

A HISTORY OF WOODBRIDGE



Farmers at the beginning of days work. Circa 1880.



The Abel Sanford House. Circa 1790.

Woodbridge Parade Marshalls. Circa 1890.



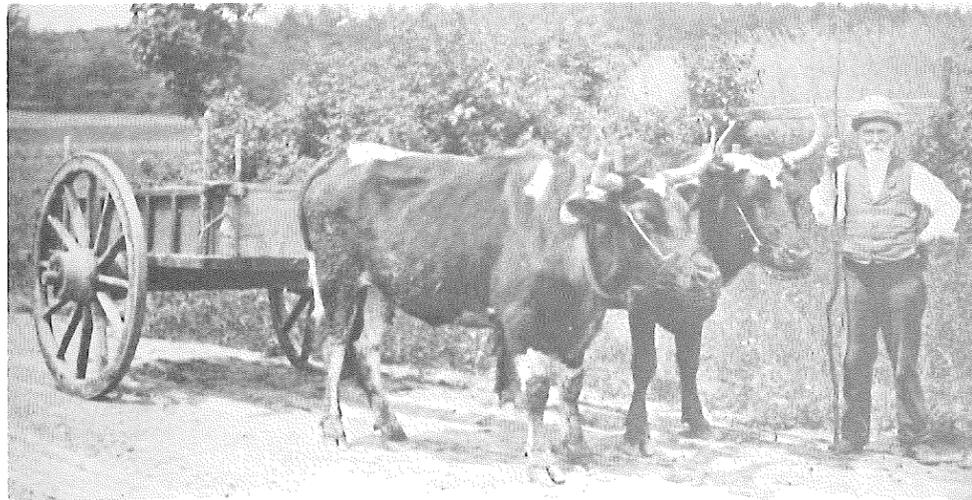
We wish to thank those who have made this book possible through the generous loan of their historical pictures, those who have given their time and thought in preparing the written material, and all those who have assisted the committee.

COMMEMORATIVE BOOK COMMITTEE
1776 - 1976



The Nehemiah Sperry House. Circa 1800.

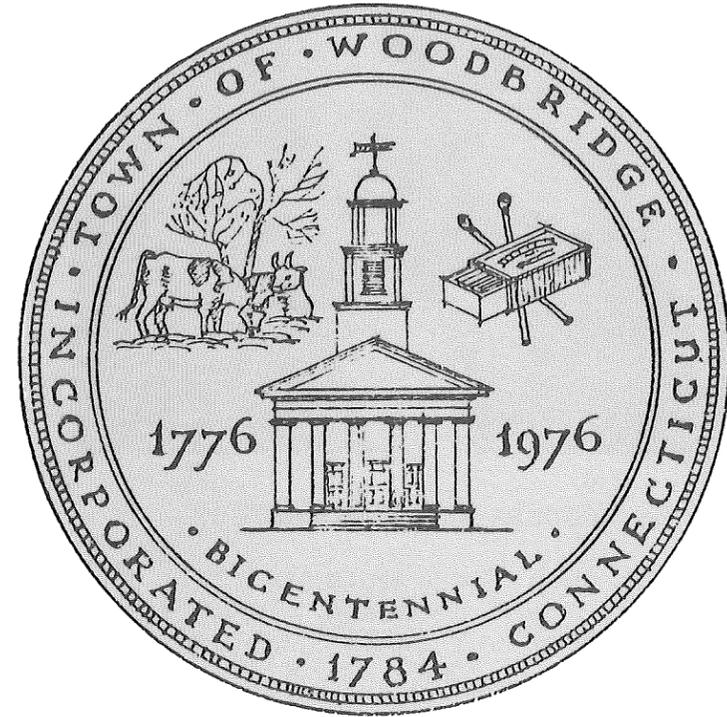
Old Woodbridge



Driver with oxen. Circa 1880.



The Munson House. Circa 1815.
Stood where Center School is now.



WOODBIDGE CONNECTICUT

A TOWN OF ONE OF THE ORIGINAL
THIRTEEN COLONIES

THE WOODBRIDGE
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION 1776 — 1976



TO THE PEOPLE OF WOODBRIDGE, CONNECTICUT

As we reflect upon the events of 1776, it is important to remember their impact upon and the direction they have given to the character and quality of the life we presently enjoy in Woodbridge.

Our heritage continues to reach out to us in the present. Signs of developing community spirit are evident. More people are becoming involved in town and community affairs. As a town, we are more aware of the scope of our political decisions, and the effect they have upon neighboring communities.

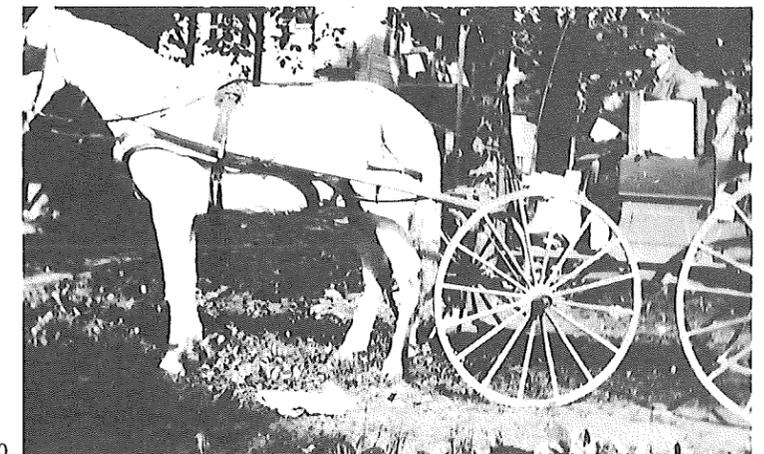
Let us make 1976 a turning point in our development and venture forward with a sense of purpose to make Woodbridge a leader among the communities of Connecticut. We have the collective abilities to lead the way. Let us resolve to work together to see past aspirations become future realities -- ever aware of our responsibility to preserve the rights and liberty we enjoy, enhance the quality of life within our Town, and seek to provide our residents with the security essential to a sense of well-being and happiness.

To this end, let us dedicate ourselves in this Bicentennial Year 1976.

Russell B. Stoddard
Russell B. Stoddard
First Selectman
Town of Woodbridge

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Roffman
Nancy C. and Edward H. Rogers, Jr.
Mike and Carol Rosen
Sherman Rosen
Burton A. Rosenfeld
Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Rowland
Samuel L. Rubin
Mr. and Mrs. E. Jerry Rudolph
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Rueckert
George and Elaine Rumbold
Albert and Dorothy Ryan
Mr. and Mrs. John Salomon
Sheila and Barry Saltzman
Mrs. Leonard E. Sampson
Erwin and Lilli Samuelson
Yolanda M. Sandella
Mr. and Mrs. John Sandora
Mrs. Theodore L. Sandora
Michael and Nancy Santore
Alan and Alice Saftorelli
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Savin
The Savitt Family
Dr. and Mrs. A.I. Scott
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Scherner
Paul Scholsohn
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schreff, David and Joshua
Mr. and Mrs. George J. Schulz
Mrs. A. Herbert Schwartz
Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Schwartz
Donald O. Seaboard
Mr. and Mrs. George Bussmann
Mr. and Mrs. John Bussmann
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Shaw
Stanley R. Shaw, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shelnitz and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Sylvan R. Shemitz
Harry Shiffrin
Dorothy and Jerome L. Singer
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Smith
Mrs. Allen L. Snyder
The M.J. Sobel Family
Henry and Mildred Specht
Mr. A.G. Sperry
The Spewak Family
Dr. and Mrs. M. Stambler and children
Mrs. Helen B. Stamm
Mr. and Mrs. E. Bevan Stanley
Alan - Carol Ann Stein
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Stern
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Stern
Dr. and Mrs. Robert J. Sternberg
G. Allison Stokes
Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Stone

Clifford B. Strong
Mr. and Mrs. G. Anthony Suscietto
Mr. and Mrs. Lionel R. Sutfin
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Sykes
Kathleen R. Taylor
Patrick and Valerie Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Testa
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Tirozzi and Family
Mrs. Bryson F. Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Michael C. Tomlinson
Myrtle M. Tower
Virginia Patterson Curtis
Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Tracy
Frederick H. Treder, M.D.
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Valeriano and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Vecchio
Mr. and Mrs. James A. Verinis
Mr. and Mrs. Charles I. Vernon
Philip and Angelina M. Vetro
Eugene L. Viani
Seelye C. Vidal
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Vine and Family
John and Mary Vitale
John and Cecilia Volkmar
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Voloshin
Frank W. and Alice R. Ward
John A. Warner, Jr.
Richard and Vivian Warren
Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wartel
Leila M. Watters
Faustina C. Whitmire
Lewis A. Whitmire
Mary - Richard - Timothy Wilkins
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Z. Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Werner P. Wolf
Dr. and Mrs. Eiji Yanagisawa
Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Yesner
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Young
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Yudkin
Robert L. Yung
Victor B. Zacks
Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Zamore
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Zang
Stanley Bergman
Irving and Joan Rohinsky



Elliott Perkins, RFD Carrier Circa 1920.

Mr. Edwin A. LaBrake
 Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence G. Lacey
 George A. Lamont, Sr.
 Mr. and Mrs. John K. Larsen, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lauterback
 Dr. and Mrs. Jack P. Lawson
 George Lee
 Mr. and Mrs. Lew Lehrer
 Richard P. Lena, M.D.
 Dr. and Mrs. Edward Lerman
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephan J. LeRoy
 Alan and Lynne Leslie
 Dr. and Mrs. Robert Lesser and Family
 Gloria S. Levine
 John B. Lightfoot, Jr.
 Carl and Annemarie Lindskog
 Ginger Clark Link
 Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence M. Lipsher
 Dr. and Mrs. S.R. Lipsky
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert and June Livingstone
 The Cliff Lockyer Family
 Harvey and Edee Lockyer
 Dr. David M. Lowell
 The Lu Family
 The Alexander Luciani Family
 Dr. and Mrs. Carl Lundborg
 Mr. and Mrs. William Luria
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Luther
 Edward and Shirley Marcarelli
 Mrs. A. Irving Mansfield
 George H. and Carol R. Mardoian
 James L. Mareenna
 Richard and Judith Jeynes
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth W. Johnson
 Leonard A. Johnson
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Johnstone, III
 Mr. and Mrs. Harold M. Jordan
 Rose Kaplan
 Saul Kaplan
 Marc D. Hershman
 Abbe R. Hershman
 The Keefe Family
 Mr. and Mrs. James G. Kenefick
 Mr. and Mrs. John E. Kenny
 Elizabeth Kennedy
 Juanita Smith
 John J. and Margaret R. King
 Dr. and Mrs. John A. Kirchner
 Mr. and Mrs. James T. Kirkpatrick
 Mr. and Mrs. Leo Klarik
 Marcella A. Klaussner
 Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Kline
 Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. Knodel
 Dr. and Mrs. George E. Kolligian
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Konwerski
 Mr. and Mrs. David S. Korn
 Martin N. Korn
 George Korper
 Mr. and Mrs. S.W. Koseski
 Mr. and Mrs. F.A. Koval
 Lila and Irwin Kove
 Mr. and Mrs. David Kreiger
 Judith Krosnick
 Evelyn and Sherman Krevolin
 Mr. and Mrs. George Krevitt
 Pandiri Krishna and P. Sarascati Mohan

Louis Mareenna - Margaret A. Mareenna
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Marlowe and Family
 Sam and Josephine Mastro
 Charles and Doris Mc Cowen and Family
 Sarah S. McKiernan
 Mr. and Mrs. John H. McKiernan
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Lovett McNamara
 Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Meisel
 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Meister
 Anita D. Mensel
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Mentzer
 Monroe Messinger
 Mr. and Mrs. Earle Michlin
 Mr. and Mrs. John M. Milazzo
 Christian F. Kushay
 Rev. and Mrs. George McL. Milne
 Katherine and Roy Miner
 Mr. and Mrs. Holden C. Mitchell
 Dr. and Mrs. George M. Montano
 Enzo and Irene Montesi
 Raymond A. and Olga B. Montgomery
 Mr. and Mrs. David S. Moore
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward Moriarty
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Morse
 Donald Russell Motsko
 Walt and Martha Muller
 Mr. and Mrs. William R. Murphy
 Thomas J. Murphy, Jr.
 Dr. and Mrs. Paul Myerson and Family
 Daniel, Marcie, Nina and Tami Myerson
 Annette Newman - Stanley Newman
 Rocco - Marion Nuzzo
 Mr. and Mrs. George W. O'Connor
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Olderman
 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel E. Olderman
 Diane, Stephen, Marc and Doug Olin
 Etta and Turan Onat
 Anna Sirowich O'Neill
 V.V. Opopiak
 Richard Opper
 Elizabeth and Raymond Pacileo
 Peter Palma
 Donald and Margaret Parcels
 Oscar and Marie Parente
 Mr. and Mrs. Victor L. Parri
 David and Claire Parsons
 Anthony Perrotti
 Mrs. Louise R. Petrillo
 Mr. and Mrs. Siegel H. Pierson
 Donald Pignataro
 Mr. and Mrs. Louis F. Pike
 Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Plotnick
 Richard M. and Barbara R. Poach
 Dr. George D. Podgwaite
 Mr. and Mrs. Dominic F. Proto
 Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Pucillo
 Frank and Louise Puglisi
 Elizabeth K. Quist
 Mrs. Colin Rathgeber
 Daniel and Lillian Raucci
 Mr. and Mrs. Carl Raver
 Relihan's Nursery
 Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Renda
 Mr. and Mrs. John Reynolds
 Mrs. Virginia B. Richardson
 Y.R. Rishi

Woodbridge Bicentennial Commission

Susan C. Baldwin, Chairman

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Mary Blakeslee | Carroll A. Means |
| Carla Borrelli | Russell B. Stoddard |
| Rabbi Arthur Chiel | Dorothy S. Sutfin |
| Christine Donaldson | Reverdy H. Whitlock |

Commemorative Book Committee

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Chairman | Mark Syrkin Beverly Clarke Isabella Dodds John Lynch Holden Mitchell Stuart Peck |
| Author | Katharine Nangle |
| Designer & Editor | Do Irwin |
| Town Emblem | F. Farney Eilers |
| Consultants | Clarence F. Baldwin Susan C. Baldwin Christine Donaldson John Lynch Judy Stein |
| Finance | John Benevento |
| Contemporary Photography | Edward Cherry |
| Historical Photographs | Clarence F. Baldwin Simon Donato William E. Gilbert Stuart Peck Muriel Wallace <i>and the</i> Amity and Woodbridge Historical Society |
| Drawing | Audrey Dunn |
| Publication | Corbett Press |
| Typists | Beverly Clarke Isabella Dodds Jane Trevett Muriel Wallace |
| Mechanical Preparation | Edwin Charlton |





Newton Road, Circa 1885

- Mrs. Raymond Black
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Blossey
 Alexander and Gladys BonTempo
 Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Bontemps
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Borland
 Brandfon Family
 Dr. and Mrs. Adolph J. Brink and Family
 Peter M. Brooks
 Mr. and Mrs. Herbert A. Brumberger
 Mr. and Mrs. Harold Buccino
 John and Jean Burkus
 Mrs. Robert J. Burwell
 Mrs. Lewis Bush
 Mrs. Gladys Butts
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Cahill
 Charles Canetti
 George Caplan
 Frank Carasone
 Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Carbonari
 Richard A. Carroll
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Caruso
 Emory and Isabelle Champagne
 Thomas N. Chieppo
 Janet and Frank Ciarleglio
 Victor and Johanna Clarke
 Dr. and Mrs. Henry T. Clark, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Cohen
 Drs. Donald and Phyllis Cohen
 Bessie Cohen
 Donald W. Collins
 William M. Connors
 Russell C. Cook
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Correale, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Philip B. Cowles, Jr.
 Fred J. Criscuolo
 Mr. and Mrs. Vincent T. Cronan
 Roland A. Dahlin
 Ruth Dudley Dahlin
 Michael S. D'Andrea - Rose M. D'Andrea
 Mr. and Mrs. Sidney R. Dargie
 Edward J. Day, M.D.
 Dr. and Mrs. Alan DeCherney
 Robert W. DeForest
 Mrs. Frank DeGennaro
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin DeGennaro
 Mrs. Jack Deitch
 Al and Shon Dahlin Dello-Russo
 Paul and Patricia deMan
 Mr. and Mrs. Louis DeMauro
 Charles E. DeMusis
 George M. Dermer
 Mrs. Nicholas D'Esopo
 Benjamin M. Deutsch
 The Robert J. Dilzer Family
 The Mario DiRienzo Family
 Mr. and Mrs. George A. Dockham
 Mr. and Mrs. Johh D. Dolan
 Joseph Donato
 Mrs. Robert T. Drazen
 Louis Dupre
 Loris M. Dutt
 Mr. and Mrs. Sol Elkin
 Mr. and Mrs. Ignace Esposito
 Mr. and Mrs. Hubert R. Essel
 Dr. and Mrs. Edward Etkind
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Facin
 Stephanie and Leonard Farber
 Anna and John Fasulo
 Dr. and Mrs. Stanton B. Fater and Family
 Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Feldman
 Kristin D. Feldner
 Edward and Doris Fellows
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Fesmier
 Tobi and Norman Fineberg
 Dr. and Mrs. E.J. Fitzpatrick
 John and Jane Forselius
 Mr. and Mrs. Albert M. Fusco
 Mr. and Mrs. Gerald I. Gard, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Harry Garson
 Dorothy Del Gaudio
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gibbons
 Marshal and Barbara Gibson
 Mr. and Mrs. Everett Gilcreast
 Mr. and Mrs. Harold H. Gimbel
 Mr. and Mrs. Herman Glazer
 Bonnie and Allen Goldberg, Adam and Stacy
 May and Samuel Golden
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goldstein
 Joseph Goldstein
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Goldstone
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Goodrich
 Mrs. Bernard T. Gooley
 Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Grauer
 Barbara and Jim Green
 Susan and Fred Greenberg
 Silas N. Greenberg
 Velma and Stuart Grodd
 Dr. and Mrs. Frank Gruskay
 Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Hamilton, Lori and Mark
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Haring
 Mr. and Mrs. John Harrington
 Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Harris
 Harrison Family
 Mr. and Mrs. James J. Healy
 The Hellauer Family
 Mr. and Mrs. T.F. Hemmerlein
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Henn
 Mr. and Mrs. Herbert J. Hennessy
 Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Hersh
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hitchcock
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Hitchcock
 William L. Hitchcock
 Mrs. Carl Hoff
 Henry N. and Elfrieda L. Homeyer
 The Horbury Family
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Houser
 Howard A. Hill
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Hubbell
 Winchester L. and Katherine P. Hubbard
 Mr. and Mrs. Raymond R. Hudson
 William H. Hull
 Pauline F. Hughes
 Durbin Hunter
 Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Hurley
 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hurowitz
 Luigi Ianuzzi
 Paolo Icaro and Nancy Nina
 Mr. and Mrs. James W. Irwin
 Mr. and Mrs. Winfield R. Jacobs
 Mr. and Mrs. Eric G. Jacobson
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Jarvis, Jr.
 Daniel Jennette
 Eyelyn N. Jeynes
 Mrs. Charles P. Morey

Mr. and Mrs. Eldredge P. Munroe
 Richard J. and Regina Nowakowski
 Susan S. Olsson
 Matchan and Hugh Patrick
 James B. Peck, Sr.
 Mrs. William S. Perham
 Mr. Ralph Perrotti, Jr. - Judith Perrotti
 Dr. and Mrs. Stewart J. Petrie
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Piascyk, Sr. - Robert, Jr., Lynn and Beth Leonard Pierson
 Margo and George Prager
 Donald and Bernice Quint
 Alexander M. Raffone
 Mr. and Mrs. David Richey
 Donald F. Rogers
 Royal Sundry Company
 Gloria Schaffer
 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Schpero
 Mr. and Mrs. Morton Schpero
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald O. Schulz
 Max H. and Rosaline S. Schwart
 Mr. and Mrs. Austin J. Schweitzer
 Dr. and Mrs. David Seligson
 Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Senese
 Mr. and Mrs. William S. Shee
 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Scherer
 Mrs. J. Edw. Slavin
 Miriam and George Skolnick
 Nancy, Dick and Joanne Skribis
 Leila Peck Smith
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronald R. Smith
 Wm. and Lorraine Smith
 Thomas G. Spates
 Stanley and Suzanne Stier
 Mr. and Mrs. Russell B. Stoddard
 Cathy and Lloyd Suttle
 Samuel W. Tator, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Tobin
 Robert and Barbara Ley Toffler
 Mr. and Mrs. Carl Toothaker
 Dr. and Mrs. Robert Touloukian
 Mr. and Mrs. William M. Trumbley
 Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Vavrek, Jr.
 Ruth Wagner
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hall Webster
 Norma and Siegfried Weinberg, Jeanne and David
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerome L. Weinstein
 Eric and Laura Jay Wilkinson
 Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Winnick
 Mary Lou and Edward B. Winnick
 Mr. and Mrs. France Q. Wilson
 Dr. and Mrs. Stanley J. Wolfe
 Dr. and Mrs. Emanuel Wolff
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Womer
 Woodbridge Grange #108
 Mr. and Mrs. Leonard B. Zonder, Karen and Howie
 Blanca and Jacob Belford
 George DeFillippo
 Peter and Elizabeth Demir
 Mr. and Mrs. William F. Goodwin
 Mr. and Mrs. Frederick G. Gray, Sr.
 Mr. and Mrs. James Gibson Holgate
 Mr. and Mrs. Winfred C. Hunter
 Herbert and Vivian Lewis
 Mr. and Mrs. Myron A. Nunes
 Mr. and Mrs. Milton O'Brasky
 Walter and Marion Savina

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Seccia
 Mr. and Mrs. George Snyder
 Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lynn Stone
 Mrs. Joseph Weinstein
 Harris Weissbuch
 Rene Wellek
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Beckert
 Louis R. and Rae Bernardini
 Michael W. Bettencourt
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Cohen
 Nedra and Jack Crane
 Harold and Bette Curtis
 Arthur W. Dusseault
 Mr. and Mrs. B.N. Erich
 Mr. and Mrs. H. Ferdinandus, Sr.
 Marshall Fixman
 Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Harrison
 Rosemary Kane
 Mr. and Mrs. Conrad W. Kasack
 Mr. and Mrs. S.A. Krimsley
 Ben, Loretta, Leslie, Jane and Stephanie Lipka
 Mr. and Mrs. Harwood Loomis
 Mr. and Mrs. Eric H. Marcus
 Mr. and Mrs. Gary Richetelli
 Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Rowland
 Mr. and Mrs. Alan E. Silver and Family
 Mr. and Mrs. S. Spielvogel
 Mr. John F. Whitlock
 Dr. and Mrs. Michael N. Wirth
 Mr. and Mrs. Lewis B. Aaron
 Mr. and Mrs. Domenic Addisio
 Mr. and Mrs. R.V. Adelman
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ades
 Dr. and Mrs. William Alderman
 Mr. and Mrs. Earl E. Allaire
 Allinson Family
 Mr. and Mrs. Murray Alpert
 Mr. and Mrs. Phil Amatrudo
 Mr. and Mrs. Ernest G. Anastasio
 Martin and Martha Anastasio
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Anastasio
 Steve and Bonnie Andris
 Charles W. Arpaia, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bacon
 Robert R. Bailey
 Mary Gould Bailey
 C. Spencer Bailey
 Katherine L. Bailey
 Douglas Ridgway Bailey
 Mr. and Mrs. Milton Baker
 Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence R. Baldino
 Mr. and Mrs. Arnold J. Baldwin
 Thomas W. Baldwin
 Cynthia J. Baldwin
 Mr. and Mrs. Alexander S. Basil
 Mr. and Mrs. Griffith S. Bedworth
 Charles and Eileen Beetz
 Dominick Benedetto
 Mr. and Mrs. William R. Benner
 Carol Peck Bergmann
 Raymond J. Bergmann, Jr.
 Donald and Eva Berkowitz
 Dr. and Mrs. Richard L. Berkowitz
 Irving Berman, Evelyn Berman
 Mr. and Mrs. Massimo Bianchi
 R. Sawyer Billard
 Mr. and Mrs. Kingsbury M. Billings



Sperry Falls early 1900.

A SHORT HISTORY OF WOODBRIDGE

Woodbridge, a township of nearly twenty square miles, lies to the northwest of New Haven. On the east it is bounded by the cliffs of West Rock, but on the southeast, the land slopes upward from a few feet above sea level to over six hundred feet on the northern boundary, and from these wooded hills Long Island Sound and New Haven Harbor can be seen.

Into this harbor, in the spring of 1638 sailed a ship carrying Theophilus Eaton, a London merchant, and two Puritan ministers, John Davenport and Peter Prudden, with their respective congregations.

The immigrants were Puritans who had suffered from attacks upon their religion by Charles I as well as from illegal taxation and false arrest. The congregations came to establish a government founded on the Bible. Eaton planned to establish a shipping center.

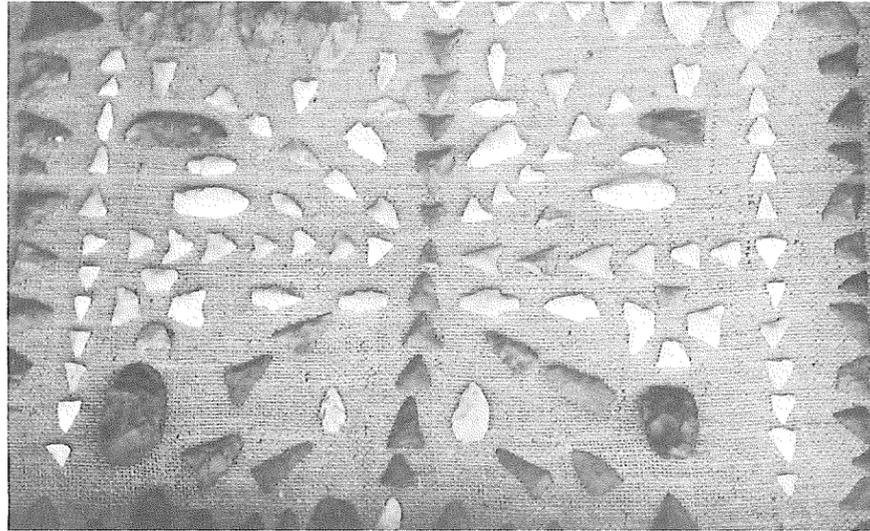
New Haven Colony

New Haven was the third colony founded in Connecticut.¹ Established in 1639, it was a theocratic republic. Not intended to be democratic, it had a church-controlled

government modeled on that of Massachusetts Bay. Only church members were allowed to vote for the group of twelve men who then chose seven of their own members to be "free burgesses," the so-called Seven Pillars of Wisdom. A code patterned on the laws of Moses was drawn up, and the "free burgesses" were given power to administer justice, to organize a military force and to divide the land. There was no provision for trial by jury.

¹The first colony, formed in 1634, was a proprietary colony — an outright gift by Charles I to two gentlemen of his court, Lord Say and Sele and Lord Brooks. It was established as a fort at the mouth of the Connecticut.

The second colony, which was to become a democratic colony, was settled near Hartford. The Reverend Thomas Hooker, a strong believer in the separation of church and state, led his congregation on foot from the Massachusetts Bay Colony to their home on the Connecticut River in the summer of 1636. (Three years later this extraordinary group issued the *Fundamental Orders*, advancing Thomas Hooker's proposition that "the foundation of authority is laid in the free consent of the people." This new concept was to change the world. Thirty years later in England John Locke advanced the same concept in urging the "Glorious Revolution," and in 1776 Thomas Jefferson wrote "Government by the consent of the governed," into the Declaration of Independence.)



Arrowheads found
in Woodbridge.

Indians

The shore Indians near New Haven harbor belonged to the Quinnipiac tribe. They had suffered from raids by Mohawks, and were decimated by disease. When their sachems, Momauguin and Montowese, were approached by Eaton and Davenport the Indians were glad to sell land, hoping for protection. The Paugasset tribe lived at the meeting of the Naugatuck and Housatonic Rivers (now Derby) and one of their clans, the Wepawaugs, lived on the site of Milford. When Peter Prudden's scouts chose to settle his congregation in this Milford location, the Wepawaug sachem, Ansantawae, agreed to sell the land for "six coats, ten blankets, one kettle, twelve hatchets, twelve hoes, two dozen knives and twelve small mirrors." This territory ran from Davenport's colony (New Haven) west to the Housatonic River, and from Long Island Sound north to Paugasset Path, which was used by the Indians as they crossed from the Quinnipiac River to the Housatonic. (The path went west from the Quinnipiac village, crossed West Rock above the present tunnel, followed Bradley Road across the valley, then went up the trail south of the present Connecticut Savings Bank to present Park Lane and Ansonia Road. Many arrowheads and spear points have been found along this route; the area must have been used chiefly for hunting as there is little evidence of a permanent settlement except for a two hundred pound mortar of traprock and two pit mortars of sandstone, which were found in the valley.)

Peter Prudden's congregation spent its first winter and summer in New Haven, and then walked through the autumn woods with their horses, cattle and swine (just as Thomas Hooker had done) to their new home at the mouth of the Wepawaug.

Milford

The Milford colony followed the New Haven pattern in establishing its government. At a "General Court", or Town Meeting, in November, 1639, the forty-four members of the church were made "free planters" while the remaining ten settlers were admitted as "inhabitants" only, and denied political privileges. Four of these ten inhabitants were soon admitted to the church with its accompanying civil privileges. The remaining six, though still "ungodly", were given the right to vote. Perhaps this broad-mindedness was due to Peter Prudden, who, according to Cotton Mather, was "noted for a singular faculty to sweeten, compose and qualify *exasperated spirits*, and stop or heal all contentions." Five years later this liberalism in voting rights caused dissension when Milford wanted to come under the jurisdiction of New Haven, but New Haven would not countenance allowing non-church members to vote. Milford stoutly refused to disfranchise her non-church members. The communities compromised. The six were permitted to vote only in local affairs, and Milford agreed to admit none but church members in the future.

Friends

Lawrence Aaronson
Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Acampora
John Tychon Adamovich
John and Ann Adamovich
Mr. and Mrs. E.H. Ahlefeld
Dr. and Mrs. Abraham Alpert
Jack J. Alpert
Mr. and Mrs. James S. Angier
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Annunziata
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Antonia
Philip B. Arnold, M.D.
Mr. and Mrs. Stewart F. Asimus
Mike, Debbie and Woody Baldwin
Mr. and Mrs. N.R. Bassett
Mr. and Mrs. N. Randall Bassett
Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Bassett
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. T. Beazley
Milton Beisiegel
The Howard Bell Family
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Beloff
Mr. and Mrs. Victor Benedetto
Judy and Eldon Bernstein
Mrs. Thomas Birnberg
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bishop
Mr. and Mrs. George Blum
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Blumberg
Dr. and Mrs. Edward Bock
Carl Borrelli Family
Dr. James V. Bosco, Jr. and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brenner
Dan S. Brock
Theodore R. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. William Burt
Dr. and Mrs. C. Elton Cahow
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Carbonella
Margaret and Angelo Cavaliere
Judge and Mrs. Donald W. Celotto
Dr. and Mrs. Gerald N. Cimmino
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Cinquino
Mr. and Mrs. Robin A. Clarke
Mr. and Mrs. Franklin L. Cordett
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Correale, Sr.
Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Cozzolino
Jacquelyn and Alan Dann
Eduard Danninger
Mr. and Mrs. William D'Antonio
Dr. and Mrs. Alan C. Davidson
Mr. and Mrs. Sal DeGennaro
Dr. and Mrs. Alphonse DelPizzo
Mr. Salvatore DeLucia
Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Dempsey
Dr. and Mrs. Louis M. DeNegre
Milan F. Dudeff
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Ecklund
Shirlee R. Elston
Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse J. Falcigno
Dr. and Mrs. John E. Fenn
Louis B. and Ella Y. Fierman
Stephen F. Fiore
Judge John Clark Fitzgerald
Mrs. C.S. Ford
Albert J. Francis
Franciscan Missionaries of St. Joseph
Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Frankenberger, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. David J. Frankes

Mr. and Mrs. David Gandelman
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Garceau
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Garofalo, Adrienne, Lesley and Robert
Donald B. Gault
Dr. and Mrs. Gerhard H. Giebisch
Dr. and Mrs. John B. Goetsch
Joseph Gold
Dr. and Mrs. Isaac Goodrich
Mr. and Mrs. Earle Gornstein
Dr. and Mrs. Donald P. Granger
Mark J. Gredinger
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Greenfield
Mr. and Mrs. Ira B. Grudberg
Robert and Anita Guay
Nicholas P. Guerrieri
Mrs. Jack Halprin
Dr. and Mrs. Seymour L. Handler
Mr. and Mrs. Harry S. Hanna, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick P. Hardy
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Hardy
Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Hayden
Ronald and Phyllis Hedberg
Mr. and Mrs. H.M. Hershenson
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin J. Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. Hillegas
Frank and Mildred Hull
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Hurowitz
Dr. and Mrs. Sidney Hurwitz
Harriet and Hy J. Hyatt
Donald F. and Charlotte C. Ingraham
Ralph and Gina Izzo
Mr. and Mrs. Manson Van B. Jennings
William E. Josey
Muriel P. and J. Herbert Kaye
Mr. and Mrs. George H. Knowlton
George and Susan Krall
Stuart Lamb
Dr. and Mrs. Melvin Laubstein
Mr. and Mrs. Burton Levey
Berthold Levi
Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Levine
Dr. and Mrs. Theodore Lidz
Joseph S. Liguori
Dr. and Mrs. W.W. Lindenmuth
The Howard Little Family
Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Luciani
Ida and Vito Luciani
A.W. Luberg
Clifford Lynch
Mr. and Mrs. Erwin L. Lyon
W. Richard Lytle
Mr. and Mrs. B. Patrick Madden
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mantai, Jr.
Nancy and Richard Marko
Joseph H. Marlowe
Mr. and Mrs. G. Richard Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Mauriello
Mr. and Mrs. John B. McCarthy
Mr. and Mrs. John McMillan
Robert McMullen and Family
Mr. and Mrs. David Mersey
Mrs. George J. Michel
George H. Keith Miller - Bertha Thomas Miller
Bill and Irene Miller
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Miller

Donors

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Aboudi
Florence N. Adams
Robert Montague Adams, III
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas T. Amatruda, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Howard E. Anderson
Mrs. Robert H. Alcorn
Kathleen Barrett, Shirley F. Parkhill
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Berrie
Brookside Farm Market
Mr. and Mrs. Philip S. Brown
Arthur and Josephine Butts
Dr. and Mrs. Lee Cassella
Mr. and Mrs. Allan R. Carmichael
Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood B. Cohen
John A. Costa
Christine H. Donaldson
Martha J. Evarts
Elizabeth and Richard Fearon
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Clark Gager
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gagliardi, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. John A. Godley
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Goodrich
Dr. and Mrs. Robert S. Gordon
Mrs. Ralph E. Herman
Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Hummer
Mr. and Mrs. Milton B. Ives
Mr. and Mrs. Albert R. Kessler
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Laemel
George B. Lester
Edward and Hortense Levy
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard W. Lohne
Gary M. McCrum
Edwin R. and Jean H. Meiss

Mr. and Mrs. Franklyn B. Matthies
Lloyd L. Maurer, M.D.
Dr. and Mrs. Leroy J. Monks
Frederick S. Moss
Mr. and Mrs. Grant N. Nickerson
Mrs. C.R. Newton
George and Marilyn Palade
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Palazzi
Dr. and Mrs. Irving M. Polayes
Dr. and Mrs. M.J. Pryor
Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Quinlan
Albert and Nancy Ridinger
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis D. Ross
Mr. and Mrs. David Saginor
Marc and Sondra Schaffer
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Schulz
Mr. and Mrs. T. Bateman Slocum
Mr. and Mrs. Julian Spector
in memory of Isaiah Spector
John A. Sperry Family
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton L. Stevens
Mr. and Mrs. William P. Stevens, II
Mrs. Henry D. Stoddard
Newton H. Street and Ethel M. Street
Mr. and Mrs. Mark W. Syrkin
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Talalay
Angelo Tambis Family
Reverdy Whitlock
Mrs. Donald G. Wing
Samuel P. Korper and Family
Staff of Beecher School North
Harold Himmel
Carl, Alice and Erich Altvater
George W. Beckert, Dawn M. Beckert,
and Dean G. Beckert
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Richard Ianucci,
Angel Ann, and Richard
Mr. and Mrs. Egbert Miles, Jr.

How land was allocated

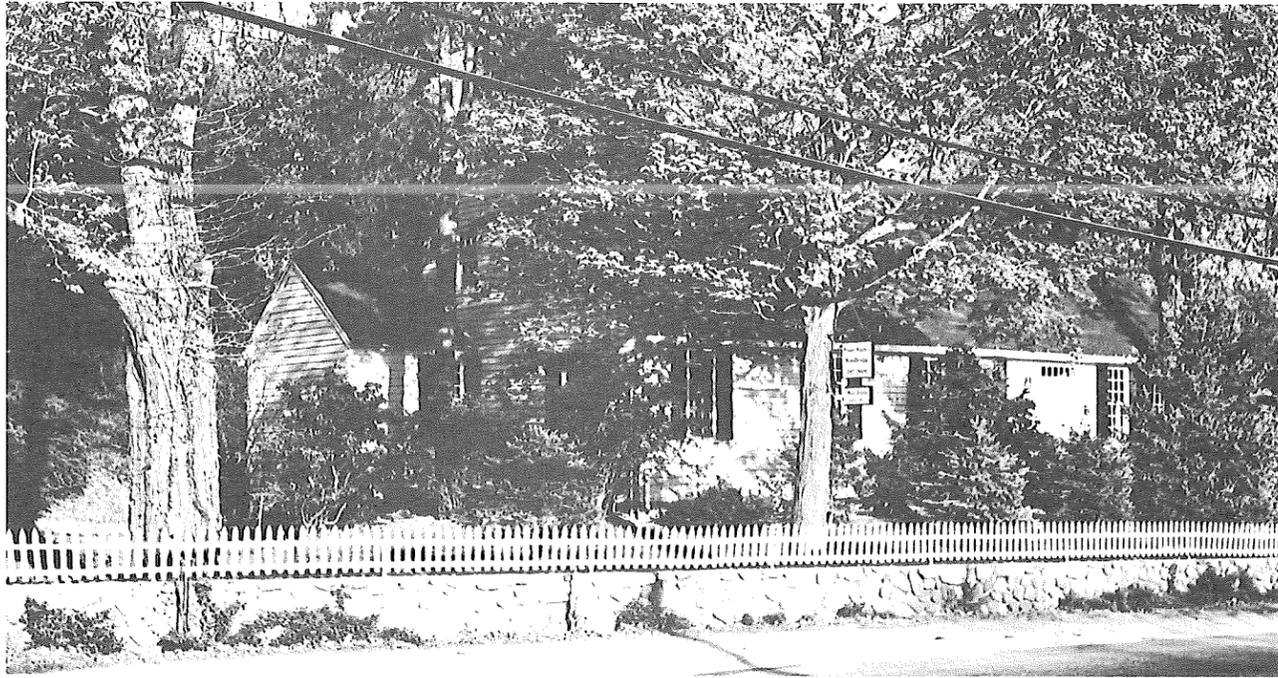
The Milford General Court of 1639 had also declared, "The power is settled in the Church to choose persons out of themselves to divide the 'Land into Lotts' as they shall have light from the Word of God." The size of each man's "home lot" was based on three things, the amount he had contributed to the common expenses of the community, the size of his family, and his ability as a leader in the new settlement. A common pasture for all settlers was set aside and fenced, and a palisade was built to enclose all the "home lots". Later divisions were made following the same pattern but allowing greater acreage if the land was less fertile. Milford prospered and before long, with a vessel of eighty tons, she was shipping up and down the Atlantic Coast and to the West Indies.

New Haven seeks a charter from Charles I

New Haven meanwhile had built a ship of comparable size, Captain Lambertson's "Great Shippe", in a desperate effort to retrieve her fortunes. The sale of a sizeable cargo in England seemed her only hope to balance the drain of money to her colonies on Long Island, Stamford and New Jersey. The matter was so urgent that in January, 1646, when the ship was loaded and ready to sail, a channel was cut for three miles through the ice so that she could clear the harbor. On board was Thomas Gregson, a co-signer with Governor Eaton of the New England Confederation, who bore a petition to Charles I asking for a charter for the New Haven Colony. Month followed month but there was no sign of the ship's return. Then, on a June evening at sunset, the ship appeared under full sail — only to dissolve in the gathering clouds. The loss of the ship would enrich New Haven's legends but was a staggering blow to her faltering economy. Gone too was her hope for a charter from the king; fifteen years later she would grudgingly yield that goal to the Connecticut Colony in Hartford. Lost too, in this ship was the wife of Stephen Goodyear, Deputy-Governor of New Haven. It was through him that the first house was built in what is now Woodbridge. He had been granted land in the valley lying to the west of West Rock and he sent Richard Sperry out to work it for him. By 1648 the first Sperry house had been built on the far side of the brook where Paugasset Path begins to climb Long Hill, (the site of the Woodbridge Branch of the Connecticut Savings Bank). Two years later the Lines family made its way up Long Hill, built a house near Lines Road, and the second Woodbridge settlement, "Chestnut Hill", was begun.

The Three Judges

Meanwhile, the long struggle of the Puritans against Charles I had resulted in the English Civil War in which the king's armies were defeated by Oliver Cromwell. The king was brought to trial before a special court of commissioners, fifty-nine of whom voted for his execution. Eleven years later, in 1660, Cromwell was dead. Charles II was on the throne and the men who had voted for his father's death were sought. Two of the "Judges", Colonel Edward Whalley and his son-in-law, Colonel William Goffe, escaped to Boston. When the first ship with the king's officers landed, they fled to New Haven, where in March, 1661, they found refuge with the Reverend John Davenport. The king's officers appeared in May and demanded the aid of Deputy-Governor Leete who cleverly delayed them. The following Sunday, Davenport rose in his pulpit and preached from the text, "Hide the outcasts and betray not him that wandereth." Whalley and Goffe spent that night under a bridge and on the following day were brought to Milford Meadows (see center map) and then to a high hill located north of the present Coachman's Drive in Woodbridge. Here they found a hatchet and when the two men, great officers and members of parliament in their own land, built a simple shelter they named it Hatchet Harbor. As soon as the king's agents had been diverted towards New Amsterdam, Whalley and Goffe were taken to the top of West Rock where they hid in a wild profusion of great boulders, according to Ezra Stiles', *History of Three of the Judges*. Each day Richard Sperry or his son climbed the rock and left a day's supply of food on a stump. On the night of June 11, the fugitives, frightened by a "squalling catamount with blazing eyes", fled down the rock to the Sperry farm. It was dangerous for the family to have them stay there however, and so they went up West River and camped near the present dam. Worried by the attention of Indians, they returned to Hatchet Harbor and built a lodge at a point from which they could watch New Haven harbor. In August, Micah Tomkins of Milford agreed to receive them, and they stayed with him for three years. But, the search had not come to an end. In 1664, word came that four agents had arrived in Boston and were on their way to apprehend them. Whalley and Goffe returned to West Rock and then travelled up the Connecticut River to Hadley, Massachusetts, where they were visited by a third "Judge", John Dixwell. (He later moved to New Haven, and assumed the name James Davids, was twice married, and is buried behind Center Church.)



The Connecticut Charter 1662

As soon as the members of the Connecticut colony learned that Charles II was on the throne, they sent their governor, John Winthrop, to England with a petition for a charter. In April, 1662, the request was granted. The charter gave the colony land which was bounded "on the North from the lyne of the Massachusetts Plantacon and on the South by the Sea" and "from the said Norrogancett Bay on the East to the South Sea (Pacific Ocean) on the West." With the granting of this Charter, the colony of New Haven ceased to exist. (Whether this was because of her resistance to Charles II in protecting the "Judges", or was a result of the ambitions of Connecticut Colony, the fact remains that not only did New Haven not receive the charter for which she had hoped but, worse yet, was placed under the jurisdiction of her envied rival, Connecticut Colony.)

565 Amity Road.

"Milford Side"

The Connecticut Colony charter (based upon Thomas Hooker's *Fundamental Orders*) gave the people of Connecticut the right not only to elect their General Assembly and Council, but to choose their own governor and judges as well. (The only other colony to have such freedom was Rhode Island). Under this benign government the little settlements prospered; (meetings of the General Assembly were held alternately in New Haven and Hartford). Milford grew rapidly and by 1685, had to buy more land north of Paugasset Path, up as far as Bladen's River. Two years later the land was divided into long strips running north and south. Joel Northrup built a house on his new land to save himself the long daily trip from Milford. Others followed. Richard Baldwin bought Hogg's Meadow from the Paugassetts. Race Brook Road was cleared to reach other new grants, and Northrup's Farms became the first settlement on what Woodbridge still calls "Milford Side."

The 1687 division of land caused bitterness because it discriminated in favor of important citizens and excluded eleven "rate payers" on the grounds that they were new arrivals. In 1713 there were more hard feelings because the common and undivided land was given to those families who had settled in Milford before 1688, and who had thus become the "Proprietors of the Common Lands." New arrivals naturally opposed the control of this land, but it was 100 years before the proprietors voted themselves out of existence.

Mr. John A. Longobardi
 Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Luciani
 Ettore Luciani
 Malin, Inc.
 Howard C. Merk
 Mother Goose Nursery and Kindergarten
 Mr. and Mrs. John C. Mulrain
 H.H. Perkins Co.
 Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin M. Polayes
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ogden Purves
 Research Publications, Inc.
 Mr. and Mrs. Lawton G. Sargent, Jr.
 John M. Shappell
 Stateside Cleaners, Inc.
 Dr. and Mrs. Max Taffel
 Mr. and Mrs. Eliot W. Todd
 Edgar Tullock
 Stewart and Gloria Voloshin
 Weinstein and Anastasio, P.C.
 Woodbridge Auto Service
 The Woodbridge Bank and Trust Company
 Woodbridge-Bethany League of Women Voters
 Woodbridge True Value Building Supply
 Mr. and Mrs. Gordon V. Carrington
 Dr. Raymond S. Duff
 Gabor B. Huszar
 Ruth Adt Stephenson
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Walgren
 Robert B. Wendrich and Thelma V. Wendrich
 Mr. and Mrs. Alan Bailey
 Mr. and Mrs. Eugene J. Cozzolino
 Dr. and Mrs. Edward Dunn
 Dr. and Mrs. Hugh L. Dwyer
 Mr. and Mrs. George H. Eaton
 Michael and Eileen Norton
 Mr. and Mrs. John J. Resnik
 Mrs. Frederick T. Sheperd, Sr.
 P.J. Zandri

The following firms and individuals contributed to the costs of composition and printing of this book "A History of Woodbridge, Connecticut." Their noteworthy help is deeply appreciated by the Woodbridge Bicentennial Commission and the Townspeople of Woodbridge.

Special Gifts

Morris and Eugenie C. Tyler
 Mr. and Mrs. Beecher Hogan
 Mrs. C.A. Asher
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Dodds
 Friends of the Library
 London Labs Ltd.
 Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd W. Elston
 Mr. and Mrs. William B. Hall
 Ladies Aid Society of the First Church of Christ
 Mr. and Mrs. Libbus Lewis
 Dr. and Mrs. Clement C. Clarke
 Center School Staff
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul W. Adams
 The Associated General Contractor of Connecticut, Inc.
 The Arnold M. Astmann Family
 Elisha and Elizabeth Atkins
 Mr. and Mrs. Clarence F. Baldwin
 Mac and Sue Baldwin
 Mr. and Mrs. John Benevento
 Mr. and Mrs. Gordon H. Clark
 Theodore R. Clark
 Mr. and Mrs. I. Gordon Colby, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. James W. Cooper
 Corbett Press
 Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Farrel, 3rd
 The Robert B. Fetter Family
 Austin T. Ford, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin B. Gant
 The Grandjean Family
 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Richard Haury
 Mr. and Mrs. Harald Ingholt
 Roberta Johnson, Interior Designer
 Russell H. Johnson
 Taehee Yi Lee, L.L.D.
 Curtiss L. and Alice Beecher L'Hommedieu



574 Amity Road.
 Lower left
 605 Amity Road.
 Lower right
 57 Morris Road.

From 1648, when Richard Sperry built his home in the area of New Haven west of West Rock, until 1661, when he harbored the two judges, there was only one other house built in that area, that of Ralph Lines on Chestnut Hill. In the next fifty years houses were built farther and farther to the north. A cluster of homes grew near Payne's corner, at what is now the junction of Amity and Seymour Roads. The Thomas house, (565 Amity Road) faced Seymour Road at this corner, and a hundred yards to the north on the west side of the road, at 574, stands the old Roger Alling house. Further up, on the east side, at 605, is the Hickox house, and a mile away to the east is the old Morris "salt box," at 57 Morris Road.

For members of this community it was an eight or nine mile drive with wagon and team (as late as 1800 there were only three carriages on the woodbridge tax rolls) to the required Sunday services on New Haven Green. The rutted roads were bad in winter and worse in "mud time" when the wheels sank deep into the thawing ground. In 1728

Chestnut Hill asked for the privilege of "winter preaching" (December through March). The records of the General Assembly show that New Haven consented to that privilege, though reluctantly, since it would mean the loss of one-third of the religious taxes from this area. By 1737 the residents of Northrup's Farms were weary of their long Sunday trip to Milford, and joined with Chestnut Hill in petitioning the General Assembly to unite them in a single parish. Again New Haven objected because she would lose all of her taxes from that area. In early October, 1738, however the General Assembly, meeting in New Haven, created the Parish of Amity and defined its bounds. These included the present areas of Woodbridge and Bethany, parts of Beacon Falls, and Naugatuck. Dissolved was the old Milford-New Haven boundary which ran north and south to the west of the present Woodbridge green. (Its existence is preserved, for a short stretch, by Milhaven Road, which follows the old line.)





Amity Parish 1738

On October 27, a parish meeting was called for the purpose of forming an Ecclesiastical Society. Captain Isaac Johnson was chosen moderator, Ebenezer Peck was voted "Society Clerk, and Sworn" and it was voted "to build a House to Meet in for ye worship of God." The Moderator was directed to approach the General Assembly "for their direction as to ye place for Sd Meeting House." Isaac Johnson must have been a man of rare qualities. Chosen Moderator and first deacon, he was donor of the two-handled communion cup described in *Old Silver of American Churches*. A respected captain of the militia, his blue slate stone in the East Side Burying Ground speaks to us across two centuries: "Where best known, most Beloved."

For nearly fifty years, under the close scrutiny of the General Assembly, the Ecclesiastical Society, would be responsible for laying and collecting taxes for church and town, establishing schools, supervising training, and managing the town pound. An early Woodbridge journal (now in the Amity and Woodbridge Historical Society) records the "ear-marks," a "slit," a "crop," a "swallow tail," or a "ha-penny," and the provision that an unmarked stray could be sold at the Town Post. Joseph Wilmot was the first "pound-keeper," and on the Sundays when church services were held at his house the Sabbath calm must have been a state of mind rather than an actual fact.

The Meeting House

In November, 1738, a committee from the General Assembly viewed possible sites for the Meeting House, and settled on the two acres plus highway which Ebenezer Beecher had offered. The meeting house center was marked by scoring a dead oak on four sides and laying stones at its roots. (The site is now marked by a boulder on the present Green.) The dimensions of the church were to be fifty-five by forty-four feet and the building was to be paid for by a tax of six pence on the pound on the Grand List, as we know it today. In 1742 Ebenezer Beecher came before the General Assembly again. In a "Memorial" he said, "We have built a house of large Dementions considering our small ability" and asked for a tax of six pence an acre on unimproved land for the next four years.

Commemorative Boulder on the Woodbridge Green.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Thomas DiGiovanni, Sgt. Scott Hovey, John McKeown, Chief Salvatore DeGennaro, Sgt. Alfred Tucci, Jr., Dennis Phipps, Mary Mallinson, Joseph Ryan. NOT PRESENT: Lieut. Richard Rollinson, Sgt. Robert Spak, Alfred Smith, Gregory Kuczynski, Daniel Fanelli, James Wilson, Donald Mazzarelli, Jr., Eugene Marcucci, Joseph Pastorella, Thomas Pepe.

Police

The Woodbridge Police Department was created by the General Assembly in 1937 by a "Special Act Creating a Board of Police Commissioners in the Town of Woodbridge." Constable Kenneth Howland was appointed Captain and was assisted by part-time officers. Richard Ciarleglio became Chief upon Howland's resignation in 1954 and continued to serve until his resignation in 1975. At this time Salvatore DeGennaro, who had been with the department for twenty years, became Chief, with Richard Rollinson as Lieutenant. As of September, 1975, there are sixteen regular officers, of whom one is a woman, and nine supernumeraries.

During the early days of the department all calls were received by the wives of the Chief and Sergeant who relayed them to New Haven for transmission to Woodbridge police cars. In 1951, Orange replaced New Haven in

this circuit, and in 1955, the Woodbridge Police Department installed transmitters and remote control radios in three of the dispatchers' homes thus permitting relays directly to police cars.

At present there are five police cars, all equipped with resuscitators and inhalators, and all regular and supernumerary policemen are certified in First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. There is also direct communication for immediate ambulance service.

In conjunction with the Board of Education there is a bicycle and schoolbus safety program and bicycle registration at the Police Department is encouraged.

The Police Department is anxious to give maximum protection and solicits cooperation in assisting it to keep Woodbridge a respected and law-abiding community.



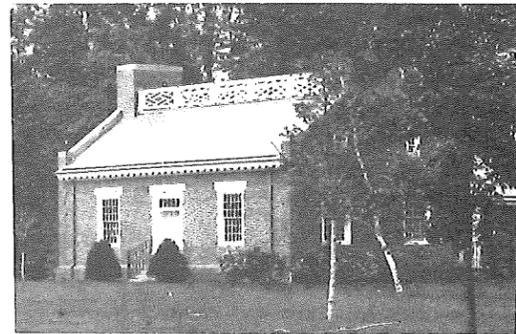
Woodbridge Library with additions.

The Woodbridge Library

The first circulating library in Woodbridge was established in the Parish of Bethany in 1798 with 35 volumes, and within a quarter of a century Woodbridge had one too, with 31 volumes. A hundred years later a library was organized in the Town Hall and, in 1929, it moved to the basement of Center School. At that time the First Church of Christ donated its Sunday School library. Mrs. Mary B. Mitchell served as Librarian from 1929 until 1937. With a Town appropriation of \$200.00 she was able to circulate 912 volumes in 1929. This was an improvement over the year 1927-28 when the total adult circulation was 497 books, and the juvenile circulation was 224 books. There was also a branch library in Warner School.

After 1931, the library appropriation was included in the town budget and, in 1941, when the Clark Memorial Library was dedicated circulation continued to increase. This beautiful building was a bequest from Noyes Dwight Clark in memory of his parents, Dwight N. and Althea Bradley Clark.

Mary B. Mitchell had been one of the founders of the Library as well as its first librarian. She and her husband Frank had



Original Library, 1940.

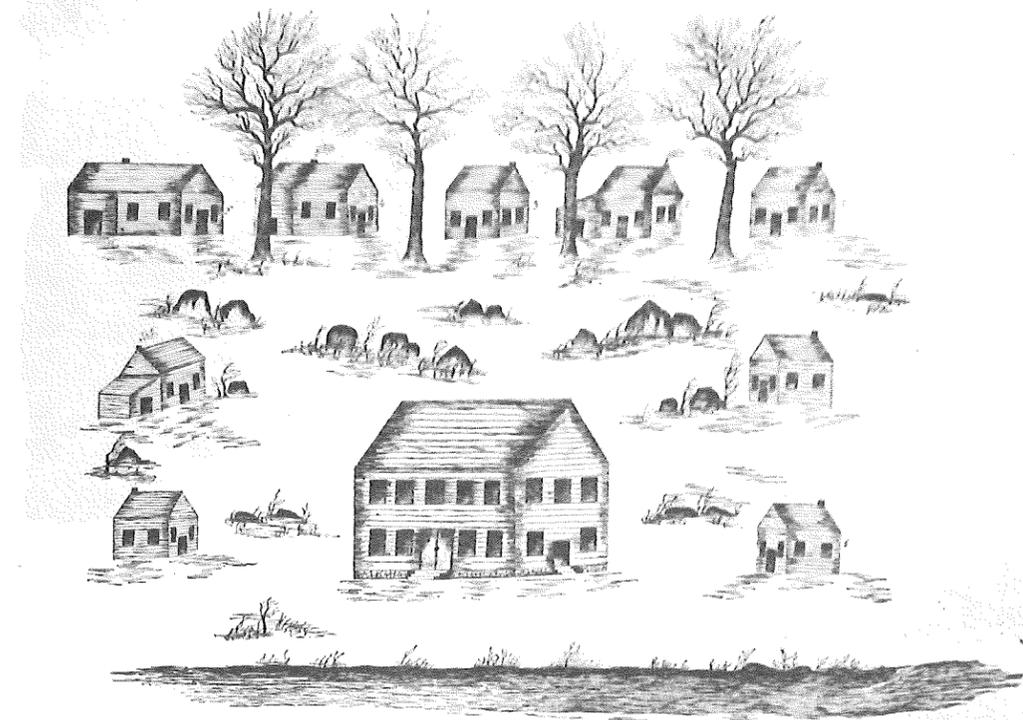
been devoted to the good of the town and the addition to the library in 1969 was visible evidence of that devotion. The considerable addition was built with money from the Mary B. Mitchell Charitable Trust.

During the last decade there has been not only an increase in the number of volumes in the library but also an increase in the kinds of services offered: films and records, a state-wide reference service, and borrowing books from libraries of other towns. There is a story-hour for pre-schoolers and a book delivery for shut-ins. The constant flow of traffic reflects public appreciation of the cultural, intellectual and practical offerings made to the five thousand registered borrowers.

By 1740 the Meeting House was ready. Unpainted, it had a door at each end and in the middle of the south side there was a wide double door which faced the high pulpit under its sounding-board. (This accoustically unsound arrangement reflected the division between the English Puritans and the Church of England. The Anglican altar was placed at the end of the church. In protest, the Puritans placed their communion table in the middle of one side). On either side were straight-backed wooden pews, assigned by a committee to members of the congregation; the men sitting on the right side, the women on the left. There was no heat; women brought their own foot warmers and children held hot baked potatoes in their hands. At noon the families repaired to the "Sabbath Day housen," (the old English plural like "oven") where they lighted fires and warmed their food and themselves against the long afternoon service.

Woodbridge ordained

Visiting ministers performed the services until 1742 when the Reverend Benjamin Woodbridge was called "to settle" in the parish. A date was set for his ordination in June, and preparations were made; but they had to be cancelled because the General Assembly had not authorized the formation of a Church. (The Church was the organization of people; the Meeting House was the building.) It was not until October, upon the "memorial" of Barnabas Baldwin for "liberty to gather a church in sd Society," that the General Assembly granted Amity the "Liberty to Imbody into Church Estate with the Approbation of the Neighboring Churches."



SUNDAY HOUSES AROUND THE FIRST CHURCH IN WOODBRIDGE.

The largest building in the illustration is the meeting house built in 1742. It was 40x55 feet, without paint, steeple or chimney. It is surrounded by rocks, and also nine Sabba' Day Housen on the north, east and west sides of the Green.

Taxes

Taxes were laid by the Ecclesiastical Society. In 1738 a rate of threepence upon the pound was voted "to be raised from the grand list of the estates of the inhabitation." (There were 240 pence in a pound.) The next year the tax went up to twelve pence. In 1740 two pence was laid "for the minister"; in 1748 it was nine pence and three years later rose to fifteen pence. These were times of inflation! Benjamin Woodbridge had been engaged for a salary of L125 with the understanding that over a period of years it would rise to L200, "but no higher." Soon he was annually signing receipts for a salary of L400, L600, and in 1755 for L700. These sums were paid in "old tenor" until 1756, when there was a new currency. Mr. Woodbridge signed for "L60 lawful money," and the tax was dropped to a twopenny rate.

Inflation

The bounty on wolves paralleled the inflationary rise of the minister's salary. In 1736 Connecticut Colony paid 5 pounds for a wolf and the town paid an additional twenty shillings. By 1743 the Colony paid L6:s.10 and the town added s.30 for a wolf, and half that for a whelp. In view of the fact that Mr. Woodbridge had been engaged in 1742 for an annual salary of L125, the payment a year later of a total of L8 as bounty for a wolf gives one a wry feeling of relative values.

First school

In 1740 the first school was started. Ebenezer Peck and Barnabas Baldwin went to New Haven to ask the First Society for Amity's "proportionable share" of money allotted to the schools from the sale of the "western lands" on the upper Housatonic River, and Mr. Bunnell went to Milford to collect money due Amity from the sale of these lands. With these funds the Southwest School was built (see map).

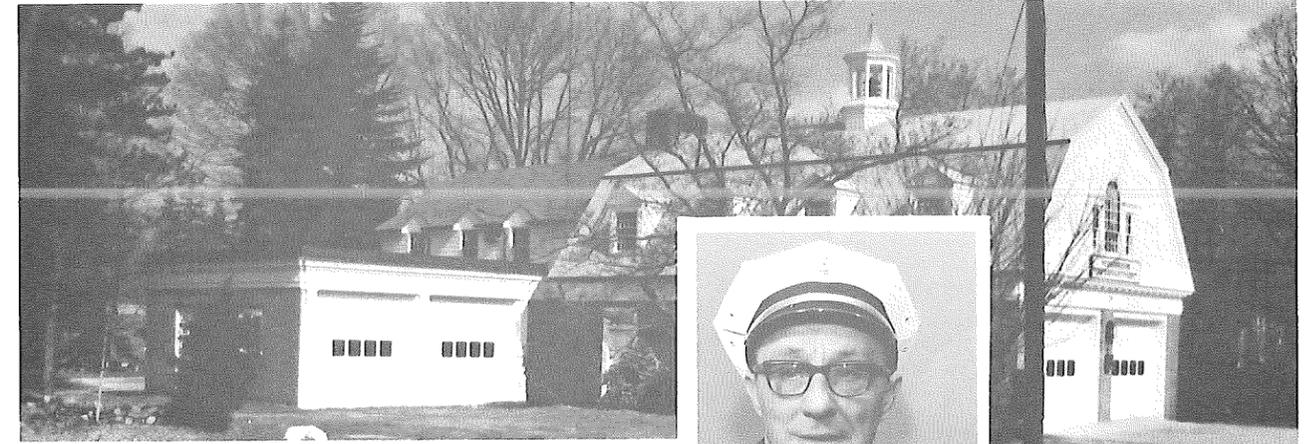
More houses

More houses were going up. Still standing at 59 Beecher Road is the Beecher house and across the road is the old Downs home. The house from which Thaddeus Russell left to fight the British invasion is at 26 Perkins Road and up the hill from that, at 471 Amity, is the house where Dr. Goodsell practiced. At 1142 Race Brook Road, is the old Perkins house, and at 373 Newton Road on the west slope of Round Hill is the house built in 1740 by Captain Stephen Sanford, who donated the silver christening bowl (described in *Old Silver of American Churches*) to the church and the L900 which kept the parish solvent for a hundred years.



26 Perkins Road.

59 Beecher Road.



Woodbridge Firehouse with new addition.

Fire

The Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association, was organized in 1929, by citizens who had become concerned by the lack of fire protection in a town which was rapidly growing but which still depended on wells for its water supply. With the Town's permission the volunteers remodeled the old Southeast School on Johnson Road and used it for headquarters.

Following a massive house fire in 1930, for which three neighboring towns had to be called for help, an emergency meeting resolved to raise funds for a Locomobile which could pump 75 gallons per minute and would have a 165 gallon booster tank. In 1938 the brick fire house on Center Road at Newton Road was dedicated and a new Seagrave Pumper was bought which pumped 500 gallons a minute and which carried 1400 feet of 2 1/2 inch hose.

Over the next 38 years new apparatus was added so that there are now seven pieces of equipment, each of which is equipped with hose of various sizes and lengths, totalling upwards of 8700 feet. There are pumpers with increased pressure and water capacity. A crash rescue vehicle carries the "Hurst tool," (better known as "the jaws of life,") Sawsall, K-12, portable pump, as well as assorted hand tools and first-aid equipment. A new combination aerial-pump completes the requirements of the New England Rating Association.

Headquarters have grown too. In 1969 two truck bays were added, a bunk room, meeting room and kitchen. The 1976 addition of two more truck bays will allow all units to be housed at this central location.

Present membership, under the leadership of Chief John Hennessey, consists of fifty active volunteers and fifteen probationers. Many members are qualified graduates of



John J. Hennessey
Fire Chief



George H. Knowlton
Chief, 1930 — 1943



Edward C. Fellows
Chief, 1943 — 1944



William L. Hitchcock
Chief, 1944 — 1952



Albert J. Schilf
Chief, 1952 — 1967



Curtiss L. L'Hommedieu
Chief, 1967 — 1969



Robert S. Dunn
Chief, 1969 — 1973

courses in Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation and Crash Injury Management. All serve without pay and constantly review fire-fighting methods. They deserve the town's support and appreciation.

1976 Town Government

Elected Officials

Board of Selectmen
 Agent Town Deposit
 Amity Regional Board of Education
 Board of Education
 Board of Tax Review
 Justices of Peace
 Library Directors
 Registrars of Voters
 Town Clerk
 Town Treasurer
 Town Meeting Moderator
 Zoning Board of Appeals — Alternates

Appointed Town Departments and Officials

First Selectman's Office Administrative Assistants.
 Assessor
 Building Official and Zoning Enforcement Official
 Chief of Police
 Director of Public Works
 Forest Fire Wardens
 Fire Marshal
 Health Director
 Librarian
 Superintendent of Schools
 Tax Collector — Assistant Tax Collector
 Town Counsel
 Tree Warden

Appointed Boards and Commissions

Building Appeals Board
 Board of Finance
 Board of Health
 Conservation Commission
 Development and Industrial Commission
 Fire Commission
 Inland Wetland Agency
 Police Commission
 Recreation Commission
 Safety Commission
 Sewer Authority
 Sperry Park Commission
 Town Plan and Zoning — Alternates



Bethany Parish October 1762

In 1755 the northern half of Amity Parish asked for "winter preaching." Residents lived a distance "from three to Upwards of Six Miles from the Meetinghouse and the roads were bad, especially in the winter and Spring." The Southern half opposed this petition, just as New Haven had opposed Amity's request thirty years earlier, for the same reason: the loss of religious taxes. However in October, 1762, the General Assembly, sitting in New Haven, ordered that the northern part of the parish should "be a distinct Ecclesiastical Society...known by the name of Bethany."

Early industries

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries farms were usually self-sustaining but special enterprises served special needs. There were saw-mills, (Mrs. Lucy Finney, who was indefatigable in collecting data on early Woodbridge, says that the oldest of these was on the brook north of the church) there was a grist and saw mill on Bladen's Brook and another such combination at Captain Baldwin's on lower "Milford side." In the

ravine, where Glen Lake now exists, there was a factory which made nails and iron candlesticks, ("polished like steel"). There was a tannery on Race Brook Road, Mr. Northrup made clocks, and spinning wheels were made on Orange Road. The greatest concentration of mills was at Sperry Falls, where there was not only a grist mill but a carding and fulling mill. Mrs. Finney wrote that "After a farmer washed and sheared his sheep, the wool was taken to the carding machines at Enoch Sperry's...and made into rolls about two feet long. It was returned home where the women spun it into yarn and wove it into cloth," (or sent it to the looms of Benajah Beach on Peck Hill Road.) "It was then taken to the mill again and passed through the fulling machine which thickened up the cloth; then the nap was raised, sheared, (the cloth) dyed and pressed and sent home."

It is said that cloth was produced here for uniforms during the Revolutionary War. England, having forbidden her colonies to manufacture wool, had made the need so desperate that no mill was too small to be pressed into service for the shivering armies.



Upper left
1142 Race Brook Road.

Upper right
471 Amity Road.

373 Newton Road.

The Revolutionary War

Woodbridge men served in that war; thirty-eight of them are buried in the three Woodbridge cemeteries, a large number for so small a town.

Graves of Soldiers of the Colonial Wars and of the Revolutionary War

(following roster compiled by James S. Hedden)

The East Side Burying Ground, South Pease Road, Woodbridge

| | Died | Aged |
|------------------------|----------------|------|
| Roger Alling | Aug. 2, 1824 | 84 |
| Samuel Alling | Apr. 4, 1788 | 73 |
| Lt. Aner Bradley | Sept. 29, 1825 | 77 |
| Allen (Alling) Bradley | Oct. 6, 1824 | 64 |
| Cap. Timothy Bradley | Oct. 10, 1803 | 82 |
| Sjt. David Clark | Mar. 1778 | 36 |
| Cap. Jesse Ford | Mar. 5, 1812 | 75 |
| Isaac Johnson | Oct. 23, 1750 | 78 |
| Samuel Johnson | Apr. 10, 1791 | 38 |
| James Lines | Aug. 5, 1816 | 68 |
| Cap. Enoch Newton | Mar. 5, 1817 | 77 |
| Lt. Samuel Newton | Dec. 31, 1811 | 77 |
| Cap. Samuel Osborn | Jun. 28, 1813 | 80 |
| Joseph Peck | Mar. 1, 1788 | 70 |
| Stephen Peck | Jun. 13, 1830 | 88 |
| Amos Perkins | May 26, 1819 | 73 |
| Cap. Stephen Sanford | Jan. 6, 1779 | 72 |
| C'pln Josiah Sherman | Nov. 24, 1789 | 60 |
| Cap. Titus Smith | Dec. 11, 1799 | 77 |
| Ebenezer Sperry | Jan. 23, 1815 | 76 |
| Eliakim Sperry | May 21, 1815 | 63 |
| Simeon Sperry | Dec. 15, 1805 | 62 |
| Amos Thomas | Apr. 22, 1797 | 54 |

The Milford Side Cemetery, Woodbridge on Race Brook Road

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----|
| Cap. Barnabas Baldwin, Jr. | July 11, 1804 | 44 |
| Hezekiah Baldwin | Nov. 6, 1831 | 75 |
| Cap. Josiah Baldwin | Dec. 19, 1829 | 66 |
| Samuel Baldwin | (July 5, 1779)? | |
| Walter Booth | Jan. 3, 1825 | 64 |
| Lt. Philo Dibble | Feb. 18, 1850 | |
| C'pl Isaac Northrup | | |
| Lt. Phineas Peck | Oct. 14, 1776 | 30 |
| Lt. Daniel Smith | May 9, 1835 | 87 |

Northwest Cemetery, Seymour Road, Woodbridge

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------|----|
| Abijah Bradley | | |
| Riverius Carrington | May 29, 1823 | 64 |
| George Clark | Mar. 12, 1799 | 79 |
| Isaac Hotchkiss | May 11, 1828 | 70 |
| Elisha Osborn | | |
| Noah Peck | Oct. 23, 1808 | 48 |
| Nathan Smith | Apr. 15, 1822 | 72 |
| Cap. Eliakim Terrill | Mar. 15, 1807 | 47 |

The temper of the town as it swung from its century and a half of life as an English colony towards a new loyalty to the young republic, is shown by the records of the Ecclesiastical Society.

In 1778 the minutes read, "Inhabitants of Amity voted to choose Society Officers by those that have taken the oath of fidelity." But there were Loyalists here too and the pastor was one of them. The Society minutes for April 5, 1779, stated "Mr. Woodbridge refused to take the oath of fidelity to the States and said, "when America has got independents whether by forse or by agreement he did not know but he should take ye oath of fidelity." Lifelong loyalty to England was not to be lightly foresworn.

Three months later, on July 5, 1779, the New Haven area had its first encounter with British forces. According to the *Connecticut Journal* of New Haven, "About two o'clock in the morning of the 5th instant, a fleet consisting of the Camilla and Scorpion men-of-war, with tenders, transports, &c., to the number of 48, commanded by Sir George Collier, anchored off West Haven. They had on board about 3,000 land forces, commanded by Major-General Tryon; about 1,500 of whom, under Brigadier-General Garth, landed about sunrise on West Haven Point." From here they fanned out, plundering as they went. Near Forest Road, Samuel Baldwin fired at a skirmishing party and was killed; Mrs. Ebenezer Sperry standing in the doorway of her house, watched a company of red-coats in the distance and later saw a group from Bethany hurrying down the Litchfield Road. Young Thaddeus Russell armed himself and left his home on Perkins Road to fight the British—he was killed on the banks of West River. Garth's forces joined those which had landed on the east bank of New Haven harbor. They plundered the city, took captives, and in the morning sailed away.

Two years later soldiers in French uniforms marched through Woodbridge on their way from Newport. The Duc de Lauzun led 600 men, cavalry, hussars and grenadiers, brilliant in their uniforms and proud in their discipline, down the dusty road to Derby.

Town Government

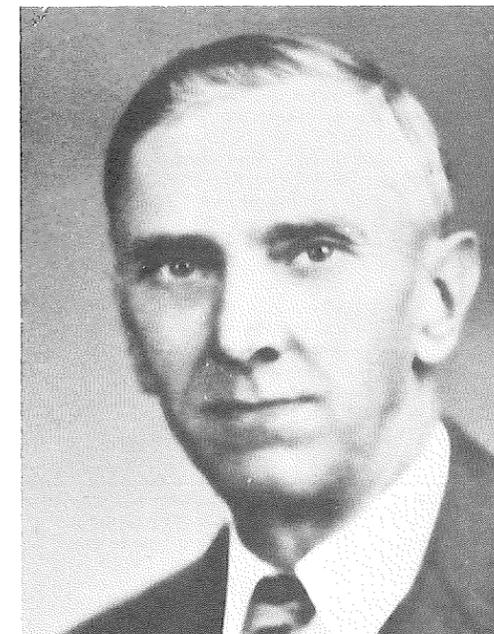
Woodbridge is governed by a Board of Selectmen and other officers and boards as specified in the Town Charter. The Board of Selectmen consists of 5 selectmen plus the First Selectmen, and are elected biennially for two year terms. The Selectmen exercise their power as a body and the Town Charter specifies their duties. They are responsible for hiring town personnel (except for those employed by the Board of Education and the Town Clerk), appoint members to the various boards of the town and oversee their activities.



Jacob Beisiegel
1924 — 1929



Clarence F. Baldwin
1929 — 1935



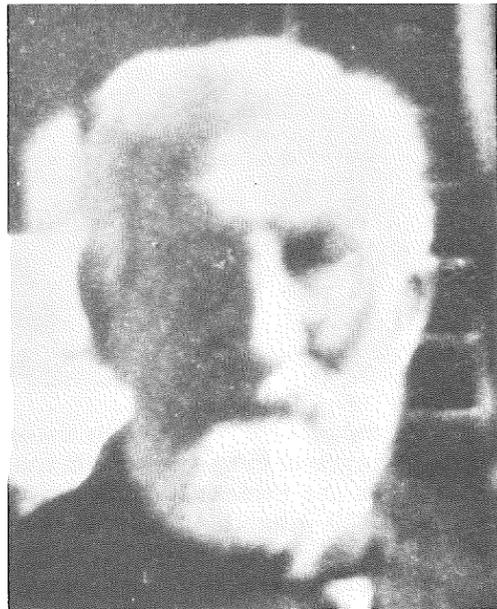
Chester C. Hitchcock
1935 — 1947



Theodore R. Clark
1947 — 1975

Former First Selectmen

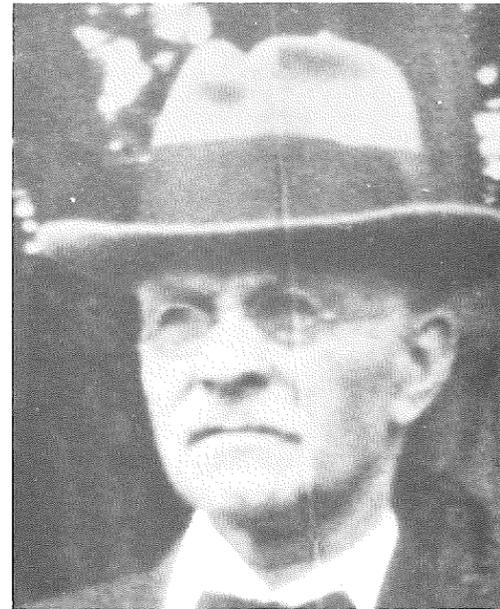
| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| John Peck | 1877 — 1879 |
| Theodore R. Baldwin | 1879 — 1880 |
| Henry F. Merwin | 1880 — 1883 |
| Theron A. Todd | 1883 — 1885 |
| F.F. Finney | 1890 — 1892 |



Rollin C. Newton
1885 — 1890
1892 — 1912



Herbert H. Tomlinson
1916 — 1919



Silas J. Peck
1912 — 1916



Clifford I. Stoddard
1919 — 1924

The Town of Woodbridge 1784

The peace treaty was signed in September 1783, and on February 26, 1784, the Reverend Benjamin Woodbridge took "the oath of fidelity." (His name heads a list of thirty two now preserved in the Historical Society.) In spite of political differences, the community held Mr. Woodbridge in great esteem. A month before he took the oath of fidelity this entry was made in the Connecticut State records, "Upon the Memorial of the Inhabitants of the Parishes of Amity and Bethany in the County of New Haven, Praying to be incorporated into a town... Resolved by this Assembly that the said parishes of Amity and Bethany...are hereby Incorporated and Constituted a Town by the name of the Town of Woodbridge with all Rights, Privileges..." The parishioners whom he had served with honesty and devotion for over forty years created a permanent memorial by incorporating the new town in his name.

Three years later, in 1787, The Constitution of the United States was drafted and The General Assembly of Connecticut ordered that all towns hold meetings in November to choose delegates to a Convention for the purpose of ratifying the Constitution. The Woodbridge Town Journal had this entry in November 1787, "voted Capt. Samle Osborne and Leiut. Samle Newton to be delegates to the Convention to meet at Hartford in January next." (The Woodbridge delegates reflected the opposition of rural towns to a central government, three weeks away by stage coach, and voted not to ratify. However they were over-ruled).

Under the new Constitution, the Ecclesiastical Society ceased to govern the community, and the minutes of town business were no longer a part of the Ecclesiastical Record but were written in the new Town Journal. Woodbridge needed a Town House. Amity Parish wanted it near the church. Bethany Parish said that this was too far away. They compromised on the southwest corner of the Amity and Woodbury (Seymour) Roads. Town meetings and elections were held here, and Town House Corner became a center of activity. The list of elected town officials, in 1792, included "five Selectmen, two Constables, twenty-one servayers, three fence viewers, six Listers' (of property), eleven Leather sealers, four Grand Juree men, five Tything men, (religious taxes were not abolished until 1821), two Sealers of waits, one Sealer of Measures, and seven Key keepers."

The duties of the Selectmen concerned some problems now happily forgotten; their struggle with smallpox epidemics. In three separate years there are entries where Dr. Howley or Dr. Hooker is given liberty to "set up inocholation under restriction of selectmen." But, they were better off than New Haven where in 1794, they not only had smallpox but sixty-four deaths from yellow fever, and in 1832, twenty-six deaths from cholera.

Home of Reverend Benjamin Woodbridge.
Built in 1697. Burned in 1896.



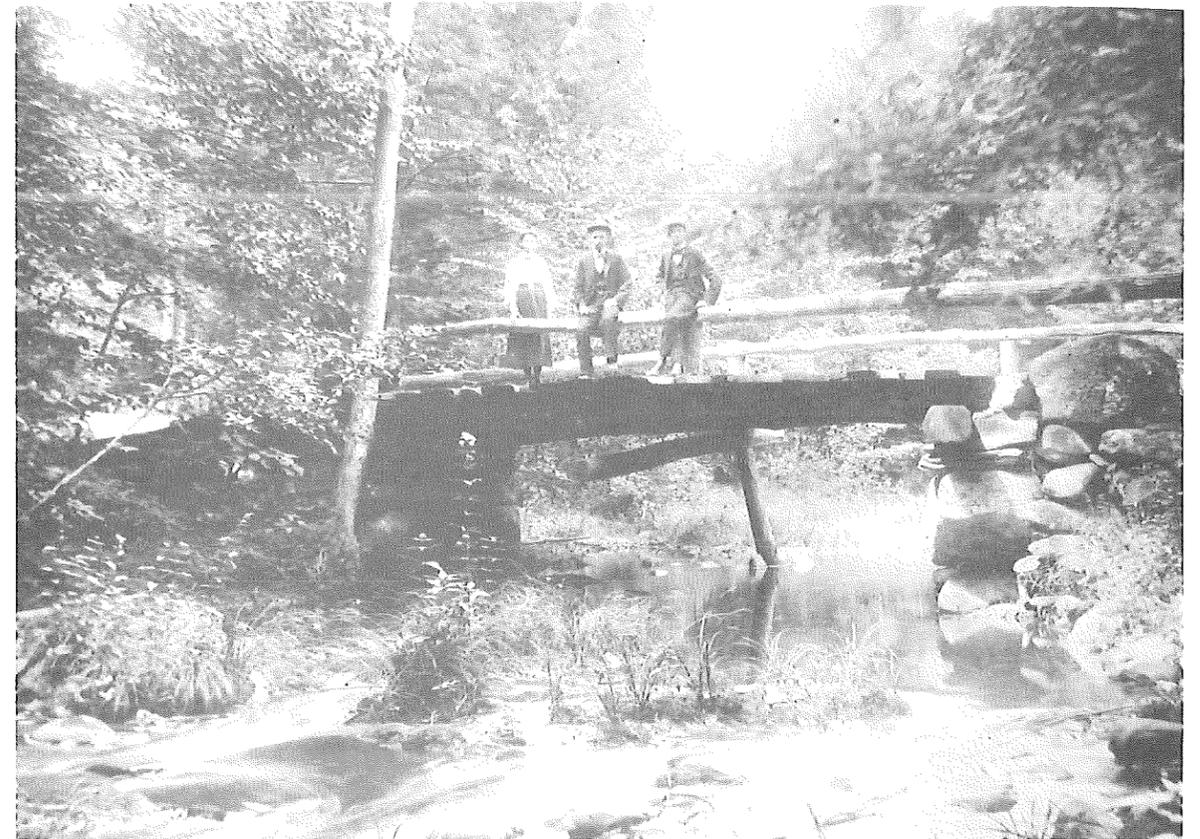
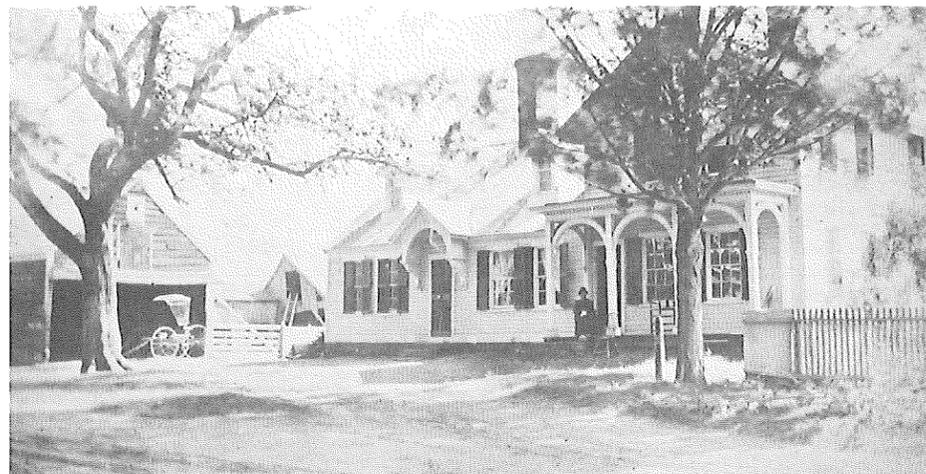
Toll Roads and Inns

Around 1800 two toll-roads passing through Woodbridge were approved by the General Assembly. The Straits Turnpike Association, was incorporated in 1797 to build a road from the New Haven Court House to the Litchfield Courthouse. Shares were sold and a toll station was set up just north of Bradley Road. Drivers coming down from the north could stop at Elioenai Clark's Tavern (with a tap-room), or at Thomas Darling's (without a tap-room). To avoid paying the toll some travelers chose Amity Road. More tortuous than now, it became known as a "Shunpike," and offered travelers a choice between the Clinton Hotel at the corner of Burnt Swamp Road, or the Hotchkiss Tavern which is still standing south of the Veterinary Hospital. In 1802 the second toll company was incorporated. The road, which ran from Hotchkisstown (Westville) to Chuse Town (Seymour), followed what is now Fountain Street to the toll house at the foot of Long Hill, up the hill to Old Derby Road, forked right beyond Andrew Clark's Tavern, and then, just before going into Seymour, came to another toll-house. (See Map)

Upper, Hotchkiss Tavern. Circa 1800.

Middle, Clinton Hotel. Circa 1825.
Burned 1870.

Lower, Elioenai Clark Tavern. Circa 1785.
Addition 1860.
Litchfield Turnpike.



Handsome gifts have been made to Woodbridge. Sperry Park perpetuates the name of our first settler. It was given in 1907 by the heirs of Enoch and Mary Atlanta Sperry, on the site of their home and in their memory. The Clark Memorial Library was given by Noyes Clark in memory of his parents, Dwight and Althea Clark. Just north of the Town Hall is the entrance to the ninety-two acres of the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park. This woodland is dedicated by Newton Street to the preservation of wild life in memory of his mother. Other gifts of land have been made to the Conservation Trust. Helen Newton, our ardent archivist, entrusted them with the historically important "Lodge Land," the refuge of Whalley and Goffe three hundred years ago.

Woodbridge is also enriched by the quality and discipline of her people. From that first meeting of the Ecclesiastical Society in October of 1639, inhabitants have spoken their minds at Town Meeting and Hearings. They have developed a spirit of concern for the growth and well-being of the town and have generously dedicated time and effort to public concern. In a town of 8,000 some 175 individuals sit, without pay, on commissions and agencies in the time-consuming business of planning and working for the good of the community.

In this bicentennial year of 1976, we can indeed echo that magnificent phrase of Thomas Jefferson's, "governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." and perhaps, in our time, add a small corollary of our own, good government follows on the concern and determination of the governed to make it work.

Woodbridge, aware of her history and her responsibilities, is making government work for all her citizens.



Bridge near Sperry's Mills. Circa 1890.



Of all the old houses in Woodbridge the greatest treasure is the one which Thomas Darling built on Litchfield Turnpike north of "The Great Meadow," with West Rock rising behind it. Thomas Darling was an exceptional man with lively interests in various fields, and the capacity to pursue them. After graduating from Yale College he had taken a Master's Degree and, though never ordained, was licensed to preach. He became Tutor to the Yale class of 1746 which presented him with the elaborate silver bowl now displayed in the Yale Art Gallery. He fell in love with Abigail, daughter of Joseph Noyes, the Pastor of Center Church, and married her. He began to read law, an interest which continued until he died. But, after corresponding and meeting with Benjamin Franklin on the practicality of glass making, he was persuaded by him to turn to business and he became Franklin's agent. In this capacity Thomas Darling imported the first press and type in New Haven and consigned them to James Parker. Rope making also caught his fancy. He improved the process and was very successful. Returning to the law, he became Judge and Chief Magistrate in New Haven, and, before he died in 1789, was Judge of the Probate Court of New Haven County.

As befitted such a man, his house was solidly and well built. Construction began in 1772. There were eight rooms and seven fireplaces, and so much panelling that it was not finished until 1774. It is described in Marian Terry's, *Old Inns of Connecticut*. "The house is a simple gambrel-roofed building of a story and a half, with a row of dormers. Its most unusual feature is the ceiling height of the first floor which was nine feet, three inches, unparalleled in a house of the size and period."

Miss Berenice Baldwin, step-daughter to the last member of the family, willed the contents of the house to the Amity and Woodbridge Historical Society and Woodbridge has put the care of the house itself into the Society's hands. Surrounded by 150 acres of the original farm, secured for the town through Open Space grants, the house, (when opened as a museum), together with the garden, the eighteenth century barn, the meadows and woodland constitute a resource of great value to Woodbridge.

The Thomas Darling House.
Circa 1772.

Currency changes from pounds to dollars

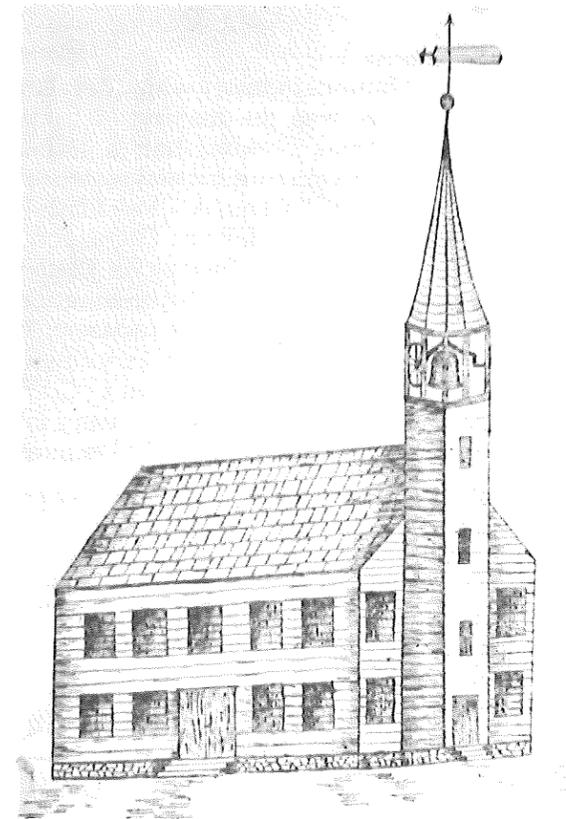
The Woodbridge Town Journal reflected life in the community in the early 19th century. English currency was abandoned and the tax, which in 1802 was "threepence on the pound," the following year became "one cent, three mills on the dollar." In 1810 Woodbridge began to pay her Selectmen and in the same year, still having problems with stray animals, "voted \$25 to ring swine found on Common except unweaned ones," and elected twelve men to be hog haywards. A vote in 1813 ordered Thomas Darling to send a protest to the Postmaster General against a proposed post office. In 1818 delegates were chosen for a convention in Hartford "for the purpose of forming a Constitution of Civil Government for Connecticut."

The old charter granted by Charles II was again revised, separating the legislative and executive functions and severing the bond between the Congregational Church and the State. In 1824 provision was made that a man could pay his taxes by working on the roads, at the rate of 75¢ a day for a man. A team was worth \$1.00.

Bethany a separate town — 1832

In 1831 it was voted to repair the Town House but in the following year the vote was rescinded. The town decided to sell the house. That action was a result of Bethany's 30-year struggle to become a town. Bethany had proposed, in 1803 that she become a separate town instead of a parish of Woodbridge, and this time the latter supported her. The Woodbridge Town Journal for April, 1805, reads, "Voted that this town petition the General Assembly at their session in October to divide them into two towns making the division at the parish lines" but it was not until 1832 that Bethany was finally incorporated as a town. Now there was no need for a Town House on the Bethany line. The building was sold and town business and elections were carried on in the basement of the new Meeting-house.

First Meeting House
with Bell Tower added.



1832 The New Meeting House

In 1831 the Meeting-house was nearly a hundred years old, and in February a new building was authorized. The remainder of the year was spent in selling stock, organizing the Proprietors, who were to auction off the pews, and drawing up specifications. In January of 1832, Amos Hine and John J. Perkins signed the contract to build the new Meeting-house for \$2,850, plus the lumber from the old building and the new building was dedicated on New Year's Day in 1833.

Industry in Woodbridge

Industry flourished in Woodbridge. Statistics in 1845 report that 500 dozen iron candlesticks were manufactured here, 500 dozen pocketbook springs, 40 pairs of cartwheels and 60 ploughs, 1500 hogsheds and tierces, 500 gross friction matches, 16,500 bushels of charcoal, and 18 tons of carriage springs.

The friction match

The most famous industry which developed in Woodbridge was the making of friction matches. Thomas Sanford had a formula which he used in making friction matches by hand, but sold it to William A. Clark for the insignificant sum of ten dollars. Thereupon, in 1835, Mr. Clark built a factory on Bladen's Brook near Peck Hill Road and became one of the first men to mechanize the industry. The boxes were made by Woodbridge women in their homes. The business passed to Clark's son and son-in-law, and a half century later was sold to the Diamond Match Company.

Not far from the match factory, on Seymour Road at the foot of Fort Rock, William Coney made cork screws. On Seymour Road at Amity was Thomas' Cabinet and Carriage Shop. In the old Town House itself, Mr. Bradley

built and repaired vehicles and further down Amity, at Bradley Road, was "Turner Bros. Pen and Pocket Cutlery." Very good melodeons were made by Fiske and Randall, possibly on Litchfield Turnpike near Dillon Road. On the east side of the Turnpike, at a spot now under Lake Dawson, there was a fish-reel factory. On the south-west corner of Litchfield and Dillon Roads are the ruins of cement kilns which mark the site of an ill-starred venture. After selling more of its stock to Western purchasers, the company failed because of the poor quality of the product.

Early Farms

The land, however, still provided most of the income. The record shows 13,500 feet of lumber and 305 cords of firewood were prepared in that year, 30 merino sheep produced 90 pounds of wool; 437 other sheep produced 1311 pounds. Ninety-five horses were sold, 773 meat cattle and 388 swine. The town produced 3874 bushels of Indian corn, 1355 tons of hay, 2150 bushels of fruit, 46,200 pounds of butter, a ton of cheese, 100 bushels of wheat, 1644 bushels of rye, 118 bushels of barley, 1619 bushels of oats, 5987 bushels of potatoes and 2593 bushels of "other esculents." At about the same time selling cattle became so profitable that men would go "upstate" or even to New York to buy them, would fatten them in Woodbridge and then drive them into New Haven to sell.

Old Cider Mill
near Bethany Line.



The house at 201 Ansonia Road, presently owned by the George Eatons, is one which can be dated through the description of a wedding. In 1824 Captain James Judson Baldwin, descendant of Richard Baldwin, built the house for his bride, Eliza. But when the wedding day came the house was not ready and the young couple had to start their married life in the family mill on the Wepawaug River. A later Baldwin, Susan, married Henry Peck and through his line the house came down to Doris Peck Eaton. (See picture and map)

The house on the southeast corner of Race Brook and Westward Roads was purchased about 1851, by Marcus Earl Baldwin. The map shows it as "M.E. Baldwin." It now belongs to Mrs. Myra Baldwin Sattig.

Among the houses which have seen the coming and going of six generations of the same family is that built by Elias Clark at 999 Race Brook Road. A big white house on a hilltop, flanked by an even bigger red barn, it seems to exhibit the virtues of sound planning and honest workmanship. It shows forth self respect — and suggests the responsibility which goes with it.

Westward Road.



999 Race Brook Road.

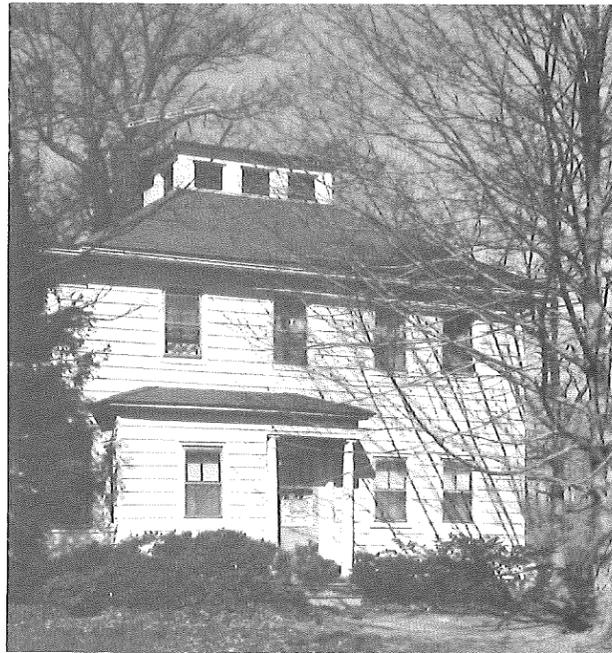


A house much admired by architects is that owned by Mr. and Mrs. Milton Ives at One Perkins Road. Design and details indicate earlier construction, but the first record is that of 1823, which shows the house as the home of Abiel Fairchild and his wife, the former Pene Newton. From the Fairchilds it passed to the Hubbards, and down through them to Cornelia Hubbard Ives.



1 Perkins Road.

On our map the house on Center Road which faces North Pease Road is shown as belonging to "Ed Hine." His ancestor, Joel Hine, was a signer of "the oath of fidelity," and another Hine, Amos, built the cellar of the second Meetinghouse. The house is set on a hill from which one can see Long Island Sound. The date of the building is unknown but the house was probably constructed before 1830. In 1860 Velina Hine married Lewis Hitchcock, and for the last hundred years the house has descended through the Hitchcocks to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. William Hitchcock.



Center Road.

201 Ansonia Road.



Schools

In 1837 the school funds, obtained by the sale of the "western lands" in Litchfield County, and the Western Reserve in Ohio, were again augmented by the sale of land. (This time it was from the sale of land in the middle west). Enormous sums accumulated to the point that (for the first and last time) there was a government surplus. In the last year of Jackson's administration this was divided between the states. Connecticut's share was \$763,661.83. It was voted that the income be applied to the schools, resolving that each town keep and preserve its share of the money as a deposit and in trust for the State. (At each election we still vote for an Agent of the Town Deposit Fund.)

In the *Connecticut Common School Journal*, of 1838, Woodbridge had five school districts. In session for seventeen weeks; they were taught by six male teachers for an average wage of \$14.33 a month, plus board. Until 1880 running expenses were paid by the parents of the children attending school. Since farmers were often short of cash until the crops were sold, payment was usually made in terms of board for the teacher.

The early schools had fireplaces, but by 1838, all the Woodbridge schools had a rectangular stove in the center of the room.

Private Schools

There were private schools too. One was in the ballroom of the Ephraim Baldwin house (the S.J. Peck house on the center map). A two story building was built on the southeast corner of the Green for the Perkins Academy in 1848. It was later moved across Newton Road and abandoned in 1860.



North School
Circa 1910.



South School
Circa 1925.

Red School

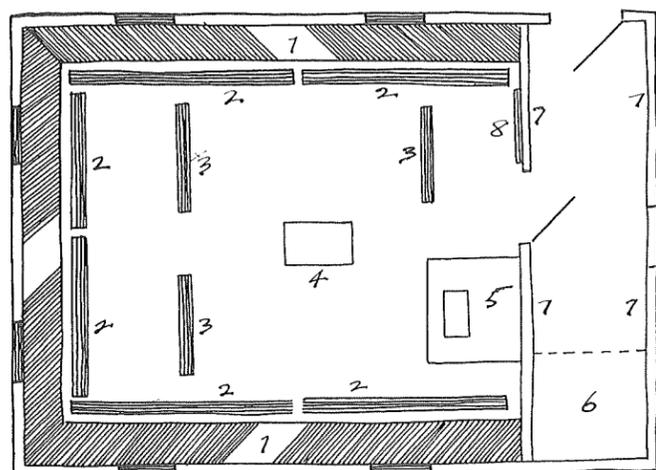
The "Red School," the old middle school on the northwest corner of Amity and Center Roads was later moved across Amity and is now a private home on Cedar Road. (see illustration) All the schools shown on our map are still standing although four have been changed to homes.



Cedar Road.

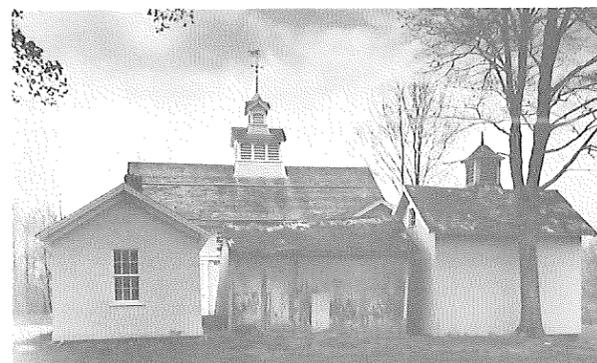
*The Red School House.
Middle District, Woodbridge,
Conn.*

- 1- Pine wood boards built along two sides and one end of the room, about 18 inches wide and about 30 inches above the floor, for desks.
- 2- Pine wood benches without backs. On ^{these} the scholars sat during study periods facing the wall, turning around on them facing the room during recitations.
- 3- Low benches, about 8 inches high for the little children. These benches had backs.
- 4- Cast iron stove for burning wood, about 2 feet long.
- 5- Teacher's platform on which were a desk and chair.
- 6- Space in the entryway for storing the fire wood.
- 7- Hooks along the sides of the entry for hanging coats and hats.
- 8- Blackboard.



Eight houses deserve special mention because each has been lived in by one family for over one hundred years. It is almost impossible to date these houses accurately. Since building records were not required, it is only through the location of a deed, mention in a letter, or oral recollection, that the dates can be determined.

The house which Lazarus Clark had built on Peck Hill (203) in 1795, became the Wallace house in the mid-nineteenth century when Thomas Wallace married Helen Clark. Verandahs and dormers were added, and a big stable with eight stalls was crowned with a double cupola surmounted with a horse weathervane. It was known as "Rose Ridge." Only the interior remains as it was originally built by Lazarus Clark. The house is now occupied by Thomas Wallace IV.



203 Peck Hill Road.

Litchfield Turnpike.

Newton Road.

On Litchfield Turnpike, a house built in 1795, is that rarest of finds, a house which supplies its own date. On the fan light over the front door the following is cut, "Edward Butler, Glazier, John Butler, Carpenter, 8th St. near Race St., Philadelphia." The house was owned by Thomas Clinton and it was his until 1850, when it was bought by Benjamin Bishop from whom it passed down the family to the present owner, Joseph Bishop.

The Stuart Peck house on the east side of Newton Road is a substantial two-story house in traditional style, and was built by Camp Newton. In 1854 the house was bought by Silas J. Peck, at that time living with his father-in-law Ephraim Baldwin on "Cabbage Hill" (Ansonia Road, see map). Silas bought it for his son, Phineas Peck, who was about to marry; this house would take the place of the new home it was customary to build for a son's wedding.



Old Families

In American terms, the history of Woodbridge is long. It is interesting to see how many of the first families who came here have continued to reside in the town.

Among these families are the Baldwins, descendants of Richard Baldwin, who was on the committee that purchased land for the colony from the Paugasset, Chief Owtanamoe, in 1659. His youngest son Barnabas moved from Milford to Hogs Meadow. The family has supplied the public with Clarence Baldwin, three term Representative, one term as Senator, and twice clerk; with Governor Simeon Baldwin; and with Raymond Baldwin, Governor, United States Senator and Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court.

The Beechers owned much land along the road to which they gave their name, and on that road, near Rimmon, an old family house still stands. We read of David Beecher, and Ephraim, and Joseph but the family member of most significance to Woodbridge was Ebenezer who gave three acres of land for the first Meetinghouse.

There are two separate Clark families. Ensign George Clark, who came from Milford in 1725, settled in the northwest corner of Woodbridge and, before he died in 1734, purchased a large part of Milford Meadows. His descendants include Lazarus, who built a house on Peck Hill and was the father of the William Clark who managed the match factory, and of Treat Clark, who served four terms in the General Assembly.

The second Clark family also came from Milford. Luke Clark built a house on the Orange-Woodbridge line and Elias was born there. When this house burned in 1844, Elias built a new home on Race Brook Road which was to become the Clark homestead. Born in it were four boys who were to spend their lives in public service. The oldest, Lyle, went into the U.S. Forestry Service; Samuel became Assistant Attorney-General of the United States; Charles Edward became Judge of the United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit; and Theodore was our First Selectman for twenty-eight years.

There are also two distinct families of Pecks. Henry Peck, said to have come to New Haven with Eaton and Davenport, is the ancestor of the Ebenezer Peck who in 1738, was chosen Clerk at the organization of the Ecclesiastical Society, and was a frequent spokesman for Amity Parish in the General Assembly. Joseph Peck came from Milford. His great-great-grandson, Phineas, as a soldier in the War of the Revolution, was captured and imprisoned in New York in the notorious "sugar house" where he was so starved that, when released, he had to be brought home in a hand litter. He died soon after.

During the last half of the century a school tax was imposed (four cents on the dollar of the grand list) and a committee was appointed for the examination and certification of teachers. Readers were standardized and the school term was extended to thirty-four weeks. (The town assumed control of schools and school property.)

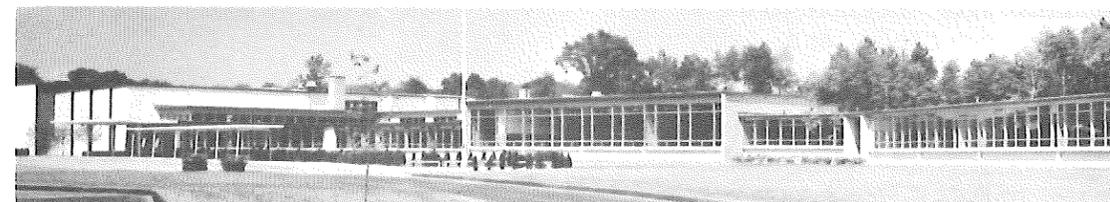
In 1905 Woodbridge began to send children to New Haven for high school education. Their preparation proved so inadequate they were forced to repeat the eighth grade in the city schools. The problem of transporting increasing numbers of students to New Haven caused the towns of Woodbridge, Orange and Bethany to propose a regional high school in 1952. A committee of representatives from the three towns was formed, and land was purchased on Newton Road, a central point, on which to build a high school for 750 students. The school opened in 1954, and before the year was out, construction was begun on a wing for a junior high school. In 1959 the regional system built a junior high school in Orange and in 1963 a second junior high school was constructed in Bethany. Students from Orange attend junior high school in their own town, those from Woodbridge and Bethany attend the school in

Bethany. The High-School in Woodbridge, which since 1963 has housed 10th, 11th and 12th graders from the three towns, was expanded in 1967 and additional athletic facilities were added in 1970. In 1975-76, there were 507 junior high school students from Woodbridge school in Bethany and 457 Woodbridge students at the senior high school.

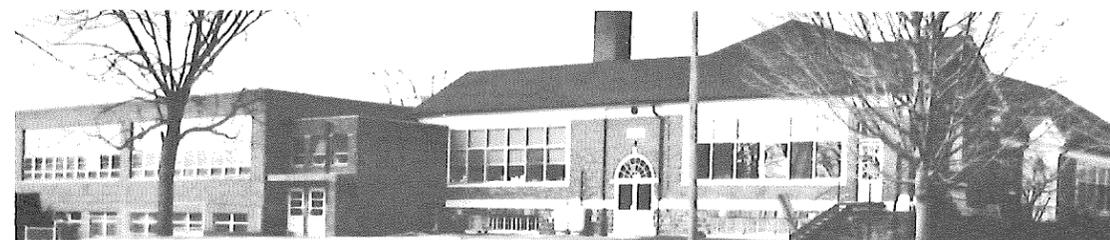
Meanwhile, Woodbridge residents were concerned with the education of their elementary school children. In 1929 use of the district school buildings was abandoned except for the Warner School on Lucy Street. Students from the other district schools were moved to Center School. The present structure, which was built in 1929, was expanded in 1949 and in 1956, when the Warner School was closed. In 1960 Beecher School was built. Townspeople decided against a district system and the first, second and third graders continued at Center School. With a growing school population, Woodbridge constructed a new school at the Beecher site in 1971, naming it Beecher South and renaming the original school Beecher North. Now children in grades K-2 are educated at Center School, those in grades 3 and 4 at Beecher South and those in grades 5 and 6 at Beecher North.



Milfordside Burying Grounds.



Amity Senior High School.



Center School.



Beecher South.



Beecher North.

Population

During the nineteenth century, the population of Woodbridge declined steadily. In 1790 when the first census was taken, Woodbridge, including Bethany, had a population of 2,124, of whom 15 were Negro or Indian slaves. In 1830 it was down to 2,052, and in 1840, the first census after the division of the parish it was 958. This decline was to continue for the next fifty years, primarily as a result of the western movement. In the thirties and forties canals were reaching out from the Hudson to the Ohio tributaries, and young men heard the lure of "western waters." Tales of the deep earth of the west came back to the stone crop hills of Woodbridge. The Mexican War, California gold, the Civil War, and free land under the Homestead Act, all nibbled away at the Woodbridge population until in 1880 it sank to a low of 829.

Transportation difficulties and a shortage of water further discouraged population growth. The New Haven "horse railroad" was in use in the sixties, but came out no farther than Westville. When electric trolleys supplanted horse cars in the nineties, they had a profound effect on the direction of New Haven's expansion. The Hamden plains were invitingly level for laying track, while the Woodbridge hills were uncompromisingly forbidding. Between 1860 and 1900, Hamden's population nearly doubled while that of Woodbridge sank from 872 to 852. The

figures stayed in the 800's until 1920 when they jumped to 1,170, a reflection of the increasing use of automobiles and of improved roads. In 1955 the enumeration showed a population of 4,044 and in the next twenty years population doubled.

First Church

During the last year of the Civil War the Reverend Sylvanus Marvin came to Woodbridge. Mrs. Finney recalled, "When the Rev. Sylvanus Marvin was settled in 1865, he found a beautiful church building situated in a rocky, treeless pasture lot. Here wandering cows and horses kept the grass down and geese hissed and cackled at Sunday intruders....frightening little girls...(during) the first year of Mr. Marvin's pastorate the Green was enclosed with a fence and 90 evergreen trees were set out." In 1820, after considerable argument, the Green had been cleared of Sabbath Day Houses because they were falling into disrepair and housed vagrants. (It is amusing to read that a hundred years later committees were struggling with a similar problem, that of removing the old horse sheds north of the church.) (See map)

First Church of Christ.



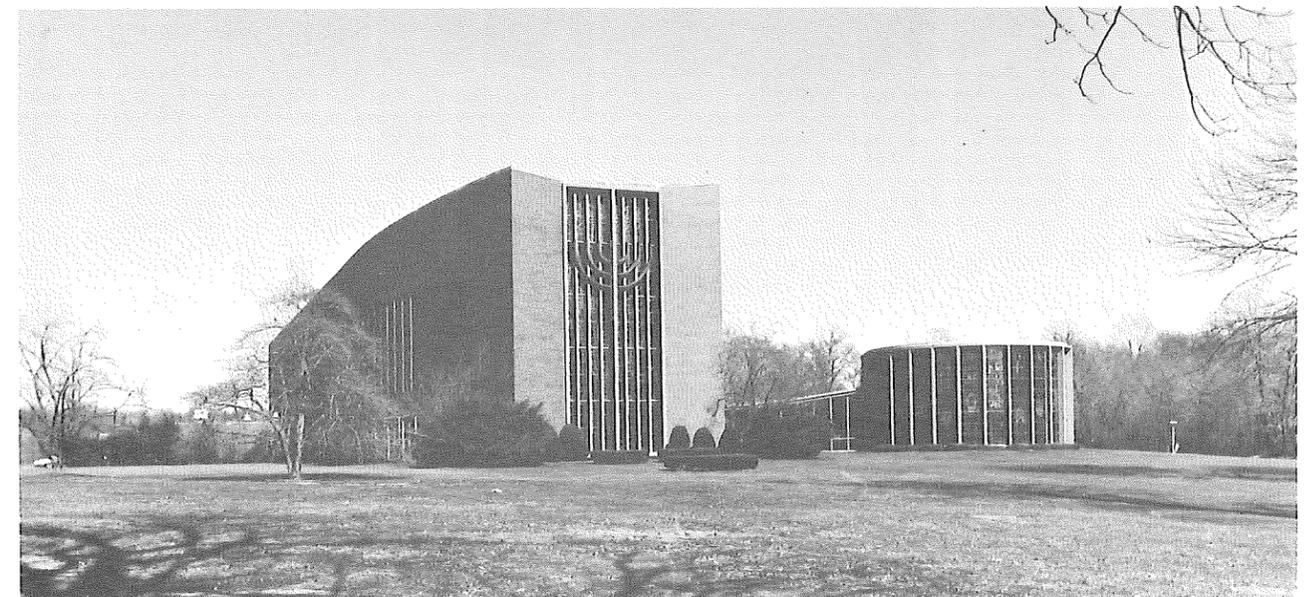
Congregation B'nai Jacob

The founders of B'nai Jacob were part of that wave of immigrants who fled the pogroms in Russia following the assassination of Czar Alexander II in 1881, and who sought refuge in America.

In the Constitution of B'nai Jacob, these immigrants drew up their own laws, setting forth, for example, that "this congregation shall worship according to the Polish-Jewish Ritual." It outlined the obligation of the members to provide proper interment (this was always a primary concern), to hold regular meetings and to make decisions by majority vote. The stated purpose of the organization was forthright—"the advancement of the interests of the Jewish people," and further, this object was to be "carried out in peace and dignity" so that "good work may be done for the welfare of each individual, the success of the congregation and the benefit of mankind."

In 1912 a synagogue was built on George Street in New Haven. With fewer than a hundred families in the congregation they dared to build seating for 750 people. After 1950 so large had the congregation grown that not all of the members could be seated at the same time. But, it was Urban Redevelopment which finally forced the congregation to move. A site was chosen on Rimmon Road in Woodbridge, and the building was dedicated in June, 1961.

Congregation B'nai Jacob.



The new building, contains not only a vast sanctuary, but a beautiful adjoining chapel for morning and evening prayers, 24 classrooms and a Judaica library. Under the leadership of Rabbi Arthur A. Chiel, B'nai Jacob is in the forefront of religious institutions.

Church of the Assumption

At the turn of the century market gardeners looked on the fertile land in West River valley, bought it, and each spring carpeted it with yellow and purple pansies and green vegetables. Mostly Catholics of Italian descent, on Sundays, they went to St. Aedan's Church in New Haven, to St. Ann's in Hamden or to St. Anthony's in Prospect.

Since few had cars they found, like the members of the Amity Parish before them, that the Sunday trips were exhausting and they longed for a church of their own.

Pasquale and Annina Perrotti owned land on Litchfield Turnpike and gladly gave it for a church. Frank Rubino was placed in charge of construction, and the firm which is now Clarke-Barone, donated sand and stone and cement for the footings. The members, after a long day in the hot sun, worked in the evening to build their church. In November, of 1924 the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption was topped by a bell and dedicated as a mission church under the administration of St. Ann's in Hamden.

As the Woodbridge population increased, the Church of the Assumption outgrew its role as a mission church. Religious education classes were held at the Town Hall, at Warner School and at the First Church of Christ. The need for a new church was met in 1959, when Mrs. David E. Fitzgerald (in memory of her husband the former Mayor of New Haven)

gave twenty-one acres on Center Road for a new structure. Mr. Charles Costello provided the financial help for the building.

The parish membership was increased by the addition of Bethany, and in 1962, just before Christmas, Archbishop O'Brien dedicated the cornerstone. Today, Father Horgan, assisted by Father Mitchell, serves the parish of Bethany and Woodbridge.



Original Mission Church.

Church of the Assumption.



For the next forty years Mr. Marvin ministered to his small flock with kindly benevolence. His pay was minimal, but he preached with quiet sincerity and the records testify to a warm community life in suppers, fairs, Sunday School activities, and home talent dramatics, which centered on the village green.

Hard Days for the Church

Financially, however, they were not easy years. Had it not been for the bequest of Stephen Sanford the church might have foundered. The Bank Fund, established with the 900 pounds of the bequest, was loaned on mortgages for many years and the income returned to the Society. As late as 1916 interest provided almost seven hundred dollars toward a total budget of thirteen hundred. Church membership dwindled. In 1838 it was 206, in 1874 it fell to 177, and in the dark days of 1916 was only 117. This was due in part to the fact that Bethany was the larger and more prosperous of the two towns when it formed its own Parish, and in part to the declining population of Woodbridge.

The First Church as a community Church

In 1952 following the arrival of the Reverend George Milne, membership rose to 1000, an addition was built on to the parish house, and the Church began to reach out beyond its own members and has become a meeting place and a center of service for many community programs.

Trinity Evangelical Church

The Trinity Evangelical Free Church, on Center Road, is the most recently constructed house of worship in Woodbridge. It was dedicated in 1972. The sanctuary, with a seating capacity of 400, gives an effect of warmth and spaciousness. Wooden arches which support the ceiling draw one's eyes toward the communion table, the pulpit and the rough hewn wooden cross which hangs above. Flanking the pulpit in the chancel is room for a forty voice choir.

The west wing houses the Nursery, Beginners, Primary, and Junior Departments together with the church office and the Pastor's study. The east wing houses the library-conference room, a small classroom, and the entrance to the stairway leading to the lower level.

The lower level includes the youth fellowship room which is shared with the Women's Missionary Society. This room has a large fire-place at one end and a storage wall at the other. The fellowship hall, with a large seating capacity for a meal, is also equipped to serve as a gymnasium with basketball, volleyball, and shuffleboard facilities. Adjacent to the fellowship hall is a large, fully-equipped kitchen.

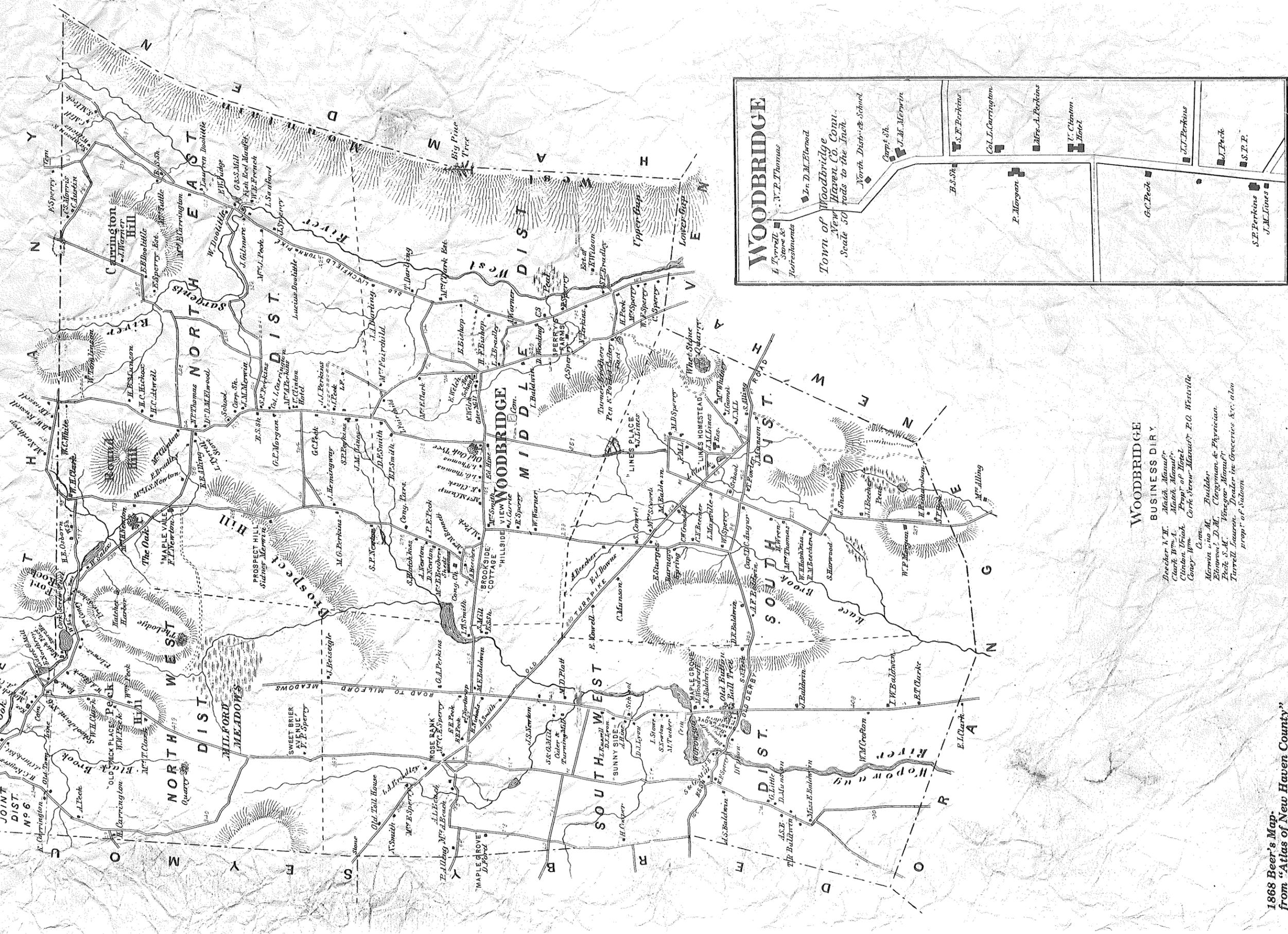
Under the guidance of the Reverend Highland Goodman, Pastor, and Ronald Rosenau, Associate Pastor the church continues to grow in membership and dedication.

Trinity Evangelical Church.



TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile



WOODBRIDGE
 J. Tyrrell, Store & Restaurents
 N.P. Thomas
 Jn. D.M. Elwood
 Town of Woodbridge Com. New Haven Co. Com. Scale 50 fods to the Inch.
 North Distric School
 Carp. Sh. J.M. Merrin
 S.F. Perkins
 Col. L. Carrington
 Mrs. A. Perkins
 U. Clinton Hotel
 J.T. Perkins
 S.P.P.
 P. Morgan
 G.C. Peck
 S.P. Perkins
 J.M. Jones

WOODBRIDGE BUSINESS DIRECTORY
 Drecker, N.E. Mach. Manuf.
 Clark, Wm. I. Mach. Manuf.
 Clinton, Uriah, Prop. of Hotel
 Conroy, Wm. Cork, Beer, Manuf.
 F.O. Westville, Conn.
 Marwin, Wm. M. Builder
 Ebanow, D.M. Clergyman & Physician.
 Peck, S.M. Vinegar Manuf.
 Turrell, Laaren, Dealer in Groceries &c. also prop. of Saloon