town clerk's office. *See also* New Patent. [JFS]

**Patriots Way:** home at 155 Main Street; *see* Redcoats.

**Patterson, Samuel**, (1879-1967, was a Ridgefield clothier — *see* J. Howard Burr.

**Paul, Alice**, (1885-1977), was a leading American suffragist and coauthor of the Equal Rights Amendment who had a home — for many years with her sister Helen — at 513 Branchville Road from the late 1920s until she left in 1976. She spent her last few years at Altnacraig (*q.v.*) and her final year at the place of her birth, Moorestown, NJ. She held a half dozen degrees, including a law degree, and had been arrested “many times” in demonstrations for woman suffrage. She founded the National Woman's Party in 1916 and the World Woman's Party in 1938. She is one of the very few women to appear on both a U.S. stamp and a U.S. coin. [WWW]

**Paul, David L.** (1940-) was the developer of Casago (*q.v.*) and Fox Hill (*q.v.*) condominium projects; from New York City; was 27 years old when he began Casagmo, 1967-8, originally built as apartments; Fox Hill contained town's first condominiums, then an experiment; in 1980, he proposed 224 on 59 acres across Danbury Road from Fox Hill; Planning and Zoning Commission rejected the plan and the site is now part of Ridgefield Recreation Center (*q.v.*); in 1983, bought nearly bankrupt Dade Savings and Loan Association, renaming it CenTrust Bank; hired I.M. Pei to design \$90-million CenTrust Tower; by 1988, CenTrust was the largest thrift institution in the southeastern US with \$8.2 billion in assets, but in 1989, it lost \$119 million and in 1990, \$1.7 billion; seized by the federal government which charged “excessive and inappropriate expenses and investments”; Paul convicted in 1993 of 68 counts of fraud, misappropriation of funds, and filing false tax returns; sentenced to 11 years prison and ordered to pay \$65 million; released 2004. [RN]

**Paulist Fathers:** formally the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle, leased the Downesbury Manor on Florida Hill Road in 1923 as a novitiate [P10/9/1923].

**Paving:** The first road paving, part of a state experiment, was done on the eastern end of Branchville Road around 1912. Catoonah Street was paved in 1922. Sugar Hollow Road (Route 7) between Ridgefield and Danbury was paved with concrete in 1924. Main Street was not paved until 1926. By the early 1930s, most of the major roads had been paved with concrete or asphalt. Among the last roads to be paved, in the late 1960s and early 70s, were Spring Valley and Ledges. Part of Lakeside Drive is still a dirt road, but is not owned by the town.

**Payne, Will** (1865-1954) was a staff writer for Saturday Evening Post; resident at the turn of the 20th Century.

**Peaceable Street** is an old highway, originally from Main Street west to Old South Salem Road at the state line; eastern end has been renamed King Lane; “Peaceable” name may have



been devised by a 19th Century “developer” to add class to west-central swamplands; first appears on the land records in an 1869 quit-claim deed for 16 acres “in Peaceable Street”; at 1.6 miles, it is one of Ridgefield’s longer town-owned roads; sometimes confused with the Peaceable Street in the Redding section of Georgetown, very close to the Ridgefield line. [RN]

**Peaceable Acres:** The estate at 47 Peaceable Street [DD197-8]; Lucille Ball was there to film a scene for the TV movie “Stone Pillow”; for various owners, *see also* The Bungalow and Wiggin’s Way.

**Peaceable Cottage:** Home of J. Howard King (*q.v.*), built in late 1870s at the corner of Main Street and King Lane; David Daubenspeck suspects it was probably later moved to the southwest corner of High Ridge and Peaceable Street where it burned down in 1903.

**Peaceable Hill Road:** Old highway from Peaceable Street up the south side of Blacksmith’s Ridge on West Mountain; for many years, it ended at the east end of Yankee Hill Road near Peaceable Ridge. Originally – since before 1856 – the road proceeded farther north and came out at Oscaleta Road, but had been abandoned until 1980, when the road began to be re-used as Anthony Czyn’s Red Oak Corporation developed a subdivision along its edges; name was in use by 1946, appearing on the town’s first zoning map. [RN]

**Peaceable Ridge Manor:** *See* Cardinal Court.

**Peaceable Ridge Road:** Poorly named road extending from Peaceable Hill Road to West Mountain Road over what was once called Blacksmith’s Ridge (*q.v.*), originally called Standpipe Road (*q.v.*), but in 1960, most of the residents of the road decided that Standpipe was unattractive and petitioned the selectmen for a change. The resulting name is often confused with Peaceable Hill Road and Peaceable Street. The road first appeared on maps in 1912; probably was an accessway to woodlots. [RN]

**Peach Lake:** *See* Pehquennakonck.

**Peacock, Grant Allen Jr.,** (1923-2010), a NY native and 1946 Princeton graduate, was a NYC jewelry business owner who was active in the community. He served on the Republican Town Committee, on the board of the Community Center, as president of the Lions, and on the board of the Silver Spring Country Club. He was a WW2 veteran of the Navy, retiring as a commander. [P2/11/2010]

**Peanut Lady, The:** *See* Carmella Sabilia.

**Peatt, Alice J. Buell** (1897-1968) was a teacher in 1920 when she married William T. Peatt Sr. (*q.v.*); a president of the Titicus School PTA; served on the Board of Education from 1929-42; she suggested the historic names used at Peatt Park (*q.v.*), developed by her husband. [JFS]

**Peatt, William T. Sr.,** (1886-1978), native of nearby NY state, was the developer of Peatt Park and Peatt’s Resort (*q.v. each*). He wounded and gassed during service in the Army in World War I. He came to Ridgefield after the war, and besides building homes at Peatt Park (*q.v.*) established the Peatt’s Resort (*q.v.*). In 1945, he moved to Florida; wife Alice Buell Peatt (*q.v.*) was an educator; son William T. Peatt Jr., was prominent in Ridgefield. [RN]

**Peatt Park:** 1928 subdivision off Copps Hill Road that includes Rochambeau, Lafayette and Washington Avenues. Names were suggested by Alice Peatt (*q.v.*), wife of the developer William Peatt Sr. [RN]

**Peatt's Resort:** Established on the north end of Lake Mamanasco (*q.v.*) around 1912 by William Peatt Sr., cottages, swimming beach, boat rentals, snack bar; operated by family into 1970s — snack bar into 1980s; William Jr. took over 1946.

**Peck, Laurence F.,** (1882-1951), was a noted architect who graduated from Harvard in 1904 and L'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris in 1908. He had a home in Ridgefield and is said to have designed the War Memorial (*q.v.*) on Main Street, though this has not been confirmed. [NYT7/20/1951]

**Peck, Louise D.,** (1919-1999), native of NYC and Barnard graduate, was a conservationist and philanthropist who came to Ridgefield in 1946 with partner, Grace "Woody" Woodruff. She promoted conservation at meetings and in letters, served on the Conservation Commission for 11 years, was a supervisor of the Fairfield County Soil and Water Conservation District, and belonged to the conservation committee of the Ridgefield Garden Club for years. She donated 10 acres at Turtle Pond and later much of her own homestead, Woodpecker Hill, on North Salem Road to the Land Conservancy of Ridgefield. She was also active in the library, Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra, and NAACP. Her poetry appeared in Harper's, NYT, and in her book, *Lambing*. She served in the U.S. Army during WW2. She bequeathed more than \$3 million (\$6.6 million in 2022) to such organizations as the Ridgefield Library, Keeler Tavern Museum, and the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra. [WWW]

**Peck Hill:** Early 19th Century name for the hill ascended by the dead-end leg of Continental Drive, off the west side of North Salem Road, reaching 730 feet above sea level; probably named for a long-forgotten member of the Peck family who were early residents of the town. [RN]

**Peeps:** Nickname for Dwino T. Pierandri (1913-1989).

**Peespunk** appears quite a few times in very early deeds, reflecting a little-known custom practiced by the American Indians. First cited in a 1712 deed in which the proprietors granted land lying on both sides of "Peespunk Spring"; eventually, deeds simply referred to land "at Peespunk." The word, from "pesuppau-og," meaning "they are sweating," appears in the languages of the Narragansett and the Paugusett tribes; the latter lived in parts of Fairfield County. A peespunk or "sweat lodge" was a hut or cave where native men built hot fires and took ceremonial sweat baths, subsequently cooling off in nearby water (the spring). Peespunk seems to have been on a West Mountain hillside on the west side of North Salem Road near the New York line. [RN]

**Pegler, Westbrook,** (1894-1969), syndicated columnist who in 1941 won Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on mob ties to unions in New York City; lived at 106 Old Stagecoach Road from 1941-48; once called Ridgefield "an old aristocratic town of moldering white mansions on a white main street" that "has quietly become infested with wealthy Sixth Columnists" (communist supporters). [WWW] *See also* George Scalise, Pork Hollow Farm.

**Pehquennakonck:** Native Indian name for Peach Lake, in North Salem and Southeast, N.Y., the lower half of which was in Ridgefield before the Oblong was ceded to NY in 1731; word said to mean "the nearby high place," perhaps referring to an adjoining hill. In Narragansett language, "paquananauke" meant "battle field" or "slaughter place." If Pehquennakonck is related, it may have referred to some ancient native battle hereabouts.

However, it may be connected with the Paugusett word, “Pequonnock,” which means “a small plantation.” “Peach” Lake is probably a corruption of the native word. [RN]

**Pelham Lane** is a narrow country road along the Ridgefield-Wilton line between Nod Hill Road and Olmstead Hill Road (the Wilton extension of Nod Road). The eastern end is flanked by the Weir Farm National Historic Site. The road does not appear on 1856 or 1867 maps, but may have existed as a farm path from the 1700s — *see* Old Town Road — and may have been called “Ressiguie’s Lane” (*q.v.*). Named for John and Amy Pelham, farmers there by 1888 and perhaps as early as 1874 but who left by early in the 20th Century. Also called Knoche Road for the Joseph Knocke (*q.v.*) family that has lived there since 1895. [RN]

**Pelliccione, Vincent**, (1933-2019), a native of Italy, was a Ridgefield home builder and developer. He moved to Stamford as a child, served in the Army during the Korean War, and lived in Ridgefield many years. His major projects included the 38 Grove Street medical buildings.

**Pennington, John**, was a violinist and member of the London String Quartet from 1927 to 1934 when he became concertmaster of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra.

**Peppenegeek** or **Peppengheck**, an Indian word that appears in various spellings, was the original name for Cross Pond (*q.v.*) and/or Cross River on the Lewisboro-Pound Ridge border. Part of the locality was once in Ridgefield, but was turned over to New York in 1731 in the Oblong exchange. Word supposedly means “land picked out, selected or looked at,” or simply “selected land.” [RN]

**Perambulation**: Periodic inspection of the borders of the town, usually done by officials of both towns walking the line together to confirm boundary markers; undertaken fairly often in the 18th Century, less so in subsequent centuries; last done by Ted and Bruce Meier in 1975.

**Perlin, Bernard**, (1918-), a Virginia native, was a celebrated artist who did post office murals in the Depression and for naval ships. He became a war artist-corresponded for Life and Fortune magazines in Europe and the Pacific Theatre, and was aboard the USS Missouri for the official Japanese surrender in September 1945. He became a “social realist” painter in NYC, and an illustrator for Harper’s, Collier’s, and Fortune well into the 1960s. He was a Guggenheim Fellow, studying and painting in Italy from 1948 to 1952. He moved to Ridgebury in 1959 where he pursued increasingly more abstract art. Three years later, a fire at his home destroyed much of his work. The fire sparked a movement that led to the building of the Ridgebury firehouse to give better coverage to the northern half of town. Perlin’s art is in the collections of many museums, including the Art Institute of Chicago, Ashmolean Museum, Museum of Modern Art, National Academy Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Tate Modern in London, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. [WWW]

**Perch Pond**: Also called Craighmoor Pond (*q.v.*), this small pond on the south corner of North Salem and Craighmoor Roads was fed by waters from Lake Mamanasco’s outlet. In the 18th Century the pond that stored water for Isaac Keeler grist milled, burned by the British, across North Salem Road. Subsequently, it stored water for an iron works and was called Forge Pond (*q.v.*) in the first half of the 19th Century. Pond no longer exists and is now wetland. [RN]

**Pergola** in Ballard Park was designed by noted landscape architect Fletcher Steele for the Westmoreland (q.v.) estate around 1929. It remained there until 1991, situated between the original Steele-designed pool and what was by then a basketball court at the Westmoreland Homeowners Association recreation area. The Ridgefield Preservation Trust moved it to Ballard Park in 1992. The pergola now sits at the north end of the park's historic parterre perennial garden that has been underwritten and maintained by the Ridgefield Garden Club since 1982. [Terry McManus}

**Perry's Cafe:** Restaurant at the corner of Grove Street and Sunset Lane; so called during various periods of its life for John Pierpaoli, who established Pierpaoli's Tavern shortly after Prohibition ended; owned in the 70s and 80s by Barbara Polverari; later became Corner Pub; earlier incarnations included The Lyon's Den, Joe's Hideaway, The Village People Cafe in 1978-79; in 2018, it was The Hideaway.

**Perri, Bryan**, is a music director for Broadway shows including *Wicked*, *Chaplin*, and *Jagged Little Pill*, and has worked on many national touring shows and other productions. He is resident music supervisor of ACT of Connecticut (q.v.) and teaches through its conservatory program. He is married to Daniel C. Levine (q.v.) and lives in Ridgefield. [JFS]

**Perry, Dr. David**, (1747-1822), a 1772 graduate of Yale, came to town around 1782 to practice medicine. He was, for a while, also a minister at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. He died in 1812. He probably lived where the Community Center is today. [WWW]

**Perry, Brigadier General David**, (1841-1908), is believed to be the only Ridgefield native who rose to the rank of a general in the U.S Army and may also be the highest-ranking military officer to have been born here. He attended Rev. David Short's (q.v.) private school and joined 1st Cavalry in the Civil War where he fought in many battles. He then spent nearly two decades in the West, fighting American Indians. In 1907, his portrait was painted by Robert Henri, a noted American painter and teacher, and is now in Denver Art Museum collection. [WWW]

**Perry, James H.** (1873-1957), owner of The Elms Inn from ca. 1907 until his retirement in 1949, was a Republican state representative, 1915-17.

**Perry, John G.**, (1840-1926), a native of Boston and graduate of Harvard, was a Civil War physician whose letters to his wife during the war were compiled in the book, *Letters from A Surgeon of the Civil War*. Published in 1906, the book was widely read and has been often quoted by Civil War historians. He was seriously injured in the war and almost had his leg amputated. Dr. Perry practiced surgery for many years in NYC and maintained a summer home on Old West Mountain Road, buying an old Burt farm in 1891 and enlarging the house. He sold it in 1912 to James Stokes, who created the Sunset Hall estate (q.v.) there. [WWW]

**Perry, Dr. Nehemiah Sr.**, (1790-1866), son of Dr. David Perry, was a lifelong Ridgefield physician. He was a noted chemist and spent much time experimenting with compound medicines, dyes, and spices, all of which were produced at his Glenburg Mills and Chemicals Works in Georgetown. (Glenburgh was an early name for Georgetown.) [WWW]

**Perry, Dr. Nehemiah Jr.,** (1827-1909), third generation of a family of physicians who had been serving Ridgefield for more than a century, had lived and practiced with his family farther north on Main Street, where the Community Center is now. After his father, Dr. Nehemiah Perry Sr., died in 1866, Junior built a new house and office still standing at the south side of the intersection of Rockwell Road and Main Street. He retired in 1893 and moved away in 1895, selling house to the DePeysters of New York City (*see* DePeyster Lane). [WWW]

**Perry Lane** runs between Whipstick and Rockwell Roads, part of an old highway or path that once paralleled Main Street for a longer distance than it does today, and whose name recalls the most prominent medical family to live in town. In the 18th Century, Perry Lane extended northward to Branchville Road about opposite East Ridge. Like East Ridge, it represented the rear line of the first lots laid out along Main Street, and was probably little more than a cow path. This route, from East Ridge south to Flat Rock, was said to have been traversed by some British soldiers during the April 1777 Battle of Ridgefield and on their way to the camp grounds at Flat Rock. Name recalls the Perry family and specifically Dr. Nehemiah Perry Jr., (*q.v.*) who built a house and office still standing at the south side of the intersection of Rockwell Road and Main Street. His property extended back to Perry Lane. [RN]

**Perry's Market**, also called Royal Scarlet (*q.v.*), was at 381 Main Street in the 1920s and early 1930s, operated by Samuel O. Perry.

**Perschino, Ralph** (1924-2018), native of Norwalk, operated Red Petticoat Antiques at 113 West Lane from 1984 until ca. 2009; he was a retired school principal in Darien and associate superintendent there; wife, Gloria.

**Pest House:** Used to isolate people with serious communicable diseases such as smallpox, cholera, typhus, or tuberculosis, often in connection with forced quarantines; according to Rockwell, town's "first pest house" stood near corner of North Salem Road and Tackora Trail on St. Pius X property; Ridgefield histories say nothing more about such facilities. Goodrich says his father's house on High Ridge was turned into a temporary "pest-house" in 1798 when a dozen family members were inoculated for smallpox, making them potentially able to transmit the disease to others. [ROAL]

**Peter Parley:** Pen name of author Samuel G. Goodrich (*q.v.*).

**Peter Parley House** is a name given to 15 High Ridge Avenue, a 1797 house built by the Rev. Samuel G. Goodrich (*q.v.*), and where his son, Samuel (*q.v.*) — later the author pennamed Peter Parley, spent most of his childhood. It was later used as a boys school — *see* Hugh S. Banks *and* William O. Seymour.

**Peter Parley Lane:** Short road connecting West Lane and South Salem Road at the West Lane Schoolhouse; so-called to reflect Samuel G. Goodrich's (*q.v.*) having attended that school. The road serves no houses. Name often confused with Parley Lane and Parley Road. [RN]

**Peter Parley School:** *See* West Lane schoolhouse.

**Peters, Jeffrey**, who lived on Pond Road 1986-1997, ran for nomination for Congress on Democratic ticket in 1986 [P2/13/1986] but lost in primary; member of Democratic National Committee, 1987; moved to New Hampshire, 1997 and was a founder of We The People, the American People's Party, for which he ran for president in 2000; president & CEO, The U.S.-Mexican Development Corporation.

**Peterson, Jonathan**, (-1929), was the president of American Tobacco Company and U.S. Tobacco Company. He died at his country home, Barrackhill (*q.v.*).

**Peterson, Penny**, RHS 1956, became famous locally for being a finalist in the Miss Rheingold contest in 1959. Now known as Penny King.

**Petroni, Catherine**, resigned Nov. 4, 1981, as town director of social services after nine years; wife of Romeo Petroni (*q.v.*), daughter of First Selectman Leo F. Carroll (*q.v.*) [P11/5/1981]

**Petroni, Romeo** (1929-2015), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1946, was an attorney, starting 1957 in office of John E. Dowling (*q.v.*); town attorney, 1957-1960s; state representative, 1961-67; GOP candidate for Congress, 1966; state senator, 1971-74; probate judge, 1974-1990; in 1986, he sought the GOP nomination to run for governor, but gave up [P6/12/1986]; Superior Court judge, 1990-99, retiring under law at age 70; then served as judge trial referee; moved to Madison after being named a judge; married to Catherine Carroll Petroni (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Pfaff, William**, (1928-2015), a native of Iowa, was an international affairs columnist and author who was a well-known critic of American foreign policy and its intervention in world affairs. Name pronounced FAFF. He wrote for the New Yorker and other publications, authored eight books on American foreign policy. He and his wife, Carolyn, moved to North Salem Road in November 1965 and then to Paris in 1971. Carolyn was active in the Caudatowa Garden Club and wrote Greenhouse column for The Press. [JFS, NYT5/1/2015]

**Phair, Ada**, operated a horse riding academy in the 1930s at the former Louis G. Smith (*q.v.*) farm on North Salem Road, an inspiration for Eugene O'Neill's "Desire Under the Elms". See DD17

**Phalan, Robert J.** (-1989) was active in youth sports programs in the 1970s and 80s, was president of Little League, and an umpire for 20 years. A memorial plaque to him is at Aldrich Field.

**Pheasant Lane**: A short, dead-end road off George Washington Highway, part of Scodon III, subdivided by Jerry Tuccio around 1972. The 1,565-foot-long road was finally accepted as a town highway in 1985 after lots along it were developed, largely by Carl Lecher. [RN]

**Philanthropic Youth Council** was an organization established 2001 by Ridgefield Community Foundation (*q.v.*) to encourage young people to raise money to aid community groups; governed by 22 9-12 graders; by 2010, it had granted more than \$150,000 to local charities; ceased operation around 2014. [RP]

**Photo Market**: Camera and photography store at 90 Danbury Road in 1980.

**Photographers**: Noted Ridgefield-connected photographers include Eliphalet Brown, Joseph Hartmann, Marie Kendall, Clarence "Korky" Korker, George Mench, Charles Sheeler, Sam Zarembor.

**Pi-Pi**: Nickname for Vincenzo Bruciati (1886-1941), says KSN.

**Pickerel Pond**: An old name for Fox Hill Lake, used in the late 1920s and 1930s. [RN]

**Pickett, Edwin Darling**, (1835-1863), a Ridgefield native described by a friend as a "taciturn country lad," was working as a clerk when he enlisted as a corporal in the 17th Regiment from Connecticut in August 1862; promoted to first sergeant; killed at the Battle of

Gettysburg, July 1, 1863. Ridgefield's GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) Post, an American Legion for Civil War veterans, was named for Pickett at the suggestion of Aaron W. Lee of Farmingville, a founder of the post. Lee was wounded at the same time and woke the morning of July 1 to find his buddy lying dead next to him. He was a son of Rufus H. (q.v.) and Betsey Pickett. He was named for his uncle, Edwin Darling Pickett (1811-1832) who died two months before Rufus's Edwin was born. Uncle Edwin was only 21. [WWW]

**Pickett, Rufus H. "Boss,"** (1803-1876), was a mid-19th Century cabinetmaker and partner in the Hawley and Pickett factory (q.v.) on Main Street at the site of the old Bailey Inn (q.v.); he lived across the street from the shop.. He was "an expert turner and carver and he excelled at work in mahogany," says Bedini. After the partnership dissolved, Pickett continued the business on his own. His son, Edwin (q.v.), was killed at Gettysburg. [RIR]

**Pickett's Ridge Road** is the correct name for what is now often called Great Pond Road, which goes from Route 7, past Great Pond, and into Redding. In the early 18th Century and perhaps until the construction of the Danbury and Ridgefield Turnpike through Sugar Hollow in the early 1800s, travelers used this road from Ridgefield to Danbury. via Starrs Plain and over Moses Mountain. Named for members of the Pickett family, which had a large farm on Picketts Ridge in Redding. [RN]

**Pickles:** Restaurant at Copps Hill Plaza [P6/4/1981]; managed 1983 by Alan Calcagni [CD1983]

**Picknell, George Wright.,** (1864-1943), was a popular American artist at the turn of the 20th Century and spent the summer in the "Hughes place" on Old Branchville Road in 1911. [P8/17/1911]

**Pied Piper Fair:** Annual fundraiser of First Congregational Church, usually Fourth of July weekend, 1950s, 60s [6/20/1957]

**Pierandri, Harry,** RHS 1964, was the first Ridgefield High School athlete to receive a Division I college scholarship; starred in football and basketball at RHS; as quarterback, led RHS to a conference championship; played for Boston College. [NR]

**Pierpaoli's Tavern:** Restaurant on the north corner of Grove Street and Sunset Lane, founded 1940s by John Pierpaoli, who had a cider mill there in the 1930s; son Joe later took over the restaurant, renaming it Joe's Hideaway; *see also* Perp's and Corner Pub.

**Pierrepont, Commander John Jay,** (1902-1950), an insurance executive, had a home at 563 Main Street. He was a great-great-great grandson of the first U.S. Supreme Court chief justice John Jay, and a great nephew of NYC mayor Seth Low. He was a U.S. Navy officer in World War II and was only 48 when died of a stroke [P10/19/1950] [NYT10/16/1950]

**Pierrepont, Seth Low,** (1894-1956), a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., was a diplomat, financier, and millionaire who amassed the Twixthills estate, which is now the Twixt Hills subdivision and Seth Low Pierrepont State Park (q.v.); created Pierrepont Pond (q.v.) in 1936-38; longtime member of the Board of Finance; member of vestry, St. Stephen's Church; a Republican, he was state representative 1921-27. [WWW]

**Pierrepont Drive** ascends Ridgebury Mountain from Barlow Mountain Road near Clayton Place to Twixt Hills Road, part of the 1961 Twixt Hills subdivision of Jerry Tuccio of the estate of Seth Low Pierrepont (q.v.). [RN]

**Pierrepont Park:** *See* Seth Low Pierrepont State Park.

**Pierrepont Pond:** *See* Naraneke Lake.

**Pigs:** *See* Swine, Livestock.

**Pike, Chris,** a musician, owned the Ridgefield Music Store from 1994 until ca 2016; RHS 1979, graduate of Berklee; moved to North Carolina. [P12/10/2015]

**Pilgrim Hill Road,** a dead-end lane off Danbury Road almost opposite Ritch Drive, serves a six or seven lot 1969 subdivision by Bartholomew T. Salerno (*q.v.*), who picked the name out of a hat; it has no historical significance in connection with Ridgefield. [RN]

**Pilgrim Lodge:** *See* Odd Fellows.

**Pilots:** Ridgefield has been home to countless airline, military and private pilots. Among the noteworthy ones are Bernd and Joy Klopfer, husband and wife airline pilots, whose son Glenn, copiloted a United flight to LAX with his mother; Sereno Jacob, pioneer airline pilot; George Brunstad, Michael Bullock, Jeo Casagrande, Berkley Hill, Edward Martin, John Orrico, Clifford Zieger. Early women pilots included Mary Linda Bradley, Betty Lou Campbell, and Catherine deBernard, (*q.v. each*)

**Pin Pack Road,** an old highway running between Saw Mill Hill and Barrack Hill Roads, was named, according to legend, for a peddler who lived there many years ago. The peddler is supposed to have sold small household items, like buttons, pins, and eating utensils, carried in a backpack or “pin pack.” The highway existed by 1856, when it appears on Clark’s map. In the early 20th Century it was known as Roscoe Road for the Roscoe (Rusco, Rasco) family that lived there for many years. “Pin Pack Road” was in use by 1960. [RN]

**Pinchbeck Nurseries** at Old South Salem Road and Peaceable Street was founded in 1895 by William Pinchbeck, a native of England who came to this country as a child. The nursery was first established in nearby South Salem, but was moved to Ridgefield in 1903 when William Pinchbeck built a single greenhouse. At first they sold carnations, but later specialized in roses for the NYC market. The business grew to have some 60,000 square feet under glass (one greenhouse alone was 15,000 square feet) and a couple of acres under cultivation. [RN] Closes April 1999 after 96 years in business [P4/8/1999] The property continued to be used as a retail nursery, called Peaceable Farm, until around 2013. [JFS]

**Pinchbeck Pond:** Small pond between Old South Salem Road opposite the Peaceable Street intersection, and South Salem Road, formed along one of the little tributaries of the Stamford Mill River. Named for the family who created it and owned part of its shoreline. [RN] *See* Pinchbeck Nurseries.

**Pine Hill:** In Farmingville near Aldrich Park; so-called by 1842. *see* Candlewood Hill.

**Pine Lake Road** is a long, winding path through West Mountain’s woods, but only a small portion of it is developed and in Connecticut. The road intersects with Barrack Hill Road just before the state line and, 400 feet on, is in New York where it wanders through forests as the “yellow trail” at Mountain Lakes Camp, owned by Westchester County, eventually reaching Pine Lake in North Salem. The road and probably the lake were constructed around 1908 as part of the extensive grounds of the Port of Missing Men resort (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Pine Mountain,** often called the highest point in Ridgefield, is a long ridge in what is still wilderness in the northeast corner of the town, north of the Bennett’s Ponds and Wataba or Rainbow Lake at the Ridgefield Lakes. At its highest point, the mountain is about 1,010 feet above sea level, according to the US Geological Survey maps. Historian George L.



Rockwell placed the elevation at 1,040 feet. The mountain was so-called from at least 1835. [RN]

**Pine Mountain Road** is an old highway, only the northern half of which survives today. It ran from Miry Brook Road in Danbury south to Mountain Road at the Ridgefield Lakes. There is also evidence that at least the northern section of Pine Mountain Road was once part of a highway that connected Starrs Plain with Miry Brook, Mill Plain, and Ridgebury, mentioned as early as 1792 as “a mountain road from Miry Brook to Starrs Plain.” The northern end begins in Danbury, crosses the Miry Brook, and then enters Ridgefield — the only Ridgefield road requiring one to use another town to reach. [RN]

**Pinecrest Drive** is a dead-end road off North Street, serving part of the 1958 subdivision called “Pinecrest” by Richard Mayhew, an airline pilot who also lived on the road. He selected the name because so many white pines were found on the property, believed to have been planted by previous owner, Dr. John J. Kiernan, a dentist who died around 1955. The subdivision of 22 acres into 13 lots also includes Sprucewood Road. [RN]

**Pines Inn:** restaurant at 321 Main Street in early 20th Century; shown with sign saying “open all year luncheon - dinners” in a Hartmann photo ca. 1920; later called Ashland Cottage (*q.v.*).

**Pink House:** (1) N. Lyman Keeler (*q.v.*) saltbox, built 1730s, razed 2009 at 739 Ridgebury Road; probably original red paint aged to pink in sun, and became tradition to paint it pink; (2) Main Street house, a/k/a Ashland Cottage (*q.v.*), which was for many years painted pink

**Pinnacle Ridgefield Developers:** Builders of the Stone Ridge Estates (*q.v.*) subdivision, created by the town of Ridgefield.

**Pisgah:** Andrew Wood quitclaimed 25 acres to Stephen Bennit in 1785, describing it as being “on the mountain called Pisgah.” Names of neighboring landowners suggest that Pisgah was in the northeastern corner of town, north of Bennett’s Pond —perhaps Pine Mountain or Wooster Mountain, a little to the east. Biblical names for mountains were common in New England. It was from Pisgah that Moses saw the Promised Land he was never to set foot in. [RN]

**Pitruzzello, Dr. Philip R.,** (1923-2017), a native of Middletown and UConn graduate, was Ridgefield’s eighth school superintendent, serving 1962-63. He had earlier been RHS principal, 1957-60. In 1968 he became a full professor of education administration at New York University School of Education, 1968-88, and died in Seattle, Wash. He and his wife, Ann, had lived on Lisa Lane and Ridgewood Road. [JFS]

**Pizza Block:** Informal name applied to the old Telephone Building (*q.v.*) at 411-419 during last third of 20th Century because Roma Pizzeria was located at #411 and the building was owned by the Amatuzzi family, operators of Roma. [RPC]

**Pizza Hut:** In a town packed with pizzerias, Pizza Hut at 105 Danbury Road was the only national chain to open here in 1990; it failed and closed 2008; a 1994 fire shut down restaurant for weeks; located on site of Friendly Ice Cream and, earlier, Fife and Drum (*q.v.*) restaurant.

**Plane crashes, major:** (in no order) 1. On Dec. 4, 1965, Eastern Airlines Super Constellation collided over South Salem with a TWA Boeing 707 jetliner, seriously damaging both aircraft; the jet landed at Kennedy; the Constellation flew over Ridgefield and crashed on a hillside off Route 116, just over state line in North Salem; only 4 of 53 passengers died;

Capt. Charles J. White died trying to save the last passenger in the cabin (he was a brother of Elsa [Mrs. Lauren] Cadell of Catoonah Street); White was hailed as a hero; crash led to safety improvements in flight levels and control near airports; 2. June 11, 1983, in heavy fog a single-engine Beechcraft that had just left Danbury Airport crashed in a field on the south side of Mopus Bridge Road, killing pilot from Brewster and all three passengers from Georgetown; loss of power blamed on faulty fuel tank seal; 3. On Feb. 23, 1959, a Piper Comanche carrying four people from Patterson, NY, including the pilot — a commercial airline pilot — crashed into Pine Mountain around 6 a.m., shortly after taking off from Danbury Airport (the daughter of a passenger later married the brother of the pilot). 4. In July 1993, the pilot dies, but a young passenger escapes as a vintage airplane crashes on Pine Mountain. 5. On Sept. 15, 1956: A Long Island man is killed when his small plane runs out of gas and crashes in woods off Silver Spring Road. 6. In May 1996, as it attempted an emergency landing at Danbury Airport, a plane crashed on Pine Mountain, killing two. **Not in Ridgefield:** Three RHS 1972 graduates were killed Sept. 1, 1974, when a small private plane piloted by one of them, James N. Feneley (*q.v.*), crashed into woods in Roxbury during a rain storm in the middle of the night.

**Plank road:** While wood-surfaced highways called plank roads could be found throughout the Northeast, none was ever built in Ridgefield, although the Stamford, New Canaan and Ridgefield Plank Road (*q.v.*) was chartered by the state in 1851. Plank roads offered the advantage of being able to handle heavy loads without concern about the narrow wagon wheels sinking into mud or sand. They required, however, constant maintenance, and were operated as toll roads.

**Planned Residential Developments:** Planning and Zoning Commission rules, also called “PRD,” under which smaller than usual house lots are permitted if substantial open space is set aside; often, the houses are clustered, giving rise to the term, “cluster development.”

**Planning and Zoning Commission:** An agency that oversees the orderly development and use of land in Ridgefield; created September 1965 by combining Planning Commission, established 1958 and Zoning Commission, established 1946; the commission eventually took over functions of Flood and Erosion Control Board, and later, the Inland Wetlands Board.

**Platt, Dr. Clara Skiles,** (1898-1983), a native of Texas, was active in education circles, serving on the Board of Education, 1955-61, and helping found the Ridgefield Community Kindergarten (*q.v.*). She served on the Commission on Aging, playing a major role in the town’s adoption of senior tax breaks and in the creation of the Ballard Green. She and her husband, Raye (1891–1978), moved to Ridgefield in 1950, back to Texas in 1982. [NR]

**Platt, Shawn,** a Ridgefield policeman, became major — second in command — in the summer of 2021. He joined the department in 1996, and served as a youth officer and a detective. He started the department’s Junior Police Academy in 2002, and was Officer of the Year in 2004. [P9/16/2021]

**Platt’s Mill Pond:** Old name for Miller’s Pond (*q.v.*) on the west side of Route 7 north of Florida Hill Road. Obadiah Platt bought the grist mill there in 1759 and operated it probably until the 1770s. [RN] *See also* McDonald’s Mill Pond.

**Playground Road** runs between Branchville Road and Park Lane and leads to the Branchville Playground. The road was built by the town around 1935 to gain access to the field which the Branchville Civic Association had purchased to create the town's first privately established playground for public use, still used today for baseball.

**Playgrounds** are available at all six elementary schools as well as in Ballard Park and at the Recreation Center which offers an all-abilities Sky's the Limit (*q.v.*) playground. [RP1]

**Playwrights and screenwriters** in Ridgefield: Arthur Arent, Clare Boothe Luce, Gene Ellis, Tom Gilroy, William G. Hanley, David Liebovitz, Hardwick Nevin, Eugene O'Neill, Harold Rome (musicals).

**Pleasant View Estates:** Developer Jerry Tuccio's last major subdivision involved some 88 houses on 200 acres of the former N. Lyman Keeler property off the west side of Ridgebury Road north of the Ridgebury Congregational Church in 1968-69. The development is served by Keeler Drive, Powdermaker Drive, Keeler Place, and Keeler Court. [RN]

**Please Omit Funeral** by Hildegard Dolson, Lippincott, 1975: This mystery deals with the death of the author of a controversial book that has just been banned by the local (Ridgefield) school system. The novel was written during Ridgefield's famous "book burning" era.

**Pleuropneumonia, bovine**, is a contagious disease of cows' lungs. There was a serious outbreak in Ridgefield in 1872. [Columbian Register, New Haven, 5/11/1872]

**Plummer, Gordon E. Jr.**, (1924-1984), a native of Massachusetts, was a Pan-American airline captain who, after the death of a son due to a drunken driver, founded in 1982 the state chapter of RID (Remove Intoxicated Drivers). He was active in Kiwanis, Masons, Shriners, and VFW. He was a Navy pilot in WW2. He and his wife Alice lived on Lantern Drive. [P3/15/1984]

**Plymouth automobiles:** Dealership opened March 1935 in Tidewater Garage on Danbury Road, managed by O.J. Capaldi; years later, Pamby Motors carried Plymouths until the brand was discontinued in 2001.

**Pocconock Trail**, sometimes spelled Poconoc, is a dead-end road off Pin Pack Road, leading through Pin Pack Estates, designed ca. 1965 by Lewis J. Finch and Jack Coyle. Surveyor Michael Jaykus named the road after one in a New Canaan subdivision he had worked on. The word may be based on the American Indian term for "cleared land." [RN]

**Poets** (published) who've lived in Ridgefield: Mary Louise Bradley, Fanny Crosby, Rosamond Dauer, Ira Joe Fisher, Mary Hewitt, Hardwick Nevin, John Norman, Mary Olcott, Louise Peck, Charles Recht, Robert Riche, Aram Saroyan, Frances Shoemaker Wagstaff.

**Police:** *See* Ridgefield Police, State Police, Fire Police.

**Police Commission** is the elected agency that oversees the Ridgefield Police Department. Among other things, it decides staffing needs, staff policies, town speed limits and other road travel regulations, and prepares budgets to submit to the selectmen. The commission was established in 1955 when Ridgefield voted to have an independent and fully empowered police department instead of using constables and the State Police. The first chairman was William Oexle (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Polverari, PFC Geno Joseph**, (1916-1945), a Ridgefield native who lived at ONS187 Main Street, which was Joe's Store, where he worked; killed in battle while serving in the U.S.

Army in Italy, leaving his wife, former Marguerite Maddock, and two-year-old son, John.  
[NR]

**Polverari, Gino Bob**, (1915-2001), was the longtime superintendent of Ridgefield's water supply, working for the Ridgefield Water Supply Company. Also a partner with Alex Santini (*q.v.*) in the Towne Spirit Shop on Danbury Road. Gino's Way (*q.v.*) is named for him.

**Polverari, Corrado Primo John**, (1909-1996), a native of Italy who was known as Primo, was a well-known Ridgefield stonemason; lived on Stonecrest Road. Brother of Geno Joseph Polverari (*q.v.*).

**Pomawski, Elizabeth**, (1906-1956), was arrested in 1936 while living in Ridgefield for the death of her three-month old daughter who was "slapped" because she "cried too much." She pleaded guilty and was sentenced to only three months in jail.

**Pomeroy, Lee Harris** (1932-2018), a noted American architect, designed the Casagmo condominium project, 1967-68; known for his efforts at conservation and modernization of many historic subway stations in NYC; designed transportation, corporate and institutional buildings around the world; did Fulton Street Pedestrian Mall in Brooklyn; was acclaimed for his adaptive uses for old buildings (the community center at Casagmo was originally the estate's barn); renovated several historic NYC churches; RPI BA 1955, Yale MA 1961.

**Pompion Ridge**: Name of what was later called Biddle Hill, along Branchville Road at the western end of Old Branchville Road, appearing as early as 1716 and as recently as 1854. Pompion is an old word for pumpkin. [RN]

**Pond Mountain** is the steep hill just eastward of Bennett's Pond, first mentioned in the late 1700s and last, 1830. [RN]

**Pond Road** may be the town's oldest dead-end road. Running from North Salem Road at Scott's Ridge to near Lake Mamasasco, it was built around 1716 as an access to the grist mill at the outlet of the lake; was originally called Mill Road. *See* Mamasasco grist mill. [RN]

**Pond's Edge Professional Center**: In September 2004, Dr. Richard Lipton and three other local doctors proposed converting part of an old SVG/Benrus building on Route 7 into a medical center; medical offices, plus a gym, were established in 2006 at 901 Ethan Allen Highway; originally Benrus Center (*q.v.*); Ridgefield's fifth highest taxpayer in 2017-18; also called Ridgefield Professional Building.

**Ponded Swamp**, sometimes Pounded Swamp, is a wetland on the northerly and southerly sides of Old West Mountain Road, near Barrack Hill Road. Mentioned often, as early as 1730s and as late as 1875. It was "ponded" because the swamp had a high water level; it was probably a dying pond, created by the last glacier and halfway between a pond and a swamp. [RN]

**Poni**: Nickname for Dominic Bedini (*q.v.*)

**Pontello, Michael**, (1931-2003), popular Ridgefield barber, known for his Main Street beautification efforts and for the wooden toys he made at his Geppetto's Workshop. He wrote a fishing column for The Press for many years; named Rotary Citizen of the Year in 1991. [WWW] [DD93]; He marked 25 years in business on Main Street in 1981 [P11/5/1981]

**Poor House Lane:** Ran off Route 7 in Danbury into Ridgefield near Bennett's Pond, mentioned in 1862 deed; origin unknown. [RN]

**Poor Ole Cliff's** was a roadside eatery operated in the 1940s and 50s by Clifford Hayes. Mr. Hayes on Route 7 north of Route 35. When he left town in the 1950's, Hayes took the name with him and opened another Poor Ole Cliff's on Marathon, one of the Florida Keys. *See* Hayes Lane. [RN]

**Pope, Charles,** (1930-2006), a musician, grew up in New York where he staged many musical and choral productions and was a church organist; was founder ca. 1947 of the Charles Pope Choristers, popular singing group later based in Ridgefield in the last third of 20th Century; lived on Ridgebury Road (*see* Pope's Corner) from 1965 until late 1980s; wife, Eleanor Zettelmayer; ran Ridgefield Musical Kindergarten in 60s, 70s. [WWW]

**Pope's Corner:** Informal term, still used by local emergency services, for steep curve on hill of lower Ridgebury Road, just south of Regan Road; so-called because Charles Pope (*q.v.*) lived there from 1965 until late 1980s [RN]

**Popkins, John Reardon "Jay,"** (1957-2003), who grew up in Ridgefield in the 1960s and 70s, was a writer, whose novel, *Randy, My Son Always* (1999), was written under the pseudonym, Ernest Knobbs. His wife died young and a few months later, his six-month-old daughter died of infant death syndrome; he took his own life in Massachusetts. [JFS]

**Poplar Road,** which runs from Haviland Road to Linden Road, is part of a 1955 subdivision, Ridgefield Gardens, Gustave Iser, but largely built by Armando Salvestrini. So called because of the poplar trees thereabouts, planted probably by Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*), which owned this land for nursery stock from the 1920s until the early 1940s. [RN]

**Population of Ridgefield:** Ridgefield's census population in 2010 was 24,638; the state's 2018 estimate of population was 25,008. For a summary of the town's population over three centuries, *see* "Growth of Ridgefield."

**Porch, The,** was a teenage coffee house, operated by Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church in the 1970s.

**Porcupine:** Mammal rarely seen in Ridgefield; one sighted 1909 on Catoonah Street [P8/19/1909]

**Pork Hollow Farm:** Estate of columnist Westbrook Pegler (*q.v.*) on Old Stagecoach Road. Pork Hollow was a nearby locale.

**Port of Missing Men:** Resort on West Mountain in Ridgefield and North Salem, encompassing at least 1,750 acres, opened in 1907 by Henry B. Anderson (*q.v.*). The inn building was situated on the NY extension of Old Sib Road from 1907 until 1930s; sometimes called Anderson's Tea House — *see* Tea House. It was a popular place to dine, with grand views to the west. In its first two years, more than 20,000 people signed the guest book. The name was taken from a popular novel of the time, written by Meredith B. Nicholson. [DD135] *See also* Eight Lakes.

**Port Road** was a common term early in the early 20th century for Old Sib Road. It was the road that led up to the Port of Missing Men (*q.v.*), a resort on West Mountain. [RN]

**Post office:** Ridgefield has had eight post offices over the years, many of them short-lived: Ridgefield, Branchville (earlier called Ridgefield Station), Cooper Station, Limestone,

North Ridgebury, Ridgebury, Scott's Ridge, and Titicus — *see* entries for each of those. *See also* postage stamps.

**Post Road:** An 1843 property description says that North Salem Road connected with “the Post Road,” i.e., Main Street. It is one of the few references to that ancient use of this highway. For its whole length from the NY line north to Haviland Road, today's Route 35 was one of the “northern” post roads, as opposed to the more famous “southern” one today called U.S. Route 1 or the Boston Post Road. Stages with mail traversed this route between NYC and Hartford, often stopping at Keeler Tavern. [RN] *See also* Stage coaches.

**Post-Graduation Party** at Ridgefield High School is an annual parent-sponsored event, an elaborate, all-night bash that is alcohol-free and that has become a popular tradition. It began in 1984, a year after 17-year-old Christopher Ely was killed on graduation night by a hit-and-run driver outside a grad party on North Salem Road at which alcohol was being served.

**Postage stamps:** Seven Ridgefielders have been honored on U.S. postage stamps: artists Frederic Remington, Charles Sheeler, Maurice Sendak, and Robert Fawcett; publisher Henry Luce; playwright Eugene O'Neill; and suffragist Alice Paul. In addition, several Ridgefielders have designed postage stamps, including Christopher Calle, Alex Ross, and Donald Moss. For a 2016 Halloween-themed forever issue, Jack-o'-Lanterns, Paul Montanari of Ridgefield carved the four pumpkins and Sally Andersen-Bruce, a former Ridgefielder, took the photographs used on the stamps. Several Ridgefield artists have designed U.S. stamps, including Donald Moss and the prolific Christopher Calle (*q.v. each*). [JFS] *See also* Nezhiah Wright.

**Postmasters:** The following were appointed by the federal government from among local political leaders — all were citizens of the town: Joshua King, 1793; Philip Burr Bradley, 1794; Jeremiah Dauchy, 1801; Timothy Keeler, 1805; William Keeler, 1815; Thaddeus Keeler, 1827; Silas Perkins, 1837; Harvey K. Smith, 1839; Charles A. Hanford, 1842; Russell Jones, 1844; Harvey K. Smith, 1856; Hiram K. Scott, 1859; Sylvester Main, 1861; Albert N. Thomas, 1864; Samuel S. Dauchy, 1867; Hiram K. Scott, 1869; D. Smith Sholes, 1883; Hiram K. Scott, 1889; D. Smith Sholes, 1893; William C. Barhite, 1899; Rufus H. Seymour, 1903; George L. Rockwell, 1912; Willis S. Gilbert, 1916; George L. Rockwell, 1912; John L. Walker, 1935; George L. Rockwell, Jr., 1940; John L. Sullivan, 1951; Richard E. Venus, 1961-81. [RPC110] After Venus, postmasters were civil service jobs. The first was George Fisher, appointed 1982; Elizabeth Wecker, 1988; David W. Deakin Jr., 1991-93; Tim Hushion at least 2007- 2009; George Jacob 2012 to present.

**Potash Hill,** well known in 19th and early 20th Centuries, was once applied to the hill on Wilton Road West (Route 33) just north of the Silver Hill Road intersection. Name probably came from a nearby potash manufacturing operation, a common trade of the period. Potash, a substance obtained by burning wood, was used in the production of soap and a popular soil conditioner for farms and gardens. [RN]

**Potash Hill Road** connected Wilton Roads East and West north of today's Silver Hill Road. It was probably part of the old Wilton Road West, which used to connect with Wilton Road East near Silver Hill Road. [RN]

**Potter, Rita M. O'Brien**, (1916-2015), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1934, served in the US Marine Corps as a staff sergeant during World War II. She became an executive secretary for the American Mercury magazine (*q.v.*), Electro-Mechanical Research (*q.v.*), and the Wiltek Corporation. She was an original member of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington, VA [DNT2/24/2015]

**Potters Ski Shop** opens at 16 Prospect Street (Yankee Ridge), the fifth store in an otherwise NY state group. [P11/17,1983]

**Pound Mountain**, so-called in the 18th Century, is the hill north of Turner Road, now mostly in Danbury but before 1846, it was entirely within Ridgefield. Here, Union Carbide built its huge headquarters in the 1980s (now the Matrix Corporate Center) and the Toll Brothers developed the “Rivington” residential community in 21st Century. The hill, 860 feet above sea level at its highest point, may have been named for an animal pound situated on or near the ridge east of the Ridgebury Congregational Church. The ridge was called Pound Ridge (*q.v.*).

**Pound Ridge** is an old name for the ridge north of George Washington Highway and east of Ridgebury Road, according to Liljegren. Thereabouts many of the 4,800 French troops under Comte de Rochambeau (*q.v.*) camped around July 2, 1781. The name appears in deeds written in 1824 and 1858. [RN]

**Pound Street** runs from Main Street opposite Casagmo to New Street and then a little beyond New Street. It does not appear on 19th Century maps and may have been developed ca. 1908 in conjunction with the building of New Street (*q.v.*). It originally extended to Ramapoo Road, but most of that western section has been abandoned. The road was named for an animal pound, established ca. 1797 on the north side of Pound at Main. [RN] *See* Pounds.

**Pounds**: Throughout its history, Ridgefield has maintained animal pounds, but their nature has changed a great deal. Most early pounds here were stone wall enclosures, perhaps 30 by 40 feet or so in size, often with wooden fencing to supplement and raise the wall height. While today they are used to hold stray or abandoned dogs, pounds were employed in the 18th and 19th Centuries to “jail” livestock that had escaped from their owners and were damaging crops or had the potential to do so. A farmer would capture the stray cow or horse and turn it over to the poundkeeper. The TM would appoint pound keepers for various parts of town, often describing each as the “keeper of the pound key.” If the livestock owner failed to claim the animal and pay a fee for its impoundment (and damages, if appropriate), it would be sold at auction, with the poundkeeper, the finder and sometimes the town sharing in the income. The first pound was built on the Meeting House Yard (*q.v.*), and at a town meeting held Dec. 27, 1727, Joseph Lees was chosen “Keeper of ye Pound Key.” As early as 1737, residents of Ridgebury were authorized to have a pound. Other pounds were located in Limestone, Bennett’s Farm, and Silver Spring neighborhoods, among others. One was established on northern Main Street — *see* Pound Street. A TM in 1857 voted that fees “the impounding of animals in Ridgefield was for Horses, Asses & Mules twenty-five cents each. Neat Cattle twelve cents each, Swine ten weeks old or more eight cents each and Sheep six cents.” In the 20th and 21st Centuries, pounds have been limited to dogs — *see* Canine

**Powderhorn Drive**, a dead-end off Farmingville Road, was named by Robert E. Roache, who in 1964-65 created 23 lots from the 30-acre former Wilder property he called “Gun Hill Farms.” It became a town road in 1968. *See also* Old Musket Lane. [RN]

**Powdermaker Drive**: At Jerry Tuccio’s Pleasant View Estates (*q.v.*), laid out around 1968. Some of the land had belonged to Florence and Hortense Powdermaker (*q.v.*) [RN]

**Powdermaker, Florence** (1894-1966), a physician and psychiatrist, and **Hortense** (1900-1970), an archaeologist, were scholars, teachers and authors in their fields; lived on a Ridgebury farm in the 1950s and 60s (*see* Powdermaker Drive). Hortense’s study of the film industry, *Hollywood: The Dream Factory*, “remains the only serious anthropological study of Hollywood,” says one biography. [WWW]

**Powers, Richard Gid**, (1944- ), historian and author specializing in the FBI, grew up in Ridgefield, son of artist Richard Gorman (*q.v.*) and Evelyn Powers of Bloomer Road; published *Secrecy and Power: The Life of J. Edgar Hoover*, 1987, his second book on Hoover; professor of American Studies at CCNY [P2/12/1987]

**Powers, Richard M.**, (1921-1996), an artist and native of Chicago, lived on Bloomer Road from 1954 until his death. His work revolutionized science fiction art, appearing on the covers of more than 800 science fiction books during the last half of the 20th Century. He did illustrations for *Ridgefield in Review* (*q.v.*), and a print of the Battle of Ridgefield in 1983 as part of the town’s 275th anniversary celebration. [WWW] *See also* Richard Gid Powers.

**Pres**: Nickname for G.M. Zandri, who lived on Bailey Avenue in the 20th Century. [DD59]

**Presidents** who have visited Ridgefield: Washington, during the war. Rockwell reports that Grant, Garfield, Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt, and Harding visited Ridgefield, though not necessarily when they were in office or even running for it.

**Preston, John Hyde**, (1906-1980), a New York City native, was a magazine writer and novelist who lived in Ridgefield in the 1930s and based his novel, *The Liberals*, on union-related happenings at the Gilbert and Bennett Wire Mill in Georgetown. [WWW]

**PRD**: *See* Planned Residential Development.

**Price, Louis H.**, (1910-1984), born in a tiny Colorado mining town, was a business and a civic leader, who came to Ridgefield in 1933 to manage Ridgefield Supply Company (*q.v.*). Served as an Army lieutenant in WW2 Pacific Theatre; bought Ridgefield Supply in the 1950s, and led its expansion and modernization during the town’s building boom; retired in 1976 and son Louis H. Jr. took over. He served six years on the Board of Education, was on the Veterans Park School Building Committee, served on the regional Draft Board, was an incorporator of the Boys’ Club, and was a Boy Scout leader. Received Jaycees Distinguished Service Award in 1968. [NR, RSB32].

**Pride Day** An annual Celebration of Community: Straight, Gay and Lesbian first took place in June 1998, on the Community Center lawn. About 60 people attended the event, which was organized by local Democrats and was supported by clergy, representatives of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gay), then-Congressman Jim Maloney, the Inside-Out Players led by Ruth Leibowitz, and Harvey Fierstein. A year later, a Rainbow Flag was flown for the first time in the nation over a state capitol, Hartford, on March 21, 1999. [SSS]



**Prieger, Henry**, was owner of the Inn at Ridgefield, 20 West Lane, 1966-87; purchased from Walter Tode (*q.v.*). [P1/29/1987]

**Private Battle, A:** Non-fiction book (Simon & Schuster, 1979) in which Kathryn Morgan Ryan used her late husband's secret accounts to tell the story of his four-year battle with cancer while living on Old Branchville Road; Cornelius was the author of "The Longest Day" and two other acclaimed histories of World War II, and Kathryn was an editor and novelist who assisted him in his research. [WWW]

**Probate Court:** Probate Court oversees wills and estates, deals with orphans, appoints guardians for incompetent people, and performs other functions related to family needs. Old probate records are useful for historical and genealogical research. Over 3 centuries, Ridgefield has been in five different probate district: Fairfield, Oct. 1709 to May 1728; Stamford, May 1728 to Oct. 1746; Danbury, Oct. 1746-June 9, 1841; Ridgefield, June 10, 1841-Jan. 4, 2011; Northeast Fairfield County, Jan. 5, 2011-present.

**Professors:** *See* Teachers.

**Prohibition:** In January 1919, the 18th Amendment enacting Prohibition was ratified and took effect a year later. (Connecticut was among the states that did not vote for ratification.) Many Ridgefielders, especially members of the Italian community, made wine, beer or even versions of "moonshine." Some shared it with others, sometimes for a fee. State Police at Troop A repeatedly conducted raids on suspected "gin mills" and "speakeasies" — the latter could be found on Bailey Avenue, Prospect Street and Grove Street as well as in Branchville. In one raid on a house on Prospect Street Feb. 12, 1926, state police confiscated 20 barrels "of what is reported as being very good wine, some of it having been imported from Europe," Nearby, 20 cases of beer and other alcoholic beverages were confiscated at the store of Brunetti and Gasparini at Prospect and Bailey Avenue. State police spent much time patrolling highways from NY into Ridgefield, looking for trucks carrying alcohol. In a statewide referendum in June 1933, Ridgefielders joined the state in voting for the repeal of Prohibition by a 6 to 1 margin. Prohibition was finally repealed in December 1933 and the first store selling alcoholic beverages, The Cott Wine and Liquor Store, opened Feb. 1, 1934. *See also* Alcohol.

**Promoters Club:** *See* Ridgefield Promoters Club.

**Proprietors, the:** The original purchasers of land from the American Indians in 1708, with some later additions; first deed of purchase was signed by John Belden, Samuel Keeler Sr., Matthew Seamor, James Brown, Benjamin Wilson, Joseph Birchard, John Whitne Sr., Matthias Saint John, Benjamin Hickcock, John Beebe, Samuel Saint John, John Bouton, Joseph Keeler, Samuel Smith Junior, Jonathan Stevens, Daniell Olmsted, Richard Olmsted, John Stirdevant, Samuel Keeler Jr., Joseph Bouton, Jonathan Rockwell, Edmond Wareing, Joseph Whitne, Daniel Hait, Thomas Hyott, James Benedick, Joseph Crampton, Ebenezer Sension, Matthew Saint John, all of Norwalk, and Thomas Smith, Thomas Canfield, and Samuel Smith of Milford. Some of these people never lived here, but owned original lots.

**Proprietors of Ridgefield, The:** A history of early Ridgefield by Glenna M. Welsh (*q.v.*); mostly devoted to who the first settlers were, where they came from, and what they did; plus a

rundown of the first village lots; 188 pages, extensively illustrated; paperback and hardcover; privately published in 1976 by The Caudatowa Press.

**Prospect Hill:** The northern end of Prospect Ridge, the area around the old high school tennis courts where the elevation reaches 750 feet above sea level. [USGS]

**Prospect Ridge:** 1. East Ridge is probably the more accurate name for the top of the ridge east of Main Street. Today, however, East Ridge seems to apply only to the land between East Ridge Road and Prospect Ridge Road, while Prospect Ridge applies to the land east of Prospect Ridge Road. It's all one ridge, but it's got two names. 2. Name sometimes given to town-owned congregate housing (*q.v.*) in former Holy Ghost Novitiate (*q.v.*) on Prospect Ridge Road. (3) A condominium development by Carl Lecher on Prospect Ridge Road.

**Prospect Ridge Road:** Runs from Prospect Street to Ivy Hill Road over "Prospect Ridge" (*q.v.*)

**Prospect Street:** Runs from Main Street to the entrance to Quail Ridge II and Sunset Lane; the name first appears in the Ridgefield Land Records in 1877 as "Prospect Avenue." Teller in 1878, uses "Prospect Avenue." In the same year, The town's sewer map, drawn in 1900, shows "Prospect Avenue." When the switch to "street" took place is unclear. By 1946, "Prospect Street" was on the town's first zoning map. Name probably created after the Civil War in an effort to add some class to the village and reflect the good views from Prospect/East Ridge, especially when there were fewer trees. Before the 1900s, the road may have continued on and traversed Great Swamp.[RN]

**Prospect Woods** at 120 Prospect Street, completed in 1987 on 12 acres is a condominium project complementing the Quail Ridge condominiums at the top of the hill, but with no age restrictions. It was formerly called Quail Ridge II. Prospect Woods has 71 units, ranging from 1,200 to 2,200 square feet, in 19 buildings

**Prospector, The:** Non-profit, four-screen movie theater opened in November 2014 on Prospect Street with aim of providing "meaningful employment for adults with disabilities"; founded by Valerie Jensen of Main Street; built on site of former Ridgefield Playhouse (*q.v.*) — facade mimics old theater. It has four movie theaters.

**Proprietors:** The first settlers of the town in 1708. There were originally 24 of them, but the number increased in subsequent years to include others who were the white landowners.

**Proprietors of Ridgefield, The:** Glenna M. Welsh's history tells of the early settlement of the town, with particular focus on those who lived on Main Street. Not indexed. Many illustrations. Privately printed in 1976 in paper and cloth editions. [WWW]

**PS Associates:** Real estate agency at 23 Catoonah Street in 1980; Ann B. Storer was president in 1983.

**PTA:** See Parent-Teacher Association.

**PTO:** See Parent-Teacher Association.

**PTSA:** See Parent-Teacher Association.

**Publisher's Row:** A somewhat exaggerated nickname for High Ridge Avenue, so called because book publisher E.P. Dutton (*q.v.*) and Charles Holt, whose family published books, lived on the road south of Peaceable Street.

**Puchall, Abraham** is owner and restorer of Windover (*q.v.*), the former home of John Ames Mitchell (*q.v.*) at 194 West Lane; a Mitchell aficionado, Puchall operates Herald Square Hotel in NYC which was Mitchell's Life Magazine headquarters at the turn of the 20th

Century; he thus lives in Mitchell's home and works in Mitchell offices; first bought the carriage house at Windover and restored it, then acquired the manor house in 1990s.

**Pulitzer Prize:** Won by seven people who've lived in Ridgefield: playwright Eugene O'Neill (four times), novelist Robert Lewis Taylor, columnist Westbrook Pegler, composer Aaron Copland, journalist Richard Kluger, journalist Lee B. Wood, journalist Michael McIntire (twice), and historian Alan Nevins (twice).

**Pump Lane** is a short dead-end road built in the 1950s off lower West Lane near the NY line, so-called because the Silver Spring Country Club once had a pump house along it to supply water for the club's golf course when it opened in the early 1930s. The course is now watered from a pond, enlarged in the 1970s, along Silver Spring Road. [RN]

**Pumping Station Road** runs from Oscaleta Road into NY (becoming Petit Road at the line), and takes its name from the Pumping Station Swamp (q.v.); an old road, dating back possibly to the 1700s when it was probably a farm path. [RN]

**Pumping Station Swamp** runs along the west side of Oscaleta Road between West Mountain Road and Pumping Station Road, with some of the swamp extending south of Pumping Station Road. The Ridgefield Water Supply Company had wells and a pumping station in the swamp. It may once have been called Rattlesnake Swamp (q.v.) [RN]

**Pumpkin Ridge** is an old name for the hill at the western end of Old Branchville Road and near Branchville and Washington Roads, Jefferson Drive, and Nutmeg Ridge. It was later called Biddle Hill (q.v.) and earlier called Pompion Ridge (q.v.).

**Pumping Station Road:** Runs off Oscaleta Road to NY state line, past old Ridgefield Water Supply Company pumping station in the swamp; also called Old West Road; probably an old highway. [RN]

**Punch Brook:** Mentioned as a landmark in the second purchase of land from the Indians; may be the brook that flows from Turtle Pond on Old Sib Road down to Lake Mamanasco. *See* Ivy Swamp Brook. Also see [RN] for theories on word's meaning.

**Purchases, American Indians:** The land for Ridgefield was purchased from various American Indians in six deeds signed between 1708 and 1729. The transfers have been called the First Purchase, Second Purchase, etc. through Sixth Purchase (q.v. *each*). Much of the land Ridgefielders bought was subsequently lost, primarily to Lewisboro and North Salem due to the colony line change connected with the Oblong (q.v.) and, in 1846, to Danbury when Ridgefield ceded much of New Patent/Ridgebury (q.v. *each*).

**Purple Frog, The:** Gift shop opened 2013 at 5 Bailey Avenue, then moved to 414 Main Street; owned by Emma Hardiman; closed Dec. 31, 2018 [P12/20/2018]

## Q

**Quigg, Philip W.**, (1921-2011), was a writer and editor, who was managing editor of the magazine, *Foreign Affairs*, for 15 years. He was author of several books on U.S. foreign policy, including *America the Beautiful*. He lived here in the 1990s and early 2000s, was secretary of the Conservation Commission, and ran Taproots, a writing program for senior citizens. He was a confidant and writer for Henry Kissinger. [JFS]

**Quail Drive** runs off Old Stagecoach Road. Originally called Kathy's Court, it was built around 1960 as part of the Ridgefield Knolls subdivision. In 1969, residents petitioned the town to

have the name changed, terming it “an anomaly,” Quail Drive was chosen to recall a once common chicken-like bird in these parts that has become rare because it likes open fields. [RN]

**Quail Ridge:** condominium community at 120 Prospect Ridge, first proposed 1981 by Robert Cadoux, a Westport developer, for 61 units on former Sullivan property; built by Carl Lecher; Quail Ridge II, to the east, completed 1987, is now called Prospect Woods (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Quaker Ridge:** A 17-acre subdivision, starting ca. 1949 and including Saunders Lane off Farmingville Road; by P. K. Saunders (*q.v.*). The reason for the name is unknown — he probably liked the sound of it. [RN]

**Quarry Road** led eastward from North Street to a quartz and mica mine in Copps Mountain, north of (or within) the Mimosa development. The mine appears on Beers' 1867 map, and was apparently worked in the mid-1800s; cited in a 1977 deed. [RN]

**Question Mart:** clothing store at 452 Main Street, operated by Velma Torcellini, closed after nine years in February 1987 due to retirement. [P2/5/1987]

**Quigg, Philip W.**, (ca. 1921-2015), was a writer and editor, who was managing editor of the magazine, *Foreign Affairs*, for 15 years. He was author of several books, including *America the Beautiful*, and was a confidant of and writer for Henry Kissinger. He founded the Taproot (*q.v.*) writers workshops for senior citizens in Ridgefield in 1994 and was secretary of the Conservation Commission. [JFS]

**Quince Court:** one of developer David Paul's fruitily named byways at Fox Hill condominiums on Danbury Road. Often confused with Quincy Close (*q.v.*),

**Quincy Close**, a lane at Casagmo (*q.v.*), was named by developer David L. Paul for ancestors of George M. Olcott, who built the Casagmo mansion in the 1890s. Often confused with Quince Court (*q.v.*), one of Paul's byways at Fox Hill condominiums. [RN]

## R

**RAAC:** *See* Ridgefield Athletic Association Corporation.

**Rabin, Edward**, (1911-1995), a native of NYC, founded Ridgefield Hardware (*q.v.*) in 1938.

One of the few Jewish Ridgefielders. “He had a very tough time when he first came to Ridgefield, but he stuck it out,” said his son, Jerry, who took over the business in 1975. He was a charter member of Kiwanis Club and longtime member of Lions Club. [NR]

**Racial/ethnic population:** In 2017, 94.5% of Ridgefielders (22,682) were white; 3.8% Hispanic (1,257); 2.95% Asian Pacific (658); 0.63% black (150); and 0.17% Native American (17). [RP1]

**Racism:** Both African Americans and Italians, and to a degree, Irish immigrants, were victims of racist treatment and incidents, particularly in the late 19th and the 20th Centuries. Major incidents included: 1. On Sept. 30, 1922, the intoxicated brother of the commander of the State Police's Troop A (*q.v.*) attacked and beat up a black man who had been dining at Coleman's Lunch (*q.v.*). He was arrested and convicted, but because the charges were so minor and the fine so small, The Ridgefield Press and others called for an investigation that led eventually to the governor's asking the head of the Connecticut State Police to investigate. [WR] 2. During the 1950s, a black man was seen chatting and laughing with a

young white woman at Bongo's store. A racist employee complained to police that the man was making immoral advances. Police arrested him, but the case was thrown out of court. [WWW] 3. On Dec. 23, 1978, a cross was burned on the front lawn of an interracial couple. Five young men, aged 15 to 20, were charged with criminal mischief and disorderly conduct. Critics called the charges too light. The 18-year-old ringleader was convicted, and then charged by U.S. attorney Richard Blumenthal with violation of the federal Fair Housing Act. He was convicted, and the conviction upheld on appeal. [WR] 4. In 1974, actor-comedian Godfrey Cambridge was harassed after filing complaints against local real estate agents for misrepresenting the quality and nature of the house he bought on Buck Hill Road. [WR]

**Raccoon Ramblings:** Student newspaper at Farmingville School in the 1970s; raccoon was the school mascot.

**Radio:** See WREF, WAXB, WINE, and Ham Radio.

**Radio Shack:** Chain electronics store at Copps Hill Plaza from May 1973 [P5/31/1973] until company fails; store closes Aug. 30, 2016.

**Rail trail:** See Ridgefield Rail Trail.

**Railroad Avenue:** 1. Mid-19th Century name for western end of Branchville Road because it led to the railroad station in Branchville. Fell out of use after 1870 when the branch line and Ridgefield station were opened. 2. The original name of Sunset Lane (q.v.), changed in 1958 after the residents petitioned for a new name. [RN]

**Railroads:** See Danbury and Norwalk Railroad; Mount Vernon and Eastern Railroad; Danbury and Harlem Traction Company; Ousatonic Rail Road Company, Fairfield County Rail Road Company.

**Rainbow Drive:** A dead-end private road at the Ridgefield Lakes, so small that it does not even show up on some official maps of the town; runs off Cross Hill Road toward its namesake Rainbow Lake. [RN]

**Rainbow Lake** is a private, man-made pond, created by damming a stream through pastures in the mid-1920s, and is one of the Ridgefield Lakes (q.v.); originally called "Lake Number One" and was also called Wataba Lake (q.v.) by some; rainbow may reflect a type of trout found in waters hereabouts. [RN]

**Rainbow Records** was a music store opened by Alan Meltzer (q.v.) in the 1980s at 88 Danbury Road, an address now used by the Ridgefield Bicycle Company, but then part of the "Early Bird" group of shops just to the north. It was operated by Alan Meltzer (q.v.) and his wife, Diane. [WWW]

**Rainfall:** The average annual rainfall in Ridgefield is 52 inches, compared to the national average of 38 inches. In October 1955, 13.8 inches of rain in three days caused the worst flood of the 20th century. In one 24-hour period, 7.82 inches fell. On Sept. 1 and 2, 2021, the remnants of tropical storm Ida dropped 8.4 inches of rain on at least the southwest part of town. Power was out for more than 500 Eversource customers and some flooding occurred — none causing major damage.

**Rainsford, Mark,** (1918-1943), a native of NYC, was a lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers Camouflage Corps who was killed in a commercial airline crash in 1943 while on duty, and is buried in Fairlawn Cemetery in the Rainsford family plot (see Rev. William

S. Rainsford). Mark Rainsford never lived here, nor did his parents, Dr. Laurence and Helen Morgan Rainsford, who are also buried at Fairlawn. [JFS]

**Rainsford, Walter Kerr**, (1883-1947), native of Canada and graduate of Harvard, was an architect who designed St. Stephen's Church; also the War Memorial (*q.v.*). A noted outdoorsman, he drowned off Fisher's Island in 1947. He was the son of the Rev. Dr. William S. Rainsford (*q.v.*).

**Rainsford, Rev. Dr. William Stephen** (1850-1933), was a retired Episcopal minister when his friend, banker J. Pierpont Morgan, built him a 22-room mansion, Savin Hill (*q.v.*), off Route 35 in South Salem, adjoining Ridgefield line (his address was often given as Ridgefield); after graduating Cambridge, led group of 800 poor people from slums of London to western Canada to find new lives; became enamored there of big game hunting; hired 1882 as rector of struggling St. George's Church at Stuyvesant Square; turned parish around, grew membership to more than 4,000; known as outspoken on many subjects, including help and education for the poor, favored birth control, votes for women; retired suddenly 1906 after nervous breakdown (believed to be his second); lived at Savin Hill but did frequent safaris to Africa; was expert on African game, wrote book, *Land of the Lion*; advised President Theodore Roosevelt, Winston Churchill on hunting; son architect W. Kerr Rainsford (*q.v.*) designed St. Stephen's Church. [WWW]

**Ram Pasture** was situated along West Lane (then called Bedford Road) in and about the triangle created by Parley Lane, High Ridge and West Lane. In the early 18th Century, the town owned a sizable flock of sheep, pastured on common land and probably tended by a town-hired shepherd or by volunteers. These sheep were hired out to fertilize farmers' fields and consequently support education. Periodically, a "sheep meeting" would take place. One on Dec. 24, 1742, voted that "the money coming for the hire of the sheep last year shall be given as bounty to help maintain the Town School forever, and when the money is gathered it shall be delivered to the committee that is appointed to take care of the bounty money given by the Government to support ye School..." Apparently the rams for the flock were kept at the Ram Pasture while the sheep were probably held nearby, perhaps in the vicinity of Olmstead Lane. [POR, Rockwell, RN]

**Ramapoo:** The name of an American Indian group that lived in Ridgefield. Bedini says that "the Indians who inhabited the Ridgefield area were members of the Ramapo and Titicus villages in the Tankiteke sachemdom of the Wappinger tribe." The term appears in the very first 1708 deed to the new settlers, which begins: "Know ye that I, Catoonah, sachem of Ramapoo Indians..." Ramapoo, Ramapo or Ramapough Indians left this area after selling their territories in western Connecticut; their populations seemed to concentrate around Rockland County, N.Y., and Passaic and Bergen Counties in New Jersey. Hudon translates the word as "they are in route" or "temporary dwellers," but admits that "other sources give 'stream formed by round ponds' and 'river which empties into round ponds.'" Stewart Says it means "round pond." [RIR, RN]

**Ramapoo Hill Road** is a dead-end road in the Ramapoo Hills (*q.v.*) subdivision, along Ramapoo Road. [RN]

**Ramapoo Hills:** 1956 subdivision by Joseph H. Donnelly (*q.v.*) of old Irving B. Conklin Sr. (*q.v.*) dairy farm; includes Ramapoo Hill Road, Farm Hill Road. [RN]

**Ramapoo Rifle and Revolver Club**, founded in 1953, is based at the town's rifle range (*q.v.*) at the town garage, 60 South Street. For its first 15 years, the club used a shooting range at the Community Center, located in the basement under the front porch. The club offers pistol permit courses. [JFS]

**Ramapoo Road** is an old highway, probably the original route from town to West Mountain, meanders from Gilbert Street westward to the intersection of West Mountain Road and Barry Avenue. Evidence is that Gilbert Street was originally considered part of Ramapoo Road. Indeed, a 1900 map of the village labels Gilbert Street as "Ramapoo Road." [RN]

**Randall, Richard R.**, (1790-1838), was a merchant who, with his brother-in-law, Abner Gilbert, operated a store just south of 563 Main Street. He was a member of the Union Society, which was a sort of private police force in the town, and was a state representative in 1824. He died in Danbury and is buried there. [JFS, DD113]

**Randolph, Sarah Bulkley**, (1897-1982), was, with her mother, Sarah Tod Bulkley (*q.v.*), one of the founders of the Ridgefield Boys' Club, and was active in supporting the District Nursing Association. She was president of the Ridgefield Garden Club from 1941 to 1944 and was Rotary Citizen of the Year in 1980. She was also active in many NYC philanthropies. She lived at Rippowam (*q.v.*), the family estate on West Mountain. [JFS, P11/11/1982]

**Rapoport, Irwin C. "Chuck,"** (1937-), was a Life magazine photographer noted for his photo essay on the aftermath of the tragic Aberfan, Wales coal disaster. He turned to writing scripts for TV shows in Hollywood including Law & Order, Baywatch, and several TV movies; lived at the Ridgefield Lakes; [P1/29/1981]; lived in town permanently, 1971-78, but summered here starting in 1952. He gave the name Wataba (*q.v.*) to Rainbow Lake. [NR] Feature story on him {P9/17/1983}

**Rapp, Edgar C. "Dick"**, (1899-1981), was an owner of Bissell's Pharmacy in the mid-20th Century and lived at 145 Main Street. [RSB26]

**Rattle Holes:** A 1753 deed in which David Northrup transfers his house, barn and land to his son, describes the three acres as "lying at the Rattle Holes, so called, near the West Mountain." Probably near West Rattle Snake Swamp. (*q.v.*)

**Rattle Snake Swamp:** "Ye Rattle Snake Swamp" appears in an 1718 deed from the proprietors to Nathan St. John. Probably the same as West Rattle Snake Swamp (*q.v.*)

**Rattlesnakes:** The timber rattlesnake, this area's only rattlesnake species, is probably extinct in town, but was once common in the rocky ledges, hillsides, and edges of swamps. "There were at the first settlement great numbers of rattlesnakes and snakes equally poisonous, but they are almost destroyed," said Rev. Samuel Goodrich in 1800. "One method for their destruction was the turning of swine among them, which devoured them." The last Ridgefield rattler report may have been March 31, 1938, when Joseph Dlhhy said his "big hound dog" died after being bitten by a rattlesnake in remote Ridgebury woods. [RN]

**Raveis, William, real estate:** A chain real estate company, based in New Jersey, that opened in Ridgefield in 1980s and, located at 414 Main Street, closed in late 2018 [12/20/2018]

**Ray's Liquor Shop:** established by Ray Gabbianelli (*q.v.*) at 450 Main Street (ONS143); 1952 advertisement offered free delivery; shop closed in the 1970s, became Horologist of London (*q.v.*); in 2018, Tundi, a boutique and gift store.

**Raymond, John,** was a Norwalk resident who with John Copp (*q.v.*) explored the territory that was to become Ridgefield in an expedition in May 1708.

**REACH,** an acronym for Ridgefield Efforts at Crushing Hunger, was a hunger-fighting organization among students at Ridgefield High School in the late 1980s; teacher Stephen Blumenthal is their adviser. It sponsored several annual Walk for World Health events. [P10/22/1987]

**Read, John Louis,** (ca1916-?), who was called J. Louis Read, lived on Country Club Road, then acquired Peaceable Acres (*q.v.*) on Peaceable Street from Paul Meisner (*q.v.*) to continue operating as a hotel. The former director of Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC, he was convicted in 1961 of operating a kickback system in which food merchants paid him \$75,000 over five years in bribes to get contracts. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$2,000 but also settled a civil suit with the hospital for \$20,000. He was later the general manager of the Fairfield Motor Inn. [BP2/1/61,12/19/66]

**Read's Mill Pond:** Another name for Lake Mamanasco, appearing in a 1791 deed when Elias Read (or Reed) was an owner and probably chief miller of the Mamanasco gristmill (*q.v.*). He began buying shares of the mill in 1781 and died in 1795. [RN]

**REAP:** *See* Ridgefield Environmental Action Program.

**Recht, Charles,** (1887-1965), an American attorney, represented Soviet Union interests in the U.S. from 1921 to 1933 when there were no formal relations between the two nations. He was the only officially recognized contact between the two countries — in effect, the Russian ambassador, the Russian embassy, the Russian consul, and perhaps even the Russian Chamber of Commerce in this country. He maintained he was never a Communist. Also a poet, novelist and translator of plays, he had a house on Florida Road from 1950 until his death. [WWW]

**Recollections of A Lifetime:** 2-volume autobiography of Samuel G. Goodrich (*q.v.*), who wrote more than 100 books, mostly for young people, under the name of Peter Parley; first 300+ pages are devoted to his growing up in Ridgefield in the late 1700s and early 1800s, providing a fascinating and rare look at life in the town two centuries ago; 1,100+ pages, many illustrations, indexed. Miller, Orton and Mulligan, 1856. [JFS] *See also* Charity Hawley.

**Recreation Center,** operated by the town's Parks and Recreation Commission, opened Jan. 15, 1994, at the old Barlow Mountain School. Before that, recreation programs were spread around various facilities and administrative offices were located at the Yanity Gym (*q.v.*) and, earlier, at other town-owned buildings. In December 2000, voters approved reopening Barlow Mountain School and building a new recreation center at 195 Danbury Road, which opened Jan. 12, 2003. Paul Roche (*q.v.*) was superintendent throughout this period. [JFS]

**Rectories:** Methodist church rectory or parsonage in late 19th and much of 20th Centuries was the building at 411 Main Street, now used for shops and offices. St. Mary's rectory, on Catoonah Street just east of the church, was built in 1894 and torn down around 1974. St.



Stephen's has had several rectories, whose buildings are still standing — *see under* St. Stephen's.

**Recycling:** *See* Ridgefield Environmental Action Program, Walter McNamara.

**Red Balloon, The:** Store selling children's clothing on consignment at 409 Main Street, occupying space of former Merrie Moppet Too (*q.v.*); opened spring 1981 by Zebbie Mathis, Marty Pierce and Lynne Rudy [P5/7/1981]

**Red Brook:** 19th Century name for a stream on West Mountain, probably somewhere along Barrack Hill Road, perhaps new Old West Mountain Road. Name may have been related to clay or iron that seasonally colored the water. [RN]

**Red Chimneys:** Name applied to house at 305 Main Street, which has four red-brick chimneys.

**Red Door Kennel:** A facility offering obedience training, and boarding of dogs, operated by Dee Beck at 189 Wilton Road East, 1970s-80s.

**Red Hot Mamas:** Menopause support group formed here in 1992 by Karen Giblin (*q.v.*).

**Red Lion Restaurant:** 619 Danbury Road, at junction Routes 7 and 35, was former Outpost Farm kennel, then part of a research center for Gaines (*q.v.*) dog food, and The Steak House (*q.v.*); opened early 1970s; later called Belzoni's Red Lion Grill; closed 2005 and razed to make way for Terrar Inc.'s apartment complex.

**Red Oak Corporation:** Company owned by Anthony Czyn (*q.v.*) to develop portions of Peaceable Hill Road (*q.v.*) in early 1980s; also seven lots on old golf course in 1982 [P12/23/1981]

**Red Oak Lane,** a dead-end road off Pumping Station Road, is part of Colonial Heights (*q.v.*), developed starting around 1965 by Lewis J. Finch and others. [RN]

**Red Petticoat, The:** Novel for young people by Joan Palmer (Lothrop Lee & Shepard, 1969,) that offers a version of the "Red Petticoat" (*q.v.*) legend from the Battle of Ridgefield in 1777. Palmer, a former AP journalist, lived in Lewisboro.

**Red Petticoat Antiques:** Shop at 113 West Lane from 1971 until 2000; established by Florene Maine (*q.v.*); so called because a fictional book for children used the house as the site of its own version of the Red Petticoat legend (*q.v.*); In 1980s, 90s, owned and operated Ralph and Gloria Perschino (*q.v.*).

**Red Petticoat House:** *See under* David Olmsted.

**Red Petticoat legend:** *See under* David Olmsted.

**Red Raiders:** Youth football team founded in 1958. In 1959, the Ridgefield team played in the Orange Bowl in Miami.

**Redcoats:** Name of 23-room, 19,000-square foot brick mansion completed in 1994 at 155 Main Street; so called because builders and owners were G. Wade and Pauline Lewis, who were British; house included a 24-seat art deco movie theater and a replica 17th Century English pub; sold 2000 to Americans who renamed it Patriots Way (*q.v.*).

**Redding:** When Ridgefield was established, much of its eastern boundary bordered northern Fairfield, which in 1729 became the Reading parish of Fairfield, named for John Read, a prominent early landowner. In 1767, Reading became a town and the name began to be spelled Redding. [RN]

**Reed, Reedy Swamp:** Early 18th Century names given to several local wetlands, including on the east side of Great Swamp, south of Limestone Hill, and on West Mountain. [RN] *See also* Flaggy Bogs.

**Regan, Mary F.,** (1911-1993), and **Elizabeth M.,** (1916-1990), Ridgefield natives and sisters, were longtime teachers in the Ridgefield schools. Skidmore graduate Mary taught elementary grades 37 years at Titicus, Veterans Park and Farmingville Schools, and was active in promoting the teaching of Ridgefield history. [P3/11/1993] Elizabeth, who graduated from Danbury Teachers College, taught 39 years, taught elementary grades at the Center School and Veterans Park. [P11/1/1990] They lived together at 306 Wilton Road West

**Regan Road,** traversing a swamp between Old Stagecoach and Ridgebury Roads, was named for the family of Jeremiah and Mary Driscoll Regan who moved in the early 1850s to a small farm whose house stood on the site of the present Ridgebury Firehouse, opposite at the east end of the road. Jeremiah died in 1902, Mary in 1886. Town records indicate the road was laid out by the selectmen in 1852. [RN]

**Regency at Ridgefield:** 73 age-restricted condominiums, developed by Toll Brothers on former Camp Adventure (*q.v.*) property, 638 Danbury Road; one resident must be 55 or older and no children under 18 allowed.

**Regency Centers** owns about 410 shopping centers in the U.S. in 2020, including Copps Hill Plaza. [P7/16/2020]

**Regiment, The:** Clothing store opens at Yankee Ridge Shopping Center, Prospect Street, October 1981, by Richard Points [P11/24/1981] Advertises having financial troubles [3/27/1983]

**Register:** Early term for the town clerk (*q.v.*) in Ridgefield; Thomas Hauley (*q.v.*) signed himself as register.

**Registrar of voters:** Official who maintains records of political parties; each party elects a registrar and appoints assistant registrars as needed.

**Regney, Noel,** (1922-2002), composer, moved to High Ridge Avenue with his wife, Gloria Shayne (*q.v.*), in 1969; the couple wrote the Christmas song, “Do You Hear What I Hear?” in 1962 (he the words, she the music); now ranked among the 25 top Christmas songs of all time. the two collaborated on “Rain Rain Go Away,” sung by Bobby Vinton, “Sweet Little Darlin,” by Jo Stafford, and “Another Go Around,” by Perry Como and Doris Day. They were divorced in the mid-1970s. He also wrote the English lyrics for “Dominique,” the 1963-4 top hit by The Singing Nun. In 1975, he wrote the five-part cantata, “I Believe in Life.” He often performed at the piano in Ridgefield, especially at The Elms Inn and in schools. [WWW]

**Reid, Elizabeth “Betsy” Sheehan,** was a photographer and photo technician at The Ridgefield Press, and is administrator of the Ridgefield Historical Society. A daughter of Dr. James Sheehan (*q.v.*), she is married to Macklin Reid (*q.v.*).

**Reid, James Malcolm,** (1902-1982), a native of Colorado, was a book publisher and 18-year resident who served on the Board of Education, 1959-64. He was a leader of the textbook department of Hartcourt, Brace & World, and edited many leading textbooks. He also

wrote two books about poetry, and as on the board of Farrar, Strauss & Giroux. He was the father of longtime Ridgefield Press reporter and editor, Macklin K. Reid (*q.v.*).

**Reid, Macklin K. “Mack”**, was an award-winning editor and reporter for *The Ridgefield Press* for more than 40 years, retiring in December 2020. Married to Elizabeth Reid (*q.v.*).

**Reid, Sally Ann**: Child movie performer from Ridgefield, using name Sally Swan; at age 12, appears in *Unfinished Dance*, with Margaret O’Brien in April 1947.

**Reiner, David Levy** has been rabbi at Congregation Shir Shalom since 2013.

**Relief, Board of**, was the late 19th and early 20th Century term for today’s Board of Tax Review. Its job was to hear appeals of property assessment made by the tax assessors and was an elective office.

**Religious orders**: Many religious orders have had facilities here; Holy Ghost Novitiate (*q.v.*) by Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost fathers); Manresa (*q.v.*) by Jesuits, 1960s; Sunset Hall by Vincentians, 1950s, 60s; West Mountain Farm (*q.v.*); Sisters of Notre Dame headquarters; Sisters of St. Thomas of Villanova retreat on Barry Avenue.

**Remember the Ladies: Notable Women of Ridgefield**: Profiles of 14 noteworthy women in Ridgefield’s history; also covers organizations they founded or led; 100 pages, illustrated, published by Ridgefield Historical Society, 2008.

**Remick, William**, a New Canaan math teacher, was chairman of the Board of Education, 1980-81; member since 1975 [P9/11/1980]; lived 56 Tanton Hill Road.

**Remington, Frederic** (1861-1909), a native of Canton, N.Y., was a noted sculptor, painter and illustrator of the American West. He studied art at Yale and went to the West, where he worked and drew illustrations for Harper’s and other magazines. He lived and worked for many years in New Rochelle, gaining an international reputation for his paintings and sculptures. He also wrote several books on the West. He moved in 1909 to a house he built off Barry Avenue (*see* Lorul Place), probably to be closer to lifelong friend, A. Barton Hepburn (*q.v.*), who came from Canton. He died six months later of appendicitis. [WWW] *See also* Oak Knoll.

**Remington Road** runs between Barry Avenue and Peaceable Hill Road, part of Westmoreland (*q.v.*) developed in the mid-1960s. Commemorates Frederic Remington (*q.v.*), who lived and died across Barry Avenue from Westmoreland. [RN]

**Renumbering**: The current system of road and street numbering for addresses was adopted by the Planning and Zoning Commission in 1969 after many complaints from emergency personnel about the haphazard “system” in use — and the fact that many roads were unnumbered, making it difficult for police, fire and ambulance personnel to find people. However, many opposed the renumbering because it was costly and inconvenient. A leader of the effort, who circulated opposition petitions, was Elizabeth Hull (*q.v.*), whose longtime address of 1 Silver Spring Road changed to 478 Silver Spring Road. [JFS]

**Renz**: Nickname for Reno Carboni, local businessman and restaurant owner.

**Representative, state**: *See* state representative.

**Resseguie**: Old Ridgefield family whose name is pronounced *RESS-sik-kee*.

**Resseguie, Abijah**, (1791-1887), began his career in carriage-making, 1810-15, and became a partner with Chauncey Olmstead in 1818; in 1825 he was a partner in the larger carriage factory operation in the Big Shop (*q.v.*), called Brush, Olmstead & Company. In 1829 he

married Anne Keeler, daughter of William Keeler and granddaughter of Keeler Tavern founder Timothy Keeler Jr.. About that time they took over operation of the tavern, which was eventually called Resseguie Hotel. He was a state representative in 1847 and a member of the Whig Party. Surname sometimes erroneously spelled Ressiguie as in [RIR].

**Resseguie, Alexander, (?-1752)** may have been Ridgefield's wealthiest settler. John E. Morris, a family genealogist, says "Tradition has it that he was the younger son of one Alexandre Resseguie, a Huguenot refugee from France, who brought with him from the mother country a small, hair-covered trunk, studded with iron nails, containing all of the family wealth he was able to secure, consisting largely of title deeds to property in France." They were later lost in a fire. He was in Ridgefield in 1709, the year of his marriage to Sara Bontecou of New York City, also a native of France. His inventory at his death in 1752 listed more than 4,000 pounds of value in real estate, mostly in Ridgefield, and included a couple of farms. His homestead alone totaled 2,200 pounds in value, a hefty sum, and he owned parcels of land throughout town, as well as "a Negro wench and child" valued at 350 pounds. Total value of his estate was 10,514 pounds. He had considerable land at the Wilton-Ridgefield line in the Whipstick-Nod area. [JFS]

**Resseguie, Anna Keeler** (1787-1852) was the daughter of Timothy and Ether Keeler, who operated Keeler Tavern during Revolutionary era; taught at Whipstick Schoolhouse; she married, 1829, Abijah Resseguie and they turned tavern into Resseguie Hotel [KTM].

**Resseguie Hotel:** Name for the Keeler Tavern from the 1830s until ca. 1900. *See* Anna Keeler Resseguie.

**Resseguie's Lane:** (pronounced ) An 18th Century name probably for what is now Pelham Lane, so called because it bordered the farm of Alexander Resseguie (*q.v.*).

**Reutimann, Jacob "Jack,"** (1897-1963), a native of Switzerland, established 1950 the Ridgefield Diner at 746 Danbury Road (BMW of Ridgefield in 2019); sold to Adolf and Lori Gaub in 1957 but continued to live on backland until death; had been chef at Hotel Green, Danbury, in 1920s and a poultry farmer in Bethel, 1930s and 40s; buried in Fairlawn Cemetery with wife, Margaret.

**Reutimann's Diner:** Local name for Ridgefield Diner when owned by Jacob Reutimann (*q.v.*)

**Revere Drive,** with twin dead-end legs off Minuteman Road, is part of the Colonial Heights (*q.v.*) on West Mountain. The town accepted the road in 1970; often confused with Revere Place. In keeping with Colonial Heights theme, named for Paul Revere. [RN]

**Revere Place,** another road named for Paul, runs off Standish Drive at Meadow Woods (*q.v.*). The dead-end road was accepted by the town in 1968. [RN]

**Revolutionary War cemetery:** While many veterans and victims of the Revolutionary War are interred in Ridgefield's 20 cemeteries, a group of soldiers — "eight patriots ... companioned by sixteen British soldiers — killed in the Battle of Ridgefield were buried in an unmarked cemetery along the east side of Main Street, south of Casagmo. *See* Battle of Ridgefield Monument.

**Revolver:** Ridgefield-based Beatles tribute band from ca 1980; members David Sturdevant, Jim Filgate, Garry Johnson, Mike Filgate. [OR]

**Rexall:** Bissell's Pharmacy (*q.v.*) in the 1940s, 40s and early 60s was associated with Rexall, the national cooperative of independently owned drug stores that provided many Rexall-branded products as well as advertising.

**Reynolds, Jonathan,** (1727-1809), a Ridgebury farmer, served in the Revolution in 1775 when he was wounded in the hip at the Siege of St. John's. Recuperated at home. Returned to service for three more years during which he made ammunition.

**Reynolds, Susan S.,** a native of Yonker, NY, is a Ridgefield attorney specializing in family law, who was nominated by Gov. John Rowland as a Superior Court justice in March 2001. She had been a partner in Reese, Hirsch, Reynolds, and Kennedy and had served as a Family Court magistrate for four years. She served in the Superior Court many years until retiring at 70 and being named a Judge Trial Referee. A resident since 1977 and former chair of the Republican Town Committee, she is married to CPA Thomas Reynolds.

**Reveaux, Edward,** was a mid-20th Century Broadway director who was an early TV producer and lived on Main Street in 1950 [11/30/1950]

**RFD:** (1) Ridgefield Fire Department (*q.v.*); (2) Rural Free Delivery (*q.v.*)

**RHS:** (1) Ridgefield High School; (2) Ridgefield Historical Society (*q.v. each*).

**Richard E. Venus Municipal Building:** The brick building that formerly served as Ridgefield High School, the East Ridge School, and originally, Benjamin Franklin Grammar School, at East Ridge and Governor Streets; Board of Selectmen unanimously voted Sept. 6, 2000, to rename it after town historian, postmaster and selectman; Venus attended the dedication ceremony. *See* Venus, Richard E.

**Richardson, Anne S.** (1884-1965) was a community leader and benefactor who came here in 1915 and established Mamasasco Farm, her estate, on North Salem Road (the core of which is now Richardson Park — *q.v.*). A Republican, she served on the school board three years, and was an original member of Park Commission, a founder of Boys Club, active in Ridgefield Garden Club and the American Women's Voluntary Services (*q.v.*). She was Rotary Citizen of Year in 1964. Her companion, Edna Schoyer, was also a school board member but unlike Richardson, was a Democrat. Ridgefield High School and Scotts Ridge Middle School are built on former Richardson land. [WWW]

**Richardson, Robert E.,** (1895-1962), worked for many years for the First National Bank of Ridgefield (now Wells Fargo). He was a former Board of Education chairman, was on the Board of Tax Review, served as state grand master of the Connecticut Order of Eastern Star, and was a popular man about town. [RN] *See also* Richardson Drive. [P8/2/1962]

**Richardson Auditorium** at Ridgefield High School was named for Anne S. Richardson (*q.v.*), on whose former land the school was built. Seating more than 900 people, the auditorium can be divided into four lecture areas, thanks to sliding walls. [JFS]

**Richardson Drive,** a dead-end road off Ashbee Lane, is part of Heart Brand Estates (*q.v.*), developed in the 1960s by Everett Lounsbury Jr., who named the road for Robert E. Richardson (*q.v.*).

**Richardson Park,** a 29-acre park at 661 North Salem Road, opposite RHS, was donated to the town in 1967 by the estate of Anne S. Richardson (*q.v.*), whose large house on the property was razed at her instruction. The caretaker's cottage remains. The park includes walking

paths, picnic areas, and frontage of Lake Mamasasco (no beach) that features the locally famous high rock cliffs from which young people (illegally) jump into the lake. [RN]

**Riche, Robert** (1925-2018) graduated from Yale, worked as a reporter, then in public relations; wrote 11 novels, guide to teenagers, many plays, and three books of poetry; lived 45 New Street from 1980s until death. Married to photographer Fran Friche.

**Rickshaw** was a Chinese-Polynesian restaurant on Route 7 in Ridgefield Motor Inn (later Days Inn). The mailing address and phone number were Ridgefield, but the restaurant was physically in Redding. Larry Eng (*q.v.*) was an owner until its closing in 1977.

**Rid Litter Day:** An annual Saturday cleanup of roadsides in Ridgefield, begun in the late 1970s largely spearheaded by Beth Yanity (*q.v.*), and for many years, helped by the Marine Corps League. [JFS]

**Rides for Ridgefield** is an alliance of more than 20 organizations that provide rides for senior citizens and others in need of transportation to medical appointments, shopping and other events. It dates back to late 2011 when Eloise Barron of the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association, brought volunteers together to discuss opportunities to serve, and formally began in 2013, based at town hall and reachable at 203-894-7433. [P5/30/2013]

**Ridge Hollow Farm:** *See under* Stables.

**Ridge Road:** 1. Ridge Road was an old highway leading into the present-day Silver Spring Country Club and through lands to the south. Its north end joined Silver Spring Road at or near the present country club entrance, went west, and then south, paralleling Silver Spring Road, to a point below and opposite St. Johns Road. 2. Ridge Road or Ridge Avenue were informal names for High Ridge Avenue. [RN]

**RidgeBowl:** Bowling alleys at 11 Danbury Road opened Nov. 9, 1964, on site of Girolmetti family's former restaurant, Mary's (*q.v.*). [P11/19/1964]. The alleys closed in 1985 and were converted to offices and shops. *See also* Old Ice House *and* Girolametti/Girolmetti.

**Ridgebury**, a name concocted from Ridgefield and Danbury, is the territory generally held today to be north of the Aspen Ledges and west of the Ridgefield Lakes, extending north to Danbury. Originally called New Patent (*q.v.*), "Ridgebury" began being used in 1762 (*see* John Whitlock), two years after the Second Ecclesiastical Society (*q.v.*) was formed, creating the second Congregational parish in town. Colony grants were being made here as early as 1697 (*see* Zack's Ridge). Ridgefield began buying land in this region in 1721 but it wasn't until 1731 that the colony government approved a patent for most of what's now Ridgebury plus land in western Danbury to the New Fairfield line. By 1734, Recompense Thomas had erected his house on Ridgebury Road, says Liljegreen. By 1742, town fathers had completed purchases from the American Indians and subdivided the new territory among themselves. In the 1770s, Ridgebury was a populous little hamlet, with taverns, stores, two churches (Congregational and Episcopal), and even some modest industry, including a comb factory and some mills. Farming was the chief occupation. From the 1780s until the 1810s, efforts were made to create a separate town of Ridgebury, but it never won approval of the Legislature, possibly because of opposition from Danbury which would have to give up some land, and Ridgefield, which would have to give up a state representative. In 1846, much of upper Ridgebury was ceded to Danbury, whose center was

much closer for the residents. In the 1870s, Ridgebury had two schools, South District and North District. [RN]

**Ridgebury Cemetery:** At 655 Ridgebury Road, a bit north of the Congregational Church, this cemetery was said to have been established in 1743, but the earliest stones date from 1770s. Long privately held by a corporation, it was taken over by the Town of Ridgefield in 2017, and contains about 800 graves in 2018. This cemetery is still active.

**Ridgebury Congregational Church,** a member of the United Church of Christ, was founded in 1760. Its current wooden Greek Revival structure was built around 1851, and is the oldest church building in Ridgefield. It's listed on the National Register of Historic Places (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Ridgebury Elementary School:** First day of classes, November 1961; formally dedicated Feb. 11, 1962; the town's second "elementary" school.

**Ridgebury Episcopal Church:** in 1762, John Whitlock donated land for a meetinghouse for the "dissenting society of Ridgebury," an Anglican or Episcopal church in Ridgebury. The church building was located in a triangle-shaped green formed by Ridgebury Road on the west, Ned's Mountain Road on the south and a now-private path on the easterly side. There was also a cemetery there — *see* Old Episcopal Cemetery. The church operated before the Revolution, shut down during the war, reactivated, but then failed for lack of membership in the early 19th Century. *See* RIR.

**Ridgebury Estates:** Final name for subdivision south of Shadow Lake Road that includes Beaver Brook Road and Chipmunk Lane; developed in the 1960s by Jerry Tuccio, who chose the name; first proposed in 1957 as Rolling Meadow Estates, but plan abandoned; in 1960s David Katz and Sons proposed Sherman Colonial development with one-acre lots, which became embroiled in long court battle over lot size; Planning and Zoning Commission won with two acre.

**Ridgebury Farm:** Seven lot PRD (*q.v.*) subdivision of 37 acres of former Lee B. Wood farm off Ridgebury Road by Carl Lecher in 1980; served by Schoolhouse Place. [RN]

**Ridgebury Hollow:** First mentioned in a 1794 deed, probably now in the Mill Plan section of Danbury. *See also* The Hollow. [RN]

**Ridgebury Post Office:** operated 1881-1901; Thomas St. John postmaster 1835-48.

**Ridgebury Mountain** is the hill on which the Twixt Hills and Ridgefield Knolls developments are situated. It is north of Pierrepont Pond and Ledges Road, and south of Reagan and Bennett's Farms Road. Reaches 930 feet above sea level. [RN] *See also* Barlow Mountain.

**Ridgebury Road,** from North Salem Road to Saw Mill and Old Ridgebury Roads, near to the Danbury line, is the main highway from Ridgefield to and through Ridgebury. It is nearly 4 miles long. Probably in existence by the 1730s. By the 1750s it was "New Pattent Road" (see New Pattent). in 1933, during the celebration of the Connecticut Tercentenary and a year after the 200th anniversary of our first President's birth, the road was officially renamed "George Washington Highway" because General Washington had traveled part of its length in September 1780. In 1959, the original name was restored for the north-south road (see George Washington Highway). [RN] *See also* SH 14.

**Ridgebury schoolhouse:** Ridgebury had two school districts, Number 15 North and Number 14 South, in the 19th Century, later combined into one using schoolhouse at corner of

Ridgebury and Old Stagecoach Roads; discontinued around 1929; purchased by Daniel M. McKeon (q.v.) around 1950 and moved across Ridgebury Road where today it is part of a house; upper Ridgebury schoolhouse was near today's Schoolhouse Place. [JFS]

**Ridgecrest Drive** is part of the Stonecrest (q.v.) subdivision of Irving B. Conklin Sr., dating from the 1950s. [RN]

**Ridgefield** is a name created by the first settlers to describe the terrain, and is not, like many other New England names, based on a town in Old England. In 1709, the legislature granted permission for the creation of a new town and in so acting, first used the name of "Ridgfield" (the name was frequently spelled Ridgfield in early documents). [RN] *See also* SS Ridgefield.

**Ridgefield, Illinois:** An unincorporated town in northwestern Illinois, founded by Virginians just south of Wisconsin, found 1835 but named Ridgefield in 1855. The name is not connected with Ridgefield, Conn.

**Ridgefield, Ohio,** is a township near such localities as Norwalk, Lyme, Groton, Hartford, Norwich, Oxford, and Sherman, all Connecticut town names. They are in what was called "The Firelands," a territory that was once part of Connecticut's Western Reserve and which was given to Connecticut residents whose houses were burned by the British during the Revolution. (Ridgefielders claimed 65 losses worth 1,736 pounds.) [RN]

**Ridgefield, Washington:** Town named for Ridgefield, Conn., by the sons of a minister who once served the South Salem Presbyterian Church. [See RIR].

**Ridgefield Agricultural Society** was a 19th Century organization to promote better farming practices. It sponsored the annual Ridgefield Fair and Cattle Show (q.v.). Longtime president was Edward H. Smith (q.v.). In 1873, with Joshua King as its president, it had its fairgrounds on the east side of Wilton Road West and was erecting a sizable building there. Earlier that year it became a joint stock company.

**Ridgefield and Danbury Turnpike:** *See* Danbury and Ridgefield Turnpike.

**Ridgefield and New York Railroad:** In 1871, this company was issuing stock to build a train line from New York City to a Titicus station and eventually on to Danbury; went so far as to build a track bed along part of its distance, including one visible off Golf Lane (q.v.); plan succumbed to competition from the Danbury and Norwalk Railroad (q.v.), which built a branch line (q.v.) to Ridgefield in 1870; stock certificates show up periodically on ephemera marketplace.

**Ridgefield Angle:** The turn in the Connecticut-New York State line, The line was established in 1731 boundary agreement transferring the "Oblong" (q.v.) to New York Colony. *See* Wilton and Ridgefield Angles.

**Ridgefield Answer Book** was an information guide, with answers to more than 400 questions about the town, that was published annually by The Ridgefield Press/Hersam Acorn Newspapers starting in the 1990s; resumed in 2020s by Hearst Media.

**Ridgefield Archives Committee:** formed in 1990 "to assure the preservation of our town's written and pictorial history," to stage exhibits, and to foster interest in town's past; early leaders included Jeanne Timpanelli, Kay Ables; became Ridgefield Historical Society.

**Ridgefield Arms:** Ridgefield's first large-scale apartment complex, 45 units opened November 1964, developed initially by Nicholas R. DiNapoli Sr.; advertised as "luxurious colonial



apartments,” the units offered free TV antennas, 30-inch oven and ranges, a 12-cubic-foot refrigerator, heat and hot water, and provision for air conditioning; 426 SF efficiency rented for \$125; 825 SF one-bedroom for \$160 and a 902-square-foot two-bedroom for \$190. [P11/30/2014] A second building of 30 units opened in 1983, developed by Nicholas R. DiNapoli Jr., filling quickly.

**Ridgefield at 300:** Lavishly illustrated, coffee-table book about the town's celebration of its 300th birthday in 2008, produced by Ridgefield Magazine (*q.v.*).

**Ridgefield Athletic Association** was formed in the 1920s to promote sports activities, including boxing, wrestling and gymnastics. It had a small gym at 37 Danbury Road. [DD75]

**Ridgefield Athletic Association Corporation** (RAAC) was formed in the early 1970s to build and operate a non-profit ice skating rink on Prospect Ridge at Ivy Hill Road. A. Raymond Besette (*q.v.*) was chief backer. *See also* Hockey.

**Ridgefield Bakery** was founded in 1866 and lasted until the mid 20th Century. J. W. Benedict ran it from 1894 to 1896, selling to Charles H. Stevens and William Reinhart in July 1896. [P7/17/1896]. Among the last owners was the Hurzeler family — *see* Ruth Hurzeler. It operated into the early 1960s where Roma and Planet Pizza subsequently were — ONS92. The last owner was Christian D. Jensen.

**Ridgefield Band** was founded in 1837 (or 1838 —RSB22). In 1855, Richard Dunning (*q.v.*) was an instructor and bugle player with the band.

**Ridgefield Baptist Church** was founded in 1961 when the Rev. Leonard Waterman (*q.v.*) organized and incorporated the Ridgefield Bible Fellowship as the Ridgefield Baptist Church. The first service took place in the Masonic Hall in December 1961. In 1962 the congregation began using Ridgebury School. Under the Rev. Harold Wheeler, a brick church building was erected at 325 Danbury Road; the first service was Christmas 1967, although the church was not dedicated until February 1968. [RPC]

**Ridgefield Bicycle and Sport Shop:** At 416 Main Street, November 1980 [P11/25/1980]

**Ridgefield Boarding School:** Secondary school operated by Samuel Sidney St. John (*q.v.*) from 1832 until about 1842 somewhere in the village. Tuition in 1833 was \$25 per quarter, with \$5 extra if French or math is taught, too. [NY Journal of Commerce, 9/11/1833]

**Ridgefield Book Distributors** was a book wholesaling company located on Bailey Avenue in the 1960s and later on West Starrs Plain Road in nearby Danbury, where it burned to the ground. Owner was Richard Frisch of Ridgefield. [P1/8/1962]

**Ridgefield Book Shop: 1.** Louise Davidson (*q.v.*) and Beth Kemble Widmer open in house next to Perry’s Market on Main Street, today site of Ridgefield Hardware [P1/20/1944, 2/10/1944] **2.** Store operated by same people who have New Canaan Book Store operated at 26 Prospect Street in 1981 [P2/5/1981]

**Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club:** Founded 1936 as Ridgefield Boys Club by 11 Ridgefield women, mostly wealthy; soon began using former Loder boarding house as its clubhouse; offered summer camp program starting 1945 [P6/11/1981]; town votes 1957 to lease “the Lounsbury fish pond property on Governor Street” to the club [P6/20/1957]; ground broken for new building there, June 1958; opens 1959; judge rules in 1983 that town’s leasing of its land to the club for only \$1 a year is unconstitutional unless girls are allowed in the club [P7/14/1983]; girls admitted in 1990s; that building greatly modified and enlarged, 2006-7.

**Ridgefield Boys Band:** Musical group established in 1926 and led by Aldo Casagrande (*q.v.*); successor of Oreneca Band, whose name the boys band used in the 1930s. [DD59]

**Ridgefield Brook:** Alternate name for upper section of the Norwalk River, as it flows out of Great Swamp (*q.v.*) northerly past Fox Hill condominiums (*q.v.*) and Outpost Pond (*q.v.*), then west of Danbury Road until Turn of the River (*q.v.*). [RN, USGS]

**Ridgefield Business Men's Association:** Active precursor of Chamber of Commerce, early 20th Century; D.F. Bedient president, 1913 [P4/24/1913]

**Ridgefield Candy Shoppe** at 440 Main Street reopened in July 1987 under new ownership of Judie Lapak and Marilyn Gilchrist. [P7/16/1987]

**Ridgefield Cemetery** is an informal term that is sometimes used to refer to the group of cemeteries located in the triangle formed by North Salem Road, North Street, and Mapleshade Road. More especially, it is used for the group of cemeteries consisting of Titicus, Scott's (*nee* Lockwood), Lounsbury-Rockwell, and Hurlbutt, and not Mapleshade or Fairlawn (*q.v. each*).

**Ridgefield Cemetery Association** was established in 1868 by Jacob M. Lockwood, who laid out what is now Scott's Cemetery, a large part of what's commonly called the Ridgefield Cemetery. [CBRFC, FAG]

**Ridgefield Center Historic District:** Included on the National Register of Historic Places, beginning Sept. 7, 1984 [P11/8/1984].

**Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce** had its first iteration in the 1920s as the Promoters Club (*q.v.*). A Chamber of Commerce was started in the 1930s, but was short-lived. Local business people tried again in 1949, and this edition lasted into the early 1950s. As the number of businesses in town grew, the chamber was resurrected in 1965 and has continued nonstop since. In 1968, its first office opened at 27 Governor Street, the Donnelly Professional Building (*q.v.*), now site of the RVNA. By 1990, it had moved to 7 Bailey Avenue to have a storefront presence in the central business district. The office moved to a non-storefront on Grove Street in the early 2010s. A few years later it moved to a 383 Main Street second-floor office.

**Ridgefield Children's Center** founded at St. Mary's Parish, 1976-1981, by Nan Howkins (*q.v.*).

**Ridgefield Chronicles:** Profiles of aspects of Ridgefield's history including interesting people, the things they accomplished, and the way they lived, as well as the town's varied geography and place names; by Jack Sanders; 60+ pictures, 160 pages; The History Press, 2014.

**Ridgefield Cleaners:** Former World War II pilot Leno Valentino opens business on second floor of Denton Block (*q.v.*).

**Ridgefield Club:** First mentioned 1886 as planned "social club after the style of the Lenox Club" for wealthy summer people; by August 1887 [P8/12/1887] the clubhouse on West Lane is nearly complete, but already in use for bowling; soon includes lounge, pool tables; the main club building later became First Congregational Church House; it burned down in 1978; site is now Lund Hall (*q.v.*)

**Ridgefield Coffee Shop:** Established 1974 by Nancy and Albert Gasparino at 23 Bailey Avenue; then in late 80s, early 90s by George Tsilfides; became Bailey's Backyard.

**Ridgefield Commerce Park** is the ca 1980 shopping center, with three buildings, on Danbury Road south of South Street and including, in 2022, such businesses as the Early Bird Restaurant, Ridgefield Bicycle Company, and Starbucks. Morganti Inc. was a major backer of the project which it built.

**Ridgefield Community Coalition Against Substance Abuse**, founded in 2005, is a group of community leaders “dedicated to the development and support of policies and programs that enhance the growth, safety and well-being of Ridgefield youth and families, especially in the area of preventing substance abuse. The council is co-chaired by the first selectman and the school superintendent, and has representatives from most local organizations involving young people. [TW]

**Ridgefield Community Foundation:** Organization founded 1999 to raise funds for community groups; Deidre McClain was a leader; published book, *Ridgefield Kids Are Funny* (*q.v.*); established Philanthropic Youth Council (*q.v.*); by about 2014 it had shut down.

**Ridgefield Community Kindergarten:** Founded at the Ridgefield Community Center in 1959 by Dr. Clara Platt after rapid growth in school population and need for classroom space prompted school system to abandon 25-year-old pre-school kindergarten; Dolores Robinson was director for at least first 20 years; called “only nursery school in town” in 1981. [P7/2/1981]

**Ridgefield, Conn. 1708-1908 Bi-Centennial Celebration:** 96-page hardbound book of history, recollections, speeches, and photographs in connection with the town’s 200th birthday celebration. Published by the Bi-Centennial Committee, 1908.

**Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance:** Opened 2002 by Ridgefield Playhouse with bequest from Patricia Schuster (*q.v.*); operates as a non-profit at 440 Main Street; first director was James Robey, former dancer with Metropolitan Opera Ballet.

**Ridgefield Country Club:** (1.) *See* Country Club of Ridgefield. (2.) The last use of the Upaginstit (*q.v.*) estate before it is subdivided; operates in early 1950s; promoted on postcard as “a former 3 millar dollar estate, now your vacation resort. Only 51 miles from New York City on Route 35”; operated by JPFO — the Jewish People Fraternal Organization, which in 1951 New York state insurance commissioner says has ties to Community Party; commissioner maintains club is a secret Communist Party site for underground “indoctrination” and “propaganda”; closes by 1954.

**Ridgefield Creamery, The**, was a building where farmers brought milk to be processed into cream, butter, and bottled milk for sale. In January 1888 J.W. Rockwell said Ridgefield needed a creamery and could support one, pointing out that more than 800 cows lived in Ridgefield and nearby South Salem. by 1894, was producing 60,000 pounds of butter annually; operators in 1894 were J.W. Rockwell, John F. Holmes, W. A. Benedict, R. W. Keeler, E. W. Keeler, A. C. Keeler, J. A. Wakeman, and H. A. Barrett; had apparently shut down by 1910; building later became Goodwill Baptist Church (*q.v.*); converted to all apartments by Robert J. Walker, 1976; Walker maintained that reports that the building was the old Congregational Church that had stood on the Green were untrue because structurally impossible; however, parts from the church may have been recycled and used in the building.

**Ridgefield Crisis Resource Team** assists school personnel in helping students or staff members who are coping with a loss. Team members are licensed mental health professionals.

**Ridgefield Crossings:** Assisted living facility at 640 Danbury Road; opened 1999 as Chancellor Park (*q.v.*), then became Great Pond Crossing; received current name in 2003 when Benchmark Senior Living purchased the facility and added the Harbor Memory Care unit for people with Alzheimer's or other dementia; facility, along with Laurel Ridge Health Care Center (*q.v.*) and Regency at Ridgefield age-restricted condominiums are on former Camp Adventure (*q.v.*). *See also* George Bakes.

**Ridgefield Cycle Center** opened in January 1983 near Cumberland Farms on Danbury Road, owned by Steve Fishman and Joe Kappell who have a similar store in Wilton. [P2/17or24/1983]

**Ridgefield Design Council:** In 2002, published "About Ridgefield: What We Were, What We Are," (*q.v.*)

**Ridgefield Diner:** established 1950 at 746 Danbury Road (ONS318) by Jacob Reutimann (*q.v.*); sold 1957 to Adolf and Lori Gaub (*q.v.*) who in 1964 enlarged it and added liquor; closed ca. 1970 when sold to Ridgefield European Motors (*q.v.*).

**Ridgefield Dramatic Club** has its final organizational meeting Jan. 14, 1911, and decides to stage, as its first production, "What Happened to Jones." [P1/19/1911]

**Ridgefield Drug Company** was a pharmacy at ONS88 Main Street, about where Ridgefield Office Supply is now located. [1940 telephone directory]

**Ridgefield Education Association** is the common name for the organization representing Ridgefield teachers in collective bargaining; i.e., it is the teachers' union. It is also more formally known as Ridgefield NEA, reflecting its affiliation with the National Education Association, and was formerly known as Ridgefield Teachers Association (*q.v.*) and National Education Association-Ridgefield. [JFS]

**Ridgefield Education Foundation** is a non-profit organization of people "who believe that education is at the heart of our community" and are guided by a volunteer Board of Directors composed of parents, local community leaders, Board of Education members, the Ridgefield Public Schools Superintendent and teachers. The organization supports creative and innovative programs for both students and teachers, designed to improve the education program. [JFS]

**Ridgefield Electric Company:** First supplier of electricity in town, founded in 1906 by H.B. Anderson (*q.v.*); in August 1924, Connecticut Light and Power Company began providing the electricity to the Ridgefield Electric lines, increasing the voltage to the village; feed comes from Georgetown [P8/21/1924]. The old power plant became a house at Ivy Hill Road — *see* Otto Jespersen.

**Ridgefield Environmental Action Program (REAP):** League of Women Voters study of the dump and waste management inspired the formation in 1971 of the Ridgefield Environmental Action Program with the aim of creating a recycling program. Its Recycling Center opened in 1974, long before recycling became mandatory in CT in 1991.

**Ridgefield European Motors:** Dealership selling BMW, Mazda and other imported brands, was started in the mid-1960s by Eric Erhardt at ONS84 Danbury Road (later Marty Motors, 92

Danbury Road), then moved ca. 1970 to 746 Danbury Road (Route 7); sold in 2008 to BMW of Ridgefield (*q.v.*).

**Ridgefield Fair and Cattle Show**, sponsored by the Ridgefield Agricultural Society (*q.v.*), ran annually from 1858 until 1881. The first fairgrounds—then for a one-day event—was on Gilbert Street. As the affair grew in popularity and size and lasted two days, it was moved to Governor Street at what's now Veterans Park. Finally it found a permanent home at the "Fair Grounds" east of Wilton Road West, opposite Olmstead Lane. On Thursday, Oct. 3, 1861, an estimated 6,000 people attended. [DAR] Probably by then it was a four-day event—Tuesday through Friday—in late September or early October. It was a typical country fair, with exhibits of products, produce and livestock, music, food, and awards. [RN]

**Ridgefield Family Y**: Established 1976, with first offices in St. Mary's School; tries to build on Ivy Hill Road site owned by town, 1977-78, but neighbors oppose and others argue town would be supporting religious organization (Young Men's Christian Association); in 1980, plans facility on former Francis Martin property, North Salem Road, but plans vetoed by P&Z [P10-30/1980]; in 1981, votes OK selling Ivy Hill land for Y, but costs wind up higher than expected, and closing of Barlow Mountain School makes it available; Y buys school in 1983 for \$625,000; takes title Sept. 22, 1983 [P9/22/1983]; has 4,000 members in 1984 [P10/4/1984]; opens pool 1985; burdened with debt, Y goes bankrupt in 1990 and closes in June. [JFS]

**Ridgefield Fights the Civil War**: History of Ridgefield's participation in the war; by Charles Pankenier, 60 pages, illustrated, Worthy Shorts, 2011.

**Ridgefield Fish and Game Club** is mentioned in DD144.

**Ridgefield Fitness Center**: Operated by Sue and Jim Johnstone at 66 Grove Street (former Digitech building); closed 2013.

**Ridgefield Floral Society**, a precursor of the garden clubs, was founded around 1868 and had annual flower shows at Jones Hall in the Big Shop. [Bridgeport Standard, 8/4/1869]

**Ridgefield Food Processing Center** opened in July 1943 as part of the war effort to produce food locally, and operated during the summer, allowing residents to bring fresh fruit and vegetables they'd grown to be canned for them "under expert direction." Mrs. Edwin R. Myer was director. [5/27/1943] For its second growing season, 1944, the center put up 6,640 "cans"—actually jars—of fruits and vegetables. [P9/21/1944] While the center volunteers are mostly women, five men joined, including the Rev. William B. Lusk and seven-year-old Jacques Ullman, whose artist father Paul (*q.v.*), working as an undercover agent in France, was killed by the Nazis. [JFS]

**Ridgefield Garden Club** had its first meeting June 9, 1914.

**Ridgefield Gardens**: A 1956 subdivision of 46 lots off Limekiln and Haviland Roads, designed by Gustave W. Iser, an architect, and developed largely by Armando Salvestrini, who continued developing in the neighborhood well into the 1980s. It includes Poplar Road, Hawthorne Circle, Willow Lane, and Linden Road. [RN]

**Ridgefield Golf Course**: *See* Dlh Ridge Golf Course.

**Ridgefield Grange**, a once very active organization for the agriculturally minded, was founded in 1906 with 23 members., possibly to replace the disbanded Ridgefield Agricultural Society. Albert C. Innis was the first master (president). Regular meetings included not

only information on husbandry, but also talks about current events, foreign countries and history, as well as music and dramatic presentations. Members participated in many fairs, and had floats in local parades. There was no “grange hall” as was found in many communities. The Grange disbanded around 1973 because of dwindling membership. A **Junior Grange**, the first in Connecticut, was established in 1926 and lasted until 1965. [RPC90]

**Ridgefield Group, The**, was a consumer product evaluation service operated by Dr. Gordon Keswick at 79 Ned’s Mountain Road in the 1970s.

**Ridgefield Hardware**: Founded in 1938 by Ed Rabin (*q.v.*), operated till 2020 by son Jerry Rabin, his son; began at 384 Main Street (Rodier Flowers in 2020) and moved across street to 385 Main Street 1948; in 2005-06, it added second story to the building, allowing more storage. [JFS, DD97]

**Ridgefield Health Resort**: Also called Ridgefield Resort and probably mostly the same as Ridgefield Country Club (*q.v.*); opened about 1949 on old Upagenstit (*q.v.*) estate on West Lane; promoted on postcard mailed 1951 as “beautiful 70-acre estate; private park, rolling lawns, landscaped woodlands; open all round round”; includes glass-enclosed swimming pool; postcard also says it is “home of the JPFO” — the Jewish People Fraternal Organization (*see* Ridgefield Country Club); Zoning Commission soon charged operators with running an illegal home for the aged, rather than a resort or hotel. By 1952, the place morphed into Ridgefield Country Club (*q.v.*).

**Ridgefield High School**: First high school, called Alexander Hamilton High School (*q.v.*), opened 1915 in former Center School on Bailey Avenue (now municipal parking lot); first principal was Caleb Niles, who also taught some classes. The first graduation was 1917 (only 3 students) included students who had started their secondary studies at Norwalk High School. First 4-year graduation was 1919 [10 students]. Voters approved new high school addition at East Ridge, 214-71, on Oct. 1, 1923 [P10/2/1923]; new school opened in 1926 at East Ridge School after a remodeling and began being called Ridgefield High School; expanded to include auditorium in 1939 and large gymnasium, 1957; moved to a new 213,000 square foot building at 700 North Salem Road in 1972, built on former Mamasasco Farm estate of Anne S. Richardson (*q.v.*). Planned for 1,800 students, enrollment reached 2,000 in mid-1970s. The school was expanded and modified in 2002-03, including a new cafeteria. *See also* Graduation, Alexander Hamilton High School, East Ridge School, Benjamin Franklin Elementary School. [JFS, KSN] *See also* Class pranks.

**Ridgefield Hills**: A 19-lot subdivision, including Woodchuck Lane, developed by Lewis J. Finch and John F. Coyle off Wilton Road West, approved in 1961. [RN]

**Ridgefield Hilltop Acres, Company**: In 1956, Ridgefield Hilltop Acres Company, headed by A. Edward Major, developed 24 lots on the Biddle Hill area on the north side of Branchville Road; *see* Nutmeg Ridge. [RN]

**Ridgefield Historic Architectural Resources Survey**, done in the 1970s by the Ridgefield Preservation Trust (*q.v.*), catalogued the construction techniques, architectural style, and significant social history of some 600 of the town’s buildings. The 1,500-page document now belongs to the Ridgefield Historical Society (*q.v.*). [JFS] *See also* Jeremy Wilmot.

**Ridgefield Historical Society:** (1) Founded in 1976, when Beryl (Mrs. Robert) Auwood elected president; other officers included Ralph Jahnige, Bobbi Longmire, Vernon Welch, Lee Dickinson, Charles Coles; directors included Dennison Fiala, John Tower, Kitty Rosa, Raymond Pearson, Paul Hampden, Jack Sanders, Jeremy Wilmot [SA3/29/1976]. This organization lasted only a year or so. (2) Current society was established from the Ridgefield Preservation Trust and moved into the Scott House (*q.v.*) in 2002.

**Ridgefield Hunt Club** had its first meeting Sept. 26, 1935 with 21 riders present.

**Ridgefield Improvement Society** was a late 19th Century organization promoting largely business interests. It was probably the equivalent of a chamber of commerce today. Longtime president was Edward H. Smith (*q.v.*). In 1879 it was making and planning improvements to the Town House. [12/24/1879]

**Ridgefield in Review**, written by Silvio Bedini (*q.v.*), is the most recent complete history of the town, published in 1958 in connection with Ridgefield's 250th birthday celebration; extensively illustrated, 396 pages, indexed; out of print but available free in digital form from Internet sources.

**Ridgefield Inn, The:** 1. Building designed by William A. Bates, NYC architect, and built about 1891 on east side of lower Main Street, about where #8 is now; new name given to The Inn when Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin S. Warner (*q.v.*) take over in 1903 [P5/7/1903]; located on the east side of south end of Main Street; they hoped to open it year-round instead of May-autumn. In 1907 it was leased during the colder months by The Ridgefield School (*q.v.*) as a boys prep school 2. Multistory inn operated by J.O. Poole, 1890-96, at about 441 Main Street (Toy Chest in 2019); building is now on High Ridge Avenue. [Bedini] 3. A name used briefly in the early 1890s for the old Oreneca House (*q.v.*). *See also* The Inn at Ridgefield.

**Ridgefield Kids Are Funny:** Book produced 2000 by Ridgefield Community Foundation as fundraiser; offers "wit and wisdom" of local kids.

**Ridgefield Knolls:** One of Ridgefield's largest developments: 238 houses had been built on some 300 acres by Oct. 1, 1975; designed in 1959 on the former Todd brothers dairy farm (*see* Todds Road) and includes Knollwood Drive, Senoka Drive, Bob Hill Road, Summit Lane, Aspen Ledges Road, Fox Drive, Rolling Ridge Road, Short Lane, Spire View Road, Partridge Drive, Quail Drive, Todd's Road, Sugar Loaf Mountain Road, Virginia Court and the southern half of Old Stagecoach Road; name from the several small hills — or "knolls" — that make up the top of Ridgebury Mountain, site of the Ridgefield Knolls; Robert Kaufman (*q.v.*) of Redding, developer, for many years continued to operate the Topstone Hydraulic Company, which provided water for the Knolls; the system is now operated by Aquarion. [RN]

**Ridgefield Lakes:** Town's largest development with over 450 houses by early 1980s; begun in the 1920s by the Pequot Real Estate Development Company, led by Andrew C. P. Christensen, a native of Denmark who came to Ridgefield in 1917, buying the old Higgins house (burned in 1954) on Bennett's Farm Road and 600 acres; planned as summer camps for New York City residents; work began 1923 when John Morganti (*q.v.*) built the four dams used to create lakes; Pequot later sold its holdings. Mr. Christensen continued to live here until 1949 when he returned to his native Denmark, where he died in 1954. In their

later years here, Mr. Christensen and his wife operated a restaurant on the east side of Main Street, near Bedient's; William Lawrence Winthrop (1895-1971), known locally as Willie, acquired the property in 1932 and for a while called the development Fox Hill Lakes; no zoning when the area began to be developed on lots of less than a tenth of an acre as summer camps; water system was designed for limited summer use: as the economy changed and as suburban life became more popular, the summer camps were converted into year-round houses and winterized new houses were erected. [RN]

**Ridgefield Library:** Established by 12 residents Oct. 16, 1871 at Ridgefield Library and Historical Association; in 1883, Phineas Lounsbury provided a building for the library on Governor Street (earlier served as telegraph office and, after library, was telephone office and then Ridgefield Water Supply Company office; moved to Great Pond ca. 1960, damaged by vandals, razed mid-1970s); first librarian, Jennie Smith, named in 1899 and served 25 years; James N. Morris donated new library building at Main and Prospect Street (former site of Smith Tavern —*q.v.*), completed in 1902; it then housed about 3,000 books; enlarged 1962-63; in 1984, building underwent a major renovation from 7,200 to 24,000 square feet of space after an anonymous donor gives its \$1-million [3/17/1983]; undergoes extensive renovation in 1996, but no increase in size. Children's library was created in November 1957. Much of the library was razed in 2012 to make way for "new library" which opened in 2014, financed with \$15 million in private donations and \$5 million grant from the town. [RPC, RIR] *See also* E.W. Morris Memorial Library.

**Ridgefield Lumber Company:** owned for many years in early 20th Century by Richard W. Osborn (*q.v.*); office was on the south side of Prospect Street near Bailey Avenue; he sold business to group headed by William H. Cargon; then owned by Frank Dain and finally Louis Price whose family owns it today as Ridgefield Supply Company — *q.v. for more details*. [DD48]

**Ridgefield Luncheonette:** Mid-1960s restaurant at 411 Main Street; acquired in February 1968 by Mrs. Paul Botsch and daughter Patricia and Jacqueline Roos. Later became site of Roma Pizzeria, then Planet Pizza.

**Ridgefield Lydian Society** was formed in January 1834 at the Congregational Church, according to a church history. An early ladies aid society, it was supposed to "raise funds to promote the interests of such benevolent associations or individuals as shall from time to time be considered worth our cooperation." The name suggests that its activities may have centered around singing. [RT]

**Ridgefield Magazine** was founded in 2002 by publishing executive Geoffrey Morris, who went on to produce six other community magazines, including those in Wilton, Bedford, Fairfield, and Litchfield magazines under the name, TownVibe Media. The glossy, full-color magazine contains many features and columns related to the community. In 2020, Ridgefield Media, headed by Amanda Duff, who had been a contributing writer, acquired Ridgefield Magazine and Duff became its editor. By 2022, it had been purchased by Dee Dee Colabella and retitled 068, focusing on both Ridgefield and Wilton.

**Ridgefield Manor Estates:** Subdivision by Harold F. Benel, who bought the old Upaganstit (*q.v.*) estate in 1954; in 1955, he filed plans for 46 one-acre lots on 66 acres on Manor Road, Lewis Drive, Fairfield Court, Shadow Lane, West Lane, Golf Lane. [RN, DD13-150]



**Ridgefield Media:** *See* Ridgefield Magazine.

**Ridgefield Men's Club**, founded in 1984, is for retired and semi-retired men, meeting twice monthly to hear speakers of interest. It offers activities in such groups as bridge, computers, personal finance, fishing, wood carving, and hiking.

**Ridgefield Montessori School** opened in September 1972 in the then-former St. Mary's School building. At some point this operation ceased. A new school of the same name opened in 1999 and in 2022 was at 96 Danbury Road. The school offers toddler, early education and kindergarten programs for children 18 months to 6 years old.

**Ridgefield Motor Inn:** Motel at 296 Ethan Allen Highway (Route 7) was actually in Redding; established in the early 1950s by Herbert R. "Johnny" Johnston, who also had a restaurant there, called Johnny Johnston's. The motel became Days Inn (*q.v.*) in the early 2000s.

**Ridgefield Music Store:** at 21 Governor Street (Donnelly Shopping Center), started 1977 by Joe Cardillo; taken over in 1994 by Chris Pike who retired in 2016.

**Ridgefield Musical Association** existed in the mid-19th Century and had several choirs that gave concerts. One, Jan. 16, 1854, was called "quite pleasing" by Anna Resseguie. [DAR]

**Ridgefield Newcomers Club:** *See* Newcomers Club of Ridgefield.

**Ridgefield News Store:** *See* Squash's.

**Ridgefield 1900-1950:** 215+ pictures of what Ridgefield looked like during the first half of the 20th Century; postcard images of homes, estates, inns, street scenes, stores, churches, and more; over 20,000 words by Jack Sanders of accompanying history and lore about the locales pictured. Bibliography and index. 126 pages. Arcadia Publishing, 2003.

**Ridgefield Office Supply:** *See* Squash's.

**Ridgefield Old Timers Association:** Founded 1992 by Paul Baker (first chairman), Julie Petrini, John Tulipani, and Joseph Brunetti; annually honors past Ridgefield athletes, as well as civic leaders and teachers; awards scholarships to Ridgefield students; members must have lived in town at least 25 years. [JFS]

**Ridgefield Open Space Association:** Commonly called ROSA, the group was largely responsible for encouraging the town's acquisition of part of the former IBM/Fox Hill Inn property, now the core of Bennett's Pond State Park (*q.v.*). Leaders included Ellen Burns, longtime owner of Books on the Common.

**Ridgefield Operation for Animal Rescue:** *See* ROAR.

**Ridgefield Opticians:** Operated by Gary W. Usher in 1970s, early 80s, at 9 Bailey Avenue; later moved to Copps Hill Plaza

**Ridgefield Pediatric Associates:** At 38B Grove Street, founded 1974; one of the town's first group practices.

**Ridgefield Pharmacy** has been used by various drug stores in town, but in early 20th Century, it was operated by George A. Mignerey (*q.v.*).

**Ridgefield Photo Shop:** Store and studio established 1943 by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gordon at 424 Main Street (ONS127); Clarence and Geraldine Korker purchased in April 1951; in 1959 or 1960; moved to ONS89 Main Street, next to Craig's, then to new building at 403 Main Street about 1966. "That building was built by Morganti and our part was designed by Kodak for the store, studio and black & white and color labs," said Korker.

**Ridgefield Players:** An amateur theatrical group that staged plays in the 1930s, usually at town hall; “Metuchen” directed in April 1934 by Robert C. Fischer (*q.v.*), benefiting District Nursing Association [P4/5/1934]; Fischer also directed “Father-In-Law,” November 1935, benefiting PTA; members included Myrtice Weaver Keeler, Timothy J.E. Keeler, Karl S. Nash, Margaret McGlynn, Mary Creagh, Harvey Keeler, Mary Moylan, Francis J. Bassett, Paul Waldarke, Dorothy Detzer, Lewis J. Finch;

**Ridgefield Playhouse:** Movie and performance venue on Prospect Street, opened 1940 after a subscription drive to gain financial backing; designed by John Eberson (1875–1954), a noted architect famed for the development and promotion of “movie palace” designs; was Ridgefield’s only movie theater for many years; site of many bond rallies in World War II; closed in 1973; building became Village Bank and Trust Company (*q.v.*) in 1974. Razed in October 2012 and replaced with Prospector (*q.v.*), a four-screen movie house whose facade imitates the original building.

**Ridgefield Playhouse for Movies and the Performing Arts:** Non-profit performance venue, opened December 2000 (first show was performance by Jose Feliciano), after several years of debate and fundraising, spearheaded by Barbara Manners (*q.v.*); location is former Ridgefield High School auditorium on East Ridge, designed 1938 by Cass Gilbert Jr. of Wilton, son of the noted architect Cass Gilbert (*q.v.*). In 1947 and 1949, Arturo Toscanini (*q.v.*) conducted concerts here, benefiting the library and Ridgefield Boys’ Club. [JFS]

**Ridgefield Police Department** was established in 1955 when the town voted to create an elected Police Commission to oversee policing operations. Until then, Ridgefield’s policing was done by constables, whose powers were limited, and the state police (*q.v.*). First chief was James Brady (*q.v.*), followed by John F. Haight, Thomas Rotunda, Richard Ligi, John Roche, and Jeffery Kreitz (2018- ). Department was originally housed in the basement of the town hall; in 1976 it moved to the former state police Troop A barracks on East Ridge. The police halted all patrols in town in April 1971 because of budget problems [P4/1/1971].

**Ridgefield Post Office:** The main or “Ridgefield” post office began in 1792 in King and Dole’s store, now top of administration building for Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum (*q.v.*), also called Old Hundred (*q.v.*); moved from east side of Main Street to 387 Main Street (Addessi Jewelers in 2020) July 31, 1922 and remained there until 1959; from 1959-84, post office was at north end of Grand Union (now CVS) shopping center; current post office building approved by postal service April 8, 1980, but did not get zoning OK; postal service decided to override local zoning and build anyway [P8/11/1983]; the new office opened on Sunday, Nov 11, 1984 under Postmaster George Fisher III; there have been seven outlying branch post offices (*see* Post offices);

**Ridgefield Press, The,** was founded 1875 as Baxter’s Monthly (*q.v.*); soon became The Ridgefield Press; established by David Crosby Baxter (*q.v.*), a local merchant, as method for local businesses to advertise their wares and services; subscribers topped at around 7,000 in 1990s; acquired by John and Karl Nash in 1937, who created The Acorn Press as the publishing company which over the years published weekly newspapers in Bethel, Redding, Weston, Wilton, in CT and Lewisboro, Pound Ridge and Bedford in NY; operated many years by Karl and wife, Elizabeth “Betty Grace” Nash (*q.v. each*); merged with the Hersam family papers (New Canaan, Darien) in 1997 to create a seven-newspaper group as

Hersam Acorn Newspapers. In 2007, Hersam Acorn bought 11 more newspapers, plus two printing plants and other publications in southwestern Connecticut and southern Vermont. The company was sold in 2018 to Hearst Media, which closed all the local offices and moved staff to Danbury and Norwalk.

**Ridgefield Preservation Trust:** Founded in 1973 to fight development proposed for Main Street. Name was chosen Oct. 4, 1973. Leaders Kitty (Mrs. Paul J.) Rosa and Pamela (Mrs. Robert) Kraus soon decided to expand interest to protect historic aspects of Ridgefield throughout the town. In the 1970s the trust undertook a massive effort to identify, catalogue and describe hundreds of historic buildings in town. In 2002 the trust became the Ridgefield Historical Society.

**Ridgefield Promoters Club, The,** a forerunner of the Lions Club and perhaps the Chamber of Commerce, had its first meeting Jan. 28, 1926 at the Elms Inn. George G. Scott (*q.v.*) was the first chairman. James J. Kelly, one of the founders, said the club is “one in which religion and politics (are) barred and where the town’s interests would be advanced.” Other founders, mostly business people, included Thaddeus Crane (*q.v.*) and Harvey Lown (*q.v.*) [JFS]

**Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation,** founded in 2009, is a “privately funded, nonprofit organization serving as a liaison between the Ridgefield community and the Ridgefield School District to support our students’ academic and social needs.” [JFS]

**Ridgefield Rail Trail:** 2.3-mile crushed-cinder path from Prospect Ridge to Florida Road uses old bed of branch line of Danbury and Norwalk Rail Road (*q.v.*); built by Connecticut Light and Power Company, which used route for high-voltage transmission lines; opened Dec. 11, 2000; used for walking or cross-country skiing; bicycles not allowed (as of 2019).

**Ridgefield Recreation Center:** *See* Recreation Center.

**Ridgefield Restaurant** was located on the east side of Route 7, just south of the Danbury line, in the 1950s and 60s. *See* Adolf and Lori Gaub.

**Ridgefield Road:** 1. In Wilton, Route 33 leading from the center of that town to the Ridgefield town line is called Ridgefield Road. In the 18th Century “Ridgefield Road” was occasionally used to refer to Route 33, Wilton Road West, in Ridgefield, particularly along its lower end near Wilton. 2. In an 1850 deed in which Sherman Beers sells land to the new Danbury and Norwalk Rail Road, he says one piece bordered “the Ridgefield Road” – what we call Branchville Road today. [RN]

**Ridgefield Savings Bank:** Town’s first bank, founded 1871; first president was Dr. Daniel L. Adams (*q.v.*), later called the father of baseball; first office was in Old Hundred (*q.v.*); then had various office locations on Main Street, including in Town Hall, until 1930 when art deco headquarters opened at 374 Main Street, designed by R.E. Hawes and E.F. Strassle; becomes Ridgefield Bank in 1989 and, merging with a Norwalk institution in 2004, Fairfield County Bank (*q.v.*). In 1991 the center of operations moved to headquarters at Danbury and Farmingville Roads, but Main Street building remains in operation. Opened Ridgefield’s first drive-in bank, 1959, on Governor Street (*see* Loder House).

**Ridgefield Scholarship Group** was founded in 1969 by Margaret Kinnaird (*q.v.*) who, realizing RHS had 30 independent scholarships, proposed creating a clearinghouse for all applications and awards. She, Daphne McLachlan, guidance counselor Tony Chiodo and

Principal Harold Healy spent a year creating the Scholarship Committee to form a liaison between students and donors. Jo Fainer was a longtime leader of the group. [P2/27/2003]

**Ridgefield School:** Boys preparatory school founded 1907 by the Rev. Roland J. Mulford, Ph.D., using the building of the Ridgefield Inn (*q.v.*) on lower Main Street off-season. The school opened Oct. 3, 1907 with 40 boys. [P5/18/1911]. In 1909 Mulford took an option on 125 acres north of Lake Mamasasco from Henry B. Anderson (*q.v.*) for the former W. N. Edmonds farm. Anderson was a trustee of the school; so was Cass Gilbert, George Pratt Ingersoll, and Albert H. Wiggin (*q.v. each*) [P4/22/1909] Many graduates went into government or diplomatic service. The longtime headmaster was Theodore Carrington Jessup; others were Erie A. Tucker and Philip M. Gray (*q.v. each*). The motto was “semper fidelis.” Originally called the Mulford School after its founder, it was later informally called Ridgefield Boys School. [DD12]. It closed 1938 due to dwindling enrollments, probably because of the Depression [DD15] [RPJ2/8]

**Ridgefield Shirt Factory** was founded in the 1840s by George Hunt (*q.v.*) and was at first located in the Big Shop (*q.v.*), but later moved across the street to a building on what’s now an empty lot, and then to Catoonah Street on the site of the current Ridgefield Fire Department headquarters. “Colored shirts were a specialty of the factory, which employed as many as sixty persons at one time,” said Bedini. “The chief market was New York City.” The operation was run for many years by D. Smith Sholes (*q.v.*) and Henry Smith (*q.v.*). Most employees were women who worked from their homes. Sholes and Smith would provide women with packages of shirt “components” and the women would sew them together in their spare time. The final product was prepared for sale and packaged at the factory. NYT reported in 1860 that there were 1,100 home-working women in the area, sewing for Ridgefield Shirt. It closed around 1893, probably because of competition from large-scale, mechanized operations. [WWW, RIR]

**Ridgefield Shopping Center** is the official name of the retail plaza at 453 Main Street, housing CVS and other shops. Developed by the Benenson family, it opened in 1959 with Grand Union as its anchor, and included a new Ridgefield Post Office wing. [JFS]

**Ridgefield Silversmiths** produced both silver and silver-plate items, such as candlesticks, candelabra, candy dishes, salt and pepper shakers, creamers, cigarette lighters, jiggers, and bowls in the 1940s and early 1950s, operating from the old goat barn (*q.v.*) on Grove Street; founded by Edward San Giovanni (*q.v.*).

**Ridgefield Skating Center** at 111 Prospect Ridge was built by the Ridgefield Athletic Association Corporation (*q.v.*), led by founder A. Raymond Bessette (*q.v.*). It opened Dec. 11, 1971 as a non-profit rink; a roof was added in 1972 and sides in 1973. It was sold in 1989 when Bessette moved to Florida. Today it is known as the Winter Garden Ice Arena (*q.v.*). *See also* Hockey.

**Ridgefield Sport and Toy Caboose:** Jim and Pat Freeman, owners, announced they were retiring after 21 years and closing the store at 23 Governor Street [P2/5/1987]; original store on Prospect Street was razed ca. 1971 to build Yankee Ridge Shopping Center (*q.v.*).

**Ridgefield Station** was the original name of Branchville Station and, for a while, was the whole southeastern corner of town. Between 1852 and 1870, the only stop on the Danbury and Norwalk Rail Road in town was here; when the branch line opened, Ridgefield Station

became the name of the terminal in Ridgefield center while the old Ridgefield Station was dubbed Branchville. In 1955 and 1956, 30 years after passenger service to Ridgefield Station had ended, First Selectman Harry E. Hull asked the New Haven Railroad to change Branchville Station back to Ridgefield Station to reflect the town, not the neighborhood. The railroad denied the request because it still had a freight terminal at Ridgefield Station. Freight service continued to depot until 1964; station used for storage by Ridgefield Supply Company (*q.v.*) until 2016-17 when completely reconstructed on the new site to the west; now used as a showroom. [RN] *See also* Danbury and Norwalk Rail Road, Depot Hill.

**Ridgefield Station Post Office** operated 1863-1873, at which time it became known as Branchville Post Office (*q.v.*).

**Ridgefield Street:** Another name for Main Street (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Ridgefield Studios:** Photography business of Paul F. Korker at 403 Main Street in 1980.

**Ridgefield Supply Company:** Lumber yard and hardware store traces roots to lumberyard of Richard W. Osborn and William O. Gilbert in Branchville; in 1870s, they moved business to Prospect Street, opposite depot; lumberyard bought by Harry Mayne and William Cargon who renamed it Ridgefield Lumber Company; in 1933, Frank Dain became owner, renamed it Ridgefield Supply Company and hired Louis H. Price, Sr. as manager; in early 1950's Price acquired the majority interest after Dain's death; Price Sr. retired 1974, Louis H. Price Jr. took over Company; in 2011, his daughter, Margaret Price, became the owner. Company took over the depot after rail service ended 1962 and used it as a warehouse; the station was moved and reconstructed as a showroom, 2016-17. For a history of the company see [P9/15/1983].

**Ridgefield Swim Club:** Formed December 1990 to try to take over the pool of defunct Family Y (*q.v.*).

**Ridgefield Symphonette:** Founded 1964 by Marcus and Marguerite Fischer, Agathe Filgate, George Leeman Sr. (*q.v.*), and Bill Rodier (*q.v.*). *See* Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra. [JFS]

**Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra** was founded in 1964 as the Ridgefield Symphonette (*q.v.*)

**Ridgefield Tavern, The:** 1908 novel by Dr. Maurice Enright (*q.v.*) using Sarah Bishop, the hermitess, as a leading character.

**Ridgefield Taxpayers League:** Group that fought town/school spending and tax increases in 1970s, 80s; founder and leader was Louis A. Garofalo; others active in the group were Joseph Negreen, John Longden, Norman Little.

**Ridgefield Teachers Association** was formed in 1938 as the collective bargaining unit for the schools' professional staff. In the mid-1970s, the name was changed to National Education Association-Ridgefield or NEAR to reflect its affiliation with the national teachers' organization. Today it is called Ridgefield NEA or Ridgefield Education Association.

**Ridgefield Teenage Canteen Inc.** operated teen center in basement of Community Center in 1950s; it was evicted by Community Center 1959 after disagreements over operations [P3/26/1959]

**Ridgefield Tennis Club** was established in 1971 by Richard B. Howard (*q.v.*) at 35 Copps Hill Road. Justine Butler (*q.v.*) was the first pro. It offered outdoor courts. It closed about 15 years later after the town made major improvements to its outdoor courts. *See also* Tennis.

**Ridgefield Theater Barn** is an amateur theatrical group that stages plays at a converted barn on the old Holy Ghost Novitiate property (*q.v.*) on Halpin Lane. It began as the Ridgefield Workshop for the Performing Arts (*q.v.*).

**Ridgefield Thrift Shop** was established 1927 by the District Nursing Association at 388 Main Street to raise money for the DNA. Today it is an independent non-profit that donates grants yearly to many Ridgefield organizations and efforts. From 1928-60 it was located in various Main Street spots; in June 1960 the shop moved from the Masonic Hall building, 396 Main Street, to the old Catholic church and blacksmith shop at 15 Catoonah Street, where it remained 57 years. A much enlarged shop opened at the former Balducci/Hay Day market location, 21 Governor Street, in May 2017, greatly increasing income. [RPC, JFS]

**Ridgefield Tonsorial Parlor:** Started by Vincent Mugavero in 1930 at 392 Main Street. [DD93] *See* Mugavero family.

**Ridgefield Town Hall:** *See* Town Hall.

**Ridgefield Toy Clinic:** Founded by Ednah Shapiro, 1949, to gather new toys for handicapped kids and to collect and repair toys for the needy; [P1/22/1981] based at the Community Center for many years; long led by Steffi K. Jones. [RPC95] *See also* Joseph Shapiro.

**Ridgefield TV:** Television and electronics repair business, existing June 1980 at 15 Ethan Allen Highway, Branchville [P6/19/1980]

**Ridgefield Union Society:** Organized in April 1818 by leading citizens, this group served as a private police force to crack down on thieves and robbers; lasted less than 20 years. William Crocker (*q.v.*) was the first president. [HS]

**Ridgefield Veterans' Memorial Community Center Association:** Name of the non-profit organization overseeing the Lounsbury House, also called the Community Center, and originally Grovelawn (*q.v. each*).

**Ridgefield Village Improvement Society:** *See* Village Improvement Society.

**Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association:** Founded 1914 as District Nursing Association (*q.v.*), to provide health care services to the community; changed name in 1980s to Visiting Nurse Association of Ridgefield, Inc.; in 2005 became Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association; in June 1994, town leased part of old high school (*q.v.*) to organization, which moved from 304 Main Street and sold the house; in 2016, opened new headquarters at 27 Governor Street after razing former Lounsbury house/office building (*q.v.*) there. In October 2019, changed name to VNAhealth; by then, serving 28 communities in Connecticut. [JFS]

**Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department** was established in 1897 in the wake of the disastrous Fire of 1895 (*q.v.*) that destroyed much of the business center. It was organized into companies; housed in the basement of town hall until a firehouse built in 1908 at 6 Catoonah Street. In 1954 the three companies – engine, hook and ladder, and hose – voted to consolidate into one Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department. Today its men and women augment the paid Ridgefield Fire Department at significant fires and other major emergencies. [JFS]

**Ridgefield Walk Book** is a trail guide to many of Ridgefield's open spaces, published since the 1980s by the Conservation Commission and periodically updated. Available at town hall.

**Ridgefield Water Supply Company** was established ca. 1899 by Henry B. Anderson (*q.v.*) after the Fire of 1895 (*q.v.*) showed a need for village water supply; first day of service was June

13, 1900; started with a few wells on West Mountain feeding pipes to the village; soon added a standpipe (*q.v.*) on Peaceable Ridge to build pressure; also, Round Pond added as a reservoir. Bridgeport Hydraulic Company bought the operation in 1991 and changed its name to Aquarion, which in 2000 was acquired by Kelda of England; in 2017 Aquarion became a subsidiary of Eversource (*q.v.*). [JFS] [DD69]

**Ridgefield Woman's Club** was founded in 1966 as a community service organization. Club members have provided many volunteer hours helping town and regional organizations. It sponsored the creation of the Ballard Park bandstand, dedicated in 1975, and produced a long series of commemorative ornaments (*q.v.*). Its annual crafts fair in late November raises money to support its work. Affiliated with the state and national Federation of Woman's Clubs, it was originally called the Federated Woman's Club; Mrs. Anthony Bedini was its first president. [RPC]

**Ridgefield Workshop for the Performing Arts**, often called RWPA, was an amateur theatrical group founded in 1965, by Joseph M. Dunworth (*q.v.*), Evelyn Foley and Patricia DiMuzio, for not only staging shows but also "fostering and developing creative talent." Its first production, one-act performances of "Sorry, Wrong Number," and the second act from "Auntie Mame," took place that November. The workshop grew into today's Ridgefield Theater Barn (*q.v.*), with its own venue on Halpin Lane.

**Ridgefield Youth Commission** is an "advocate for the youth of Ridgefield to ensure community development of youth services." Founded in 1977; its members are appointed by the selectmen for two year terms. Meets first Wednesday at The Barn. [JFS].

**Ridgefield Youth Orchestra**: Founded in 1971 by Charles Spire (1929-2011), public school music director, but open to non-public-school children; many concerts in Ballard Park and elsewhere; went on Europe concert tours in 1979, 1984 [P6/2/1984], 1989, 1991. [JFS]

**Ridgefield Youth Service(s) Bureau**, founded in 1984 largely through the efforts of its longtime leader, John Katz (*q.v.*), offers counseling for children and adolescents ages 3 through 18 and their families, and has an office at 90 East Ridge Road.

**Ridgeway Terrace**: Private, dead-end road at the Ridgefield Lakes (*q.v.*) off Bennett's Farm Road, a little north and opposite Bate's Farm Road. [RN]

**Ridgewood Road** from Florida Hill Road to Harvey Road serves Florida Hill Estates (*q.v.*), developed in 1964. [RN]

**Ridolfi, Americo**, (1905-60), opened Jean's Grill at 37 Ethan Allen Highway in 1935. Often called "the mayor of Branchville," he founded and led the Branchville Civic Association (*q.v.*) which created the Branchville playground, still used today as a ballfield, and which rescued the deteriorating Branchville Schoolhouse and restored it; retired mid-1950s; son Louis ran Luigi's (*q.v.*) restaurant, same location from ca. 1960 to 1986. [NR]

**Rifle Range**: The town's first rifle range was located in the basement of the Community Center (*q.v.*) beneath the front porch. In 1966, a plan to build a \$7,500 rifle range at the town garage drew more discussion than any other item in the proposed 1966-67 budget at a public hearing. The Ramapoo Rifle and Revolver Club (*q.v.*), which oversaw the old range, proposed a new range attached to the town garage at 60 South Street, saying that some 200 Ridgefielders were interested in shooting. The plan was approved and the range has been overseen by the club ever since. [JFS]

**Riggs, Dana**, opened Dana's Restaurant (*q.v.*) in 1983 and later owned the Red Lion (*q.v.*).

**Rippowam**: 1. The area around Stamford was called Rippowam from the river that forms a double harbor on the sound. Rippowam was also the name of the tribe of Indians that controlled this territory. The word meant "rocky cliff" in the native language. Someone who liked the word changed the name of North Pond in Lewisboro to Lake Rippowam. 2. Much of the shoreline was owned by Theodore H. Mead (*q.v.*) of Ridgefield whose estate, called Rippowam, extended from today's Rippowam Road into Lewisboro and the lake. The road in Ridgefield took its name from the estate. The estate was said to have 7 miles of "well-made roads." The estate today is owned by family of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Bulkley — *see* Sarah Tod Bulkey; also called Rippowam Farm [P9/12/1901; RPJ4/9] [RN]

**Rippowam Road**: Rippowam Road, named for Rippowam (*q.v.*), the estate along it, was in the 18th and early 19th Centuries part of the earliest version of West Mountain Road, and included Oreneca Road. It was a highway from Ridgefield into northern Lewisboro, then called Lower Salem. The road may have been part of an old Indian trail. [RN]

**Rising Ridge Road** at Twin Ridge (*q.v.*) runs from Indian Cave Road to Beechwood Lane. It became a town road in 1968 and was named for the geography of the land it traverses. [RN]

**Rita Road** at the Ridgefield Lakes (*q.v.*) is a dead-end, private road developed in the 1950s, named for Rita Romano, who with her husband owned several lots there. [RN]

**Ritch, Harold Adelmair**, (1904-1981), graduated from Ridgefield High School and spent most of his life here, working on local estates as a gardener. He developed Ritch Drive (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Ritch Drive**: Harold A. Ritch (*q.v.*), whose family had owned and farmed the land thereabouts, developed Ritch Drive, from Haviland Road to Danbury Road, a 1954 subdivision built mostly on corn and potato fields. It was the former Haviland farm — *see* Haviland Road. [RN]

**Ritchard, Cyril**, (1898-1977), an actor and native of Australia, played Captain Hook alongside Mary Martin when the acclaimed Broadway and TV production of Peter Pan; long career, primarily on the stage, around the world; had home called Lone Rock at ONS184 Danbury Road (near Old Pierce Road); married to actress Madge Elliott; a devout Catholic active at St. Mary's, he is buried in St. Mary Cemetery. [WWW]

**Rite Aid**: Chain drugstore at Cops Hill Plaza is the descendant of Genovese Drugs (*q.v.*), the first store to open at the center in 1972. In 2020, Rite Aid has 2,464 stores.

**River Road** was the original name for what we now call Tanton Hill Road (*q.v.*), which runs alongside the Ridgefield Brook (*q.v.*) or Norwalk River (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Rivers**: Ridgefield has three "rivers," probably so called because of their length. They include the Norwalk, Titicus and Stamford Mill Rivers (*q.v. each*). The town is also in the watersheds (*q.v.*) of the Saugatuck River, the Housatonic River, and the Silvermine River. [JFS]

**Riverside Drive** from Druid Lane to Fire Hill Road at Stonehenge Estates (*q.v.*), was so called by developer Jerry Tuccio (*q.v.*) because it runs along the Norwalk River (*q.v.*). It became a town road in 1964. [RN]



**Riverside Motors:** Garage and Gulf gas station at 32 Ethan Allen Highway in the mid-20th Century; operated by Tarquinio “Turk” Pambianchi; sold some of the first Toyota vehicles in the USA, including a model called Toyopet.

**Roach, Joseph Aloysius,** (1896-1948), was wounded twice in World War I and held in a prison camp, but lived with his injuries and contributed considerably to his community until he finally succumbed at the age of 53. He became the first commander of the American Legion Post, was a grand knight of the Knights of Columbus, served on the Board of Education, was also active in Boy Scouting, a boxing coach, and operated a stone-cutting and monument business of his father. [WWW, DD4, DD75]

**Roache, Robert E.,** was a Ridgefield developer in the 1960s whose work included Powderhorn Drive, Old Musket Lane, and Lantern Drive, all in Farmingville. Roache “always wanted to be a cowboy,” said an acquaintance. He wore cowboy boots and a cowboy hat, and named one subdivision “Gun Hill Farms.” He later moved to the West. [RN]

**Road renumbering:** *See* Renumbering.

**Roads, federal:** U.S. Route 7 is a federal highway, so called not because it is owned by the federal government but because it is part of a nationwide numbering system designed to bring order to the highway network. The route numbers and locations are coordinated by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. Like state highways north-south routes like 7 are odd-numbered while east-west routes are even numbered.

**Roads, state:** State-maintained highways in Ridgefield are: Barry Avenue (Route 822 from High Ridge Avenue to Ramapoo Road intersection); Branchville Road (Route 102 from Route 7 to Main Street, Route 35); Catoonah Street (Route 822, entire length); Ethan Allen Highway (Route 7 from Wilton line to Route 35; Danbury Road (Route 35 from Main Street to Route 7, then Route 7 to Danbury line); High Ridge Avenue (Route 822 from Catoonah Street to Barry Avenue); Main Street (Route 33 from Wilton Roads East and West to Route 35 at fountain; then Route 35 to Danbury Road); North Salem Road (from Main Street, Route 35, to New York State line); South Salem Road (Route 35 from New York line to West Lane); West Lane (Route 835 from New York line to South Salem Road intersection, then Route 35 to Main Street); West Mountain Road (Route 822, from Barry Avenue at Ramapoo Road to New York line); Wilton Road West (Route 33 entire length, from Wilton line to Main Street). (*See also entries under various numbers*)

**Roads, town:** Ridgefield had 420 town roads totaling about 168 miles in 2018; *See also* State roads *and* Paving.

**ROAR:** Ridgefield Operation for Animal Rescue, an organization founded in 2000 that takes in and arranges adoption for both dogs and cats. In 2005 it established the Donofrio Family Animal Shelter at 45 South Street, designed by Sean O’Kane (*q.v.*).

**RoBell Printing:** At 971 Ethan Allen Highway, operated by Si Bellagamba in 1970s; became Connecticut Printing and Graphics (*q.v.*) by 1983.

**Roberts, E. Earl** (1896-1981) was a Ridgefield electrician and the local Locke mower dealer for many years; also early ham radio operator; lived on Island Hill Ave., then on Mamasasco Road [P6/18/1981] He had his store at 394 Main Street, opening just after that building was built [DD94]

**Roberts, Everett E. Jr.** (1916-2007), a Ridgefield native, was a World War II hero, receiving the Legion of Merit for service while executive officer aboard the destroyer escort USS Samuel B. Roberts in the “Battle off Samar”; RHS ca. 1936; Naval Academy, 1940; career officer, retiring 1958; held degree in bioradiation and served many years as military liaison to Atomic Energy Commission; later helped develop ballistic missile early warning system; died Lewistown, Pa. at age 66; son of E. Earl Roberts (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Roberts, Gail Flood**, (1935-1997), a Massachusetts native, served as the town’s dog warden from 1977 until her death, and considerably improved enforcement, facilities and treatment of animals in town. [WWW]

**Roberts, Henry Steele**, (1901-1975), a real estate broker from Brooklyn, owned a 20-room mansion at 45 Peaceable Street that burned to the ground May 1, 1938, less than a year after he paid \$55,000 (\$995,000 in 2020) to build it. [P3/3/1938]. In 1940 he was living at ONS18 Peaceable Street with wife Mary Seldon Roberts and three children. In 1942 he was working for Gateway Development Corp. in Norwalk.[DD196]

**Roberts, Joseph**, (1897-1985), was born Giosue Roberti in Italy and came to Ridgefield as a boy. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I, was a founder of the Italian American Mutual Aid Society (“the Italian Club”), and was a well-known general contractor, who developed Roberts Lane and Roberts Pond (*q.v. each*).

**Roberts Lane** is a short, dead-end road off Danbury Road, running alongside and beyond the Girolametti Court shopping area and the Mobil station, named for Joseph Roberts (*q.v.*), who lived there at some point and who built the first houses there around 1920. Until 1980, it was a private road. [RN]

**Roberts Pond**, off Saw Mill Hill Road, was also named for Joseph Roberts, who created it around 1930 with a wood and stone dam, In the 1940s and 50, Roberts Pond was used in summer as a swimming hole by the Ridgefield Boys’ Club. In winter, skating parties were often held there. [RN] *See also* Bucks Pond.

**Robinson, Mark**, a resident since 1992, served 12 years on the state’s Martin Luther King Commission and is the founder and organizer of Ridgefield’s annual Martin Luther King Day ceremony. He has been a member of the Ridgefield Youth Commission since 2010; was a member of the Ridgefield Economic Development Commission, and has been active in other community services. With Raymond Smaltz, he wrote the 2021 memoir, *Place of Privilege*, about their experiences as students at The Dalton School in NYC.

**Robinson, Mount**: A hill in the New Patten (*q.v.*), now western Danbury, mentioned in 1740s deeds, north of Mill Plain in Danbury. [RN, Liljegren]

**Rob’s Hollow**: 1963 subdivision of 25 acres from Ridgebury Road, opposite RHS, to Sherwood Road, with 6 lots and ca. 12 acres of open space swamp as part of the Titicus River watershed protection program (along the northern side of Sherwood Road near Ledges Road). Named for the son of James Hackert who, with Lewis J. Finch, subdivided the property. [RN]

**Rochambeau, Compte Jean Baptiste Donatien Vimeu**, (1725-1807) was a French general who stayed with his 4,800 troops in Ridgebury July 1-2, 1781 on way to meet Washington for attack on NYC; July 1 was his 56th birthday; troops camped north of George Washington Highway and west of Ridgebury Road opposite Old Stagecoach; the encampment was re-

enacted in October 1981; Rochambeau was at Yorktown for British surrender; his troops may have passed through Ridgefield again in 1782 on way back to Rhode Island where his ships were anchored. [P10/8/1981]

**Rochambeau Avenue:** Between Coppins Hill Road and Washington Avenue at Peatt Park (*q.v.*); named for Revolutionary War hero (*see above*), though he probably was never near this property. [RN]

**Roche, John S.** (1955-2018) was Ridgefield's fifth police chief. He joined the force in 1980 after a short period working in New Jersey; named officer of the year in 1983; named chief in 2008, he died while in office.

**Roche, Paul**, a native of Marlboro, Mass., was superintendent of the Parks and Recreation Department from 1977 to 2018, directing a minor town agency that grew from mainly mowing a few fields and maintaining Martin Park to a multimillion-dollar operation that runs hundreds of programs and maintains the grounds of almost all town property. He worked under five first selectmen — Lou Fossi, Liz Leonard, Sue Manning, Abe Morelli, and Rudy Marconi — and at four headquarters — 19 Market Street, Yanity Gym, Barlow Mountain, and today's Recreation Center (*q.v.*) on Danbury Road. When he retired he was town's longest serving administrator. He graduated from University of New Hampshire and was married to **Debbie Roche**, a banker active in the community.

**Rock Road**, a short dead-end lane off Mamasasco Road, is part of the Eight Lakes (*q.v.*) development of the early 1950s, but its basis is an old highway. On some old maps, it runs from Mamasasco Road to Old Sib Road and beyond. [RN]

**Rock Spring:** Two mid-19th Century deeds mention Rock Spring, a neighborhood locality off Florida Hill Road, somewhere in the vicinity of Cooper Hill Road. [RN]

**Rock Spring Lane** is a short, dead-end road off the east side of northern Limekiln Road, developed and named by Earl S. Miller, who filed a 16-lot subdivision of one-acre parcels on 22 acres in 1957. The name presumably refers to a rock spring in the area. [RN]

**Rockcrest Drive** at the Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*) runs from Knollwood Drive to Bob Hill Road. [RN]

**Rockefeller Center Christmas Trees**, from Ridgefield: first official tree at 30 Rockefeller Center was 1933, a 50-foot Norway spruce from Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*), decorated with 700 blue and white bulbs (today, trees carry 30,000 lights and are up to 100 feet tall; 1994 tree, an 85-foot Norway spruce, came from home of Maria and Alan Egler, 1 Old Oscaleta Road; 2006 trees, an 86-foot Norway spruce, was on property of Robert and Deborah Kinnaird, 69 Peaceable Hill Road; Outpost may have supplied other trees in the 1930s [Ridgefield Chronicles]

**Rockelein, Conrad** (1867-1954), a native of Germany, was a popular Ridgefield barber from 1889 until 1945; developed the "Mountain View Park" (*q.v.*) neighborhood off Danbury Road; active in Jesse Lee Methodist Church; name often misspelled Rocklein. [WWW]

**Rockwell family:** On July 9, 1711, Benjamin Hickock, one of the original 25 home lot owners, sold his house lot at the north corner of Main Street and King Lane to Thomas Rockwell, bringing a family here whose descendants are still in town in 2008.

**Rockwell, Alice Elizabeth**, (1895-1972), a Ridgefield native and a graduate of Johns Hopkins, was a pioneering woman physician, who was believed to be the first woman to practice

medicine in Bridgeport, Connecticut's largest city. She opened her practice in 1936 and retired in 1959. She maintained her family home at 48 East Ridge for many years. [P1.20.1972]

**Rockwell, Eli**, (1805-1857) was a Ridgebury farmer who was a state representative in 1839 and 1840 and a selectman in 1848 and 1849.

**Rockwell, Francis A.**, (1818-81), was a farmer and tinner who was a Republican state representative in 1867. With brother John W. Rockwell (*q.v.*), he established a candlestick factory, first on Main Street (opposite Aldrich Museum) and then on Catoonah Street (opposite the firehouse). The Rockwells also made augers and auger bits. Among their employees was John Brophy (*q.v.*). He held several patents on candlesticks and other devices. Rockwell also made grape and blackberry wines, widely sold in the region, especially in NYC and used as sacramental wine in churches. He was a member of the first Board of Directors of the Ridgefield Savings Bank. *See also* Catoonah Hall. [WWW, RSB21]

**Rockwell, George L.** (1869-1947), wrote *History of Ridgefield*, 1927; was postmaster 1912-16, 1924-35; state representative, 1905-07, 1937-39; and a U.S. consul in Montreal; born in New Haven, lived at The Hickories, Lounsbury Road, and on the East Ridge. His father was State Rep. Joel Lawrence Rockwell. [WWW, RSB26]

**Rockwell, Jane**, was a journalist and author of many children's books, including *Famous Authors Tell You About Their Beautiful Loving & Nutty Dogs*, *All About Ponds, Cats and Kittens: A First Book*, and *Wolves: A First Book*. She lived at 19 Mountain Road in the 1970s. [JFS, P5/8/1975]

**Rockwell, Joel Lawrence**, (1826-1909), a New York City native, was a shoe manufacturer who served as a Republican state representative in 1884. He was the father of State Rep. George Lounsbury Rockwell. [JFS]

**Rockwell, John Talcott**, (1801-81), a Ridgefield native, was a Ridgebury farmer who served as a Republican state representative in 1860. Active in the Ridgefield Congregational Church, especially its music program. He sold the family farm in 1862, moved to Brookfield, then Bethel and finally Danbury where he died. His daughter, Polly Maria, married George Boughton, also a state representative.

**Rockwell, John Wesley**, (1829-1917), owned The Elm Shade Cottages, later called The Elms Inn (*q.v.*) in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries [P8/21/1980]. He started out as a candle-maker and tinsmith, and with his brother, State Rep. Francis A. Rockwell (*q.v.*), operated a candlestick factory. He was married to Mary E. Byxbee (1825-1911), and had one daughter, Mary (*q.v.*). *See also* Catoonah Hall.

**Rockwell, Mary H. "May"** (1874-1949), was a music teacher in the first half of the 20th Century; owned and lived in the House of Friends (*q.v.*) [P8/21/1980]; daughter of Elms Inn owner John W. Rockwell. [WWW]

**Rockwell, Rev. Nathan Lounsbury**, (1851-1910), a native of Ridgefield, was a missionary in Korea when he died at the age of 59. He is buried in the Lounsbury section of the Ridgefield Cemetery. {P2/9,16,23/1909}

**Rockwell, Runa** (1773-1864), son of Abraham and Esther Rockwell, was a Ridgefield native who was a weaver, farmer and captain in the Connecticut militia. A story about him and his

wife, **Rachel Darling Rockwell**, appeared in many newspapers in 1858-59, noting that Runa's father fought the British at the Battle of Ridgefield and that four-year-old Runa saw several of the wounded patriots at his home in Ridgebury. Runa and Rachel were active in the Ridgebury Congregational Church to which they left an endowment. [JFS]

**Rockwell, Winthrop Edward**, (1881-1947), was first selectman, 1926-47; grew up in Farmingville, attended small Farmingville schoolhouse; studied at Phillips Exeter, Yale and Johns Hopkins, but because of ill health never graduated; served on Draft Board in WW1, was assistant town clerk, registrar of voters; active in Lions Club, Grange, director of Ridgefield Savings Bank; a Methodist; lived at 56 East Ridge (a house later owned by another Republican first selectman — *see* Sue Manning). [WWW, RSB29]

**Rockwell Road** is a very old highway running between Main Street and Branchville Road. It predates by more than a century the western end of Branchville Road (*q.v.*), and used to be the main route from the village to the southeastern part of town; it could be considered the original western end of Branchville Road. It had in the early 20th Century been known as DePeyster Street, Cushman Lane, and Lover's Lane (*q.v. each*). Perhaps to give stability to a name, George L. Rockwell, historian and postmaster, pressed his cousin, First Selectman Winthrop Rockwell, to officially name the road for their family, which were among the first settlers and proprietors of the town. (Neither lived near the road.) [RN]

**Rocky Neck** and **Rocky Spring**, both 18th Century names, were apparently related localities on West Mountain, possibly south of Round Pond and near the NY line. [RN]

**Rodier, Marywade Moses**, (1912-2003), a native of Washington, D.C., established Rodier Flowers (*q.v.*) in 1953. Active in the arts community, she was a founder of Ridgefield Guild of Artists and among the early backers of the Ridgefield Symphonette (*q.v.*); wife of William B. Rodier (*q.v.*).

**Rodier, William B.**, (1912-1999), a landscape contractor who had earlier come here to work for Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*), was one of the three founders of the Ridgefield Symphonette, now called the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra. He was a violinist. He also served on the town's school building committees in the 1960's and on the Park Commission; husband of Marywade (*q.v.*) They lived at 76 Ivy Hill Road; developed Jeffro Drive (*q.v.*), in part named for them (*q.v.*). [RN] [WWW] *See also* Otto H. Jespersen.

**Rodier Flowers** at 384 Main Street was founded in 1953 by Marywade Rodier (*q.v.*). Operated on Bailey Avenue across from Ridgefield Press many years; then moved to 447 Main Street and finally to its current address. Acquired in the 1980s by Richard and Pat Provino — Pat had worked for Marywade Rodier; purchased in 2009 by Mary Jones, owner in 2020. [JFS]

**Rogers, Donald Irwin**, (1918-1980), a native of New Hartford, was an economic conservative who wrote 14 books including *Teach Your Wife to Be A Widow*, *How to Beat Inflation Using It*, and *The Day the Market Crashed*, and *The End of Free Enterprise: A Manifesto for Capitalists*. He had a syndicated business-affairs column, 1950-1966. He moved to Mimosa 1964 when he was publisher of the *Bridgeport Sunday Herald*. In 1969, he created a Fairfield County daily newspaper, *The Fairfield County Courier*, and was editor and publisher of the short-lived attempt. He moved to Manhattan in 1976. [WWW]

**Rogers, Dr. E.I.**, opened a medical practice at 360 Main Street, which he subsequently tried to rezone for a First National supermarket (*q.v.*). He was killed in an auto accident.

**Rogers, Jimmy**, was a Ridgefield comic character and ventriloquist in the 1920s and 30s, described by Venus in DD46, 61, 97]

**Rolew Farm**: Name Paul and Evelyn Palmer (*q.v.*) gave to their estate in the 1930s between Wilton Road East and Nod Hill Road, later Flat Rock House.

**Roll of Honor, the**, was a triptych sign erected at the northwest corner of the Town Hall yard, starting in August 1942, honoring all the town's service men and women. By war's end about 505 names were listed (see World War II).

**Rolle, Elizabeth**, was named rabbi of Temple Shearith Israel (*q.v.*) in November 1981 when she was one of only 50 female rabbis in the world. [P21/19/1981]; married 1985 Rabbi Philip E. Schechter. She left in May 1982 to take a position at a Jewish center in White Plains. [P5/20/1982]

**Rolling Hills Estates**: A subdivision of 25 one-acre lots on 35 acres off Still Road, developed by Lewis J. Finch (*q.v.*) who named the place for the "gently rolling hills" thereabouts. It includes Nursery Road, Mill View Terrace and Rolling Hills Road. [RN]

**Rolling Hills Road**: Short, dead-end road off Nursery Road at Rolling Hills Estates (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Rolling Meadow Estates**: *See* Ridgebury Estates.

**Rolling Ridge Road**: A dead-end road off Old Stagecoach Road at Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*), developed in the late 1950s and early 1960s.[RN]

**Roma Pizzeria** at 411 Main Street was one of the most famous and popular restaurants in Ridgefield. The restaurant opened in early 1960s at ONS119 Main Street on the east side of the street. In 1966, owner Joseph Gigliotti went into partnership with brothers John, Gigi and George Amatuzzi (*q.v.*), who ca. 1970, took over the business and moved across the street to the "Telephone Building" (*q.v.*), to a spot that had been occupied by the Ridgefield Luncheonette (*q.v.*) A few years later, the Amatuzzis purchased and renovated. The family including wives Anna Marie (Mrs. George) and Vicki (Mrs. Gigi) retired in 2003. Planet Pizza, a small regional chain, took over the spot. [JFS]

**Romans map of 1777**: Bernard Romans drew a map of Connecticut in 1777 that, in Ridgefield, depicts inaccurately the route between Ridgebury and the center of Ridgefield village. The map also shows a road from Ridgebury center, running out of town southwesterly. This was probably Spring Valley and Mopus Bridge Roads; shows the old Oblong (*q.v.*); first major map to spell town "Ridgefield" (predecessors said Ridgfield) but uses "Ridgebury" for Ridgebury; shows some churches, Mamasasco mill.

**Rome, Harold Jacob**, (1908-1993), a native of Hartford, was a composer, lyricist and writer for Broadway who lived on lower Great Hill Road in the mid-1940s, probably drawn here by his friendship with James Waterman Wise (*q.v.*). Rome wrote such musicals as "Wish You Were Here" in 1952, "Fanny" in 1954, "Destry Rides Again" in 1959, and the show in which Barbra Streisand made her Broadway debut, "I Can Get It for You Wholesale" in 1962. [WWW]

**Root, Charles T.**, (-1938) owned the Hillscroft (*q.v.*) farm/estate on St. Johns Road early in the 20th Century. His daughter married Franklin P. Adams, a once famous newspaper columnist and humorist. [DD170] He was president of the United Publishers Corp., producer of a dozen trade magazines such as "Iron Age/" As founder of the American

Association for Scientific Taxation, he was called “a profound thinker in the world of business and business economics.”

**Root, Ednah:** *See* Ednah Shapiro.

**Roothbert, Albert** (1874-1965) and **Antonie “Toni” von Horn Roothbert** (1899-1970), were philanthropists who lived at Topstone Farm on Topstone Road from just after their marriage in 1937 until their deaths. Both natives of Germany, he was a successful NYC investment banker who retired at 50 to devote his life to modern and Oriental art; she was a pioneering woman fashion photographer whose works appeared in *Vanity Fair*, *Vogue*, and *Harper’s Bazaar*; she photographed many celebrities and was especially noted for her picture of Albert Einstein. In 1958, the Roothberts established the Roothbert Fund to aid “students motivated by spiritual values, who can satisfy high scholastic requirements and are considering teaching as a vocation.” More than 1,000 Roothbert fellows have been named since then. They also set up a scholarship at RHS. Name sometimes erroneously reported as Rothbart. [WWW]

**Rosa, Kathryn Venus “Kitty,”** (1921-2014), a Ridgefield native, was a leading voice in the efforts for historic preservation, and was a major force behind the purchase of the Keeler Tavern by the Keeler Tavern Preservation Society in 1965. She was a member of Historic District Commission from 1969 until her death — she was chairman from 1973 to 1999. She lived in a 1750 house at 75 Olmstead Lane; wife of Paul J. Rosa Jr. (*q.v.*). [NR] She operated the Village Trader, an antiques store, on Prospect Street in the 1960s. [P4/22/1965, 7/2/1968]

**Rosa, Paul J. Jr.,** (1927-2004), who grew up in Stamford, was a major town official in the late half of 20th Century. Starting in 1960, he served Ridgefield for 37 years on the Zoning Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Finance; was also chairman of the Republican Town Committee for 10 years; member of committees on tax relief for the elderly, and data processing. Husband of Kathryn Rosa (*q.v.*). [NR]

**ROSA:** *See* Ridgefield Open Space Association.

**Roscoe Road** is a previous name of today’s Pin Pack Road (*q.v.*), reflecting a family that lived many years thereabouts and perhaps specifically to the family of Harry Roscoe, who lived there early in the 20th Century. Roscoe, and its variants Ruscoe and Rasco, were names of families here as early as 1783. [RN]

**Rose, Lt. Walter W.,** (1920-1943), a native of New York whose family lived at Outpost Farms, was a decorated Army Air Force navigator during World War II. He had served in Greenland, Iceland, Labrador, and England before being assigned to the invasion of North Africa. On July 9, 1943, during the assault on Sicily, he was wounded; died July 24 and is buried in Tunisia; posthumously awarded the Air Medal. [NR]

**Rosenberg, Debbie:** *See* Imogene Coca.

**Rosenberg, Herbert F.,** started practicing in Ridgefield in 1975, and moved here in 1977. He opened a law office at Village Bank Building, 25 Prospect Street, in 1981; had been a partner with Romeo Petroni as Petroni and Rosenberg; UConn graduate; named town attorney in 1981 and resigned in 1983 to move to Florida. [P2/10/1983] He was chairman in 1981 of the Charter Revision Commission. He lived on Twin Ridge Road. [P4/2/1981]

**Rose's Kiddy Shoppe:** *See* Kiddy Shoppe.

**Ross, Alexander,** (1909-1990), a native of Scotland who came to the U.S. as a child, was an artist specializing in nature, especially spring and summer flowers. Had been a Good Housekeeping magazine cover artist for many years; also painted for Saturday Evening Post, McCall's, Cosmopolitan, and Colliers — often including some or all of his four children as models; illustrated three religious books. In 1969, he designed a U.S. commemorative postage stamp for the 100th anniversary of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team. Lived in Ridgebury from the 1970s until his death. [WWW]

**Ross, C. Chandler,** (1887-52), was a portrait artist who painted many of the captains of industry, including F. W. Woolworth, but also Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S Truman. He bought the former Country Club of Ridgefield (*q.v.*) land and turned it into an estate that later became Ward Acres (*q.v.*) [WWW] He is not related to Alexander Ross (*q.v.*).

**Ross Lane:** A little, private, dead-end lane off Griffin Hill Road. In 1925 soon after Virginia Mulligan subdivided that area into tiny lots, Frederick W. Ross bought six of the lots (for a total of \$374). [RN]

**Rotary Club** was founded in 1940, with a formal organizational meeting Jan. 2, 1941 at Outpost Inn [P1/9/1941]. Clifford Holleran (*q.v.*) was elected first president. The club is known for its Citizen of the Year Award (*q.v.*), honoring outstanding Ridgefielders. It also gives scholarships and community grants; hosts speakers; and has a major fundraiser is “A Taste of Ridgefield” each January. It has also run foreign exchange programs. The club elected its first female member — Barbara Ireland (*q.v.*) — in January 1991 [P2/7/1991]

**Rotary Citizen of the Year:** Annual (except 1985, 2020) award from Rotary Club (*q.v.*), recognizing service to the community; names are on plaques in the town hall: Charles Ashbee, 1959; Isabell O'Shea, 1960; Silvio Bedini, 1961; Irene Hoyt, 1962; Rev. Hugh Shields, 1963; Anne Richardson, 1964; Francis D. Martin, 1965; J. Mortimer Woodcock, 1966; Dr. Francis B. Woodford, 1967; Charles Weedon, 1968; Otto H. Jespersen, 1969; Joseph Pinchbeck, 1970; Clifford Holleran, 1971; Edith Meffley, 1972; Don Archer, 1973; Richard E. Venus, 1974; Priscilla Lee, 1975; Harry E. Hull, 1976; Daniel M. McKeon, 1977; Jack B. Ward, 1978; Leo F. Carroll, 1979; Sarah Bulkley Randolph, 1980; Rev. Aaron Manderbach, 1981; Clara Platt, 1982; Karl S. Nash, 1983; Romeo G. Petroni, 1984; Paul J. Morganti, 1986; Theodore H. Safford Jr., 1987; Peter V. Yanity, 1988; Lawrence Aldrich, 1989; Preston R. Bassett, 1990; Michael Pontello, 1991; The Amatuzzi Family, 1992; Charles A. Spire, 1993; Gordon McGovern, 1994; Lee Dickinson, 1995; Lillian Willis, 1996; Chares Creamer, 1997; Sue Manning, 1998; Claire Kirby, 1999; Beth Yanity, 2000; Jeanne Timpanelli, 2001; George J. Goodstadt, 2002; Deborah L. Roche, 2003; Martha and Dave Campbell, 2004; Kay Ables, 2005; Ed Allan, 2006; Michael P. Ryer, 2007; Maureen Kiernan, 2008; Robert Tulipani, 2009; William Wyman, 2010; Philip and Christine Lodewick, 2011; Debra Hayes, 2012; Sarah Bouissou, 2013; Marcia and Peter Coffin, 2014; Christina B. Nolan, 2015; Joyce Ligi, 2016; Allison Stockel, 2017; Richard Vazzana, 2018; Mary Jones, 2019;

**Rothman, Martha,** elected state representative in January 1982 to fill unexpired term of Elizabeth Leonard, who had become first selectman [P1/7/1982]; a Republican, she



defeated Norman Craig; re-elected 1983, 1985, retired 1986; lived at 23 Wooster Heights Drive.

**Rottenberg, Joshua**, RHS 1989, is a staff writer for the Los Angeles Times covering the film business. A Harvard graduate, he has written for the NY Times and was a senior writer at Entertainment Weekly.

**Rotunda, Thomas**, a native of Danbury, was Ridgefield's third police chief; joined the department in 1965; named chief in 1977; retired in 1999 to become executive director of the State Division of Special Revenue, which oversees casinos, state lottery, dog tracks, etc. Retired in 2001 and moved to South Carolina.

**Roughan, Howard**, is a novelist; *The Up and Comer* (2001) and *The Promise of a Lie* (2004); also co-wrote novels *Honeymoon*, *You've Been Warned*, *Sail*, and *Don't Blink* with best-selling author James Patterson.

**Round Hill:** Early 18th Century name, probably for the hill on which much of Silver Spring Country Club is located, or it may be the hill mostly in today's Lewisboro, on and just across the NY line along West Lane. [RN]

**Round Lake Road** runs from Barrack Hill Road to Round Pond where it dead ends; developed in the 1950s as part of Eight Lakes Estates (*q.v.*); should really be Round Pond Road. [RN]

**Round Mountain:** 1. Many 18th Century deeds for land in the New Patent mention Round Mountain, situated in western Danbury, north of Bogg's Pond and about a mile north of I-84, and west of Middle River Road, territory that was Ridgefield before 1846. The hill is about 1,025 feet above sea level. 2. USGS maps published since 1938 say the Scotland and Barlow Mountain Schools site is called Round Mountain. The name is not found in 18th or 19th Century deeds, but does appear on an 1893 map; 620 above sea level. [RN]

**Round Pond** is one of the few natural bodies of water in Ridgefield and, at 32 acres, is the second largest. At 778 feet above sea level, it is also the highest. So-called at least by 1721, it was used as a source of fish, ice and, for much of the 20th Century, drinking water provided by the Ridgefield Water Supply Company, which owned it as a reservoir. In the 1990s, Aquarion, which bought the water company, stopped using the reservoir because it would be too expensive to build a purification plant that new federal regulations required. In October 2004, Round Pond became state property, part of the "Centennial Watershed State Forest" that includes 15,000 acres the state acquired from Aquarion, largely in other counties. Its roundness comes from a geologic formation that created it — a kind of "fluvioglacial landform." Round Pond fills a "kettle." Kettles were created when a glacier receded, leaving occasional large isolated masses of buried ice. As the ice gradually melted and the ground above it slowly sank, a bowl-like depression formed. On West Mountain, a spring or springs and a relatively small watershed has filled the bowl with water to create the pond. [RN]

**Route 1:** See Route 33.

**Route 3:** See Route 35.

**Route 7:** Only U.S. highway in Ridgefield; runs north-south from Wilton line to Danbury line; called Ethan Allen Highway (*q.v.*) from Wilton to Route 35, and Danbury Road (*q.v.*) from Route 35 to Danbury line; the official name for the entire 308 miles of U.S. Route 7 from Norwalk to the Canadian border, is Ethan Allen Highway, though most towns employ, older

local names; Route 7 travels 78 miles through Connecticut. *See also* Roads, federal, Super 7, and Route 126.

**Route 14:** *See* SH 14.

**Route 33:** In the 1920s, this was State Route 304; extends from Wilton line north to intersection of Route 35 at the Fountain; includes Wilton Road West and Main Street; Route 33 once continued north along Main Street and North Salem Road to NY line; in 1966, state changed North Salem Road portion to Route 116 to match the route number in New York.

**Route 35:** Runs from NY line to U.S. Route 7, includes South Salem Road, West Lane, Main Street, and Danbury Road; in 1926, was State Route 3; changed to Route 35 in 1932.

**Route 35A:** *See* Route 835.

**Route 102:** State highway from Route 7 in Branchville to Route 35 (Main Street) in village; in 1926, was State Route 329; changed to 102 in 1932; before 1979, also included Catoonah Street, High Ridge, Barry Avenue, and West Mountain Road — *see* Route 822. In 1961, state abandoned plans to realign Route 102 east of Route 35 — a new road would have run from Main Street opposite West Lane (at fountain) to Route 102 near Rockwell Road intersection. Town officials opposed new road in historic area that would have required loss of a pre-revolutionary house; state straightened the road in Branchville in spring, 1958.

**Route 116:** State highway from Route 116 northwesterly to New York State lane; in 1926, was State Route 143.

**Route 126:** Old State Number for today's Route 7 from Norwalk north to intersection of Route 35 (then called Route 3).

**Route 143:** *See* Route 116.

**Route 304:** *See* Route 33.

**Route 822:** A "secret route" (numbered routes maintained by the state but without signposts), formerly the western leg of Route 102; 3.62 miles from Main Street over Catoonah Street, High Ridge, Barry Avenue, and West Mountain Road to NY line; so numbered since 1979.

**Route 835:** A "secret route" (numbered routes maintained by the state but without signposts), 1 mile of lower West Lane from South Salem Road at schoolhouse to state line; before 1968, known as Route 35A.

**Rowe, Dr. Robert A.,** (1917-1998), a native of Vermont, was a music educator in the Ridgefield schools, coming here in 1946 as supervisor of music, a new position; developed innovative K-12 curriculum; studied at Juilliard; served in marines; held UConn doctorate; retired from schools in 1979, but continued to teach music; active in Rotary; music director at First Congregational Church for 20 years. [NR]

**Rowland Lane,** a short, dead-end road off East Ridge, was named for Joseph Rowland, who lived there and who developed the houses along the road. He began building in that neighborhood around 1940. The lane became a town road in 1951. [RN]

**Rowland, Alice V. MacSherry,** (1894-1971), a Republican, was a state representative, 1931-35, and a state senator, 1943-51 — the first woman elected a senator from Ridgefield. She was also the first woman deputy sheriff in Connecticut. She was a teacher and later a member of the State Board of Education for six years. Rowland Lane recalls her and her carpenter husband, Joseph (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Rowland, Joseph Samuel** (1887-1962), was a contractor who during the first half of this century, built many houses in town. “He was able to put up a house much cheaper than others,” said Leo F. Carroll (q.v.). He was a native of Weston where he met his wife, Alice (q.v.). They moved here in 1913. [RN]

**Rowley, John**, (ca. 1841-1864), was a Civil War soldier listed on the War Memorial on Main Street who was convicted of murdering a fellow soldier and hanged as a traitor; no record of his ever having lived in Ridgefield has been found — he was probably a “substitute” for a Ridgefield man. [WWW]

**Royal Scarlet Store** was once Perry’s Market, later Gristede’s (*q.v. each*), probably in the 1930s or early 40s.

**Royall Oak Ridge** is an 18th Century name that appears in one deed and on one early map for land in the Southwest Ridges (q.v.). The ridge was probably in today’s Lewisboro, along Elmwood Road north of Vista. Trees on this ridge being set aside by British officials for government use, such as for planks or masts on naval ships. [RN]

**Rubel, Samuel**, (1881-1949), a native of Latvia, was an ice and coal merchant in Brooklyn, who became a leading brewer of beer (Ebling); bought Sunset Hall (*q.v.*) in 1947 and died there two years later; was an art collector. [WWW]

**Ruggles, Rudy L. Jr.**, a Harvard-educated physicist, was an IBM scientist and executive in the 1960s who became a scholar at the Hudson Institute and served as its president for five years in the 1970s. He spent the rest of his career in intelligence and national security affairs in the U.S. and abroad, including many months each year in the People’s Republic of China from 1982 to 1997, as well as other overseas locations. He is closely involved in helping Danbury Hospital whose Ruggles Biomedical Research Institute is named for him. He is a longtime Ridgefield resident.

**Ruggles Fine Arts Reading Room** is the room on the north, just after entering the Ridgefield Library through the Main Street door. Named for Sara and Rudy Ruggles (*q.v.*), benefactors of the library, it contains books and media related to the fine arts, including collections of music on CD.

**R.U.O.K.:** See Are You Okay.

**Rural Free Delivery:** Introduced in 1901 in Ridgefield, it brought mail to farmers outside the more densely populated village; previously rural residents had to go to a post office to get their mail; until 1905, RFD carriers could also sell stamps and money orders, and had their own stamp cancellations; in 1925, village delivery was instituted [RIR]; first rural mail carrier was Robert Wilson (*q.v.*) [P9/1940]

**Russell, Rev. Francis T.**, serves as rector of St. Stephen’s Church from 1866 to 1868.

**Rustic Drive and Road** are at the Ridgefield Lakes (*q.v.*). Rustic Road runs from Bennett’s Farm Road northerly along the eastern side of the north finger of Fox Hill Lake to a dead end. Rustic Drive goes from Rustic Road to Madeline Drive. [RN]

**Rusty Nail, The:** Restaurant at 23½ Catoonah Street opened April 1981; had been restaurant called 23½ Catoonah Street; owners were David Gardner and Paul McKeegan.

**Rux, Al**, was the first foreman of the town highway department. [DD79]

**RVNA:** Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association (*q.v.*)

**Ryan, Cornelius** (1920-1974), native of Ireland, was a historian, journalist and author of World War II trilogy, *The Longest Day*, *The Last Battle*, and *A Bridge Too Far*; lived at 135 Old Branchville Road and is buried in Ridgebury Cemetery; Walter Cronkite gave a eulogy at the funeral in St. Mary; only 54 when died; 4 years after his death, his struggle with cancer detailed in *A Private Battle*, written by Kathryn Morgan Ryan (q.v.) from notes he had secretly left behind for that purpose. [WWW]

**Ryan, Ethel McGlynn**, (1886-1971), a Republican, was state representative, 1925-29, 1943-47, the first woman to hold a state legislative office from the town. She taught at the Titicus School and was later a member of the Board of Education. She served on Merritt Parkway Commission, which oversaw the design and placement of the highway; wife of William H. Ryan, businessman and former State Highway Department foreman. [NR]

**Ryan, James E.**, (1876-1940), owned Ryan's General Store (q.v.) and was president of the First National Bank and Trust Company of Ridgefield; a Republican, he served as state representative, 1915-19. [RSB26]

**Ryan, Kathryn Morgan**, (1924-1993), a Phi Beta Kappa U. of Missouri graduate at 19, was magazine editor who in 1950 married historian-journalist Cornelius Ryan (q.v.). She did much research for her husband, whose battle with cancer she described in *A Private Battle* in 1978. She also wrote the novel, *The Betty Tree* (1972). After her husband's death, she lived on Jackson Court before moving to Florida where she died. She had been active in St. Stephen's Church, the Ridgefield Garden Club, and the District Nurse Association. [WWW]

**Ryan's General Store**: At 410 Main Street (ONS #111), operated by James E. Ryan in 1930s; sold general merchandise, including poultry feed; occupied in 2018 by William Raveis Real Estate.

**Ryba, Walter G. Jr.**, (1941-2000), who grew up in Ridgefield and was president of RHS 1959, was a professor of business law and dean of the School of Business at Fairfield University when he died. At RHS, he was also a captain of the baseball, football and basketball teams; he graduated from Dartmouth. He lived at 105 New Street. (His name is pronounced *Ree-ba*.) [P8/24/2000]

## S

**Sabbath School**: In January 1859, of the 500 children aged 4 to 16 in Ridgefield, only 200 are attending Sabbath School, prompting the Congregational, Episcopal and Methodist churches to undertake a recruitment campaign. In March, Anna Resseguie reported, "The Sabbath School has increased in numbers in our three churches, since the effort commenced of bringing in the destitute." [DAR]

**Sabilia, Carmella**, (1859-1943), a native of Italy, was known as "The Peanut Lady" because she would travel on foot from Georgetown to surrounding villages, including Ridgefield, selling bags of roasted peanuts at 10 cents each. She and her husband had a grocery store in Georgetown and she would roast the peanuts early in the morning. Was in her 70s before she stopped her treks. Reportedly left a small fortune when she died. [WWW]

**Sacco** Ristorante and Bar operated in the early 1990s at 90 Danbury Road, Ridgefield Commerce Park. [JFS]

**Sachem Hill:** Name of Robert A. DeMar's 1968 subdivision that turned 110-acre former St. Vincent de Paul novitiate (*q.v.*), also called Sunset Hall (*q.v.*), into 26 house lots off Old West Mountain, Round Lake, and Walnut Hill Roads; included sizable open space donation on Round Pond (*q.v.*) and a Little League field once used by novices. [RN]

**Sackett's Academy:** "A man by the name of Sackett was employed to keep a high-school, or, as it was then called, an Academy" in the early 1800s. Samuel G. Goodrich, about age 12, attended the academy, which he called a seminary. [ROAL]

**Safe Rides,** founded in November 1982, is a student-run program that provides rides Friday and Saturday nights much of the year for students who may need them for whatever reason, but chiefly to avoid impaired driving by young people. In its first year, it provided 626 rides [P12/18/1983] but in the years that followed about 1,200 rides a year were provided. [RP1]

**Safford, Dr. Theodore** (1923-2015), was a popular and professionally acclaimed family physician from 1951 to 1990s; active in professional family medical organizations and in the District Nursing Association; Rotary Citizen of the Year in 1987; served in Navy; lived on Main Street and off West Lane. [WWW, P6/18/1987]

**Sagebrush Serenaders:** Country-western band based around the Tulipani brothers (*q.v.*) during the 1940s and 50s, performing at many square dances, with Aldo was on the accordion, Albert guitar, Joseph sax, John drums or bass, and Alfred bass. Bud Morrisroe played violin. [WWW]

**SAI:** See Suburban Action Institute.

**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church** had its first worship service in Veterans Park School Dec. 15, 1963; 125 attended; 53 children in the first Sunday school classes. In 1968, 6½ acres were purchased from the George Blackfords for a church building on Ivy Hill and Branchville Roads. On St. Andrew's Day, Nov. 30, 1969, the new 5,900-square-foot building, seating 275, was dedicated. In 1978, the congregation withdrew from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to become a member of the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches. A 1983 2,600-square-foot addition to the church now houses classrooms, a music room, and fellowship areas. The new sanctuary was completed in 2013. [P10/15/2015]

**St. Elizabeth Seton Parish:** Established December 1978 under leadership of Father Francis Medynski (*q.v.*), who had been pastor of St. Mary's.

**St. George Pure Water:** In 1903, Dr. Benn Adelmarr Bryon (*q.v.*) bought land at the top of Titicus Mountain [P5/71903] where a rock spring flowed; he dubbed spring St. George and was soon bottling its output under the name of St. George Pure Water. Sales were reportedly "respectable."

**St. Ignatius Retreat House:** See Society of St. Pius X and St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary.

**St. John, Delia E.** (1866-1958), a member of an old Norwalk family, taught at both the last Farmingville schoolhouse, and a little red schoolhouse that preceded it, starting in 1893; she did a painting of that schoolhouse that is currently held by Jack and Sally Sanders.

**St. John, Keeler,** sold his shingle mill (*q.v.*) on the upper Titicus in 1948 [RLR 19.21].

**St. John, Samuel,** (1763-1848), a Ridgebury farmer, served in the Revolution and is buried in Ridgebury Cemetery. His three-year-old daughter was "killed by a cider mill wheel" in 1798. [JW]

**St. John, Samuel Sydney** (1806-65), a Ridgefield native and Columbia graduate who studied law, had a store in Ridgebury in late 1820s; in 1832, established a “classical and commercial school” called Ridgefield Boarding School in the village of Ridgefield; state senator 1837; from 1843-59, was a principal in NYC, overseeing more than 4,000 pupils; in 1859 returned to his Ridgebury farm; state representative, 1864. [Hurd] He was a Union Party member and son of Thomas St. John, also a state representative. [WWW]

**St. John, Thomas**, (1739-1816), an early Ridgebury settler, was a sergeant in the Connecticut Fifth Regiment in 1775. He is buried in Ridgebury Cemetery. [JW]

**St. John, Thomas**, (1785-1848), was a Ridgebury farmer who served as district postmaster in Ridgebury from 1835 until his death. He was a state representative in 1832 and 1833, and father of future State Rep. Samuel Sydney St. John.

**St. John, Thomas Platt** (1830-65), son of Samuel Sydney St. John (*q.v.*), a Columbia graduate, was an attorney in NYC and promising politician; in 1851 at age 21, was elected as a state representative, then reelected; author of “Annus Mirabilis,” long poem published in booklet form 1848; preferring life of a farmer he left NYC in 1859 but the death of his wife, Mary, 1864, left him despondent and he died a year later, only 35 years old. [Hurd]

**St. Johns Road** is an 18th Century highway that runs from Wilton Road West southerly to Silver Spring Road. It may have originally been a farm path to skirt the east side of Silver Spring Swamp. As such it would have served as an access to not only the backs of the lots of Wilton Road farms, but also to the swamp, an important source of wildfowl and wild flora, such as cranberries. Members of the St. John family owned farmland thereabouts as early as 1815, but probably earlier. Captain Samuel Saintjohn, Matthias Saintjohn, and Matthew Saintjohn were among the first settlers and proprietors, coming here from Norwalk. [RN]

**St. Mary Cemetery:** Established 1883 as St. Mary’s Cemetery, on corner of North Street and Copps Hill Road; addition including 16-foot Calvary group of statues and new entrance, dedicated June 1, 1924 [P6/5/1924] columbarium added in 2007; about 4,000 graves and memorials in 2018 on eight of the 21 acres owned by St. Mary Parish; one of only four Catholic cemeteries in the Diocese of Bridgeport, it contains many former residents of Wilton, Redding and nearby NY state.

**St. Mary Church:** Originally called St. Mary’s Church; cornerstone laid July 4, 1896 [P7/10/1896] building erected at cost of \$20,700; dedicated July 5, 1897; bell installed 1901; style described by the Ridgefield Design Council [AR] as “the only Victorian church in town, an eclectic melange of Gothic, Italianate, Queen Anne and Shingle style architecture.” *see* St. Mary Parish. Expanded and extensively renovated in 2021 in a project called “Gather and Grow,” including the addition of an adoration chapel in the front and a new sacristy in the rear.

**St. Mary Clubhouse:** *See* St. Mary’s Club.

**St. Mary Parish:** The Catholic church on Catoonah Street was officially named St. Mary’s Church in 1881 by the Rev. Lawrence Stephen McMahon, bishop of Hartford. The Rev. Thaddeus Walsh is named the first pastor; incorporates May 12, 1882; August 1882 buys its cemetery land on North Street; land purchased 1893 from Jacob Lockwood for new church and rectory; rectory built 1894, church in 1896; in 1953, Marianite Sisters of The Holy Cross begin serving in parish; rector razed week of June 13, 1974. [RPJ5/12]

**St. Mary School:** The Catholic school opened in 1955 temporarily in the clubhouse on Catoonah Street. The new school building opened in September 1956 with 206 pupils in first through fifth grades. The land was donated in 1954 by Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Hoffman. Staffed by Marianite Sisters of the Holy Cross (*q.v.*), the school's first principal was Sister M. Helen. 53 sculptures in the school were done by noted artist Frederick Shrady (*q.v.*), a parishioner whose children attended the school. In 1962, Father John Draper became principal; in 1962 also, voters approved providing school bus transportation for St. Mary's pupils. In 1963, a new addition including a convent was built; by the late 1960s, the school had 600 pupils. The school closed in June 1970 after teaching nuns departed, citing lack of vocations; it reopened starting 1996 when 20 children entered kindergarten, expanding to higher grades in subsequent years; in 2005, the first 8th grade class of the "new" Saint Mary School graduated; in 2018, school had 196 K-8 students and 70 preschoolers. [JFS]

**St. Mary's Club, Clubhouse:** St. Mary's Clubhouse was built in 1907 under Pastor Richard E. Shortell (*q.v.*), and dedicated Memorial Day that year; St. Mary's Club, for men only, was established at the end of the same year, with 75 members [P11/21/1907]. The building later became Knights of Columbus Hall. It was converted to parish offices in the 1990s. [RN]

**St. Mary's Fall Festival:** Church fair operated for many years on a Saturday in early September; parish fundraiser [P7/31/1980]; first fair was 1973.

**St. Mary's Rectory:** Built 1894 just east of the church on Catoonah Street; razed 1974 under the Rev. Martin J. O'Connor, pastor, after St. Mary's School closed, and much space became available in the school for housing priests.

**St. Stephen's Athletic Association:** Created early in the 20th Century by parish, its basketball teams such as White and Red, and Black and Red, played for the public in town hall [P2/27/1908]; also had a baseball team.

**St. Stephen's Church** was established in 1725 as an Anglican mission by the Rev. Samuel Johnson (*q.v.*), who went on to help found what is now Columbia University. The first church building, erected around 1740, was burned by the British in 1777, and replaced in 1791. Church and parish were formally named for St. Stephen in 1831. The first ministers were missionaries who handled several or more churches. The first settled rector was Dr. David Perry (*q.v.*), who served 1791-95 and remained in town as a physician (his son and grandson were also physicians here). The current church, the fourth, was built in 1915. The first rectory was built about 1838 at the southwest corner of what is now Ballard Park, across from today's library (but then across from Smith Tavern). In 1852, the parish acquired "Ashland Cottage" (*q.v.*) as a rectory; it was sold in 1889. In 1887, the Keeler Dauchy house, just north of the church, was purchased as a rectory; in 1914, it was moved to 23 Catoonah Street and a new, larger rectory built farther back from Main Street.

**St. Stephen's Church: Its History for 250 Years 1725 to 1975:** The story of the church and its place in the community was written by Robert S. Haigh (*q.v.*); 220 pages, indexed and illustrated, published by the church, 1975.

**St. Stephen's Church Reaches the Millennium,** 114 pages, indexed and illustrated, covers 1975 to 2000; by Dirk Beollenback; published by the church, 2000.

**St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary:** Conservative Catholic seminary at 209 Tackora Trail, dedicated May 25, 1980 by controversial Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre; at the same time,

Lefebvre ordains several priests, an action Bridgeport Diocese Bishop Walter Curtis declares “illegal”; Lefebvre returned April 22-28, 1982, for more ordinations [P3/25/1982]; seminary function eventually discontinued. *See* Society of St. Pius X.

**St. Thomas of Villanova, Sisters of**, came from France in 1954 to run a convalescent home in Norwalk, and bought a house at 40 Barry Avenue in 1968 as a retreat. They found they did not have time to use it to rest themselves and sold it in 1972. [JFS]

**St. Vincent de Paul novitiate**: The Congregation of the Mission, commonly known as the Vincentians (*q.v.*), bought Sunset Hall (*q.v.*) in 1955 to use as a novitiate. It closed around 1966 and its 110 acres subdivided as Sachem Hill (*q.v.*) in 1968. [JFS]

**Saks, Jay David**, (1945-), a native of NYC who studied at Juilliard and Mannes College of Music, has won 13 Grammys (he was nominated for 53) and two Emmys as a music sound producer. His specialty is classical and Broadway music; he has worked with Eugene Ormandy, Yo Yo Ma, James Levine, Pinchas Zukerman, Seiji Ozawa, James Galway, Marilyn Horne, Michael Tilson Thomas, Emanuel Ax, Andre Previn; has done many Broadway cast albums; audio producer of Live from the Met broadcasts for more than 20 years; also Great Performances series on PBS, Disney’s Fantasia 2000; moved to Ridgefield in 1977; retired in 2019; active in support of the Dlh Ridge Golf Course (*q.v.*). [NR]

**Salem View Drive** runs off the east side lower Spring Valley Road, serving a 23-acre 1990 subdivision, Highview Farm, by Colonial Homes Inc. of New Canaan which selected the name because the property looks across the Spring Valley to North Salem, NY. [RN]

**Salerno, Bartholomew T.**, (1923-1988), a native of Brooklyn, was a local entrepreneur who came here as an RHS teacher in 1954. He established Bart Associates, a real estate office, did several small subdivisions, and acquired and restored historic Big Shop (*q.v.*) in the early 1970s. He obtained an FCC license and started WREF (*q.v.*) radio station here. He part-owned the company that fed the athletes at the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid and then supplied food to the American team at Sarajevo in 1984. [WWW]

**Salomon, Richard**, gave the town Levy Park (*q.v.*).

**Salvestrini, Armando J.**, (1910-1993), a lifelong Ridgefielder, was a homebuilder whose biggest project was Ridgefield Gardens (*q.v.*). He lived at 78 New Street. [RN]

**Salvestrini, Raymond Jr., “Chip”**, a Ridgefield native and RHS 1971, was a star athlete at RHS, earning eight varsity letters in three sports; starred in football at Yankton College in SD; played minor league football with Long Island Giants, New Jersey Rams. Became athletic director in New Milford High School, then Lehman College; in 1993, he became athletic director for Ridgefield schools; in 2001, he became Danbury schools athletic director, moving to White Plains in 2009, and in 2012 back to Danbury. [NR]

**Salvo, Adam**, (1935-2012), was a popular Ridgefield High School art teacher from 1959 to 1996; inspired many students, especially artists, several of whom had a joint exhibit in 2006 at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum at which he was honored (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Salzman, Mark**, (1959-), a native of Greenwich who grew up in Ridgefield, is a writer whose best known work was his 1986 memoir, *Iron and Silk*, a book about his living in China that was later made into a movie that he starred in; RHS 1977, Yale, 1982; his autobiographical story of his Ridgefield childhood is called Lost in Place, Growing Up Absurd in Suburbia



(1995). He lives in California. A cellist, he performed with YoYo Ma, Emmanuel Ax and others at Alice Tully Hall. Son of Martha Salzman (*q.v.*). [NR]

**Salzman, Martha**, (1934-2003), was a concert pianist and harpsichordist, and a piano teacher, who was an early member of the Ridgefield Symphony. She moved to Ridgefield in 1959 with husband Joseph; retired to Arizona in 1992; was the mother of author Mark Salzman (*q.v.*). [P2/13/2003]

**Samara Place**: A dead-end road off West Lane, serving a 7-lot, 26-acre 1997 subdivision, Topgallant (*q.v.*), just before the NY line. Samaras are the winged seeds of maple trees. [RN]

**Sammis, Elias H.**, (1849-1930), a native of New Canaan, came to Ridgefield as a boy with his father, John Wood Sammis, who operated a limekiln. He was a carpenter until 1896 when he purchased the Whitlock livery stable and New Canaan and returned to his native town. However, he is buried in Ridgefield Cemetery. [CRBFC]

**Sanden, John Howard**, (1935-), a native of Texas, is one of the world's leading portrait artists, and has painted more than 350 commissioned works of celebrities, corporate CEOs, senators, congressmen, and heads of colleges and universities. He has written five books on portrait painting and has lectured for 25 years on portraiture at the Art Students League in NYC; moved to Ridgefield in 1985 and paints both here and at his studio in NYC. In 1995, he received the first John Singer Sargent Medal for Lifetime Achievement from the American Society of Portrait Artists. [NR]

**Sanders, John F. "Jack"**, (1944-), a Fairfield County native, is a historian of Ridgefield who grew up in Danbury, graduated from Fairfield Prep and Holy Cross College, and spent more than 45 years as an editor of *The Ridgefield Press*. His books include: *Ridgefield 1900-1950*, *Five Village Walks*, *Ridgefield Chronicles*, *Hidden History of Ridgefield*, *Wicked Ridgefield*, *The Secrets of Wildflowers*, and *Hedgemaids and Fairy Candles*.

**Sanford, Bradley Williams** (1849-1935), was a farmer who served as a Republican state representative, 1901-03. He was a son of State Rep. Ebenezer Burr Sanford.

**Sanford, David**, a native of North Salem, led a gang of counterfeiters who operated in and around Ridgefield in the 1750s, according to a lecture by Bedini, 1959, to the Women's Town Club. Sanford was associated with the notorious counterfeiter, Owen Sullivan (*q.v.*).

**Sanford, Ebenezer Burr**, (1808-69), a native of Redding, operated an iron foundry, along with Thomas Couch (*q.v.*) at what is now the Moongate (*q.v.*) property on Route 7. [RIR] He moved to Ridgefield and was a Republican state representative in 1859. His son, Bradley Williams Sanford, was also a state representative.

**Sanford Station** was a mid-19th Century railroad stop on the extreme western edge of Redding at the Ridgefield line. Consequently, the neighborhood – including some territory in Ridgefield – became known as Sanford Station or just plain Sanford. The 1934 Ridgefield assessors' map says Simpaug Turnpike, from Route 7 in Ridgefield up to and past this locality, was once called Sanford Station Road. Sanford Station (Sanfords Station on the Beers map) was probably so called because many members of the Sanford family lived in that neck of the Redding woods. Beers shows at least three Sanford houses nearby. Confusion with Stamford led to changing the name to Topstone Station (*q.v.*) around 1910. [RN]

**Sanfords' Pond** is in the southwestern corner of Danbury, just north of Interstate 84 near the NY line, territory that belonged to Ridgefield from the 1740s until 1846. The name appears on the current USGS maps; other names include Andrews Pond and Whiting's Pond. David and Daniel Sanford owned land here in the 1820s. [RN]

**San Giovanni, Edward** (1904-1996), a native of New York City, was a silversmith who operated mostly in the 1940s and 50s and held several design patents on silver serving objects and novelties. He owned Ridgefield Silversmiths (*q.v.*) in the 1940s and 50s. By the 1970s he was a real estate agent for Keeler and Durant (*q.v.*). He lived in many houses including on Silver Spring Road in the 1940s, South Salem Road in the 1950s, West Lane in the 1960s, 65 Peaceable Street in the 1970s, and later in an apartment on Prospect Street with wife, Claire, who was active in the Red Cross and other organizations. [JFS]

**Sansome, Col. Frederick**, owned Savin Hill (*q.v.*) on the Ridgefield-Lewisboro line from the 1930s into the 1960s.

**Santini, Alesandro "Alex,"** (1914-1991), a Ridgefield native, was a chef, restaurateur, and a popular local personality in the last half of the 20th Century who was an expert bowler and golfer. [DD54,55,56,57, P2/14/1991]

**Santini, Frank,** (1926-1991), a Ridgefield native, was a lifelong and well-liked Ridgefield firefighter, starting when he was 16 years old and help was especially needed at the firehouse during WW2. After a stint in the Navy, he became active in the volunteers, eventually becoming chief of the department. In 1963, he joined the paid fire department and rose to the rank of lieutenant, retiring in the late 1980s. [P8/8/1991]

**Sapone, Mary Lou,** (nee McFate), who lived on Pine Mountain Road in the last third of the 20th Century, was a corporate investigator known nationally for infiltrating activist groups. She was said to have been hired by the National Rifle Association to spy on anti-gun groups and has also infiltrated environmental groups. Friends of Animals accused her of infiltrating her group on behalf of U.S. Surgical, a company attacked by Friends of Animals for using live animals for experiments. She denied being a spy and said she was conducting research into illegal activities within organizations. In 1987, she was honored as one of the 100 Outstanding Women in Connecticut for her work in aiding the poor in Nigeria.

**Sarah Bishop:** *See* Bishop, Sarah.

**Sarah Bishop Road** at the 1959 Chestnut Hills (*q.v.*) subdivision in Ridgebury runs off Parley Road to a dead end. "Sarah Bishop" is also applied to an adjoining 39 acres of town-owned open space. The road and its refuge were named for the hermitess, who lived nowhere near Chestnut Hills. Developer Lewis J. Finch said he selected the road name because, like Parley Road, it recognized an interesting character from Ridgefield's past. [RN]

**Sarah Bishop's Cave:** *See* Bishop, Sarah.

**Sarah's Wine Bar:** *See* Bernard's.

**Saroyan, Aram,** (1943-), was better known among Ridgefielders as a Little League coach than what he really is: novelist, poet, and biographer whose father was Pulitzer Prize-winning author William Saroyan and whose mother is actress Carol Marcus (Mrs. Walter Matthau); lived at 26 Stonecrest Road in the late 1980s; author of more than a dozen books, including *The Romantic*, a novel written in Ridgefield; taught writing at the University of Southern California; his two children are named Strawberry and Cream Saroyan. [NR]

**Sassifrage Ridge:** In 1728, the proprietors transferred to minister Thomas Hauley 11 acres “lying on ye north end of Saxifax or Sassifrage Ridge, so called...”; probably on West Mountain, now in NY as part of the Oblong; named for the tree that probably grew there. [RN]

**Saunders, Phillip Keith,** (1899-1997), native of England, was an inventor and a local developer. At 15, he joined the Royal Navy training school, served in WW1, and in his 20s was an engineer in Brazil, later worked in South Africa where he was inspired to invent the “diaphragm valve,” used to control air flow in mines and inn many other kinds of functions. He soon founded the Saunders Valve Company in England and had patents on a number of devices. He moved to the U.S. in the mid-1940s to avoid British taxes and to Ridgefield in 1948. A year later, he bought the Louis Morris Starr (*q.v.*) estate in Farmingville, eventually subdividing part of it into Quaker Ridge (*q.v.*) In 1960 he wrote a light-hearted, lively autobiography, *Dr. Panto Fogo: The Uninhibited Memoirs of A Twentieth Century Adventurer — His Inventions and His Escapades on Four Continents and the High Seas,*” which was praised by critics. In 1950, he establish the Upton Country Club on the island of Jamaica. He maintained a home for himself and his daughter on Saunders Lane until 1974 when he moved to Manteo, N.C., where he died. [WWW]

**Saunders Lane** is a dead-end road off Farmingville Road nearly opposite the Farmingville School, developed by and named for P. K. Saunders (*q.v.*) who called the subdivision Quaker Ridge. [RN]

**Savin Hill:** Name of estate on Route 35, in Lewisboro on Ridgefield line; now Le Chateau; also later called Westfair (*q.v.*); built 1907 by financier J.P. Morgan as a gift to his minister, Rev. Dr. William S. Rainsford (*q.v.*). Often mistakenly called Savin Rock.

**Saw mills:** Possibly the first “industry” and first “factory” in Ridgefield was a sawmill. Certainly lumber was needed before almost anything else in the settlement of the new town. Land records between 1708 and 1880 indicate that at least 20 sawmills were operated here for varying lengths of time during those 170 years. Virtually every neighborhood had a mill at one time or another. The earliest water powered mill may have been located at the outlet of a pond that used to exist at the corner of Whipstick Road and Wilton Road East. Hoyt’s Saw Mill (*q.v.*) was in operation by 1752 and lasted more than a century. For other examples, *see also* William N. Benedict, Sturges Bradley, Platt Brush, Timothy Canfield, Moses Northrup,

**Saw Mill Brook** was mentioned in a 1775 deed for land in Branchville at the Norwalk (now Wilton) town line. Probably a stream flowing into the Norwalk River, possibly the Cooper Brook (*q.v.*) which was being used to power a saw mill. The name has been used for other streams in town. [RN]

**Saw Mill Hill and Road** runs from North Salem Road at Titicus to Pin Pack Road and Mulberry Street. The road was laid out in 1772, but the name of the hill and road are probably 20th Century creations. It was named for a sawmill that was once operated, possibly by Will F. Hoyt, a carpenter, where the Titicus River crosses under the road. Several other mills, including a cider mill and a gristmill, were operated farther downstream near North Salem Road. [RN]

**Saw Mill Pond:** A common term in the past, having been applied to almost any body of water that had been associated with a sawmill. [RN]

**Saw Mill River** is a brook, flows out of a swamp west and south of Turner Road in the northwest corner of Ridgebury, northward into Danbury along Saw Mill Road (*q.v.*) and into NY State and its reservoirs. [RN]

**Saw Mill Road:** Only a few feet of this road are in Ridgefield; runs from Turner Road to Routes 6, 302 and I-84 in Danbury (though pre-1846 part of Ridgefield). The sawmill was near Route 6, built sometime between 1767 and 1799 and operated by William Nickerson in 1801. [RN]

**Scaduto, Anthony** (1932-2017) specialized in biographies of celebrities such as Mick Jagger, Frank Sinatra, and mobster Lucky Luciano, but *Bob Dylan: An Intimate Biography*, has been called his best. “It is regarded as an influential book in the field, being one of the first to take an investigative approach to writing about his subject,” said one critic. Scaduto lived at 135 Grandview Drive from 1973 until around 1979. [WWW].

**Scaglia, Carlo** (1889-1918), a native of Italy, came to this country with his parents and entered the Army in May 1918. Four months later, he was dead, blown up by a shell during combat in France. His parents were farm hands on the A.C. Fraser estate on West Mountain. It was not Scaglia’s first military experience; he had spent three years as a private in the Italian army. He is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France where his monument incorrectly spells his name as Sgaglio. [NR]

**Scala, Giancarlo “John”**, (1899-1971), a native of Italy known locally as Chef Scala, owned The Elms Inn (*q.v.*) from 1951 until his death; came to the U.S. in 1921 to work for the St. Regis Hotels and later, the Longchamps restaurants. In 1937, he came to Ridgefield as chef for the Outpost Inn, and in 1948 established Scala’s Restaurant at the corner of Main and Catoonah Streets; three years later he bought The Elms from the James H. Perry estate. Sons **Mario** (*q.v.*) and **Robert** later operated The Elms; son **Richard** was a longtime dentist here. [NR]

**Scala, Mario**, (1927-1978), who ran The Elms Inn (*q.v.*) at the time of his death, was a chef who came to Ridgefield with his parents (*see* Giancarlo Scala) at the age of 10, served in the Army in WW2, and took over the inn when his father retired. His wife was **Violet Natoli Scala** (*q.v.*). [P4/20/1978]

**Scala, Violet Natoli**, (1927-2021), a native of NJ, was the longtime, popular hostess and a manager at The Elms Inn; wife of Mario (*q.v.*).

**Scalise, George** (1896-1989) was a union boss with mob ties who in the 1930s owned 27-room mansion on Tackora Trail [WWW]; house was later called Manresa (*q.v.*) and in 2018 is a retreat house and Catholic school, operated by the Society of St. Pius X (*q.v.*). Exposés of Scalise’s activities helped earn Ridgefielder Westbrook Pegler (*q.v.*) a Pulitzer Prize.

**Scalzo, Christopher D.**, a Republican, was state representative, 1995-99; native of Peekskill, N.Y.; lived on Main Street.

**Scalzo, Robert P.**, (1931-1976) was active in working with Little League, Pop Warner football, and Townies basketball in the 1970s. A native of Ridgefield Park, N.J., and a veteran of the U.S. Army, he worked for IBM and moved to Ridgefield around 1968. RHS annually awards a Robert Scalzo Scholarship. [RN] *See* Scalzo Field.

**Scalzo Field:** A Little League ball field on the east side of Prospect Ridge, north of the skating rink, named in 1977 for Robert P. Scalzo (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Scarry, Richard**, (1919-1994), was a children's book author and illustrator, famed for his characters living in “Busytown.” For the town’s 250th anniversary in 1958, Scarry contributed a map of the Battle of Ridgefield, which appears in Silvio Bedini’s *Ridgefield in Review* (*q.v.*). He rented a house on the Conklin farm, part of the old Stonecrest estate, on North Street from 1951 to 1959, when he moved to Westport, and 10 years later, to Switzerland. Son Richard “Huck” Scarry Jr., born here 1953, is also a children’s book author. [WWW]

**Scenic roads:** Town roads, designated by the selectmen, to protect visual and historic values; they have no commercial properties along them; ordinance first adopted 1974, updated 1994; scenic roads as of 2018: Florida Road, Lounsbury Road, Old Branchville Road, Pelham Lane, Silver Spring Road. While the state also designates scenic highways, none is in Ridgefield.

**Schenck, Henry de Bevoise** (1861-1929) was a prominent New York City private investment banker; built Boswyck (*q.v.*) mansion on Florida Hill Road, ca. 1890, and later, Nydeggen (*q.v.*), on Lake Mamanasco; name often appears as Henry de B. Schenck; wife, Maria Theodora van Wyck (1862-1942) was the aunt of Louise Polhemus Dixon, who built a “twin” mansion, later called Manresa (*q.v.*), now St. Ignatius Retreat House.

**Scherf, Meinhard** (1893-1943), a captain in the Merchant Marine, was the first Ridgefielder to die in World War II combat. A native of Germany who became a U.S. citizen as a teenager, he was captain of a Liberty Ship on its maiden voyage to England when it was sunk by a U-Boat from his native country March 29 1943. He and his wife lived on Barry Avenue. [WWW]

**Schlumberger-Doll Research Center** on Sunset Lane and Old Quarry Road operated from 1949 until it moved to Cambridge, Mass., in 2006. The center, part of a French-owned international company, did research into techniques for locating oil deposits deep under the earth’s surface. At its peak the center employed some 250 scientists, technicians, administrators and other staff. It included a Cray computer, once one of the most powerful computers in use. Part of the old campus has been developed for condominiums. The Philip Johnson (*q.v.*) administrative building has been restored and is used for a commercial operation. Another building has become the Diamond Properties Performing Arts Center (*q.v.*), the venue for ACT of Connecticut (*q.v.*). *See also* Henri Doll. [JFS]

**School board:** *See* Education, Board of.

**School bus depot:** Established 1984 at former town dump after Candlewood Valley Bus Company, town’s busing contractor, lost its Danbury depot due to Route 7 widening;

**School districts:** Ridgefield has had as many as 15 school districts in the 19th Century, each served by local schoolhouses; in the 1860s, they were Bell, Bennett’s Farm, Branchville, Center, Farmingville, Flat Rock, Florida, Limestone, Ridgebury North and Ridgebury South, Scotts Ridge (Scotland), Titicus, West Lane, West Mountain, Whipstick — *see entries for each schoolhouse*; in 2020, there were six elementary and two junior high districts. *See also* Education. The March 19, 1879 RP has a story, “Our District Schools of Today and Our District Schools of 30 and 40 years ago.

**School superintendents:** *See* Superintendents

**School Visitors, Board of:** The original name of the Board of Education (*q.v.*); in use late 1800s, early 1900s.

**Schoolhouse Place** is a dead-end road off northern Ridgebury Road, serving Paul McNamara's 1981 seven-lot subdivision of the former Lee B. Wood (*q.v.*) property. It was named for the North Ridgebury Schoolhouse (*see* North District), which once stood nearby. [RN]

**Schoolhouses:** *See* School Districts.

**Schools:** *See* Education, *and* individual schools or school topics.

**Schottenheimer, Marty**, (1944-2021), noted National Football League coach, lived on Mulberry Street in the mid-1970s when he was hired as a linebacker coach for the New York Giants; he later was defensive coordinator. He became head coach of Kansas City Chiefs for ten seasons, Cleveland Browns for five seasons, the Washington Redskins for a season, and five seasons with the San Diego Chargers. He is one of just eight head coaches to win 200 or more games. "I recall he would bring the neighborhood dads for an annual game at Giants Stadium and [was] a genuinely nice, likable guy (I was a kid)," said John Frey (*q.v.*). "He even drove a station wagon with that wood siding!"

**Schoyer, Edna**, (-1946), a native of Pittsburgh, was an advocate of suffrage, of education, and of community service; longtime companion of Anne Richardson (*q.v.*), came to Ridgefield around 1915; led the organization of the League of Women Voters, serving as its first president, 1921-33. She and Miss Richardson were twice elected together to the school board, serving from 1936 to 1942. She was also head of the Ridgefield Garden Club from 1939 to 1941; active during WW2 on the home front. Her brother, **Barclay Preston Schoyer** (1911 – 1978) who was active in American groups dealing with China, and wrote four novels and many articles on China, often stayed at her home. [NR]

**Schultz, Rev. Edward L. Jr.**, known as Father Edd, was assistant rector of St. Stephen's Church, 1976-80; a magician who ran workshops on ESP and mind control (P8/21/1980)

**Schultze, Oscar F.:** name of a meat and fish market on Main Street, 1920s/30s; was one of a small chain of stores in southern Fairfield County.

**Schumann, Elka Scott** (1935-2021), who was born in Russia, founded an internationally known puppet theater. She was a daughter of John Scott and Maria "Masha" Scott (*q.v.*), who lived in Ridgefield many years, and had lived in town as a young woman. She married in 1959 Peter Schumann, a German puppeteer she met while studying abroad on a Bryn Mawr program, and in 1963 the two founded the Bread and Puppet Theater, based for some 50 years in Vermont. Its productions were often politically oriented, such as anti-Vietnam War. [JFS]

**Schuster, Patricia** (1937-1999), a professional ballet dancer, established in 1965 Patricia Schuster School of Dance, later known as the Ridgefield Studio of Classical Ballet. She bequeathed her school to the Ridgefield Playhouse (*q.v.*); it is now the non-profit Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance (*q.v.*) at 440 Main Street. She also founded the Ridgefield Civic Ballet in 1978. [WWW]

**Schwartz, Stephen** (1948-), a native of NYC who studied at Julliard and Carnegie-Mellon, is one of the most successful Broadway and movie composers and lyricists of the last third of the 20th Century. In 1971 when only in his early 20s, he wrote the music and lyrics for

Godspell, for which he won two Grammys. He later wrote the music and lyrics for Pippin, The Magic Show and Wicked. He wrote lyrics to such films as Pocahontas (1995), The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1996), The Prince of Egypt (1998, music and lyrics), and Enchanted (2007). He has won many awards including three Oscars, three Grammys, four Drama Desk Awards, one Golden Globe Award, and a Tony. [NR]

**Scodon:** 1958 subdivision of 57 lots on the south side of George Washington Highway; named for developers Carlton Scofield and Joseph H. Donnelly (*q.v. each*) [RN]; developed in two sections that included Scodon, Langstroth and Sophia Drives; *see also* Scodon III.

**Scodon III** :west of original Scodon (*q.v.*) development, done by Jerry Tuccio, early 1970s, and developed mostly by Carl Lecher; includes Pheasant Lane and Evergreen Place; was first PRD (*q.v.*) development of any consequence; town got 30 acres of open space which, by easement, is connected to large Hemlock Hills and Pine Mountain refuges. [RN]

**Scofield, Carlton A.**, (1905-1983), a native of Pound Ridge, N.Y., who came to Ridgefield in 1919, was the eighth president of the Ridgefield Savings Bank (*q.v.*); he joined as a teller in 1930, and was active in state and regional banking organizations. Early in his career he was assistant editor of The Ridgefield Press, and was elected a justice of the peace at age 21. He was a town Trial Justice in the 1940s and 50s, and a longtime member of the Police Commission. He was active in many organizations, including the library, Salvation Army, Boys Club, Lions, Grange, Masons, YMCA, and Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department. He was a collector of antique banks, especially mechanical models, which he would exhibit at the bank and its branches. [RSB30, WWW]

**Scotfield, Fred R.**, (1865-1953), a native of Pound Ridge, NY, who owned the Pound Ridge General Store for 21 years before retiring in 1905, came to Ridgefield in 1919 and was a director and vice president of the Ridgefield Savings Bank for many years. He was active in the Methodist Church and father of Carlton Scofield (*q.v.*). [RSB29]

**Scofield, Stuart**, was a former minister and Army officer who operated Stonehill Dairy Farm on south side of North Salem Road at New York State line in early 20th Century; dairy eventually bought out by Irving B. Conklin (*q.v.*); milk bottles from Stonehill are found in collections today.

**Scooters** was an “American style cafe” that opened at Copps Hill Plaza around 1987 [P10/22/1987].

**SCOR:** Soccer Club of Ridgefield (*q.v.*).

**Scotland:** A section of town, once called Scotts Ridge, consisting generally of the neighborhood around Lake Mamanasco and Pierrepont Pond. First mentioned in an 1835 deed. Named for the Scott families which lived in the neighborhood, probably since the 1730s. Beers defines the boundaries of Scotts Ridge school district district (also long called District Number One) as running along the east side of North Street from around today’s Mimosa, northward to Twixt Hills, then westward along the north side of Ledges Road and on to the NY line. The south boundary, starting from the NY line, ran southeasterly along the old Barrack Hill Road to Old West Mountain Road, then cut easterly across Tackora Trail and North Salem Road, a little north of their southern junction, and on over to North Street. [RN]

**Scotland Knolls:** A mid-1950s subdivision of about 23 lots served by Hobby Drive and Circle Drive (*q.v. each*), so called because it is situated on Scotts Ridge (*q.v.*) in the heart of the Scotland District. [RN]

**Scotland Elementary School,** the town's fourth "modern" elementary school, opened in 1965. [RN]

**Scotland schoolhouse:** One-room school on North Salem Road, opposite Town Farm (*q.v.*); was District Number 1 in 1867; closed in 1920s due to low enrollment, children sent to Titicus School; building moved twice and finally became part of dwelling at 345 North Salem Road, owned in 2020 by the Main family — Douglas Main had moved it.

**Scotland School** was opened in 1967 on the former Luquer property on Barlow Mountain Road.

**Scott family:** After the death of Jonathan Stevens, one of the original home lot owners, his mother, Mary Bouton inherits the land at the southwest corner of Main and Catoonah Streets. On June 3, 1712 she sold the property to David Scott I (*q.v.*) of Fairfield, establishing a Ridgefield family that still exists in town today. Sections of town – Scotland and Scotts Ridge – recall the family, too, and David Scott's house is now the Ridgefield Historical Society.

**Scott, Albert, (?-?)** was a state representative in 1866. He had been a member of the First Congregational Church from 1831 to 1856.

**Scott, David I** of Fairfield, believed to be a native of Ireland, bought lot number 13 on Main Street at the south corner of Catoonah Street in 1712. His family homestead, the Scott House, which he built around 1712, is now headquarters of the Ridgefield Historical Society. He was a farmer. From him descended the many members of the Scott family in Ridgefield over the next three centuries. [CBRFC]

**Scott, David, (1785-1855),** was a farmer who, as a Whig, was a state representative in 1849. He was the father of State Rep. Samuel Scott.

**Scott, David W., (-2020),** an architect, moved to Ridgefield in 1964, and opened practice here in 1965; instrumental in saving the Scott House now headquarters of the Ridgefield Historical Society; Little League coach for 36 years; president of the Ridgefield Preservation Trust, 1999-2003. [P3/5/2020] (He was not related to the ancient Scott family of Ridgefield).

**Scott, Ernest (1887-1958),** native of Scotland, built Scott Block (*q.v.*) in 1922; was engineer and builder, whose projects included St. Stephen's Church, many houses; owned Scott Coal Company (*q.v.*). [P5/22/1958]

**Scott, Flavia E. Bensing "Punky," (1919-2011),** a native of Chicago, was an artist, who specialized in still lifes painted in oils. She and her husband, John Walter Scott (*q.v.*), came here in 1957 and lived in the landmark Lewis June (*q.v.*) house on North Salem Road.

**Scott, Gene,** of lower Silver Spring Road was a carpenter profiled by Venus in [DD127, 128]. He was famous for going everywhere with his pet goat, Nanny.

**Scott, George Gorham Sr., (1871-1957),** was a son of Hiram K. Scott Sr. who became town clerk and judge of probate — like his father — for many years. He was the last male town clerk. He built the brick store and office building south of the Masonic Hall on Main Street. [DD94]

**Scott, Harold Walter, (1919-1945),** a Ridgefield native and RHS 1938, enlisted in March 1941, 10 months before Pearl Harbor. He was a gunner on a bomber March 23, 1945, that was



lost on a mission in the Philippines. In 1952, classmates placed a plaque in his honor in the downstairs hall of the old Ridgefield High School. [WWW]

**Scott, Hezekiah**, (1789-1879), was a weaver and who operated a distillery on the brook near his home on Barlow Mountain Road — a stream later called Uncle Kiah's Brook and now just Kiah's Brook (*q.v.*). He also operated a sawmill on Ledges Road on this brook, which is the outlet from Pierrepont Pond (*q.v.*). He was a state representative in 1845. "Hezekiah Scott was a colorful figure in the community and he remembered and often related having voted in every administration from Madison to Hayes," Bedini reports. [RIR, RN]

**Scott, Hiram K. Jr.**, operated a livery stable at what is now 16 Bailey Avenue, behind town hall; later became Bates' garage, then Julius Tulipani's garage, then quarters of The Ridgefield Press and Acorn Press. He was also a town postmaster. [DD98] *See also* Livery Stables.

**Scott, Hiram K. Sr.**, (1822-1909), a native of the Scotland District, was one of the town's leading citizens in the 19th Century. He started out a teacher, became a constable at 22 and a colonel in the Connecticut Militia when he was only 21 — he was called Colonel Scott most of his life. He was postmaster for 28 years between 1849-86, and, as a Whig, was a state representative in 1850 — the second youngest man in the Legislature that year. He was town clerk for 45 years, starting in 1852, and was probate judge for 33 years, starting in 1854. In 1852, before the town had a public library, he started the Hiram K. Scott Circulating Library. In the mid-1850s he opened a general store on the east side of Main Street that also served as his town clerk and probate offices. The store's drug business grew and by the 1890s, he was the largest purveyor of pharmaceuticals in town. He sold the store in 1895 to H.P. Bissell, whose name is still on the pharmacy today. [WWW, CBRFC, DD98]

**Scott, John**, (1912-1976), a journalist born in Philadelphia, wrote eight books, scores of white papers, and countless Time magazine articles as a correspondent. Spent most of the 1930s living and working in the Soviet Union; his well-known book, *Behind the Urals: An American Worker in Russia's City of Steel*, told of the experience. He was widely known as a speaker; delivered more than 4,800 speeches all while also writing for Time. Built his own house by hand on Peaceable Ridge Road starting in 1946. In Russia, he married Maria "Masha" Dikareva Scott (*q.v.*) and their children include Elka Scott Schumann (*q.v.*). John's father was political activist Scott Nearing. [WWW]

**Scott, John Walter**, (1907-1987), a journalist, was an illustrator for pulp magazines and an artist of the Old West who lived on North Salem Road from 1948-1987. He was married to Flavia "Punky" Scott (*q.v.*), also an artist. [WWW]

**Scott, Maria "Masha" Dikareva**, (1911-2004), a teacher, writer, and scholar whose parents were Russian peasants, was the wife of John Scott (*q.v.*) and lived on Peaceable Ridge Road from 1946 until her death. She was the subject of a Pearl S. Buck book, *Talk About Russia with Masha Scott*. [WWW]

**Scott, Patricia A. "Pat,"** (1938-2021), a native of Pennsylvania, was a Ridgefield artist who specialized in watercolors of Ridgefield buildings and country scenes; also of Nantucket Island. She was a founder of the Ridgefield Guild of Artists and a resident since 1964. She was also a sports photographer for The Ridgefield Press. She was the wife of architect David Scott (*q.v.*).

**Scott, Samuel**, (1822-90), was a farmer who, as a Republican, served as a state representative in 1861. He was a son of State Rep. David Scott.

**Scott, Steven M.**, (1948-1993), was a popular RHS social studies and economics teacher who died young of a heart condition. He taught at RHS for 23 years, starting in 1970.

**Scott and Lewis Garage:** An early automobile sales and service outlet at 378 Main Street (south side of the old Bissell Building. [PC]

**Scott Block:** 1. Two brick buildings, 387-395 Main Street, erected 1922 by Ernest Scott, immigrant from Scotland (not related to Ridgefield's large Scott clan); over the years, has held post office, Ridgefield Savings Bank, United Cigar Store, Squash's, A&P Liquor Store, Addessi Jewelers, Neumann real estate, Charles D. Crouchley's plumbing shop (which had a hand-operated gasoline pump at edge of sidewalk), Cott's Liquor Store, First National market, various restaurants (at Catoonah Street corner) including Lorna Doone, Chef Scala's, Corner Kitchen; owned since ca. 1970 by the Addessi family and now called Addessi Block. 2. Directly across Main Street from Ernest Scott block (*see #1*), built in the 1920s by unrelated George G. Scott Sr. (*q.v.*); has housed Craig's Jewelry Store, Harvey Lown Agency, Earl Roberts electrical store, Shine Salon, George Grunig real estate, Hyde's Liquor Store; Ridgefield Hardware; now owned by Donnelly family [DD94].

**Scott Coal Company:** Owned by Ernest Scott (*q.v.*) on site of Ridgefield Supply Company (*q.v.*), early 20th century. [DD39]

**Scott Ridge:** 1982 subdivision by the Gavin Company, which was the family of Joseph H. Donnelly, served by Taporneck Court (*q.v.*).

**Scott Ridge Road** is *in* Scotts Ridge, but not *on* it. Scotts Ridge is actually quite a bit to the east of this road, which runs from Blue Ridge Road westward to Barrack Hill Road at Eight Lakes Estates (*q.v.*). It takes its name, albeit s-less, from the old Scotts Ridge school district (*q.v.*). Beers places the label "Scotts Ridge" for the school district near what is now Eight Lakes on West Mountain and perhaps the developer of the early 1950s subdivision figured that the Eight Lakes land was once called Scotts Ridge or even Scott Ridge. Not so, either. [RN]

**Scott's Cemetery** is the official name of what is commonly called Ridgefield Cemetery (*q.v.*) and consists of five sections with four roads running generally north-south and one east-west. It is situated along North Salem Road, its main access, and North Street; access can also be gained from adjoining Maple Shade Cemetery (*q.v.*). Titicus Cemetery borders its west side, and the Lounsbury-Rockwell Cemetery, its southeast side. The cemetery was established in 1876, is privately owned by the Scott family and is still active. It has also been called Gage's Cemetery, from a former owner. In 2020 there were about 1,775 graves. [JFS]

**Scotts Brook** flows out of the southwest part of town, just east of lower Silver Spring Road, southward into Wilton, then westward into Lewisboro, N.Y., joining the West Branch of the Silvermine River, just below Scotts Reservoir. Scotts owned much of the land in the northwestern part of Wilton in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. [RN]

**Scotts Ridge:** 1. This is the "other" name for the Scotland (*q.v.*) district, was so named because many members of the Scott family lived thereabouts. The ridge runs along the east side of Lake Mamasco and includes North Salem Road, Hobby and Circle Drives, once also

called Mamanasco Hill or Mamanasco Ridge. “Scotts Ridge” first appears in an 1843 deed and was in common use through the 1850s when Scotland began taking over. 2. Judge Joseph H. Donnelly used “Scotts Ridge” as the name of his 1982 subdivision of 17 lots served by O’Neill Place and Taporneck Court along the east side of North Salem Road at the New York State line, the westernmost part of the Scotts Ridge or Scotland District.

[RN]

**Scotts Ridge Middle School:** Opens Oct. 15, 2002 on land that had been the Mamanasco Farm estate of Anne S. Richardson (*q.v.*); named for the 19th Century name of the ridge west of Lake Mamanasco.

**Scotts Ridge Post Office:** Operated from 1841-46; David Scott II postmaster; may have been in his house on North Salem Road, opposite north entrance to Tackora Trail (*See also* Tackora Lodge) or may have been at store/home of Elias Read.

**Scrap drives** were undertaken during World War II to collect metals, especially iron and steel, tin, and aluminum, as well as rubber to use for manufacturing war-related products since imports of some ores had been cut; many people contributed bumpers from their automobiles. An Oct. 17, 1942 one-day scrap drive netted 133 tons of metal, equal to 166 pounds per resident. Kitchen fats were also collected as was paper. [JFS]

**Scribner, Betsey Hawley**, was the mother of Charles Scribner, the publisher, bookseller and founder of the publishing house, Charles Scribner’s Sons. A daughter of Thomas and Keziah Scribner Hawley, she was married in 1812 to Uriah Scribner, and they had nine children, the third of which was Charles. [Prominent Families of NY]

**Scripps, Robert Paine**, (1895-1938), a California native, was a newspaper mogul who had a country home at 100 South Salem Road from 1924 until his death at 42 aboard his yacht off Mexico. His father, E.W. Scripps, founded the Scripps-Howard newspaper empire which Robert ran for years. [WWW] *See also* Fires, Elizabeth Loeb.

**Scripps Pond:** Small pond that once existed on the north side of Old South Salem Road near South Salem Road, created in the early 20th Century; so called because it was once part Robert Scripps (*q.v.*) estate. Now mostly swamp. [RN] *See also* Hopper’s Pond, Lache Linne.

**Sculptors** who lived in Ridgefield: Suzanne Benton, Joseph Boulton, David Boyajian, John B. Flannagan, Frederic Remington, Frederick Shrady, Norman Tinker, Mahonri Young (*q.v. each*).

**Sculptures:** 1. In front of the library, *see* Storytime. 2. At the south end of the main building at Copps Hill Plaza, an untitled work by Philip H. Darling of Oyster Bay and Port Washington, Long Island, commissioned ca. 1971 by shopping center developer Harold Lewis on recommendation of his wife.

**Seal, town:** The town seal was designed by Robert Malin of Harding Drive, a graphics director for Perkin-Elmer, in a 1972 competition sponsored by First Selectman Joseph McLinden. His design includes Settlers Rock (*q.v.*); a spreading oak tree, recalling the state’s Charter Oak (*see* Charter Oak Court); and farmhouses with stone walls to recall Ridgefield’s long agricultural past. It is still used today. Among the 13 local artists who entered the contest were Don Carboni, Warren Kaffka, Patricia Scott, and Franklin Lischke. [P2/10/1972]

**Sears, Joseph C.**, (abt. 1793-1857), was a Ridgebury farmer who served as a state representative in 1835 and 1843 and as a selectman in 1831.

**Second Eccliaistical Society:** An early name for Ridgebury (*q.v.*) Parish, created in 1761. *See* Ridgebury.

**Second Lane:** Dead-end road off Mamanasco Road, part of Eight Lakes Estates (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Second Patent**, often spelled “Pattent,” was another term for New Patent (*q.v.*) or Ridgebury (*q.v.*). The first patent was for the settlement of Ridgefield below Ridgebury. [RN]

**Second Pond:** Mentioned in 18th Century deeds, probably in Mill Plain (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Second Purchase** of land from the natives by the Proprietors took place March 18, 1715.

“Tackora, alias Oreneca, Indian,” received four pounds for land in the Scotland and Ridgebury areas, including the outlet of Lake Mamanasco.

**Second Regiment:** Men’s clothing store at Yankee Ridge Shopping Center (*q.v.*) closes Jan. 30, 1987. [P2/5/1987]

**Second Society:** *see* Second Eccliaistical Society

**Secret route:** A numbered state highway without signs revealing the number is called a “secret route.” These are usually roads leading from Connecticut to another state whose connecting road is not a state highway. In Ridgefield, secret routes are: Route 822, Catoonah Street, Barry Avenue, West Mountain Road; and Route 835, West Lane from the schoolhouse to the NY line. [RN]

**Seemann, Max and Henry**, brothers, buy Titicus Store in 1947, later operated by Max; closed early 1960s; [DD28]

**Seir Hill**, cited in 1700s deeds, was north of Mill Plain in Danbury, which was in Ridgefield from 1731 to 1846. Seir is a variation of “sear” or “sere,” which either means “dry” or refers to a locality in Jordan often mentioned in the Bible in an unfavorable light. [RN]

**Seirup, William**, from Trumbull, was Ridgefield’s first full-time director of the parks and recreation program. He was hired in July 1966. He serves until 1972. [RT]

**Seitz, Major Gen. John Francis Regis**, (1908-1978), a 1929 West Point graduate and a career Army officer, was a much decorated colonel commanding the 26th Infantry Regiment in combat in Europe from late 1943 till war’s end; was commanding a battalion at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii, when Japanese attacked Dec. 7, 1941; married 1956 actress Jessie Royce Landis (*q.v.*); moved 137 Old Branchville Road, 1966; soon after her death in 1972, he suffered a debilitating stroke; died in Washington, D.C.; buried Arlington National Cemetery. [JFS, WWW]

**Seligmann, Jacqueline Reine Louise** (1906-79), daughter of Paris-NYC art gallery owner Jacques Seligmann, was a noted photographer and race car driver in France in the 1930s. During the early part of World War II, Seligmann volunteered as a truck driver to evacuate children from the path of the invading German army. A Jew, she fled the Nazis to the USA in 1943, and continued to do photography work. In the mid-1940s, she bought a house at 40 Old West Mountain Rd. which, in 1969, burned down, destroying 14,000 rare books, antiques, paintings, Oriental wood carvings, sculptures, and a valuable daguerreotype collection as well as Seligmann’s negatives and cameras. [WWW]

**Selleck, Benjamin Sturges**, (1867-1943), was a Ridgebury farmer who served as a Republican state representative, 1907-09.

**Selleck Cemetery:** A small 19th Century cemetery on Bennett's Farm Road, just south of the Limestone Road intersection, containing about 20 graves or memorials, mostly for members of the Selleck and Whitlock families. The earliest stone is dated 1826; the latest, 1907. Also called the Bennett's Farm Cemetery. [JFS]

**Semia USA:** A Lego and robotics learning center founded by Ridgefielder Eugene Zhang, RHS 1987, opens 28 Prospect Street in Yankee Ridge late 2018/early 2019 [P12/20/2018]

**Senators, U.S.:** *See under* Congress.

**Sendak, Maurice,** (1928-2012), Brooklyn-born American illustrator and author of more than 80 books, lived at 200 Chestnut Hill Road from 1972 until his death. Books include "In the Night Kitchen," "Outside Over There," and "Where the Wild Things Are." His many awards include the 1964 Caldecott Medal, Hans Christian Andersen Award; in 1997, President Clinton awarded him a National Medal of the Arts. He also designed sets and costumes for several successful Broadway productions, including an opera of "Where the Wild Things Are." A section of Route 35, Danbury Road, from Haviland/Limestone Road to Route 7, was named Maurice Sendak Memorial Highway in 2016. [WWW]

**Senior Positive Initiative Forum (SPIF)** is a town task force working to meet the needs of Ridgefield's senior population. It coordinates the organizations in Ridgefield that work with older residents and has helped organize many recreational activities for seniors including St. Paddy's Day celebrations, a Luau and in the past they hosted a Senior Senior Prom at the Recreation Center. It also runs the Gold Car (*q.v.*) program.

**Sept. 11, 2001:** *See* Nine/Eleven.

**Serfilippi, Alessandro,** (1882-1970, was born in Italy and came to the United States in 1908, and to Ridgefield in 1914. He worked as a mason on Col. Louis D. Conley's Outpost Farm estate. He later worked for various contractors; among his more visible creations is the stone wall around the former King/Jackson estate at the north corner of Main Street and King Lane. He started his own construction business in 1946, retiring in 1968. [RN]

**Serfilippi, Barbara Torcellini,** was town clerk for 22 years, 1996-2018, and before that, an assistant town clerk for 17 years.

**Serfilippi, Richard Nunzio "Serf,"** (1939-2003), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1956, was a local contractor and landscaper who spent much time and labor creating the Little League field later named in his honor while he was still living. The Marine Corps veteran was active in the community, especially Little League, Marine Corps League, Toys for Tots, the Italian-American Club, and the Conservation Commission. He was also Ridgefield's longest serving town constable. He was married to Barbara Serfilippi (*q.v.*). [P5/1/2002] *See also* Serfilippi Field.

**Serfilippi Drive** runs from South Olmstead Lane and St. Johns Road, created in the 1950s by the father and son contractors, Alessandro (*q.v.*) and Mario "Mike" Serfilippi, part of a development of land, including Cranberry Lane and South Olmstead Lane, that had belonged to the Serfilippi family since just after the turn of the 20th Century. [RN]

**Serfilippi Field** is a Little League ballpark located next to Fitzgerald Field off South Shore Drive, named for Richard Serfilippi (*q.v.*), who volunteered much of the labor building it in the late 1960s.

**Servadio, Gildo Joseph** (1929-2001), Ridgefield native and RHS 1946 graduate, was a noted food scientist whose specialty was vodka; also taught at University of Massachusetts. [WWW]

**Seth Low Mountain Road** directly recalls Seth Low Pierrepont (*q.v.*), part of whose estate was subdivided in 1961 by Jerry Tuccio as Twixt Hills (*q.v.*) The road is a dog-leg, connected at both ends to Twixt Hills Road on the south side of Ridgebury Mountain. [RN]

**Seth Low Pierrepont State Park:** 305-acre park that includes much of the shoreline of Pierrepont Pond/Lake Naraneke (*q.v.*) was bequeathed to the state by Seth Low Pierrepont (*q.v.*). Includes a state boat launch (no gasoline engines) and miles of trails. Highest point in the park is Barlow Mountain (*q.v.*), 950 feet above sea level. [RN]

**Settlers Lane**, which forms the “cross” of a “T” at the end of Wooster Heights Drive, is part of a 1963 subdivision, and was originally called Or-Mar Drive (*q.v.*), for Orrin and Marion Beers, the subdividers. Residents petitioned for a name change in 1971. [RN]

**Settlers Rock:** Large boulder at edge of Fairlawn Cemetery on North Salem Road, opposite New Street, where, legend says, five Norwalk men, exploring for the new settlement of Ridgefield, spent a night. “The howling of wolves and the cry of the wild-cat filled them with terror, and one can imagine that daylight was greeted with much joy,” speculated Rockwell. Bedini says “they built fires around the base of the great boulder to protect them against wild animals.” There is no contemporary written record of all this. Rock bears a plaque, installed in 1958 for the town’s 250th anniversary. [RN]

**Seventh Lane:** Dead-end road off Mamasasco Road, part of Eight Lakes Estates. [RN]

**Seventy Acres Road:** In the mid 20th Century, incorrectly used for the Ridgefield portion of what is now called Old Redding Road (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Seymour:** One of founding families of the town whose descendants still lived here in early 2000s. Matthew Seymour, spelled also Seamor, was a proprietor (*q.v.*).

**Seymour, Everett Ray** (1895-1918) was the first Ridgefielder to die in combat in World War I. Private Seymour died July 29, 1918, in a battle in France; the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post (*q.v.*) was named in his honor.

**Seymour, Lewis Curtis**, (1835-1901), a Ridgefield native, was a dry goods merchant who served as a Republican state representative in 1874. His business was known as Seymour & Barhite (*see* Philip Barhite). [CBRFC]

**Seymour, Samuel O.**, (-1907), operated a “fish, oyster and vegetable market” on the new Bailey Avenue, behind town hall, starting in May 1880. [RP]

**Seymour, William Oscar**, (1833-1911), a Ridgefield native, was a teacher and headmaster of the High Ridge Institute (*q.v.*) who later became a civil engineer working for railroads and designed many train bridges in the Midwest. He returned to Ridgefield and became a state railroad commissioner for many years. He was a was Republican state representative, 1868-69, 1902-03. He lived on Parley Lane. [WWW, CBRFC]

**Seymour, William W.**, (1803-1883), a Ridgefield native, was a blacksmith who was named president of a Ridgefield anti-thieving association, created to combat recent burglaries and thefts in the 1860s. [Hartford Courant, 10/6/1868]

**Seymour Cemetery:** Established on the east side of South Olmstead Lane, between Seymour Lane and Serfilippi Drive in the early 1800s as neighborhood cemetery for Seymour,

Olmstead, and Benedict families. There were 15 stones in 1934, fewer now; earliest stone, 1812; latest, 1889. Ownership unknown, but maintained by neighbors.

**Seymour Lane:** Short, dead-end road off South Olmstead Lane, serving 10 lots on former farmland for the Seymour family of nearby Wilton Road West; became town road 1959. [RN]

**SH 14:** An 1893 map of the town calls Ridgebury Road “SH 14,” meaning “State Highway 14.” If the state ever owned any title to this road, it long ago gave it up. In the early 1970s, however, town officials tried to get the state to take over Ridgebury Road in exchange for the town’s taking over Barry Avenue and West Mountain Road. The state declined. [RN]

**Shadblow Hill Road,** sometimes called Shadblow Lane, is a short, uphill, dead-end road off Florida Hill Road, serving small subdivision developed mid-1950s by Olavi Havvoja; shadblow or shadbush (*Amelanchier Canadensis et al.*), bloom in spring when shad are running in coastal streams; also known as juneberry, serviceberry. [RN]

**Shadow Lake:** Town-owned body of water south of Shadow Lake Road, west of Briar Ridge Road. *See also* Mallory Pond for its history.

**Shadow Lake Orchards:** *See* S. Scott Faubel.

**Shadow Lake Road** took its name from the pond (*q.v.*), but it’s not clear when. The road, between Ridgebury and Briar Ridge Roads, was in existence by 1781 when it was shown on one of Berthier’s maps (*see* Berthier Place), prepared for Rochambeau’s troops, who encamped south of the road and east of Ridgebury Road. [RN]

**Shadow Lane** is a narrow, dead-end road off the southern end of High Ridge. Running behind (in “the shadow of”) the High Ridge mansions, it originally served the backlands of these estates, often for delivery entrances. In recent years it has been considerably developed, and a number of estate outbuildings there have been turned into homes. It originally ran from lower High Ridge to Peaceable Street; the private north end was sometimes called Herrick Lane or Wiggon-Roberts Lane. “Shadow Lane” was in use by 1930. [RN]

**Shadowbrook Farm:** Original name of Twixthills (*q.v.*), the estate of Seth Low Pierrepont (*q.v.*); appears in NY Social Register, 1919; included a chicken plant that burned in 1926 [P3/18/1926]

**Shady Lane** runs between Mountain Road and Lakeside Drive at Ridgefield Lakes (*q.v.*) [RN]

**Shafer, Allen O.,** (1919-2004) was chairman of the Board of Education in the late 1960s and was an executive with Eagle Pencil Co. in Danbury. He and his wife, **Jamie Ogle Shafer** (1931-2016), owned and restored a ca. 1730 house built by the Nash family at 162 Wilton Road West. They were both active in Republican politics [JFS]

**Shaffer, Dr. Newton M.** (1846-1928) was one of the country’s first orthopedic surgeons and probably the top man in the field in the late 19th Century; specialized in helping crippled children; established in 1900 what is now Helen Hayes Hospital, nation’s first free-standing, state-operated hospital to treat people with physical disabilities; had country home on Wilton Road West, called Beacon Hill Cottage (*q.v.*)

**Shane, Margaret Woodward Smith,** (1895-1965), a native of Indiana and popular novelist, worked for newspapers before turning to novels. In 1922, her first novel, *The Love Legend*, written under the pen name Woodward Boyd, became a best-seller. Others included *Lazy Laughter* and *The Unpaid Piper* (1927). She married Thomas A. Boyd (*q.v.*), also a writer,

and moved to North Salem Road in 1925. After a 1929 divorce, she married writer Ted Shane (*q.v.*); as Peggy Shane she wrote novels *Tangled Wives* (1932) and *Change Partners* (1934), and for Hollywood movies. In 1941, she co-wrote *Mr. Big*, a Broadway show. Her father was journalist Duncan M. Smith (*q.v.*) and her daughter was Elizabeth Boyd Nash (*q.v.*), an editor and co-owner of The Ridgefield Press. [WWW]

**Shane, Theodore “Ted,”** (1900-1967), native of NYC who was a humorist, wrote books and magazine articles, and created the “Cockeyed Crosswords” that were popular from the 1930s to the 1960s. At 16, he enlisted in the Black Watch, the kilted Scots division called the “Ladies from Hell,” and fought in WW1. He graduated from Columbia in 1923 and came to Ridgefield in 1930 when he married writer Margaret Woodward Smith Boyd (*q.v.*), living here off and on until his death. He also wrote movies for MGM. He wrote many profiles, particularly of sports figures, for *Colliers*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *Reader’s Digest*, and other magazines, and worked as editor of *1,000 Jokes* magazine. In 1946, he ran unsuccessfully for state senator from Ridgefield. [WWW]

**Shanty, The:** Name of the Farmingville home of Mr. and Mrs. John G. Westervelt, later called Topstone Farm, on the north side of Topstone Road. [P4/23/1914]

**Shape, Robert Louis,** (ca. 1872-1941), a native of Milwaukee, was an architect and engineer who was a member of the firm of Shape, Brady and Peterkin which designed the 24-story Chandler Building at Times Square, ca 1913, then the second tallest building in NYC. He earlier had been involved in shipbuilding, and worked as a senior engineer in the Public Works Administration during the depression. He was a veteran of the Spanish-American War. He lived at Windy Ridge, St. Johns Road, from 1928 until his death. He was married to Elizabeth Powell Shape. [P6/19/1944]

**Shapiro, Ednah** was founder off Ridgefield Toy Clinic (*q.v.*); named Woman of the Year by Bob Hope in 1955; wife of Joseph Shapiro (*q.v.*); remarried after his death and known as Ednah Root, lived in San Francisco, and was an abstract artist [P1/22/1981] [JFS]

**Shapiro, Joseph** (1888-1968) was a Russian immigrant with a background in chemistry who founded the Simplicity Pattern Company, which has produced countless clothing patterns for homemakers; bought Eleven Levels estate in 1930s, sold in 1952; nicknamed “Pop”; husband of Ednah (*q.v.*) [WWW]

**Shapley School:** A private, co-educational prep school opened in 1963 by Carl Shapley (1927-2012), and his wife, Virginia Thayer Shapley. Carl was a son of noted Harvard astronomer, Harlow Shapley. The school was small and not financially successful. It closed in 1968, not helped by the fact that police using undercover officers made a number of drug arrests at the school. The school used the building and grounds of the former Outpost Inn (*q.v.*). David L. Paul (*q.v.*) bought the school’s property in 1968 and developed Fox Hill Village, containing the town’s first condominiums. [RN, WWW]

**Sharp Hill** is a name for the curve on West Mountain Road near the intersection of Ramapoo Road and Peaceable Ridge Road, appearing as early as 1833 in town records. [RN]

**Sharp Hill Lane** is a 625-foot-long dead-end at Carl Lecher’s 1980 subdivision, West Mountain Pines (*q.v.*). The property is a little west of Sharp Hill and Mr. Lecher selected the name at this writer’s suggestion. It became a town road in 1985. [RN]



**Shaughnessy, Thomas**, (1900-1992), was a Navy veteran of World War I who became last member of the Last Man's Club (*q.v.*); spent many years at sea as shipboard radio operator; lived on High Ridge Avenue, 1930-92; was town tree warden for many years. [WWW]

**Shayne, Gloria** (1921-2008), pianist and native of Brookline, Mass., wrote the music for the Christmas hit song, "Do You Hear What I Heart" (1962) — her husband Noel Regney (*q.v.*) wrote the words. They moved to High Ridge in 1969 and had collaborated on several earlier popular hits (*see* Regney) She also wrote the hit song, "Goodbye Cruel World," — it was James Darren's biggest hit. After a divorce in the mid-1970s, she became Gloria Shayne Baker and lived in Stamford. [WWW]

**Sheehan, Dr. James** (1922-2003) was the town's first pediatrician and among last physicians to make house calls; opened practice 1955, retired 1996; served in the U.S. Navy in WW2 and Korea; wife, Patricia, was local artist; he was one of 14 children — he and wife had 11 children; later joined Ridgefield Pediatric Associates; original house/office at 484 Main Street, razed in 1980, is now parking area for Ridgefield Library; for many years partner with Dr. Christine Guigui. [WWW]

**Sheeler, Charles**, (1883-1965), was a noted American painter and photographer, known for his "precisionist" style. He lived in and painted in a house that incorporated the former Whipstick schoolhouse (*q.v.*) at Nod and Whipstick Roads, from 1932 to 1942. The house was demolished, 2000. He was honored on 1998 and 2013 U.S. postage stamps. [WWW]

**Sheen, Venerable Fulton J.**, Catholic author/lecturer, who became an archbishop, spoke at St. Mary's June 1949; in 1950s, he was the most-watched religious personality on TV and in 2002, began being considered for sainthood.

**Sheldon, Kenneth M.**, RHS 1971, was an editor at Byte magazine who wrote *The Code*, a 2000 suspense novel about a computer cult. [JFS]

**Sherman Colonial** was the name of a 1960s proposed subdivision for what is today called Ridgebury Estates (*see* Beaver Brook Road). [RN]

**Sherwood, Daniel**, (1686-1749) one of the first settlers, agreed in 1716 in a pact signed with the Proprietors to build a grist mill (*see* Mamasco grist mill) at the outlet of Lake Mamasco. He was born at Fairfield and in 1711 married Ruth Elizabeth Bradley; they had eight children born in Ridgefield. Many of their descendants were a part of the community for two centuries. Daniel probably moved to the town from Fairfield almost immediately after his marriage. He was active in the Church of England (what became St. Stephen's). Some records call him Dr. Daniel Sherwood. [Bedini, JFS]

**Sherwood, William**, (1786-1876), was a carpet weaver who had a shop on Main Street at the corner of Market Street in the first half of the 19th Century. He earned three patents for carpet loom improvements, two in 1830 and a third in 1846. In 1850 he moved to Chicago, and in 1854 to Beloit, Wisc. where he died. During his later years he earned a patent on a "self-acting lawn and farm gate," which won an award at the 1859 United States Fair in Chicago. [RIR] He was a state representative from Ridgefield in 1833 and was a selectman in 1834. [JFS]

**Sherwood Farm**, a successor to Knap's Farm (*q.v.*), was popular enough in its heyday to be a local place, one that could have gone on to be a modern name such as Bennett's Farm did. Mid-1800s deeds mentioned "land at Sherwood Farm" around the intersection of

Ridgebury, Regan and Old Stagecoach Roads – in the 20th Century, the Arigideen Farm of the McKeon family, later Double H Farm (*q.v. each*); probably named for Nathan Sherwood, a son of Daniel Sherwood (*q.v.*), who had bought part of Moses Knap's farm in 1747. [RN]

**Sherwood Road** was probably named for descendants of Daniel Sherwood (*q.v.*), said to be the town's first miller, whose 1717 mill was nearby at the old outlet of Lake Mamasco, at the end of Pond Road. It may be the original path of the south end of Ridgebury Road. [RN]

**Sherwood's Ridge:** In 1723, a deed describes 15 acres "lying eastward of Sherwood's Ridge, over ye Great Swamp, lying on a Ridge called Walnutt Ridge." Probably so-called because Daniel Sherwood (*q.v.*) was given land here in compensation for moving to Ridgefield to set up and operate the gristmill. [RN]

**Shields, Rev. Hugh** (1890-1971) was minister of First Congregational Church, 1919-1956, and Ridgebury Congregational Church, 1923-1962; earned way through Butler U. drama school giving stage readings of James Whitcomb Riley, et al.; graduated Yale Divinity School; state representative 1929-33; Rotary Citizen of the Year, 1963; son, Reed Shields (*q.v.*), was a probate judge and attorney here. [WWW]

**Shields, Laura Curie Allee** (1870-1968) lived at 304 Main Street 62 years and was active in the woman suffrage movement here, described in her 1940 autobiography, "Memories"; married 1. Dr. William H. Allee (*q.v.*), a physician and 2. Van Allen Shields, (1871-1954), a patent attorney. [WWW]

**Shields, Reed F.** (1921-2006), a Ridgefield native, served in US Army in World War II; began practice of law in Ridgefield 1950; town attorney 1951-54; probate judge, 1955-1975; retired from practice, 1985, an active golfer, he was vice chairman of the Golf Course Committee when the town bought Dhly Ridge and had the town golf course built; moved to South Carolina; buried Ridgebury Cemetery. *See also* Hugh Shields, Clayton Place, Shields Lane.[JFS]

**Shields Lane** is a dead-end road off Limestone Road, at the 23-lot "Limestone Acres" by Jerry Tuccio, approved in 1960; named for Reed F. Shields (*q.v.*), Tuccio's attorney at the time. [RN]

**Shingle mill** was sold by Keeler St. John to James Guilbert and Martin E. Clark (*q.v.*) in 1848 [RLR 19.21] and was located on the upper Titicus River along Saw Mill Hill Road. The mill was a variety of saw mill that had specialized equipment for cutting sections of logs into tapered wedges to create shingles, mostly for roofing.

**Ships** named for Ridgefield: *See under* S.S. Ridgefield.

**Shirts** were a major product manufactured in Ridgefield in the 19th Century — *see* Ridgefield Shirt Factory and David Smith Sholes.

**Sholes, David Smith**, (1839-1907), a Ridgefield native, operated the Ridgefield Shirt Factory (*q.v.*), for many years in the 19th Century. His partner was Henry Smith (*q.v.*). He helped found the circulating library that grew into the Ridgefield Library, was treasurer and president of the Ridgefield Savings Bank, 1903-07, which he helped to grow in size significantly. He served as a town assessor, registrar of voters, probate judge, member of the Democratic State Central Committee, and clerk of St. Stephen's. He helped found the

First National Bank of Ridgefield and twice served as postmaster. [WWW, CBRFC, RSB24]

**Shooting range:** *See* Rifle Range.

**Shornick, Louis,** (1918-2016), a native of Stamford, was the last living member of the RHS Class of 1935. He grew up in Branchville where his father, David, had a garage, and attended the old Branchville schoolhouse. He obtained a degree in aeronautical engineering at RPI in 1939, served in the navy, and in 1953 moved to Mississippi where he bought a woodworking company that became Madison Furniture Industries. He maintained a touch with his old home town, often paying an annual visit, until his death. A lifelong active photographer, he contributed many photos of Branchville in the early 20th Century to the Ridgefield Historical Society (his closest friend in the Class of 35 was historian Silvio Bedini). [P12/29/2016]

**Short, Rev. Dr. David Hawkins,** (1806-77) was minister in region who became rector of St. Stephen's Church, 1845-46; ca 1844, acquired house on Main Street at corner of King Lane where he opened private school for both boys and girls; continued until at least 1857; among students were Govs. Phineas and George Lounsbury, Gen. David Perry, D. Smith Gage, and Ebenezer W. Keeler (*q.v. each*); by 1859 he had returned to church work and moved to Winsted. [WWW]

**Short Hills:** 18th Century name for hilly territory around Haviland, Limekiln, Still and Stonehenge Roads, possibly because they were small, low hills. [RN]

**Short Lane,** between Rolling Ridge Road and Partridge Drive at the 1958 Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*), is short, having only three houses on it. [RN]

**Short Woods:** 18th and early 19th Century name for an area around Bogus Road but possibly everything east to the Danbury line at Wooster Mountain State Park. May have reflected the quality of the trees — short sometimes meant low-grade, and this was rocky terrain. [RN]

**Shortell, Rev. Richard Edward,** (1860-1934), was fourth — and longest serving — St. Mary Parish pastor, 1893-1934; built church, rectory (since razed) and clubhouse; was considered a political power in town; served on the Board of Education many years. [WWW]

**Shostakovich, Maxim,** (1938-), conductor and pianist, fled his native Soviet Union in 1981 and lived on Florida Road with his son, Dmitri, who had escaped with him. He was the son of noted Russian composer, Dmitri Shostakovich. Became conductor and music director of New Orleans Symphony; in April 1984 he led an all-Shostakovich concert of the Ridgefield Symphony, with son Dmitri performing Second Piano Concerto; moved to Redding in 1991; returned to his native land in 1994 where he and his son perform today. [NR]

**Shrady, Frederick** (1907-1990) was a painter turned self-taught sculptor, became internationally famous for his art, especially on religious subjects; commissioned by Pope John Paul II to do Our Lady of Fatima statue for Vatican Gardens, 1983; did work for many churches; moved to 169 New Road in 1948, soon converted to Catholicism; his first sculpture, bust of Jesuit philosopher Martin D'Arcy in 1949, was purchased by Metropolitan Museum of Art; did 53 sculptures for then new St. Mary's School in 1956; during WW2, was with Army's "Monument Men" unit that found thousands of piece of art

stolen by Nazis; moved to Easton, 1959, after buying novelist Edna Ferber's mansion.  
[WWW]

**Sicard, Francois**, a native of France, is a high-end Ferrari race car mechanic who lives at the Ackworth Cottage estate, West Mountain Road, in 2020.

**Signposts**: Signposts were wooden posts to which announcements of future official government meetings, new laws or other official news were affixed — the equivalent of a newspaper's legal notices. On Jan. 9, 1727, "ye white oak tree standing near Henry Whitne(y)'s" house was designated the town's first official town signpost. The site was about where the First Church of Christ, Scientist, is now. As the town grew, other signposts were established in places like Limestone and Ridgebury. The town signpost was sometimes used as a location for special events. For instance, on Nov. 27, 1777, town constable John Watrous auctioned off six impounded, stray sheep "at the Ridgefield Signpost."

**Silex** was manufactured in Branchville at the turn of the 20th Century for use in making paints — see Bridgeport Wood Finishing Company.

**Silicon Valley Group** (SVG): lithography equipment manufacturer; buys the 201,000-square-foot Perkin-Elmer building and 50 acres on Route 7 Aug. 1, 1996.; becomes ASML Holdings NV in 2000 (*q.v.*); is former Benrus Center (*q.v.*).

**Silver Birch Lane** is a short, dead-end road off New Street, developed by Cleveland Bassett around 1952. The Bassett family lived in this neighborhood for much of the 20th Century. Named for the White Birch trees once more numerous in our area. [RN]

**Silver Brook Road**, a dead-end road off White Birch Road, was developed by Bartholomew T. Salerno (*q.v.*) between 1964 and 1967. [RN]

**Silver Hill Road** runs from Wilton Road East across Wilton Road West to St. John's Road, undoubtedly so-called because it led up a hill to the Silver Spring neighborhood. It's an old highway, dating from the 1700s – probably before 1750. [RN]

**Silver mine**: A mine for silver was said to have existed off the east side of New Road in the 19th Century. "My great grandfather, Edwin Lee, helped fill in that (mine) when a boy," Robert Lee said in 1976. "I've tried to find it. It isn't where I was told it was." Lee suspected that the mine was north of the western side of the Little League field at Aldrich Park. Modern mineralogy experts have found evidence of "prospecting" for a mine thereabouts, including with 20 feet wide vertical shafts sunken into the hilltop, now filled with rocks.

**Silver Spring**: Eruption of water on the east side of Silver Spring Road, about 1 mile south of West Lane; so-called at least by 1722, when mentioned in the road description; name reflects crystal-like clarity, not a metal deposit; small piece of land around it has been town-owned since first settlement. [RN]

**Silver Spring Country Club**: Organized July 1930 under the holding corporation of Flat Rock Corp. to build an 18-hole golf course on 263 acres on Silver Spring Ridge west of Silver Spring Road; governors included George Doubleday, Louis D. Conley, John H. Lynch Jr., Theodore C. Jessup, Richard L. Jackson, Seth Low Pierrepont, and Robert P. Scripps; subscription to 10 shares of stock cost \$1,000; first nine holes opened May 28, 1932, all 18, July 2; closed 1942 because of war rationing; reopened June 1946 [P4/4/1946]; in spring 1976, created million-gallon-plus pond along Silver Spring Road for irrigating the golf course.

**Silver Spring Road:** Probably laid out December 1722 as one of several roads leading to Norwalk, from which most settlers came; about 3 miles from West Lane to Wilton line, then continued in Wilton under that name into Lewisboro, N.Y., where it's also called Silver Spring Road, and back into Connecticut as Bald Hill, through New Canaan; named for the spring (*q.v.*); only town road with same name in three municipalities — and two states.

**Silver Spring Swamp:** The sizable wetland, probably second only to Great Swamp, that runs between Silver Spring Road on west and Olmstead/South Olmstead Lane and St. Johns Road on east; fed by Silver Spring (*q.v.*) and other sources. [RN]

**Silverman, Howard,** (1919-2016), was an acclaimed, longtime professional artist who lived and worked on Limekiln Road, starting in 1958. He studied painting and drawing at the Académie Julien and the Ecole des Beaux- Arts in Paris. A one-time would-be playwright, he late in life directed local amateur productions of several plays. His wife was Rhoda.

**Silvermine Brook:** Rises near the center of town off southern Main Street, possibly at end of Hayes Lane, flows east of Wilton Road East, into Wilton, joining the Silvermine River's east branch, which flows into New York State, New Canaan, and into Norwalk, the Norwalk River and the Sound; named for old silvermine of unknown location in Norwalk; Silvermine River also has a West Branch, fed by streams from Ridgefield, Wilton and Lewisboro. [RN]

**Simon, Morris,** an inventor, bought around 1934 a small old house and land from William Peatt Sr., enlarged the building considerably, landscaped the grounds, and added many improvements, such as tennis courts and a bomb shelter. It later became the Mimosa (*q.v.*) estate. He invented a diamond wire die, a method of extruding wire through diamonds. [RN]

**Simons, Edward Willis,** (1873-1964), a native of Port Chester, NY, was president of the First National Bank and Trust Company of Ridgefield in the 1920s. He had earlier been president of Ernest Simons Manufacturing Company, founded by his father in Port Chester, which made shirts, sheets and pillow cases. He owned Hillscroft Farm (*q.v.*) on St. Johns Road, starting in 1921, and was active in the Ridgefield Library. [DD171]

**Simpaug Turnpike:** Road from Route 7 into Redding, probably an early American Indian trail used by the first settlers to travel between Danbury and Norwalk; improved by Simpaug Turnpike Company of Ridgefield, established in 1832, of which little is known. Simpaug is said to be American Indian word for "beaver," possibly connected with Simpaug Pond farther north in Redding along the turnpike. [RN]

**Simply Sweaters:** Store at Grand Union Shopping Center, 1980; gone by 1983.

**Singers,** professional, who were residents: David Cassidy, Judy Collins, Michael Connolly, Thomas Dawes, Edwina Eustis Dick, Geraldine Farrar, Andrew Gold, Jim Lowe, Philip van Lidth de Jeude.

**Sisters of Notre Dame:** *See* Congregation of Notre Dame.

**Sisters of St. Thomas of Villanova:** *See* St. Thomas of Villanova.

**Siwanoy:** Indian group who lived in Ridgefield — *see* Aokeets.

**Sixth Lane:** Rivate, dead end lane off Mamanasco Road at the Eight Lakes [RN].

**Sixth Purchase**, the final acquisition of land from the American Indians for the new town of Ridgefield, took place April 10, 1729. The sizable tract included much of today's Ridgebury as well as what is now western Danbury, ceded by Ridgefield in 1846. The deed is signed by eight Indians, including Ah Topper, Mokens, Waw Sachim, Jacob Turkey and Captain Jacob Turkey. *See also* Purchases, New Patent.

**Size of Ridgefield:** *See under* Population, Growth *or* Area.

**Skandera, Dr. Michael**, (1924-2014), native of Danbury, taught in Ridgefield schools for 45 years, perhaps a record; started at East Ridge School, 1947, then Ridgebury School 1962-92; was World War II bomber pilot, flew 50 missions over Europe. [WWW]

**Skate Park:** *See* Graham Dickinson SPIRIT Skate Park.

**Skeletons**, believed to be Revolutionary War soldiers, have been uncovered along the route of the Battle of Ridgefield (*q.v.*), including two 19th Century discoveries near Hessian Drive, long thought to be Hessians, but more recently believed to be British. At least one of these skeletons was long owned by Dr. Archibald Y. Paddock (*q.v.*), who exhibited it at the U.S. Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1776. In 2019, several skeletons were unearthed just south of Casagmo, believed to be soldiers who died in the fighting at this spot.

**Skinker:** Title Victor Gilbert (*q.v.*) gave himself; it was an old English term for a bartender or host at an inn. His *Ridgefield Press* column was called "Not Skinking."

**Sklarz, Dr. David**, from Marblehead, Mass., was named director of middle school education Sept. 1981 and leads a study of whether 7-8 graduate East Ridge Junior High should be a 6-8 middle school. He became middle school's first principal and is named one of the top 100 education executives in the nation by the National School Board Association in 1987 [P2/5/1987]; graduate of Columbia. He left in July 1987.

**Skunk Lane** was another – perhaps original – name for North Street (*q.v.*). Name used as early as 1845. Bedini says "many of the residents in that area ate skunk meat, which was reported to be of good flavor when properly prepared. Skunks were commonly eaten during the pre-Revolutionary period." [RN].

**Sky Top Road**, the main road at Lakeland Hills (*q.v.*), runs from Bennett's Farm Road to the dead end of pavement; it is the modern portion of 18th Century Bogus Road (*q.v.*), now a dirt path through Hemlock Hills Refuge (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Sky's the Limit**, built by the Rotary Club (*q.v.*), is a special playground designed for children of all abilities including those with handicaps. [RP1]

**Skydogs, The**, was a local rock band of adult men that played local venues from 1996 to 2000. Members included George Lee, David Van Sise, Dwayne Beyer. A version of the band was performing in and about Seminole, Fla., in 2016-17 called Skydogs 25. [P3/26/1998]

**Skyview Estates:** 1955 subdivision by Stam-Nor Holding Corporation of the neighborhood that includes Bayberry Hill Road (*q.v.*) off lower Branchville Road. [RN]

**Slater, William H.**, (1932-1983), was a musician and bank executive. A native of New Rochelle, he became organist and choir director of a church there at age 13, studied at the New England Conservatory of Music, and had performed widely on the organ and piano. He was organist at Ridgebury Congregational Church. He served on the Republican Town Committee and lived at 355 North Street. [P9/17/1983]

**Slavery:** The first known slave living in Ridgefield was Mingo (*q.v.*), who ran away from Timothy Keeler in 1734, but there were probably slaves here soon after settlement. The first enslaved birth was Ishmael (*q.v.*), born in 1739, who as a grown man ran away from at least two owners. A study has identified at least 83 African-Americans who lived in town in the 18th Century, of whom 53 were enslaved. The 1790 census, the first official count of slaves, listed only five slaves in town and four free non-white residents. By 1800, six of the 25 Blacks in town were slaves. By 1820, there were no slaves. *See also* Underground Railroad.

**Slavin, Sabina**, was a longtime president of the Board of Directors of the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra. Her husband, **Walter Slavin**, a physicist, was a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission. [P2/4/2002]

**Slawson, Charles Wesley**, (1832-1909), was in 1880 a “book agent” — selling books to townspeople — while also maintaining the family farm on North Street, what was later Stonecrest (*q.v.*). By 1900 he was living in Chicago where he was listed as a book publisher. As a member of the Union Party he was a Ridgefield state representative in 1866. [JFS]

**Sleepy Hollow Road** runs between Round Lake Road and Barrack Hill Road, part of the 1950s Eight Lakes subdivision (*q.v.*). The “cute” name is not local. [RN]

**Small pox:** Dec. 21, 1780 – The town Meeting allows “inoculation of ye small pox to be practiced in this town from this time to the first of April next and to be under the restrictions and regulations as is by law provided in that case.” [It had long been common knowledge that anyone who had survived smallpox became immune to the disease. In the late 1700s, “inoculation,” also called variolation, involved infecting people with small pox, usually from pustules of people who had had mild cases, in the hope that they would become immune. It was often not successful – see April 8, 1782. Sarah, daughter of Bartholomew and Sarah Weed, dies “by the small pox by innoculation [sic],” her gravestone in Ridgebury Cemetery reports. She was 26 years old. Dec. 4, 1797 – 17 years after smallpox inoculation was first allowed, the Town Meeting again decided that “liberty is given to inoculation for the small pox, under the restrictions and regulations of law.” Unlike most votes, it was not unanimous, and the motion passed by “two thirds of said meeting.” The town established a Board of Health to deal with an outbreak in June 1860. “Some of the schools are closed. Social gatherings are to be dispensed with...” [DAR6/2/1860] *See also* Pest-House.

**Smalley, John S.**, (1846-1865), an African American who was probably born here, was among the last to die in the Union Army. He volunteered November 1863 and served with the 29th Regiment in the Petersburg-Richmond campaign in Virginia, where he was wounded in the spine, and at Brownsville, Texas, where he died of dysentery Sept. 27, 1865. He was a grandson of Edward and Betsey Armstrong (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Smalley House:** Restaurant in Gaeta Shopping Center, 439 Main Street, in the 1970s; succeeded by Galloway's (*q.v.*).

**Smillie, George Henry**, (1840-1921), a NYC native, was a leading American landscape artist at the turn of the 20th Century. He lived and worked for many years at 114 Main Street. His

works are in collections of major museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art.  
[WWW]

**Smith, Azariah,** bought a cider mill and 25 acres in Farmingville near Lee farms. [RLR 12/136]

**Smith, Amos,** (1811-1881), was born in the Smith Tavern at Main and Prospect Streets, which his father, Amos, had established. He ran the tavern for many years, served as a selectman, and was one of the original directors of the Ridgefield Savings Bank. [RSB23]

**Smith, Charles 2nd,** (1817-1898) was who served as a state representative in 1855, 1862 and 1863. His first term, he was an Anti-Masonic Whig while his last two were as a Union Party member. He lived at Titicus crossroads. He had a grocery, shoe and “fancy goods” store that burned down April 19, 1857 [HC4/25/1857]

**Smith, Clemence Mills,** (ca 1731-1828), a native of Greenwich, married John Smith, 1751, and with him and son, Amos, operated a tavern at their house, built by John’s father Ebenezer, at the corner of Main and Prospect Streets, now the site of the Ridgefield Library. Her name sometimes rendered Clement, Clemente, or Clementine. [JFS]

**Smith, Dr. Clifford V.,** (1931-), was an engineer and professor who, on Aug. 7, 1969, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Education, becoming the first African American to serve on a major town board or commission. A former federal Environmental Protection Agency executive, Dr. Smith later became chancellor of the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, serving from 1986 to 1990, was vice president of Oregon State University, was a trustee of Johns Hopkins University, and president of the General Electric Fund. [JFS]

**Smith, Cora Rubens,** (1912-1978), was a pharmacist who with husband, Edward M., operated Smith’s Pharmacy and, after his death, continued to run the business. She was a member of the Police Commission.

**Smith, Duncan MacMillan,** (1863-1956), a native of Illinois, was a longtime columnist for the Chicago Daily News who later owned the Rockford (IL) Republican. In 1929, he moved to Ridgefield to be close to his daughter, Margaret Shane (q.v.). He wrote a weekly column, A Birdseye View, for The Ridgefield Press for nearly 30 years. [WWW]

**Smith, Edward Hurlbutt,** (1827-1905), a descendant of one of the first settlers but born in Westport and raised in NYC, was a prominent businessman who moved to Ridgefield in 1849, operated a general store on Main Street and was a partner in the Ridgefield Shirt Factory (q.v.). A Whig first and then a Liberal Republican, he was a state representative in 1859 and 1873. He served as school board president, and president of the Ridgefield Improvement Society. Known for his oratory and debating skills, he was for much of his life an outspoken opponent of slavery. He owned the Corner Store (q.v.). He died the same day as his wife, Delia, both of the flu. [WWW, CBRFC, RSB22]

**Smith, Edward M.,** (1902-1964), operated Smith’s Pharmacy (q.v.) and was married to pharmacist Cora Rubens Smith (q.v.).

**Smith, Harvey,** (1792-1864), a civil engineer, was in charge of building the Danbury and Norwalk Rail Road in 1850 and served as the line’s superintendent for many years. He was the first person appointed judge of probate when the Ridgefield District was established in 1841. He was a state representative in 1845. [RIR]

**Smith, Harvey Keeler,** (1813-87), a Ridgefield native, was an innkeeper who operated the Smith Tavern and founded the Oreneca Inn (q.v.), which operated for years under various



names. He was a son of Amos Smith, founder of the Smith Tavern. He was appointed postmaster in 1839 and in 1856, each time serving a couple of years. A Democrat, he was a state representative in 1852 and 1873.

**Smith, Henry**, (1821-1893), a Norwalk native, was co-owner of the Ridgefield Shirt Factory (q.v.), who served as a Republican state representative in 1867. [P4/28/1893]

**Smith, Howard Donaldson**, (1859-1944), was a Ridgefield pharmacist and drug store owner early in the 20th Century. He produced a number of postcards under the name H.D. Smith.

**Smith, Ida**, a veteran manager of high-class hotels, managed the Port of Missing Men (q.v.) starting in 1907. [DD135]

**Smith, James**, (abt. 1810-?), was a farmer who served as a Democratic state representative in 1852.

**Smith, Jeremiah** had part ownership of the Titicus grist mill. *See* Epentus Howe.

**Smith, Jennie E.**, (1842-1927), was the town's first librarian, appointed in 1899 and served 25 years; she introduced the Dewey decimal system to the collection, about 3,000 books when she started. [RPC]

**Smith, Job**, (1754-1832), was a farmer who was a major in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, and was known in later life as Job Smith, Esq. He served as a state representative in 1800, 1805, and 1806, and was a selectman every year from 1802 to 1806. He is one of only three Revolutionary War veterans buried in Mapleshade Cemetery. [JFS]

**Smith, John W. "Jack"**, (1883-1959), a native of England, was an estate superintendent who specialized in growing orchids. His plants won many national awards and Smith was involved in several national horticultural organizations. He ran the greenhouses at Upagenstit (q.v.). Active in the community, he was a selectman from 1947 to 1951, president of the Community Center, and activity in the Rotary Club. [WWW]

**Smith, Lewis E.**, (abt.1847-?) was a farmer and a Republican state representative in 1882.

**Smith, Louis G.**, was a New York City businessman who owned a chicken farm on North Salem Road that inspired his across-the-road neighbor, Eugene O'Neill, in writing play, "Desire Under the Elms." [See DD17] Ada Phair later owned the place.

**Smith, Mary-Ann Tirone**, a novelist and former librarian, lived here from 1970 until early 1990s. Her 10 novels include *The Port of Missing Men*, and *The Book of Phoebe*. [P7/16/1987, NR]

**Smith, Matthew**, (1740-1823), was a British soldier who deserted as General Tryon's troops were passing through Ridgebury on their way from Danbury to Ridgefield in 1777; settled in Ridgebury and is buried in the Ridgebury Cemetery. [JW]

**Smith, Nathan**, (1756-1831), a state representative in 1804, 1805, 1807 and 1813, was a Revolutionary War captain and clerk of the First Congregational Church from 1813 to 1831. He was a selectman in 1786, 87, 91, 93, 93, and 94.

**Smith, Nathan**, (1790-1856), son of Nathan (1756-1831), was town clerk from 1832 to 1852 and the first treasurer of the Town Deposit Fund (q.v.).

**Smith, Samuel Mills**, (1816-89), was a farmer and a Democrat who served as state representative in 1853.

**Smith, Stephen,** (1717-1798), was a state representative in 1776, one of the first to serve in that post after Connecticut became a state. He was town treasurer from 1746 to 1785 and town clerk from 1747 to 1785. In 1790, he was one of the few people in town to own a slave.

**Smith Cemetery:** This 18th Century cemetery has vanished. It was located on Mopus Bridge Road, bisected by the state line, but no stones remain. Rockwell says none were there in 1927. *See* also Gamaliel Smith Cemetery.

**Smith Road** is an earlier name for today's Still Road from Haviland Road to Route 7, named for a family prominent in that area from the late 1700s until early in the 20th Century. [RN]

**Smith Tavern:** Operated during the 18th and 19th Centuries at the corner of Main and Prospect Streets; razed in 1900 to make way for the Ridgefield Library. Served as a meeting place for various organizations and even as a courtroom. *See* Amos *and* Clemence Smith.

**Smith's Pharmacy** was located at 423 Main Street (ONS102) in the middle of the 20th Century, operated by Edward M. Smith and his wife, Cora. It later, under Cora, moved across the street to 454 Main Street, before it was sold in the 1970 to Joseph and Shirley December, who changed the name to December Drugs. The first Smith Pharmacy was operated by Howard Donaldson Smith (*q.v.*) very early in the 20th Century, but was gone by 1932. [JFS]

**Smith's Pond:** Name for Great Pond (*q.v.*) in an 1835 deed; also Smith's Great Pond, 1828; Ezra Smith had land there. [RN]

**Snakey:** Nickname for Julius Santini (1922-1985), father of Buggy Santini.

**Snoeck, Samuel and Elizabeth,** (both 1856-1939), natives of Holland, known as Ma and Pa, was a beloved couple who ran a boarding house in the Scott house (*q.v.*) on Catoonah Street in the early 20th Century. He died nine days after she did. [DD138, who incorrectly gives name as Snoecks]

**Snow storms,** notable: **Jan. 18-19, 1857:** Blizzard with minus-7 low temperature shut down the town with huge drifts; snow in some places in the county was 10 feet deep [DAR]. **March 21-22, 1861:** Snow drifts "10 feet high in some places" from a storm. [DAR] **Jan. 18, 1867:** a huge snowstorm with 11-foot drives shuts down town for two days. [DAR] **March 11-13, 1888** The legendary "Blizzard of '88 with about three feet of snow, hurricane force winds and temperatures below zero shut down the town for more than a week. One drift on West Lane near High Ridge was measured at 15 feet. **Easter Sunday, April 4, 1915:** called by Press "worst storm of the season" [P4/6/1915]. **Oct. 10, 1925:** An early "blizzard." Feb. 4, 1926, a blizzard dumped three feet of snow on the town — nearly as much as the "Everywhere were huge drifts which reminded us of the great blizzard of 1888," The Press said. **February 19-21, 1934:** called by Jennie Holmes the "biggest snowfall ever in Ridgefield" [DD85]. *See* DD90,91 for details. **Dec. 28, 1947:** Drifts reached 11 feet [DD85]. **Feb. 9 and 10, 1969:** Over 20 inches fell, winds of up to 50 mph, called the worst snowstorm in 20 years. **Oct. 10, 1979:** 6 inches fell, unusually early, much damage to trees and power lines.. **Feb. 11, 1983:** In only 12 hours, nearly two feet of snow fell, one of the fastest accumulations on record. **Oct. 4, 1987:** A surprise storm drops three inches of heavy wet snow on trees that had all their leaves, and with wind gusting to 40 mph, many break; 83% of town lost power, some sections for many days [P10/8/1987]. **Oct. 29, 2011,** called "Snotober," caused the cancellation of Halloween in town (canceled also next year

by Hurricane Sandy, same date). **Jan. 21, 2016:** A blizzard named Jonas provided nearly three feet of snow. *See also* Snowfall.

**Snowfall:** The average annual snowfall for Ridgefield is 43 inches. However, the swings can be great. During the winter of 1960-61, snowfall totaled 81 inches. By March 24, 1994, 75 inches of snow had fallen during that winter season, canceling school 12 times. During the winter of 1995-96, the most snow of any winter in the century fell on the region: approximately 111 inches. On May 9, 2020, much of unpaved Ridgefield had a light coating of overnight snow. In January 1879, James R. St. John reported the following Ridgefield statistics: Average number of snowstorms per year: 17; average depth during each year: 5.5 feet; greatest depth in one year: 8 feet 4 inches in the winter of 1867-68; greatest depth falling at one time: Jan. 12-14, 1853, and Dec. 26, 1872, each 24 inches; greatest number of snowstorms in one year: winter of 1874-5, 27; fewest snowstorms, winters of 1864 and 1878, 9 each; the coldest day, Jan. 8, 1866, 21 below zero (the hottest was July 20-21, 1853, 100 degrees) [P1/29/1879]. *See also* Snow storms.

**Soccer Club of Ridgefield**, or SCOR, was founded in 1975 by Al Diniz (*q.v.*), John Kreisher and Jack Hughes; three founders were honored in 2016 by Ridgefield Old Timers Association; SCOR sponsors many teams and an annual regional tournament.

**Society of St. Pius X**, a conservative Catholic order of priests, sisters and brothers, operates St. Ignatius Retreat House, Christ the King Church, and Padre Pio Academy (*q.v. each*) on an 13-acre campus on Tackora Trail, acquired in 1979; order founded in 1970 by the French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, who visited Ridgefield in 1980; *see also* Manresa and St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary.

**Socony:** Gasoline sold at several Ridgefield service stations in 1920s-30s, including Moser's (*q.v.*) at 31 Danbury Road (now Ridgefield Mobil); Joe's Store; and garage at 378 Main Street; stood for Standard Oil Company of New York, which became Mobil, which means Moser/KEB/Ridgefield Mobil station has sold the same company's gasoline nearly a century.

**Soda fountains:** Existed at Bissell Pharmacy for 68 years until Feb. 3 1964; also at Squash's News Store; Haines 5/10 Cent store in 1940s and 50s; Walker's Happy Store (*q.v.*) around 1920.

**Soils:** *See* Land types.

**Soldiers Fair** was an event run by local churches during the Civil War to raise money to help injured and ailing soldiers in hospital, particularly near the front. The 1863 fair in Jones Hall (*q.v.*) raised \$475 (about \$1,000 in 2020 dollars). [DAR12/23/1963]

**Solley family:** Dr. and Mrs. Fred P. Solley Sr. in 1909 bought the former Sherwood Farm of 88 acres on North Salem Road as a weekend and holiday retreat, naming it Craigmoor (*q.v.*). Dr. Solley practiced internal medicine in NYC and died in 1950; daughter, Margaret, became Mrs. George M. Durant and who, with her late husband, operated the Keeler and Durant real estate (he) and insurance (she) agency for 23 years; by 2008, agency had become part of Coldwell Banker. *See also* DD17, DD18

**Songwriters:** *See* Composers.

**Sonnichsen, Eric**, (1909-99), was a merchant seaman for 45 years who also wrote short stories for H.L. Mencken's American Mercury and other magazines. He bred German shepherds.

He came to Ridgefield 1965 with his wife Muriel Gallick, an actress who had appeared on Broadway in the 1930s. [WWW]

**Sophia Drive**, from Scodon Drive to Bogus Road at Scodon (*q.v.*), was named for Sophia Langstroth, a former owner of the land with her husband, Dr. Francis Ward Langstroth (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Sorcinelli, Esperanzio**, is said to have been the “first Italian to come to Ridgefield,” said grandson James Costanzi (*q.v.*), probably in 1887. He was a stonemason who built many walls in town. He lived and worked here 20 years, then returned to Italy where his wife still lived. [Impact, p. 9]

**Sorensen, Theodore Chaiken**, (1928-2010), a native of Nebraska, was a lawyer and aide to President John F. Kennedy for whom he was a noted speechwriter; helped Kennedy write *Profiles in Courage* and did many of Kennedy’s most famous speeches; he wrote the sensitive letter from Kennedy to Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev that helped end the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962; lived at 277 Bennett’s Farm Road in the 1970s. [WWW]

**Sottung, George Karl**, (1929-1999), a graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago, was a noted artist whose works are in a number of museums, including the U.S. Naval Museum in DC. He created illustrations for many popular magazines in the mid-20th Century, including Reader’s Digest and The New Yorker, and for a number of books. He and his wife, Ellen, lived at 96 Aspen Ledges Road, starting in 1967.

**Sotzmann's map of 1796**: Daniel Friedrich Sotzmann's map of Connecticut was published in 1796 in Hamburg, Germany, and mixes both English and German words; names are often inaccurate (Ridgefield spelled Rigdfield); good job of representing the roads from Ridgefield village to Danbury and to Ridgebury; also old route to Danbury via Picketts Ridge and Starrs Plain; attempts to show industries including a saw mill (circle with line emanating) north of Route 35, South Salem Road, and another out near Great Pond; saw mill and perhaps two grist mills shown off Saw Mill Hill Road in Titicus.

**Sound View Farm**: Clifford Seymour farm on the west side of 247 Wilton Road West, south of St. John’s Road in the early 20th Century; large house used in 1970s as Knights of Columbus (*q.v.*) Hall.

**Sound View Acres**: 1956 subdivision that includes Soundview and Split Level Roads by Peter Lorenzini (*q.v.*) and Norman Craig (*q.v.*).

**Soundview Road** from Creamery Lane to Wilton Road West, on its southern part had views of Long Island Sound for many years, most now obscured by trees. A dirt road with no houses on a 1936 map of the town; perhaps an old estate path or related to the Fairgrounds (*q.v.*). Much of the road was part of the Beacon Hill (*q.v.*) estate, later owned by Peter Lorenzini (*q.v.*), who named and developed it in the 1950s and 1960s. It became a town road in 1958. [RN]

**South End Cottage** was the name used by Helen L. (Mrs. Anson) Strokes for her Main Street home in SR1916S.

**South Hall** was a residence so called and long used by St. Stephen’s Church for various functions, including meetings and classes. The building may date from the 1850s [DD], but was probably enlarged by the Rev. James Tuttle-Smith (*q.v.*), who lived there in the 1890s until his death in 1910. From the 1940s until 1958, it was the quarters of Electro-

Mechanical Research (*q.v.*), which merged with Schlumberger (*q.v.*); Schlumberger donated the building to the church in 1958. In the 1960s the town Board of Education had its administrative offices and held its meetings on the second floor. The building was placed on the market in the fall of 2020. [JFS]

**South Long Pond:** An early name for what is now Oscaleta Lake (*q.v.*) in Lewisboro, once part of Ridgefield. [RN]

**South Middle District:** A school district, cited in 1864, that was probably the South Ridgebury [RN] school district. [See RN for details]

**South Olmstead Lane** is an old highway from Olmstead Lane to St. Johns Road, existing before 1856. As a farm path, it was probably established in the 18th Century to skirt the east side of the Silver Spring Swamp or New Pound Bogs. [RN] *See also* Seymour Cemetery.

**South Pond:** *See* South Long Pond.

**South Salem:** A hamlet in the Westchester County, NY, town of Lewisboro, bordering Ridgefield. In the 18th Century the town was called Salem; it then split into North Salem and Lower Salem. In 1840, Lower Salem changed its name to Lewisboro (*q.v.*). [RN]

**South Salem Road** is a portion of Route 35 from West Lane at the schoolhouse to the NY line where it connects with Route 35 in the South Salem hamlet (*q.v.*) of Lewisboro. It was the main highway to NYC and in the 18th Century, called the Bedford Road (*q.v.*). [RN]

**South Shore Drive:** This shoreless road at Lakeland Hills (*q.v.*) was named in connection with Sunset Lake (*q.v.*), planned but never built just to its north. Originally, it was two roads. From Bennett's Farm Road straight eastward to the end was called Sunset Drive while the rest of the road – southerly, then easterly – was South Shore Drive. Selectmen in 1972 extended the South Shore name to Sunset Drive to avoid confusion with Sunset Lane (*q.v.*). [RN]

**South Street** is a short, house-less lane from Danbury Road to the town's sewage treatment plant, trash transfer station, recycling center, highway department, the ROAR dog shelter, and the town dog pound, probably the only significant road in town without a single, human residence on it — though many dogs live along it. In the early 20th Century, it was a “cow path” between fields leading to the town dump and sewer plant, once called Sewer Bed Road, and was improved by the Morganti family. The name is of uncertain origin. [RN] *See also* Northrup Road.

**Southridge Court** serves a 1985 subdivision of 10 lots on 30 acres off the west side of Silver Spring Road on the Wilton-Ridgefield and New York-Ridgefield lines by Roger Petersen; the name vaguely recalls an 18th Century name for this area, Southwest Ridges (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Southwest Cafe**, featuring Mexican and Southwestern U.S. cuisine, is a restaurant at 109 Danbury Road (Copps Hill Common), founded in 1987 and operated by Barbara Nevins, who came here from New Mexico. (Co-owned in 1988 was Cheryl Guerrie.) “The food reflects the local cuisine in Northern New Mexico,” said Nevins. R.C. Gorman and Dennis Haggerty created the art on the walls. The restaurant sponsors the annual Margarita 5K race, benefiting Ability Beyond; the 15th edition of the race was in July 2021.

**Southwest Ridges** was a name, used as early as 1717, for the southwest corner of town which, before 1731, included much of Lewisboro. Today the territory would include land west of

Silver Spring Road in Ridgefield, and along Elmwood and Smith Ridge Roads in Lewisboro. [RN] *See also* Royall Oak Ridge.

**Sovanu:** Name of the home of Lilli C. Clark on mail sent to her in 1950. She lived on Wilton Road West and managed Sanitary Cleaners on Main Street.

**Spadoni, Annunziata,** (1890-1911), was a 21-year-old Ridgefielder who died of “accidental poisoning and whose funeral was said by the Stamford Advocate [7/31/1911] to have been “the largest and most expensive funeral in the history of this town, conservative estimates placing the cost at \$1,000 [\$56,000 in 2021]. More than 400 people stretching a mile participated in the procession to St. Mary’s Cemetery, accompanied by the full Ridgefield Band.

**Spafford, James,** was Ridgefield High School principal, 1978-82.

**Spanish flu:** *See* Influenza.

**Spartans** was Ridgefield’s adult football team in the 1930s [DD127]

**Spectacle Brook,** first mentioned here in 1732, rises in a swamp west of Nod Road, south of Whipstick Road and east of Wilton Road East, travels southerly, east of Spectacle Lane, into Wilton’s Spectacle Bogs and ends at the East Branch of the Comstock Brook, which meets the Norwalk River and flows into Long Island Sound. Names is said to stem from the Wilton bogs’ looking like a pair of spectacles, with upper and lower swamps connected. [RN]

**Spectacle Lane** is an old highway, from Wilton Road East, easterly a short distance, then southerly and parallel to Wilton Road East. Mentioned as early as 1744 in a deed. For many years, it connected with roads in Wilton. Eventually the Ridgefield portion south of Gay Road became a barely used dirt road that, in Wilton, disappeared into woods. [RN]

**Spectra Co.:** A business that sold gobo lenses for Broadway shows; operated from 52 Barry Avenue [eBay auction item].

**Spence, Dr. James K.,** (1922-1975), was a physician at 409 Main Street in 1967 and later moved his office to Bailey Avenue. His widow, Joann, has been active for many years in the community.

**Sperry, Bert Eugene,** (1871-1946), a native of Michigan, came to Ridgefield in 1892, and worked at Adams and Keeler livery stable. In 1897, he opened Sperry’s Livery Stable (*q.v.*) stable on Catoonah Street, opposite the firehouse; later had taxi service, and ran a coal business there. He was active in the Lions Club and other organizations. [WWW, DD39, 132,133]

**Sperry’s Livery Stable:** Bert Sperry (*q.v.*) bought from Morris Whitlock (*q.v.*) ca. 1897 the large livery stable on Catoonah Street opposite the firehouse; it later quartered Sperry’s taxi service and coal business. The building collapsed in January 1948. [WWW] *See also* Livery Stables. DD132,133]

**SPHERE,** an acronym for Special People’s Housing, Education, Recreation, Employment, was founded in 1987. The founders, including Christine and Michael Steele, and Ghislaine and Christopher Moomaw, were “families whose children were born with cognitive disabilities that relegated them to the margins of childhood life” and who “foresaw that if they didn’t act together quickly, their adult children would spend a lifetime alone, in isolation, cut off from social, creative and educational opportunities.” It was largely responsible for the

creation of Sunrise Cottage (*q.v.*), founded the Out and About Club (*q.v.*), and works closely with The Prospector Theater (*q.v.*).

**Spice** was a 43-pound cat that made the Guinness Book of Records in 1975 for the largest size of a house cat. It was owned by Loren and Elsa Caddell of Catoonah Street.

**Spiegelman, Peter**, (1958-), a former Wall Street software developer, has written a half dozen crime novels, most featuring a Manhattan private eye, John March. He has won a Shamus Award for *Black Maps*; lives on Norrans Ridge Drive.

**SPIF**: *See* Senior Positive Initiative Forum.

**Spire, Charles**, (1929-2011), was the public schools' music director from 1973 to 1990. He became Ridgebury School music teacher 1967; founded Ridgefield Youth Orchestra (*q.v.*) in 1971; retired 1990; Rotary Citizen of the Year, 1993; lived on Cherry Lane until moving to Florida [NR] [WWW]

**Spire View Road**, a dead-end off Old Stagecoach Road at the Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*) is so called because from it one could see the Ridgebury Congregational Church spire. [RN]

**Split Level Road** at Sound View Acres (*q.v.*) between Soundview Road and Wilton Road East descends a steep hill (from ca. 750 feet above sea level to ca. 630 feet), thus being of two levels – flat and steep. (Many “split-level” houses were also built along the road.) [RN]

**Spong, Hilda**, (1875-1955) was a British-born, Australia-educated actress who starred in many stage productions, mostly comedies, from around 1890 until the late 1930s, and was known for her beauty. She lived at 19 Main Street, which she called Maplewood, from 1935 until her death. [WWW]

**Sport and Toy Caboose**: *See* Ridgefield Sport and Toy Caboose

**Sportsmen's Inn**: Small inn that operated ca. 1915, possibly near Danbury Road/Main St. intersection; managed by John F. Raifstanger.

**Spotlight Theater Workshop**: Program founded 1974 by Allan F. and Lillian Matthews (*q.v.*) to allow youngsters to learn theater arts and to perform; after Allan's death in 1986, operated by Lillian and their son, Victor. [NR]

**Spray Bay** is a 2,800-square-foot park for children, with 26 fountain and shower devices, holding up to 150 children, located at the Recreation Center off Danbury Road. It opened in 2014. [P7/3/2014]

**Spring Forward** is a 1999 movie, filmed in part in Ballard Park — *see* Tom Gilroy.

**Spring Valley Road** runs from lower Ridgebury Road, parallel to and west of Ridgebury Road, northward to Chestnut Hill Road. It is an old highway and predates 1856; it might even be an earlier route for Ridgebury Road from Ledges to Chestnut Hill Roads. So called from many springs on the embankment along the east side of the road, it was one of the last roads in town to be paved, in the late 1960s or early 70s. [RN]

**Spring Valley Puppet Theater**: Founded 1977 by puppeteer Michael Graham, who grew up on Spring Valley Road.

**Spruce Hole**: Several deeds between 1805 and 1834 mention this depression of land that apparently existed in the Mill Plain area of Danbury, once part of Ridgefield. [RN]

**Spruce Mountain**, a hill that reaches about 920 feet above sea level, is really a Danbury locality, but some of its western “slope” may have been considered to be in northeast Ridgefield. Near its peak, west of Route 7, Danbury Airport had a large, rotating beacon. [RN]

**Spruce Ridge Farm:** *See under Stables.*

**Sprucewood Lane** is a short, dead-end road off Pinecrest Drive (*q.v.*) at Pinecrest. [RN]

**Squash:** Nickname of three brothers Aldo (Big Squash) and Louis (Little Squash) Travaglini, and their brother, Eugene, who lived in New Haven; also their father, Nazzareno “Luchetta” Travaglini, though not to his face. *See also Squash’s.* [DD60]

**Squash’s:** Popular name for Ridgefield News Store at 389 Main Street when owned and operated by Aldo “Squash” Travaglini (*q.v.*); in 1953 he bought what had been United Cigar Store, which was originally on the east side of Main Street, and changed name to Ridgefield News Store, although everyone called it “Squash’s.” The store carried newspapers, magazines, paperbacks, candy, tobacco products as well as stationery and office supplies; it originally had a soda fountain, which was closed around 1970. Travaglini retired in 1989, but the store is still called Squash’s today, although its formal name is Squash’s Ridgefield Office Supply, which is actually a registered trademark. The store has been managed by Whitney Williams for many years. *See also Squash.*

**SQZBX:** A license plate in town belonging to Aldo Tulipani (*q.v.*).

**SS Ridgefield:** At least ocean-going ships have been named Ridgefield. (1) World War II “type T-2” tanker, built 1944, commemorates Battle of Ridgefield; renamed after the war “Esso Purfleet” from 1947-63 when it was scrapped in Belgium; (2) World War II Liberty Ship “James A. Butts” became after the war a tramp steamer and was, after it was acquired by the Ridgefield Navigation Company,, named the Ridgefield in 1958; in 1962 it ran aground on Grand Cayman and broke in two. Why the company was named Ridgefield has not been discovered. (3) Another Liberty Ship, launched in 1945 as the SS Colgate Victory became in 1948 SS Hong Kong Transport. By 1957 it was the SS Illinois, and 1962, the SS Oregon Victory (it had been built in Portland, Ore.). In 1964, Saxis Steamship Company bought and named it SS Ridgefield Victory; scrapped it in Bilbao, Spain the next year in 1969. Named perhaps because Ridgefield, Wash. (*q.v.*), was only a few miles from Portland, where the vessel was built. [JFS]

**Stables:** After the age of horse-powered vehicles came to an end in the early 20th Century, riding stables became popular as a way for people to experience the fun and sport of horseback riding. Many modern establishments also board horses for their owners who do not have stables on their own property. Among the major stables in Ridgefield have been Spruce Ridge Farm, 486 Ridgebury Road [RSD86], called Ridge Hollow Farm in [RSD91]; Copper Beech Stable, 879 North Salem Road [RSD73], Stonecrest Riding Stables [RSD66], called Stonecrest Farm in [RSD91], 258 North Street; Stepping Stone Farm, 20 Mopus Bridge Road [RSD86]. *See also Livery Stables.*

**Stage coaches:** Probably as early as the 1740s Ridgefield was being served by stages that passed through between NYC and Hartford on the “upper post road” (*see Post Road*). In the 19th Century, the Hunt family ran a stage from Ridgebury through Ridgefield to Norwalk to meet the steamboats to NYC. Stages also ran through Ridgebury in the 18th and early 19th Centuries, on their way to Danbury or New York. From 1852 until 1870, stages ran from the village to the train station at what became Branchville. (After passenger service on the branch line, opened in 1870, ended in 1925, buses ran from village to the station.) In 1866,



G.R. Scofield began a stage trip Tuesdays and Saturdays from Stamford to Ridgefield [Advocate, 4/27/1866]

**Stage Road:** In the mid-19th Century Branchville Road between the two ends of Old Branchville Road was so-called because it was built around 1850 as a smoother, less step route for the stages, both people and freight, running from the train station at Branchville (then called Ridgefield Station) to the center of town. When the branch rail line opened in 1870, stages were no longer needed and neither was the name. [RN]

**Stainman, Rabbi Theodore,** a native of New Jersey, was the first leader of the first Jewish congregation in Ridgefield. He began work as a student rabbi in summer 1967 while still enrolled at Hebrew Union College in NYC; left in spring, 1969; ordained in 1970 and joined Air Force as a chaplain in Alaska and at posts around the world; retired as a colonel, 1993; taught at a Delaware college and then served as a rabbi in Washington state and in Colorado. [NR]

**Stalford, Francis Henry** (1847-95), was a grocer and served as a state representative in 1885. He was married to Emma Barhite. A native of Pennsylvania, he died in New Jersey but is buried with his wife in the Barhite family plot in Scott's Cemetery, Ridgefield.

**Stamats, Bette-Barron "B.B.,"** (1932-2009), a native of D.C., was a noted garden designer who lived for 27 years at 153 South Salem Road with her companion, TV director David G. Barnhizer (*q.v.*). Stamats was a frequent lecturer/instructor at the New York Botanical Garden and was a founder of the Indian Creek Nature Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. [P2/19/2009]

**Stamford Mill River:** Its source is brooks from swamps of western Ridgefield in the West Lane-Peaceable area; flows into New York State, and ends in a Stamford reservoir. Name appears as early as 1716. *See also* Mill River, West River. [RN]

**Stamford, New Canaan and Ridgefield Plank Road** was chartered as a toll road by the State Legislature in 1851, but was never built, probably because the the Danbury and Norwalk Rail Road (*q.v.*) opened service in 1852, providing a better means of handling heavy loads that a plank road was designed for. *See also* Plank roads.

**Stamping Place:** An unusual name appearing in a 1726 deed for two acres "lying at or near ye Stamping Place, on ye Southwest Ridges (*q.v.*).". Probably meant an area where wild animals habitually hung out. [RN]

**Stamps:** *See* Postage stamps.

**Standish Drive,** a circular road off Lounsbury Road, is part of Meadow Woods (*q.v.*) and became a town road in 1968. Named for Miles Standish, the pioneer of Plymouth Colony, who had no known connection with Ridgefield or even Connecticut. [RN]

**Standpipe controversy:** Around 1955, the Ridgefield Water Supply Company (Aquarion in 2021) bought the mansion at 35 High Ridge Avenue, the highest point in the village, with plans to erect a standpipe there to maintain strong water pressure in the center of town. Neighbors raised an uproar and the plan was abandoned. [DD154]

**Standpipe Road** is the former name for Peaceable Ridge Road (*q.v.*), used for many years until 1960 when a group of residents decided "standpipe" just did not sound right for them, and they petitioned the selectmen to have the name changed. Named for the water company standpipe(s) standing along it (*q.v.*).

**Standpipes:** Two 850,000 gallon water tanks, built in 2015, provide pressure for the Aquarion water system in town. First standpipe on the Peaceable Ridge Road site, 871 feet above sea level, was built in 1899-1900 and collapsed in 1972. A second was built in 1956, but was replaced in 2015. Peaceable Ridge Road was earlier known as Standpipe Road (*q.v.*). [RN] [DD69]

**Stannard, Charles,** was a local chauffeur for the Hamilton family of High Ridge who was also known as Charlie Peanuts (*q.v.*) because he sold peanuts and popcorn. He was a well-known character in the first third of the 20th Century. [DD40 DD160]

**Starr, Louis Morris** (1868-1936), son of Theodore B. Starr, the noted New York City silversmith, took over father's company and estate (*see* Ontaroga Farm) in Farmingville early in 20th century; daughter C. Margaret Starr Jessup was one of Ridgefield's grand dames in the 20th Century. [JFS]

**Starr's Plain,** a section of Danbury whose name has spilled over into Ridgefield, is generally Starr's Plain is the area east of Route 7 just north of the Ridgefield line. The name comes from some early member of the Starr family, among the first settlers of Danbury. [RN]

**Starr's Ridge** is east of Route 7 and northerly and easterly of Great Pond, running southerly to Picketts Ridge Road and a little beyond. The name, used in the 18th and 19th Centuries, is from either Starr's Plain (*q.v.*) to the north or a Starr family who lived upon the ridge. [RN]

**State highways:** *See* Roads, state.

**State National Bank:** First "commercial bank" allowed in Ridgefield after sale of Fairfield County Bank and Trust Company of Ridgefield (*q.v.*); was National Bank and Trust Company of Fairfield County (*q.v.*) in 1959-62, when name changed after merger; located in Ridgefield Shopping Center (Grand Union) on Main Street; in 1977, was nation's oldest nationally chartered banking institution; merged with and became Connecticut Bank and Trust Company, 1982.

**State police:** *See* Troop A.

**State representative:** Ridgefield is currently in the 111th District as well as a small part of 138th District in northern Ridgebury; before 1967, town of Ridgefield had two state representatives each term; in 1971-73 town's district changed from 163rd to 111th.

**Station Hill:** An old and once well-known village name, [P2/11/1954] for Prospect Street between Main Street and Bailey Avenue; so-called for the Ridgefield Station (*q.v.*) at the bottom of the hill; *see also* Depot Hill and Library Hill. [RN]

**Steak House, The:** Restaurant at 619 Danbury Road near Routes 7 and 35, owned in 1960s by Rose and Guy Leroux; opened in the 1950s; had been Outpost Farm's kennel, then kennel for Gaine's dog food company; ca. 1970 became Red Lion (*q.v.*); building razed in 2005.

**Stebbins, Benjamin** (1692-1780), native of Northampton, Mass., was among the early settlers of Ridgefield. His 1727 saltbox house on northern Main Street, now the site of Casagmo (*q.v.*) condominiums, was used as a hospital at Battle of Ridgefield (*q.v.*), whose main skirmish was nearby; the house was razed in 1892; a bullet-riddled door from the house is now owned by Keeler Tavern Museum. Stebbins narrowly escaped being hit by fire during battle but house was probably saved from burning because a son, Josiah, was a Tory [RIR]

**Stebbins, Emma:** *See* Henry G. Stebbins.

**Stebbins, Henry G.**, (1811-1881), was Ridgefield's second native-born Congressman (1864-66); a great-great grandson of Benjamin Stebbins (*q.v.*), one of Ridgefield's founders; was New York City financier, president of NY Stock Exchange, president of Park Commission that oversaw building of Central Park; his sister, Emma (1815-82), became a noted American sculptress and feminist lesbian — her 1873 statue, "The Angel of the Waters," also known as the "Bethesda Fountain," stands in Central Park.

**Stebbins, Samuel**, (1762-1831), was a veteran of the Revolutionary War who served as a state representative in 1802, 1806 and 1813. He taught at Center School, as described by S.G. Goodrich in *Recollections of A Lifetime*. [JFS]

**Stebbins Close**, a private lane at Casagmo, was named for the family who had lived on and farmed the Casagmo land for more than a century and a half — *see* Benjamin Stebbins. [RN]

**Stebbins Corner**: 19th Century name for intersection of Main Street and Danbury Road because the Stebbins family farm, later the Casagmo estate, was along the southeast side. [JFS] *See* Benjamin Stebbins.

**Steele family**: The Steeles were one of the few land-owning African-American families in Ridgefield in the 19th Century. Isaac Hart Steele (ca. 1834-1921) of North Salem bought a small farm on Limekiln Road in 1865; the house still stands at 101 Limekiln Road; Isaac managed The Hickories farm (*q.v.*) for Gov. George Lounsbury; wife Katie died in 1889. In 1892, Isaac sold the farm and bought a place near 89 Danbury Road. Eventually returned to North Salem. Daughter Mary E. Steele (1859-1933) was a lifelong Ridgefielder. [WWW]

**Steele, Fletcher**, was a Boston-based landscape architect who designed gardens and related facilities at the Westmoreland (*q.v.*) estate between 1929 and 1935. [Terry McManus] *See also* Pergola.

**Steep Brook**, cited as early as 1719, is east of northern Main Street and west of East Ridge, flowing through Casagmo, under Grove Street, and down into Great Swamp. Just north of Grove Street it drops 60 feet in elevation in a short distance, prompting the name. It may have been the site of the town's first saw mill, permission for which was given in 1714. [RN]

**Steers, Billy**, is a children's book author who is also, like his father, an American Airlines pilot. He grew up in Ridgefield, attending Scotland School and living on Seth Low Mountain Road; in 2021 he was living in Roxbury. He both writes and illustrates books, and is especially known for his Tractor Mac series. His son, Willy, is also a pilot.

**Steinman, James Richard** (1947-2021) was an American composer, lyricist and record producer, who lived at 22 Ketcham Road. NYT said "Steinman lived alone in his 6000 square foot house described as a "majestic museum of the self, attached to a quaint cottage in the woods of Ridgefield. He spent years expanding and reimagining the house, transforming it into an embodiment of his own eccentric, complicated personality." His hit singles included Tyler's "Total Eclipse of the Heart," Air Supply's "Making Love Out of Nothing at All," Meat Loaf's "I'd Do Anything for Love (But I Won't Do That)," the Sisters of Mercy's "This Corrosion" and "More," Barry Manilow's "Read 'Em and Weep," and

Celine Dion's cover of "It's All Coming Back to Me Now." He wrote the book, music, and lyrics for *Bat Out of Hell: The Musical*.

**Stengel, George J.**, (1866-1937), an Impressionist artist, lived 145 Main Street, 1920-37, and had his studio above the garage out back. He was a founder of the Hudson River Museum in 1919. [P1/23/1941] . [WWW]

**Stepping Stone Farm:** *See under Stables.*

**Steppy:** Nickname for Frank Taylor (*q.v.*), village constable, because of an affliction that affected his gait.

**Stern, Martha Dodd**, journalist and novelist accused of being a Soviet spy, has been incorrectly reported as living in Ridgefield; she had a home on Kitchawan Road in the South Salem hamlet of Lewisboro, which at the time was served by the Ridgefield post office, explaining why she had a "Ridgefield" mailing address. [JFS]

**Stevens, Carlton Ross**, (1898-1970), a Ridgefield native, was an inventor and World War I hero. An Army motorcycle dispatch rider, he rode 800 miles delivering the first sectional terms of the Armistice to General Pershing. He later invented many machines and electronic devices and founded Stephens Company in Waterbury. He worked on the Manhattan Project in World War II. When he was 14, he established the first ham radio station in Ridgefield. [WWW]

**Stevens, Charles H.**, (1863-1947), bought the Ridgefield Bakery in 1896, with William Reinhart as partner. [P7/17/1896]

**Stevens, Jane Copeland**, (1921-2013), was a concert contralto who graduated from Juilliard and sang at Dr. Norman Vincent Peale's church, in USO shows in World War II, at Carnegie Hall and Radio City Music Hall, in Broadway productions, on television including the Ed Sullivan Show, and at Manhattan night clubs. For many years, she taught acting as well as singing, both privately and in schools such as Wooster and WestConn in Danbury, and was the founder, director and producer of Memory Lane Productions, which recreated USO shows. In the late 1990s, she did a one-woman show, impersonating the 1940s star Jane Froman. She lived the last third of her life in Ridgefield.

**Stewart Block** was the early 20th Century name for the building at 381 Main Street. Walter Stewart, a New Canaan grocer, had briefly had a store there, between S.D. Keeler and Perry's Market (*q.v. each*).

**Stewart Dickson & Co.:** Partnership of several individuals, organized June 1, 1942, that held patents on the manufacture of hatch covers for ships. Headquarters was listed as Ridgefield.

**Stiles, Hart**, was one of the first two elected African-American town officials, chosen in 1871, a year after the 15th Amendment was enacted — *see* Thomas F. Brown.

**Still Road:** Still Road is an old highway that runs between Haviland Road and Stonehenge Road and once continued much farther eastward — *see* RN for details. So called because Hull Keeler operated a distillery. that produced cider brandy in at least the 1870s. [RN] *See also* Taylor's Corners, Old Still Road.

**Stockli, Albert**, (1919-1972), was owner/chef of Stonehenge Inn, 1965-72, after having been instrumental in founding such top NYC restaurants as the Four Seasons, Mermaid Tavern, Forum of the Twelve Caesars, Charlie Brown's, Zum Zum. He was the author of *Splendid Fare: The Albert Stockli Cookbook* (1970). [WWW]

**Stokes, Anson Phelps**, (1838-1916), was a merchant, property developer, banker, and philanthropist, who at his death was worth close to \$20 million in 2020 dollars. While he visited here, he did not live here, but his widow did — *see* Helen Louise Stokes.

**Stokes, Helen Louise Phelps**, (1846–1930), was the widow of Anson Phelps Stokes. In 1916 although she owned several sizable houses including the 100-room Shadowbrook mansion in western Massachusetts, she bought the house and 10 acres of Mrs. George H. Newton on the east side of Main Street, and used it as her summer and weekend retreat until her death. Her funeral was at St. Stephen's Church. Her husband, who'd died in 1913, was a brother of James Stokes (*q.v.*) of West Mountain. merchant, property developer, banker, genealogist and philanthropist. Among her sons was the Rev. Anson Phelps Stokes, an Yale scholar, historian, clergyman, author, and civil rights activist.

**Stokes, James**, (1841-1918), was a wealthy banker and lawyer known internationally for his philanthropy, especially in connection with the YMCA movement. Built the Sunset Hall (*q.v.*) mansion in 1912 and died there. His posthumous biography, *James Stokes: Pioneer of YMCA* by Frank W. Ober came out in 1921. [NR]

**Stolle, Carl A.F.**, (1880-1966), purchased Walnut Grove Farm (*q.v.*), 1921, operated dairy and delivered milk until 1946 [P12/12/1946] when he sold route to Marcus Dairy; continued to own the farm until the 1950s; wife, Susan (1889-1969); both buried Mapleshade Cemetery.

**Stone Hill Dairy:** *See* Stonehill Dairy Farm.

**Stone, Dexter L.**, (1853-1921), a Vermont native, was an 1877 graduate of Harvard and later NYU law who was an attorney in NYC. He retired to a home on West Mountain that burned to the ground in 1913 [P2/19/1914] at a loss of some \$40,000 (\$1-million+ in 2022). He did not rebuild.

**Stone House:** *See* Stonehouse Commons.

**Stone Pillow:** 1985 movie starring Lucille Ball, the last scenes for which were filmed at the Peaceable Acres (*q.v.*) estate, 47 Peaceable Street. [Doug Cuny]

**Stone Ridge Estates:** Subdivision of 59 lots east of Ridgebury Road and north of George Washington Highway, created in 1997 by the town, which bought 252 acres to prevent it from being developed for multifamily housing. 185 acres was devoted to Stone Ridge Estates, of which 92 acres became open space. In all, 160 acres of open space resulted from the 252-acre purchase. Stone Ridge roads include Fisher Lane, Stonewall Lane, Old Trolley Road, Crosby Court, and Encampment Place. Probably the first time since the era of the Proprietors (*q.v.*) that the town subdivided homelots. [RN]

**Stonecrest:** A 20th Century estate along the east side of North Street, built 1900 by Alan Stoddard Apgar (*q.v.*), who invented the name. The mansion, designed like Grovelawn (*q.v.*), burned in March 1949 and was razed. Part of the land is now Stonecrest Estates (*q.v.*).[RN] *See also* Alligator Farm, Stoney Crest.

**Stonecrest Estates:** Subdivision of part of Stonecrest (*q.v.*) estate into lots served by Stonecrest Road, Dowling Drive and Ridgecrest Drive. The estate was acquired in the late 1949s by subdividers Joseph Young, Charles Elliott, and Francis Brown. [RN]

**Stonecrest Mountain:** Fairly modern name for the ridge easterly of North Street, probably inspired by the name of Stonecrest (*q.v.*) estate; also called East Mountain or Copps Mountain (*q.v. each*). [RN]

**Stonecrest Farm:** *See under Stables.*

**Stonecrest Riding Stables:** *See under Stables.*

**Stonecrest Road** off North Street, once the driveway to the main house at Stonecrest (*q.v.*), is part of Stonecrest Estates (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Stonehenge Estates** is a name for Fire Hill Acres (*q.v.*), a Jerry Tuccio subdivision across Route 7 from Stonehenge Road and the old Stonehenge Inn (*q.v.*), whence the name. [RN]

**Stonehenge Inn:** Established in 1946 by Victor Gilbert; named for the English landmark that impressed him when he was serving in World War II, this inn occupied an old house on an old mill site. Visited by many celebrities, including Judy Garland, Mike Todd and Elizabeth Taylor, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, many of the Rockefellers, and Mrs. Thomas Edison; later owned by famous chef Albert Stockli (*q.v.*); then owned for many years by Doug Saville and David Davis; main inn building burned in 1988 and was replaced by similar-looking structure; the inn closed in 2017 after the death of a new owner, Drew Friedman, also owner of Cobbs Mill Inn in Weston; in 2019, converted to Ethan Allen Preparatory School, a private school for young golfers. [RN] [WWW] [P3/7,2019]

**Stonehenge Pond:** Body of water off Stonehenge Road on the Stonehenge Inn (*q.v.*) property; was once a mill pond. [JFS]

**Stonehenge Road:** An old section of the Sugar Hollow Turnpike, later Route 7, which was bypassed sometime after 1936 by the State Highway Department in order to straighten the road; named for the Stonehenge Inn (*q.v.*).

**Stonehill Dairy Farm:** On south side of North Salem Road at New York State line, operated by Stewart E. Scofield (*q.v.*) for about 15 years in the 1930s and 40s; former Hunt farm; was second largest dairy in Ridgefield [DD16]; also appears as Stone Hill.

**Stonehouse Commons** is a residential and office condominium cluster at 619-641 Danbury Road (Route 7). The condominiums were built in 1994. The main “stone house” building was erected in 1922 as the office for Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*) and is still used for offices. [JFS]

**Stonewall Lane** is a short, dead-end road off Old Trolley Road, part of Stone Ridge Estates (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Stoney Crest:** Said to be the original name of what was later called Stonecrest (*q.v.*), home of A.S. Apgar (*q.v.*) on North Street. [RN]

**Stony Brook** is apparently an early name for the Titicus River as it flows along the vicinity of Saw Mill Hill Road. Mentioned in early 19th Century deeds. [RN]

**Stony Hill Road** runs off Branchville Road, connecting along its northerly “scorpion’s tail” to Cooper Road. Easterly off Stony Hill Road runs Stony Hill Terrace, a short dead-end. Developed starting 1962 by Caye Construction Inc. Sometimes spelled Stoney. [RN]

**Stop & Shop:** Chain supermarket opened Oct. 3, 1972 and eventually became the town’s only chain market, after closings of A&P, Grand Union, and First National; the original store was 21,000 square feet and open only Monday through Saturday. [JFS]

**Storer, Albert H.,** (1858-1933), a business newspaper publisher in NYC, was active in St. Stephen’s Church, was on the board of the library, and served on the school board early in the 20th Century. He was elected president of the Ridgefield Business Men’s Association in 1914. Married to Sophie Storer (Knox) (*q.v.*) and lived at 188 Main Street. [NR]

**Storer, Francis Ellingwood**, (1885-1943), a NYC native and Yale 1907, worked for publishing and banking firms in NYC, and was a vestryman and clerk of St. Stephen's Church. He was a son of Albert H. and Sophie Cary Bacon Storer, and lived at 188 Main Street.

**Storer, Sophie:** *See* Sophie Cary Bacon Storer Knox.

**Storms**, major: *April 15, 1871* — Hailstones as large as three inches in circumference, breaking 70 windows in one house, and the finger of a man hit by one. "Cattle and horses in the fields were wild with terror and pain" [Columbian Register]; *July 13, 1916*: Major summer storm with "force of a hurricane" fells trees, knocks out train service, utilities, several people hit by lightning, 2.57 inches rain, barn destroy (four buildings at Danbury Fair burned); *Sept. 21, 1938*: The huge hurricane that strikes southern New England takes a heavy toll on the town's trees; about 100 were reported down and many more damaged. *July 13, 1950*: Twister at 7:30 p.m., took off part of RHS roof and felled many trees on Governor and Main Streets, and in Veterans Park; *Aug. 31, 1954*, Hurricane Carol damages many trees, gusts to 60 mph, 2.7 inches rain; *Sept. 17, 1999*, Tropical storm Floyd dumped 12 inches of rain, damaging a third of town's roads. *Aug. 2011*: Tropical Storm Irene knocks out power more than a week in some parts of town; *Oct. 29, 2011*: Rare early snow storm called Alfred or "Snowtober" causes widespread power outages for up to 11 days and cancels Halloween; up to 2 feet of snow in Connecticut; *Oct. 29-30, 2012*: Tropical Storm Sandy causes widespread power outages and canceled Halloween for second year in a row. *Aug. 4, 2020*: Tropical Storm a knocks out power and closes roads for a week for many parts of town. *See also* Snow storms, ice storms.

**Stornoway** was the summer home of Mrs. A.W. Stewart (Frances Gray) in SR1916S, named for is the largest town in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. Location unknown. She was living here with children Francis and Mary.

**Storytime**, a sculpture by Glenna Goodacre (1939-2020) depicting the shared joy of the wonder of a book, was an anonymous gift to the Ridgefield Library in 2000, given in honor of Library Director Anita Daubenspeck on her retirement. It was originally in the Storytime Sculpture Room, but was moved to the outdoors front when the library was rebuilt in 2014. [JFS]

**Stowell Manufacturing Company**: Photo from ca. 1900 shows tall industrial building along tracks in Branchville, with quartz mine in background, labeled Stowell Mfg. Co. Branchville, Conn." Stowell was a NJ company making paints, roofing materials, etc.; possibly leased to obtain ground quartz to Monarch Mining Co, formerly Traylor Manufacturing and Mining Company of NJ, somehow connected with Stowell. *See* Bridgeport Wood Finishing Company.

**Strawberry Festival**: 1. A fundraiser for church work sponsored by the Methodist Church in the 19th Century; in 1866, it was in Jones Hall (*q.v.*). 2. An annual music with ice cream and strawberries event in Ballard Park, sponsored by East Ridge Junior High School in the 1980s and featuring student musicians, led by Susan Goff. [P6/4/1981]

**Strawberry Ridge Road**, a dead-end road off the west side of lower Nod Hill Road, is part of the 1960s Twin Ridge (*q.v.*); named for the wild plant once more common here. [RN]

**Street lights** along Main Street were originally oil lamps on posts at a few essential spots. In the 1890s, the Village Improvement Society (*q.v.*) added more, but around the turn of the

century, some were beginning to employ gas generated in Ridgefield. Soon after, electric streetlights were showing up — see DD135 for a description and list.

**Street numbers:** *See* Renumbering.

**Streets:** *See* roads.

**Strike, teachers:** 20 Ridgefield teachers, most of the staff, resigned March 9, 1920, in a protest over salaries; they returned to work March 16, claiming their action was not a “strike.” In May, salaries were raised. [RPJ p9]

**Stroili, Paul E.,** RHS 1982, is an actor, comedian, and producer whose 2018 film, *Wake*, won several awards. He has been on the stage and in many TV shows, and is noted for his standup routines involving his mother. [JFS]

**Stromberg, George,** (1926-1993), was the second principal of Veterans Park School, serving from 1960 until around 1966. During his tenure the library was expanded and dedicated to his predecessor, Isabel O’Shea (*q.v.*).

**Stroud, Adrian,** was a Ridgefield policeman in the 1980s who later joined the Middletown police, where he retired as a sergeant. He wrote two books, the autobiographical *Brothers in Arms*, with accounts of policing events in Ridgefield, and *Prisoner of War Number 2378*, a biography of his father’s experiences as a Japanese POW in World War II. He lives in Florida.

**Strouse, Frances Zandri,** (1910-2002), established Frances Cleaners (*q.v.*) in 1921 and operated it for 40 years. She was the wife of Arthur Strouse. [JFS]

**Studwell, Genevieve G.,** founded and operated Ridgefield Travel Service (*q.v.*).

**Stuart, Aaron,** (abt.1764-1818), was a selectman in 1809 and a state representative in 1810.

**Studebaker** automobiles were sold by Pamby Motors in the early 1950s. [DD133]

**Sturdevant, John,** one of the first 25 proprietors of the town and the only one of Dutch ancestry; name was also spelled Stirdevant.

**Sturdevant’s Clapboard-tree Ridge,** mentioned in a 1751 deed, was in eastern Farmingville, probably around the Farmingville School and/or east and south of it, probably a popular place for finding oaks suitable for the clapboards to sheathe the town’s first houses. John Sturdevant (*q.v.*) probably owned significant land there. [RN]

**Sturdevant’s Ridge:** Shortened version of above, more common in the 18th Century. [RN]

**Sturges, Earl,** (1910-2005), a Ridgefield native and house painter, was a Ridgefield volunteer firefighter for over 70 years; held every office in the department including chief. [NR] *See also* Sturges Park.

**Sturges, “Miss” M.A.,** operated a “seminary for young ladies” in Ridgefield in 1838 [NY Observer 10/20/1838]

**Sturges, Nelson Augustus “Gus,”** (1873-1954) was a popular and skilled carpenter who suffered from a severe stuttering handicap. While crossing Wilton Road West at age 81 to get his mail, he was killed by car. [DD127]

**Sturges Park:** Former Camp Catoonah, donated to town by Girl Scouts 1998 after they stopped using the 42 acres off Rippowam Road; named for Sturges family — Earl Sturges (*q.v.*) and Warren Keeler donated the land to the scouts in the 1940s. [JFS]

**Suburban Action Institute:** In 1973, the Suburban Action Institute and its offshoot, Garden Cities Development Company, contracted with George and Rose Kaiser of Barry Avenue to



buy their 10.8 acre former poultry farm to erect about 108 apartments for low- to moderate-income families. SAI was known for its efforts to get towns to allow low-income families to live in the suburbs through zoning changes. The Planning and Zoning Commission rejected the application for rezoning later that year, citing traffic and sewer problems. In 1974, SAI's Paul Davidoff and others sued the town in Federal District Court, charging "lily-white" Ridgefield was trying to zone out minorities and lower-income groups in general. Because of internal squabbles and financial problems, SAI failed to pursue the case and it was eventually thrown out of court for lack of prosecution – its allegations were never ruled on. [RN]

**Suffrage:** *See* Woman suffrage.

**Suffragists:** Ridgefielders active in the suffrage movement, especially early in the 20th Century, included Alice Paul (*q.v.*), Laura Curie Allee Shields (*q.v.*), Mary Olcott (*q.v.*), Emily Eaton Hepburn (*q.v.*), Charlotte Wakeman (*q.v.*), Edna Schoyer (*q.v.*).

**Sugar Hill:** Name of the Lewis/Luce/Kraus estate, originally called Taghkanick (*q.v.*), on Great Hill Road [OR]. The name appears on an aerial photo postcard by George Mench, 1950s.

**Sugar Hollow:** The valley traversed by Route 7 from around the town line north to Danbury Airport; probably a source of sugar maples in the 18th and 19th Centuries.

**Sugar Hollow Racquet Club:** The town's first indoor tennis courts were approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission in July 1971 and the Sugar Hollow Racquet Club immediately began construction at 748 Danbury Road (Route 7, just south of Danbury line) next to Ridgefield European Motors, the BMW dealership owned by Eric Erhardt, who was also vice president of the new club. A later owner (1983) was appropriately named Ron Netter. [P7/2/1971] In February 1975, the club had its first "Fairfield County International" tournament, slated to feature number-one-ranked Jimmy Connors as well as Ilie Nastase. Nastase showed up, Connors didn't. The building was later razed and replaced with an inflated facility on the backland. *See also* Tennis.

**Sugar Hollow Turnpike:** Incorporated in 1829, this toll road used parts of Danbury and Norwalk Turnpike and Danbury and Ridgefield Turnpike, and was a predecessor to today's U.S. Route 7 (*q.v.*); probably the only new roadway was roughly today's Route 7 from Simpaug Turnpike north to Routes 7 and 35 intersection; ceased being toll road by 1860. [RN]

**Sugar Hollow Road:** Route 7 in Danbury, from Ridgefield line north to I-84; it was part of the Danbury and Ridgefield Turnpike in the 19th Century, eventually taken over by the state; first paved with concrete in 1924 [P7/24/1924].

**Sugar Loaf Mountain Road:** Between Regan Road and Old Stagecoach Road at Ridgefield Knolls, late 1950s. subdivision: survey Edgar P. Bickford said name was found on an old map of the area; probably the 970-foot-high, rounded hill to the east, also called Barlow Mountain (*q.v.*): name reflects conical shape of sugar as sold in 19th Century. [RN]

**Sullivan, Jack,** was an RHS English teacher and acclaimed freshman basketball coach in 1975 [P1/30/1975]

**Sullivan, John "Jack,"** (1939-2015), was a longtime Ridgefield professional firefighter, joining in 1964 and retiring in 2007 as a captain; had joined volunteer department 1959; RHS 1957; US Army veteran. [P2/5/2015];

**Sullivan, John Lawrence**, (1911-1961), was Ridgefield postmaster, 1951-61; served in U.S. Navy during WW2; wife was Mary L. Sullivan; lived at ONS1 Prospect Ridge; was a star athlete at RHS; said to have died of a bee sting [DD66]

**Sullivan, Owen**, (?-1756), a runaway Irish indentured servant, served in the army during the French and Indian War. A militia armorer, he learned smithing skills that he later used to make printing plates to clone the colonies' bills of exchange. He joined David Sanford (*q.v.*) and operated in and about Ridgefield in the 1750s before being caught and hanged; also spelled Syllavan. [See the book: Moneymakers: The Wicked Lives and Surprising Adventures of Three Notorious Counterfeiters]

**Sullivan, William Matheus**, (1885-1947), a NYC attorney for the Metropolitan Opera and many of its stars, built a small opera house on his estate, Dunrovin, now on Country Club Road, where stars, such as Lily Pons and Geraldine Farrar (*q.v.*), performed, mostly in benefits such as the Dunrovin Music Festival which helped Danbury Hospital. His William Matheus Sullivan Musical Foundation still awards grants to promising musicians; the mansion on West Lane burned down in 1977; [WWW] *See also* Wildflower Farm.

**Summa, Christopher**, RHS 1992, is a filmmaker who grew up in Ridgefield and whose work included the acclaimed feature-length documentary "The Boy Who Found Gold."

**Summer camps:** *See* Camps.

**Summit Lane**, running between Bob Hill Road and Rockcrest Drive in the Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*), is 860 feet above sea level, nearly the highest location in the subdivision. [RN]

**Sundberg, Mills & Demougeot**: Advertising agency opened December 1980 at 402 Main Street, with William Sundberg, Thomas Mills and Robert Demougeot.

**Sunderland, Philip**, (1871-1972), was a Danbury architect who designed the Town Hall (*q.v.*), 1897, which was only his second major commission; the Benjamin Franklin Elementary School (*q.v.*), 1915; the Reginald Lewis (*q.v.*) house, 100 South Salem Road, ca 1913; Wadsworth Lewis's (*q.v.*) Taghkanick, 1937. He was 101 when he died.

**Sunrise Cottage**: Group home at 6 Sunset Lane, serving six developmentally disabled adults; built in 2003-04 by group including Housatonic Habitat for Humanity, Inc.; The Ridgefield Affordable Housing Committee; SPHERE (*q.v.*), Town of Ridgefield Municipal Agent for the Disabled; and the state and federal grants.

**Sunset Acres**: The subdivision, filed by Charles H. Daudt, served by Sycamore Lane (*q.v.*), part of Windover (*q.v.*) estate where Daudt lived; developed by Morgan X. Helie.

**Sunset Hall**: Mansion built by James Stokes in 1912 at 162 Old West Mountain Road, overlooking Round Pond. Owners have included Sady Glantz Weiss, Ruth "Sunny" Cutten, Rubel, Robert Vaughn, Dick Cavett (*q.v. each*); *see also* Sachem Hill, St. Vincent de Paul novitiate, Winterwood.

**Sunset Lake**: Planned pond south of Lake Windwing and north and east of Bennett's Farm Road; appears on 1960 town map, but was never built by developer Harold Goldsmith (*q.v.*). *See* South Shore Drive. [RN]

**Sunset Lane**: Road running from Grove Street to Prospect Street Extension; formerly known as Railroad Avenue because it paralleled tracks to Ridgefield depot, but changed in 1958 because residents did not like the name. Western end dates from 1923 subdivision. [RN]

**Sunset Road:** Original 1957 name of western end of South Shore Drive (*q.v.*); changed 1972 to avoid confusion with Sunset Lane (*q.v.*); also called Sunset Drive on 1960 town map. See also Sunset Lake. [RN]

**Sunset View:** Name of a hotel on West Lane, operated by Thomas Kiernan, that burned to the ground March 9, 1913; arson suspected [P3/13/1913]

**Sunshine Society:** Founded in October 1900 as Ridgefield Branch of the International Sunshine Society, to help shut-ins; disbanded late in 20th Century.

**Sunward Builders:** Small construction company, owned by Glenn R. Symon of Ridgebury Road in the 1980s, specializing in custom solar houses and additions, passive solar retrofits, greenhouses, and “sunspaces.” [P4/9/1981]

**‘Super 7’** was the informal name for an interstate-style expressway that was at first proposed to extend from Norwalk to beyond New Milford. The state decided in the 1950s that Route 7 needed upgrading and by the 1960s was proposing a four-lane expressway, at least from Norwalk to Danbury, connecting 95 and 84. Many people liked the idea at first — the country was in the midst of Eisenhower's grand interstate building program, and these limited access highways were viewed by many as godsend to speeding up travel and relieving congestion on village roads. However, soon people near the path of the road began to organize and oppose on many grounds (pollution, property values, noise, wetlands damage, cost, etc). But the environmental issue proved the most solid. The big decision came July 7, 1972 when Federal Judge Jon O. Newman ordered a halt to all work on the new Super 7 until a study of the road's environmental impact had been made by federal transportation officials. Newman rules that the study of the Norwalk to Danbury stretch should consider alternatives to the four-lane expressway, such as improved rail transit or reconditioning the existing Route 7. Subsequent court case after court case brought up similar issues. In December 1986 Riddgefield had an advisory vote on whether to support the construction of Super 7. Only 1,636 of the 12,900 voters showed up, with 1,241 against and 393 for the expressway. Finally, the years of well-organized opposition had delayed the project so long that the cost was becoming astronomical and the state, faced with budget crisis after budget crisis, "shelved" the plan in 1993 for at least 10 years. But that action was the end of the road — the price would only continue to skyrocket and the lawsuits proliferate. Instead, the state did various widening projects along the existing road, especially in Wilton and in Ridgefield north of 35 to I-84. This alternative had more support.

**Superintendents** of Ridgefield schools: Charlotte J. Wakeman, 1919-21; Charles D. Bogart, 1921-24; Harry Erwin Bard, 1924-28; Arthur D. Horton, 1928-42; Van Miller, 1942-47 (away for 1½ years to serve in war); Edward W. Fuller, 1947-54; Joseph Grimes Jr., 1956-62; Philip Pitruzzello, 1962-64; Thayer D. Wade, 1965-66; David E. Weingast, 1967-77; Elliott Landon, 1977-1986; David Larson, 1987-88; Jerry Marcus, 1989-92; Ralph Wallace, 1998-2003; Kenneth Freeston, 2003-07; Deborah Low, 2007-14; Karen Baldwin, 2015-18; William Collins, 2019-19; Susie Da Silva, 2020-.

**Surveyor of highways** was an elected town office in the 18th and 19th Centuries. The ATM elected several surveyors to cover all parts of town. Their job was to inspect the town roads

and, where needed, draft residents, usually those bordering the road, to maintain and repair them.

**Sussman, Charles “Chuck”**, (ca. 1942-2022), a native of NYC, owned the Town Planner Calendar (*q.v.*) publication for 25 years. He lived in Ridgefield for 45 years, 34 of them at Rainbow Lake.

**SVG**: See Silicon Valley Group.

**Swamp radio**: See WREF.

**Swan, Sally**: See Sally Ann Reid.

**Sweaters Etcetera** was a women’s clothing store at 384 Main Street in the 1970s and 80s, operated by Helen Goldsmith. [DD97]

**Sweets**, a homemade candy and ice cream shop, opened at 15 Bailey Avenue Sept. 10, 1983 [P9/8/1983]

**Swine**: During the 18th Century, pigs were allowed to roam freely, provided they were “ringed” — that is, they had metal rings attached to their snouts so that they could not root around crops (the ring made that function very uncomfortable for the animal). A TM December 4, 1786, at t voted “that Swine have liberty to go at large on the Highways and Commons provided they are Ringed, after they are two months old, and that in the Months of December, January and February they may go at large without Ringing.” [JFS] *See also* under Livestock.

**Swinging Bridge**: A 100-foot-long wood and iron bridge that hung 40-60 feet over a gorge on the Rippowam estate of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Bulkley during part of 20th Century; built in 1920s at Mrs. Bulkley’s suggestion; overlooked lakes Waccabuc, Oscaleta, Rippowam; still there in 1950s, but now gone [RPJ4/9] [DD278]

**Swords, Henry Cotheal** (1854-1924) was president of Fulton Trust Company of NYC in early 20th Century; NYT says “was widely known in the financial life of New York”; was trustee of New York Society Library; house on lower West Lane was center of large estate, accessed by today’s Country Club Road (*q.v.*); former George G. Havens estate; he sponsored popular horse and dog shows at his estate [P2/14/1924].

**Syacus, Ruth**, is described in the town records as a “squaw” who died Sept. 7, 1799. [RLR p210]

**Sycamore Lane**: Dead-end road off West Lane; part of 1967 Sunset Acres subdivision of former Windover (*q.v.*) estate; developed in the 1970s by Morgan X. Helie. [RN]

**Sylvan Drive**: Short road between Lakeside Drive and Woodland Way at Ridgefield Lakes (*q.v.*); sylvan means “wooded.” Sometimes appears as Sylvan Road. [RN]

**Szentkuti, Charles** (1914-2007) was a builder and developer of the Executive Pavilion (*q.v.*) office condominium on Grove Street; also developed 65-acre Beechwood subdivision of Norran’s Ridge Road after failing to gain approval for 426 condominiums there [P2/6/1986]; also built 99 Danbury Road commercial building; commended for his conversion of former Colt Firearms factory in Hartford into multifamily housing; native of Hungary, was on 1936 Greco-Roman wrestling team in the Olympics; master’s degrees from Columbia; designed automated manufacturing machinery; one of his machines to sewed pockets on Levi’s pants; moved here 1964. [P4/19/2007].

**Szymanska, Basha**, (1944-2019), a native of Poland who was an NYC businesswoman and patron of the arts, immigrated with her family to the US in 1950. At 19, she became a fashion model with the Wilhelmina Modeling Agency. Later she opened a designer boutique, “Basha &”, on Madison Avenue where she designed her own popular clothing line. After residing in Manhattan for over 30 years, she moved to Ridgefield. In the 1990s she bought the old Taghkanick (*q.v.*) estate, part of which she subdivided, living there until her death. [P7/4/2020]

## T

**Tabby**: Nickname for Octavius Carboni (*q.v.*).

**Table Rock Estates**: 1974 subdivision of 34 acres into 10 lots by Marcelino Lavin of Wilton on the east side of St. Johns Road, part of Hillscroft Farm (*q.v.*); refers to a portion of the flat, table-like surfacings of ledge hereabouts for which the “Flat Rock” (*q.v.*) district was named in the 18th Century; local tradition says American Indians used certain flat rocks on or about this property to grind their corn or grain. [RN]

**Tabory, Lou**, is a sport fisherman who has written many books and articles on fishing techniques. He lives on Pine Mountain Road.

**Tackora Hill**: 22-acre estate of William (ca1858-1942) and Margaret (d1941) Bunker, located on West Mountain Road just beyond Ridgefield Academy. He was an NYC businessman. [SR1916]

**Tackora Road**: A 1907 property map used this name for Old West Mountain Road, probably because it was part of an old Indian trail – *see* Tackora Trail.

**Tackora Trail**: Perhaps part of an old Indian trail, this road that parallels Route 116, North Salem Road; predates 1856; may have been built as bypass to swampier sections of North Salem Road, which is probably older road; name is fairly modern (not used before 1890), recalling American Indian who sold much land to early settlers; was also known as Oreneca (*q.v.*), and Naranoka; some maps call it Scotts Ridge Road or Lakeview Road/Lane. [RN]

**Taghkanick**: Estate at 183 Great Hill Road, built by Wadsworth R. Lewis (*q.v.*) ca. 1937; house designed by Philip Sunderland (*q.v.*); later owned by pulp publisher Harold Goldsmith (*q.v.*), Henry and Clare Boothe Luce (*q.v.*), Hans P. Kraus (*q.v.*), and Basha Szymanska (*q.v.*). The name is an American Indian word for “forest wilderness” or simply “the woods.” It was later called Sugar Hill (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Tally-Ho Road**: A dead-end road off the north side of Haviland Road, serving Glen Acres (*q.v.*). Tally-ho is a phrase uttered by horseback hunters when a fox is sighted; connection with this property is unclear. [RN]

**Tamar** was an enslaved woman in the household of Matthew Seymour whom town records say was the mother of Peggy, born in 1742, Elisabeth, 1746, Dover, 1747, Betty, 1749, Allen, 1751, and Naomi, 1754. Three later children died at birth. [RLR, Vol. 1, p. 257].

**Tamarack Mountain**, or **Mount Tamarack**: A hill in New Patent, cited in 18th Century Ridgefield land records. It is in territory once part of Ridgefield and now in western Danbury, possibly near I-84 and the NY line. Named for the tree. [RN]

**Tanglewood Court**: Short, dead-end road off the west side of Wilton Road West, serving nine-lot, one-acre subdivision of 10.3 acres, approved in 1967; “The bushes and the woods were

a tangle,” said Paul J. Morganti (*q.v.*), who with his brothers John, Joseph and Robert, subdivided the property and named the road; accepted by town, 1969. [RN]

**Tannery, The:** In 1800s, referred to Jabez Mix Gilbert’s tannery at the southwest corner of North Salem Road and Saw Mill Hill Road in Titicus; tanning is the process of converting hide to leather; Ridgefield once turned out large quantities of leather, particularly for Western markets; the large Titicus tannery was operated late 1700s by Philip Burr Bradley and Joshua King, Revolutionary War veterans; acquired by Jabez Mix “Uncle Mix” Gilbert in 1806, included a bark house and tan vats; in 1856, acquired by David H. Valden (*q.v.*) included an “office, or store, currying shop, beam house, bark mill, bark shed, vats, tannery pond...”

**Tannery Hill Road:** A short road, ending in a circle, off the west side of North Street nearly opposite Mimosa, at “Tannery Hill,” subdivided in 1960 by James Hackert’s Arnor Corporation; consists of 11 lots cut from about 12 acres; became a town road in 1962; name stems from belief that an old house on the road was once associated with the tanning business, possibly by Jabez Mix Gilbert (*q.v.*), also possible that a tannery was operated on or about the property by Lewis Smith. [RN]

**Tannery Pond:** Small pond to hold water for the Gilbert or Valden tan yards on the Titicus River, south of Saw Mill Hill Road and a little west of North Salem Road; cited in several deeds from the 1830s to the 1860s (*see* The Tannery). [RN]

**Tanton, Harvey D.** (1901-1960), a native of Prince Edward Island, Canada, was first selectman 1951-53, and a member of the Board of Selectmen, 1953-57; he worked for Outpost Nurseries and later had own landscaping business; member of Parks Commission, Rotary Club; lived on Tanton Hill Road (*q.v.*), named for him. [RN] *See also* Harvey Road.

**Tanton Hill Road:** Both ends connect to the west side of Danbury Road, south of Limestone Road; developed in the 1950s from small part of old Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*) land; subdivider was a real estate subsidiary of the nursery, which had closed a decade earlier; originally called River Road because much of it ran alongside upper reaches of Norwalk River; changed 1957 to honor former First Selectman Harvey D. Tanton (*q.v.*), who lived on the road, worked for Outpost, and who seconded the motion to change River Road to Tanton Hill Road; often incorrectly spelled Taunton Hill Road. [RN]

**Taporneck** was an American Indian leader, about whom little is known; his signature or “mark” is included on the first deed from the natives to the settlers in 1708; he is also the top signatory on deeds in 1727 and 1729 for land mostly in western Ridgefield — much was ceded to NY in Oblong (*q.v.*); Taporneck lived at Wepack (*q.v.*) or Long Pond (*q.v.*); name variously spelled in records: Tapornick, Tappornik, Topornick, Tawpornick, and Tapporneck; Rockwell misread early settlers’ handwriting in transcribing deeds, calling him Japorneck. [RN]

**Taporneck Court:** Off the easterly side of North Salem Road near the New York State line; part of the 1982 Scott Ridge subdivision by the Gavin Company; name recalls Indian leader Taporneck (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Taporneck Division:** Early subdivision of land among settlers that had been purchased in 1727 and 1729 from several Indians; on both deeds the first signer was Taporneck (*q.v.*); much of

this land was in today's NY and was lost in Oblong (*q.v.*) exchange; included territory in northeastern Lewisboro, southeastern North Salem and western Ridgefield; [RN]

**Taproot(s)** was a program on writing, aimed at senior citizens, that operated in the late 20th and early 21st Century. Founded in 1994 by Philip W. Quigg (*q.v.*), it published two journals of local seniors' writing a year. In its later years it took place at Founders Hall. [P10/14/2004]

**Turner, Stanley**, (1923-2006), who lived on West Lane in the 1970s, was music producer for the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency, and wrote the songs for many popular commercials, such as "Only Mustang Makes It Happen" and "This is the L and M Moment." A native of Greece, he was a graduate of the Juilliard School where he was a Rhodes Scholar. [P7/15/1971]

**Taunton Hill Road:** *See* Tanton Hill Road.

**Tavoliero, Guy**, was a businessman who in the 1960s was involved in a lengthy zoning dispute with the town over his Maple House furniture store at 605 Ethan Allen Highway. [11/19/1970, 3/8/1973, 4/5/1973]

**Taylor, Edwin**, is appointed postmaster at the newly created Limestone Post Office, the New London Daily Chronicle reports March 4, 1857.

**Taylor, Frank "Steppy,"** (1860-1931), was "Ridgefield's first regular officer" of the law [P2/5/1931]; in the late 1890s he became the village's "night watchman" for 25 years, paid by merchants; became a town constable in the 1920s. [NR, DD80]

**Taylor, Rev. Dr. George Lansing** (1835-1903) was minister of Jesse Lee Methodist Church, 1881-84; clashed with Press editor William Whiting over temperance; his wife, **Eliza French Taylor** wrote memoirs of their life, in the collection of Ridgefield Historical Society. [WWW]

**Taylor, Robert Lewis** (1912-1998) was a writer who won the 1959 Pulitzer Prize in literature for the novel, *The Travels of Jaimie McPheeters*. A former journalist, he wrote many profiles for The New Yorker, a dozen books including biographies of Winston Churchill and W.C. Fields (two books became movies); lived on Old Branchville Road in the 1950s and 60s. [WWW]

**Taylor's Corners:** Old name for vicinity of the intersections of Still, Stonehenge and Haviland Roads, inhabited by members of the Taylor family as early as the 1780s when Preserved Taylor had property at East Meadows (*q.v.*); Edwin Taylor followed by David Taylor had a store at the corners in 1850s-60s; Joseph Taylor had a flour mill nearby. [RN]

**Tazza Cafe:** Coffee and espresso bar opened at 408 Main Street Oct. 18, 2010, by James Monica; means "cup" in Italian. [P11/4/2010] *See also* Carnival Shop.

**T-Bone:** Nickname for Stephen D. Carboni (1948-2018), Ridgefield native and longtime Pamby Motors employee, who was active in community organizations.

**Tea House:** Informal name for Henry B. Anderson's Port of Missing Men (*q.v.*) on West or Titicus Mountain; a reflection of the restaurant that served "elegant afternoon teas" frequented by many of the region's wealthier women. [DD135] Some have speculated that the name was a light-hearted description of a place known for serving much stronger beverages, and that it may have caught on during Prohibition when tea was about as strong as the drinks could get.

**Tea House Lane:** A tertiary road serving several of the six lots in 1998 subdivision off North Salem Road; Cecelia Ruggles divided the 18.8 acres of her homestead, part of road was the original driveway to her house; property, once part of Francis D. Martin's Far-Vu Farm, is not far from the Port of Missing Men or Tea House (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Tea House Road:** Informal name for Old Sib Road, the main route from Connecticut to the Tea House (*q.v.*) or Port of Missing Men (*q.v.*); name appears on a postcard and in deeds. [RN]

**Teachers, Professors, Educators, Principals** cited here include: William W. Allen, Sally Anyan, Francis Bassett, William H. Beers, Delight Benedict, Howard Bogot, Dirk Bollenbeck, Arnold Brewer, Carroll Brewster, Blandina Brewster, Edward Brolin, Philander Cady, Mabel Cleves, John Coyle, Mary Creagh, Susie Da Silva, Susan Davies, Fabian Franklin, Harold Healy, Sylvia Hodge, Jennie Holmes, Nan Howkins, Herbert Janick, Constantine Kalogeras, Marie Kilcoyne, Bettina Knapp, Edward Krehbiel, Elliott Landon, Kathleen Lane, Glen Lebetkin, Evelyn Leeman, William Leete, Daniel Liebowitz, Guido Maiolo, Bernadette Marczely, Robert McGlynn, Richard Medve, Marion Nash, Lucile Nicholas, John Norman, Richard Norman, Benjamin Northrop, Cyrus Northrop, Jamison Odone, Elizabeth O'Shea, Isabel O'Shea, Margaret O'Sullivan, Alice Peatt, Hortense Powdermaker, Florence Powdermaker, Richard Powers, Elizabeth Regan, Mary Regan, May Rockwell, Adam Salvo, Steven Scott, William O. Seymour, Charles Spire, Jack Sullivan, Elfrieda Travostino, Mary Wahl, Karen Warren, Ruth Wills, John Winant. (*q.v. each*)

**Teen Centers:** In the 1950s, Ridgefield Teenage Canteen Inc. (*q.v.*) operated a center in the basement of Community Center; kicked out in 1959; in 1971, one opened in outbuilding on Ballard Backland; directors included Jack Disher; opened in an old barn in Veterans Park on Governor Street in December 1994. *See also* Porch.

**Telegraph:** Ridgefield had telegraph service by at least 1867 when the Springfield (Mass.) Republican said 13 telegraph poles between Danbury and Ridgefield were struck by lightning in a recent storm.

**Telephone:** Telephone service began in Ridgefield in 1891 with one switchboard and 27 subscribers; March 1909, exchange office moved to Governor Street with 350 subscribers, staffed by three day operators and manager, Willis S. Gilbert [P3/18/1909]; around 1915, moved to "Telephone Building" (*q.v.*), the Tudor block on Main Street; dial service began in 1951, with 2,300 customers; dial equipment required new brick building on Catoonah Street, then operated by Southern New England Telephone Company. [RPJ7/12] Touch-Tone electronic dialing began June 1, 1980. [P5/29/1980]

**Telephone Building:** Formal original name of Tudor-style building at 411-419 Main Street, built 1913 by Lucius H. Biglow (*q.v.*); telephone company switchboards were on the second floor; also called the Biglow Block (*q.v.*) or Martin Block (*q.v.*).

**TelePrompter:** First cable television (*q.v.*) company to offer service in Ridgefield, beginning 1980; company sold in 1981 to Westinghouse.

**Television:** Ridgefielders involved in television acting, producing, writing, news, and directing include Jaqueline Babbin, Paul Baker, Todd Brewster, James Blumgarten, Kirk Browning, Gena Canestrari, Imogene Coca, Morton Dean, Rob Dustin, Robert Elfstrom, Ira Joe



Fisher, Samuel Grafton, Beau Gravitte, J. David Saks, Bill Shipley, Robert Vaughn. *See also* Cable television, Howard C. Freer Sr.

**Telford road**, named for its British inventor, consisted of vertically inserting long flat stones in the roadbed. These deeply imbedded slabs were covered with gravel, producing a road that was resistant to erosion, frost heaves, and potholes. The town used this system around the turn of the 20th Century for portions of Danbury Road, North Salem Road, and St. John's Road.

**Teller, Rev. Daniel Webster**, (1838-1894) a native of Yorktown, NY, was the 11th minister of the First Congregational Church, but more lastingly known as the author of the town's first full-sized history, *History of Ridgefield (q.v.)*, published in 1878. He earned a medical degree from NYU in 1865 and practiced in Brooklyn. However, he left medicine to become a minister, earning a degree from Hartford Seminary. He came to Ridgefield in 1872 and, according to church historians, revitalized the congregation. He left in 1880 to lead a New Haven congregation. However, he often visited here and chose Ridgefield Cemetery as his final resting place [WWW]

**Temperatures**: The average high temperatures for Ridgefield range from 33 in January to 85 in July while the average lows range from 19 in January to 64 in July. [Weather Atlas] On Jan. 24, 1857, DAR reports a reading of minus-27. On Jan. 8, 1866, Jared Nash recorded minus-16. [DJN] and DAR said it was "the coldest day old Dr. Perry ever remembers. Mercury 21 degrees below zero." DD91 reports that it reached 33 degrees below zero on a day after the Blizzard of 1934 Feb. 21 to 22. A famous hot spell occurred in July 1866 when temperatures reached as high as 97 in Ridgefield; some allege 140 in the hay fields. Hundred are killed by the heat in NYC around July 6. In August 1955, during one of the worst heat waves of the 20th Century, RP reported a temperature of 117 degrees was recorded on the 10th green of the Silver Spring Country Club. [JFS]

**Temple Shearith Israel**: Reform Jewish congregation established in January 1967 by 16 families; in 1968 it acquired the old Westmoreland (q.v.) mansion at 46 Peaceable Street; first rabbi was Theodore Stainman. The first temple school opened its doors Sept. 9, 1967 with 46 pupils. In September 1977 the congregation dedicated a new addition, with sanctuary and pavilion; ceremonies included a concert by folksinger Theodore Bikel. In 2015, the congregation merged with Jewish Family Congregation of South Salem to become **Congregation Shir Shalom**. For a history of the building and congregation, see [P7/30/1987]. A fire of accidental origin in January 1982 destroyed hundreds of books at the temple [P1/7/1982]. Other rabbis have included Arnold Belzer, Elizabeth Rolle, David Kaplan (q.v. each).

**Tennis**: Probably the first public tennis courts in town were located in the 1910s and early 1920s on the site of 441 Main Street, the former Odd Fellows Hall, and, after the hall was built, in the lot behind it. They were operated by Harvey Keeler. Tennis clubs began to appear in the 1970s with Ridgefield Tennis Club's (q.v.) outdoor courts, operated by Richard B. Howard (q.v.), at 35 Copps Hill Road, and the Sugar Hollow Racquet Club (q.v.) at 748 Danbury Road (Ridgefield BMW in 2021), which had a large indoor facility, later razed. [JFS, DD117]

**Tenth Lane**: Short, dead-end road off Mamasasco Road at Eight Lakes Estates (q.v.). [RN]

**Tertiary road:** A dead-end town road that serves no more than seven house lots, and ends in a cul de sac; can be narrower than other town roads.

**Textbooks, free:** On Oct. 7, 1912, townspeople — bolstered by more than 100 new women voters — agreed to provide free textbooks for school children. (Women in Connecticut at that time could vote on school-related issues.)

**the gym:** Opened July 2013 as an exercise center at 66 Grove Street, owned by Seth Hirschel; closed suddenly October 2018 due to financial problems [P10/18/2018]; formerly Ridgefield Fitness Club, Digitech (*q.v. each*).

**Thalacker, Jimmy,** was an airline pilot who was also an avid photographer; took many photos for Ridgefield Press from ca. 1969-72, many of them aerial; lived in Ridgefield, then Redding and moved to Big Pine Key, Fla.

**Thayer, John Alden,** (1895-1964), a NYC native, was editor of The Ridgefield Press 1932-37; attended Dartmouth; lieutenant in WWI; in 1940, moved to Florida and became mayor of Delray — thus known as “Mayor Thayer.” He was featured in a 1933 full-page color ad in National Geographic, promoting the Plymouth Six car (he owned two Plymouths). [NR]

**Third Lane:** Short, dead-end road off Mamasco Road at Eight Lakes Estates (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Third Purchase** of native land by the settlers took place Nov. 22, 1721, with the Proprietors paying six pounds for a sizable tract on West Mountain bordering Round Pond and including land now in Lewisboro, N.Y., running north through the area around Ridgefield High School and Mopus Bridge Road and east to Barlow Mountain and North Street.

**This Quiet Place:** Book of historical fiction, based in Ridgefield; *see* George Hancock.

**Thomas, Albert N.** (1830-1901), was a railway conductor and Ridgefield depot’s first station agent, 1870. From 1864-67, he was also Ridgefield postmaster. He was a Republican state representative in 1883. He was the son of State Rep. Elijah L. Thomas.

**Thomas, Elijah Lyon,** (1806-78), a native of Wilton, was a bootmaker and a Republican state representative in 1872. He was the father of State Rep. Albert N. Thomas.

**Thomas, Harry Marvin,** (1884-1973), a Ridgefield native and a fifth generation descendant of Benjamin Stebbins, was a local blacksmith who practiced well into his 80s; in 1927 built the house at 22 Catoonah Street, and blacksmith shop in 1926 behind (both standing in 2021); his earlier shop was across the street in the first Catholic church, what became the Thrift Shop. He was known for his strength and stamina — would walk to Norwalk or Brewster and back on Sundays. [WWW, DD119-127, 129]

**Thomas, Norman,** (1884-1968), a six-time candidate for U.S. president on Socialist Party ticket, had a weekend and summer farmhouse at 108 Limestone Road from 1911 to 1923. He was Presbyterian minister and a founder of what is now American Civil Liberties Union. [WWW]

**Thompson House:** Multistory inn operated by James F. Thompson from 1886 to 1890 at about 441 Main Street (Toy Chest in 2019); building is now on High Ridge Avenue. *See also* Oreneca House.

**Thorp, John S.** (ca.1895-1950), was newspaperman and detective story writer; worked for New York World and Hearst newspapers in New York and Boston; became fiction writer in 1936; moved here ca. 1949, lived at ONS30 Main Street when he died (previously Joseph Gibney home); [NYT 3/7/1950, P3/?/1950]

**Thousand Acre Swamp** is a name for Great Swamp (*q.v.*), used in the first half of the 18th Century; an exaggeration probably meant to reflect its large size; probably was closer to 600 to 700 acres then. [RN]

**Thrift Shop:** *See* Ridgefield Thrift Shop

**Thumpkin Else:** Video game store off Main Street, behind Roma Pizzeria building, operated in 1981 by Elmer Coombs (*q.v.*).

**Thunder Hill Lane:** A short dead-end road off the northerly side of Barrack Hill Road, serving five lots on around 10 acres, developed ca. 1957 by Quinto Cassavechia and Mario Marcheggiani. The name appeared on a sign at the end of the newly cut road and developers liked it, but could never figure out who put the sign there. It became a town road in 1966. [RN]

**Tiburzi, August R. “Gus,”** (1911-1983), a native of New Jersey, was a TransWorld Airline pilot and World War II flying veteran who founded Tiburzi Airways at Danbury Airport which, for the first time, provided air taxi service to NYC airports. He lived in Ridgefield in the 1950s and early 60s, moving to Florida in 1964. He was the town’s Civil Defense director for 10 years. His wife, **Gunvor**, was active in the community and daughter **Bonnie** (*q.v.*) was the first female pilot for a national airline. Son **Allan** has been a pilot for FedEx. [P4/14/1983]

**Tiburzi, Bonnie**, was the first woman to serve as a pilot for a major scheduled airline — American — in the United States. She joined American Airlines in 1973. She grew up in Ridgefield, a daughter of August and Gunvor Tiburzi (*q.v.*), She married Ron Krantz, an Eastern pilot. She left before graduating RHS (would have been Class of 1966).

**Tide Water Garage:** A Tydol-Veedol service station at 36 Danbury Road; sells Plymouths starting in 1935; later also DeSoto; owned by Oscar J. Capaldi (now Pamby?) according to the 1940 Telephone Directory; also called Central Garage; became Pamby Motors.

**Tiger Hollow**, a privately financed athletic stadium at Ridgefield High School, opened on Sept. 29, 2001. Tiger Hollow’s upgrading and expansion of RHS sports facilities, planned and financed by volunteers, won Planning and Zoning Commission approval July 25, 2000. The facility is still maintained by funds raised by a committee of parents

**Tiger Paw Press** was a “serious” RHS newspaper started in 1965 but lasting only a year. It was replaced by The Chieftain (*q.v.*), which it had itself replaced. [RT]

**Tigers:** Nickname for Ridgefield High School athletic teams, first employed in 1963-64 academic year; before that teams were called the Hilltoppers (*q.v.*) or Orange and Black; in the 1930s and early 1940s, teams were being called the Millionaires (*q.v.*). Since the school colors were orange and black, perhaps the tiger, which is orange and black as well as powerful, was chosen as an appropriate symbol of strength and power. Before orange and black, the school colors were old rose and gray. [JFS]

**Timpanelli, Jeanne Plante**, (1924-2007), a native of Detroit, was one of the founders of the Ridgefield Historical Society. She was active in the Keeler Tavern Museum, Ridgefield Archives Committee, the Design Council, Graveyard Committee, and Ridgefield Garden Club, and was named Rotary Citizen of the year in 2001. Among her major projects were the preservation and resurrection of the Scott House, home of the historical society, and the identification and preservation of the Joseph Hartmann (*q.v.*) collection of glass

photographic negatives. She also contributed a considerable amount of money to local organizations. [P9/13/2007]

**Tinker, Norman,** (1932-2019), was a blacksmith, welder and artist who moved to Ridgefield in 1966. He taught at Silvermine College of Art and operated The Tinker Shop, specializing in ornamental ironwork. He and wife Evie moved in 1996 to Belfast, Maine, where Tinker became a well-known sculptor and collage artist, and where he died.

**Tithingman:** An 18th Century town official elected at the ATM whose job was to “combat moral laxity,” as one historian put it. At church meetings, they would make sure no one dozed off, and but they also handled disorderly and drunken people in town, including unruly youths. In 1767, Ridgefield was electing four of them.

**Titicus:** A district and a neighborhood of Ridgefield just northwest of the village; name comes from the Titicus River (*q.v.*) that flows through it; word in turn is shortened form of Mutigticoss (or something similar), which probably meant “place without trees” in Mahican tongue, says Huden; first mention, as Metiticus, occurs in 1709 Proprietors order for a survey; because of the swift river here, was an early small-scale industrial area, with mills and a tannery; by the late 1800s, Titicus had a store, post office, cider mill, saw mill, flour mill, tannery, sash and blind factory, a blacksmith, and town’s biggest cemetery; almost had a railroad station — *see* Ridgefield and New York Railroad. [RN]

**Titicus Brook:** Old form of Titicus River; in 1716 a deed mentions the Metiticus Brook; “River” was common by the 1750s. [RN] *See also* Stony Brook.

**Titicus Cemetery:** Also called “Olde Town Graveyard” on a sign, Titicus Cemetery is the town’s second oldest, having been established in 1735, and is located between North Salem Road and Mapleshade Road, part of a group of cemeteries often called Ridgefield Cemetery. It may hold as many as 1,234 burials, including 52 veterans of the Revolutionary War, and has what is believed to be the oldest readable gravestone in town, that of the Rev. Thomas Hauley (*q.v.*), who died in 1738. [JFS]

**Titicus Crossroads:** The area around the intersection of North Salem, Saw Mill Hill, and Mapleshade Roads. [RN]

**Titicus Court:** Short, dead-end road off the west side of North Street, overlooking the Titicus River valley, serving Titicus Ridge subdivision (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Titicus Hill:** Probably the hill where the town cemeteries are located; first mentioned 1716.

**Titicus Mountain:** Along the westerly side of North Salem Road (Route 116) – and hence the westerly side of the Titicus River – generally from Lake Mamasasco area into New York; first cited 1721; elevation reaches 952 feet; also called Hunt Mountain in North Salem, from Hunt family, which farmed there. [RN]

**Titicus Plain** is an 19th Century name for a wide, rather dry flatland in the otherwise narrow or swampy Titicus River valley, from about Wooster Street to Barlow Mountain Road. [RN]

**Titicus Post Office:** Operated 1885-1899 from Titicus Store (*q.v.*).

**Titicus Ridge:** 1978 subdivision by Richard Lorenzini of four lots from 8.8 acres, served by Titicus Court (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Titicus River:** Ridgefield’s second longest “river” originates in creeks on the eastern slope of West Mountain, flows along Saw Mill Hill Road, under and along Route 116 into NY state, where it feeds the Titicus Reservoir in North Salem, part of NYC drinking water supply

system; some authorities place its length at 8.5 miles, but it is doubtless longer if its Saw Mill Hill portion is included; most of it is probably a remnant of a large post-glacial lake that ran through the Titicus valley and is believed to have been an important seasonal transportation route for American Indians; many mills operated along its shores in both Ridgefield and North Salem. *See also* Stony Brook.

**Titicus Schoolhouse:** At the south corner of North Salem Road and New Street, originally one-room, was expanded to three rooms as other districts such as Scotland and Bennett's Farm closed; last used 1939-40, when East Ridge School was expanded to complete consolidation of district schoolhouses; on Nov. 9, 1939, ownership was transferred to the American Legion which turned it into the American Legion Hall. [JFS]

**Titicus Store:** General store operated at the corner of North Salem and Mapleshade Roads; founded ca 1850 by Samuel S. Olmstead (*q.v.*) who sold, 1856, to Hiram O. Nash (*q.v.*); soon joined by son, John Dempster Nash (*q.v.*) as H.O. Nash & Son Store; John took over and was partners for 20 years with Milan Mead as Nash & Mead Store; John was also postmaster of Titicus Post Office (*q.v.*), which was in the store [DD27]; Shoman Elliss owned it in the early 20th Century; last operated by Max Seemann who, with brother Henry, purchased it in 1947 [DD28]; in the late 1900s, the building was used as an office. [JFS]

**To Spite Her Face:** Novel by Hildegard Dolson (*q.v.*), Lippincott, 1971; one of the two murders in this mystery takes place in the Ridgefield Thrift Shop (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Tobin, Richard Lardner,** (1910-1995), a native of Chicago, was a World War II war correspondent, who later became an executive at the NY Herald Tribune, and executive editor of The Saturday Review magazine. He wrote several books, including Tobin's English Usage. He is reported to have lived on Spectacle Lane in the early 1950s, but spent his last years in Southbury. [JFS, NYT9/12/1995]

**Todd, Dr. William Sheridan,** (1840-93), a native of Massachusetts and son of a Methodist minister, came to Ridgefield as a teacher at William O. Seymour's school (*q.v.*), 1866-1868, then went to medical school in NYC, returning to practice as a physician in Ridgefield by 1870. He was a state representative, 1889-91, and served on the school board in the 1870s, and served as a state representative. He was one of the founders of what became the Ridgefield Library, and was a director of the Ridgefield Savings Bank. In the 1880s, he ran the Ridgefield Press for a while after the death of his friend, Editor William Whiting (*q.v.*) in 1884. He lived in the Eleazar Watrous house that stood where Governor Street begins and which was moved to Abbott Avenue in 1888. [JFS, RSB22]

**Todd Brothers Farm:** A large dairy farm, much of which is now Ridgefield Knolls and Pierrepont State Park. In 1857, Charles Todd of Lewisboro bought 165 acres and buildings on Barlow Mountain. In 1868, he bought another 51 acres nearby. Sons Charles Knapp Todd (1855-1938) and Rufus Todd (1859-1936) took over the farm, eventually expanded it and became widely known in dairy farming circles. The main house still stands on the hairpin curve of Bennett's Farm Road, south of the Ridgebury School; a Todd barn diagonally across the street has been converted to a house. [RN]

**Todds Road**, which runs from Regan Road to Sugar Loaf Mountain Road, is part of the Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*) and named for the Todd brothers, bachelor farmers whose land make up much of what is now the Knolls. [RN] See Todd Brothers Farm.

**Tode, Walter.** (1908-1984). was chef and owner of Tode's Inn at 20 West Lane (Bernard's in 2020); operated Tode's Inn 1946-1966; in 1951, Tode named one of the 10 Outstanding Chefs of the World by the International Societe Gastronome in Strasbourg, France; his inn building had previously been Kane Inn (*q.v.*) and was also called the Inn at Ridgefield. [WWW, DD149]

**Tode's Inn:** See Walter Tode.

**Toffler, Alvin,** (1928-2016), was an author and "futurist" whose most famous book was bestselling *Future Shock* (1970); lived on Deer Hill Drive, 1967-74; his wife, **Heidi Toffler**, helped with many of his books, including *Powershift* (1990). [WWW]

**Toilsome:** Hilly, rocky western slope west of North Salem Road in the Continental Drive-Barrack Hill Road area, so-called in the 1700s because working the land or even climbing it was "toilsome." Spelling variations in deeds include Toylsome (1730), Toilsom (1737), Toylsom (1744), Toilesome (1780), and Tilesome (1850). [RN]

**Toilsome Brook** appears in early deeds; location somewhere in Toilsome neighborhood. [RN]

**Tom:** Bedini says that "Indian Tom was one of the last aborigines to live in town." A bow, believed to have been made by him, was found in the area between North Salem Road and Tackora Trail. See also Tom's Spring and Tom's Spring Mountain. [RN]

**Tom's Spring:** A spring and a neighborhood that existed in the area of Tackora Trail and Titicus Mountain, cited often in the 18th and 19th Centuries. See Tom. [RN]

**Tom's Spring Mountain:** A name for Titicus Mountain, says the 1721 deed for the third Proprietors' purchase from the American Indians. See Tom (*q.v.*) [RN]

**Tontine Emporium** was an antiques business at 9 Ethan Allen Highway in Branchville, famously robbed May 18, 1976, of a large number of Tiffany lamps worth \$200,000 (over \$900,000 in 2021 money). The business was owned by Alan Gerdau of Redding, an unusual businessman noted for taking out large advertisements in the NYT opposing the Vietnam War and discussing other issues. A very tall spruce in the front yard was lit up each Christmas and was visible for quite a distance along Route 7. The business was housed in a small, early 18th Century house torn down to make way for a small shopping plaza housing, among other businesses, Subway, in 2021. [JFS]

**Tony's Cave:** North of Indian Cave Road (*q.v.*) at Twin Ridge (*q.v.*). Rockwell says, "Tony was an Indian, who, strange as it may seem, hid in this cave to escape service in the Revolution." Tony is not mentioned anywhere in the government or land records of the town, and the reliability of the tale cannot be determined. The story was probably handed down by generations of the Keeler family, who farmed what is now the Twin Ridge area from the 18th Century to well into the 20th Century. In 2008, Chris McQuilkin found Tony's Cave. "Fascinating to see ancient scorch marks on the walls suggesting an inhabitant predating all that we know." [RN]

**Tooth Fairy Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics** opened in 2009, operated by Dr. Suho Lee of Ridgefield, at 35 Copps Hill Road. Around 2019 it moved to 360 Main Street after

extensively renovating the historic building. *See also* First National Market, Keeler and Durant.

**Topcrest Lane** at the 1958 Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*) is a dead-end road off Bob Hill Road, descriptive of the terrain some 830 feet above sea level. [RN]

**Topgallant:** A 1997 subdivision of 26.3 acres off West Lane, near the New York line, into seven lots, nautically named by the developer, A.J. “Jack” Abrams, who was a shipbuilder. The subdivision is served by Samara Place (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Topstone, Camp,** is mentioned in [P8/23/1934] as next being called Camp Merriemont; near Great Pond.

**Topstone Drive:** Original name for what is now Knollwood Drive, developed by the Topstone Holding Company; name changed to avoid confusion with Topstone Road. (RN)

**Topstone Farm:** Farm/estate on the north side of Topstone Road, centered on a ca. 1880 house and belonging for many years to Albert and Toni Roothbert (*q.v.*). *See also* The Shanty.

**Topstone Holding Company:** Developer of the Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*); owned by Robert Kaufman, who once lived in the Topstone section of Redding.

**Topstone Hydraulic Company:** Private water company serving Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*), owned by Robert Kaufman who developed the Knolls in 1950s/60s; sold to Aquarion in 2011.

**Topstone Road:** Part of an old highway from Ridgefield to Redding that includes Cain’s Hill and Farmingville Roads; today applies to the road from Route 7 to the Redding line at Simpaug Turnpike; leads to the Topstone section of Redding. [RN]

**Torrey, Lyle Blair,** (1898-1977), was an executive who owned what became Ward Acres (*q.v.*) in the 1950s until 1957. Wife Grace Torrey was a president of the Thrift Shop and Caudatowa Garden Club. [JFS]

**Tornadoes:** *See under* Twisters.

**Toscanini, Arturo:** The world-famous maestro led two concerts here, in September 1947 and October 1949 as benefits for the library and Boys Club; lured here by his friend and boss at NBC, Samuel Chotzinoff (*q.v.*); he was a lover of Geraldine Farrar (*q.v.*).

**Touchstone’s:** Restaurant in the lower level of Yankee Ridge shopping center, Main and Prospect Streets, from 1976 until 1993. [JFS]

**Tower Cottage:** Queen Anne Victorian built 1880 at 48 East Ridge Road as home Nathan Lounsbury Rockwell, nephew of Gov. Phineas Lounsbury (*q.v.*) whose Grovelawn estate it overlooks; designed by Charles Northrop, who also did Grovelawn; former home of Maude Bouvier Davis (*q.v.*) and husband John — she was an aunt of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis, who visited as a child and young woman. [WWW]

**Tower of Pizza:** Restaurant on Route 7, north of Ace Tire, destroyed by fire Jan. 24, 1986; had opened five years earlier; owned by Mike Hartofilis and Nick Yiovanakos; never rebuilt. [JFS]

**Town and Country Chrysler-Plymouth:** Auto dealership in 1980 at corner of Copps Hill and Danbury Roads; by 1983, called Ridgefield Chrysler-Plymouth; later acquired by Pamby Motors.

**Town clerk:** One of Ridgefield’s oldest offices; in effect the town’s “secretary” who keeps the records of all land transactions (deeds, mortgages, liens, etc.), births, marriages, deaths, election results, minutes of meetings of town agencies; originally called the “register.”

Today, town clerk also sells fishing/hunting licenses, issues dog licenses, and marriage licenses; can swear in voters, though that task is usually done by the registrars of voters (*q.v.*). Office was held by men until 1947 when Ruth Hurzeler (*q.v.*) was elected; in the early 1970s, compensation changed from fees collected for services to a salary. [JFS]

**Town Clock:** Erected in 1958 on the west side of Main Street, at the south edge of the business district, by American Women's Voluntary Service (*q.v.*) with fund-raised money left over from its World War II efforts. [JFS]

**Town Deposit Fund:** In 1837, the town received a \$5,000 "deposit" from the state, Ridgefield's share in a large amount of money from the federal government that was Connecticut's share in the federal budget surplus that Congress voted to return to the taxpayers. Town Clerk Nathan Smith (*q.v.*) was appointed the first agent to handle the money as what was long called the "town deposit fund." Soon, the town invested the money in mortgages issued to Ridgefield residents – serving as a bank. The agent of the town deposit fund remained a town office until the 1970s when the town treasurer took over the duties. [RT]

**Town Farm:** TM voted April 1883 to buy Lewis A. Reed farm at 570 North Salem Road for \$4,500 to use as a town farm where poor could live and earn their keep by running farm; a house, two barns, 50 acres of arable land, and 11 acres on a nearby "mountain," probably a source of firewood; in 1934, inmates raised oats, hay, onions, mangels, turnips, carrots, corn, cabbage and potatoes, and had horses, cows, chickens, and pigs as livestock; originally Josiah Keeler Homestead, circa 1765; birthplace of Hiram K. Scott (*q.v.*); town sold off a portion of the farm in 1886 to Jackson Hobby; TM in October 1945 votes to sell town farm to help pay for purchase of Lounsbury estate on Main Street. (RN)

**Town Hall:** In the early 18th Century, the town used the Meeting House/Congregational Church for meetings, then village schoolhouses. In the mid-19th Century, the town rented or leased space for government meetings. The first town-owned Town Hall was dedicated in 1876. As the name suggests, it was mostly a hall, used for government meetings and many community events. Government records were not stored there, nor did officials like town clerks or tax collectors have offices there (they used their own homes or stores as offices and kept records with them). A wooden structure, the first Town Hall was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1895 (*q.v.*). The current brick structure was built 1896 on the same site, and dedicated Nov. 21; architect Philip Sunderland (*q.v.*) of Danbury designed it as a hall and included a stage and a balcony (*see* DD65) at western end that held 125 people; was used for meetings, dances, lectures, basketball games, wrestling, concerts, and more; two offices, used by banks, were in the front first floor. TM voted 1909 to add ladies toilet to building and to divide rear of the gallery into three rooms [P4/8/1909]; remodeled, 1950 [P1/5/1950]; eagle (*q.v.*) purchased 1951; second floor offices created in 1966 [P2/3/1966].

**Town Hall Photoplays:** Motion pictures shown at town hall in 1920s, perhaps earlier; advertised in 1924 theatrical program.

**Town House:** Traditional name used for the seat of government from 1743 until 1896 when the current brick "hall" was built. It was the place for government meetings and a frequent site of community events. First Town House was a 26-by-18 foot building erected on the Green in 1743; before that, the church or "Meeting House" was used for both government and religious functions. In 1786, the town contributed to the cost of erecting the Independent



School House (*q.v.*), which was used for government meetings; in 1836, the town leased the first floor of the Masonic Hall (*q.v.*). Voters agreed to erect a town house on the “Town Lot,” just north of the Masonic Hall, in 1876. The 40-by-65-foot building, costing \$5,976.55, consisted of two stories – a 12-foot-high first floor used for town offices and records, and a 16-foot-high second floor, “fitted up for a public hall,” said Teller. It was dedicated Dec. 1, 1876. The basement included a lock-up or jail. It burned in the Great Fire of 1895 (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Town Meeting:** The Town Meeting is the legislative body that governs Ridgefield and consists of anyone who is eligible to vote and attends the meeting. The Town Meeting approves budgets, large special expenditures, new ordinances and changes in existing ordinances. It is led by a moderator, elected at each meeting. The first town meeting in Ridgefield was Dec. 23, 1709, more than a year after the town’s creation; previous meetings took place in Norwalk, the “mother town.”

**Town planner:** An appointed office, created by the Planning and Zoning Commission in 1966 now called the planning director (*q.v.*). The first town planner was Lowell I. “Bud” Williams (*q.v.*).

**Town Planner Calendar** is an annual publication started in the 1990s, consisting of a calendar that includes many local events plus local advertising. It was owned for 25 years by Charles Sussman (*q.v.*) of Ridgefield.

**Town Ridge:** Ridge traversed by Main Street, so called as early as 1710 in town records. [RN]

**Town seal:** *See* Seal, town.

**Town Spring:** Mentioned several times in 18th and 19th Century deeds for water source, probably public, somewhere on the southern Main Street area, possibly at Rockwell Road or maybe Creamery Lane, or farther north between 149 and 181 Main Street. [RN]

**Town Street, The:** An old name for Main Street (*q.v.*).

**Town Spirit Shop** at 116 Danbury Road was operated from 1966 into the 1980s by Alex Santini and Gino Bob Polverari (*q.v. each*). Part of the building was a large, walk-in refrigeration building from the mid-20th Century when it was a public freezer (*q.v.*). The store was located nearly opposite today’s Venice Restaurant.

**Town treasurer:** *See* Treasurer, town.

**Town yard:** An old term for the grounds of the Highway Department on Old Quarry road and South Street. (*See also* Meeting House Yard)

**TownVibe:** *See* Ridgefield Magazine.

**Toy Caboose:** *See* Ridgefield Sport and Toy Caboose.

**Toy Chest, The:** Toy store operating in former Odd Fellows Hall (*q.v.*), 441 Main Street, opened about 1993 by Ann Lathrop. It also has an outlet in New Canaan.

**Toy Clinic:** *See* Ridgefield Toy Clinic.

**Trachtman, Joseph**, (1901-1975), a native of Poland, was a prominent Manhattan attorney and Yale Law graduate, taught law at NYU; expert on estate planning, a topic on which he wrote and lectured extensively. He lived on Spring Valley Road for many years. [P10/23/1975]

**Tracy, Anne McPherson**, served more than 45 years on the board of the Land Conservancy of Ridgefield, retiring in 2020. She has also been a trustee of the Ridgefield Historical

Society, and a member of the Ridgefield Garden Club. She was a granddaughter of Stephen T. Mather, first director of the National Park Service. [P10/15/2020]

**Trahey, Jane**, (1923-2000), was a top advertising executive in NYC, among the first women to establish her own agency with major clients (Calvin Klein, Elizabeth Arden, Bill Blass...). An author, she wrote the novel, *Life with Mother Superior*, that was turned into film "The Trouble with Angels," starring Rosalind Russell. Her play, "Ring Around the Bathtub," was produced on Broadway. Her novel, *Pecked to Death by Goslings*, reflected her experiences moving to Ridgefield (called Gosling). She was also a leader of the National Organization for Women and lived at 174 New Road from the 1950s until the mid-1970s. Her companions included TV producer Jacqueline Babbin (q.v.) and fabric artist Tammi Keefe (q.v.). [WWW]

**Trail's End Lane**: 500-foot, dead-end road off Eleven Levels Road at Eleven Levels (q.v.); accepted by town 1978; perhaps an old logging path; sometimes called Trail's End Road. [RN]

**Trains**: See list under Railroads.

**TRAK**: See CGS Laboratories.

**Tramer, Albert**, (1906-1994), was the last owner at the Outpost Inn (q.v.). A Swiss-born and -trained chef, he had held positions in some of New York City's top restaurants. He bought Hearthstone Outpost Inn in 1953 while still working in NYC; soon moved here full-time. He sold the property to Carl Shapley (q.v.) in 1962 for a school; worked for a while as director of the restaurant at The Westport Inn. He retired and moved to Florida in 1973.

**Tramps**: See Hobos.

**Transfer station**: Town Meeting in February 1980 approved \$430,000 to build trash transfer station off South Street and Old Quarry Road, site of the town dump (q.v.); town hired Waste Management Inc. to remove trash from the station and haul to its landfill in New Milford; station opens Aug. 20 1980 [P8/21/1980]; up to 100 pounds of household trash cost \$1.50; quarters inserted into machine were used at first; operations switches to tokens or cash Aug. 1, 1984; permits to dump are free for cars, \$10 for pickups and vans; fee rose from \$2.25 to \$3.65 July 1, 1986 [P6/25/1986].

**Travaglini, Aldo "Squash,"** (1914-2007), a Ridgefield native, worked starting in 1928 as the fountain man at Bissell's Pharmacy (q.v.). In 1953, he bought United Cigar Store from David and Alice Finch Moore; she was a daughter of the store's founder, Harold Finch (q.v.). He changed the name to Ridgefield News Store, but everyone called it Squash's (q.v.). The store was one of the busiest and most popular in the village, especially as a source of newspapers and magazines. In 1989, he sold the business to his son, Mark, who in turn sold it in 1994 to owners who changed the emphasis to office supplies but retained the Squash name. [NR]

**Travaglini, Louis "Squash,"** (1918-2005), a Ridgefield native, was the longtime radio dispatcher, 1938-1974, for the State Police at Troop A in Ridgefield and then at the Ridgefield Police headquarters, 1974-1990, after the State Police left town; brother of Aldo, both were called Squash. So was another brother, Eugene, who lived near New Haven, and their father, Nazzareno Travaglini, who hated the name. [P2/10/2005]

**Travostino, Antonio** (1884-1970), a native of Italy, operated an Italian bakery on Bailey Avenue in the first half of the 20th Century. He lived on New Street. Sometimes incorrectly called Albert. [DD64]

**Travostino, Elfrieda** (1922-1980) was an RHS social studies teacher in the 1970s who headed the Ridgefield Teachers Association during a period of controversies over books and battles between the teachers and school board. In 1973, she reported someone had entered her house, took the family dog, hung it from a tree in the front yard, and called her on the phone to warn that it could happen to her and her children. The dog survived, but Mrs. Travostino quit her post soon after [WR]

**Travostino's Bakery** was originally at ONS13 Bailey Avenue, now #23, in early 1930s and by 1940, ONS11. Specialized in Italian baked goods, but was also a grocery store, operated by Antonio Travostino (q.v.). [DD64]

**Treadway, L.G., Service Corp.**, managed The Outpost Inn (q.v.) in the 1930s along with more than a dozen other inns in the Northeast.

**Treasurer, town**, is an ancient office that oversees the handling of the town's money. Originally, the job was performed by one of the selectmen, but soon became an office of its own. Today the town treasurer oversees all town money, including investing funds where appropriate (such as surpluses. The treasurer issues checks related for town payables, the payroll (including the Board of Education payroll), and debt service payments.

**Tree warden** is a town official responsible for overseeing tree work along town roads within the town's right-of-way, including identifying potentially hazardous trees that should be removed.

**Treffpunkt 68:** German-American club that sponsored festivals and concerts in the 1970s, 80s; Fritz Koerting was president for many years.

**Trendsetters:** Women's clothing store on Main Street, just north of Carnival Shop; opened in 1967; owned by Gerta von Fekete. [P8/13/1987]

**Trepel, Jack** (1886-1965) was head of a small chain of florist shops, based in NYC; president of the NYC chapter of American Society of Magicians, he gave magic shows for USO in WW2; lived at 179 Danbury Road on a driveway long called — and labeled — Trepel Lane. [JFS]

**Trepel Lane:** See Jack Trepel.

**Triplets:** born to Ridgefield parents include Alyssa Brook, Joseph Anthony and Scott Andrew Grasso, children of Barbara and John Grasso of Ridgebury Road, Aug. 12, 1984 (P8/16/1984)

**Trolley line:** A trolley ran from Danbury to Ridgebury in the early 1900s. See Old Trolley Road.

**Troop A:** Connecticut state police barracks in Ridgefield, first located in 1921 at 65 West Lane, then in 1927 at 76 East Ridge (now Ridgefield police headquarters); said to have been based in Ridgefield because Harvey P. Bissell (q.v.) was an influential member of state government; moved to Southbury in 1974 to be nearer the center of its patrol district. Ridgefield police now occupy the East Ridge barracks while the West Lane building is now a home.

**Troost, Ernest**, is an Emmy-winning film and television composer and songwriter who grew up in Ridgefield, RHS 1971, and graduated from Berklee. He has composed the scores for

many films and television shows. He received the Kerrville New Folk award for his songwriting, and also composed and produced two award-winning albums of songs for Judy Collins (*q.v.*), using the words of Emily Dickinson. He composed the music for such many TV and big-screen movies as Tremors, The Clown of God, and The Mysterious Tadpole. He lived on Harvey Road.

**Trotta's:** A bakery and deli at 113 Danbury Road in 1981 [P6/18/1981 ad] Gone by 1983 [RSD83]

**Troughs:** *See* Watering troughs.

**Truman, Harry S,** was rumored in March 1953 to be buying Harold and Yvonne Goldsmith (*q.v.*) home at 71 Old Branchville Road [United Press]; he did not, nor did he probably ever set foot in town.

**Truesdale, Mount:** Probably the hill, reaching 650 feet above sea level, west of Lake Truesdale and east of South Salem hamlet, once part of Ridgefield (*see* Oblong). Cited in a 1729 deed and named for William Truesdale, one of the first settlers of what is now Lewisboro. [RN]

**Tub Swamp:** Location in Southwest Ridges (*q.v.*), now probably in Lewisboro; mentioned 1721 as Tubb Swamp. The name may have been inspired from the shape of the swamp. [RN]

**Tuccio, Jerry,** (1920-2007), a native of Italy, built by his own estimate about 1,200 houses in Ridgefield, developing more of the town than any builder in its history. He came here in the early 1950s. His large-scale projects were Westmoreland, Mimosa, Twixt Hills, Stonehenge Estates, Pleasant View Estates, Scodon, Eleven Levels (*q.v. each*), and many smaller neighborhoods; he also obtained the rezoning that resulted in Casagmo (*q.v.*) condominiums. Served in WW2 in Europe and Africa; began building houses in 1947. He retired in 1970, at age 50, estimating that he owned some 600 empty subdivision lots around Ridgefield at the time - many of them lots his brothers and sons would build on in the years that followed. [NR, P8/16/2007] [WWW]

**Tucker, Erie A.,** was the last headmaster of the Ridgefield School, 1937-38; lived in North Salem. [P9/23/1937]

**Tugman, Oakland Roy,** (1899-1956), a native of Michigan, was an engineer in the Merchant Marine who served aboard three different ships that were torpedoed and sunk during World War II, and was also injured in an air raid in London. He and his wife lived on South Salem Road during the war. [P6/17/1943, 3/30/1944]

**Tulipani, Albert Nazzareno Joseph,** (1920-1994), RHS 1938, served in the Navy aboard the destroyer U.S.S. Wilson, escorting convoys to Russia on the "Murmansk run" and hunting German submarines, then in the Pacific in such battles as Wake Island and Guadalcanal. Also served on aircraft carriers. Back home, he was a guitar teacher who also played professionally in the region until the early 1960s, and worked at Brunetti's Market and later at the Grand Union. [WWW]

**Tulipani, Aldo Anthony,** (1916-2003), RHS 1934, was in the Army in the Philippines. He had a long career as a mail carrier in Ridgefield, and also as an accordion teacher (his car's license plate, SQZBX was short for "squeezebox"). [WWW]

**Tulipani, Alfred Anthony,** (1921-2013), joined the Army in 1942 and spent most of his service in Canada with an anti-aircraft unit, guarding Great Lakes locks. He maintained that his wife, Mary, was "the first war bride in Ridgefield." The two met in 1943 at a Woolworth's

in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and were married a year later. After the war, Alfred became a superintendent of local estates, including Casagmo (*q.v.*), as well as a landscaper. [WWW]

**Tulipani, John Vincent**, (1922-2002), RHS 1941, served with the Navy SeaBees in Hawaii, the Marshall Islands, and in the Philippines. He also played on the Navy All-Star Team with many former professionals. After the war he worked as a plumber and established his own plumbing business. [WWW]

**Tulipani, Joseph Anthony**, (1918-2004), RHS 1937, was one of the first Ridgefielders to fight in WW2. A member of an Army radar unit he served in Australia, the jungles of New Guinea, and the Philippines and was with General Douglas MacArthur's forces in the liberation of the Philippines. He kept elaborate diaries of his experiences. After the war he was the superintendent of Ward Acres (*q.v.*) for many years and also a semi-professional photographer. [WWW]

**Tulipani, Julius**, (1890-1983), was an immigrant at age 17 in 1906; veteran of WW1; worked for H.B. Anderson on building Port of Missing Men roads [DD136]; became an estate superintendent of Wickopee Farm (*q.v.*); served as a Republican selectman. 1947-53 and longtime member of the Republican Town Committee; president of the Italian-American Club for more than 25 years — longer than anyone before or since; over 500 people attended a May 1980 dinner for his 90th birthday [P7/5/1980, obit 1/6/1983]. [WWW]

**Tulipani, Julius Robert "Bob,"** a Ridgefield native and RHS 1946, taught two years at Ridgebury School, starting 1965, and 23 at Veterans Park, retiring in 1988 and becoming a real estate agent. He was active in many community service groups, including Boys Club and as a leader of the American Legion, helping organize many Memorial Day parades. He was an Army veteran of the Korean War. He received the Kiwanis Community Service Award in 1996. [JFS]

**Tulipani, Vincenzo "Jimmy,"** (1887-1977), a native of Italy who came to the USA in 1906, was a noted local farmer who supplied many small markets with produce. He also planted more than 4,000 grape vines for wine production. He was sometimes known as Jimmy Tulips [TD1040]. His wife was Evelina, also a native of Italy, and they had six children (see Tulipani brothers), five boys and one girl (Ada, later Mrs. Walter Walker). [P8/22/1977, Impact]. Brother of Julius (*q.v.*).

**Tulipani brothers:** Albert, Aldo, Alfred, Joseph, and John Tulipani (*q.v. each*), five sons of Vincenzo (*q.v.*) and Evelina Branchini Tulipani, served in WW2 and all returned, living the rest of their lives in Ridgefield. All five brothers were musicians, playing together in the Tulipani Orchestra and with the Sagebrush Serenaders (*q.v.*).

**Tulips:** Sometimes used as a surname for Tulipani. For instance Vincenzo Tulipani listed himself as Jimmy Tulips in the 1940 telephone directory. [TD1940]

**Tumbridge, Major John William.,** who bought the Whipstick Schoolhouse in 1930, was an engineer and officer in the Second Brigade of New York State National Guard in 1899. His estate was on Branchville and Whipstick Roads. He was from Brooklyn, N.Y. and president of Trumbridge Realty Company, which owned the Hotel St. George on Columbia Heights.

**Tuoti, George Edward**, (1905-1962), was a landscaping expert who came to Ridgefield in the 1930s to work for Outpost Nurseries and then established his own landscaping company,

based at his home on Tackora Trail. He was married to **Dixie Jackson Tuoti** (1911-2004), a well known local nurse.

**Tuppence:** early 1700s house at 35 Main Street, originally located around 440 Main Street; moved in 1947 to president location; said to have been an early trading post and one of oldest buildings in town; probably named by former owner, Mrs. Mary Olcott. *See also* Twopence Road.

**Turkey, wild,** is a native bird that was extinct in Ridgefield by the mid-19th Century, driven out by farming and by hunting. Turkeys like woods, especially those populated with oaks; they feed on the acorns. The state reintroduced the wild turkey in the late 20th Century, and by the turn of the 21st Century, they were a common sight in Ridgefield. Domestic turkeys were raised on a number of farms in town; Jim Smith/Kaiser poultry farm on Barry Avenue specialized in them in the mid-20th Century.

**Turkey Island:** First mentioned in 1712, probably elevated land surrounded by swamp and Titicus River, later called Round Mountain — area around Scotland-Barlow Mountain Schools; The “turkey” may have recalled the wild bird or Jacob Turkey, an American Indian who signed two of the deeds to the first settlers and who may have lived on this land. (RN)

**Turkey Ridge** was a gift shop at 1 Bailey Avenue (basement of old Bedient building), operated by Nadine Dolhy from around 1999 until winter 2021.

**Turkey shoots:** Popular in 1920s on North Salem Road north of Tackora Trail, and in the 1930s and thereafter on Barry Avenue, led by James “Big Jim” Smith [DD18]

**Turn of the River:** Very early (1717) name for section in the northeastern part of town along Danbury, Limestone and Great Hill Roads; refers to change in flow of Norwalk River (Ridgefield Brook) from north to east to south in this neighborhood. [RN]

**Turner, Aaron,** (1790-1854), born in Ridgebury, was an American circus pioneer. By 1820, his son, Napoleon, 7, was a trick rider in NYC circus. By 1828, Turner had his own touring circus and in 1836, hired P.T. Barnum as his ticket seller, secretary, treasurer, and eventually, partner. Turner retired from the circus world and operated Danbury hotel, called Turner House. [WWW]

**Turner Road:** Short road from Ridgebury Road east to NY line, though some say it should extend southerly over what is now Ridgebury Road to Old Ridgebury; extent was defined by selectmen, Nov. 1959; old road, named for Aaron Turner. [RN]

**Turnpike Road:** Found in old records, a shortened form of formal name for either of the two main turnpikes; *see* Danbury and Ridgefield Turnpike, and Sugar Hollow Turnpike Road. (RN)

**Turnpikes:** At least 3 toll roads operated in early 19th Century Ridgefield: Danbury and Norwalk Turnpike (incorporated 1795), Danbury and Ridgefield Turnpike (1801), and Sugar Hollow Turnpike (1829); *q.v.* *each*.

**Turtle Pond:** Small, man-made body of water off the west side of Old Sib Road, one of the “Eight Lakes” (*q.v.*) of the subdivision of that name; created around 1908 for Henry B. Anderson's Port of Missing Men (*q.v.*) resort; often erroneously called Hidden Lake. [RN]

**Tuttle-Smith, Rev. James,** (1831–1910), a decorated Episcopal chaplain in the Civil War, was from 1866 to 1888 rector of the Church of the Resurrection in Manhattan, then known as

the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; in retirement in 1890s, moved to Main Street house he called Oatland (*q.v.*) that later became South Hall of St. Stephen's Church. (While he lived next door to the Episcopal church, he was not officially associated with it in a ministerial capacity, although he did belong and assist there.) He is buried in Lounsbury Cemetery.

**Twelfth Lane:** Final in the series of 12 small roads off the west side of Mamasco Road, but unlike most others, it is a town road rather than a private drive, and a through road, not dead-end, connecting with Old Sib Road; one of the steepest roads in town, from 650 feet above sea level at Old Sib to about 590 at Mamasco, a distance of about 300 feet. [RN]

**Twelve Furlongs** was the estate off Wilton Road East of Townsend B. Martin (*q.v.*).

**Twenty Mile Line:** In early 1700s, the eastern boundary of New York Colony and western boundary of Ridgefield, incorrectly supposed to be 20 miles from a point on the Hudson River. *See* Oblong. [RN]

**Twin Maples:** A state-sponsored roadside rest area, with picnic table, on Route 33, Wilton Road West, nearly opposite Acre Lane; state used mostly land left when it straightened state highway here; rest area discontinued in 1970s, but space is still there, sometimes used by state for temporary storage of materials. [RN]

**Twin Ridge:** 68-lot subdivision developed 1960-1968 by Giles and Barry Montgomery; includes Beechwood Lane, Indian Cave Road, Little Ridge Road, Rising Ridge Road, Strawberry Ridge Road, and Twin Ridge Road; land was a former Keeler family farm for two centuries. [RN]

**Twisters:** Generally considered small tornadoes, several have done significant damage here; July 13, 1950, part of the roof ripped off RHS, many trees felled in Veterans Park, on Governor and Main Streets; *See also* Storms.

**Twixt Hills:** Subdivision of part of Twixthills (*q.v.*) estate of Seth Low Pierrepont (*q.v.*); 184 acres were sold in 1961 to developer Jerry Tuccio (*q.v.*) by Pierrepont's widow, Nathalie Elisabeth Chauncey Pierrepont, for \$145,000; same year, Tuccio began developing the 93-lot subdivision; roads include Seth Low Mountain Road, Pierrepont Drive, Clayton Place, Lookout Point, part of Barlow Mountain Road, and Twixt Hills Road [RN]

**Twixt Hills Road:** From Knollwood Drive and Old Barlow Mountain Road to Seth Low Mountain Road; *see* Twixt Hills. [RN]

**Twixthills:** Name of the 800-acre estate of Seth Low Pierrepont (*q.v.*), most of which later became the Twixt Hills (*q.v.*) subdivision and Seth Low Pierrepont State Park (*q.v.*); note that name was treated as one word; refers to the setting of Pierrepont house, between Barlow Mountain and Ridgebury Mountain. [RN] *See also* Shadowbrook Farm.

**Two Little Girls in Blue:** Novel by Mary Higgins Clark (Simon and Schuster, 2006), a thriller set in Ridgefield about a mother's search for her kidnapped child. [JFS]

**250th Anniversary Celebration** of Ridgefield's founding began May 23, 1958, with children's parade down Main Street, with all public school pupils in costume; house tour, July 20; firemen's parade, Aug. 2; antique car parade Aug. 23; ended Sept. 20 parade down Main Street, viewed up thousands; Karl S. Nash was chairman of committee; commissioned publication of *Ridgefield in Review* by Silvio Bedini (*q.v.*) [P9/25/1958]

**Twopence Road:** From Chestnut Hill Road to Parley Road, accepted by town 1964; developer Lewis J. Finch said the name should follow British pronunciation, “tuppence,” but people rarely were doing so in the 21st Century. [RN]

**Tydeman, Bert G.,** (1921-1981), a native of the US Panama Canal Zone who graduated from the Merchant Marine Academy, had a long career as an NYC architect for PanAm/ Intercontinental Hotels and then Rockefeller Associates. He designed the columbarium at St. Stephen’s Church where his ashes now lie.

**Typhoid Mary:** *See* Mary Mallon.

## U

**Ugolyn, Tyler “Ty”,** (1978-2001), a 1997 graduate of RHS who had only recently moved to New York from his family home in Ridgefield, died on Sept. 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center. At 23, he was one of the youngest victims. A Columbia University graduate, he began his “dream job” in the city as a research associate with Fred Alger Management Inc. At 6-foot-4, he was a natural athlete who was a star basketball player at RHS and later played for Columbia and had helped start a youth basketball program in Harlem. His grave is in St. Mary Cemetery [JFS]

**Ugly Duckling Rent-a-Car** business was opened by Bart and Kathy Keaveny at their Marty Motors dealership in 1983. All the rentals were used cars, for \$12.95 a day. [P3/27/1983]

**Ullman, George,** was head of a NYC printing ink company who owned a house at 114 Main Street in the 1930s/40s. His nephew, artist Paul Ullman (*q.v.*) and his wife, Babette, lived there in World War II. [JFS]

**Ullman, Paul,** (1906-1944), a native of France, was a noted French impressionist artist who became an underground fighter in World War II; OSS agent recruited by U.S. government; killed by Gestapo after parachuting into France on a mission; lived at 114 Main Street from 1942 with uncle, George Ullman, head of an NYC printing ink company; earned posthumous Bronze Star from the U.S. Army, and the Croix de guerre and Legion of Honor from the French government; included in the Book of Honor at the OSS Memorial Wall at Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in McLean, Va.; his wife, Babette, was active in the war effort on the homefront, working for many French relief efforts based in Ridgefield and elsewhere; she remarried and moved to California where she died 2009; biography, *Babette*, written by Constance Crawford, 2005. [WWW]

**Ullman, Robert,** (1905-1978), was an inventor who moved Ullman Devices Company (*q.v.*) to Ridgefield in 1959; was known for hiring handicapped and senior citizen employees; inventions included mostly tools, such as mirrors on the end of a handle for viewing hidden places, esp. Around engines, and flexible claws for retrieving small parts from difficult places, but also invented a hair dryer. Wife Marie (1912-1999) took over the company at his death; was active in the community; both lived in Wilton. [WWW]

**Ullman Devices:** Moved to Route 7 at Laurel Lane in 1959; town’s only true manufacturing industry in 2020 makes small, specialized tools used by mechanics, technicians, etc.; company founded in 1936 in NYC by Robert Ullman (*q.v.*); does business worldwide.

**Umpawaug:** Name of a section of eastern Ridgefield in 18th Century, reflecting nearby pond in Redding; name has several possible translations from American Indian, including “beyond



the bend” or “a fishing place” (Huden); Umpawaug Hill was probably today’s Fire Hill.  
[RN]

**Under the Dogwood Tree:** Gift shop at 13 Catoonah Street in 1980, 1987 [P9/11/1980]

**Underground Railroad:** Station was operated by Edward and Betsey Armstrong (*q.v.*) off Ned’s Lane, probably in the 1840s, maybe earlier and perhaps into the early 1850s; runaway slaves would be hidden in a nearby cave. [JFS]

**Ungar, Albert,** (1930-2016), head of Century Opinion Polls in NYC, lived at 37 Walnut Hill Road from the 1980s until his death. [P5/21/1987]

**Until Jacob Comes Marching Home:** A history of Ridgefield in the Civil War; *see* George Hancock.

**Union Hotel, The,** was on the west side of Main Street [Beers], owned by Mr. and Mrs. Niram Dykeman, built in the 1860s. It went through various owners and names, and was last called Oreneca Inn or House (*q.v.*). The building was moved in 1903 to High Ridge and Abbott Avenues.

**Union Savings Bank:** Opened office at 100 Danbury Road (former Duchess restaurant) July 2002.

**Union Society:** *See* Ridgefield Union Society.

**United Cigar Store** was established in the 1920s by Harold Finch (*q.v.*) at 388 Main Street. [DD96] Later it moved across Main Street from the George Scott block to the Ernest Scott block. It subsequently became Squash’s Ridgefield News Store (*q.v.*).

**Unwin, Edward,** was superintendent of the Altnacraig estate (*q.v.*). [DD156]

**Upagennit:** (spelling varies) Estate of Frederic E. and Mary Lewis (*q.v. each*) at West and Golf Lanes; made-up word for “Up Against It”; estate first assembled by H.B. Anderson (*q.v.*), ca. 1900; Lewis purchased ca. 1908 and built a castle-like manor house that year, vast greenhouses, indoor swimming pool; around 100 acres; owned 1930s-early 40s by Ely Culberson (*q.v.*); was Grey Court Junior College (*q.v.*), 1941-45; Ridgefield Country Club, late 1940s, early 1950s; subdivided 1955 as Ridgefield Manor Estates (*q.v.*), including Manor Road (mostly the old main driveway), Lewis Drive, Fairfield Court, Shadow Lane, and some of Golf Lane; mansion razed 1955. DD137-150 covers the history of the estate in great detail. [RN, WWW]

**Upper Pond:** Body of water at upper reaches of Titicus River, created probably in the early to provide power for mills at Titicus; now called Marjoy Pond (*q.v.*) [RN] *See also* Gilbert’s Upper Pond.

**UPS Store:** The original operation at 54 Danbury Road was Mail Boxes Etc, USA (*q.v.*).

**Urstadt Biddle Properties** of Greenwich, owner of many shopping centers, bought the former Bedient Hardware (*q.v.*) building at 404 Main Street in 1998 and has also acquired other adjoining properties at the corner of Bailey Avenue, totalling in 2022 about 35,000 square feet of retail, office and residential (apartment) space. [JFS]

## V

**Valden, David Harvey,** (1828-1885), a Ridgefield native, was a prominent 19th Century businessman; acquired tannery at Titicus from Jabez Mix Gilbert estate in 1856; He was a

Republican state representative, 1878, [HURD], and the father of State Rep. Louis I. Valden (*q.v.*).[DD24,25]

**Valden, Louis I.**, (1858-1920), son of David Harvey Valden (*q.v.*), operated the family tannery at Titicus (*see* Tannery Hill Road); was a town assessor who served as state representative, 1897-99. He built in 1857 the noted Victorian house at 118 North Salem Road [DD24]

**Valentino, Leno Rudolph**, (1923-2013), a Ridgefield native and RHS 1940, was a B-24 bomber pilot in World War II, flying more than 35 missions in the South Pacific. He owned Ridgefield Cleaners on Main Street for more than 40 years. He was a commander of the VFW post. [P1/17/2013, P1/23/1983]

**Valley Brook Acres**: 3-lot subdivision of 7.3 acres on the north corner of Nod Road and Davis Lane in 1977, by Roger Carpenter and William Valus. [RN]

**Van Etten, Dr. Royal C.**, (1886-1980), a native of Rhinebeck, NY, was a noted NYC obstetrician and gynecologist who estimated he delivered more than 8,000 babies. A graduate of Columbia's medical school where he later taught for 25 years, he practiced medicine 59 years. In 1927 he bought Hillscroft Farm (*q.v.*) on St. Johns Road, and in 1951 moved to the former E.P. Dutton house at 63 High Ridge Avenue, to which he retired in 1968. Dick Venus, his estate superintendent, wrote extensively about the "good doctor." [P7/24/1980] [DD169-189]

**Van Lidth de Jeude, Erland**, (1953-1987), a native of Holland and RHS 1972, was one of the most colorful, talented and fascinating people to grow up in town. Graduated MIT 1977 in computer science; at 6 foot, six inches and 340 pounds, was on championship wrestling team; was 1976 Summer Olympics alternate; won the Bronze Medal in the international competition held in Tehran in 1978; was to perform in 1980 Olympics, but U.S. boycotted; performed in 1979 movie, "The Wanderers" and with Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder in "Stir Crazy" (1980). Last film was The Running Man (1987). He also studied opera and sang with companies in three states — brother **Philip Van Lidth De Jeude**, is an opera singer. [WWW]

**Van Orman, Bill**, RHS 1981, a golfer, placed sixth in the National High School Athletic Association tournament in Biloxi, Miss. in 1981 and was named an All-American golfer.

**Van Poznak, Dr. Frederick**, was a Ridgefield thoracic surgeon, who served on the surgical staff between 1955 and 1974 before he and his family moved to London, England to facilitate his working in developing countries. During his years here, he was active in the community. He later returned to the U.S. and taught at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons. He and his wife, Joan Gilbert Van Poznak, a Juilliard graduate, live in West Palm Beach, Fla.

**Vaughn, Robert Francis**, (1932-2016), was a popular TV and film actor, known for roles of Napoleon Solo in "The Man from U.N.C.L.E.," on TV, and films roles in "The Magnificent Seven" and "The Young Philadelphians," the last earning him an Oscar nomination; appeared in 100 films, more than 200 TV episodes; active in Democratic politics, campaigned for John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy, made more than 1,000 anti-Vietnam-War speeches; bought Sunset Hall (*q.v.*) 1982; moved in the mid-1990s to Salem View Drive. [WWW]

**Vazzana, Richard J.**, began his career as a high school and college teacher, got a Ph.D., joined IBM and worked at executive positions in sales for 30 years. Became senior vice president of Novell. Community service includes Community Center, Rotary Club president, Ridgefield Symphony, and town Charter Revision Commission. Rotary Citizen of the year, 2018. [JFS]

**Vega, Manuel and Grace**, came from Cuba with a large family around 1959, escaping Communist takeover; he was an international lawyer; main client was General Electric; lived at ONS46 Barry Avenue; “left Ridgefield by hired bus to Canada as their visas were expiring”; then settled in Spain. Son Fernando became an international banker and son Manolo entered the wine and spirits business, and then became a popular bullfighter in Spain [Source: Richard Mead, FB] .

**Velte, Paul Christian Jr.**, (1914-1976), was CEO of Air America, a large airline owned by the Central Intelligence Agency flying primarily in Southeast Asia from the 1950s until 1975; used Air America Huey helicopters to help with evacuation of Saigon in April 1975, rescuing more than 1,000 Americans and Vietnamese; Ridgefield resident 1955 until death, was active in Ridgebury Congregational Church and Boy Scouts. [WWW]

**Venice Pizzeria:** One of the town’s oldest restaurants opened Nov. 20 1972, in new Copps Hill Plaza; owners Dominick Ruggiero of Ridgefield and Silvio Dinardo of nearby New York,

**Venus, Richard E.**, (1915-2006), was postmaster from 1961 to 1981, the last resident to hold that job; a former selectman, and first official town historian. He was author of 366 episodes of “Dick’s Dispatch,” a column on early 20th Century people and events in The Ridgefield Press; compiled in binder form by Ridgefield Historical Society. For many years he and his wife, Marie, operated Dic-Rie Dairy. [WWW]

**Verdery, Benjamin**, is a classical guitarist, son of Rev. John Verdery (*q.v.*) of Ridgefield; grew up on Wooster School campus; feature story [P1/15/1987]

**Verdery, Rev. John**, (1917-1985), a Princeton graduate, was headmaster of Wooster School from 1943 to 1976; when he started at Wooster, he was 25 and youngest headmaster in USA; wrote an autobiography, *Partial Recall, The Afterthoughts of A Schoolmaster*, in 1981; had home 620 Ridgebury Road in 1981. [P10/29/1981] He also had a home in France, where he died. Son Ben (*q.v.*) was a musician.

**Veterans** of World War II and the Korean War are listed on a large plaque in the town hall first floor corridor; unveiled Nov. 11, 1966. [RT] *See* also War Memorial.

**Veterans Memorial Park:** *See* Veterans Park.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars** Post 3052 was founded in 1962 by Gene Casagrande as a support group for local war veterans. One of its first projects was creation of a veterans memorial at Veterans Memorial Park, in front of the Community Center, dedicated in 1964. [RPC126]

**Veterans Park:** Short and common version for the official name of Veterans Memorial Park, established in 1945 when the town paid \$56,000 to buy Grovelawn (*q.v.*), the Lounsbury estate; an actual veterans monument was not erected until 1964. Park is 17.2 acres surrounded by Main, Market and Governor Streets, and East Ridge. It includes the Community Center grounds and the playing fields east of Veterans Park School (*q.v.*). *See also* Community Center, Hanneman House, Griffith Lane. [RN]

**Veterans Park School:** Town's first "modern" (flat-roofed) elementary school; opened February 1955, enlarged 1957-58; its Cleves Auditorium, named for Mabel Cleves (*q.v.*), has been used for many community events, including many past town meetings and zoning hearings. *See also* George Stromberg. [JFS]

**Vetter, George,** (1923-1945), a flight officer/navigator, bailed out of a B-24 bomber that had been hit by enemy fire in May 1945, and landed on an island with four other crewmen, who were sheltered by natives, one of whom betrayed the group to the Japanese. Four were shot and killed, including Vetter, three months before the war ended; RHS 1941. [WWW]

**VFW:** *See* Veterans of Foreign Wars.

**Victor Drive:** Dead-end road off Ramapoo Road, built starting in 1957 by Victor Williams; part of the old Irving Conklin (*q.v.*) dairy farm; 15 lots subdivided by Perry Scott. [RN]

**Victory Bus Line:** On Feb. 23, 1942 Leo Pambianchi began a bus line between Ridgefield and Bridgeport, to transport local defense workers to the plants in the city using a new 30-passenger bus; three round trips daily; one driver was Reno Carboni (*q.v.*).

**Video Cinema Inc.,** VHS video rental store at 51 Ethan Allen Highway in 1987; over 5,500 movies in stock. [P8/13/1987]

**Video Transfer, The:** Business at 89 Danbury Road; started by Rick Bennette July 12, 1985 with transferring 8mm movie film to VHS tapes, later provided video services such as recording weddings; later at 99 Danbury Road; Bennette sold and moved to Florida, 2003.

**Vietnam War:** Five Ridgefielders died in that conflict: Peter C. Towne, Thomas F. Carnegie, Samuel D. Freeman, William H. Keeler, and John T. Orrico; they are remembered on the Veterans Memorial in front of the Community Center on Main Street.

**Vietnam War Memorial:** In May 2011, a memorial to Ridgefielders who served in the military during the Vietnam War was erected in the town hall. By May 26, just before the memorial was to be created, the names of 268 people had been compiled. Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Paul Bucha spoke at its dedication.

**Viking Haus:** Store at Copps Hill Plaza selling Scandinavian household wares, apparel; existed 1980; gone by 1983.

**Villa Scalise:** Name that gangster George Scalise (*q.v.*) used for his Ridgefield mansion on Tackora Trail.

**Village, The,** is today an informal name applied to the center of town, the area roughly consisting of Main Street, High Ridge, East Ridge, and the crossroads around them. It was once part of the Village District (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Village Bakery** was opened by Nancy (Mrs. Albert) Gasperino at 446 Main Street [P1/12/1967] and closed in 1973 [P8/16/1973]. She later had bakeries near the Big Shop and at Copps Hill Common, and operated the Ridgefield Coffee Shop for many years.

**Village Bank and Trust Company of Ridgefield:** Ridgefield's second locally owned commercial bank (first was First National Bank and Trust Company of Ridgefield —*q.v.*); opened in 1974 in former Ridgefield Playhouse (*q.v.*); in 1982, changed name to The Village Bank & Trust Company; in 1995, acquired Liberty National Bank in Danbury; in 1999 acquired by Webster Bank in Waterbury. Ridgefield Library bought the building in 2000.

**Village Corner:** Liquor store at 3 Grove Street in 1980 [P6/12/1980].

**Village District** was a government district within the town, with its own budget. At the turn of the 20th Century, people in the center started getting services others didn't have, such as sewers, street lights, and fire hydrants. The Borough of Ridgefield was established to oversee these extra services, including a night watchman. In 1921, the town voted to abolish the borough and its government, and replace it with the Village District, controlled like the rest of the town by the first selectman and the Board of Finance, which proposed an annual budget to cover village-only services. People who lived in the village voted at an annual meeting on their budget and to set a village tax rate, just as the people in the whole town voted on the town budget. The Village District boundaries were supposed to coincide with the sewer lines since operation of the sewer system was the most expensive service the village budget supported. After new sewer lines and new hydrants began being installed outside the village district, voters decided in July 1974 to abolish the Village District and to charge fees directly to sewer users. [RN]

**Village Improvement Society:** Established 1899 by 14 prominent Ridgefielders at the home of Mrs. A. H. Storer to "make improvements in the village of Ridgefield, its streets, parks, public grounds and public buildings; and to do all things incidental to said business..." Planted flowers, trees; hired a street-cleaner; maintained early street lights; pressured merchants to keep signs modest; in 1915 merged into the new Ridgefield Garden Club, which still has a Village Improvement Committee [RPC]; *see also* Dog, Cat and Poultry Show..

**Village Market:** Opened by two Putnam County men March 1981 in former Wayside Market (*q.v.*) spot at 37 Danbury Road [P3/19/1981]; did not last long.

**Village Nursery:** At 659 Danbury Road (Route 7) in 1981 was a "nursery, garden center, florist." [P4/2/1981]

**Village Park:** Small, expensive subdivision off Bryon Avenue, developed by Reed Whipple in early 2000s. [RN]

**Village People Cafe, The:** Restaurant on the north corner of Grove Street and Sunset Lane in 1978-79, operated by Kevin and Albert Rowe — *see also* Perp's, Pierpaoli's Cafe, Corner Pub, Joe's Hideaway, *and* The Hideaway.

**Village Photographer, The:** Name of photography business of Brian Gaumer, 2 Big Shop Lane; business opened June 9, 1980 [P6/12/1980, P7/10/1980].

**Village Street:** Another name for Main Street (*q.v.*), especially around the turn of the 20th Century. [RN]

**Village Tavern:** Restaurant at 378 Main Street, opened in 2016 by Germano Minin and Bruno DiFabio in the Bissell Building (*q.v.*), replacing the Dog and Pony/Bissell House (*q.v.*). Closed in 2019. Replaced by The Lantern (*q.v.*) in 2020.

**Village Trader, The,** was an antiques shop on Prospect Street, operated in the 1960s by Kathryn Rosa (*q.v.*). [P4/22/1965, 7/2/1968]

**Vincentians,** members of Roman Catholic Congregation of the Mission (C.M.), bought Sunset Hall (*q.v.*) in 1955 and converted it to a novitiate for training priests and brothers. Founded in Paris in 1625 by St. Vincent de Paul the order remained here until about 1966 because of declining vocations. *See also* St. Vincent de Paul Novitiate. [JFS]

**Vinton, Gertrude**, (1856-1934), established, with sister Elizabeth Perry Vinton (1846-1912) a school for girls, ca. 1893, at 76 East Ridge (now Ridgefield Police headquarters) after opening similar school 1883 in Pomfret, Conn.; about 1903, closed school here and returned to Pomfret; daughter of Rev. Dr. Francis Vinton and a granddaughter of Commodore Oliver Perry. [NYT 11/15/1934]

**Vinton School:** *See* Gertrude Vinton.

**Virginia Court:** Dead-end road off Old Stagecoach Road at Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*), named for Virginia George, secretary to Robert Kaufman, Knolls developer; town road, 1968. [RN]

**Visitors, Board of:** Also called School Visitors; 19th and early 20th Century version of today's Board of Education (*q.v.*); so-called because members would visit the schools and check out their operation. [JFS]

**Vita Semplix Farm:** Name used at least in 1910 by Joseph Conron for his estate on West Mountain Road, later called Hillaire (*q.v.*); means "the simple life"; also appears as Vita Semplace. [JFS]

**Volunteers of America** owned what was called Camp Adventure (*q.v.*) in the 1960s. The non-profit is "dedicated to helping those in need live healthy, safe, and productive lives."

**von Fekete, Gerda**, (1918-2017), a native of East Prussia, owned Trendsetters (*q.v.*), a Main Street store. She came to the US in 1952 and opened Teen Fashions on Catoonah Street in 1967, growing into Trendsetters, which continued until her retirement in 1989. [P6/22/2017]

**Voting machines:** Ridgefield's first voting machine was put in use Oct. 5, 1914, for town election; machine cost \$600. Before that, voting was done by paper ballot. In November 2007, town switched to optical-scanning voting machines in which people mark choices on a paper ballot, which is fed into a machine that tallies the results. [JFS] *See also* Frederic Fayerweather. For anecdotes about them, see DD78.

## W

**Waccabuc, Lake:** Once partly in Ridgefield, before Oblong (*q.v.*), now Lewisboro; Indians called it Wepack (*q.v.*); named for Waccabuc House hotel, built 1860, on the lake. The origin of his "Waccabuc" is uncertain, but some think it might be a version of *wequa-paug*, which itself is a longer version of *wepack*. [RN]

**Wade, Eliza Gage**, a native of Boston, marked her 104th birthday May 27, 1934, and could remember talking to Revolutionary War veterans. She died three weeks later. She was the widow of Munson Gage. [P6/28/1934]

**Wade, Thayer D.:** Ridgefield's ninth school superintendent, serving 1965-66.

**Wadsworth R. Lewis Fund:** *See* Lewis, Wadsworth R.

**Wagoner, Philip D.**, (1876-1962), an executive who headed Underwood, the typewriter company, built Oreneca (*q.v.*), a stone-faced mansion on Oreneca Road, ca. 1932. He led his company into computer production in the early 1950s with the Elecom brand; he retired in 1956. [WWW]

**Wagstaff, Blanche LeRoy Shoemaker**, (1888-1967), was an early 20th Century poet and author of many books of poetry, as well as some books for children. She was first married to Alfred Wagstaff, from whom she was divorced, and then to Donald Carr (*q.v.*), also a

writer. She and Carr lived here in the 1930s. The Social Register says her home was called “Birchglade.” [WWW]

**Wahl, Dr. John Schempp**, (1920-1982), was a nuclear physicist who worked at the University of Iowa on one of the early atom smashers and also worked on the Manhattan Project, which created the first atomic bomb. He moved here with wife Stacey (*q.v.*) when he joined Schlumberger-Doll Research Center and lived on Huckleberry Lane. [P8/19/1982]

**Wahl, Mary Martha “Stacey,”** (1918-2007), a native of Iowa, was a WestConn mathematics professor and author who held patents on two math teaching tools and lived in Ridgefield more than 50 years. She was married to John Schemon Wahl, a nuclear physicist, who took the pictures for her children’s book, *I Can Count the Petals of A Flower*. [P11/15/2007]

**Wakeman, Charlotte “Biddy,”** (1877-1969), a native of Copake, NY, was Ridgefield’s first school superintendent, serving 1919-21. She came to Ridgefield in 1906 to be principal of the Center School on Bailey Avenue. She later taught English in Mt. Vernon, NY. (It would be more than a half century before the school board hired its next woman superintendent.) [WWW]

**Waldeck Kennels** was located in the 1930s and 40s in the former Outpost Farm (*q.v.*) kennel on Route 7, a building later used as the Red Lion Restaurant. In February 1945, Heide Grafensteiner, a St. Bernard from Waldeck Kennels won winner’s bitch and best of opposite sex at the Westminster Kennel Club show in Madison Square Garden. [JFS]

**Waldee Farms** was the name of the “gentleman’s farm” operated on Old South Salem by fashion expert Walter Deiches in the 1940s, described in DD102-112.

**Waldheim, Kurt**, (1918-2007), would spend time at the Karl Landegger (*q.v.*) estate when he was secretary general of the United Nations, 1972-81; they were old friends. He later became president of Austria, 1986-92, but eventually came under fire as having been a German army officer, involved in rounding up Jews and killing Yugoslavian resistance fighters. [NR]

**Walgreens** opens in 2008 in the former CVS/A&P location, 46 Danbury Road, after razing the older building

**Walk-Bike Run:** Annual fundraiser for Ridgefield Boys Club, started 1973; lasted 18 miles; usually in November.

**Walker, Charles Wade**, (1880-1961), was a musician, piano tuner, merchant, town constable, organist and choirmaster at Jesse Lee Methodist Church, who operated Walker’s Happy Shop (*q.v.*). He was a member of the Masons, Odd Fellows, Lions, and Grange, and contributed poetry to The Ridgefield Press. [WWW]

**Walker, Horace A.**, (1892-1956) was town fire marshal in the 1940s. [DD133]

**Walker, Jay Scott, (1955-)**, a native of NYC, founded the website, Priceline.com, and is chairman of Walker Digital, a research and development lab developing digital networks to create new business systems. He has a 24,000 square foot mansion on West Mountain that includes a three-story library with floors of red oak and 13-foot high windows trimmed in mahogany. It contains a vast, eclectic library of books, artifacts and memorabilia from around the world — including a genuine Russian Sputnik satellite.

**Walker, Ralph Thomas**, (1889-1973), a native of Waterbury, was a major American architect of skyscrapers. He was called by NYT “the architect of the century,” for his many notable

buildings in NYC and other cities. He never lived here, although he probably stayed with his parents, Thomas and Marion Shipley at what is now 83 West Lane. Nonetheless he is buried here in Fairview Cemetery, only a few dozen feet from another master of 20th Century building design, Cass Gilbert (*q.v.*). Walker killed himself with a silver bullet. [WWW]

**Walker, John L.,** became Ridgefield postmaster July 18, 1935, after confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

**Walker Avenue:** “The selectmen should look after Walker Avenue, it needs something done with it.” Location unknown. [P5/22/1878]

**Walker’s Happy Shop:** Opened around 1915 at ONS123 Main Street by Charles Wade Walker, selling typical “news store” products, plus toys, with motto, “Toys to make the kiddies happy, sweets to make the ladies happy, and smokes to make the men happy.” Walker also installed a soda fountain. [JFS]

**Wallace, Henry Agard** (1888-1965) was 33rd Vice President of the United States, the 11th Secretary of Agriculture, and the 10th Secretary of Commerce; founded Progressive Party and served as its presidential nominee in 1948; his last years were spent at Farvue Farm on Route 35 in South Salem; a member of St. Stephen’s Church, where his funeral took place, Wallace bequeathed parish \$6,200 in stock in the Pioneer Corn Company — a decade later, the stock was found to be worth \$800,000 (\$3.7 million in 2019 dollars).

**Wallace, Ralph:** Ridgefield’s 14th school superintendent, serving 1998-2003.

**Wallis’s Hoghole:** Locality somewhere near RHS, mentioned 1746, probably named for James Wallace, an early settler of the area. May have been the same as Smith’s Hogholler (*q.v.*) [RN]

**Wallrapp, Marilyn “Lynn,”** (1935-2001), was a writer whose work included *Murmuring Ever* (*q.v.*), a ghost-story novel said to have used Ridgefield as an inspiration. She was married to Yustin Wallrapp. She was a daughter of journalist Donald I. Rogers (*q.v.*).

**Wallrapp, Yustin John,** (1932-2014), was a top public relations executive; director of PR for J. Walter Thompson, then headed Ogilvy & Mather’s public relations business. He was married to Marilyn “Lynn” Wallrapp (*q.v.*) and lived at 259 Spring Valley Road in the 1970s, early 1980s.

**Walnut Grove:** 1960s subdivision by William Peatt Sr. of 35 lots from 48 acres north of Farmingville Road, served by Walnut Grove Road; named after the farm whose land this was, owned 1890s-1917 by David L. Jones (*q.v.*), later by Carl A.F. Stolle; most original houses were built by Nicholas R. Dinapoli Sr. [RN]

**Walnut Grove Farm:** Dairy farm operated at the turn of the 20th century by David L. Jones (*q.v.*); sold 1921 to Carl A.F. Stolle (*q.v.*); much of land became Walnut Grove (*q.v.*) subdivision. *See also* Jones Pond.

**Walnut Grove Road:** *See* Walnut Grove.

**Walnut Hill Road:** From Old West Mountain Road to Round Lake Road at Eight Lakes Estates (*q.v.*); accepted by town, 1957. [RN]

**Walnut Ridge:** Locality mentioned 1718 as west of the Norwalk River (East River) and east of Great Swamp; probably Cain’s Hill; also called Walnut Tree Ridge. [RN]



**Walsh, Gordon L. Sr.**, (1904-1984), was a prominent real estate agent in Ridgefield for many years. helped establish the Connecticut Real Estate Commission to oversee the profession, and was named one of its first members and was twice elected its chairman. He was active in Rotary, Masons, Eastern Star, Boy Scouting, and St. Stephen's Church. [NR] Son **Gordon Jr.** was also active in the community..

**Walsh, Robert Jay**, (1854-1916), a native of Lewisboro, N.Y., came to Ridgefield at age 10 and attended schools here, including William O. Seymour's High Ridge Institute (*q.v.*). He became an attorney in Greenwich in 1882. A Republican he served as a state senator, and in 1888 secretary of the state of Connecticut. In 1889 he was named a Court of Common Pleas judge. [CBRFC]

**Walsh, Rev. Thaddeus**, (1837-1885) was first pastor of St. Mary's Parish, serving from its founding in 1881-2 until his death. He is buried in St. Mary Cemetery. [JFS]

**Walsh, Thomas F.M.**, (1902-1984), was a mystery writer, who wrote many short stories and several novels including *Nightmare in Manhattan*, which won a 1950 Edgar and was made into the film, "Union Station," starring William Holden – one of two movies made from his books. He lived on Casey Lane from 1949 to 1965. [WWW]

**Walters, Jacob and John**, operated an auto dealership at 378 Main Street in the 1920s, selling Flint, Durant and Star automobiles. John ran the store and "Jake" was the mechanic. John later became a carpenter and house builder. [DD100]

**Walters, Peter**, (1913-1988), a native of Pennsylvania, was a popular pianist who, after a musical career in NYC, including on Broadway, came here in 1950 and played regularly at The Inn at Ridgefield, Stonehenge, Outpost and Fox Hill Inns; lived on Hayes Lane until 1966. [WWW]

**Wanamaker, Thomas B. Jr.**, (1904-1991), a native of Philadelphia, was the grandson of the department store founder, John Wanamaker, for whom he worked. He lived on Golf Lane, then Olmstead Lane in the 1970s, a friend of the Easons (*q.v.*). He raised champion Irish Wolf Hounds at a ranch he had in Palm Springs, Calif., in his earlier days. He died in Florida where he moved in the 1980s, but his remains lie in the crypt and columbarium of St. Stephen's Church here. [JFS]

**War Memorial:** The monument on Main Street at head of Branchville Road dedicated July 4, 1924 [P4/24/1924] by the American Legion, bearing the names of Ridgefield veterans from World War I to the Revolution; some say it designed by architect W. Kerr Rainsford (*q.v.*) while Mary Linda Bradley (*q.v.*) who served on the design committee, said it was designed by Laurence F. Peck; sculpted by Raffaello E. Menconi; Gorham cast the plaques and built the monument in Providence, R.I.

**Ward, Jack Boyd**, (1916-1998), native of New York and a Ward Baking Company heir, lived at Ward Acres (*q.v.*) on Peaceable Street from 1957 until about 1990, then on Rockwell Road, with partner Olaf Olsen (*q.v.*); raised show horses, especially Hackneys and Trotters, including many champions; made many sizable donations to Danbury Hospital, Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association, Ridgefield Fire Department, Jesse Lee Methodist Church, and others. [WWW]

**Ward Acres:** Show horse farm of Jack B. Ward (*q.v.*) from 1957 to 1980s, mostly located on old Country Club of Ridgefield (*q.v.*) golf course along Peaceable Street at Golf Lane; included

a museum of antique carriages; up to 45 horses stabled on the 54 acres that has a 19-room mansion; previously owned by portrait artist C. Chandler Ross (*q.v.*) and then by Lyle B. Torrey; most of the farm has been subdivided. [RN]

**Wardenburg, Barbara**, who went to law school and became an attorney while living on North Salem Road in the 1970s and 80s, was active in feminist causes, was a founder of the Women's Political Caucus (*q.v.*), a member of the League of Women Voters, and of the Republican Town Committee. She became famous for spearheading the successful lawsuit against the town's providing free land to the Boys Club, charging the club sexually discriminated against women. She returned to her native California in 1987. [NR]

**Warily Kennels**: Operated starting ca. 1923 at the farm estate of Reginald M. Lewis (*q.v.*) at 100 South Salem Road; specialized in Wire-Hair Fox Terriers, and won a number of awards.

**Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin S.**, took over management of The Inn on lower Main Street, 1903, and changed the name to The Ridgefield Inn [P5/7/1903].

**Warren, Karen Joyce**, (1947-2020), RHS 1965, was a college professor of philosophy who obtained her Ph.D. from UMass Amherst in 1978. She taught environmental ethics, critical thinking and feminist philosophy, mostly at Macalaster College, St. Paul, Minn. She was called a pioneer in the field of ecofeminist philosophy and was author or coauthor of eight books. [P9/10/2020]

**Warren's map of 1812**: Moses Warren's map of Connecticut, published in 1812 in Hartford, is shows, for the first time, the new route between Ridgefield and Danbury through the Sugar Hollow; village's two churches in their proper places along the west side of Main Street; also shows "The Crank" (*q.v.*) in Ridgebury; one of last maps to show Ridgefield extending to New Fairfield.

**Warrups, Chicken**, (?-1765), also called Chickens, Chi-ken, and Sam Mohawk, was said to be a sagamore or under-chief of the Mohawks who in his youth, killed another youth in a dispute over a girl, and was banished from his homelands. He settled in what is now Redding, but legend has it he enjoyed sitting on a large boulder at the south end of Great Pond, surveying the scene. The rock still bears the name Chicken's Rock. He reportedly married a daughter of Catoonah, the Ramapoo leader who sold much of Ridgefield to the first settlers. In 1714, Warrups sold a sizable piece of land in the Lonetown area of Redding, then part of Fairfield, to John Read, after whom Reading, later Redding, was named. Over the years, however, Warrups battled with the colonists over details of the agreements he'd signed, and on several occasions he petitioned Connecticut's colonial leaders to clear up his problems. end in 1749 when the chief took John Read's offer of 200 acres near the Schaghticoke Reservation along the Housatonic River in Kent, giving up any rights to his old lands in Redding. [WWW]

**Washburn, Rev. Benjamin Martin**, (1887-1966), a native of Vermont and Dartmouth graduate, was an Episcopal priest who was bishop of Newark, NJ, diocese from 1935 until 1958, and was a leader in the hierarchy of the Episcopal church in the US. In retirement, he spent his last eight years on Barrack Hill Road. Washburn and his wife, Henrietta Tracy de Selding Washburn, had one son, **Seth**, (1921-2016), an MIT graduate who became a Bell Laboratories engineer and wrote a seminal book on the design of switching circuits. [WWW]

**Washington, George**, the nation's first president, visited Ridgefield at least once, on Sept. 19, 1780, on a trip to Hartford to meet with the Comte de Rochambeau. He was accompanied by the Marquis de Lafayette, and stayed at the tavern of Ensign Samuel Keeler no longer standing on Ridgebury Road — about where the Congregational church is now; he is said to have also visited Col. Philip Burr Bradley's home, now Ballard Park, but this is undocumented.

**Washington Avenue**: runs between Lafayette and Rochambeau Avenues, at Peatt Park (*q.v.*); all three men are connected locally on Sept. 19, 1780 — *see* George Washington. [RN]

**Washington Park Estates** is a 1961 subdivision of 78 one-acre parcels along Branchville and Old Washington Roads, including the new roads of Lincoln Lane, Jefferson Drive and Adams Road, developed by Bertram H. Ison. [RN]

**Washington Road** is a variation of Old Washington Road, an old roadway that once ran from Branchville Road to Ivy Hill Road. The road now serves only home lots at the Washington Park Estates (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Washington Street**: 1946 zoning map uses this term for today's Old Washington Road (*q.v.*).

**Wataba, Lake**: Better known now as Rainbow Lake, at the Ridgefield Lakes (*q.v.*); name was used by early 1930s by developers there; Huden says name means the kind of roots used for cord and thread in sewing together canoes, but name has no connection with Ridgefield's historical geography; residents staged an annual Wataba Lake Festival, starting in 2015. Why also Rainbow Lake? Probably because someone, or ones, didn't like "wataba," perhaps feeling it sounded more like a children's camp in the mountains. [RN]

**Water**: *See* Ridgefield Water Supply Company for a history of public water. *See also* Watersheds.

**Water's Edge Way** is a private road at the Ridgefield Lakes, running along the northwestern shore of Fox Hill Lake, connecting Greenridge Drive with Bennett's Farm Road. [RN]

**Waterfall Farm** is a spread on Spring Valley and Mopus Bridge Roads that has been a riding center since the 1970s, operated by the Starbuck family. It had earlier been owned by Hubert Dunning (*q.v.*).

**Waterfall Road** is a short lane, running between Bear Mountain and Old Mill Roads at Hemlock Hills (*q.v.*); perhaps from the dam water at Old Mill Pond (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Watering troughs**: Once common along roadsides to serve thirsty horses, only one fancy one exists today, waterless, in the island of the Olmstead and West Lane intersection; donated by John Ames Mitchell (*q.v.*), in the fall of 1912 and originally stood until 1926, at Main and Catoonah Streets, then for a while at Titicus crossroads. It was cut out of a solid piece of granite, six feet wide and four feet three inches high. [*See* RPC118 for history of troughs.]

**Waterman, Rev. Leonard Post**, (1924-2007), the first pastor of the Ridgefield Baptist Church (*q.v.*), organized and incorporated the Ridgefield Bible Fellowship into the new congregation in 1961. It was one of five churches in New England that he started during his career; he retired in the early 1990s, a veteran of the Army Air Force, flying 21 combat missions, he had a degree in mechanical engineering from Brooklyn Polytech, and was working for Nabisco when he was called to the ministry. [JFS]

**Watersheds:** Being high in elevation, Ridgefield is in the upper reaches of seven different watersheds, an unusually high number; four of them feed public water systems. The Norwalk River (*q.v.*) rises in Great Swamp (*q.v.*) and travels via the Norwalk River Valley to Long Island Sound. The Titicus River (*q.v.*) rises on West Mountain and runs into the New York City water supply system at Titicus Reservoir in North Salem. The Miry Brook rises in ponds in northern Ridgebury and travels through Danbury to the Housatonic River, also emptying in Long Island Sound. The Stamford Mill River (*q.v.*) rises in the West Lane (*q.v.*) district and feeds the Stamford reservoir system, part of Aquarion. The Ridgefield Lakes feed the Saugatuck Reservoir in Redding and Weston, serving Aquarion's regional supply (including Ridgefield). Water flowing from the Silver Spring Swamp in southwestern Ridgefield feeds Brown's Reservoir, part of Norwalk's water system. Other streams in the south of town feed the Silvermine River watershed, which flows through Wilton and New Canaan into the Norwalk River at Norwalk. [JFS]

**Watrous, Eleazar, (1786-1815):** According to KSN, the house that stood about where Governor Street begins and which was moved to 36 Abbott Avenue in 1888 belonged to this man, who, probate records indicate, was a carriage-maker who died in debt when he was only 28 years old. The house was long the home of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Mitchell. In the 1870s and 80s, this was the home and office of Dr. W. S. Todd (*q.v.*). Name also spelled Waterous.

**Watson, James T.,** began as senior pastor of First Congregational Church Nov. 4, 2018; a former professional chef.

**WAXB:** Call letters of commercial AM radio station, broadcasting on 850 kHz from antenna in Great Swamp; former WREF (*q.v.*), which was founded to provide local programming, of which WAXB has absolutely none. [JFS]

**Wayside, The:** summer retreat of Mr. and Mrs. Theron B. Hoyt (Elizabeth K. Carnegie, soprano of Andrew Carnegie), according to SR1916S. "The property for the Farmingville cut-off was donated by Theron G. Hoyt who was then living on the Ben Lee property on the easterly side of the cut-off." [RIR] Hoyt, a NYC businessman, was a native of Farmingville. Hoyt owned Hoyt Plating Company, manufacturer of gold- and silver-plated goods.

**Wayside Market:** Small grocery store at 37 Danbury Road, opposite Grove Street intersection, founded by Enzo Bartolucci in 1935 and later owned by Louis J. Fossi in the 1970s. Closed in 1982 and became Village Market (*q.v.*), Genoa Deli, Dairytown (*q.v.*).

**We Elect A President,** published in 1977, one of four books for young readers written by David E. Weingast (*q.v.*);

**We Gather Together... Making the Good News Happen: 1712-2012:** Extensively illustrated 300th anniversary survey history of the First Congregational Church, by its then pastor, Rev. Charles Hambrick-Stowe. 68 pages, published by the church, 2011.

**Weather:** *See under* Floods, Ice storms, Snow storms, Temperatures, Twisters, Lightning.

**Webb, Rev. William H., (1916-1991),** a native of NYC, came here in the 1930s to work on a poultry farm; later worked on estates. He studied for the ministry and in 1969, was ordained an African Methodist Episcopal minister; served congregations in Danbury, Waterbury, Bridgeport, Norwalk, and Branford; lived on Knollwood Road. He and wife

Delita were founders of the local NAACP, and Webb became president of the Connecticut NAACP in the 1970s. He worked behind the scenes to help resolve many discrimination case in town. He served on the board of Danbury Hospital. WW2 veteran. [WWW]

**Webster, Harvey James**, (1925-1944), was a U.S. Marine private killed in November 1944 during the landing at Peleliu Island in the Pacific when his amphibious tank was hit by a Japanese bomb Sept. 15; received Purple Heart. Brother Sgt. George H. Webster was wounded in France at the same time. Family lived on West Lane, 1941-46. [WWW]

**Webster Road** at Westmoreland (*q.v.*) runs between Remington and Holmes Roads; probably named for statesman Daniel Webster (1782-1852), who had no known connection with Ridgefield. [RN]

**Wedding, first:** The first wedding in Ridgefield took place when Matthew St. John and Anne Whitne(y) on Oct. 13, 1709.

**Weed, George Hoadley**, (1858-1926), a native of New Haven, was a farmer and a Republican state representative, 1891-93. He eventually moved to Houston, Texas, where he died. [JFS]

**Weinberg, Robert Charles**, (1902-1974), a native of NYC, was an architect, city planner and preservationist who was widely known and respected. He worked many years for the city of New York, was a commentator on WNYC radio, was an editor, taught at NYU and Yale, and wrote pieces for RP. He had a home on West Mountain. [JFS]

**Weingast, Dr. David E.**, (1912-2007) was a historian, author and Ridgefield's 10th school superintendent, serving 1967-77. He wrote four history books for young people, including *We Elect A President*. (*q.v.*) He lived at 145 Main Street. [WWW]

**Weir, Dorothy**, (1890-1947), daughter of J. Alden and Anna Baker Weir, was an American artist who owned and operated the Weir family farm, now Weir Farm Historic Site, from around 1919 until her death. She wrote *The Life and Letters of J. Alden Weir* (1960). She married sculptor Mahonri Young in 1930, who did much of his work at the farm. [WWW]

**Weir, Julian Alden**, (1852-1919), a native of West Point, NY., was a noted American Impressionist artist. In 1882, he paid \$560 for an old farm at the corner of Nod Hill Road and Pelham Lane as a summer place; he eventually lived there full time. He was president of the National Academy of Design, the Society of American Artists, and the Association of American Painters. He founded the Ten American Painters, consisting of the leading Impressionists of the era, Daughter Dorothy Weir (*q.v.*) took over the farm at father's death and married sculptor Mahonri Young (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Weir Farm National Historic Site**, created by Congress in 1990, is the only national park property in the country that celebrates American painting; was the home of Impressionist artist J. Alden Weir (*q.v.*) and sculptor Mahonri Young (*q.v.*); park site was the idea of Sperry and Doris Andrews (*q.v.*), who owned the property from 1957 onward and enlisted the support of The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, the State of Connecticut, and various politicians, including U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman; property today has 60 acres with 16 buildings under care of National Park Service on Nod Hill Road and Pelham Lane in Ridgefield and Wilton; Weir's house and studio are in Ridgefield; welcome center is in Wilton. Quarter dollar coin issued in 2020 as part of national parks series, representing Connecticut.

**Weiss, Dr. Leopold**, (1879-1962), was first radiologist to practice in NYC, with an office at home of his brother Ehrich, better known as magician Harry Houdini; in 1910s, 20s, his wife, Sadie Glanz Weiss (*q.v.*), owned Sunset Hall (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Weiss, Sadie Glanz**, (ca. 1877-1935), married Nathan Weiss, brother of magician Harry Houdini (Erich Weiss), later divorced him and married his brother, Dr. Leopold Weiss, causing great family uproar. She later divorced Leopold. Sady owned the West Mountain mansion now called Sunset Hall. With her sister, she established the Bruck-Weiss Millinery, catering to fashion needs of rich women in Manhattan from a 10-story headquarters just off Fifth Avenue. [WWW]

**Weissmann, Dr. Frieder**, (1893-1984), a native of Germany, was a world-renowned conductor of symphony and opera orchestras. He began his conducting career at the State Opera of Berlin while in his 20s. In 1932 and 1933, he was a guest conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic. He has led the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and many orchestras in North and South America. In this country he recorded for such labels as RCA Victor, Decca, Columbia, and Odeon. Many of his recordings are still being sold today. He married his first wife, popular German opera star Meta Seinemeyer, as she was dying of leukemia at the age of 33. He and his second wife, Rosita “Rose” Chevallier Boutell, an Argentine actress, came to Ridgefield around 1960, summering at The Elms Inn for nine years and then living full-time on Prospect Ridge. Rose is buried in Ridgebury Cemetery, Frieder in Holland. [WWW]

**Weitzel, Charles William Sr.**, (1895-1973), founder of a plumbing firm of that name, was the town’s last part-time sanitarian — position became full-time after his retirement around 1970; subdivided Field Crest Drive (*q.v.*); lived on corner of Wilton Road West and Silver Hill Road.

**Welles, Lemuel Aiken** (1870-1953), Yale 1893, was an attorney who had been general consul for American Can Company in the first third of the 20th Century, retiring in 1933 to Brook Farm (*q.v.*) at 845 North Salem Road where he continued his interest in writing about history. Among his books were *The History of the Regicides in New England* (1927) and *The Regicides in Connecticut* (1935). [JFS]

**Wellington, Cary L.**, (1920-2010), was an engineer, inventor, businessman, pilot, and entrepreneur. In World War II, he developed guided missile fuses and bomb detonators. He held more than 20 patents and, his family said, started more than 20 companies over his career. He founded in 1981 the short-lived Western Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, based at WestConn. He lived at 35 Golf Lane, an estate called Fair Fields (*q.v.*) [JFS]

**Welsh, Glenna**, (1913-78), was the author of *The Proprietors of Ridgefield*, a history of settlement of the town and its Main Street; she and husband Vernon owned, first, the Keeler Tavern (*q.v.*), which and then moved to the Hauley House (*q.v.*), both on Main Street.

**Wenbos Lane** was the original name of Bayberry Hill Road (*q.v.*), changed because it was deemed unattractive; based on developers Raymond D. Wennik and George Bossert. [RN]

**Wepack** was an American Indian name for the territory at Long Pond (*q.v.*), mostly now in Lewisboro, but which would have included some land still remaining in Ridgefield where West Mountain Road crosses into NY state. Cited in a 1727 deed from the Indians; meaning uncertain but Hudon guesses “shallow water.” *See also* Waccabuc. [RN]

**Wesley Hall:** Classroom, meeting space and offices for Jesse Lee United Methodist Church, located behind (west of) church building; named ca. 1964 for Methodist leader John Wesley; formerly a house called Ashton Croft (*q.v.*)

**West Branchville Road:** Dumbest road name in Ridgefield since the highway is in the easternmost part of Branchville and the town; east of tracks by train station; part of old Danbury and Norwalk Turnpike (*q.v.*), also called Old Main Highway (*q.v.*). [RN]

**West Cedar Mountain:** *See* Cedar Mountain.

**West Lane:** 1. Originally called Bedford Road, “West Lane” first appeared in 1775, and then the name became common; laid out in 1722; a state highway, it extends from Main Street at the fountain westward past West Lane Schoolhouse, then southwesterly into NY where it continues as a town road also named West Lane, ending at Route 123, Smith Ridge Road; it is a state highway its entire length, but is called Route 35 from Main Street to the schoolhouse, then unlabeled Route 835 to the state line. 2. The name “West Lane” was first mentioned in a 1799 deed. By the 20th Century, people were terming it “Old West Lane.” *See also* New West Lane. [RN]

**West Lane Inn:** 1. A small hotel called this opened in May 1910 at 27 West Lane [SA5/21/1910] on the south side of the road. The building later became known as Bluebird Apartments (*q.v.*), and is still multifamily. 2. Since at least 1940, the name has been used for the former H.P. Bissell (*q.v.*) house across the road. This was ONS16 and today is #22 West Lane. The Bissell house was built in 1849. The building was called the West Lane Inn in the 1940 telephone book. It had been a boarding house when purchased in 1972 by Inn at Ridgefield owners Henry and Maureen Prieger. Mrs. Prieger, who returned to her birth name Maureen Mayer (*q.v.*), turned it into an inn in 1978 and ran it with daughter Debbie Prieger, until her death in 2011. In 2019, Debbie sold the 18-room hotel to Christine Carnicelli and Danille Petrie [P11/14/2019]

**West Lane Pizza & Deli** is the last neighborhood store in town. Established in the 1920s, it was by 1940, was Casa-More (*q.v.*).

**West Lane schoolhouse:** Located in triangle of South Salem Road, West Lane and Peter Parley Lane, also called “Little Red Schoolhouse” and “Peter Parley Schoolhouse”; original school dates from 1756 but existing structure is probably mid-1800s; part of foundation may be from the 18th Century building; stood empty and unused for many years until Ridgefield Garden Club restored the building and maintained it from 1950s until 2012 when town turned over operation to Ridgefield Historical Society, which continues to maintain it as a museum; open once a month in the warmer months; most famous student was Samuel G. Goodrich, the author of more than 100 books often under his pseudonym, Peter Parley — he was born in 1793 only a couple hundred feet from the schoolhouse; last used as a school in 1915; was District Number 7. [JFS]

**West Mountain:** Ridge along the western side of town running southwesterly from around Lake Mamasasco at the north well into Lewisboro on the south; at its highest point, south of Sleepy Hollow Road just east of the state line, elevation reaches about 1,000 feet above sea level; called *asoquatah* (*q.v.*) by the American Indians; its trees were a source of lumber and fuel in 18th and 19th Centuries; saw and grist mills operated at outlet of Round Pond. [RN]

**West Mountain Estates:** Another name for Jerry Tuccio's Eleven Level's subdivision (*q.v.*), first proposed in 1960, not approved by the town until nearly a decade later, and was still being developed in the late 1980s. [RN]

**West Mountain Farm:** The estate of John H. and Lucy M. Lynch (*q.v.*) on West Mountain and Old West Mountain Roads; house and main property now Ridgefield Academy (*q.v.*), and formerly Congregation of Notre Dame (*q.v.*).

**West Mountain Pines:** 23-lot subdivision in 1980 by Carl Lecher of 55 acres of Hillaire (*q.v.*), the former Conron, later James M. Doubleday (*q.v.*), later Graham, later Minot property on the northeasterly side of West Mountain Road, just westward of Ramapoo Road; named for trees, planted by former owner James S. Doubleday (*q.v.*); includes two roads, Doubleday Lane and Sharp Hill Lane. [RN] *See also* Conron's Pond. [RN]

**West Mountain Road** is part of the state highway Route 822 up West Mountain. The name applies to the portion that is the continuation of Barry Avenue, running from the intersection of Ramapoo Road westward to New York State. The original 18th Century path began with Gilbert Street in the village and continued over Ramapoo Road, then up the mountain on the current West Mountain Road, across Oscaleta, Oreneca and Rippowam Roads, to get to Old Oscaleta Road and the state line. It is possible that Oscaleta Road was the original path of the highway. However, since that road is generally flatter, it is more likely that Oscaleta Road was built (sometime before 1850) as a bypass to the steep West Mountain Road. [RN]

**West Mountain School:** 1. Old schoolhouse (*q.v.*) 2. Seventh town elementary school was proposed to deal with rising enrollments, but its \$2 million appropriation was rejected in July 1970 by voters who did not believe enrollments would actually rise — they were correct. School would have been built on the McManus open space on Oscaleta Road. 3. A private K-8 school operated on the grounds of the Margaret Ladd Franklin homestead on Barry Avenue in the 1930s, with Llenell F. Pugsley as director; outgrowth of small school started by Mrs. E.R. Squibb for children of the faculty of the Ridgefield School (*q.v.*). *See also* Fabian Franklin. [RN]

**West Mountain schoolhouse:** Located off the southern side of West Mountain Road, built in the last half of the 19th Century; last used in 1929; was District Number 5; today, building is part of a residence.

**West Pine Mountain Road:** Shown on maps of the Hemlock Hills (*q.v.*) subdivision, but was only a partially built dirt road, north of and parallel to North Shore Drive; part of Otto H. Lippolt's plan to subdivide what is now the Hemlock Hills Refuge. [RN]

**West Rattle Hole:** *See* West Rattle Snake Swamp.

**West Rattle Snake Swamp,** also called West Rattle Swamp, was connected with "ye West Rattle Hole," mentioned as early as 1717. West Rattle Hole appears fairly frequently in the land records of the early 1700s. These holes or dens were "under ye West Mountain." A "West Rattle Rocks" is also mentioned in a 1753 deed. All these locations were probably in the vicinity of and west of Peaceable Street and Peaceable Hill Road. [RN]

**West Ridge:** Another name for High Ridge (*q.v.*), use sometimes in the early 20th Century. [RN]

**West Ridgefield:** In early 1920s, the railroad renamed Branchville Station "Ridgefield Station" and changed the village station from "Ridgefield to West Ridgefield," apparently at request



of some residents who thought “Branchville” was too little known as a place; opposition was immediate and the railroad soon returned to the old names. [RN]

**West River:** Early 18th Century name for the Stamford Mill River (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Western Auto:** A chain/franchise outlets of auto and other hardware products that in Ridgefield was represented by Bongo’s (*q.v.*) department store in mid-1960s.

**Western Connecticut Symphony Orchestra:** *See* Cary Wellington.

**Western Union:** “Reopens” an office at the Ridgefield depot in 1871. {RT] Telegraph office was located before Great Fire of 1895 (*see* Fires) in Bedient & Mead building, north side of Bailey Avenue at Main [P12/12/1895]

**Westheim, David,** (-1976), was the owner and operator of the popular Martha West clothing stores in the 1940s. [DD133]

**Westlawn:** Estate on West Lane, just across NY state line in Lewisboro; *see* The Orchard, Konrad Bercovici, Abbe family.

**Westmoreland:** 246-acre estate of George Doubleday (*q.v.*), purchased much of it in 1915 from Francis McNeil Bacon (*q.v.*), who had called it Nutholme. Doubleday hired noted landscape architect Fletcher Steele to do gardens in 1929. In 1964, 237 acres were sold for about \$590,000 to the Lincoln Development Company of Cambridge, Mass., which subdivided it into 150 lots that were soon developed by Jerry Tuccio (*q.v.*). The house became Temple Shearith Israel, now Congregation Shir Shalom. The estate was probably named for the land’s moor-like qualities and its position west of the village. [RN] *See also* Pergola, Casino 2.

**Westmoreland Road,** shortest of seven roads at Westmoreland (*q.v.*), serves as a main entrance, running from Peaceable Street to Holmes Road; became a town road in 1969. [RN]

**Wheeler, the Rev. Harold D.,** (1921-2017), was the second pastor of the Ridgefield Baptist Church (*q.v.*) and the man under whom the church building was designed and built in 1967. A graduate of Bates College, he came here in 1965 and left in January 1976. He had earlier been a pastor in Maine and returned there. He retired in 1986.

**Wheeler, John Neville,** (1886-1973), known as Jack, was a journalist, editor, and author who headed the North American News Alliance; hired such writers as Ernest Hemingway, Ring Lardner, and F. Scott Fitzgerald; lived on Spring Valley Road from 1936 until his death. *See* Wheeler Road. He and his wife, “Tee,” are buried in Maple Shade Cemetery. [WWW, RN]

**Wheeler Road,** between Spring Valley and Mopus Bridge Roads, is named for John N. Wheeler (*q.v.*), who lived on the corner of Spring Valley and Wheeler Roads, 1936-73. [RN]

**Wheer Cock:** Indian name for southeast corner of town, now Branchville; possibly meant “good fishing place”; mentioned only in first deed from Indians [RN].

**Where Is Ridgefield Heading:** The name of a 26-page booklet, published by the League of Women Voters, that suggested possibilities for dealing with future growth, including bypasses for the center, and complete reconstruction of commercial blocks in the village. Created in conjunction with Yale School of Architecture.

**Whipping post:** Said to have existed near today’s south corner of Main Street and Branchville Road; for punishing evil-doers; may be legend: no evidence of a whipping post has been found in town records. [Rockwell, JFS]

**Whipstick:** One of oldest names in town, applies to section of town south-southeast of village, including Nod Road, Whipstick Road; probably named for sticks, probably found here, used for motivating horses and cattle; term first mentioned in 1712 in Proprietors' deed for land on Whipstick Ridge, probably the ridge east of Nod Road; reports in Rockwell and others that name had to do with a whipping post on Main Street are probably false. [RN]

**Whipstick Farm,** 150-plus acres on Whipstick Road: *See under* Alonzo Barton Hepburn.

**Whipstick Lough:** Three-lot 1978 subdivision of 8.7 acres by Attorney Paul S. McNamara along the north side of Whipstick Road; lough means "south" in Middle English. [RN]

**Whipstick Road:** A very old road from Nod Road to Wilton Road East; the term originally also applied to Wilton Road East from Main Street to today's Whipstick Road intersection; it was the road to the Whipstick area. [RN]

**Whipstick schoolhouse:** At the intersection of Nod and Whipstick Roads; closed 1915; became part of a house, once owned by Charles Sheeler (*q.v.*), noted American artist; was District Number 8; demolished in 2000 to make way for larger house.

**Whistle Stop:** Bakery in the Branchville train station, established 1982 by Lolly Dunworth Turner. [P1/7/1982]

**White, Edwin P.** (1829-99), was a Ridgebury farmer who was a Civil War veteran and served as a selectman. A Republican, he was a state representative, 1895-97.

**White, Thomas C.** (1848-1909), a native of England, came to Ridgefield 1868 and was a house painter; his shop was on Catoonah Street; served as deputy sheriff 12 years, member of school board and Democratic Town Committee [P5/27/1909].

**White, William A.,** (1850-1912), a native of Newtown, was editor of The Ridgefield Press from 1901 to 1904 and later operated a printing business in Stamford while also producing a small weekly paper, The Free Lance. [SA10/21&24/1912]

**White Birch Road:** Runs from Silver Hill Road southerly then westerly to connect with Silver Spring Lane; serves 1952 subdivision by John M. McCormick; the area was then rich with stands of white birch, a species no longer common because of warming climate. [RN]

**White Birches Road,** a short dead-end off Wilridge Road in Branchville, begins in Ridgefield, but within a couple hundred feet enters Wilton, part of a post-World War II subdivision by Joseph L. Dioguardi (*q.v.*) who, on a 1950 map, called it White Birch Road. By 1958 it was White Birches, possibly in a foolish attempt to avoid confusion with White Birch Road. [RN]

**White Oak Point and Island:** Locality mentioned in 1717 map of Great Swamp land division, drawn by town clerk Thomas Hauley [RLR]; probably at northwest edge of swamp near Farmingville and Danbury Roads; Island mentioned in subsequent deeds is probably same locale [RN]

**White Spot, The:** Restaurant started in the early 1940s at 408 Main Street (ONS109) by Edward Schmitt. Soon owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Backer, who moved it to the south corner of Main and Catoonah (old Lorna Doone spot); in the late 1940s, it was sold to John Scala, who opened "Chef Scala" (*q.v.*). *See* DD63.

**Whiting's Pond:** Old name for today's Sanford's Pond (*q.v.*) in Danbury on the north side of the old Route 6 near NY line, part of Ridgefield between 1739 and 1846; origin unknown. [RN]

**Whiting, John Downes**, (1884-1976), an American illustrator and artist, was born in Ridgefield, son of Press editor William W. Whiting; Yale, 1910; illustrated many books and magazines, especially scenes of outdoor life and the sea.

**Whiting, William Wallace**, (1855-1884), a native of New Haven, was editor of The Ridgefield Press, 1882-84; noted for clash over temperance issues with Methodist pastor George Lansing Taylor (*q.v.*); studied at Yale, married Catherine Downes in Egypt, 1878, and moved to Ridgefield soon after. He died here, leaving three children, including artist John Downes Whiting (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Whitlock, Henry**, (1827-92) was famed as an expert with horses; he drove a stagecoach from Ridgebury to Norwalk when he was 12 years old; owned several stage lines including ones running between New York City and Danbury, and Ridgefield and Norwalk; later, working for the Barnum and Bailey Circus, he drove wagons pulled by up to 32 horses. *See also* Whitlock's Livery Stable. [CBRFC]

**Whitlock, John**, donated land in 1762 for a "house for public worship of God" to the "Dissenting Society at Ridgebury." It was the first time the term "Ridgebury" appeared in a town record.

**Whitlock, Morris Burr** (1853-1913), a Ridgefield native, lived in NY state for a while, and was a stagecoach driver for a while. He returned 1885 to Ridgefield where he bought his father, Henry Whitlock's (*q.v.*) small livery stock and opened the Whitlock Livery Stable on Catoonah Street, which at its peak had as many as 60 horses [CBRFC]; stable later owned by B.E. Sperry (*q.v.*). [CBRFC] *See also* Livery Stables.

**Whitlock, Sturges Selleck**, (1844-1914), was a fourth generation Ridgefielder who became a machinist and invented a printing press, patented in 1877. His Whitlock Printing Press Company in Derby, established in 1888, was by the late 19th Century producing 100 presses a year at an average value of \$2,000 (about \$57,000 in 2020); the factory in 2020 a candidate for state historic register. The company continued to grow into the 1910s and was so successful, its presses were used to print U.S paper money and stamped postcards. However, under new management and a new name, it closed in 1936 at the height of the Depression. Whitlock served as a state senator. He was married to Mary Olivia Singer, a daughter of Isaac M. Singer, the founder of the Singer Sewing Machine Co. [JFS, CBRFC]

**Whitlock Lane**: Short dead-end road off the north side of Bennett's Farm Road, west of Mountain Road, created in a 1979 subdivision of 22.7 acres into six lots and 13 acres of open space by Marcelino E. Lavin of Wilton; Whitlocks first came to this area by 1720. [RN]

**Whitlock's Livery Stable**: Operated by Morris B. Whitlock opposite the firehouse on Catoonah Street in the late 19th Century; advertised boarding, sale, and exchange services; he was son of Henry Whitlock (*q.v.*); became B.E. Sperry's (*q.v.*) livery stable; collapsed 1948. [JFS]

**Whitlock Printing Presses**: *See* Sturges Whitlock.

**Whitney, Henry**, (1747-1813), served in the Revolution starting in 1775 and was promoted to captain in 1781. In 1782, he moved to a house still standing (but moved a bit westward) at Ridgebury and Old Stagecoach Roads that had in modern times been the center of

Arigideen Farm (*q.v.*). He was a tanner and ran a stage line from Ridgebury to Norwalk. House and farm later owned by David Hunt (*q.v.*). [JW]

**Whittelsey, Abigail Goodrich**, (1788-1858), who grew up in Ridgefield, daughter of Congregational minister Samuel G. Goodrich (*q.v.*) and sister of authors Samuel and Charles Goodrich (*q.v. each*), became one of America's first female magazine editors. In 1833, she was named editor of *Mother's Magazine*. She went on to produce *Mrs. Whittelsey's Magazine for Mothers and Daughters* in the 1850s. She married minister Samuel Whittelsey, who died 1842. [WWW]

**Whortleberry Hill**: A 1733 deed describes two acres on the east side of Great Swamp "where ye brook running at ye north end of ye Whortleberry Hill empties into ye Great Swamp." Probably today's Ivy Hill. Whortleberries were what we now call huckleberries. [RN]

**Whylurup**: 21-room mansion and estate on Tackora Trail, built by Courtlandt Palmer Dixon and Louise Polhemus Dixon in 1911. It was later the country retreat of mobster George Scalese, Mamanasco Lake Lodge, Manresa, and St. Pius X Retreat House (*q.v. each*). [SR19166summer]

**Wick, Peter**, (1902-1989), born Peter John Wiczkowski in NYC, was a NYC police sergeant and Ridgefield Trial Court prosecutor, who was also an accomplished artist. An advocate for youth, he helped organize what became the Police Athletic League for young people in NYC. He and family moved to Ned's Mountain Road in 1940, a wild area that helped inspire many of his paintings. In 1959 he opened a gallery on White Street in Danbury. He later had a studio in Westport. He moved to Lakeland, FL, in 1984. A 2015 auction of 200 of his paintings raised more than \$16,000 for a central FL charity. [WWW]

**Wicked Ridgefield**: Book offering historical assortment of bad guys and bad times "including thievery, bigotry, murders, missing persons, arson, book-banning, and other assorted man-made misery"; by Jack Sanders; 160 pages, illustrated, indexed. The History Press, 2016.

**Wicklo's Maple Hill Farm**: Home of Phil and Christine Lodewick, 201 Spring Valley Road, scene of many benefit events for A Better Chance (*q.v.*); name is created from owners' surname. [JFS]

**Wickopee Farm**: Home on Peaceable Street and High Ridge of B. Ogden Chisolm (*q.v.*)

**Wiggin, Albert Henry**, (1868-1951), a Massachusetts native and son of a minister, was a longtime president of Chase National Bank, credited with considerably expanding the bank's size and scope to the point where it was called the "biggest bank in the world." He was also investigated for some of his dealings during the 1929 stock market crash. Wiggin was forced to retire, but was never prosecuted for any legal wrongdoing. As a result of the case, Congress added what some called the "Wiggin Provision" to the federal Securities Exchange Act to prevent company directors from selling short on their own stocks and making a profit from their own company's bad times. He built a mansion at 47 Peaceable Street in the early 20th Century and maintained it as a summer and weekend retreat until 1921. He was among the first Ridgefielders to own an automobile. He was a friend and neighbor of his predecessor at Chase, Alonzo Barton Hepburn (*q.v.*). His name is often misspelled Wiggins or Wiggen. [WWW] *See also* The Bungalow, Peaceable Acres. [WWW] [DD156, DD196]

**Wiggin-Roberts Lane:** Private accessway for four houses off eastern Peaceable Street, built probably to serve outbuildings of mansions in the area; named informally for Albert H. Wiggin (*q.v.*) and Steele Roberts, landowners thereabouts early in the 20th Century. [RN]

**Wiggin's Way:** Name used at the turn of the 21st Century for a house at 47 Peaceable Street, built for Albert H. Wiggin (*q.v.*); *see* The Bungalow, Peaceable Acres. [JFS]

**Wild Cat Lot:** An 1761 deed calls seven acres “the Wild Cat Lott” in New Patent (Ridgebury). The lot was probably on or about Ned’s Mountain. Bobcats live in town; mountain lions (*q.v.*) are believed to have lived here before they were driven out or hunted to extinction. [RN]

**Wilcox, Rev. Chauncey**, (1796-1852), was principal of the High Ridge English and Classical Boarding School for Boys in the late 1840s. He was an ardent abolitionist and was first minister of the North Greenwich Congregational Church where he served for 20 years before being dismissed for his abolitionist views — not by pro-slavery faction, but by those who felt Wilcox was not aggressive enough in his approach to freeing the slaves. He moved to Ridgefield to take over the school, and was active in the First Congregational Church, where he sometimes preached. [JFS, DAR]

**Wildenstein, Felix**, (1883-1952), a native of France, was president of the New York division of the Wildenstein companies, a group of art galleries founded in Paris in 1875. A recognized expert in French painting, he was widely known among museum officials and private collectors. He had an estate on West Mountain from the late 1930s to the late 1940s. [JFS]

**Wilder, General Wilber Elliott**, (1857-1952), a native of Michigan, received the Congressional Medal of Honor after an 1882 battle with the Apaches in Horseshoe Canyon, New Mexico. Then a lieutenant, he carried a wounded comrade down the side of a mountain amid a hail of Apache bullets. Four years later, Wilder rode alone into the camp of Chief Geronimo to arrange for his surrender; served in Spanish-American War and WW1 in France. Retired 1927; lived many years at The Elms on Main Street; buried in Fairlawn Cemetery. Before he died, he was the oldest surviving graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. [WWW]

**Wildfarm(s):** The name of Melbert B. Cary (*q.v.*) estate on West Lane, nearly opposite Cedar Lane; burned to the ground in 1977 when owned by Justin Colin. A 1906 letter from Cary says “Wildfarms.” Kendall calls it Wildfarm. Later owned by Joseph Epes Brown (*q.v.*). Also later called Dunrovin (*q.v.*) when owned by William Mattheus Sullivan (*q.v.*); property subdivided into seven house lots in 1980 by Ronald Hubbard. [JFS] . also reportedly called Wildflower Farm (*q.v.*) Name still used [P7/20/1911] when Joseph Epes Brown (*q.v.*) was living there.

**Wildflower Farm:** *See* Wildfarms.

**Wilk, Barbara**, (1923-2007), was a painter, ceramic sculptor, teacher, film animator, and printer who worked with several techniques, including relief etchings, monoprints, lithographs and chine colle. Her work was exhibited widely here and in Europe. She taught at Fairfield University, and Norwalk Community College, and operated a Westport gallery, Optimums Inc. She was married to Max Wilk (*q.v.*) and lived on Silver Spring Road in the 1950s and 60s. They were also collectors of great masters and notable 20th Century art. [JFS]

**Wilk, Max**, (1920-2011), was a humorist who wrote novels and became pioneer TV writer, doing skits for major comics and screenplays; wrote nearly 20 books, some on TV history; his novel *Don't Raise the Bridge, Lower the River* was largely set in Ridgefield; lived Silver Spring Road 1951-1966, moved to Westport. His wife was artist **Barbara Wilk**. [WWW]

**William Raveis Real Estate**: Local branch of real estate chain, arrived 1980s; closed office, 2018.

**Williams, Alice Cary**, (1892-1983), was the author of *Thru the Turnstile: Tales of My Two Centuries* (Houghton Mifflin, 1976), memoirs of her early life and family, centered on Boston and Nantucket in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. Her father was a noted Boston physician. She had a farm here from the late 1920s into the early 1960s, on Cedar Lane. [JFS] [11/9/1983]

**Williams, Edward**, (1805-86), was a farmer who was a state representative in 1853. He was also a woodworker at the iron foundry of State Reps. Thomas Couch and Ebenezer Burr Sanford. He is buried at the Florida Cemetery. [JFS]

**Williams, Josette**, was a Republican selectman ca 1980 and was appointed to the Board of Finance in July 1987 [P7/16/1987]; longtime chairman of the Republican Town Committee; was a part-time reporter for the Danbury News-Times; she became a historian of Ridgebury while associated with the Ridgebury Congregational Church.

**Willis, Lillian**, a native of Brooklyn, was a conservationist, 20-year member of the Conservation Commission in the 1980s and 90s, including chairmanship, and was an author of the original *Ridgefield Walk Book (q.v.)*. She was a founder of the Norwalk River Watershed Association, and co-wrote *The River Book*, used for river environment studies by many schools in the river's watershed. Rotary Citizen of the Year, 1996; moved to Vermont in early 2000s. [NR]

**Williams, Lowell I. "Bud"**, was the town's first full-time planning director, then called town planner, hired in September 1966 at a salary of \$12,500 (\$100,000 in today's dollars). He left in the early 1970s to go into practice as a private consultant. [RT]

**Willow Court** is a dead-end road off the west side of Poplar Road, the result of a six-lot 1978 subdivision by Armando Salvestrini (*q.v.*), once land of Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*), probably where willow species were grown. *See also* Ridgefield Gardens. [RN]

**Willow Pond** was the original name for Outpost Pond (*q.v.*) at Fox Hill condominiums on Route 35, Danbury Road, so called that by Col. Louis D. Conley who created the pond in the late 1920s to embellish his Outpost Inn (*q.v.*) property.

**Wills, Ruth E.** (1897-2002), was a Latin, French, German and English teacher at RHS, 1920-65 (starting when RHS was Alexander Hamilton HS on Bailey Avenue). She was known as a strict disciplinarian who, despite 5-foot height, wasn't afraid to take on football players needing a trip to the office. Her Latin students often excelled in state competitions. [WWW]

**Wilmot, Anthony "Tony,"** (1963-2014), RHS 1982, was a baseball start from Little League through high school and college at Texas Christian, where he was captain of the NCAA Division I baseball team. He served as head coach of the RHS varsity baseball team for six years, amassing a 77-43 record. He was also an assistant coach for the Western Connecticut

State University Colonials. He also coached special needs kids who played in the Holland Division of Ridgefield Little League. In 2009, he and his wife, **Kristina Traynor**, also a restaurateur, opened the Bar & Grille on Route 7. He had previously worked with sister Jessical Wilmot at the Ancient Mariner (*q.v.*). He was a son of Jeremy Wilmot (*q.v.*) and Clifford Wilmot. [WWW]

**Wilmot, Jeremy Griffiths**, (1929-2010), was a town official active in preservation of Ridgefield's old buildings and heritage. She came to Ridgefield in 1955 and served on the town's first Charter Revision Commission in 1963, on the Historic District Commission and on the Zoning Board of Appeals. In 1989, she was elected to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and in the 1990s, left to be elected a member of the Board of Selectmen. In the 1970s, she was a founder of the Ridgefield Preservation Trust, which became the Ridgefield Historical Society, and she researched and wrote much of the 1,500-page Ridgefield Ridgefield Historic Architectural Resources Survey (*q.v.*). She was active in the Keeler Tavern, and in the Democratic Party, serving on the Democratic Town Committee. [WWW]

**Wilridge Road** runs from Route 7 in Branchville into the Georgetown section of Wilton, where it connects with Sunset Road; two-town status sparked its two-town name. The road dates from around 1950, developed by Joseph L. Dioguardi (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Wilson, Lucy Schanno**, (1928-2017), was named a president of products at Pepperidge Farm bakers in January 1983. [P1/13/1983] She became a divisional president and a corporate vice-president at Campbell's Soup, the parent company for Pepperidge Farm. She lives on Ned's Mountain Road.

**Wilson, Robert** (1852-1940) was the town's first mail carrier, 1901; using a horse and buggy, he carried mail through Titicus Center, Farmingville, Limestone, Florida, and the upper part of Whipstick, and "gained many friends with his friendly disposition and cheerful manner." [P9/5/1940] *See also* Rural Free Delivery.

**Wilton and Ridgefield Angles:** The variation in the state line connected with the Oblong (*q.v.*) agreement of 1731, designed to better follow the Hudson River line and to keep as much of Ridgefield in Connecticut as possible. *See* Ridgefield Angle. [JFS]

**Wilton Road East**, sometimes called just Wilton Road, is an 18th Century highway that runs from the southern end of Main Street south till it meets Wilton Road West a little north of the Wilton line. Until the mid-20th Century, what was considered Wilton Road had its northern terminus at Whipstick Road (*q.v.*), the rest of the highway north of there being considered part of Whipstick Road. The south end of Wilton Road East – around the little community of houses at Silver Hill Road – was originally part of Wilton Road West (*q.v.*). The new route for the southern end of Wilton Road West was built after 1912. [RN] *See also* Potash Hill.

**Wilton Road West:** Laid out formally in 1737 as Norwalk Road (*q.v.*), it extends from Main Street south to the Wilton line and was probably the main route from Ridgefield to Wilton and Norwalk. It has also been called the Country Road, Flat Rock Road, Wilton Road, as well as Route 33. [RN]

**Wilton town line:** The border between Ridgefield and Wilton, which was then a parish of Norwalk, was established May 3, 1710. In the three centuries that followed, the line was resurveyed and under dispute more than once, even in the 1970s, but is now settled. [JFS]

**Winant, John Gilbert**, (1889-1947), a NYC native and descendant of Gilbert family in Ridgefield, was ambassador to Great Britain) during World War II, close friend of Winston Churchill, and lover of his daughter, In his youth he would summer here and in South Salem; his family belonged to the Ridgefield Club and teenaged Gil Winant was catcher on the club's baseball team. He studied at Princeton, became a private school teacher in New Hampshire, where he elected a state representative. Though a Republican, he supported many New Deal initiatives that helped workers and their families, and his progressive ideas caught the notice of President Roosevelt, who appointed him the first head of the new Social Security Board. In 1941 he was named ambassador to Britain, where he became popular with the English public — and with actress Sara Churchill, the prime minister's daughter, with whom he had an affair. He even planned to divorce his wife to marry her, but Sara declined. Depressed over the outcome of the affair, his not being named the first secretary-general of the new United Nations, and his being nearly broke, he committed suicide — the very day his autobiography, *Letter from Grosvenor Square*, was published. A statue of him was erected in front of the New Hampshire statehouse in 2007. [WWW]

**Windover:** Home of John Ames Mitchell (*q.v.*) on West Lane, west of schoolhouse; much of the land is now Sycamore Lane (*q.v.*) neighborhood. *See also* Charles Daudt.

**Windwing, Lake:** Large largely town-owned pond at Lakeland Hills subdivision, built 1950s by Harold Goldsmith (*q.v.*); name's origin unknown; later owned by Robert Kaufman, developer of the Ridgefield Knolls (*q.v.*) — *see* Bob's Lake. Most of the shoreline was acquired by the town in the late 1960s and nearby land includes Serfilippi and Fitzgerald Little League fields. [RN] *See also* Goldsmith's Pond.

**Windy Ridge** was the name of the home of architect Robert L. Shape on St. Johns Road. *See also* Windy Ridge Lane.

**Windy Ridge Lane** is a short, private, dead-end road off St. Johns Road, a part of a 1962 subdivision by Robert Olmstead, named for his farm, whose house is right on the sharp curve of St. Johns Road south of Windy Ridge Lane. [RN]

**Winnes, Christopher Robert**, RHS 1986, was a professional hockey player starting in 1991 with the Boston Bruins and then playing with the Philadelphia Flyers; later played in minor leagues; played at University of NH. He became a firefighter in Warwick, RI. [NR]

**WINE:** FM radio station in Brookfield was founded by August Detzer (*q.v.*).

**Winter, Dr. Stephen M.**, a 1981 graduate of Weill Cornell Medical College, is a pulmonologist who is noted for his relief efforts in such far flung places as Thailand, Haiti, Rwanda, North Korea, Iraq, Albania, Kosovo, and Ethiopia. He is a clinical professor of medicine at Yale University School of Medicine. Lived on High Ridge Avenue 1992 until 2017.

**Winter Garden Ice Arena** at 111 Prospect Ridge was built in 1971-73 by the Ridgefield Athletic Association Corporation (*q.v.*), originally called the Ridgefield Skating Center. It switched from non-profit to profit-making in the 1990s. The facility offers hockey programs and public skating, and is the venue for Ridgefield and Wilton high school hockey teams. It reports it has 150,000 visitors a year.



**Wintergreen:** 19th Century name for a locale, possible at or near today's Scotland School. [RN]

**Wintergreen Hill:** Location in southern Ridgefield, perhaps near Silver Spring Road or Wilton Road West, mentioned in 1830s deeds. Named for the evergreen wildflower. [RN]

**Winterwood:** A name for the mansion in the 1970s later known as Sunset Hall (*q.v.*), 162 Old West Mountain Road. [JFS]

**Winthrop, William Lawrence "Willie,"** (1895-1971), a native of New Jersey, bought Ridgefield Lakes (*q.v.*) development in 1932, and spent the rest of his life developing the property. A former lawyer, he was known for battling zoning authorities and opposing school projects.. [WWW]

**Winter, Dr. Stephen,** is a Norwalk Hospital physician who, often working with AmeriCares, traveled around the world to provide medical assistance in emergencies, such as droughts, famine, war; countries included Thailand, Haiti, Rwanda, North Korea, Iraq, Albania, Kosovo, and Ethiopia; lived at 35 High Ridge Ave. from 1990s until 2017. [JFS]

**Wise, James Waterman,** (1902-1983), was an author, art dealer and lecturer who lived on Pumping Station Road in the 1950s; son of Rabbi Stephen Wise, famous reformer and co-founder of NAACP. Wise covered the Spanish Civil War for the NYT and wrote nearly a dozen books including *Swastika: The Nazi Terror* (1933), *Very Truly Ours* (1943), *Thomas Jefferson: Then and Now 1743-1943* (1943), *The Springfield Plan* (1945), *The Jew in American Life* (1946), *Meet Henry Wallace* (1948), and several volumes on his parents. Blacklisted harmonica virtuoso Larry Adler (*q.v.*) lived for a while with him. Harold Rome (*q.v.*) was a close friend. [NR]

**Wisner, Evelyn Schretenthaler,** (1920-2018), a native of North Dakota, was a World War II naval flight nurse who helped rescue and treat countless soldiers in the Pacific Theatre, often while flying high over the ocean. She lived in Ridgefield from 1990 until her death at the age of 98. In 2012, she was named a "Hero of Western Connecticut" by the American Red Cross. [WWW]

**Withrow, James R. Jr.,** (1911-1987), was a prominent NYC lawyer who lived on Peaceable Ridge Road from the 1950s until 1983. In 1970, he successfully led opposition to the building of a seventh elementary school, West Mountain School (*q.v.*), on open space along Oscaleta Road, just below his homestead. [P4/30/1987]

**Wittman, Emeline "Dolly" Lynch** (1928-2018) was a longtime Ridgefielder active in Ridgefield Garden Club, library, RVNA, Meals on Wheels, St. Stephen's Altar Guild, and American Women's Voluntary Services; granddaughter of John H. Lynch, whose West Mountain estate became Congregation of Notre Dame motherhouse, then Ridgefield Academy. [JFS] [P11/6/2018]

**Wohlforth, Mildred Gilman,** (1896-1994), journalist and novelist, was one of the original "sob sister" reporters in NYC. She interviewed many celebrities, and was kicked out of Germany in the 1930s for her unflattering stories of Nazis. She was the author of eight novels including *Sob Sister* which was made into the 1931 movie of the same name. She also wrote pieces for The New Yorker. She lived from 1930 until her death on Rockwell Road with writer-book editor husband Robert Wohlforth (*q.v.*). They marked their 50th wedding anniversary Sept. 7, 1980 [P9/11/1980]. [WWW]

**Wohlforth, Robert**, (1904-1997), was a reporter for the NY Morning Telegraph, who became an editor with Farrar, Straus and Giroux; wrote novel, *The Tin Soldier*, an unflattering look at West Point, from which he graduated; attacked in 1950s as communist sympathizer; wrote column in The Press many years; called himself “Ridgefield’s Oldest Living Continuous Vertical Commuter”; married to Mildred Gilman Wohlforth (*q.v.*). [WWW]

**Wolf Pits, The:** Holes dug in the early, baited and covered with brush, used to trap wolves in early 18th Century; mentioned first in 1721 as “ye Wolfpitts” and then in many deeds; probably somewhere in the woods off Old Branchville Road and Bruschi Lane, perhaps into Twin Ridge; possibly dug by Norwalk settlers since south border of Ridgefield was Norwalk in 1700s. [RN]

**Wolf Pit Ridge:** A 1789 deed places it “near where Widow Mary Wood now lives at Wolf Pit Ridge.” Liljegren says it was probably near Pleasant View Estates (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Wolf Pond Run** is an 18th Century name for the stream that runs northerly along the west side of Pine Mountain Road into Miry Brook (*q.v.*). The pond itself is now mostly a swamp in the town-owned Hemlock Hills Refuge (*q.v.*). [RN]

**Woman suffrage:** By Connecticut special act in 1893, women could vote on the election of school officers in a town. In 1909, woman suffrage was expanded to voting on library issues.

**Women’s Political Caucus:** Activist organization in the 1970s and 80s, which fought discrimination against women and successfully pressed for the conversion of the Boys Club into a Boys and Girls Club. Early members included Lillian Moorhead, Barbara Wardenburg, Jeremy Wilmot, and Ethel Eckhaus (*q.v. each*).

**Women’s Town Club:** Civic organization founded 1956 as a “civic group dedicated to improving quality of life in Ridgefield”; disbanded May 1984 because too many members returned to workforce; known for its book and author luncheons, fashion shows and craft fairs [P5/24/1984]; first president was Elizabeth Hull [P6/11/1981]. Often confused with Ridgefield Woman’s Club (*q.v.*).

**Wononkpakoonk:** American Indian word for the location of the northeast corner of the first purchase from the natives to the Proprietors in 1708; probably the area around Umpawaug Pond, Fire Hill, Great Pond, and Little Pond, but mostly to the area north of Topstone Road and just west of Umpawaug Pond (in Redding). Huden says the term may mean “rocky point where the lake bends” or “an open space.” [RN]

**Wood, Bari**, (1936-), lived in Ridgefield 1981-2006; wrote eight horror, sci-fi, and crime novels; two, *Twins* and *Doll’s Eyes*, became movies. Stephen King called *Amy Girl* “a good book for a weekend, but not a weekend when you are alone.” [JFS]

**Wood, Lee B.**, (1894-1981), a Pennsylvania native, was editor of the New York World-Telegram and Sun newspaper during a period when it won four Pulitzer Prizes. He came here in 1934; moved to Ohio in 1979. His farm on Ridgebury Road is now the Schoolhouse Place development. [WWW]

**Wood Acres:** Previous name for the estate later called Mimosa; so-called by the Blum and Picker families who lived there before 1952. [RN]

**Woodchuck:** Old name for the area that's now called Farmingville; first appeared on the land records in 1832 for property "at a place called Wood Chuck"; an 1835 deed speaks of land "in Woodchuck District so-called." [RN]

**Woodchuck Lane** serves the 19-lot Ridgefield Hills (*q.v.*) off Wilton Road West. [RN]

**Woodcock, Joseph Mortimer,** (1904-1993), native of Fredonia, N.Y., known as "Woody," was first selectman, 1967-71; Republican leader for many years; a forestry graduate, he was manager of Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*), which he bought in 1944, renaming it Woodcock Nurseries. He led the acquisition of Woodcock Nature Center, subsequently named for him. He lived many years at Farmingville and Danbury Road; later, Huckleberry Lane. [WWW]

**Woodcock Lane:** Short, dead-end road off Barry Avenue, serving a 1974 subdivision by Marcelino Lavin of Wilton; named for J. Mortimer Woodcock, who'd recently retired as first selectman. [RN]

**Woodcock Nature Center,** founded in 1972, was the idea of First Selectman J. Mortimer Woodcock (*q.v.*) for whom it was named. It makes use of a house and 149 acres that the State of Connecticut purchased as part of the Norwalk River Flood Control Project (*q.v.*). Though Ridgefielders led efforts to establish the center, almost all the property is in the town of Wilton. The staff includes three full-time educators in 2019 and works closely with many schools.

**Woodcock Nurseries:** Successor to Outpost Nurseries (*q.v.*), which J. Mortimer Woodcock (*q.v.*) acquired in 1944; closed in late 1960s; Woodcock, a trained forester and first selectman from 1967-71, had been an Outpost manager.

**Woodford, Dr. Francis Bowditch,** (1897-1977), a native of New Haven and Yale Medical School graduate, was a well-known family physician in Ridgefield from 1926 until his death. He delivered as many as 35 babies a year – often in homes; was town health officer, 1940-70; also school physician. For many years he practiced from his home at 325 Main Street. Married to Julia Smith Woodford (*q.v.*). Served in the Army Air Corps in WW1. [WWW]

**Woodford, Julia Smith,** (1900-1989), a native of New Jersey and Wellesley College graduate (Harvard), was a conservationist and first chairman of the Conservation Commission. She was on the WW2 Ration Board and first chairman of the Thrift Shop; active garden clubs, Republican Town Committee, District Nursing Association. Married to Dr. Francis B. Woodford (*q.v.*). [NR]

**Woodland Way:** Runs parallel to Bennett's Farm Road at the Ridgefield Lakes, developed originally in the 1930s; Henrici map of 1958 shows it connecting to Mountain Road on the north. [RN]

**Woodlands** was the name of the estate of the Biddle family at 306 Branchville Road, corner of Old Branchville; later owned by Roos and Ablon families. The name appears on a 1950s real estate brochure for the 41-acre estate that included a 14 room main house, superintendent's and guest cottages, and barn with garage. [JFS, Bedini archive, SR1916]

**Woodlawn Drive** is a short, dead-end road off the north side of upper Branchville Road, developed around 1960 by Joseph P. Coffey Sr. It became a town highway in 1963. In 1985, an additional 430 feet was added. [RN]

**Wood's Gulf:** So called by 1731, this is the valley at the intersection of Silver Hill Road with the two Wilton Roads, particularly Wilton Road West; an old meaning of the word "gulf" is a deep hollow or chasm; probably named for Titus Wood, early farmer who had land there by 1731; last mentioned 1792 [RN]

**Woodstone Road** runs off the east side of Danbury Road north of Fox Hill Village, through a stone wall and into a wood, serving a 1953 five-lot subdivision of 6.6 acres by William Mannion. [RN]

**Woodworks, The:** Custom woodworking, interiors and repair business operated by Glen Brelling; opens September, 1981, at 32 Bailey Avenue [P9/17/1981].

**Woody Place,** a private road at the Ridgefield Lakes (*q.v.*), runs off the west side of Mountain Road to a dead-end at Rainbow Lake. [RN]

**Woollen Factory:** *See* Cain's Mill.

**Woolworth's:** Five & dime store opened in Donnelly Shopping center ca. 1960; closed October 1993; for a while, was the only local source of small "pets" such as birds, fish and turtles; also featured a popular lunch counter. [JFS]

**Wooster, Gen. David,** (1710-1777), Yale 1738, was first major general in militia of Connecticut; in April 1777 he had hurried from New Haven to fight the British troops attacking Danbury, but arrived April 27 as British moved through Ridgefield on way to their ships on the Sound; with several hundred men, he surprised a British lunch encampment near the intersection of North Salem and Barlow Mountain Roads, inflicting heavy losses; was wounded and taken to Danbury where he died May 2 in a house now part of Scott-Fanton Museum. [RN] A 30-foot monument to him was dedicated in Wooster Cemetery, Danbury, April 7, 1854. [RT]

**Wooster Heights:** 1963 subdivision of 21 one-acre lots from 25 acres by Orrin and Marion Beers (*q.v.*), served by Wooster Heights Drive and Settlers Lane. [RN]

**Wooster Heights Drive** runs between North Salem Road and Settlers Lane (*see* Wooster Heights); named for Gen. David Wooster (*q.v.*), mortally wounded nearby. [RN]

**Wooster Street** runs between North Salem Road and North Street; named for Gen. David Wooster (*q.v.*), mortally wounded near the North Salem Road end. *See also* Cross Street. [RN]

**Workman, David W.,** (1875-1938), was a longtime editor of The Ridgefield Press. He joined the company in 1900 and was made editor in 1904, serving until 1932, when the paper was sold. He gradually converted the newspaper to all local news, dropping much earlier "boilerplate" regional and national news. He became in the 1930s a village constable, an armed policeman assisting the state police and was also this district's state forest fire warden for 20 years. [NR]

**World of Flowers** opens at Copps Hill Court in December 1987 [P12/17/1987]

**World War II:** At least 505 men and women from Ridgefield enlisted in the service during this war. Bedini lists 17 who died. The service people were about 17% of the town's population; the men among them represented close to one third of the adult male population of the town. During the war the Lions Club had a "Roll of Honor" at the northwest corner of the Town Hall property, listing all the service people. The names were later transferred to a memorial on the wall of the first floor hallway in Town Hall.

**WREF:** AM radio station went on air March 15, 1985, on 850 kHz; founded by Bartholomew T. Salerno (*q.v.*) to provide local news and programming; 180-foot antenna erected in 1983 at north edge of old town dump in Great Swamp [P1/6/1983] (prompting station's nickname, "Swamp Radio"); financially ailing station was sold to Berkshire Broadcasting in 1996, ending local coverage; became "oldies" station with programming from a distant network; call letters changed 2011 to WAXB (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Wright, Ann,** was an agent for many of the top actors and actresses in TV commercials; lived on North Salem Road in 1980s [P7/2/1981]

**Wright, Nezhiah,** (1804-1879), was an engraver and partner in Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson, the company that produced the first United State postage stamps (*q.v.*) in 1847 and later became the American Bank Note Company. His adopted daughter, **Jenny Wright**, was the wife of Gov. Phineas Lounsbury of Ridgefield. They are buried in the Lounsbury section of the Ridgefield Cemetery, next to a huge monument, though he probably never lived here. [WWW]

**Wright, William,** (1917-2001), was a 17-year-old seaman from Ridgefield working aboard the passenger ship, Morro Castle, and was credited with rescuing several passengers as his ship caught fire and burned off New Jersey, killing 133, Oct. 15, 1934. A member of the Merchant Marine, he helped transport 10,000 service men to the invasion of Casablanca in 1942. He aided and saved the lives of many throughout his service during World War II. After 25 years at sea, he retired as a lieutenant commander and moved to Bethel. He worked for the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury for 15 years. [NB1/9/2001]

**Writers:** See Playwrights, poets, authors

**Wyden, Peter,** (1923-1998), a journalist and author, wrote 15 books that examined such major 20th Century events and issues as the Holocaust, the atomic bomb, the Berlin Wall, mental illness, suburban kids, and the Spanish Civil War; among the personalities he interviewed was Fidel Castro. His son is **Ron Wyden**, U.S. senator from Oregon for many years. [WWW] [P11/24/1987]

**Wyton, Alec,** (1921-2007) (pronounced *WYE-ton*), a native of England, a musician, composer and professor whose 40-year career included two decades as organist and choirmaster at New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine. He composed more than 100 works, oversaw the rewriting of the Episcopal hymnal, and earned national recognition in the field of sacred music. In 1987 he became minister of music at St. Stephen's Church here, retiring in 1997 at age 75. He also made his home here. [WWW]

**Wyton, Richard,** was a young harpsichord maker whose shop was at 614 Main Street in 1980; Recent graduate in flute making from SUNY Albany [P6/12/1980]

## Y

**Yabbecomb, Gilbert,** came from Wales, and by the late 1700s, was a town pauper. On Dec. 4, 1797, the Town Meeting authorized the selectmen to "repair ye roof of ye House where Yabbecomb lives, at the town expense." Yabbecomb was not without income, however, for he was receiving a four-pound annuity from England until 1802 on property he owned at "Quarry Park." [JFS]

**Yale University** has over 3 centuries educated many Ridgefield notables, including: Dr. Daniel Adams, 1835; Henry B. Anderson, 1885; Philip Burr Bradley, 1758; William Harrison Bradley, 1872; Rev. Samuel Camp, 1764; Richard Owen Carey, 1954; John P. Cooke, 1959; Charles A. Goodrich, 1812; E. Paul Hazel, 1966; John B. Hightower, 1955; Rev. Jonathan Ingersoll, 1736; Jonathan Ingersoll (II); Fielding V. Jackson; Rev. Samuel Johnson, 1714; Samuel “Lawyer Sam” Keeler, 1867; Dr. John Calvin Kendall, 1870; George E. Lounsbury, 1863; Henry R. Luce, 1920; Arthur J. McKenna, 1936; Daniel M. McKeon, 1928; Cyrus Northrop, 1857; Dr. David Perry, 1772; Frederic Remington (left before graduating); Mark Salzman, 1982; Rev. Hugh Shields, Divinity 1919; Lemuel Aiken Welles, 1893; Max Wilk, 1941; John Downes Whiting, 1910; William W. Whiting (left before graduating); Dr. Francis B. Woodford, 1918.

**Yanity, Elizabeth “Beth”**, (1930- ), spent nearly 70 years in community service, holding nearly every office in the Community Center, serving on the Conservation Commission, president of Caudatowa Garden Club, and as a member and/or officer of League of Women Voters, Visiting Nurse Association, Keeler Tavern, Graveyard Committee, Girl Scouts, Red Raider cheerleaders, Boys and Girls Club, Norwalk River Watershed Association, recycling Task Force, and Family and Children's Services. She helped establish Ridgefield's Rid Litter Day (*q.v.*). [NR]

**Yanity, Dr. Peter V.**, (1927-2008), a Pennsylvania native, was a Ridgefield dentist who was active in the community, serving 16 years on the Parks and Recreation Commission, most of the time as chairman, and then from 1989 18 years as a member of the Board of Selectmen. In the 1950s he was a founder of the Pop Warner Football program, of which he was a coach. He was president of the Lions Club, a director of the Boys Club and Chamber of Commerce, and president of the Community Center. Named Rotary Citizen of the Year in 1988, ROTA Civic Award in 1998. Served in the Army Air Corps, involved in atomic bomb testing. Active in St. Mary's Parish. Public gymnasium at old high school on East Ridge is named for him. [WWW]

**Yanity Gym:** Gymnasium built 1959-60 at Ridgefield High School on East Ridge; on May 25 1959, during its construction, five huge arches collapsed, delaying the project for months; named for Dr. Peter Yanity (*q.v.*), longtime chairman of the Parks and Recreation Department, which oversees gym's use today; often employed as a polling place. The gym replaced the first RHS gymnasium (*q.v.*), opened in 1939. [JFS]

**Yankee Hill Road** is a short roadway between Peaceable Hill Road and Minuteman Road, part of the Colonial Heights (*q.v.*). It became a town road in 1968. [RN]

**Yankee Peddler Fair:** Annual early June church fair of Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church, began in 1961, famous for its apple pies and barbecued chicken [P6/11/1981]. The last fair was in 2006. Like the Nutmeg Festival (*q.v.*), the church had trouble finding enough volunteers to run the fair.

**Yankee Ridge:** shopping center at the corner of Main and Prospect Streets, built 1971-72; Paul Morganti (*q.v.*) was a major investor. [JFS]

**Yannuzzi, Regina**, achieved rare accomplishment Nov. 5, 1991, winning two seats on the Board of Education, running as a Democrat write-in candidate for a four-year seat and the party's nominee for a two-year seat; she took the 4-year term and was soon elected chairman; she

later became administrative assistant to First Selectman Rudy Marconi; married novelist and school administrator Paul Hazel (*q.v.*); moved to Vermont in early 2000s. [JFS]

**Yarn Bee** was a popular yarn and sewing supplies store at 415 Main Street in 1970s and 80s, operated by Sarah Kessler and her husband. Arthur. She lives on Manor Road in 2020.

**Yesterday's Collectibles:** Shop selling baseball cards, comics, stamps, coins, antique toys and children's books at 19 Danbury Road [P12/18/1980]; Alex Malloy, owner [CD1983]

**Youmans, Catherine Lee**, (1821-1894) was a summer resident and widow of Professor Edward L. Youmans, founder of Popular Science Monthly. She was a major benefactor of the Ridgefield library. [P8/31-9/7/1894]

**Young, Mahonri**, (1877-1957), was a noted American artist and sculptor; married 1931 Dorothy Weir (*q.v.*), daughter of artist J. Alden Weir (*q.v.*), and lived and worked many years on the Weir farm on Nod Hill Road, now Weir Farm National Historic Site (*q.v.*). Among his best known works is the massive "This Is the Place" Mormon monument in Salt Lake City, created in Ridgefield. [WWW]

**Young, Stephen Howard**, (1878-1972), was one of the world's wealthiest art dealers; from late 1940s until death, owned estate on lower Branchville Road, opposite Old Branchville, that includes Candee's Pond (*q.v.*); a business partner was his nephew, Francis Taylor, father of actress Elizabeth Taylor, who visited Branchville estate; Young's friend, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, then Columbia U. president, is said to have decided to run for president of U.S. while visiting there; Young left millions to build a medical center in northern Wisconsin, where he often vacationed. [WWW]

**Young Ladies School**, a private school for older local girls, was operating in the late 1850s in Ridgefield, possibly under the auspices of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Such schools were called "select schools." [DAR1/7/1859]

**Young's Pond:** An early 20th Century map so names the pond off the west side of Limestone Road; maps in 1936 and 1952 map show R. Young living at the south end. [RN]

**Youth Assistance Committee**, established in 1978 by the Youth Commission, gave confidential help to young people seeking advice on such things as drinking problems. John Katz was the leader. [P5/26/1983] It morphed into the Ridgefield Youth Services Bureau (*q.v.*).

**Youth Employment Service (YES)**, based at RHS and sponsored by the RHS PTSA (*q.v.*), is a clearinghouse for jobs for teenagers, mostly students at the school. It has been operating since the late 1980s. [JFS]

**Youth Commission** is an 8-member appointed town agency that "ensures participation, planning and development by the community of youth services." Minors may be members. [RP1]

**Youth officer:** Position created in the police department in 1980 to handle all cases involving children under 16 and to work on helping prevent youth crime; first youth officer was Donald Monckton [P6/19/1980]

**Youth Services Bureau:** *See* Ridgefield Youth Service(s) Bureau.

## Z

**Zack's Ridge:** "Zack" was a nickname for Isaac, in this case, Dr. Isaac Hall of Fairfield, who in 1697 received from the Connecticut government a grant of 150 acres in what was to become Ridgefield but at the time was simply American Indian territory north of Norwalk,

according to Liljegren. Dr. Hall had requested 250 acres for his service as a surgeon during an unnamed war or campaign. [RN]

**Zalla's Sportswear:** Women's clothing store operated by James Zalla (1916-2002) and wife Catherine Carlucci Zalla, of Danbury. He started tailor shop here at 446 Main Street (ONS139) in 1955; store closed in 1981. [P1/29/1981]

**Zallicoffers:** An old name for Cooper Station (*q.v.*). [P4/8/1909]

**Zandri, Frances:** *See* Frances Strouse.

**Zandri, Guglielmo M.,** "Pres"), 1881-1976), native of Italy, operated a shoe store on Main Street in 1920s or 30s; owned the Big Shop (*q.v.*); later was custodian at First National Bank and town hall; lived on Bailey Avenue at corner of Big Shop Lane; longtime treasurer of Italian-American Mutual Aid Society. [DD59, BIAGIOTTI-304]

**Zandri, Levio,** was a Ridgefield native who grew up on Bailey Avenue and taught commercial course at Ridgefield High School many years; active in the community. Son of Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Zandri [DD59]

**Zaremb, Sam,** (1821-1991), was a noted photographer, commercial artist; born in Zaremb, Poland; lived Ridgefield from 1980 until death; graduated from Parsons School of Design, taught at the School of Visual Arts, Manhattan. [JFS]

**Zemo, Stephen** is perhaps Ridgefield village's most prolific and prominent late 20th/early 21st Century developer, responsible for Copps Hill Common, 100 Danbury Road apartments, senior-oriented apartments at 76 and 78 Governor Street, Bennett House on Main Street; in October 1972 opened Ann Stephen's women's clothing store at Copps Hill Plaza (*q.v.*); moved here in 1978; served as a selectman many years. [NR] (*See also* Don Zemo)

**Zemo's Men's Store:** Store at Copps Hill Plaza, opened October 1972, owned by Don Zemo, brother of Stephen Zemo (*q.v.*). [JFS]

**Zieger, Clifford,** (1906-1970) was an Eastern Airlines pilot with more than 30,000 hours in the air; went to work on Wall Street in 1929, but in 1933, learned to fly and opened a small airport in Virginia; hired four years later by Eastern, for whom he flew international routes until 1966. Owned Spruce Ridge Farm at 484 Ridgebury Road; son Clifford Jr. sold the farm in 2013. [NYT6/26/1970]

**Ziegler, Electa Matilda Curtis** (1841-1932), a native of Schuylerville, N.Y., was an heiress who owned Hawley Cottage/Ashton Croft (*q.v.*) on Main Street from 1912-1924. She was a benefactor of the blind, publishing a magazine and books for the visually impaired, and founding the E. Matilda Ziegler Foundation for the Blind which, to this day, provides millions in grants for research into blindness. Her husband, William Ziegler (1843-1905), was a millionaire leader in the baking powder industry whose mansion on Great Island, Darien, became one of the most expensive estates in the nation. [WWW]

**Zinsser, August,** (1871-1948), a lawyer and Columbia graduate, was president of the Central Savings Bank, 1926-1936, when he retired in the late 1930s, he bought the former Reginald Lewis-Robert P. Scripps estate at 100 South Salem Road and called it "Dunbanken." House sold 1952 to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ward of NYC. [JFS, DD146]

**Zip Code,** Ridgefield's is 06877, was first used in 1963. Georgetown uses 06829, but it does not include Branchville (as the 544-telephone district does).



**Zoning Board of Appeals** is an elected, quasi-judicial board that can grant exceptions to the zoning regulations in cases where there are hardships not of the landowner's own creation. It can also overrule enforcement decisions of the zoning enforcement officer. It consists of five regular members and three alternates who are available to sit when any board member is unable to attend a meeting, or feels there is a potential conflict in sitting on a particular appeal. Members and alternates are elected for five year terms, and if a member's term ends during an even year, that election will occur in the year prior.

**Zwierlein, Joseph Aloysius**, (1895-1972), a Bridgeport native and house painter, served more than 60 years in the Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department; was town dog warden for 30 years; served on the Police Commission for 10 years, and on Fire Commission. [NR]

**Zyzyva**: An independent publication/newspaper at Ridgefield High School in 1973; eight-page tabloid edited by Chris Rowe and Geriann Williams. [P5/31/1973]

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### ***ENCYCLOPEDIA SOURCES, SHORTHAND and ABBREVIATIONS***

**AR**: *About Ridgefield: What We Were, What We Are*, published by the Ridgefield Design Council, 2002

**ATM**: Annual Town Meeting

**BAILEY**: *History of Danbury*, by James M. Bailey, 1895.

**BEDINI**, Silvio: Information from his book, *Ridgefield in Review*, 1958, or correspondence.

**BEERS**: Beers Atlas of Fairfield and Westchester county towns, published in 1867

**BIAGIOTTI**: *Impact: The Historical Account of the Italian Immigrants of Ridgefield, Connecticut*, by Aldo P. Biagiotti, 1990

**BP**: *Bridgeport Post*.

**BURR**: Diary of Gilbert Burr of Ridgebury, 1888-89

**CBR**: Coldwell Banker Real Estate advertising.

**CBRFC**: *Commemorative Biographical Record of Fairfield County*, J.H. Beers, 1899

**CLARK**: Clark's map of Fairfield County, large wall map published in 1856

**CPN**: *Connecticut Place Names*, published by Connecticut Historical Society, 1976

**CD####**: City Directory and year published.

**DAR**: *Diary of Anna Resseguie*, published by Keeler Tavern, 1993.

**DARE**: *Dictionary of American Regional English*, 1985.

**DAUB:** Research done by David Daubenspeck for his histories of the houses on Main Street, High Ridge and East Ridge..

**DD**: *Dick's Dispatch*, series of 366 columns by Richard E Venus (available at library)

**DJN**: *Diary of Jared Nash* by Jack Sanders, RidgefieldHistory.com

**DNT**: *Danbury News-Times* newspaper.

**FAG**: FindAGrave.com, an online cemetery database.

**FDM**: Francis D. Martin

**FoF**: *The Farms of Farmingville* by Keith M. Jones, Ridgefield, 2001.

**GOODRICH:** Samuel G. Goodrich, a/k/a Peter Parley, *Recollections of A Lifetime*, 1856. He was a son of RSSG.

**HAIGHT:** *St. Stephen's Church, 1725-1975*, by Robert F. Haight (Ridgefield, 1975).

**HC:** Hartford Courant, called Connecticut Courant in much of 19th Century.

**HHR:** *Hidden History of Ridgefield*. by Jack Sanders, History Press, 2015

**HS:** Ridgefield Historical Society

**HUDEN,** John C., author of *Indian Place Names of New England*

**HURD:** *History of Fairfield County* by Hamilton Hurd, 1881

**JFS:** Research done by Jack Sanders (John F. Sanders), compiler of this encyclopedia

**JW:** Josette Williams, "Biographies of Revolutionary War Veterans in Ridgebury Cemetery," unpublished manuscript, ca. 2006

**KFH:** Kane Funeral Home

**KMJ:** Keith Marshall Jones III, author of *Farmers Against the Crown* and *The Farms of Farmingville*.

**KSN:** Karl S. Nash, longtime editor and publisher of The Ridgefield Press.

**KTM:** Keeler Tavern Museum

**LILJEGREN,** Edward, was a historian of Ridgebury active in the 1970s. Lived at the corner of Shadow Lake and Briar Ridge Roads.

**LOC:** Library of Congress

**NB:** *Newtown Bee* newspaper

**NG:** *Norwalk Gazette*

**NH:** *Norwalk Hour*

**NR:** *Notable Ridgefielders*, Ridgefield Press, 2000

**NYC:** New York City

**NYT:** New York Times

**OED:** *Oxford English Dictionary*, compact complete edition, 1971

**ONS####:** Old Numbering System, i.e., street numbers used before 1969

**OR:** Old Ridgefield group on Facebook.

**PC:** Post card

**POR:** *Proprietors of Ridgefield* by Glenna Welsh.

**RHS:** Ridgefield High School

**RIR:** *Ridgefield in Review* by Silvio Bedini, 1958.

**RLR:** Ridgefield land records in town clerk's office.

**RN:** Ridgefield Names by Jack Sanders, Red Petticoat Press, 2022

**ROAL:** *Recollections of A Lifetime*, autobiography of Samuel G. Goodrich, 1856.

**ROCKWELL,** George L: Information from his *History of Ridgefield*, 1927.

**ROTA:** Ridgefield Old Timers Association

**RP:** The Ridgefield Press newspaper

**RP1:** "Ridgefield!", formerly The Ridgefield Answer Book, which appeared in The Ridgefield Press, 2017, Steve Coulter, ed.

**RPC##:** Ridgefield Press Centenary edition, published in 1975, with page number.

**RPJ##:** Ridgefield Press Jubilee edition, 75th anniversary, 1950, section and page number.

**RSB:** Ridgefield Savings Bank Centenary supplement to The Ridgefield Press, written by Karl S. Nash, 1971

**RSDXX:** Ridgefield Street Directory (various publishers) and year.

**RSGG:** Rev. S.G. Goodrich, father of GOODRICH; wrote 1800 profile of Ridgefield.

**RT:** Ridgefield Timeline, by Jack Sanders.

**RVFD:** Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department

**RVR:** Ridgefield vital records, town clerk's office

**SA:** Stamford Advocate

**SANDERS, Jack.** See JFS

**SHJ:** Scott House Journal, periodical of Ridgefield Historical Society

**SHPTC:** The School House at Pine Tree Corner, North Salem, New York, 1784-1916 by Helen G. Trager, Harbor Hill, 1976

**SRXXXX-:** Social Register and year, followed by edition; i.e., S for Summer.

**STEWART:** George R. Stewart, *American Place Names*

**TCAXX:** Town and City Atlas of the State of Connecticut and year.

**TELLER:** Daniel Teller, *History of Ridgefield*, 1878.

**THOMPSON:** Wilbur F. Thompson, *The First Settlement of Georgetown and the Schools its Children Have Attended*, manuscript, 1916.

**TM:** Town Meeting (i.e., the voters)

**TW:** Town website, RidgefieldCt.org

**UNM:** *Uncle Ned's Mountain: Two Centuries of African-American Slaves, Farmers, Soldiers, And Saviors in A Small New England Town*, by Jack Sanders, MS, 2021

**USGS:** U.S. Geological Survey

**VENUS:** Richard E. Venus, in his Dick's Dispatch (see DD)

**WR:** *Wicked Ridgefield* by Jack Sanders, History Press, 2016

**WW:** World War

**WWW:** "Who Was Who in Ridgefield" by Jack Sanders, RidgefieldHistory.com