

STAMFORD YEARS STRONG 375 1641-2016

Many thanks to the Stamford 375 Steering Committee for ideas and hard work which made the 375-year celebration of Stamford, CT so enlightening.

Stamford 375 Steering Committee

Lynne Colatrella
Stamford Downtown

Pam Coleman
Stamford Historical Society

Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni
The Basilica of Saint John

Annette Einhorn
Stamford Downtown

Sandy Goldstein
Stamford Downtown

Pam Hirschfeld
Citizen

Elena Kalman
Architect

David Klein
Consultant

Alice Knapp
Ferguson Library

Martin Levine
Mayoral Designee

Jackie Lightfield
Stamford Partnership

Ron Marcus
Stamford Historical Society

Rise Mattler
Citizen

Judy Norinsky
Historical Neighborhood Preservation

Kirsten J. Reinhardt
Stamford Museum & Nature Center

Jami Sherwood
Simply Signs

Jill Smyth
Historical Neighborhood Preservation

Robin Stein
Mayoral Designee

Robin Wexler
Stamford Museum & Nature Center



The timelines and this 375 Commemorative book were designed by Vincent Murace, VC Graphics, the event logo was designed by Mike Lombardo, Creative Insight and the brochure and ads were designed by Bob Callahan, Callahan Design. These projects were funded by the City of Stamford.

Thank you to Purdue Pharma for printing the calendar of events brochure.

Many thanks to Louisa Green and the Avon Theatre Film Center for airing the movie "Boomerang," filmed in Stamford.

Researchers and writers for the 375-anniversary effort include:

Stamford Historical Society: Dr. Thomas Zoubeck, Ronald Marcus, Vincent Murace, Kathy Ciuci, Jennifer Hawthorne; *Ferguson Library:* Elizabeth Joseph; *Writers:* Pam Hirschfeld and Beth Levine.



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe, but it was almost two years ago that planning began for Stamford's year-long 375th Anniversary Celebration. And what a celebratory year 2016 was!

From the Stamford Museum & Nature Center's events highlighting colonial era life and Connecticut's 5th Regiment, to the Scavenger Hunt at Mill River Park, to the Ferguson Library's *Stamford Throughout the Years* exhibit, to the 375th Anniversary float which graced the Parade Spectacular – we learned and lived our City last year.

And, there was much, much more. The historic Hoyt Barnum House was physically moved and relocated from the Downtown to the Stamford Historical Society so that future generations can fully enjoy this treasure. There were fireworks celebrating 375 years at the HarborFest-Soundwaters Festival. There was an interfaith walk, tours of the Old Post Office, and live historical performances at Fort Stamford. There was something for everyone to enjoy. Even the Girl Scouts held a 375th birthday at Cove Island Park.

None of this would have been possible without the tireless work of some of today's most passionate Stamford promoters: Sandy Goldstein chaired the Commemorative Committee and was joined by an incredible team which included Alice Knapp, Pam Coleman, Martin Levine, Ron Marcus, Kirsten Reinhardt, Lynne Colatrella, Annette Einhorn, Pam Hirschfeld, Rise Mattler, Jackie Lightfield, Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni, Judy Norinsky, Jami Sherwood, Robin Wexler, Jill Smyth, Lou Ursone, Robin Stein, Elena Kalman and David Klein.

And this is just a short listing of some of our contemporaries who make Stamford the greatest small City in New England. They are filling the big shoes of many who came before them: from sculptor Gutzon Borglum to celebrities Michael Dante, Gilda Radner and Gene Wilder; luminaries of literature and journalism like William F. Buckley, Jr. and J.D. Salinger; baseball legend Jackie Robinson; musicians like Benny Goodman and Willy DeVille; along with those who worked to build what we have today: Mayor Homer Stille Cummings and Governor William T. Minor.

As we say goodbye to 2016 and our 375th anniversary, I wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2017 in Stamford, our "City of Many and Home to All."

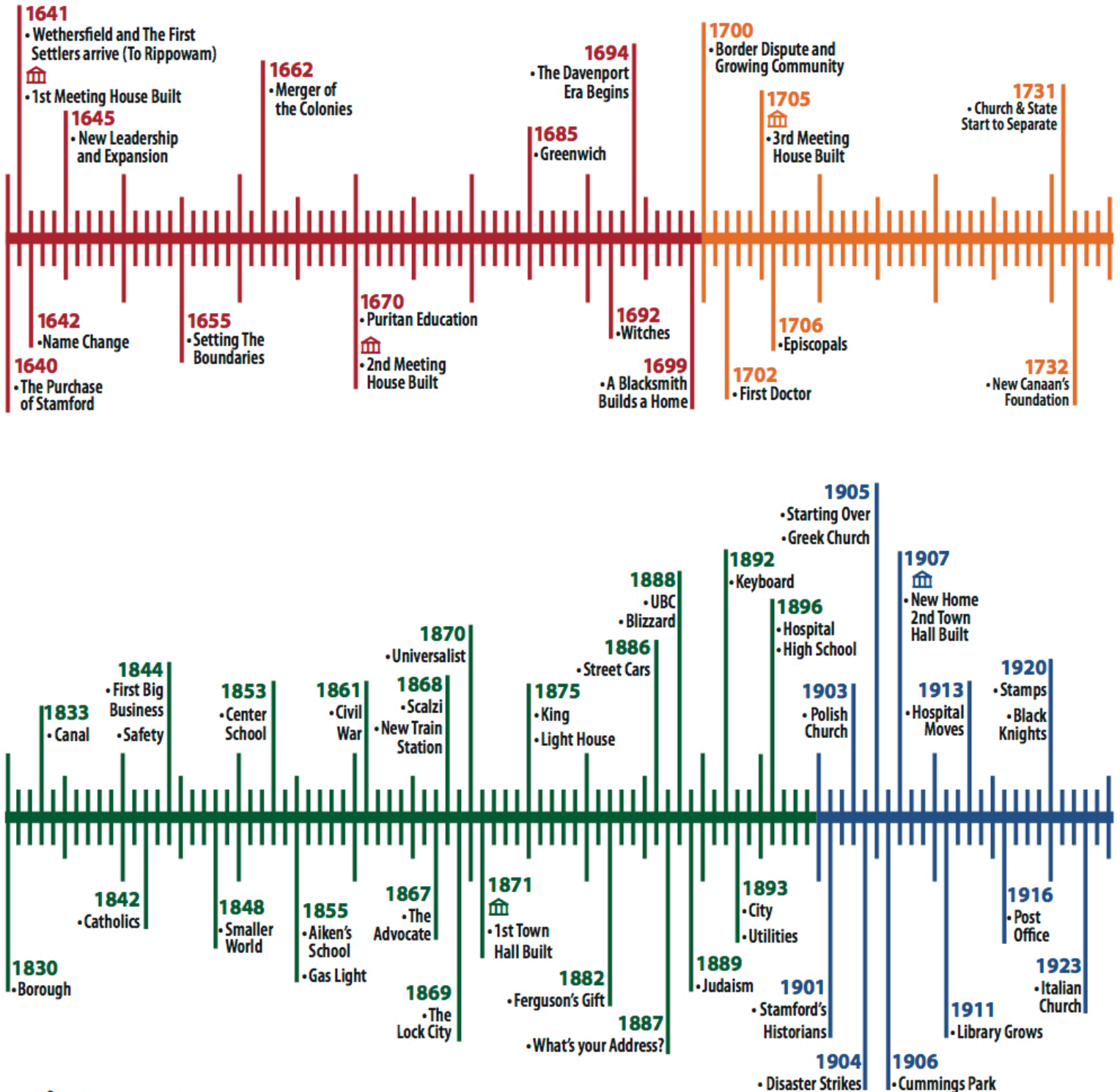
Sincerely,

Mayor David R. Martin

STAMFORD YEARS STRONG

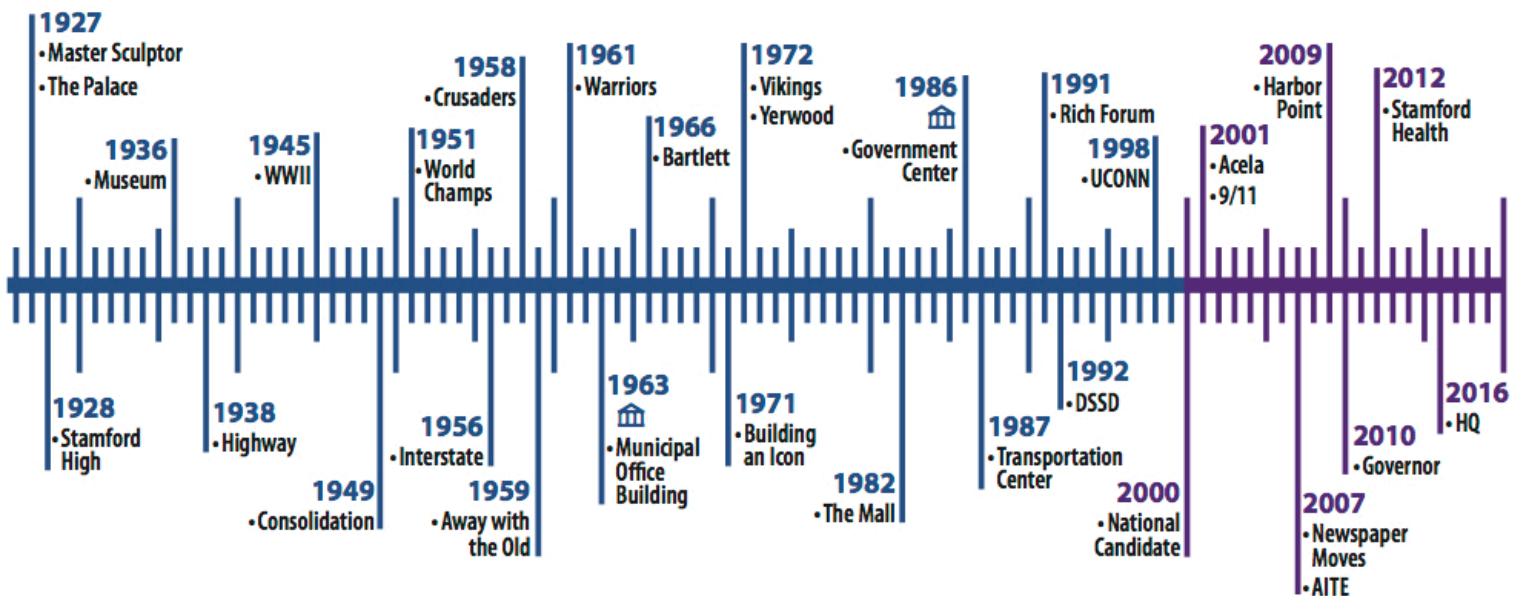
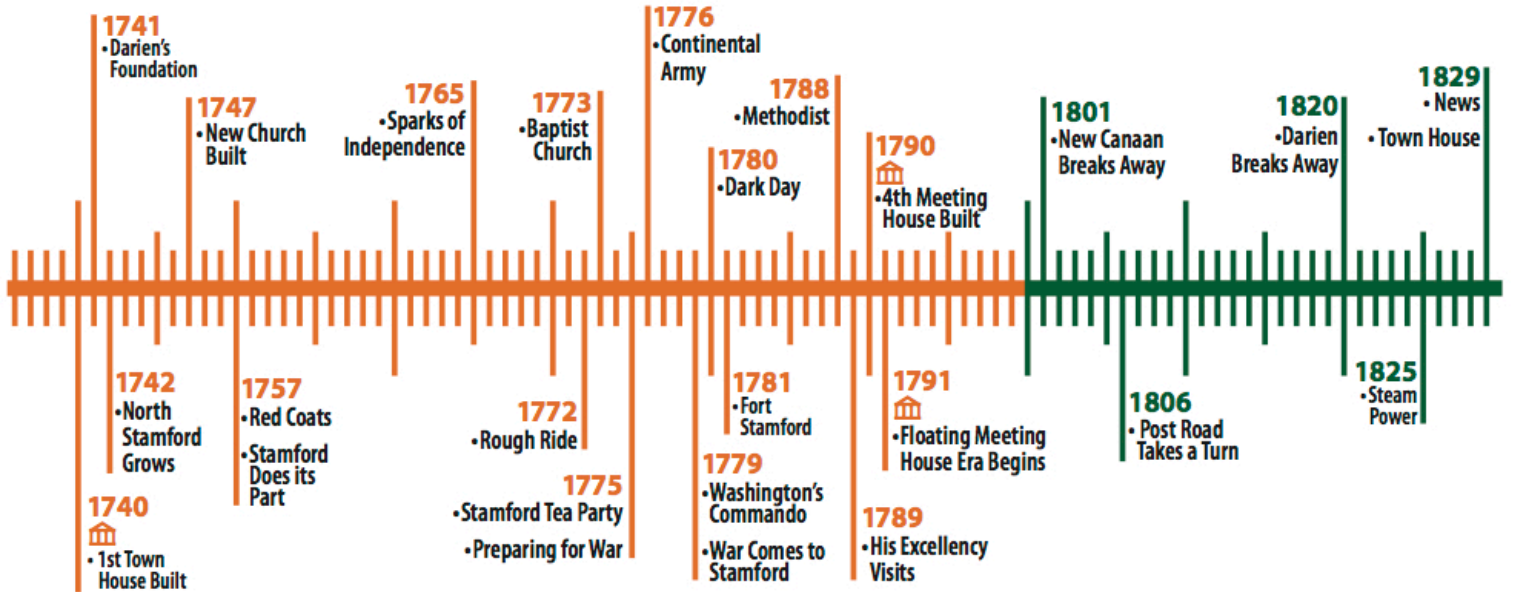
375

1641-2016



=Government Center Timeline

STAMFORD THROUGH THE YEARS TIMELINE





STAMFORD THROUGH THE YEARS TIMELINE

- On Display At The Ferguson Library -

Welcome to 375 years of local history! Created in honor of the anniversary of our founding, the following timeline includes 375 years of events in government and politics, art and culture, religion, education, commerce, and immigration. Trace the development of Stamford as you walk through the 2nd and 3rd floor of the library and view huge graphic illustrations of Stamford's 375 years of history. Clearly, Stamford has been innovating since 1641. These images spark your curiosity to learn more.

"Stamford Through The Years Timeline" was a labor of love. Thank you Mayor David Martin, Stamford Historical Society, Stamford Downtown, the City of Stamford, Vincent Murace and the 375 Committee for their efforts in putting this timeline together.

1640

The Purchase of Stamford

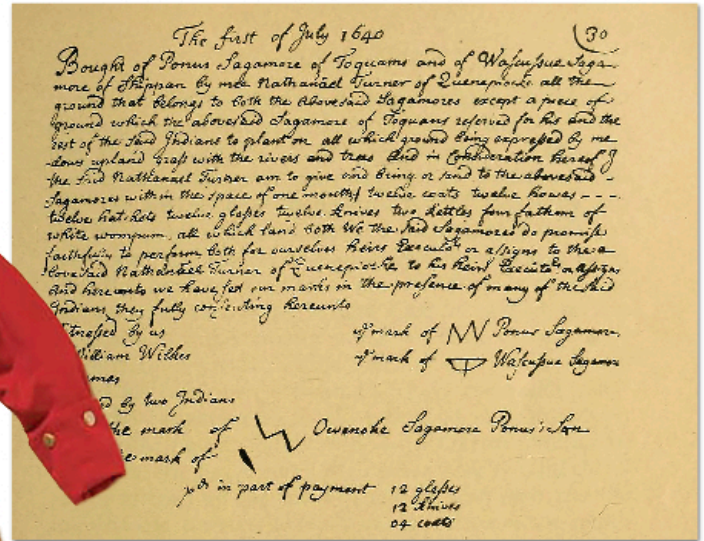
On the first of July, 1640, Captain Turner signs a parchment on behalf of the New Haven Colony that is considered the deed to Stamford. Signing for the native inhabitants is Chief Ponus.

In return for a tract of land that extends from the Mianus River on the west to Bedford and Pound Ridge on the North, and Five Mile River on the East and Long Island Sound on the South the natives receive:

- 12 - Coats
- 12 - Hoes
- 12 - Hatchets
- 12 - Knives
- 12 - Mirrors
- 4 - Kettles
- 4 - Fathoms of White Wampum (Fathom = 6 feet)



Examples of goods that Captain Turner used to purchase Stamford (Image by Vincent Murace)



Original Purchase of Stamford July 1, 1640

1641

Wethersfield and The First Settlers arrive (To Rippowam)

While New Haven now owns the land called Rippowam, there is no one to settle the area until a fortuitous schism in the Connecticut Colony town of Wethersfield. The leader of the New Haven colony, John Davenport, tries to help resolve the problem. He determines that the only solution is the relocation of 29 men and their families to the newly acquired land in the south called Rippowam.

Settlers led by Rev. Richard Denton arrive to their new home, Rippowam, and settle along an established Indian trail (today's Atlantic St. and Main St.) The first two structures they build are the town's meeting house and a grist mill - built by Samuel Swane on the Mill River. The 28 settlers also elect the first town government. Selectmen and representatives to the General Council in New Haven are chosen.

December 1641, there are now 42 landholders in Stamford and a total population of some 250 people. Most houses are clustered around the meeting house located at the current intersection of Main and Atlantic St.

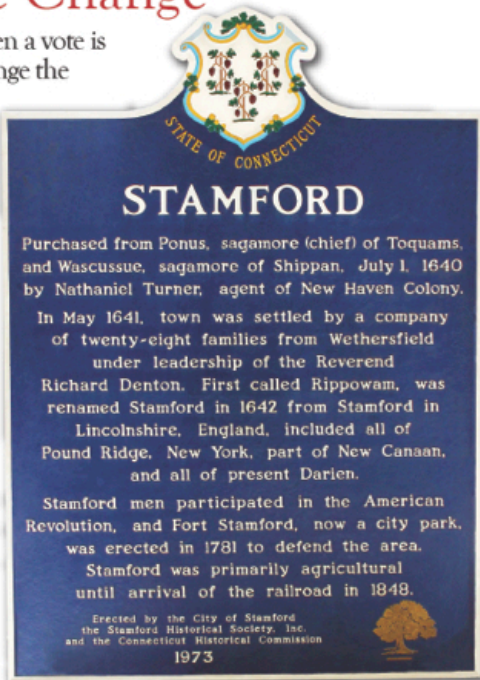


Mural by Stanley J. Rowland: "Settlers observe the Sabbath"

1642

Name Change

In New Haven a vote is taken to change the name of the colony from Rippowam to Stamford.



1655

Setting The Boundaries

The original deed for Stamford is renewed by Ponus and Onax (Owenoke). The Indians receive four more coats for the land.



Mural by: Stanley J. Rowland: "Setting the boundaries"

1645

New Leadership and Expansion

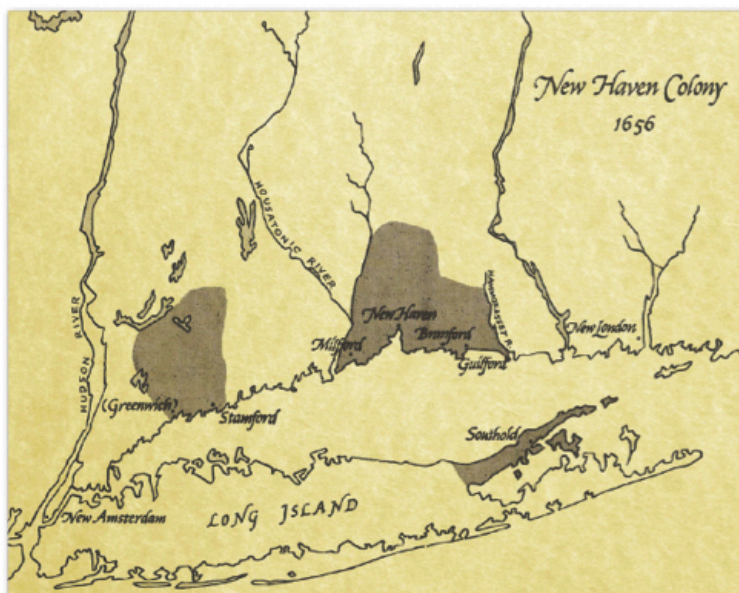
After the departure of Rev. Richard Denton, Rev. John Bishop takes over the reins of the Congregational Church and leads it until 1695.

Piamikin, Sachem of Rowayton, sells the land between the Goodwives and Five Mile Rivers to Stamford settlers for four coats and some tobacco.

1662

Merger of the Colonies

Stamford is accepted as part of the Colony of Connecticut.



Map of the New Haven Colony by John O.C. McCrillis.




Seal of the Connecticut Colony Seal Recreation by Vincent Murace

1670-71

Puritan Education

In 1670 the town hires a Mr. Bellamy as the first schoolmaster. He is given a home and one acre of land. The following year the first school house is built.

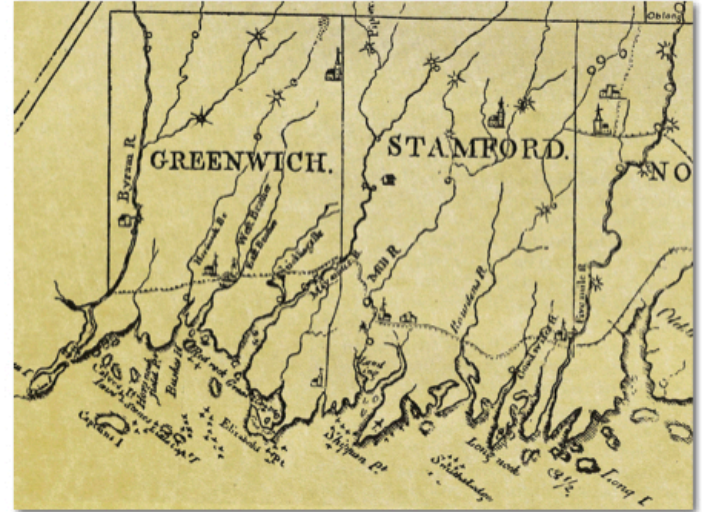
After 30 years of serving the spiritual needs of Stamford, the original meetinghouse is to be replaced and the town votes to build a new meetinghouse, 38 feet square.

NEW-ENGLAND PRIMER.		NEW-ENGLAND PRIMER.	
	Time cuts down all, Both great and small.		In Adam's fall, We sinned all.
	Uriah's beauteous wife Made David seek his life.		Heaven to find, The Bible mind.
	Whales in the sea, God's voice obey.		The Cat doth play, And after slay.
	Xerxes the great did die, And so must you and I.		The Dog will bite A thief at night.
	Youth forward slips— Death soonest nips.		An Eagle's flight— Is out of sight.
	Zac-che-us, he Did climb the tree, Our Lord to see.		The idle Fool Is whipt at school.

1685

Greenwich

Greenwich separates from Stamford.



1692

Witches

Elizabeth Clauson is found innocent of witchcraft by a Fairfield jury.



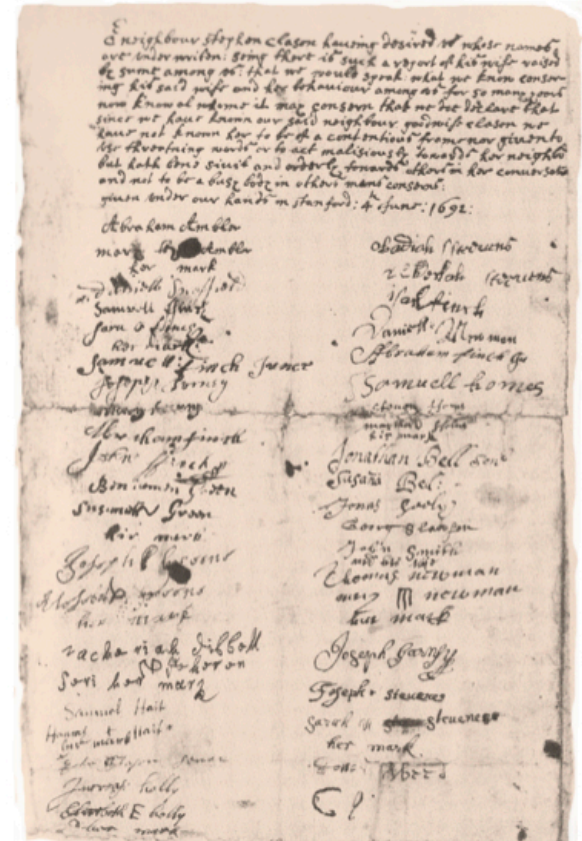
Woodcut Illustration
"Witches Apprehended" London, 1613



Old Newfield School, built 1730



Stamford's 2nd Meeting House, by Vincent Murace

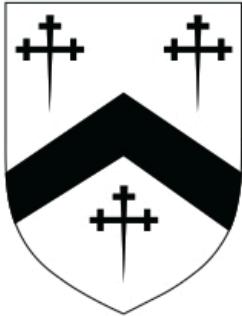


Petition in support of Elizabeth Clauson On trial for witchcraft 1692

1694

The Davenport Era Begins

After 50 years of service to the Stamford Community, Stamford's 2nd Minister, John Bishop, is no longer able to perform his role as spiritual leader. His replacement, Rev. John Davenport, grandson of the founder of the New Haven Colony, takes the helm of the Congregational Church.



Davenport Family Crest

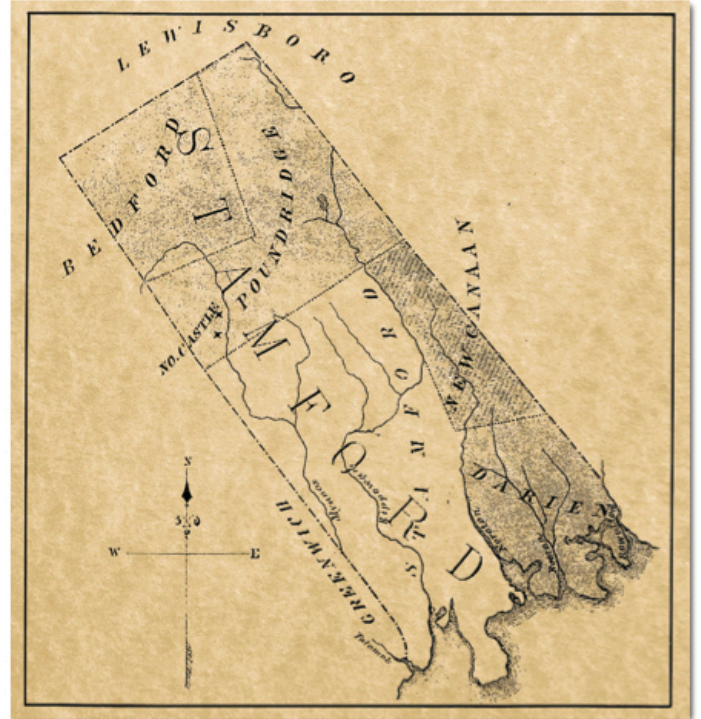


Davenport Chair:
Stamford Historical Society
Collection, Photo by
Vincent Murace

1700

Border Dispute and Growing Community

To settle a boundary dispute, Connecticut cedes the Bedford area to New York State. Stamford's population rises to 585 people and there are five schools.



1699

A Blacksmith Builds a Home

In 1699 Samuel Hoyt (Hait) builds his home. Mr. Hoyt is a blacksmith and has a small family farm along what is now known as Bedford Street. His home, 317 years later, is now Stamford's oldest house.



Sketch by Bailey - 1951

1702

First Doctor

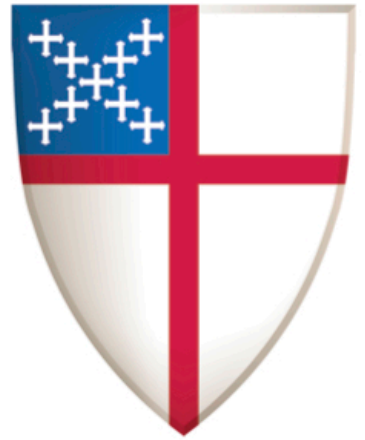
At a town meeting, land is granted to entice Doctor Jacob Moen to settle in Stamford.



1706

Episcopals

The first Episcopal Church services in Stamford are held. Before, only the Puritan Congregational Church existed.



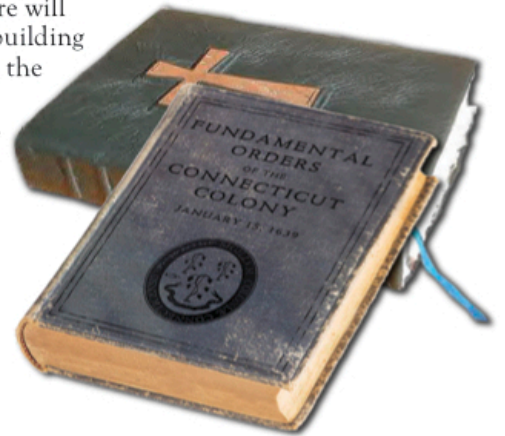
1731

Church & State Start to Separate

First Congregational Church holds meetings separate from the town. Different bodies come to govern church and town, though the church still controls public schools.

By 1740 the town authorizes construction of a town house, to be built behind the third meeting house.

This structure will be the first building dedicated to the Civil needs of Stamford.



1705

Third Meeting House

The Third meeting house of the Congregational Church is built on Atlantic Square.



Image from 1823 Map by Solomon Clason, County Surveyor



First Town House, by Vincent Murace

1731-32

New Canaan's Foundation

The CT General Assembly grants that a part of Stamford and a part of Norwalk will combine to form a new territorial ecclesiastical society called the Canaan Society (New Canaan). Within a year the New Canaan Parish is established.



New Canaan Center by John Warner Barber



Middlesex Parish Meetinghouse by John Warner Barber, 1837 (built 1744)

1741

Darien's Foundation

Middlesex Parish is established as the Church of Christ. (Later, First Congregational Church of Darien)

1742

North Stamford Grows

Residents of North Stamford request that they be allowed to set up a separate parish from the First Congregational Church. They build the North Stamford Congregational Church.



North Stamford Congregational Church

1747

New Church Built

St. John's Episcopal Church opens for services (the cornerstone had been laid in 1743).



Watercolor of the first St John's Episcopal Church

1757

Red Coats

During the French & Indian War, 250 British soldiers go into their winter quarters at Stamford and stay for five months.



Replica, British 18th Century Officer Coat
Centennial Jacket, 1876

*Master Roll of Captain David Waterbury's Company
the 10th Continental Regt. Commanded by &c. David H. Esq.*

Name	Rank	Location	Name	Rank	Location
James Smith	on Comm.	...	John Smith	on Comm.	...
David Smith	on Comm.
...

Muster role of Captain David Waterbury's Company, 1758
Waterbury Family Papers, Yale University Library: MS 537

Stamford Does its Part

Capt. David Waterbury's Stamford company of about 100 men takes part in the assault of Fort Ticonderoga during the French & Indian War.



The Bishop Powder Horn, 1758

1765

Sparks of Independence

Dr. Noah Welles, Minister of the First Congregational Church, preaches zealously against the Stamp Act.

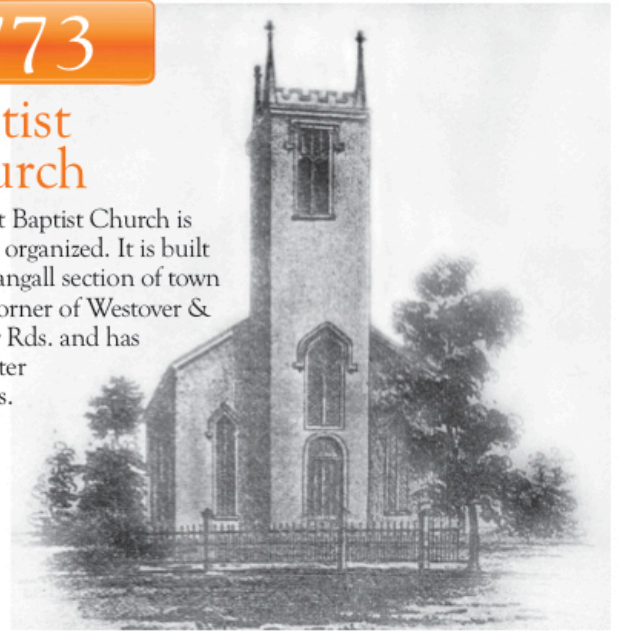
This is the Place to affix the STAMP.



1773

Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church is formerly organized. It is built in the Bangall section of town on the corner of Westover & Roxbury Rds. and has 211 charter members.



2nd Stamford Baptist Church, River Street, 1860

1772

Rough Ride

NEW LINE OF STAGES.



THE subscriber respectfully informs his friends and the public, that he has established A LINE OF STAGES to run regularly to and from this village to meet the Steam-Boat

CITIZEN,

at Sawpit, from New York; leaving Sawpit immediately; on the arrival of the Steam-boat; returning, leaves the Stage House and the store of Hoyt & Knapp, in the village, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

For seats apply to either of the above places, or to the driver (Jacob Read, who formerly drove for Mr. Peck) or to the subscriber, in Stamford; also, in Coscob, to Mr. Benjamin Page, or Mr. Robins; in Horseneck, to Mr. Weed. Passengers conveyed to their places of residence.

EZRA KNAPP.

Stamford, June 22.

A stagecoach running from New York to Boston via the Post Road makes its inaugural run. The trip takes 6 days; 9 in winter.

Stamford Intelligencer Newspaper Advertisement, 1830

1775

Stamford Tea Party

Stamford holds its own Tea Party: a crowd burns tea owned by merchant Silvanus Whitney.



Water Color Painting of the "Stamford Tea Party" by Lucy Walmsley (1944)



Stage Coach traveling on Old Post Road

1775

Preparing for War

Stamford appoints a Committee of Safety to help the Revolutionary War effort and to insure that the town can defend itself against the British.



Gunpowder Barrel

1776

Continental Army

General Charles Lee passes through Stamford with 1200 Continental troops.



General Charles Lee

Replica, American Continental Army 18th Century Officer Coat Centennial Jacket 1876

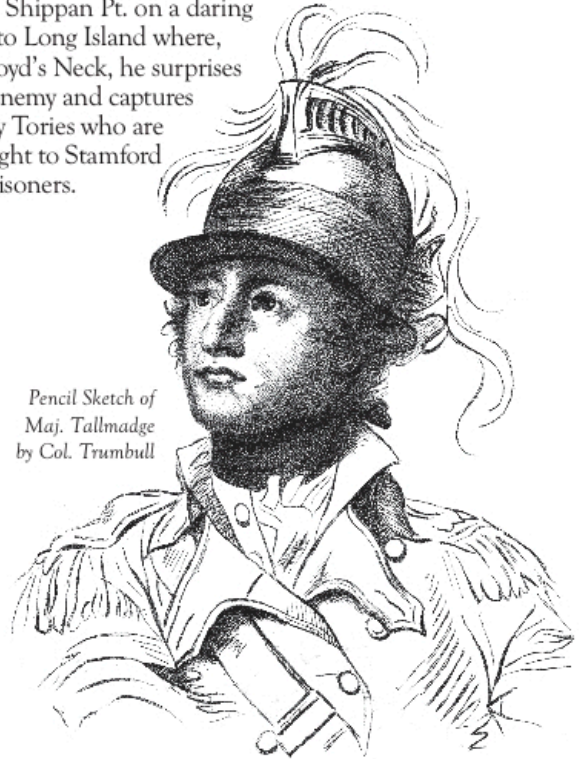


Revolutionary War British "Brown Bess" Musket, 18th Century

1779

Washington's Commando

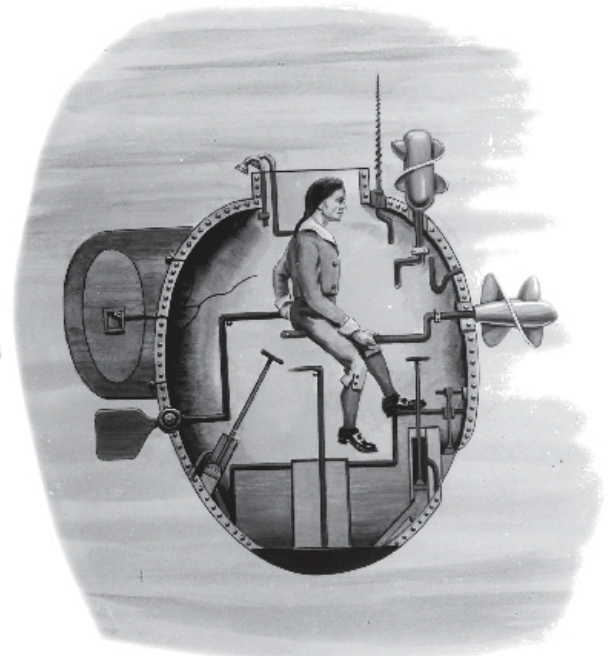
Continental Army Maj. Benjamin Tallmadge leads 130 men from Shippan Pt. on a daring raid to Long Island where, at Lloyd's Neck, he surprises the enemy and captures many Tories who are brought to Stamford as prisoners.



Pencil Sketch of Maj. Tallmadge by Col. Trumbull

War Comes to Stamford

Capture of David Bushnell, inventor of the first submarine (The Turtle), by Tories in Middlesex. He is taken to Long Island.



David Bushnell's "Turtle"

1780

Dark Day

Stamford's State Senator, Col. Abraham Davenport, is among those in Hartford confronted by an inexplicable darkness on the day of May 19th. Many fearful people believe the Day of Judgment has arrived and an attempt is made to adjourn the Legislature. Davenport dissents; after a short oration, candles are brought in and work continues.



"Dark Day" Mural, Stamford Old Town Hall



Abraham Davenport's Hat

"I choose to be found doing my duty."

Abraham Davenport

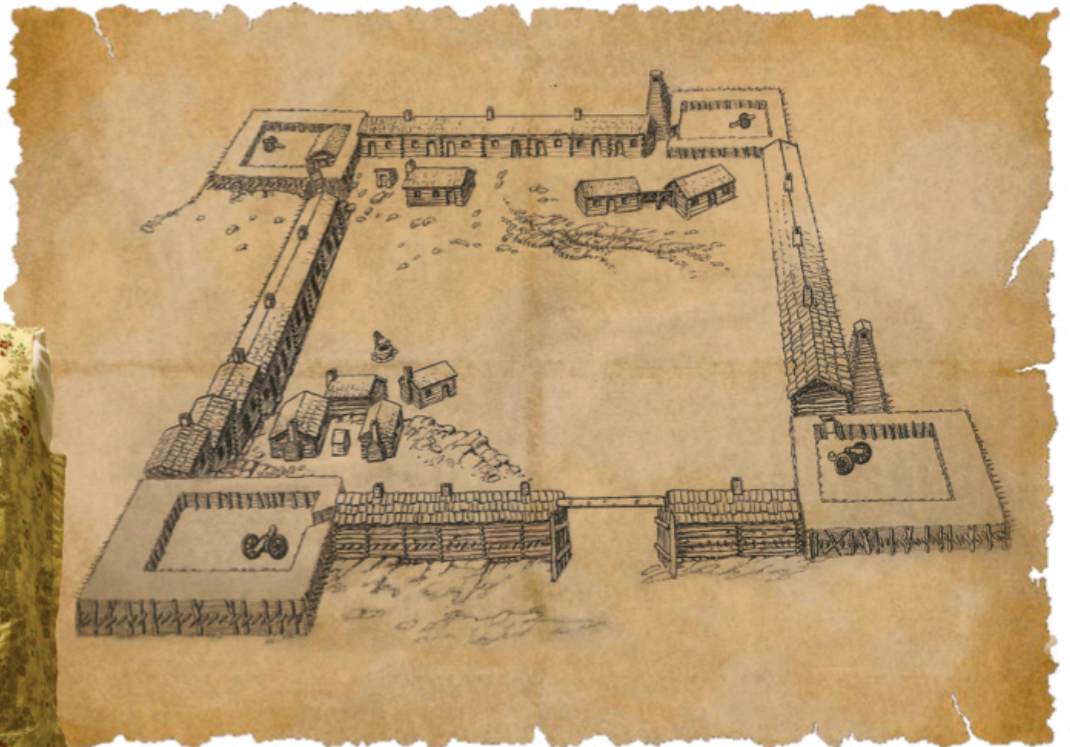
1781

Fort Stamford

General David Waterbury supervises the beginning of the construction of Fort Stamford on Westover Rd. It will be largely completed by December.



General David Waterbury's Waistcoat



Fort Stamford: Dane Pearson, Researcher, R.J. Roberts, Artist ©2003

1788

Methodists

Stamford's first Methodist Church is founded.



First Methodist Meeting House, Stamford CT By Charles Stanley



Methodist Church, Stamford CT

1789

His Excellency Visits

George Washington and his party, including Chief Justice John Jay, Sec. of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton and Sec. of War Henry Knox stop at Webb's Tavern on Bank St. for breakfast.



Mural by Stanley J. Rowland: "Town folk greet George Washington"

1790

New Meeting House

The fourth meeting house of the Congregational Church is built on Atlantic Square.

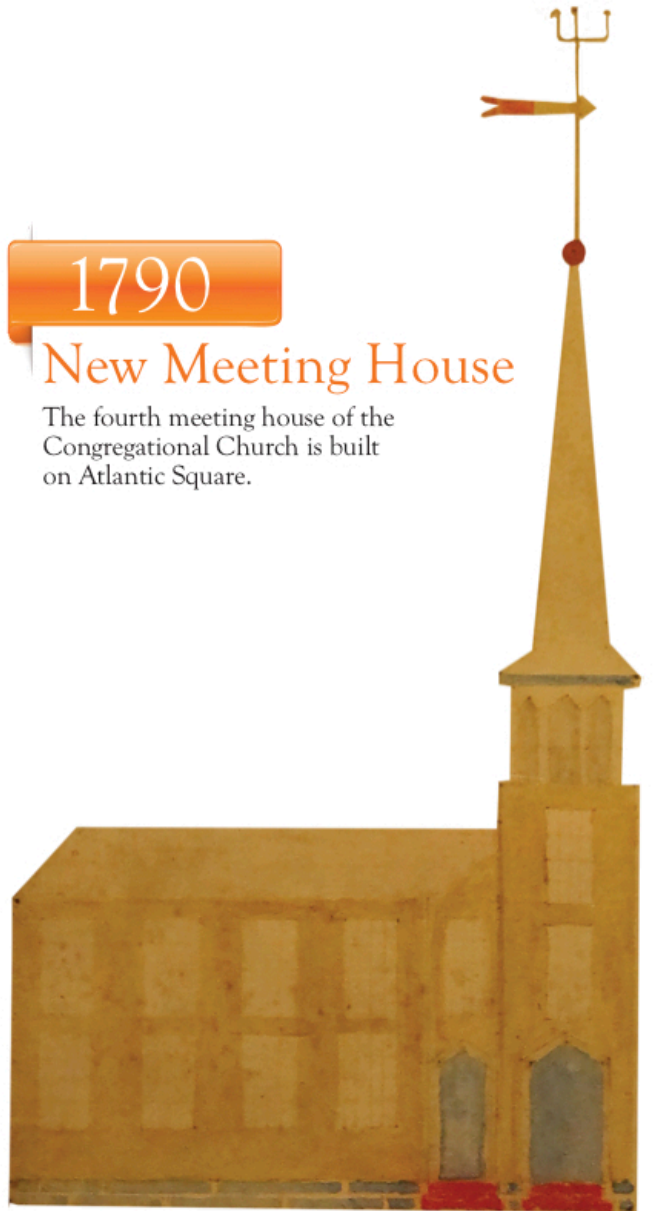


Image from 1823 Map by Solomon Clason, County Surveyor

1801

New Canaan Breaks Away

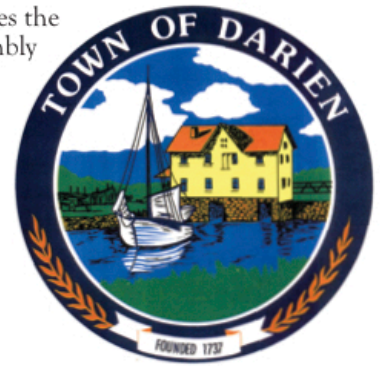
New Canaan breaks off from Stamford and incorporates.



1820

Darien Breaks Away

In June, a bill passes the CT General Assembly making Darien a separate town from Stamford.



Davenport Residence on Park Place

1806

Post Road Takes A Turn

The "Connecticut Turnpike Co." is formed to improve the Post Rd. The company reroutes the highway over Palmer Hill and Hubbard Heights, down Broad St. and south along Washington Blvd. to Main Street. There is much opposition to relocating the town's graveyard from Columbus Park to accommodate the new roadway.



Old Post Road Mile Stone Marker, Palmer Hill Road

1824

Lafayette was here!

General Lafayette stops in Stamford on his U. S. tour. He attends a reception at the home of Major John Davenport on Park Place.

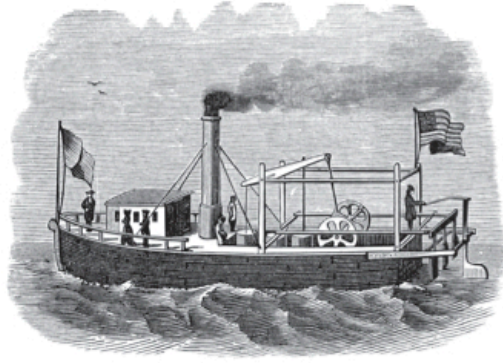


Commemorative Plate made to celebrate the visit of Gen. Lafayette to Stamford CT

1825

Steam Power

The Steamboat Oliver Wolcott makes tri-weekly trips to New York City.



John Fitch Steamboat Used in 1790 for passenger service

1829

Town House

A new town house is constructed, paid for by a property tax of 5¢ on the dollar. It stands at the center of Atlantic Square and is built of wood. It is sold in 1867 and moved to River St to be used as a residence.



Stamford CT, "Town House" Built 1829

1829

News

Stamford's original weekly newspaper, the *Stamford Intelligencer*, is first published April 8th. It contains 4 pages with ads and news from other papers.



April 8, 1829 Edition of the *Stamford Intelligencer*

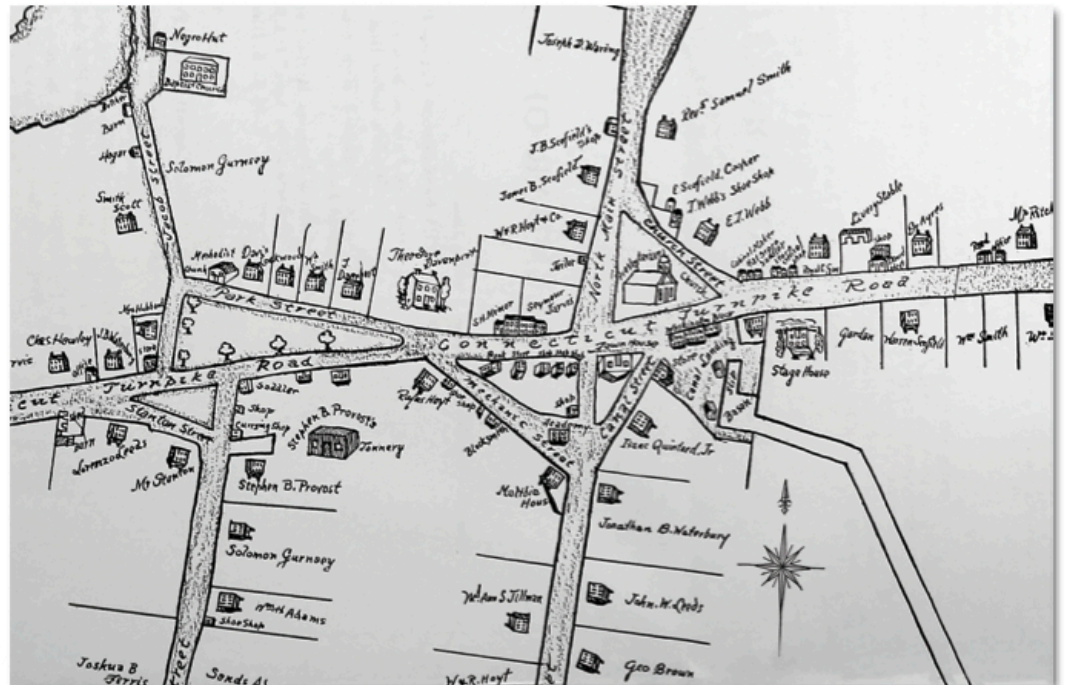
1830

Borough

Stamford's Center organizes into the Borough of Stamford, while the rest is still organized as the Town of Stamford. This separate system of Government remains until 1949. May 1830, William T. Minor becomes the town's first policeman or Borough Agent, as he is called. By 1879 there are five constables and in 1894 George Bowman becomes the first Police Chief.



CHIEF GEO. BOWMAN
Stamford, Conn.



Holly Map, 1837,
Borough of Stamford CT

1833

Canal

Alfred Bishop completes a canal 30' wide running from the coast to Atlantic Square. The railroad ended its utility in 1848 and it was infilled after 1868.

1842

Catholics

Stamford's first Roman Catholic services are held in a private home; three Roman Catholic families are noted to reside in town. In 1849 a Catholic Church is built on Meadow Street. Founded in 1845, St. John's Roman Catholic Church is dedicated in May of 1886.



Mural by Stanley J. Rowland: "Canal to the sound"



First Catholic Church, Meadow St., Stamford CT

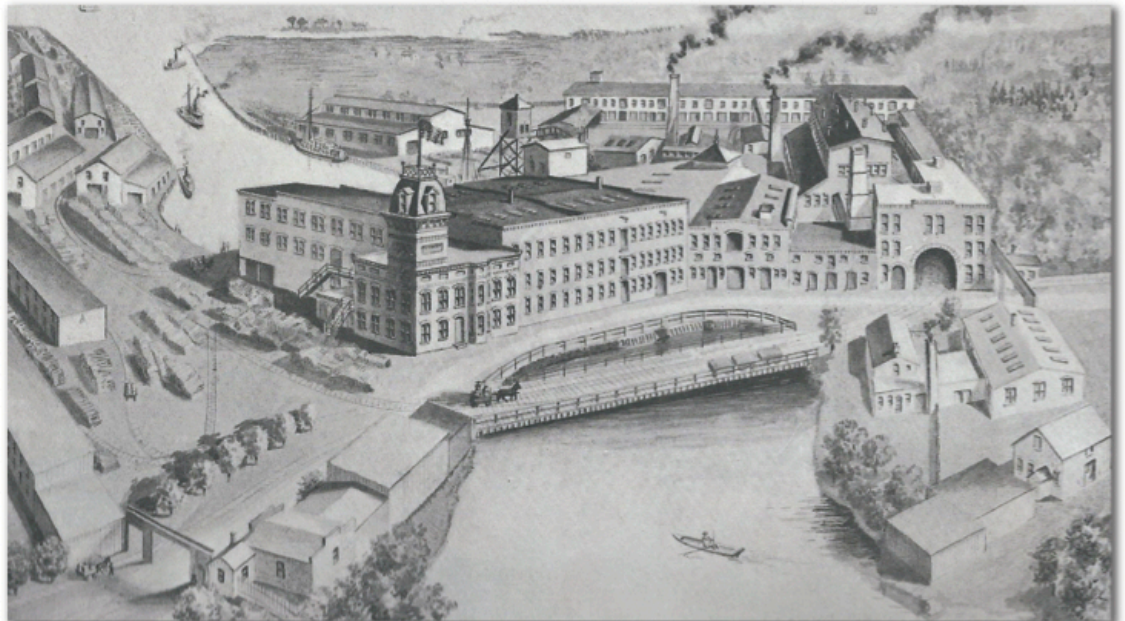


Products made by the Stamford Manufacturing Company

1844

First Big Business

Stamford Manufacturing Company is established on Cove Island. It is Stamford's largest company. In 1866 it is the first location to install electric lights in Stamford. In 1919 the factory burns to the ground.



The Stamford Manufacturing Company

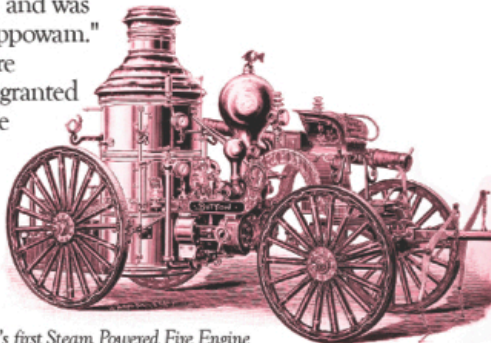
1844

Safety

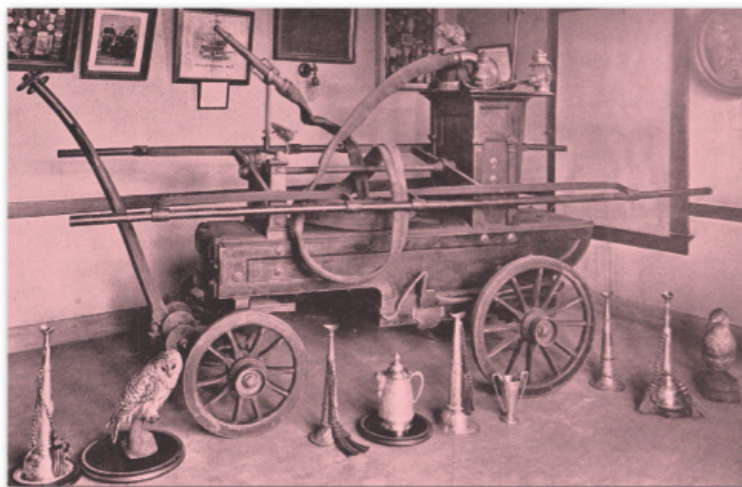
Rippowam Engine Company No.1 was formed and Sands Seeley named foreman. In December, the first known piece of firefighting equipment was purchased for \$618.

This engine was "goose-neck" model, hand-drawn, hand-pumped, and was called "The Rippowam."

In 1845 the Fire Company was granted a charter by the state of CT.



Stamford's first Steam Powered Fire Engine was purchased in 1883



"The Rippowam" Hand Pump Fire Engine

1848

Smaller World

Stamford's world becomes smaller with the arrival of both the railroad and the telegraph. The First Telegraph Office is set up in Stamford's Post Office. A second office opens in 1854. December 20th: The first railroad train with a wood burning locomotive, a lumber car and a passenger car arrives in Stamford. In 1849, the first railroad trains start running from New York to New Haven. Soon after, three trains make the trip daily on a single track.



Post Office & Telegraph Office Located Next to Union House



Mural by Stanley J. Rowland: "First Train To Stamford"



Engine No. 27 of the N.Y. & N.H.R.R.

1853

Center School

Stamford opens its first graded school when Center School opens near Broad & Gay Sts. Each grade has its own teacher and room.



First Multiple Room Public School, "Center School" on Broad St

Presbyterians

First Presbyterian Church is built. It burns in 1882 after being struck by lightning.



First Presbyterian Church



Civil War Minié ball Ball Embedded in Tree Branch - The Branch Saved the Life of the Union Soldier

1855

Aiken's School

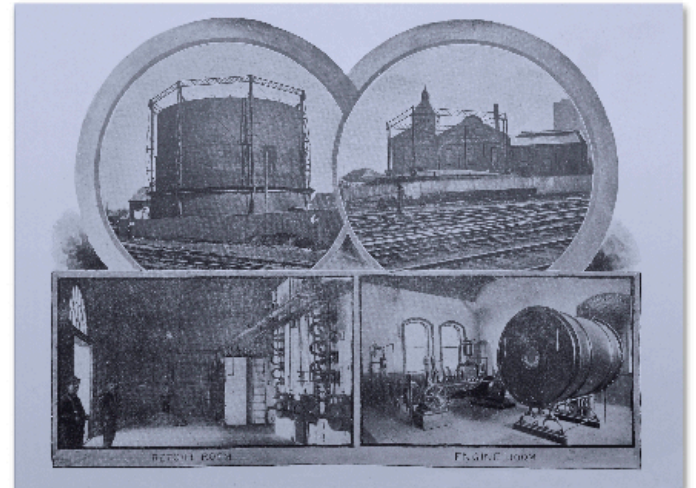
In the fall, Catherine Aiken's Young Ladies Seminary opens on Henry St.



Aiken's School

Gas Light

The Stamford Gas Light Co. Works are constructed and pipes are laid along borough streets. Gas light replaces kerosene lamps.

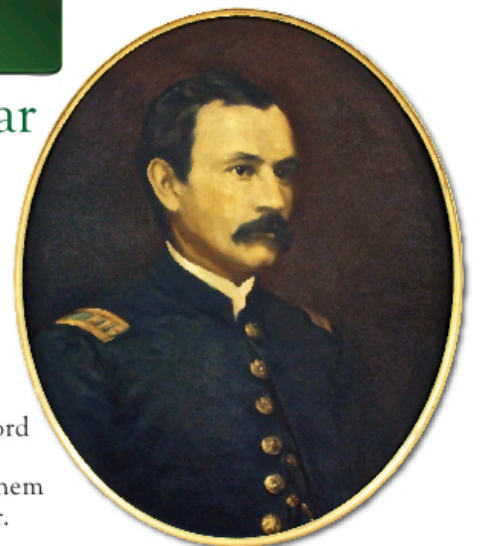


The Stamford Gas Light Works

1861

Civil War

Responding to President Lincoln's call for volunteers, 39 men leave Stamford in April to join the service. By the Civil War's end over 800 Stamford men will have served, 155 of them casualties of war.



Captain Marcus Waterbury

1867

The Advocate

Richard Gillespie buys the Advocate. The Stamford Advocate becomes a daily newspaper in 1892, costing 2¢ a copy.



Employees of The Stamford Advocate
Richard Gillespie standing on right of doorway

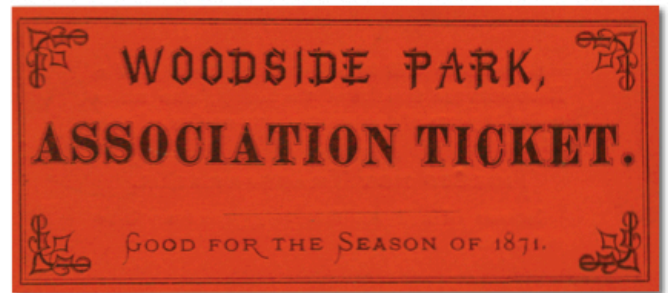
1868

Scalzi

Woodside (Scalzi Park) is opened by Theodore and Silas Ferris Jr. as a half mile course for trotting races with public admission. 1927 The City takes possession of Woodside (Scalzi Park). The 79 acres cost \$300,000.



Entrance to Woodside Park



Admission ticket to Woodside Park

New Train Station

Stamford opens its new train station.



Stamford Train Station 1868

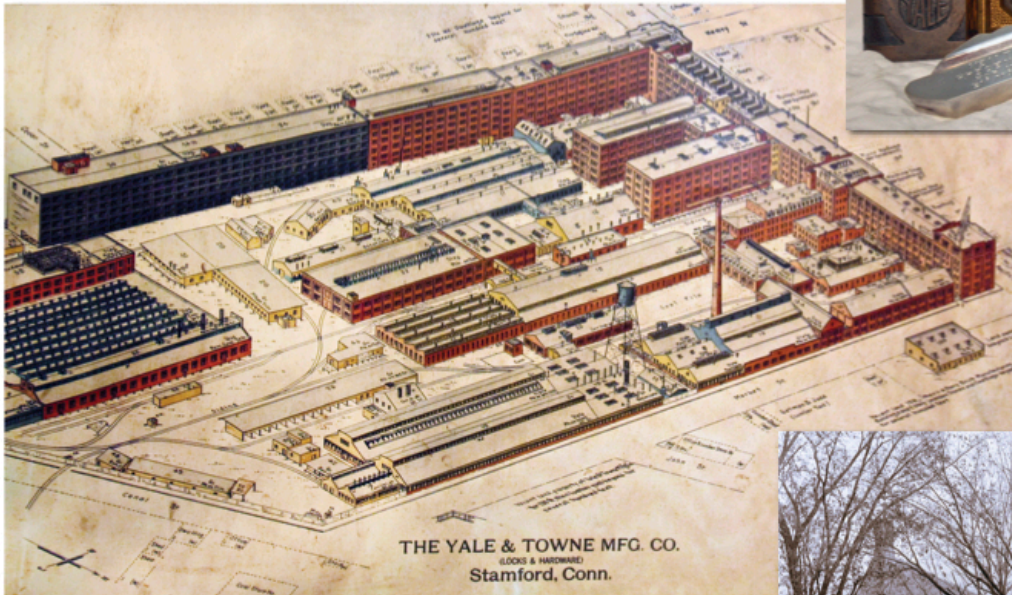
1869

The Lock City

Yale Lock Co. opens and employs 30 people. By 1892, one out of every 16 people in town works for Yale Lock. In 1883, the company changes its name to the Yale & Towne Mfg. Company. In 1959, the company will leave Stamford.



Locks Made By the Yale & Towne Manufacturing Co. and a Key to the City of Stamford



Survey Plans of the expansive Yale & Towne Mfg. Co. Factory



Universalist Church at the corner of Forest and Prospect St.

1870

Universalist

The new Universalist Church is constructed of stone. Its association dates to the 1830s. It is built at Forest and Prospect Sts.

1871

1st Town Hall

A new town hall is completed on Atlantic Street. Its first floor commercial stores are auctioned off to the highest bidder each year. The Town Hall also includes a concert hall on the 3rd Floor.



Main Hall on Third Floor, view from stage



Town Hall & the 5th Meeting House Congregational Church

1875

King

Hiram Udall King founds King's School for Boys and later constructs a school building on Bedford Street. King School will later merge with Low-Heywood school, founded in 1865.



1st King School Building on Bedford Street

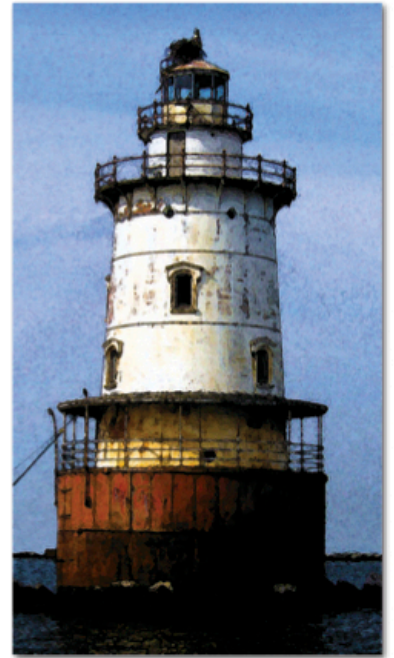


Second King School Building on Prospect Street

1875

Lighthouse

The Stamford Harbor Lighthouse on Harbor Ledge is completed by the Federal Government.



Stamford Harbor Light House

1882

Ferguson's Gift

A \$10,000 bequest by John Day Ferguson leads to the establishment of the Ferguson Library. The library rents space on the 2nd floor of the Stamford News newspaper building. In 1908 it moves to its second location on Atlantic St.



John Day Ferguson



The first home of the Ferguson Library, operated out of the 2nd fl. of the Payne Building



Second Home of the Ferguson Library, 1908



2nd Floor Reading Room, Payne Building

1886

Street Cars

The Street Railroad Company trolley service has 11 cars and 35 horses.



Liberty Place
Car Built in 1886



Atlantic Square: Circus Parade Downtown
Stamford 1900 Trolley Car and Street Tracks

1887

What's your Address?

Stamford Post Office begins the carrier postal delivery system. Prior, residents had to go to the Post Office to pick up mail.

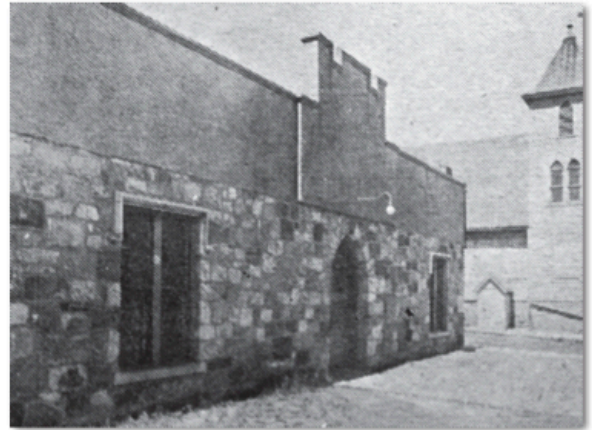


Stamford's
Post Office
employees

1888

UBC

The Union Baptist Church with a predominately black congregation forms.



Original Union Baptist Church

Blizzard

Blizzard of '88 hits Stamford in March. Snow in places reaches as high as 2nd story windows



The North Side of Main Street after the blizzard of 1888

1889

Judaism

The articles of incorporation are signed by 20 men creating Agudath Sholom Synagogue, Stamford's first Jewish organization.



Original Agudath Sholom Synagogue

1892

Keyboard

George Blickensderfer receives patent for his typewriter.



Blickensderfer's 5lb Private Secretary Typewriter

1893

City

The City government is reorganized with new officials: the first mayor, councilmen at large, city clerk, and assessors. Charles Leeds serves as Stamford's first mayor.



Utilities

The Stamford Gas Light Company, founded 1854, merges with the Stamford Electric Light Co. to become Stamford Gas & Electric Co.



Stamford Gas and Electric Work Crew

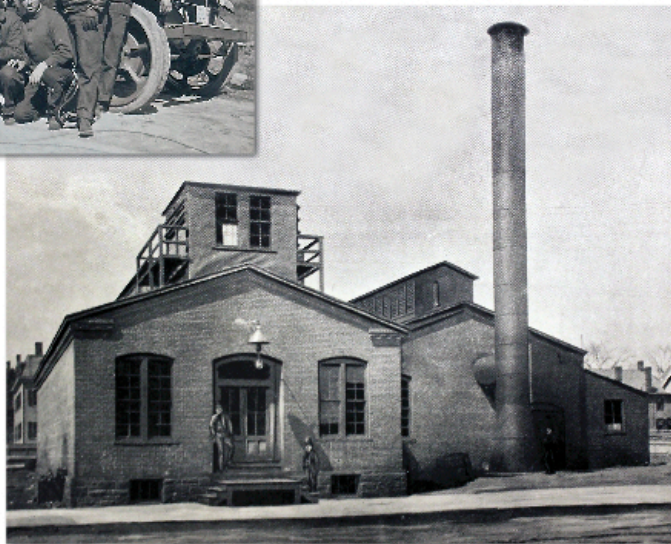
1896

Hospital

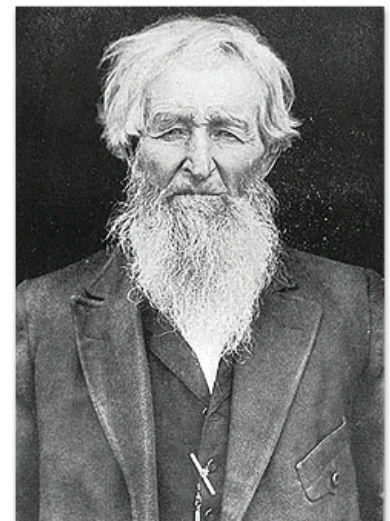
The first patient is admitted to the new 30 bed Stamford Hospital located on the east side of town at the foot of Noroton Hill. The Hospital was made possible with a \$43,000 donation from Judge John Clason.



Stamford's first hospital opens in the victorian mansion call Rothenfels



The Stamford Electric Light Station, Garden Street



Judge John Clason

1896

High School

Stamford High School, later called Burdick School, is built.



Original Stamford High School, Forest Street

1904

Disaster Strikes

The Town Hall is gutted by fire on February 4th.

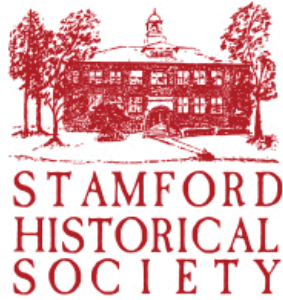


Old Town Hall The Next Day

1901

Stamford's Historians

The Stamford Historical Society is founded, incorporated 1909.



Stamford Historical Society (former Martha Hoyt School)

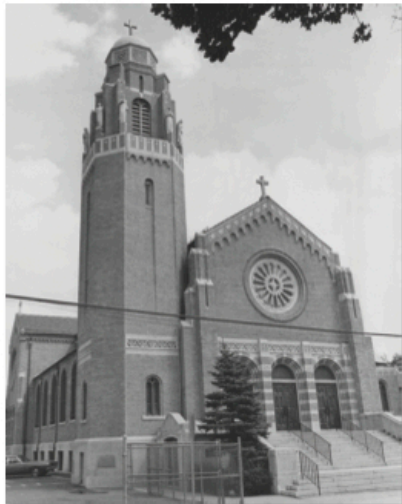


Old Town Hall On Fire

1903

Polish Church

Holy Name of Jesus Church is founded by the Polish community.



Holy Name of Jesus Church

1905

Starting Over

The cornerstone is laid for the new Town Hall to be built on the site of the old one.



Cornerstone Ceremony for the New Town Hall

1905

Greek Church

First Greek Orthodox congregation organizes, and in 1917 builds Church of Annunciation.



Current Church of Annunciation

1906

Cummings Park

Halloween Park is purchased with Mayor, Homer Cummings breaking a tie vote. The park is later named in his honor.



Hon. Homer S. Cummings...
Mayor of Stamford 1920-1922, 1924-1929
Attorney General of the United States 1933-1939



Cummings Park Pavilion

1907

New Home

The "Town Hall" is opened at the site of the previous hall destroyed by fire.

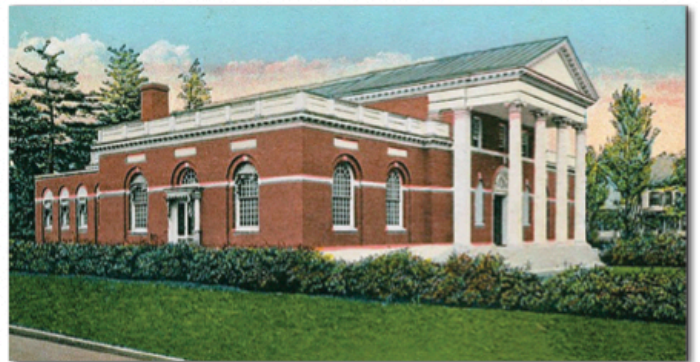


Town Hall (1917)

1911

Library Grows

The Current Ferguson Library opens. Over the following decades the Library expands to 3 branches and in 1982 the library completes a major expansion of the main branch.



Ferguson Library Main Branch



Town Hall and Atlantic Square, looking from Main Street; Current View from Veterans Park



Ferguson Library With 1982 Addition

1913

Hospital Moves

Stamford Hospital's new facility on West Broad Street is dedicated.



Stamford Hospital (1913)

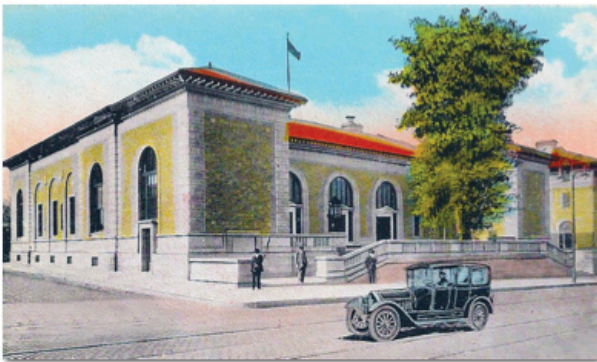


Stamford Hospital's white pavilion wing (1969)

1916

Post Office

Post Office opens at Atlantic & Federal Sts.



Old Stamford Post Office, Atlantic Street

1920

Stamps

Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter Co. is created by a merger. The Stamford-based company builds postage machines in a local factory that closes in 2003. PB is still based in Stamford in 2016.



Original Pitney Bowes Factory



Pitney Bowes Postage Meter Machine

Black Knights

Stamford High wins National Football title



1920 Stamford High School Football Team

1923

Italian Church

The cornerstone of Sacred Heart Church is laid.



Sacred Heart Church, Schuyler Ave (1941)



Sacred Heart Church, Schuyler Ave (2016)

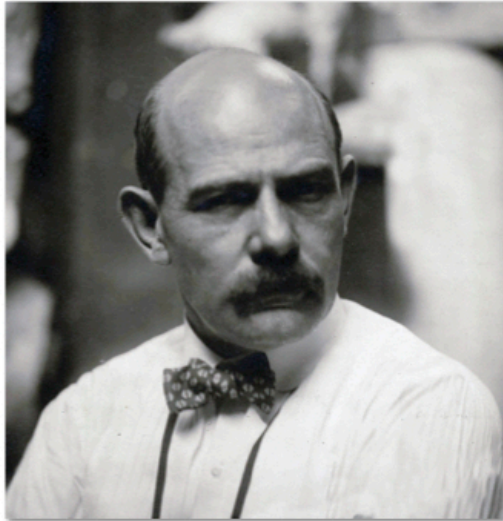
1927

Master Sculptor

Stamford sculptor Gutzon Borglum begins work on Mt. Rushmore.



Gutzon Borglum's Masterpiece, Mt. Rushmore



Gutzon Borglum

The Palace

Vuono's Palace Theatre opens. Featuring the Palace Orchestra. William Vuono General Music Director.

Announcing
THE OPENING OF
Vuono's
PALACE
Theatre

**GRAND PREMIER
THURSDAY EVENING
JUNE 2nd 1927
at 8:30**

Mary C. Vuono
Will share with the People of the
New Palace Theatre

PAT ROONEY - MARION BENT and PAT ROONEY III
in "Rooneys of 1927-1928"

Palace Theatre Opening Night Advertisement

1928

Stamford High

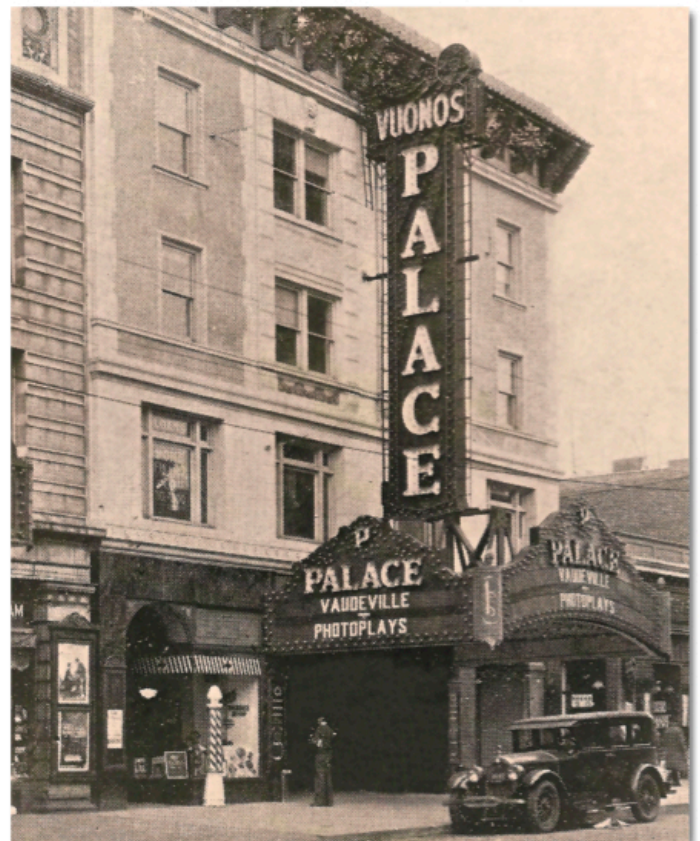
New High School on Strawberry Hill is dedicated.



Stamford High School's Boyle Stadium Opened 1936



Stamford High School, Strawberry Hill Ave



Vuono's Palace Theatre

1936

Museum

The Stamford Museum is founded. Originally it rents space on Main St. In 1945 it moves to Courtland Ave. In 1955 it moves again to its current location and changes its name to the Stamford Museum & Nature Center.



Stamford Museum Founder,
Dr. G.R.R Hertzberg

1938

Highway

Work starts on the Merritt Parkway in 1934. The highway opens to the public in June of 1938. Tolls are added the following year.



Lake Ave Bridge Greenwich, CT
One of Many Merritt Parkway
Bridges With Sculpted Facades



Old Stamford Museum At Courtland Park



Opening Day of Merritt Parkway



1958 Map of the Stamford Museum & Nature Center

1945

WWII

By the end of the war, about 9500 men and women of Stamford have served in the armed forces in WWII, 191 casualties of war.



Civil Defense Air Raid
Warden Helmet



World War II Service Roll, Atlantic Square



PT Boats were built at the
Luders Marine Construction Co.
in Stamford to support the war effort

1949

Consolidation

The City and Town of Stamford governments merge and the Board of Representatives holds its first meeting.



The seal for the Town of Stamford CT. After the 1949 consolidation This seal became the seal for all of Stamford CT



The seal for the city of Stamford CT, 1893-1949 Seal Recreation by Vincent Mianca



Town of Stamford Police Headquarters, Haig Avenue

1951

World Champs

Stamford American Little League wins Little League World Series
1952-1953: Stamford wins Little Bigger League World Series
1954: Stamford wins Babe Ruth League World Series.



Stamford American Little League World Championship Trophy

1956

Interstate

Construction begins on I-95. The new Connecticut Turnpike opens in 1958.



I95 North Bound Approaching Exit 7 (Early 1960's)



I95 North Bound Approaching Exit 7 (2016)



Stamford American Little League World Champs 1951



World Series Banner From Vine Road Field

1958

Crusaders

The Diocese of Bridgeport opens Stamford Catholic High School. In 1991, the school changes its name to Trinity Catholic High School after Central Catholic in Norwalk and St. Mary in Greenwich close and merge with Trinity Catholic.



Trinity Catholic High School, Newfield Ave, Stamford

1961

Warriors

Stamford opens Rippowam High School its 2nd High School. It closed as an official high school in 1983 but continued on briefly as a magnet High School.



Rippowam High School, Student Handbook

1959

Away with the Old

Citizen's Action Committee convened to deal with Urban Renewal. In 1960, F.D. Rich hired as Urban Renewal contractor.



Rippowam High School, High Ridge Rd Stamford



Downtown Stamford (1960); Buildings in red are only that remain



Area now occupied by Stamford Town Center



Demolition of House Built in 1860

1966

Bartlett

Bartlett Arboretum Opens. Today the property features 93 acres of native Connecticut landscape.



Tulips at Arboretum



Bartlett Arboretum



Bartlett Arboretum as seen from High Ridge Road

1972

Vikings

Stamford opens Westhill High School, its 3rd High School.



Westhill High School, Roxbury Road Stamford



Westhill High School, Agriscience Wing

1971

Building an Icon

Construction begins on Landmark Tower, the 21 story centerpiece of Urban Renewal.



Landmark Square under Construction, View Looking North from South East



Landmark Square under Construction, The Remains of Main St. visible before being cut off

1972

Yerwood

Yerwood Center built. The organization continues the tradition of its predecessor, the Negro Community Center, founded in 1939.



Yerwood Center Founder,
Dr. Joyce Yerwood



Yerwood Center, Fairfield Ave

1982

The Mall

Stamford Town Center opens for business.



Stamford Town Center, Tresser Blvd. Side



Stamford Town Center Spiral Ramp Under Construction

1986

Government Center

New City Hall at 888 Washington Blvd.



Stamford CT Govt Center, Washington Blvd.

1987

Transportation Center

Stamford's 3rd train station built in the 1890s has become obsolete. The Stewart B. McKinney Transportation Center opens.



Stamford Train Station Built (1890)



Stamford Transportation Center with Stamford's Skyline in the background

1991

Rich Forum

Stamford Center for the Arts opens on the corner of Tresser Blvd and Atlantic Sts. It includes a 700 seat theater and a black box theater with 150 seats.



Rich Forum, Corner of Atlantic St. and Tresser Blvd.



Rich Forum, Built on the site of the old Stamford Theatre, has a replica facade of the old theatre in its main lobby

1998

UCONN

While UCONN Stamford began in 1951 by offering classes at Stamford High, the University eventually opens a campus on Scofieldtown Road. In 1998 UCONN Stamford moves to its current location in Downtown Stamford at the Former Bloomingdales Department Store.



UCONN Stamford Campus, corner of Broad Street and Washington Blvd.

1992

DSSD

The Stamford Downtown Special Services District, a business improvement district, is established in 1992. Its mission is to manage, enhance and promote the Downtown experience.



DSSD's annual UBS Parade Spectacular



DSSD's Alive at Five Summer Concert Series

2000

National Candidate

Connecticut Senator, Joseph Lieberman, from Stamford is selected as the nominee for Vice President of the United States by Al Gore.



Former United States Senator from Connecticut Joseph Lieberman

2001

Acela

Stamford becomes one of the few stops for the first high-speed Acela Express Trains.



Acela High Speed Train Arrives at the Stamford Transportation Center

9/11

The September 11th terrorist attacks deeply impacts Stamford. Over a dozen of the 2977 victims of the radical Islamic terrorist attacks are either from Stamford or once lived in Stamford.



*9/11 Memorial Stamford
Government Center*

2007

Newspaper Moves

Stamford's newspaper (The Advocate) is sold. The Advocate's editorial staff moves from the Advocate building on Tresser Blvd to Springdale. In 2008, the newspaper's printing operations move out of Stamford. For the first time in 180 years, Stamford no longer prints its newspaper in Stamford.



The Former Stamford Advocate Building, Tresser Blvd

AITE

Stamford opens its fourth high school, the Academy of Information Technology and Engineering, in a state-of-the-art building behind Rippowam.



*Academy of Information
Technology & Engineering High Ridge Road*



*Academy of Information
Technology & Engineering Interior*

2009

Harbor Point

Construction begins on Harbor Point as part of the development of Stamford's South End. Harbor Point is developed in the area that formerly contained the Pitney Bowes and Yale & Towne Mfg. factories.



Some of the many new Buildings of Harbor Point

2012

Stamford Health

Ground breaks on a massive expansion of Stamford Hospital.



Stamford Hospital New Facility Nearing Completion

2010

Governor

Former Mayor of Stamford Dannel Malloy becomes the 88th Governor of Connecticut. Governor Malloy joins Governor William T. Minor (1841-1848) as the only other Connecticut Governor from Stamford.



Governor, Dannel Malloy

2016

HQ

Starting in the mid-20th century, Stamford moves away from manufacturing and becomes a center for fortune 500 firms and corporate headquarters. In its 375th year, Stamford is host to many major national and international businesses including Pitney Bowes, UBS Warburg, Gen Re, Odyssey Re, RBS, Starwood Hotels, Charter Communications, and Harman International Industries.



UBS Warburg North America Headquarters



Stamford Connecticut Skyline



• **STAMFORD CONNECTICUT** •
GOVERNMENT CENTER TIMELINE

- On Display At The Government Center -

“Meeting house, town house, town hall, city hall, municipal building, government center--the home of the Stamford community has had many names and taken many forms. Over the...centuries, controversy over the location, cost, and style of the successive town halls has erupted frequently. In the end each of the town halls has served the needs and matched the spirit of the community.”

*Excerpt from A Brief History of the Town Halls of Stamford, CT
at the 1986 Stamford Government Center Dedication
By Dr. Estelle Feinstein and Renee Kahn*

We hope the images you see in this timeline and on display at the Government Center will spark your curiosity to learn more. This project was a labor of love and is responsible for uncovering a great deal of forgotten history. Many thanks to Mayor David Martin, the City of Stamford, the Stamford Historical Society, Stamford Downtown, Vincent Murace and the Stamford 375 Years Strong Committee for all of their efforts in putting this timeline together.

1641 - 1676 • First Meeting House



When the first settlers arrived in 1641, they found themselves in an undeveloped wilderness. Only old Native American trails existed. The first order of business was the construction of a Meeting House. The First Meeting House was a small, rough wooden structure of four post construction. Each post was approximately 12 feet in height except for the center post - it rose to around 30 feet in height.

The placement of this first structure was on a little hill between two swamps. It was chosen as an ideal spot for their Meeting House, because it could be fortified to serve as a fort and was near an established Indian trail. It stood in what is now called Veterans Park, next to Atlantic Street, across from the "Old Town Hall." The interior structure was uncomfortable; rough benches served as pews and there was no protection from the cold during the harsh New England winters.

1676 - 1705 • Second Meeting House



In 1670, the growing town of Stamford was in need of a new Meeting House. The town originally voted that the new building be made of stone. Finally, after heated debate, the town decided to build a wooden structure.

The building was 38 feet square and atop the 20' high exterior walls was built a roof of 2 diminishing stories, like a funnel or pyramid, and was crowned by a cupola. During its years of service, the Second Meeting House was also utilized as the town's fortification.

In 1676, the structure was surrounded by a stockade and all of the town's munitions were stored in the structure. From the top of the church in the cupola, a drummer beat the message for people to come to both Sabbath services and town meetings. In 1702, population growth of the town of Stamford required the building of a larger meeting house structure. After the construction of the Third Meeting House in 1705, the Second Meeting House stood for another 10 years and served as the town storage house for munitions.

1705 - 1790 • Third Meeting House



At the turn of the 18th century, Stamford's population was continuing to grow and the need for an even larger meeting house became important once again. In 1705, the Third Meeting House was built on the same land where the first two structures had been created. The pulpit and pews from the Second Meeting House were reused.

Manasseh Cutler, a visitor to Stamford in 1787, describes the building in his diary: "The [3rd] Meeting House is the greatest curiosity I observed in this place. It is a very old building, large, square on the ground. The whole roof forms the base of the steeple in a four square; in the middle is raised a four square tower of half the size of the... house. This tower has a large round roof; from its center is raised another large tower, of half the size of the first tower; from this tower is raised a short steeple."

In 1735, the Third Meeting House would get a bell to hang in the cupola, as a replacement for the drummer who had called the faithful to the Sabbath services and to the town meetings. This Meeting House had a longer life span than the first two structures, fulfilling both the spiritual and civic needs of Stamford for 85 years. When it was replaced in 1790, the building was moved and served as a school.

1740 - 1790 • First Town House



For a hundred years, the civil and religious authority in Stamford was controlled by the original Puritan settlers who were later called the Congregationalists. As Stamford continued to grow in population, new religious groups were introduced. In 1731, the First Congregational Church started to hold separate meetings from the town.

In 1740, the town voted for the construction of a Town House that would measure 37' wide by 20' long and have two chimneys built on each side. It was to be placed on the same knoll where the First Meeting House had stood. The following year, the town voted to cancel the construction of the Town House. However, in 1742 the town again voted to build a Town House, but of lesser size and lesser eminence than the Meeting House behind which it was to be built.

This structure was the first building in Stamford that served only the civic needs of the town. It stood for 50 years and was sold after the First Selectman was authorized to put the house up for auction.

1791 - 1829 • Floating Meeting House

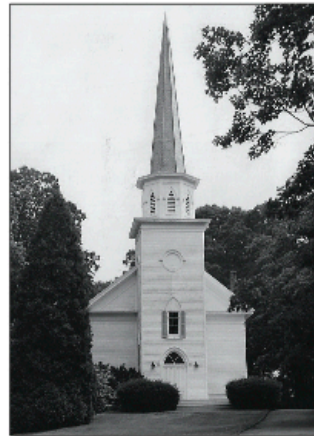
Post-Revolutionary War Stamford was fraught with political turmoil; the issue of the separation of church and state dominated this period of time. While the Town of Stamford was governed by town meetings, it ceased to use the First Congregational Meeting House exclusively. The Town House which stood behind the Third Meeting House was sold and dismantled. It was deemed that there was no great need for a dedicated structure.

However, the civil government still did need to hold town meetings. The solution was to rotate the meetings among various religious groups' meeting houses, including those in outlying locations, in order to keep sections of Stamford from separating from the Town.

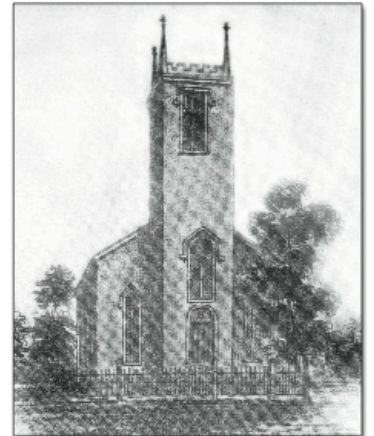
Over this 38 year period, these meetings floated among the Baptist and Methodist Meeting Houses, the North Stamford Congregational Church, and the Middlesex (Darien) Congregational Church.



*Middlesex (Darien)
Congregational Church*



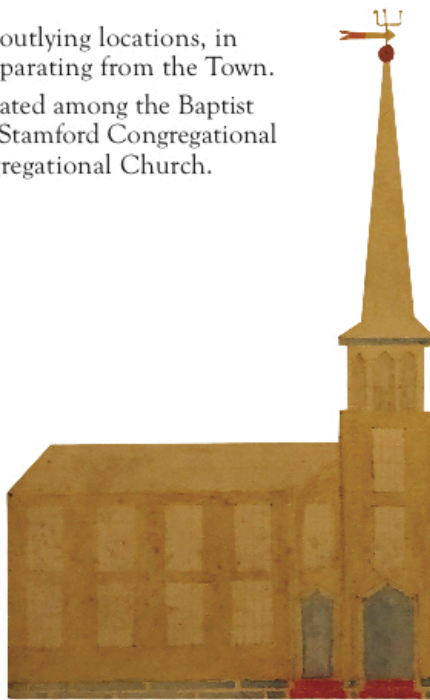
*North Stamford
Congregational Church*



Baptist Meeting House



Methodist Meeting House



4th Meeting House First Congregational Church

There was also a fifth location for Town Meetings. According to town meeting records, there was a "Meeting held on the grounds where the Old Town House formally stood." That location was occupied by the First Congregational Church's Fourth Meeting House. Why was it recorded like this in the town record? We don't know. But a plausible explanation could be that they did not want it on official records that they were meeting in the First Congregational Meeting House again. Whatever the reason was, this period marked the end of religious structures being used to conduct the business of the town. In 1829 the Town of Stamford voted in favor of building a new "Town House."

1830 - 1870 • Second Town House



In 1830, Stamford's center was organized into the Borough of Stamford. In order to meet the needs of the new borough government, the town authorized that \$1,000 be raised to build a new Town House. This Town House was the first Civil Government structure that would occupy the intersection of Main and Atlantic Streets.

The Town House was a wooden structure that had two floors. The second floor was the meeting hall and the town rented out this meeting room to anyone for a reasonable fee. The first floor was rented to local businesses.

The Town House was truly a center of the community. Across the street stood the Congregational Church's Fourth Meeting House. Behind this building was the fire house, and in the immediate area stood a school and important mercantile businesses. The building served the community for 37 years and was later sold and moved to River St (today's Washington Blvd). It was moved one more time to Whitaker Place (Mill River Park). In the end, the building fell victim to arson in 1988 and was destroyed.

1870 - 1904 • First Town Hall



Post Civil War Stamford was a booming community with over 10,000 residents. The old wooden Town House was no longer suitable to meet the needs of this growing community. In 1870, a spirited and ongoing debate about building a suitable Town Hall took place among the people of Stamford. It was decided to raise \$100,000 to build a three story, red brick building at the same location where the Town House stood. The building continued the tradition of the Town House: the ground floor was rented out to businesses, the second floor was used for a court and other government offices, and the third floor had an auditorium for performances and political gatherings. Years later, a clock tower was added to the building.

For over 30 years the Town Hall was a source of civic pride. However, on a cold night in February of 1904, disaster struck. A fire started by a faulty gas lamp gutted the beloved Town Hall. Firefighters and citizens watched helplessly as this beautiful building was reduced to its brick and mortar shell. Remarkably,

the Town Records were saved and moved down the street to the Burlington Arcade Building (the site of which is now Kiwanis Park, adjacent to the Palace Theatre). By 8 a.m. the next morning, Stamford's government was open for business in this temporary facility.

1907 - 1986 • Second Town Hall



By the early 20th century, Stamford was a thriving city with a population of 19,000. It was impossible for the city to function without a town hall. Within a year, plans were drawn up for a Beaux Arts style building with a limestone facade and clock tower at its top. The building was erected in the same location as the previous Town Hall. This new two and half story building provided office space for the Mayor, Town Clerk, Courtroom, and various city officials. The Police Department at one point even operated out of the basement of the building. Over the decades, beautiful murals depicting historical events in Stamford's history were added.

Post-World War II, Stamford became a consolidated city of over 100,000 people and the Town Hall was ill-suited to meet the City's needs. Initially, attempts were made to expand government office space to satellite locations like the old Stamford Electric Light and Gas Company headquarters on Atlantic Street. During this period

the second Town Hall was still used by the register of voters and the probate court. The Town Clerk's office remained until 1986, when all City Departments merged into the new Government Center building on Washington Boulevard.

The 1907 Town Hall Building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, is still standing. It was renovated from 2008 - 2010 and now boasts multiple spaces for rent to businesses and for special events.

1963 - 1986 • Municipal Office Building



By the 1960s, the growing City of Stamford, was in need of larger building to house its government. The aging Town Hall was too small and was in need of repair. In 1963 the City purchased the old Stamford Electric Light and Gas Company headquarters on Atlantic Street and called it the Municipal Office Building. The Mayor, the Board of Representatives and other boards moved into the 5-story building that was erected in 1927. For the first time, Stamford's municipal government had abandoned its traditional site at Main and Atlantic Streets.

While this building was larger than the second Town Hall, it lacked the capacity to house Stamford's entire government. By 1986, Stamford was in desperate need to consolidate and modernize the City's government building. Both the Municipal Office Building and the Second Town Hall were aging buildings in need of repair. The solution was to move the city government to the current Government Center building on Washington Boulevard.

The old Municipal Office Building stood until it succumbed to the wrecking ball in 1996.

1986 - Present • Government Center



In the early 1980's the City of Stamford's municipal government was scattered among a number of locations throughout the City. In 1986, the city government was able consolidate all of these departments at a new 250,000 square foot Government Center.

The "new" Government Center is a 10-story, modern steel and glass office building that matches the City of Stamford's growing skyline. Occupying the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Tresser Boulevard, the building was originally built by the GTE Corporation, but was never occupied by the company.

The Stamford Government Center houses all of the city's bureaucracy and is home to the Stamford Senior Center. Stamford's current Government Center features its own parking garage and a cafeteria with an outdoor courtyard. We trust that this building will serve the City for many years to come.

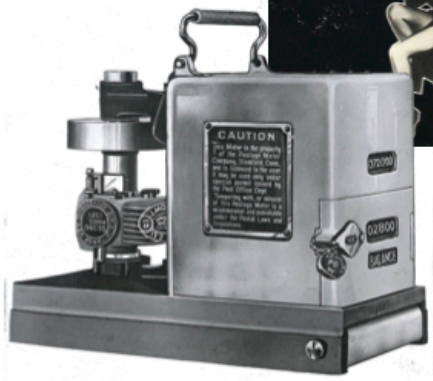
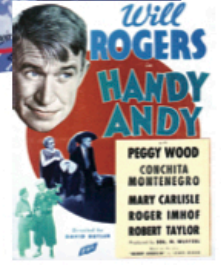
STAMFORD 375 YEARS STRONG 1641-2016

NOTABLE PEOPLE IN STAMFORD'S HISTORY

Our successful city of Stamford was established 375 years ago. While the city was blessed with a magnificent waterfront on its southern border, huge areas for commerce and industry throughout the center of town, homes for the many who lived here on the east and western ends of the city and bordered by verdant green hills and foliage in the north, it is really the people who settled here who made Stamford great. These people were of different religions, ethnicities, professions and political beliefs but they were the engines that propelled us.

Some of these people were celebrated on the national or international stage for their roles in public service, commerce, the arts or education. Others were pioneers in Stamford's development, making critical contributions to its commerce, culture and growth.

Each month during our anniversary year, *The Advocate* printed short biographies of Stamford citizens whose contributions to society honored our city. Enjoy reading these biographies which highlight talent, ingenuity, perseverance and courage. And remember, those people represent a fraction of those who have made a difference in our history.





ERNEST ABATE

Former Speaker of the House and Connecticut gubernatorial candidate Ernest Abate is a partner at Abate & Abate, LLC. Abate also has supported the Stamford community as counsel to Stamford Board of Realtors, trustee and chairman of the Ferguson Library, trustee of the Ferguson Library Foundation, Inc., Director Stamford Hospital, Director of Senior Services of Stamford, Inc., and member of the Mayor's Ethics Panel. Ernie's wise counsel is sought by many community organizations.



CHESTER M. ADDISON
1922-1970

Chester M. Addison was the executive director of the Stamford Equal Economic Council, an organization that helped minority business owners. He was also a member of the Stamford Hospital Board of Trustees, the Stamford Board of Public Safety, the Stamford NAACP and the Stamford Housing Authority and was president of the Stamford Civic League. The Chester Addison Community Center, named in his honor, provides enrichment programming for 200 children aged 5 and older.



FRANK ALTSCHUL
1887-1981

Financier Frank Altschul was a Senior Partner of Lazard Freres, Chief Executive of General

American Investors Company, and founder of the Overbrook Press. With his wife, Helen, he created that Overbrook Foundation, a family foundation that supports organizations advancing human rights and conserving the natural environment. A major philanthropist, Altschul donated the money to build the Stamford Observatory.



MAXWELL ANDERSON
1888-1959

A prolific playwright, screenwriter, author, poet, journalist and lyricist, Maxwell Anderson was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1933 for "Both Your Houses" and the Gold Medal in Drama from the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1954. Some of his plays include "Key Largo," "All Quiet on the Western Front" "Anne of the Thousand Days" and "Death Takes a Holiday." He lived in Stamford from 1955 until his death.



WHITMAN BAILEY
1884 - 1954

Artist Whitman Bailey's black and white drawings of local scenes, which appeared in The Stamford Advocate from 1924 - 1954 were accompanied by brief vignettes of the scene. Mostly factual, at times the stories presented were local folklore. In addition to his artistic ability, he was a talented pianist, proficient at mounting butterflies, and something of an authority on history. Bailey was one of the organizers of the Stamford Museum. Whitman Bailey brought black and white art to new heights as one of the few nationally recognized artists in that genre. His simple illustrations of scenes that no longer exist in Stamford, Greenwich and other locales are in many instances the only remaining record of these places.



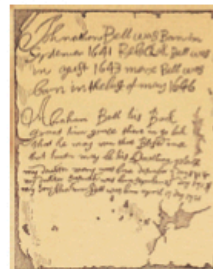
FRANCIS A. BARTLETT
1882-1963

An eminent dendrologist, Francis A. Bartlett founded the Bartlett Tree Company in 1907 to help save many valuable shade and ornamental trees which were sick and dying. In 1913, Dr. Bartlett established the Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens at his North Stamford home as a training school for his company, and later in 1927, the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories was located in North Stamford. Bartlett was the first to use power spray equipment to manage landscape pests, and the first to develop practical cabling and bracing methods to reinforce structurally weak trees.



SARAH BATES
1648-1711

A member of one of the original Stamford families, Sarah Bates was "a usefull and skillful midwife." She examined Katherine, the servant girl who accused others of witchcraft in 1692. On this occasion, Sarah first burned feathers under the nose of the girl who was having strange fits. Sarah wanted to bleed her with leeches, as was the medical practice of the day. The girl objected that it hurt, but they bled her anyway. The girl cried out, and her mistress was so affected by it, that she cried out and said she was bewitched.



JONATHAN BELL
1641-1698

Jonathan Bell was the first white baby born in Stamford. Bell was Deputy to the Connecticut

Legislature from Stamford, a captain for the Stamford Trainband, commissioner for Stamford and Greenwich and a Justice. He bravely stood up for Elizabeth Clauson when she was accused of witchcraft, helping to bring an end to witchcraft trials in Connecticut.



HENRI BENDEL
1868 - 1936

In 1895, Henri Bendel established an upscale women's specialty store in New York City. He was the first retailer to sell Coco Chanel designs in America, to create his own fragrance, to offer in-store makeovers, to stage fashion shows, and to create the "shop-with-in-a-shop" merchandising concept. His Stamford mansion is now the site of the Stamford Museum & Nature Center.



CARL AND DOROTHY BENNETT

Carl and Dorothy Bennett founded Caldor, Inc., building the chain up to 100 stores. Known for their philanthropy, the couple created the Carl & Dorothy Cancer Center at Stamford Hospital; in total, the couple donated \$20 million to the hospital. Dorothy, who passed away in 2008, served on the board of the Boys & Girls Club of Stamford and Fairfield University, and was active in many local organizations including Congregation Agudath Sholom and the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center in Stamford, where she founded the Neat Place to Eat Restaurant.



BRIAN BILL
1980-2011

In 2003, Bill graduated from Coronado Naval Amphibious Base in San Diego and the Little

Creek Naval Amphibious Base in Virginia: both Navy SEAL training centers. On August 6, 2011, Navy SEAL Brian Bill was on a helicopter transporting troops to an ongoing battle between coalition forces and insurgents in Afghanistan when it was brought down by the Taliban. Bill and 29 other SEALs were killed. Bill, 31, had been decorated many times for valor on deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He was a graduate of Trinity Catholic High.



GEORGE BLICKENSDERFER
1850-1917

In 1889, inventor George Blickensderfer received his first patent for a typewriter. His design eliminated the numerous type-bars and the mechanisms that connected them to each key, which saved on cost and weight. It weighed about a quarter of that of comparable typewriters. In 1900, he invented the electric typewriter.



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal served an unprecedented five terms as Connecticut's Attorney General. A key player in the national fight against Big Tobacco, he helped bring an end to deceptive marketing aimed at children. His investigation and legal action against insurance industry abuses successfully forced reform and recovered millions of dollars for the state, municipalities, and individuals. In 2011, he was elected to serve in the US Senate, where he continues his service to the state of Connecticut.



GEORGE BONGIORNO

1930-2016

George Bongiorno opened the highly successful west side neighborhood supermarket, Bongios, which was well loved for its ethnic foods, fresh fish, produce and meats, and low prices. He expanded in many directions by establishing Bongiorno Gas Island, Car Wash and Bongiorno Maxi Discount Liquors. A keen businessman, he methodically purchased real estate throughout Connecticut. He was a generous contributor to many charitable organizations in Stamford, including St. Leo's Parish and Trinity Catholic High School.



GUTZON BORGLUM

1867 - 1941

Artist and sculptor Gutzon Borglum is best known for his creation of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota. He trained in Paris where he was influenced by the work of Auguste Rodin. He sculpted saints and apostles for the new Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City and was the first living American to have a sculpture accepted by the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



HEYWOOD BROUN, JR.

1888 - 1939

Journalist Heywood Broun Jr. founded the American Newspaper

Guild, now known as The Newspaper Guild. He was at times a sports writer, drama critic, editor, Algonquin Round Table member and star of the radio program, "The Red Star of Broadway." He unsuccessfully ran for Congress in 1930 with the slogan, "I'd rather be right than Roosevelt." He was married to feminist Ruth Hale Broun.



SGT. WILLIAM BROWN

1759-1808

Sgt. William Brown was a soldier for the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, ultimately serving in the 2nd, 5th, and 8th Connecticut Regiments. General George Washington awarded him the Badge of Military Merit, one of only three people to be awarded the medal which later became the Purple Heart.



WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR.

1925 - 2008

American conservative author and commentator, William F. Buckley founded the "National Review Magazine", which had a profound impact on the conservative movement in the United States. He was a regular on many TV talk shows and hosted many episodes of "Firing Line". He wrote a nationally syndicated newspaper column and authored several novels and more than fifty other books on writing, speaking, history, politics, and sailing. William Buckley was a major benefactor of the Ferguson Library and lived in Shippan with his socialite wife Pat.



ERNIE BUSHMILLER

1905-1982

Cartoonist Ernie Bushmiller created the long-running Nancy comic strip. One of the founding members of the National Cartoonists Society, he was given its Humor Comic Strip Award and its Reuben Award. The strip was translated into Italian, German, Swedish and Norwegian. He lived in Stamford, CT where he died in 1982. The American Heritage Dictionary uses "Nancy" strip to illustrate its entry on "comic strip." He was given the Will Eisner Award Hall of Fame after his death in 1982.



JOSEPH L. CARWIN, MD

1905-1964

Physician and civic leader Joseph L. Carwin, MD was the first African American elected as head of the Fairfield County Medical Assoc. He also served as president of the Stamford Chapter of the American Academy of General Practice and of the Stamford Medical Society. Carwin Park, located on Spruce St. and West Main in Stamford is named after him. He was married to Joyce Yerwood, MD.



JACK CAVANAUGH

A long-time Stamford Advocate columnist, Jack Cavanaugh is a veteran print and network reporter and sportswriter. His writing is personal and poignant and captures the past and the foibles of the present in a memorable way. He is the author of The Gipper (2010), Giants Among Men (2008), and Tunney (2006), which was

nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in biography. He is currently an adjunct professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.



SAM AND ROCKY CINGARI

CINGARI FAMILY

After losing his job in the Depression, Salvatore Cingari bought an old school bus, loaded it with fresh produce and became a successful grocer, calling his business Grade A Market. His sons eventually joined him and they expanded the business. In 1991, Grade A became a member of the Wakefern/ShopRite cooperative. Four generations of Cingaris now own and operate 10 ShopRite locations headed by Sam and Rocky. The family is passionate about giving back to the community, and is well-known for its major philanthropy. Among many other charitable projects, the family has supported the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County, of which Sam Cingari is Chairman of the Board.



REMO CIPRI

1926-1981

Remo Cipri was a tree-cutter and self-taught painter and sculptor whose work was honored by an exhibit at the Stamford Historical Society in 1999. He was known for his totem poles carved in the yard of his West Side home. He donated a 28-foot totem pole depicting animals and fish to Cove Island Park. He died of cancer at age 55 in 1981.



ELIZABETH CLAWSON

1641-1714

The hysteria of the witch trials swept New England in the 1690s, coming to Stamford as well. In

1692, Elizabeth Clawson among others was accused of witchcraft by a servant girl named Catherine. Clawson was held in jail while an inquiry was conducted. Later she was subjected to the "water test," in which the accused was bound and thrown into water. If she drowned, she was innocent; if she floated, she was guilty. Clawson floated. Many people stood up for her innocence, risking being accused themselves. She was finally exonerated and set free.



GEORGE CLEMENCEAU

1841-1929

French statesman George Clemenceau was the Prime Minister of France from 1906 to 1909, and again from 1917 to 1920. He led his nation in World War I and was one of the architects of the Treaty of Versailles. Prior to this, he lived in Stamford and taught at the Catherine Aiken School. Mary Plummer was a beautiful young student there, and fell in love with her French teacher, George Clemenceau. They married and had three children in their 7 year marriage.



CHARLOTTE DEWING SMITH CRUIKSHANK

1897-1979

Charlotte Dewing Smith Cruikshank was born in Michigan, but returned to Stamford, the home of her parents, when Charlotte was young. As a young girl, she began collecting American furniture and early decorative arts at a time when American antiques were beginning to be appreciated among antique collectors. Upon her death, benefactress Charlotte Dewing Smith Cruikshank willed \$1.2 million dollars, accompanied by a large, important collection of period furniture worth an additional \$500,000, to the Stamford Historical Society, allowing it to move to its current site at Martha Hoyt School on High Ridge Rd



HOMER S. CUMMINGS

1870-1956
Homer Stille Cummings served as the United States Attorney General from 1933 to 1939. He also was elected mayor of Stamford, Connecticut, three times, during which period he improved infrastructure and secured what is now Cummings Park. In 1909, he founded the legal firm of Cummings & Lockwood, and from 1919 to 1920, he served as chairman of the Democratic Party. Cummings & Lockwood remains a major Stamford law firm and Cummings Park is used by thousands of patrons a year.



WALTER D. DASKAM

1865 - 1932
Walter Daskam held an impressive array of corporate and political CEO positions including President of the Stamford Trust Company, Vice President of the Stamford Gas and Electric Company and the St. John's Woodworking Company. He was chairman of the Republican Town Committee, treasurer of the Town of Stamford from 1894 to 1905, a member of the city board of finance, president of King School and a trustee of the Stamford Children's Home. The park at Glenbrook Road and Daskam Place is named for him.



COL. ABRAHAM DAVENPORT

1715-1789
Col. Abraham Davenport served as inspiration for poet John Greenleaf Whittier's famous poem "Abraham

Davenport" from Tent on the Beach. Col. Davenport became the hero of the Dark Day (an abnormal darkening of the sky which shrouded all of New England.) Col. Davenport led people to believe that the Day of Judgment was upon them. A member of the Connecticut Governor's Council and a colonel in the Connecticut state militia, he was alleged to have said to his colleagues who wanted to adjourn the legislative session, "I am against adjournment. The day of judgment is either approaching, or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause for an adjournment; if it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. I wish therefore that candles may be brought."



REVEREND JAMES DAVENPORT
1716 - 1757

Reverend James Davenport was a clergyman who stirred up a lot of controversy during the First Great Awakening, an evangelical and revitalization movement that swept Protestant Europe and the American colonies. His actions often put him at odds with the law and the church. At one point, he was declared to be under "enthusiastical impressions and impulses, and thereby disturbed in the rational faculties of his mind." His spell over his followers ended when, at a book burning event, he took off his pants and threw them into the fire as well.



REVEREND DR. EBENEZER DIBBLEE
1715 - 1799

For 51 years, Reverend Dr. Ebenezer Dibblee was the Minister of St. John's Church. The Episcopal clergy in the northern colonies generally were loyal to the King.

Dr. Dibblee read the Prayer for the King's Majesty with the muskets of American soldiers leveled at his head, having been forbidden to read it on peril of his life. (He survived.) Two sons supported the King and escaped to Canada after one was "cruelly dragged through mire and dirt," a third supported the American side and joined the New York colony.



GUS EDSON

1901-1966
Cartoonist Gus Edson created the long-running comic strip, Dondi and took over The Gumps. A member of the Society of Illustrators, the National Cartoonists Society and the Writer's Guild of America, Edson was awarded a Distinguished Service Award for his work selling war bonds. The park between Weed Avenue and Holly Pond is named for him.



RABBI JOSEPH H. EHRENKRANZ
1926-2014

A leading North American Orthodox rabbi, Rabbi Ehrenkranz served from 1948 until 1992 as the spiritual leader of Congregation Agudath Sholom, which he helped build into a large, influential and dynamic Orthodox community synagogue. He was a major community leader, participating in numerous charitable events. He was the Synagogue Council of America's representative to the United Nations.



DR. ESTELLE F. FEINSTEIN
1924-2002

Renowned Stamford historian Dr. Estelle F. Feinstein was a history professor at the Stamford branch of University of Connecticut from 1957-1989. In 1999 she was awarded the Babbidge Award by the Association for the Study of Connecticut History. She was also an active participant-scholar with the Connecticut Humanities Council. She is the author of Stamford in The Gilded Age: The Political Life of a Connecticut Town, 1868-1893; Stamford from Puritan to Patriot: The Shaping of a Connecticut Community, 1641-1774; and Stamford: An Illustrated History.



JOHN DAY FERGUSON
1832-1877

The founder of the Ferguson Library, John Day Ferguson also was a champion of the local school system. In 1866 and in 1867, he was elected to represent Stamford in the State legislature. From 1871 to 1874 he served the district as Judge of Probate. In the legislature he was on the Committee on Education.



TEMPLE H. FIELDING
1914-1983

After his extensive travels in Europe during World War II, where he served as a secret operative, Temple Fielding wanted to make the continent accessible to the average tourist.

In response, he created the popular Fielding Travel Guides. He started the modern American travel guide, that gives practical information instead of romantic impressions; he told what was wrong and how you could get ripped off. For example, he wrote that if your hotel is comfortable, then you will probably like the city. Sightseeing comes quite a bit down the list. His wife provided much of the research. He died of a heart attack in Palma, Majorca at 69 years old.



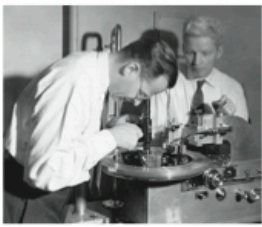
JAMES FOREMAN
1912-2006

James Foreman was the first African-American policeman appointed in Stamford, serving as a special and supernumerary officer for 13 years. He was made a regular officer in 1946, retiring in 1977. Foreman also served in the U.S. Army as a military investigator for more than five years where he received the Army commendation for service rendered in combating crimes and drugs.



KINGSLEY GILLESPIE
1895-1984

Kingsley Gillespie was a one-man version of "It's a Wonderful Life," with the gruffness of Mr. Potter and the generosity of George Bailey. Newsboys collected a nickel for an Advocate paper when Gillespie was appointed as publisher on Jan.1, 1942, a figure that quadrupled to 20 cents by 1977, when the family sold the business. Although gone for 30 years in 2016, the Gillespie Charitable Trust donated \$100 million to city nonprofit organizations.



PETER C. GOLDMARK

1906-1977

Peter C. Goldmark helped develop the long-playing (LP) 33 1/3 vinyl record and color technology for television while employed by CBS Laboratories. Goldmark's vinyl long-playing records remained the standard in the music industry until the CD replaced the LP in the late 1980's. President Jimmy Carter presented him with the National Medal of Science in 1977, for his leadership in the field of technology. He died in an car accident on December 7, 1977 in Westchester County, New York.

of the most popular bands in the country. He helped usher in the swing era with hits like "Sing, Sing, Sing" and "Goody-Goody." During the segregation era, he was the first to integrate black musicians into a white band. The Benny Goodman Orchestra Concert at Carnegie Hall was one of the historic moments in jazz, widely thought of as the first jazz concert. Through many of his concerts, he had members of the audience "dancin' in the aisles."



JUNE HAVOC

1912 - 2010

Actress, dancer, writer and director June Havoc is perhaps best-known as the basis for "Baby June" in "Gypsy," the musical based on the memoir of her sister, burlesque performer Gypsy Rose Lee. She was a child vaudeville performer and appeared in films starting at the age of three. In the mid-1970's, Havoc purchased an abandoned train depot and various 19th Century buildings in Wilton, Connecticut called Cannon Crossing which now is home to artisan shops, galleries, boutiques, a cafe and a restaurant. Havoc lived in North Stamford.



DR. G.R.R. REINHOLD HERTZBERG

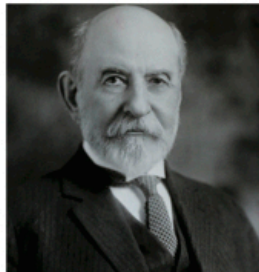
Dr. G.R.R. Hertzberg was a prominent Stamford surgeon and the founding father of the Stamford Museum. The Museum opened to the public on June 27, 1936, with a number of natural science collections forming its nucleus. His legacy has created a museum and nature center that is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the state.



BETTY RUTH HOLLANDER

1930 - 2011

Pioneering entrepreneur, industrialist, inventor, humanitar-ian, and philanthropist Betty Ruth Hollander was founder, chairwoman and CEO of Omega Engineering, Inc. She founded Omega at her kitchen table in Stamford, and over the next 50 years, Mrs. Hollander built Omega into a globally recognized and respected name in measurement and control. Betty Hollander sat on many Boards and was a mentor to female entrepreneurs and community leaders.



WILLIAM T. HORNADAY

1854 - 1937

Zoologist, conservationist, taxidermist and author William T. Hornaday served as the first director of what is known today as the Bronx Zoo. He also helped pioneer the wildlife conservation movement in America. He had a large impact on the scouting movement, especially The Boy Scouts of America. Mount Hornaday in Yellowstone Park is named for him.



HARRY HOUDINI (ERICH WEISS)

1874-1926

Illusionist, stunt performer, magician and trapeze artist Harry Houdini was best known as an escape artist. He was recognized as The Handcuff King, having once escaped from handcuffs specially

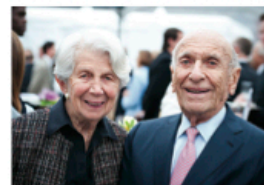
created by the London Mirror. He also escaped ropes, chains, entombment, straitjackets under water and police jails sometimes while being suspended upside down.



GEORGE A. HOYT

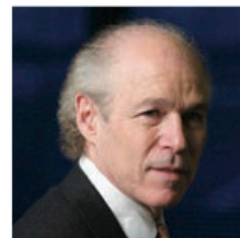
d. 1887

A real estate agent and the largest property owner in the city in the 1870s, George A. Hoyt owned and developed a significant portion of the South End, known for a while as Hoytville. His residence was a mansion at Main Street and Greyrock Place known as "Greyrock." He lived there until his death in 1887.



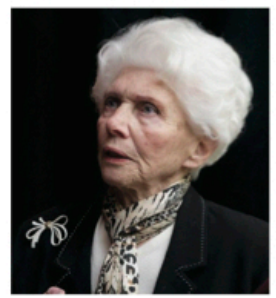
ROSLYN AND ELLIOT JAFFE

In 1962, Eliot and Roslyn Jaffe created Dress Barn, which, at the time, was innovative in its concept of a one-stop-shop that offered value-based fashionable wardrobes for working women. The couple eventually transformed that one small Stamford store into what is now Ascena Retail Group, Inc., a \$7.4 billion family of retail brands including Dress Barn, Lane Bryant, and Ann Taylor. They are noted for their philanthropy, having donated The Elliott & Roslyn Jaffe Diagnostic Imaging Center to the Stamford Hospital.



ROBERT JARVIK, MD

Medical scientist Robert Jarvik MD invented the Jarvik-7 artificial heart, the first permanent totally artificial heart. He is President and CEO of Jarvik Heart, Inc. and holds numerous patents for medical device technology.



DAHLIA (POBIE) JOHNSTON

When World War II began Pobie Johnston worked seven days a week in a war plant and was among the first to join the newly created Womens' Army Auxiliary Corps when she turned 21. She started as a cook at Fort Sill but when Congress reorganized the group into the Womens' Army Corps, she retrained in Army personnel administration. By the end of the war, Johnston headed a section in charge of processing discharges. From 1973 to 1975 she was the Executive Aide to Mayor Frederick Lenz. Pobie is noted for her amazing knowledge of city history and political facts.



HAROLD JUNE

1895-1962

U.S. Navy test pilot Harold June flew as co-pilot with Admiral Richard Byrd on his first flight over the South Pole in 1929. Balchen, Gould, and June were supposed to collect specimens from the newly discovered icy mountain range and return to base, but their plane did not return and an ominous radio silence prevailed. Byrd flew a rescue mission, and the three men were found clinging to life inside a shredded tent pitched at the foot of the mountain range. After a series of rescue flights, the three were rescued and safely returned. June was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross by the Secretary of the Navy.



SANDRA GOLDSTEIN

Sandy Goldstein was an active member of the political community from 1976 through 1991. She served on the Board of Representatives for 20 years and was its first female president. In her early years as a community activist, she led the fight to get stop arms on school buses, which was a novel idea in the 1970's but is now de rigueur on every school bus in the country. In 1993, she was hired as President of the Stamford Downtown Special Services District, a nonprofit corporation with a mission to revitalize Downtown. She sits on numerous Boards including the Avon Theatre, the Palace Theatre, the Mill River Collaborative and the Ferguson Library. She was named Stamford Citizen of the Year in 2005.



BENNY GOODMAN

1909-1986

Known as the King of Swing, Benny Goodman was a clarinetist, composer and bandleader of one



WALTER J. KENNEDY

1912 - 1977

Walter J. Kennedy was born in Stamford. In the 1950's, he was athletic director at St. Basil's Preparatory School in Stamford. During much of the 1950's, he toured the world with the Harlem Globetrotters as the Publicity Director. He returned home to Stamford and was elected Mayor in 1959. In 1963, the NBA owners elected him president. He was the commissioner of the National Basketball Association from 1963-75. The Westhill High School sports complex is named J. Walter Kennedy Sports Complex in his honor.



ALEXANDER KOPROSKI, SR. AND JR.

Alexander Sr. was a Stamford police officer for 31 years. He was honored by the Stamford Old Timer's Association in 1962 for his dedication to Holy Name Athletic Club. His son, Alexander Jr. has played a very active role in the Stamford community as a spokesman for the Polish community. He is National Vice President of the Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation and has received awards from The Polish American Journal, The Polish American Cultural Society, and The Holy Name Athletic Club. He was named Layman of the year by the Stamford Kiwanis Club.



IGNATIUS KUNG

1902 - 2000

Cardinal Kung was the Roman Catholic Bishop of Shanghai, and the Apostolic Administrator of

Souchou and Nanking. He spent 30 years in Chinese prisons for defying the Communist control of the Roman Catholic church. He died in Stamford in 2000, aged 98. His funeral was held at St. John the Evangelist Church (now the Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist) in Stamford with Cardinal James Francis Stafford, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, presiding.



JOHN C. LATHAM

1888-1975

John C. Latham was Stamford's first Congressional Medal of Honor winner during World War I. An expert horticulturist, he had a florist business on Bedford Street and also worked with the Parks Department. John served as Sergeant in the U.S. Army from about 1918 until 1919 when he received a Medal of Honor. Latham Park, at Bedford Street and Walton Place, is named for him.



CYNDI LAUPER

Singer, songwriter, actress and LGBTQ activist, Cyndi Lauper has released nine studio albums, including her debut. She's So Unusual, which was the first debut female album to chart four top-five hits on the on the Billboard Hot 100. "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" became a female anthem in the early 1980s. She composed the music for the Broadway musical, Kinky Boots, for which she won a Tony Award. She has also won a Grammy, an Emmy, the New York's Outer Critics Circle Award, and awards from MTV, VMA, Billboard and AMA.



JOSEPH LIEBERMAN

Former Connecticut Attorney General and U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman was the Democratic Party's Vice Presidential candidate in the hotly contested 2000 election of Gore vs. Bush, winning the popular vote by a margin of more than 500,000 votes but losing the deciding Electoral College to George W. Bush and Dick Cheney. He was the first Jewish candidate to appear on a presidential ticket. As a Senator, Lieberman was noted for his bipartisanship and independence. In 2007, he ran for Senator as an Independent and beat the Democrat and Republican candidates.



MICHAEL LIONE, SR.

1908-1954

Michael F. Lione, Sr. was a 15-year member of the Stamford Police Department who coached Stamford Little League from its first year in 1950 until his death. He led national championship teams at the Little League World Series, as well as two Little League championships. Lione Little League Field was dedicated in his honor at Scalzi Park, the city's Little League National Division was renamed the National-Lione Little League and Michael F. Lione Memorial Park at Stillwater and Merrill Avenues is dedicated in his honor.



CARL LOBOZZA

Photographer Carl Lobozza's renowned photographic collection spans the period from 1895 to 1896

and primarily contains photographs of Prospect Park, unidentified residences and portraits. His work was published in 1971 in the book, "Journey through time: Stamford, Connecticut." Carl was a dedicated volunteer at the Stamford Historical Society .



THE LODATO FAMILY

United Housewrecking was founded by the Lodato family in 1954, when lower Stamford was being cleared for I-95. The patriarch of the Lodato construction company, United Housewrecking, saw gold in the doors, mantels, stained glass and other architectural remnants of value that were being tossed and opened up a store to sell these "treasures". Three generations later, the huge store, United Housewrecking, owned by the third generation of Lodatos, Ross and Mario, is still the destination for decorators and designers. Mario J. Lodato, Jr. who had no role in United Housewrecking and his son Greg are major Stamford Downtown property owners and proponents of Downtown development.



JOSHUA LOGAN III

1908 - 1988

Joshua Logan III was a legendary Broadway and Hollywood director and writer. Among the first actors he directed were Henry Fonda and James Stewart. He shared the 1950 Pulitzer Prize with Rodgers and Hammerstein for co-writing "South Pacific", and he won a Tony Award for Best Director for the same. He was nominated for Academy Awards for Best Director for the films Picnic and Sayonara. He wrote an autobiography in 1976, "Josh: My Up-and-Down,

In- and- Out- of-Life" in which he talks frankly about his bipolar disorder. He lived in North Stamford.



THE LOTSTEIN FAMILY

At the beginning of the 20th century, butcher Sam Lotstein started the Hartford Provision Company, now HPC Foodservice. His two sons, Louis and Irving, took over the business and established Grand Central Markets, a significant local supermarket located strategically across Stamford and the region. The Lotstein family has been active through the years in charitable and religious organizations including ARI, Stamford Red Cross and the Jewish Home for the Elderly. This commitment to community is continued today by Norman Lotstein who is a founding member of the Stamford Downtown Special Services District.



MOIRA K. LYONS

Moira K. Lyons (D-Stamford) was the first female Speaker of the Connecticut House, from 1999 - 2004. Speaker Lyons received national recognition in 2000 from Good Housekeeping magazine as one of its "Top Ten Women in Government." She remains active in the Stamford community serving on several boards of directors, including CTE, the Women's Business Development Center, the Jackie Robinson Park of Fame, and the SoundWaters Community Center for Environmental Education, the Ferguson Library and the Palace Theatre. She works for Norwalk Community College as Director of Community Development.

**RAYMOND R. MACHLETT**

1900 – 1955

Raymond R. Machlett was president of Machlett Laboratories, founded by his father Robert in 1934. This manufacturing operation began making x-ray tubes and became the largest producer of its kind in the world. The plant was established on Hope Street and Camp Avenue in 1934. Machlett lived at 1063 Hope Street in Springdale.

**DANNEL P. MALLOY**

Currently Governor of Connecticut, Dannel P. Malloy served as Stamford's mayor for four terms, making him the first mayor in Stamford history to have held office for more than ten years. Of his many accomplishments as mayor, he is best known for initiating and for supporting the following: the Mill River Greenway Project, a 14-acre park and river restoration in Stamford Downtown, the total revitalization of the southend, recognizing the Downtown as the center of arts, business and retail and for his attention to sound budgeting practices. He is currently Chair of the Democratic Governors Assoc and had the honor of being the 2016 recipient of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

**RON MARCUS**

Ron Marcus joined the Stamford Historical Society as a volunteer at the age of 16, serving as its

Librarian for the past 42 years. He presided as President of the Stamford Historical Society from 1971 until 1975, served as a member of the Stamford Bicentennial Committee from 1974-1977 and helped to found the then-named Stamford Jewish Historical Society in 1983. As a historian, he has written extensively. His works include a definitive three-volume bibliography of Stamford, an account of the Stamford witch trial of Elizabeth Clawson in 1692, a Survey of the Revolutionary War Claims of Stamford citizens, and the history of Fort Stamford during the American War of Independence.

**JOHN JAY MCCLOY**

1895-1989

Lawyer and diplomat John Jay McCloy was the United States High Commissioner in postwar Germany. He oversaw \$1 billion in aid, and was the second president of the World Bank. He served in the administrations of Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan. Under Roosevelt and Truman, McCloy was the U.S. High Commissioner for Occupied Germany. He created the Office of Strategic Services, which eventually became the CIA.

**ANDREW McDONALD**

Andrew McDonald worked as Director of Legal Affairs for Stamford from 1999 to 2002, and served on the Stamford Board of Finance from 1995 to 1999 and on the Stamford Board of Representatives from 1993 to 1995. McDonald served in the Ct State Senate for 10 years and chaired the Judiciary Committee. He also has spent two years as Governor Dan Malloy's chief legal counsel. He now serves on the Connecticut Supreme Court.

**THE MERCEDE FAMILY**

Three generations of Mercedes, Frank Sr., his son Nicholas and grandson Frank J., have actively worked for the benefit of the city of Stamford. Founded in 1927, Frank Mercede & Sons, Inc. is a family-owned construction company. The Mercedes family has always given back to the community. This tradition has been carried on by Frank J. whose many altruistic activities include service on the Friends of ARI and The Stamford Boys and Girls Club. He was also appointed to the Stamford Police Commission and was a Trustee for the Stamford Police Pension Fund. He currently serves on the Board of the Palace Theatre, the Downtown Special Services District and the Mill River Collaborative. The Twin Meadows Playground, which is named in honor of his and his wife Lori's two daughters, allows children of all abilities to play together.

**SCHUYLER MERRITT**

1853 - 1953

Schuyler Merritt was a Stamford resident and the Merritt Parkway is named in his honor. Merritt long represented the southwestern part of Connecticut in the U.S. Congress representing the 4th Congressional District as a Republican from 1917-1931. He championed the construction of a parkway to parallel U.S. Route 1. At the groundbreaking ceremony in 1934, Merritt said, "This great highway is not being constructed primarily for rapid transit but for pleasant transit." He died in 1953 at the age of 99 and is buried in Woodland Cemetery in Stamford.

**C.O. MILLER**

1847-1919

In 1868, 20-year-old C.O. Miller opened a dry goods store on Main Street, opposite the Town Hall. His son, C.O. Miller, Jr. joined him in 1899. The store remained open, at varying locations, for 106 years, notably the store on Bank St. In addition to his dry good business, he had extensive interests in many enterprises. He was Director of the Stamford YMCA, Vice-President of Stamford Savings Bank, Director of First Stamford National Bank, Director of Stamford Gas and Electric Co., besides being President of the business he founded.

**WILLIAM T. MINOR**

1815-1889

William T. Minor served as the 39th Governor of Connecticut, Consul-General to Havana, Cuba and a judge in the Connecticut Superior Court. He was a member of the Know-Nothing Party, a secretive group that was against Roman Catholics and recent immigrants. The Republican Party founded a coalition with the Know-Nothing Party because it was helpful in furthering its anti-slavery views. Since there was no separate convention of Know-Nothings, Minor was not renominated in 1857. He returned to his law practice and died in Stamford in 1889. He is buried in the Woodland Cemetery.

**REUBEN NAKIAN**

1897 - 1985

Sculptor Reuben Nakian was a world renowned artist and won a

Guggenheim Fellowship and a Ford Foundation Fellowship. He represented the United States as the major sculptor in the VI Bienal in Brazil in 1961 and Biennale in Venice in 1968. His work is represented in the Fogg Art Museum, Honolulu Museum of Art, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Guggenheim Museum, Whitney Museum of American Art and others. Several of his exceptional works of art are on display in Stamford Downtown.

**DR. JACOB NEMOITIN**

1880-1963

Physician and humanitarian Jacob Nemoitin MD delivered 10,000 babies in Stamford over the course of his practice. He spoke numerous languages including: Russian, Italian, German, Polish, and Yiddish. As a physician he focused on the immigrant community, making house calls on bicycle. He became known as the community's guardian angel because of his compassion, medical skills and generosity. The park at North Street and Adams Avenue is named for him.

**JUNZO NOJIMA**

1906 - 1983

Junzo Nojima owned the K&J Sandwich Shop in Stamford for about 40 years. In April 1957, Nojima presented Stamford with a gift of over 100 cherry blossom trees to show his appreciation to Stamford. The trees, which he personally cared for, were planted along the then barren Mill River. Cherry blossoms have an ancient tradition in Japanese culture and added incredible beauty to the Mill River park. The cherry blossom tradition that Nojima started continues today with 70 cherry trees gracing Mill River Park.



EUGENE O'NEILL

1888-1953

Famed dramatist Eugene O'Neill was the first American playwright to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature. He attended Betts Academy, a prep school in Stamford for 4 years. Eugene O'Neill wrote such classics as Anna Christie, the Emperor Jones, the Hairy Ape, Desire Under The Elms, The Iceman Cometh and the drama Long Day's Journey into Night, arguably one of the finest American plays in the 20th century.



THE PELLICCI FAMILY

Pellicci's Italian restaurant has been a fixture on Stillwater Avenue since 1947. Thought to be the oldest in Stamford, it was founded by Frances and Frank. Son Anthony started making meatballs at the tender age of 10. In its day, it has hosted celebrities such as Walter Cronkite, Joe DiMaggio, Nancy Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Lou Rawls, and Jimmy Fallon. Anthony took over running the restaurants in the 1960s, and never left until his death in 2014. The restaurant continues its tradition of abundant Italian food today.



REVEREND ROBERT W. PERRY

1931

Reverend Robert W. Perry has been the senior pastor of the Union Baptist Church of Stamford for last 42 years. He was the first African American to serve on the Board of Ethics of the City of Stamford, and has served as a Fire Commissioner for the City of Stamford, as well as the Police Chaplain for the Stamford Police Department. He later served two terms as a Police

Commissioner and now serves as a Fire Commissioner for the City of Stamford. He has been recognized as one of the most influential 100 Black men in Connecticut.



CHARLES PHILLIPS

1820 - 1882

Generations can thank Charles H. Phillips, who invented Phillips' Milk of Magnesia for stomach relief. He received the patent in 1873. His Glenbrook firm was incorporated in 1885 as the Charles H. Phillips Company. After his death in 1888, his four sons ran the corporation until 1923, at which time it was acquired by Sterling Drug, Inc. The last familiar blue bottle to be filled in Stamford was in 1976 when production at the Glenbrook plant was phased out.



ANN PINCHOT

1905 - 1998

Ann Pinchot published more than a dozen novels and co-authored a number of celebrity biographies, including the highly regarded "The Movies, Mr. Griffith and Me," written with actress Lillian Gish. Other books she has written include "52 West," "Jacqueline Kennedy," "Weep No More My Lady," "Certain Rich Girls," and "Rival to My Heart."



EZIO PINZA

1892 - 1957

Italian opera singer Ezio Pinza spent 22 seasons with New York's Metropolitan Opera and 20 with the

San Francisco Opera. He also sang at La Scala, Milan and Royal Opera House, London. He appeared on Broadway as well, most notably in South Pacific, originating the role of Emile de Becque.



ARTHUR H. PITNEY

1871-1933

Co-founder of Pitney-Bowes, Arthur H. Pitney is known as the father of the postage meter. His invention, the Pitney Bowes Model M Postage Meter, has been recognized as an International Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.



LOIS I. PONT-BRIANT

A longtime member of Stamford's Women's Club, Lois I. Pont-Briant served as Stamford's first female city and town clerk from 1975 to 1999. Lois was an active member of the Stamford Republican Party, yet always retained a strong relationship with the opposition party as she was always believed to be appropriately non-partisan and fair.



PONUS AND ONAX (OWENOKE)

Sachem of the Rippowams and Sagamore of the Toquams Ponus and his son Onax were among the Native Americans who initially "sold" their native lands to English settlers. (It is unlikely that the native Siwanoy, speakers of the greater Algonquin language group, understood what was intended by

this exchange.) In 1655, a new treaty with Ponus and Onax fixed the dimensions of Stamford as 8 miles in breadth and 16 miles in length (north-south), for a total of 128 square miles. An additional four coats were paid for the extra land.



FR. GEORGE POULOS

Since 1956, Father George Poulos has served at the Church of the Archangels, Greek Orthodox. He has been a member of the local Council of Churches and Synagogues as Vice President and is a Chaplain of the Stamford Fire Department. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Woodland Cemetery, and is the author of more than 10 books on the Greek Orthodox faith.



GILDA RADNER

1946 - 1989

Comic genius Gilda Radner belonged to the first cast of TV's long-running sketch comedy show, "Saturday Night Live," for which she won an Emmy. She later starred in several movies and stage plays. After her death from ovarian cancer, her husband Gene Wilder and Joanna Bull, Radner's psychotherapist, opened Gilda's Club, a network of places where people living with cancer, their friends and family can meet.



BABETTE RANSHOFF

1904-2000

A former Republican National Committeewoman, Babette Ranshoff was active in

Republican politics for over 60 years: she was Vice-Chair of Republican National Committee, 1959-65; delegate to Republican National Convention from Connecticut, 1960 (member, Resolutions Committee), 1964. She also was one of the first six women to serve on the first Stamford Board of Representatives.



LIBBY HOLMAN REYNOLDS

1904 - 1971

Torch singer and Broadway actress Libby Holman Reynolds dwelled in the fabulous Treetops Estate, the majority of which was turned over to the city of Stamford as part of the Mianus River Park. A colorful and thrice-married figure who was once indicted for the murder of her first husband, she was also involved in the 1960s Civil Rights movement.



ROBERT AND FRANK RICH

In 1960, the Stamford Urban Redevelopment Commission selected F.D. Rich & Co. as the sole redeveloper of the downtown during urban renewal. Brothers Robert N. and Frank Rich Jr. turned a struggling Stamford downtown into a thriving cultural, residential and business center. The company headed by Bob and Frank, became the most influential developer in the city's history, developing more than five million square feet of office, retail and residential space. Tom Rich continues the family tradition by building quality hotel and residential developments in Stamford.



ALLYSON RIOUX
1962 – 1989

Allyson Rioux was a renowned multi-sport athlete, whose ten years as a pro softball player landed her as a six-time All-American, with inclusions in the Westhill High School, Connecticut American Softball Association, University of Massachusetts and the National American Softball Association Softball Halls of Fame. Her career was cut short when she died of a brain tumor at the age of 27. Westhill's softball field was named in her honor.



JACKIE ROBINSON
1919 – 1972

Jackie Robinson was the first African American to play in the major leagues in the modern era. In 1947, he broke baseball's color line, when he started for the Brooklyn Dodgers. The park at Richmond Hill Avenue and West Main Street is named for him. In 1962, he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. On receiving some hate mail, Robinson would not bow to these threats. He wrote, "I am human. I like public approval as well as anyone else. But, if I have to be misunderstood and misrepresented because I follow my convictions and speak my mind, then so be it. In the long run, I'm the guy I have to live with. And if I ever become untrue to myself and to the black people from which I came, I wouldn't like myself very much.



ANDY ROBUSTELLI
1925 – 2011

Andy Robustelli played professional football as a defensive end for the Los Angeles Rams and the New York Giants. In 1971, he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The Robustelli family continues to enhance Stamford through its commercial ventures and philanthropy.



HINDA AND RICHARD L. ROSENTHAL

HINDA (1921 – 2006)
RICHARD (1916 – 1998)
Generous philanthropists Hinda and Richard L. Rosenthal were major donors to Stamford charities and cultural institutions. Hinda was on the board of advisers of Ferguson Library and Stamford Symphony Orchestra, vice chairwoman of the Stamford Center for the Arts, board member at Stamford Museum & Nature Center, and a director of the Stamford Health Foundation. Richard was the Founder and CEO of Citizens Utilities and President of Utilities and Industries Corporation. In 1948, he established the Richard & Hinda Rosenthal Foundation to support the fields of medicine, art and literature; notably the Stamford Center for the Arts and the Stamford Hospital.



HAROLD ROSS
1892–1951

Journalist Harold Ross founded and was editor-in-chief of The New Yorker, the sophisticated metropolitan magazine. During World War I, he enlisted in the U.S.

Army and went to work for Stars and Stripes. He was said to have walked 150 miles to reach Paris to write for them. During this time, he met his first wife, Jane Grant, who helped him finance The New Yorker. Ross worked long hours and ruined all three of his marriages as a result. He edited every issue of the magazine until his death – a total of 1,399 issues. He was also one of the original members of the famed and witty Algonquin Round Table.



DON RUSSELL
1921 – 2010

Don Russell (nee Rustici) was a longtime Stamford Advocate columnist, radio personality and one of the first network television news anchors. After WWII he worked as morning announcer on the old Dumont Television Network, the first to have daytime programming. He later became on-camera host of "Cavalcade of Stars," a variety show starring Jackie Gleason. Russell was among the nation's first TV news anchormen, hosting the 7 p.m. news in New York. He was best known locally for his knowledge of Stamford history and personalities. In 1991, Russell co-wrote a history of Stamford to mark the city's 350th birthday.



SAMUEL SACHS
1851-1935

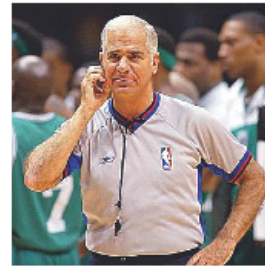
Investment banker Samuel Sachs joined his father-in-law Marcus Goldman's firm, which became Goldman Sachs in 1904. He helped pioneer issuing stock as a way for new companies to raise funds. Together with his father-in-law, he underwrote securities offerings for such large firms as Sears, Roebuck and Company. During this time Goldman Sachs became involved in other major securities markets, like the over-the-counter, bond, and

convertibles markets which continues to be a big part of the company's revenue.



J. D. SALINGER

Although Author J.D. Salinger did not live in Stamford for a long time, he wrote his enduring classic novel of teenage angst, "The Catcher in the Rye" while living in a rental property in North Stamford. The novel continues today as a best seller: selling about 250,000 copies a year.



BENNETT SALVATORE

Bennett Salvatore is a professional basketball referee in the National Basketball Association. He was born in Stamford in 1950 and lived all his life in Stamford. He was a two-sport athlete in high school. He earned all-American and All-State honors as a quarterback. As a referee he articulates the following: "We try not to explain ourselves: but nobody likes getting screamed at, questioned, called corrupt, or interrogated by investigators. We give our best shot, and we will continue to."



THE SARNER FAMILY

Dorothy and Milton Sarnar owned and ran Sarnar's Department Store on Atlantic Street. Their son, George Sarnar, is a Managing Director at J.P. Morgan Securities, the wealth management division of J.P. Morgan. He is co-chairman of the Stamford Hospital Foundation Board of Directors. With his wife

Patty, he donated the Patty and George Sarnar Health and Fitness Institute to Stamford Hospital. Dorothy and Milton's daughter, Barbara Hotz, is an accomplished sculptor.



JOHN A. SCALZI, JR.
1907-1962

President of Scalzi Paint Stores, John A. Scalzi, Jr. was one of the city's star athletes. As a student at Stamford High School, class of 1927, he earned more letters, in football, basketball and baseball than any student in the school's history. In 1956, he was appointed to the Park Commission. Scalzi Park on Bridge Street was dedicated to his memory in 1963.

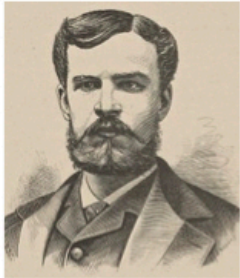


CHUCK SCARBOROUGH

TV journalist and author Chuck Scarborough has been the lead male anchor on WNBC-TV in New York City since 1974. He has also appeared on network NBC-TV news. He has won 36 Emmy Awards. Over the years, Scarborough has led breaking news coverage locally and abroad. He was honored by the New York Chapter of Television Arts & Sciences with their 2014 "Governor's Award" as recognition of his long and distinguished career in journalism. He has earned awards from the Associated Press, New York Press Club, the Aviation and Space Writers, the Washington Review of Journalism's Best in the Business; the Working Press Association; and the New York State Broadcaster's Association.

**THE SCHLEICHER FAMILY**

Born in Germany in 1827, Gustave Schleicher came to America in 1850 to work for Steinway Pianos. In 1864, he established his own factories in New York City, Mount Vernon, N.Y. and Stamford, Conn. His four sons joined the firm, and between them, they held more than 40 patents, mostly related to pianos, automobiles and aircraft. Due to its durability and sound quality, many Schleicher pianos were purchased by the USO and shipped to Europe during World War I. The company closed in the 1920's.

**EDWIN L. SCOFIELD**

1852-1918
Edwin L. Scofield was a graduate of Columbia Law School in 1873. He was a representative in both the Connecticut General Assembly and the Connecticut State Senate, representing the 12th District. The second mayor of Stamford, serving from 1895 to 1897, he was also a director on the boards of Stamford Hospital, the Stamford YMCA, the First National Bank of Stamford, and the Commissioner of the State Building and Loan Association.

**CARLY SIMON**

Singer, songwriter and author Carly Simon has won Grammys for Best New Artist for "That's the Way I've Always Heard It To Be", three for

the worldwide hit, "You're So Vain" and one for "Coming Around Again". She was the first artist in history to win all three major awards (Grammy, Academy and Golden Globe) for a song: Let the River Run" from the film "Working Girl. The estate where Carly spent her summer vacations growing up stands on the grounds of the King School at 1450 Newfield Ave in Stamford.

**NELLIE SPEARS**

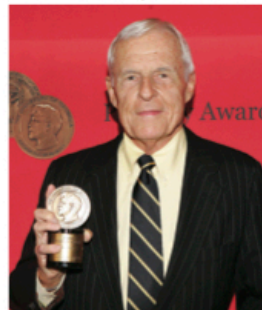
d. 2013
Nellie Spears, was the first black teacher in the Stamford school system, where she also served as a guidance counselor, assistant principal, administrative assistant for personnel, and coordinator of Title IX, a federal policy for gender equality in education. She was a role model for many students in the public school system. The Stamford NAACP annually gives out the Nellie Spears Education Award.

**BARRY STERNLICHT**

Barry Sternlicht was born in NYC in 1960 and grew up in Stamford. He graduated magna cum laude from Brown University and received his MBA with distinction from Harvard Business School. He founded Starwood Capital Group, which ranks as one of the largest and most successful real estate investment firms. From 1995 through early 2005, he was Chairman and CEO of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide. Sternlicht has been credited as a dynamic and innovative hotel leader, creating new products and programs with immediate global appeal. He has been named the King of Hotels.

**ARTHUR SULZBERGER**

1926 – 2012
Arthur Sulzberger was publisher of The New York Times, and Chairman of the Board of The New York Times Company. During his tenure, he was responsible for publishing The Pentagon Papers, a secret government history of the Vietnam War, which embarrassed the Nixon administration. In 1992, he relinquished the office of Publisher to his son, Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Jr. At the time of Mr. Sulzberger's death, The New York Times was being run by a fourth generation of his family. "My conclusion is simple," he once said, "nepotism works." Members of the family who became directly involved in the business cultivated their commitment with bonding rituals at Hillandale, the family's 263-acre estate in Stamford, Connecticut.

**GRANT TINKER**

TV producer and executive Grant Tinker is the former chairman of NBC, and co-founder of MTM Enterprises, which was responsible for such classic television shows as The Mary Tyler Moore Show, Rhoda, The Bob Newhart Show, WKRP in Cincinnati, Hill Street Blues and St. Elsewhere. He has been inducted into the Television Hall of Fame.

**CHRISTEL TRUGLIA**

Christel Truglia represented the 145th Assembly District in the state

legislature from 1988 – 2008. She was born in Schotmarr, Germany during World War II and immigrated to the US. At church she met and married the church's organist, Anthony Truglia. They had three children. Christel's passion for helping children caused her to found the Truglia Thumbelina Fund in 1996. Christel continues her work helping the needy.

**GENE TUNNEY**

1897 – 1978
Boxer Gene Tunney was the world heavyweight champion from 1926-1928, and the American light heavyweight champion two times. He was elected as Ring Magazine's first-ever Fighter of the Year in 1928, elected to the World Boxing Hall of Fame in 1980 and the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1990. Upon retirement, he was invited by Yale University to lecture on his other passion, Shakespeare. He and his wife lived in North Stamford at 1742 Star Meadow Farm of 200 acres, where they raised cattle and sheep.

**BOBBY VALENTINE**

Hometown sports hero "Bobby V" was Rippowam High School's star football and baseball player. He went on to play professional baseball for the Los Angeles Dodgers, The California A's, The New York Mets and the San Diego Padres. After a leg fracture he became a baseball manager for The Texas Rangers, The New York Mets, The Boston Red Sox and in Japan, the Chiba Lotte Marines. He is currently athletic director of Sacred Heart University. Valentine opened Booby V's Sports Gallery Cafe in Stamford, helping to pave the way for a renovation of the Main Street area.

**VIVIAN VANCE**

1909-1979
Actress Vivian Vance was best known as Lucy Ball's comrade-in-mischief, first on the iconic television show, I Love Lucy as landlady Ethel Mertz, and then on The Lucy Show as Vivian Bagley. She became the first actress to win an Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress. Vance became an advocate on behalf of the mentally ill and the state of Connecticut Department of Mental Health honored her for her work. She lived at 509 Old Long Ridge Road in Stamford.

**GALDINO VASQUEZ**

Galdino Vasquez is a leader in Stamford's Mexican community. He has been actively involved in Stamford's Mexican Radio Station. He has organized and participated in innumerable cultural events for the Latino community and has passed this legacy of community involvement to his two sons. He is the owner of Stamford Downtown's popular Mexican eatery, Tacos Guadajajara.

**CHICO VEJAR**

Some sportswriters called boxer Chico Vejar Stamford's Socking Schoolboy. He fought during boxing's Golden Age, when fights were on TV every Wednesday and Friday night. His skill, intelligence and affable personality led him to become a fan favorite and to be inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame. Upon retirement, Vejar served as a volunteer board member and tireless fundraiser for the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Fairfield County.



MORT WALKER

1923
Comic illustrator Mort Walker created the long running strips "Beetle Bailey," and co-created "Hi and Lois" and "Sam and Silo." "Beetle Bailey," distributed by King Features Syndicate is published in 1,800 newspapers in more than 50 countries for a combined readership of 200 million daily. He founded the National Cartoon Museum. He was inducted into the Museum of Cartoon Art Hall of Fame in 1989: the first museum devoted to the art of comics. Walker still supervises the daily work of his cartoon enterprises at his Connecticut studio, which has employed six of his children.



FREDRICKA "FREDRI" CAROLYN WASHINGTON

1903 – 1994
Fredri Washington, one of the first black actresses to gain recognition for her work on stage and in film, was best-known for her performance in the 1934 film, "Imitation of Life." She danced with Josephine Baker, was a chorine on the landmark show (recently revived on Broadway), "Shuffle Along," and performed opposite the great Paul Robeson. Washington was active in the fight for equal rights for blacks in the theater and film, and was a founder of the Negro Actors Guild.



BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID HOW WATERBURY, JR.

1723-1801
Brigadier General David How Waterbury, Jr. of Stamford was

appointed to the Fort Stamford command of a brigade of Connecticut State Troops to defend the coastline from Horseneck (Greenwich) to New Haven during the Revolutionary War. He is buried in the Woodland Cemetery. He commanded the 5th Connecticut Provincial Regiment.



C. ANTHONY WHITTINGHAM

1925-2009
C. Anthony Whittingham was a founding department head at U.S. Surgical Corporation, where he served as Chief Financial Officer, Senior Vice President and a member of the Board of Directors. After leaving U. S. Surgical, Mr. Whittingham co-founded Joint Medical Products Corporation, Inc. to develop and market state-of-the-art hip and knee joints. As Whittingham's business grew his commitment to philanthropy helped innumerable charities. In 2001, Stamford Hospital opened The C. Anthony and Jean Whittingham Pavilion for Specialty Care. Anthony's sons, Andrew and Michael, continue his generosity and have made major philanthropic gifts to the Palace Theatre, the Mill River Collaborative, Stamford Downtown and many charities geared towards education.



GENE WILDER

1933 – 2016
Stage and screen comic actor, screenwriter, and author Gene Wilder is known to millions of children as the mysterious title character from Willie Wonka & The Chocolate Factory: to others as

anxious Leo Bloom in The Producers, gunslinger Jim in Blazing Saddles and Dr. Frankenstein in Young Frankenstein. He wrote, produced and starred in Murder in a Small Town, a movie set in Stamford. He helped found the Gilda Radner Ovarian Cancer Detection Center in Los Angeles, and Gilda's Club, a cancer support group, in honor of his late wife.



HERB WILLIAMS

Herb Williams played professional basketball for the Indiana Pacers, the Dallas Mavericks, the New York Knicks, and the Toronto Raptors. He served as assistant and interim coach for the New York Knicks, and is now assistant coach for New York Liberty in the Women's National Basketball Association. In March 2015, Williams was hired as the assistant coach of the WNBA's New York Liberty, become a fan favorite and to be inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame. Upon retirement, Vejar served as a volunteer board member and tireless fundraiser for the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Fairfield County.



HOMER L. WISE

1917 – 1974
Homer L. Wise received the United States military's highest decoration—the Medal of Honor—for his actions in World War II. He was also awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star with valor device, three Purple Hearts, Croce di Guerra (Italy) and Croix de Guerre (France). He was a guest

of the President of the United States at the inaugurations of Presidents Eisenhower, Richard Nixon and Lyndon Johnson. The park on Bedford Street is named for him, as well as a statue of him in Veterans Park.



PEGGY WOOD

1892 – 1978
A stage, film and television actress and singer, Peggy Wood was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role as Mother Abbess in "The Sound of Music". In 1969, Wood joined the ABC soap, "One Life to Live". Some highlights of her filmography include: "Almost a Husband", "Wonder of Women", "A Star is Born", "Dream Girl," and "The Story of Ruth". Wood received numerous awards for her theatrical work and for a while was president of the American Theater and Academy. She died in 1978 in Stamford, following a stroke. She was 86 years old.



LINUS YALE JR. AND HENRY R. TOWNE

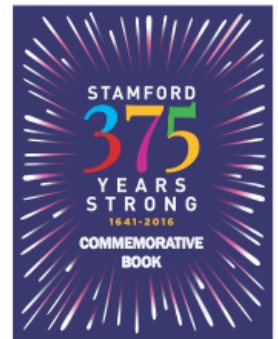
Yale: 1821-1868/Towne: 1844-1924
Mechanical engineer Henry R. Towne provided the capital for the creation of the Yale & Towne Manufacturing Company, which produced a new cylinder lock, invented by Linus Yale, Jr. An astute businessman, he created the Towne-Halsey Plan, which promoted time management techniques for workers. Mechanical

engineer Linus Yale Jr. invented the Pin-Tumbler lock and co-founded the Yale & Towne Manufacturing Company. His basic lock design is still widely distributed today. The original site of the Yale and Towne factory was totally gutted and made into attractive loft apartments in 2010.



JOYCE YERWOOD, MD

1909 – 1987
Community leader Dr. Yerwood was Fairfield County's first African American female physician. She was the founder of the city's first black community center, which is named for her. She was born and raised in Texas, and received her M.D. degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee: a feat deemed impossible for a black woman. Fifty years later, in 1983, at the class reunion at Meharry, the whole auditorium stood and applauded her. Back in Stamford, she began a second practice, serving as teacher and role model for generations of Stamford children.



THE ADVOCATE

HEARST *media services*

As part of Stamford's 375th anniversary, The Advocate published several in depth human interest stories to commemorate the milestone event. The six articles that follow span the entire anniversary year and will enlighten the reader about Houdini, Pitney Bowes, Kingsley Gillespie, Stamford as the shaper of pop culture, people behind Stamford landmarks and other assorted historical tidbits.

Many thanks to Hearst Media for these enlightening articles and for being a superb partner in the 375th celebration.



THE ADVOCATE

Thursday April 3, 2016 | Since 1829 | www.StamfordAdvocate.com | \$1.50



IT'S WHO YOU KNOW

City to celebrate anniversary by honoring past, present and future



Mayor David Martin

By Julie Moran Alterio

STAMFORD — Everyone knows Gov. Dannel P. Malloy comes from Stamford, but what about Gut-zon Borglum, sculptor of Mount Rushmore? Or singer Carly Simon? Or Robert Jarvik, inventor of the artificial heart?

Stamford residents can expect to spend 2016 learning about the hundreds of notable citizens who shaped their city in the 375 years since its founding.

"The heart of this whole effort as we went about putting this together was the incredible people who lived in Stamford, who were born in Stamford, who grew up in Stamford, who stepped foot in Stamford for even five minutes and who really made this city special," Sandra Goldstein, president of the Downtown Special Services District, said at an event Wednesday announcing nine months of activities to mark the city's anniversary.

The theme will percolate through timelines at the Ferguson Library, Government Center and Historical Society, as well as activities at community organizations such as the Stamford Museum & Nature Center.

School children from preschool through high

school will participate in the celebration. The youngest will create artwork that will hang in the mayor's gallery that speaks to the idea: "I am a citizen of Stamford, and this is what I look like."

Elementary pupils will compete for a spot in a calendar with artwork depicting their favorite place in the city. Middle school students will collect 375 items for the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County. High schoolers will create 30-second videos on the theme.

There will be an array of events for everyone, from a scavenger hunt every third Saturday in Mill River Park to a showing of the film "Boomerang" at the Avon Theatre that portrays Stamford circa 1947.

The kickoff event for the public will be an interfaith ceremony at 3 p.m. April 17 at Old Town Hall. After that, there will be a procession to Veterans Park to lay a wreath.

Mayor David Martin, sporting a clean-shaven visage after his recovery from skin-cancer surgery, paid homage to longtime Ferguson Library President Ernie DiMattia. DiMattia, who passed away in 2014, was the impetus behind the 375th anniversary celebration, the mayor said.

Martin said he called Goldstein and Library President Alice Knapp to find a way to mark the occasion that was different from the book created by the city 25 years ago.

"What they said is Stamford is a place where people have made a difference in the past, the present and the future," Martin said. "And they changed the whole direction of this 375th in a very positive and constructive way."



Michael Cummo / Hearst Connecticut Media

A display highlighting Stamford history, which included an oversized 'key to the city', was on hand Wednesday during a news conference held to announce details of a celebration of Stamford's 375th anniversary.

Marty Levine, special assistant to the mayor, said that people will be surprised to learn about those who have ties to Stamford — from J.D. Salinger, who wrote part of "Catcher in the Rye" in the city — to Schuyler Merritt, whose name lives on in a roadway traveled by so many each day.

"Georges Clemenceau — this is one of my favorites — was a teacher in Stamford, went on to become prime minister of France and wrote the Treaty of Versailles," Levine said.

Average citizens will be asked to share their own histories throughout the year by coming into the Ferguson Library and recording the story of what brought them to the city, Knapp said.

Residents can also visit the Historical Society to examine artifacts that tell the story of the city.



Michael Cummo / Hearst Connecticut Media

Pamela Coleman, a Stamford Historical Society official and member of the Stamford 375 committee, holds a New York City hotel key made by a company founded in Stamford during a news conference on the anniversary celebration.

Pamela Coleman, chairman of the Historical Society, brought a few to the event at the Government Center Wednesday, including an oversize key made by Yale & Towne similar to the ones mayors in the 1930s and 1940s would present to honored citizens.

"This is a nice symbol of Stamford and its history," she said.

jalterio@sctn.com;
203-964-2263

THE ADVOCATE

Sunday

April 3, 2016 | Since 1829 | www.StamfordAdvocate.com | \$3.00



TRACING A FORTUNE FROM PENNIES TO \$100M

Over 150 years, the Gillespie newspaper family transformed coins in the hands of newsboys into a trust expected to nurture Stamford in perpetuity



Kingsley Gillespie was announced as publisher and editor-in-chief of the Stamford Advocate on Jan. 1, 1942. He soon dropped the editor title.

By John Breunig

STAMFORD — Follow the money. It's a strategy used by journalists, traditionally to un-cover wrongdoing in the highest offices.

The catchphrase was made famous in 1976 when it was murmured by "Deep Throat" in "All the President's Men." In the film — and in the real Washington Post newsroom on which the movie is based — the money trail led to corruption and the downfall of President Richard Nixon. But in Stamford, a trail that starts in 1878 with pennies paid for Advocate newspapers produced by William Gillespie has led to a \$100 million trust — most of which will be streamed into medical advancements at Stamford Hospital, scholarships through the local Rotary Club and programs for families overseen by the city's First Presbyterian Church. As Stamford launches a year long celebration of its 375th anniversary this week, the saga of the Gillespie dynasty reveals how the family expanded the city's oldest existing business and helped shape the city itself. Their influence takes abrupt turns through the decades like

information whizzing through pneumatic tubes at former Advocate offices. Kingsley Gillespie, who created the trust with proceeds from the sale of The Advocate and Greenwich Time in 1977, was a one-man version of "It's a Wonderful Life," with the gruffness of Mr. Potter and the generosity of George Bailey. Former employees describe him as "exacting," "a myth," a "hard-working Yankee" and "grumpy."

Newsboys collected a nickel for an Advocate paper when Gillespie was appointed as publisher on Jan. 1, 1942, a figure that quadrupled to 20 cents by 1977, when the family sold the business. Gillespie's son, Kenyon, transformed his share of all that loose change into an \$80 million contribution to the trust set up by his father. To those revealed last week as the recipients of Kenyon's largesse, he was a stranger they could only characterize as a frugal recluse. Friends say that was not the case; that he was merely a private man who was "brilliant" at investing. Even as he coped with Macular Degeneration and Parkinson's disease before his death last March, Kenyon listened to financial reports on Bloomberg Radio while walking in the sand on the other side of Long Island Sound.

A modest start

The family's origins in Connecticut began in 1860, when Kingsley's uncle, William Gillespie, arrived from Canada and joined the Stamford Advocate staff as a "printer's devil" at age 21. Eight years later, he bought the paper.

The money came slowly from each sale of the weekly paper, which cost \$2.50 for an annual subscription.



A Stamford Advocate delivery truck circa 1949.

Kingsley's father, Richard, took a gamble in 1892 by turning the Advocate into a daily — despite public skepticism that Stamford wasn't large enough to support it. During the Great Depression, the Gillespies maintained cash flow by allowing advertisers to delay payment. Profits eventually poured in with the additional printing of everything from high school yearbooks to checks.

After becoming publisher in 1942, Kingsley tried to fend off the threat of radio news by posting hourly updates on a roller printer in the window of the Neo Italian Renaissance style office at 258 Atlantic St. He soon eliminated the competition by buying the station that became WSTC. Over his career, he maintained a modern newspaper by investing in press upgrades and replacing typewriters with computer terminals the size of TV sets.

continue



Kenyon Gillespie

The Gillespie dynasty

- ▶▶ **1860:** Journeyman printer William Gillespie responds to a job posting in the Stamford Advocate.
- ▶▶ **March 20, 1868:** Gillespie takes sole ownership of paper a year after buying it with a partner.
- ▶▶ **Aug. 15, 1895:** Kingsley Gillespie is born on Shippan Point.
- ▶▶ **1913:** Gillespie graduates from Stamford High School as class valedictorian.
- ▶▶ **Jan. 1, 1942:** Kingsley, 46, is announced as editor-in-chief and publisher of the Stamford Advocate following deaths of two brothers in the same year. He soon drops the editor title.
- ▶▶ **1942:** A sailing enthusiast, Gillespie helps organize the Stamford Harbor Patrol to teach residents navigation, before entering military service. His wife, Doris, volunteers as a Red Cross Motor Corps driver. Doris is also a founder of the Stamford and Shippan Garden Clubs and an organizer of the creation of Stamford Museum.
- ▶▶ **1947:** Gillespie is elected "an incorporator" of Stamford Hospital, where he was actively involved for more than 34 years, as vice president for eight years and through advisory work on the building, future planning and executive committees.
- ▶▶ **Dec. 29, 1977:** Kingsley leaves his office for last time after selling both papers to Times Mirror for \$20 million in stock. The 117-year family association with the paper ends.
- ▶▶ **March 23, 2015:** Kingsley's son, Kenyon, dies, triggering release of funds from the \$100 million Gillespie Charitable Trust.
- ▶▶ **March 30, 2016:** Officials announce the trust will be divided six ways, with half intended for Stamford Hospital and 10-percent cuts to Stamford's Rotary Club and First Presbyterian Church.

GILLESPIE

continued

A path not chosen

As a young man, Kingsley seemed destined to play no more of role in the paper than his son would. After earning 12½ cents an hour feeding the flatbed press as a high schooler in 1912, he got a degree in chemical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and served in the U.S. Army's Chemical Warfare Service. During World War I, he tested nitro starch as an explosive in grenades in a New Jersey lab and toiled in a mustard gas plant in Baltimore.

As a second lieutenant in 1918, he went to the U.S. Capitol, where President Woodrow Wilson was to announce the end of the war. Lacking a pass to the ceremony, Kingsley climbed in uniform through a basement window, snuck upstairs and found himself in the gallery of the House of Representatives in time to hear Wilson's historic speech.

Kingsley soon began working for the family's Stamford Rubber Supply Co., where he rose to president. He became Advocate publisher at age 46 after two brothers died within the same year. For decades, he leaned on an anecdote about studying rubber molecules for 23 years, then getting yelled at by a reader 24 minutes after his first editorial hit the streets. Shortly before his death, he called it a "corny answer," but maintained newspapers were far more exciting than molecules.

Public service

Kingsley helped form the Rotary Club of Stamford in 1923. As publisher, though, he was drawn to civic duties that filtered throughout the city: as a director at Stamford Hospital, the Chamber of Commerce, Stamford Savings Bank, Ferguson Library, the Connecticut Power Company, and other organizations.

"My cue as a publisher was to be vice president of everything and president of nothing," he said.

As far as U.S. presidents were concerned, Kingsley maintained a Gillespie tradition of never endorsing a Democrat.

Father and son

Kingsley and Kenyon shared some personal traits. If Kingsley loomed large in his hometown, he also cherished his privacy.

"You were not going to find

him out at parties," said Robert McCullough, 87, former general manager of WSTC and Greenwich Time, which the family bought in 1957.

By the end of his career, Gillespie was "almost a legend," who seldom appeared in the newsroom but was recognized as "all-powerful," said Arthur Helms, who was Advocate city editor at the time.

Still, staff members learned he could be paternal, Helms recalled. He would lend money to help employees buy a car, and let them pay it back through payroll deductions.

"You were sort of afraid of him, but little by little the human side would eke out. You'd be shopping at Caldor and spot Kingsley going through the discount shoes," Helms said.

After long work days in Stamford, Kingsley traveled to Long Island on weekends, often by boat. Kenyon preferred life across the Sound.

McCullough eventually got his real estate license and handled the sale of the Gillespie home in Shippan, where Kenyon once let him live in for several months. Proceeds went to cancer research at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York.

The payoff

After selling the newspapers, Kingsley maintained an office at WSTC, where "twice a month for a whole day, he would come in and do nothing but sit and open dividend checks," recalled Dennis Tidrick, who worked for Gillespie at the station and The Advocate, and also lived in the empty house for a year in the 1980s.

Tidrick, manager of technology for Hearst Connecticut Media (which publishes The Advocate and Greenwich Time), said Kenyon was always focused on his portfolio.

Ward Cleary, 72, a partner at Curtis, Brinckerhoff and Barrett in Stamford, represented the estates of Kingsley and Kenyon. He said Kenyon, who earned an MBA degree at Harvard University, made "tremendous investments in the 1990s."

Kenyon made his own investment decisions and subscribed to paper stock charts because he was not tech savvy, said Robert Vestigo, a friend of Kenyon's for 30 years. Vestigo said he routinely picked Kenyon up at his Setauket home, and they listened to Bloomberg News reports on the radio while sipping coffee at the beach.

"There was no shroud of



An envelope label from Kingsley Gillespie's years as publisher of the Stamford Advocate.

mystery around him; he was just private," said Vestigo, who dismissed characterizations of Kenyon as reclusive. "He just happened to be brilliant."

Next stop on the money trail

The Advocate editorial that appeared after Kingsley's death in 1984 noted despite his family's 117-year role with paper, he was never nostalgic.

"He was convinced that the new Stamford was better than the old, and he had entire confidence in its future," the editorial reads.

Kingsley invested in that future by establishing the trust, but Kenyon ensured Stamford will yield the dividends for untold future anniversaries — all because he followed the money.

John.breunig@scni.com;
203-964-2281;
twitter.com/johnbreunig.



The (Stamford) Advocate's former offices on Atlantic Street in downtown Stamford during Kingsley Gillespie's tenure as publisher.

THE ADVOCATE

Sunday May 15, 2016 | Since 1829 | www.StamfordAdvocate.com | \$3.00



A frame of "The Amazing Spider-Man" that includes the sign of the Stamford comic shop "A Timeless Journey" in the rubble behind Spider-Man and Iron Man.



BUILDING CHARACTERS

How Stamford shaped the pop culture zeitgeist

More inside

▶▶ **Tracing history:** City has spawned comics from "The Gumps" to "Curtis."



King Features

By John Breunig

STAMFORD — No medium tells stories as efficiently as the comic strip. In four panels or less, there's an establishment of place, a plot, perhaps a conflict, and the payoff of a gag line or cliffhanger to invite the reader back tomorrow. And right here — sketched into Stamford's history — are a host of comic arche- types originally drafted in black and white in the mid-20th century that cast deep, full-color shadows on the multiplex and television screens of today. Former North Stamford resident Ernie Bushmiller's cheeky "Nancy" was deemed "my favorite comic strip," by no less than Matt Groening, whose animated

character Homer Simpson has been around for so long he'd be collecting a pension from the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant by now if "The Simpsons" was a reality show. And longtime city resident Alex Raymond's "Flash Gordon" left such an impact on a young George Lucas that the filmmaker acknowledged his debt in a souvenir program sold by theaters screening "Star Wars."

As "The Simpsons" prepares for its 28th season and finishing touches are put on "Star Wars: Rogue 1" for December release, current box office juggernaut "Captain America: Civil War" also has Stamford DNA. In the 2006-07 "Civil War" miniseries on which the film is based, the conflict between super-heroes is triggered when Stamford — the childhood home of comic book writer Jeph Loeb — becomes scorched Earth. These days, Loeb is plotting to take over the airwaves as head of Marvel Television, which produces shows such as "Daredevil" for Netflix and "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." for ABC.

Stamford may not be home to as many comic creators as there were in the heyday of the funny papers, but tracing lines back to local inkwells reveals bigbang theories of how Stamford

shaped today's pop culture zeitgeist.

A long time ago, in a galaxy not far away...

Lucas acknowledges in the 1977 "Star Wars" program that he was thwarted from obtaining rights to make a "Flash Gordon" flick. In an introduction for Tom Roberts' 2008 tome about Raymond, Lucas writes "Had it not been for Alex Raymond and 'Flash Gordon,' there might not have been a 'Star Wars.'"

Raymond's florid illustrations influenced generations of artists by the time Luke Skywalker was introduced 40 years ago. Coming off of the comic strip "Secret Agent X-9" with Dashiell Hammett, author of "The Thin Man" and "The Maltese Falcon," Raymond tapped into an endless universe of artistic possibilities when "Flash Gordon" launched in 1934.

"You don't have to be a rocket scientist to look at the great 'Flash Gordon' sequences and see that this man vaulted an entire genre from something somewhat dorky to something magnificent and fantastical," said Cullen Murphy, who is working on a book about comic artists from Fairfield County, including his dad John Cullen Murphy, a longtime Greenwich resident revered for his detailed, angular illustrations in "Prince Valiant."



Alex Raymond's "Flash Gordon" was featured as part of a 1995 U.S. Postal Service stamp series honoring the centennial of newspaper comics. Raymond was a longtime Stamford resident.

Raymond, once described by fellow Stamford illustrator Roy Doty as a "bon vivant party man," leveraged the science fiction genre to smuggle sex appeal into family newspapers.

"The women were beautiful in these diaphanous gowns," said Denis Kitchen, a cartoonist and book publisher who has released tributes to dozens of comics. "As a young boy, there was something sexy about those 'Flash Gordon' women."

The opening "Star Wars" scrolls and "washes" dividing scenes were borrowed from the "Flash Gordon" movie serials, but many of the film series' spaceopera elements came from Raymond's pen.

"The Empire Strikes Back" used a snowy terrain as well as a cloud city, a la "Gordon." Flash also moved from desert scapes (Tatooine in "Star Wars") to underwater cities (revisited in "The Phantom Menace"). And Flash's chief nemesis, "Ming the Merciless," has characteristics of Darth Vader minus the sympathetic back story — just to name a few examples.

Back on Earth, Raymond used the success of the popular strip to buy a five-acre plot on Mayapple Road in 1940, and later opened studios on Summer Street in 1950 before moving to Ridgeway Center. His illustrations showed up on Stamford Community Chest promotions and Darien's Woodway Country Club dinner menu, among other displays.

The circumstances of Raymond's death were as dramatic as his strips. On Sept. 6, 1956, he took fellow cartoonist Stan Drake's new Corvette out for a spin and flipped the car after sliding on a wet Clapboard Hill Road in Westport.

Drake survived, though his ears had to be reattached. Raymond was killed instantly,

NORTH STAMFORD-SPRINGDALE
Y. M. C. A.
EXTENSION
MID-WINTER
ACTIVITY SCHEDULE



PROGRAM and TYPES
OF MEMBERSHIP

STAMFORD YMCA
369 Atlantic Street, Stamford, Conn.
Phone: 324-2193

A schedule from the North Stamford-Springdale YMCA Extension featuring art from Stamford resident Ernie Bushmiller, who wrote and drew the comic strip "Nancy."

COMICS

continued
ending a career devoted to richly detailed illustrations at age 46. His famed precision took time. His obituary in the Stamford Advocate noted he worked 84 hours a week.

The Zen of Nancy

Bushmiller's "Nancy" could be a Rorschach test. Consider the strip's ink blots on the newspaper canvas one way and you might dismiss it as pabulum. Seeing it through a different lens may reveal a brilliance in its efficiency, an unparalleled mathematical approach to the form.

"One school of thought is that ("Nancy") is the most simple minded cartoon imaginable," Murphy said. "The other extreme is that this man is a minimalist genius."

Some in the latter category confess it took them time to appreciate Bushmiller, who was as square as the panels around his creations. He declared himself "the Lawrence Welk of cartoonists."

Kitchen, 69, a titan of underground comics, admits he scorned Bushmiller's style in his youth. "Nancy" is the antithesis of "underground," appearing next to the definition of "comic strip" in the American Heritage dictionary.

Like many peers, Kitchen came around. He calls Bushmiller's art "geometric perfection" that is difficult to duplicate. Every spike of hair in Nancy's mane is the same distance from the next one, and he redraw them every time.

Visions of "Nancy" appear in countless unexpected places, from an Andy Warhol tribute painting in 1961 to "Peggy Olson's" office door on "Mad Men" to a tattoo on the right calf of Caitlin McGurk, a curator at the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library at Ohio State Univ.

Bushmiller routinely worked until 5 a.m. ("I get up at the crack of noon," he liked to say) and wrote strips backward. Follow his story to its beginning and icons of American popular culture appear every few years. One of his first art gigs a century ago was illustrating a supplement for the New York World written by Houdini, who owned a home in Stamford about that time.

By the early 1930s, he was palling around with Groucho Marx while writing gags for a Harold Lloyd film. On Jan. 3, 1951, Charles Schulz wrote a letter of appreciation to Bushmiller in response to a Christmas card. "Being one of the lesser ones of United Features, I

sometimes have the feeling that no one knows I exist," Schulz wrote. That was three months after the debut of "Peanuts."

Years later, Schulz observed that while newspapers received complaints when "Peanuts" was dropped, editors got death threats when they cut "Nancy."

"I don't know how many letters we got from women who named their girls Nancy," said Jim Carlsson, a Stamford resident who was Bushmiller's assistant.

One of Bushmiller's trademark techniques was to draw dotted lines to indicate where Nancy cast her gaze. The dotted line from Nancy to modern humor is embodied in superfan Tom Gammill, who wrote for "Saturday Night Live," "Late Night with David Letterman" and "Seinfeld" before beginning his current gig with "The Simpsons" 18 years ago.

"The beauty of ("The Simpsons") is that you can use all kinds of smart as well as really dumb jokes," Gammill said. "Everyone on 'The Simpsons' is aware of Bushmiller because they love him or hate him. Matt Groening loves him."

While growing up in Darien in the 1960s, Gammill knew Bushmiller lived across the town border.

"I remember thinking the comic took place in Stamford," Gammill said.

Fortunately, Sluggo couldn't blame Stamford for his dire living conditions.

Stamford is vanquished

Standing behind the counter of "A Timeless Journey" comic book shop on Eighth Street, Paul Salerno only has to turn around to put his hands on a copy of "The Amazing Spider-Man" issue No. 532, which features his sign among the debris at Spidey's and Iron Man's feet. An emerald "Welcome to Stamford, Conn." guidepost burns at Spider-Man's elbow.

The origins of the sign's cameo began with a March 2006 story in The Advocate in which Salerno joked his fantasy was to read a comic where heroes "go by a pile of rubble with a twisted Timeless Journey sign behind it." A Marvel Comics representative called the next day to grant his wish.

"See how many times I've shown it?" he said, nodding to creases in the comic. A decade later, it still casts a spell for Salerno, who owns the original artwork. "It's cool, very cool," he said.

Marvel's Loeb, 58, said he started reading comics in Stamford around 1970, and would eventually script stories for A-list superheroes, from Superman to Captain America. Though he



Alex Raymond, right, hosted a one man exhibit of his original art at Stamford Museum in August 1948. Raymond, a longtime Stamford resident, was best known for his work on the "Flash Gordon" and "Rip Kirby" comics. A few months later, the museum held an exhibit of work by several comics creators who lived in the area.

wasn't a writer on the "Civil War" comics series, he contributed ideas from the bullpen: The destruction of the fictional "Stamford Elementary School" is mentioned as part of "The Riverbank massacre," a reference to the former Riverbank Elementary School where Loeb was a student.

"My job is to make sure they blow up the right cities," he jested at the time.

When the "Civil War" saga neared the finale in 2007, Salerno called Marvel to suggest the heroes hang the sign back on his shop in the closing pages.

"They said no," he recalled with a grin. "I got greedy."

In comics, of course, nothing is forever. "Civil War II" is now being unleashed in comics shops, while characters conquering screens everywhere have plenty of Stamford ink in their bloodlines.

John.breunig@scni.com;
203-964-2281;
twitter.com/johnbreunig.



Contributed photo

A Christmas card image "Nancy" artist Ernie Bushmiller drew of characters Nancy and Sluggo sledding in the backyard of the Bushmiller house.

Gus Edson Lookout, a Stamford park along Holly Pond honoring the cartoonist who worked on "Dondi" and "The Gumps," which are depicted on the plaque.



375 YEARS Stamford Drawn to Stamford

Here are a few of the many other notable artists and illustrators who have called Stamford home over the decades

Mort Walker: At 92, Walker is the real Iron Man of the comics pages, delivering daily gags since 1950, which makes "Beetle Bailey" the longest running strip produced by its creator. Among his other creations is perennial favorite "Hi and Lois," which he launched with Dik Browne in 1954. Walker lives and work in the former studio of another Stamford icon, Mount Rushmore sculptor Gutzon Borglum.



Contributed photo

Mort Walker's "Beetle Bailey" was featured on a U.S. Postal Service stamp in 2010. Walker resides in Stamford.

Roy Doty: Doty died at 92 last year after a 70-year career creating art for everything from packing and advertisements to Judy Blume book covers and a 50-year home improvement feature. He built his own home on Rock

Rimmon Road in Stamford in 1949, an early passive-solar house. Doty was once nominated by Ernie Bushmiller and Alex Raymond to become a member of the National Cartoonists Society, but was rejected because they dubbed him an illustrator. The punchline was that the Society of Illustrators rebuffed him as well. He would later be honored with the cartoon group's 13th Gold Key award, aka, the industry's hall of fame.



A self-portrait of longtime Stamford resident Roy Doty.

Ray Billingsley:

After working briefly for Walt Disney Studios, Billingsley, 58, brought "Lookin' Fine" to the comics pages for three years before introducing "Curtis" about an African-American family in 1988.

It remains the rare strip on the black and white newspaper page that features characters who are not white.



Stamford resident Ray Billingsley's "Curtis" comic strip has been running since 1988.

Gus Edson: Edson, who died in 1966, is the only cartoonist with a Stamford park named for him. Gus Edson Lookout is between Weed Avenue and Holly Pond on the border of Darien near the site of his former home. It is marked with a plaque featuring him with characters from two of his strips, "Dondi" and "Andy Gump." Like Raymond and Bushmiller, Edson was active with city nonprofits, and is noted on the park marker as a "friend of the cop," a nod to his time playing cards with police buddies. He took over "The Gumps" following creator Sidney Smith's death in 1935. At the time, "The Gumps" radio show was being produced by Himan Brown, who later rented a barn apartment at his Stamford home to J.D. Salinger while the young writer was shaping "The Catcher in the Rye." One of Edson's art assistants on "The Gumps" was future Academy Award-winning actor Martin Landau.

jbreunig@scni.com; 203-964-2281.

THE ADVOCATE

Sunday September 25, 2016 | Since 1829 | www.StamfordAdvocate.com | \$3.00



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

People behind landmarks helped shape Stamford's development



Michael Cummo / Hearst Connecticut Media

Clockwise from top left: Samuel Hait built the Hoyt Barnum House in 1699; Gutzon Borglum, who designed the presidential faces on Mount Rushmore, has a street named after him in Turn of River; Homer Stille Cummings acquired the 79-acre parcel for the city that now has his name on it; and Dr. Joyce Yerwood founded a West Side teen center in 1943.

By Martin B. Cassidy

STAMFORD — Brennan, Scofield, Czescik. Ring a bell? You'll encounter familiar names like these throughout the city, attached to parks, streets and schools — even a golf course and a marina.

But who are the people behind these landmarks and gathering spots? The answers could surprise you.

A look at neighborhoods, parks, streets, schools and buildings provides a window into the city's past residents,

including artists, real estate developers, educators and others who over the centuries have contributed to Stamford's development.

For Ron Marcus, 74, the Stamford Historical Society's librarian, researching and developing a list of notably named places has been the work of more than 27 years.

The retired Machlett Laboratories engineer — who once fabricated X-ray tubes for a living — said unraveling the where and

why of how places got their names is often a consuming, but fascinating, path to discovering the unsung contributors to the city's development.

"A couple of years ago, I embarked on a place name project, which is ongoing and I have no idea when I'll finish it," Marcus said. "The best thing is there is a tremendous amount of data that has helped me fill in some very interesting things about different areas."

Here are some biographical notes about a fraction of the people whose names adorn city places:

Francis A. Bartlett:

The namesake of the 93-acre Bartlett Arboretum acquired the property in 1913 to establish the Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, which was his residence and a research laboratory for the internationally regarded F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co. The state purchased it in

1965, and it is now open space owned by the city, but administered by a nonprofit organization.

John Boccuzzi:

A decorated World War II veteran and longtime city representative had a park on Southfield Avenue in his native Waterside neighborhood renamed after him in November 2011, a few months after his death at the age of 88.

continue

PEOPLE

continued

Gutzon Borglum:

This street in the Turn of River section of the city off Wire Mill Road is named for the renowned sculptor who lived nearby. Borglum was known for designing the presidential faces on Mount Rushmore.

E. Gaynor Brennan Sr.:

Brennan, a public official and a partner at the Bedford Street law firm of Brennan, Dichter & Brennan, was instrumental in purchasing the land for Hubbard Heights Golf Course in 1949. The golf course on Stillwater Road was renamed in 1978 to recognize him. Brennan's father was a police chief in Stamford in the early 20th century.

Joseph Carwin:

CarwinPark on Spruce Street is named for Dr. Joseph Carwin, a prominent leader in the area's black community and the husband of Dr. Joyce Yerwood. He died in 1964.

Homer Stille Cummings:

The Stamford mayor during the early 1900s became U.S. Attorney General from 1933 to 1939 under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Cummings Park on Long Island Sound was renamed to recognize him for his role in acquiring the 79-acre parcel.

Joseph A. Czescik:

Joseph A. "Whitey" Czescik worked for Pitney Bowes for years and was active in local youth sports. The Villanova University graduate who attended Stamford High School had Czescik Park and Marina renamed for him in 1978.

Walter R. Dolan:

The dentist's name graced Walter R. Dolan Middle School on Toms Road in 1948.

John Day Ferguson:

Twice elected as a Stamford representative in the state's General Assembly, Ferguson left a \$10,000 bequest to start the Ferguson Library when he died in 1877. Ferguson also served the district as a probate judge.



Michael Cummo / Hearst Connecticut Media

Czescik Marina in Stamford is named after local sports star Walter Czescik.

Samuel Hoyt:

The Hoyt Barnum House was built in 1699 by blacksmith Samuel Hait, whose name has several slightly different spellings. The fieldstone house is named for its builder and was later part of the estate of David Barnum when he died in 1838. It is now owned and maintained by the Stamford Historical Society and is scheduled to soon be moved five miles north from its Bedford Street home to make room for a new police station.

Katherine T. Murphy:

Murphy was hired in 1893 as a teacher at the one-room "Cove School" on Weed Avenue that still exists as a private residence. A larger two-room school house was built in 1900 on Horton Street.

Frank D. Rich Jr.:

The president and chairman of F.D. Rich Construction, which was chosen by the Stamford Urban Redevelopment Commission to overhaul a 118-acre swath of downtown in the 1960s. The company was founded in 1921 by Rich's father, F.D. Rich Sr., a stonemason who emigrated from Italy.

Francis A. Rogers:

The physician was a member of the Stamford School Committee from 1883 to 1909 and was on the Stamford Common Council for eight years. The new Rogers Magnet School was named after him in 2013.

Edwin A. Scofield:

A family name with centuries of history in the city, the Scofields were farmers, businessmen and professionals. Edwin A. Scofield was a corporator of the Stamford Savings Bank and of the Greenwich Trust Loan & Deposit Co. J.B. Scofield was a partner in the Holly Rolling Mill, an iron foundry, and owner of a shoe factory. Among other places, the name remains alive at Scofield Magnet Middle School and the area of North Stamford known as Scofieldtown.

Edith Sherman:

The chairwoman of the city's Urban Redevelopment Commission from 1974 to 1984 got her own downtown street, Edith Sherman Drive, in the 1990s.

Julia A. Stark:

A school teacher from the Noroton section of Darien began educating students at the Turn of River School in Glenbrook in 1888. In 1927, the newly constructed school on Glenbrook Road was named the Julia A. Stark School in honor of her more than 50-year career.

Samuel N. Tresser:

Tresser was a Stamford resident, a member of the Jewish community and a soldier who was killed in action at the Battle of St. Mihiel in northern France in 1918 at the age of 21. Tresser Boulevard was dedicated in his memory in 1972, and rededicated in 2012.

Dr. Joyce Yerwood:

Fairfield County's first black woman physician founded a teen center in 1943 that was renamed for her in 1975. The center has provided athletic and other after school programs for generations to low income minority youth.

THE ADVOCATE

Sunday

October 30, 2016

Since 1829

www.StamfordAdvocate.com

\$3.00

375
YEARS
STAMFORD

UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF HOUDINI'S LIFE IN STAMFORD

MAGICIAN SUMMERED ON HIS FARM AT THE HIGHEST POINT OF 'LOCK CITY' IN 1905

By John Breunig

STAMFORD — At least for a little while, Stamford was Houdini's great escape.

More than a century later, he may be the most famous person to ever maintain an address in Stamford during the city's 375 years. Halloween marks the 90th anniversary of his death, and his name remains synonymous not only with magic, but escape.

Marquees trumpeted Houdini with billings such as "The Handcuff King," "Jail Breaker" and "The Supreme Ruler of Mystery." But when the Daily Advocate reported in an Aug. 12, 1905, article that he bought a seven-acre farm on "Webb Hill," the newspaper conjured his given name Erich Weiss to playfully redub the street "Weiss Hill Road."

Like many Houdini leg-ends, this one has a morbid twist — and a mystery. At his summer home in 1905, the 5-foot-5 Houdini, then 31, was living on the highest point in Stamford. The dead, however, were just above him. Houdini, whose escape artist stunts included live burials, resided just below the graves of his road's namesakes: Nathaniel Webb and his three wives, all named Esther. Years later, the magician spent time at his brother Leopold's Gatsby-esque Ridgefield estate, whose Sunset Hall has been cited as one of the highest points in Fairfield County.

The mystery is why Houdini sold his 68-acre North Stamford farm a year after its purchase. His diary entries suggest he enjoyed a magical summer there after returning from four years of triumphant performances throughout Europe. He maintained his muscular physique chopping trees and lugging stones to create a path, contemplated making cider from a bounty of apple trees and cast his hypnotic gaze over Long Island Sound from his perch, some 340 feet above sea level.



HARRY HOUDINI.

History vanishes

Houdini's ties to Stamford have largely been forgotten. A mention in The Advocate a few years ago inspired local preservationist Renee Kahn to do some digging. She and her daughter, Eve, along with title sleuth Nils Kerschus, tracked down land records confirming that Leopold Weiss, who handled many of his brother's transactions, purchased three tracts of land, then sold them to Erich Weiss for a dollar on Sept. 22, 1904.

Though Khan is one of Stamford's best-known historians, she had a personal stake in this address. She has lived for decades on Webb's Hill Road (modern signs incorrectly edit out the apostrophe). "It was nice to know Houdini was your neighbor, but where? Was it my house?" she recalls thinking.

Eventually, Khan pinpointed Houdini's address as 286 Webb's Hill. The 1830 structure had been destroyed in a winter fire

HOUDINI LIVING IN STAMFORD

Enjoys Life on His Farm on Weiss Hill.

MAN WHO MYSTIFIED EUROPE

Astonished People in England and on the Continent by Shaking Off All Sorts of Shackles and Opening Jail Doors With the Greatest Ease.

It isn't Webb Hill any more, but Weiss Hill, and it gets its new name from the Weiss Farm. The farm gets its name from Erich Weiss. That name has never been especially famous, but the proprietor of it has gained fame on two continents under another one. His name adopted for professional purposes is Harry Houdini, the man who laughs at locksmiths, and who, not content with mystifying a lot of people in this country, went over to Europe and repeated the operation with great success in the British Isles, France, Germany, Austria, Russia, and some other countries. Houdini is resting now, in preparation for the first American engagement he has taken in a good while. He has made short visits to this country during the last few years, but managers on the other side made him such inducements that he found it advantageous to accept that Houdini is a star attraction is evident from the fact that American managers are now under contract to pay him \$1,000 per week for the season which opens next month.

Houdini is a young man, not much over 30. If any doubt, existed as to the hit he made in Europe, it would be dispelled by a glance through his

in the 1960s. It was still owned at the time by the Parker family, which purchased the property from Houdini at the end of 1905.

"We don't know anything" of Houdini's days in Stamford, Khan said recently.

Houdini guarded his secrets, but he left behind some clues.

Man who defied death buys the farm

Houdini's diaries and comments to reporters at the time suggest he enjoyed his days amid cows and horses.

William Kalush, co-author of "The Secret Life of Houdini: The Making of America's First Superhero," is founder of the Conjuring Arts Research Center. He unlocked Houdini's diaries last week to share the magician's notes about the farm. Houdini recorded playing cards with friends who apparently didn't mind challenging "The King of Cards." One left with winnings of several ducks.

On Thursday, Aug. 10, 1905, Houdini mentions visiting the offices of The Advocate.



John Breunig / Hearst Connecticut Media

Above, two original wells bookend the Webb's Hill Road home in Stamford where Houdini once owned a farm. Left, the Aug. 12, 1905 Daily Advocate announced Houdini had bought a Stamford farm.



AP file photo

Legendary escape artist Harry Houdini is shown in chains in this photo, circa 1899.

Two days later, a front page headline blares "HOUDINI LIVING IN STAMFORD," over a story about Houdini buying the property to have a "quiet, rural spot where he could rest" and where his beloved mother could enjoy pleasant surroundings.

"Houdini has studied the mysteries of raising corn and chickens, and he has enough livestock to satisfy the needs of his family," the story reads.

Houdini was known to court the press, and had charmed the unnamed reporter.

"Personally, Houdini is one of the most agreeable men to meet, is modest and unassuming and has not the usual manners of the stage performer ... his cosmopolitan experience has given him an air of assurance," the article said.

Two summers later, in an article in the San Francisco Bulletin ("How Houdini Made a Pin Cushion of His Cheek") Houdini provided answers about what drew him away from his Harlem brownstone.

"Three years ago I was ill. My physician ordered complete rest. So I bought a 70-acre farm at Stamford, Connecticut. I wanted some trees felled. I could get no one, so I felled them myself, about 20, in three weeks. I also built a road on the place. A lot of boulders were in the way, weighing 200 to 300 pounds. I threw them, unassisted, on a wagon and drove them to town."

Call for a séance

While news clippings and diary entries were lost in time, a veteran landscaper delivered the oral history of 286 Webbs Hill Road's former resident to David and Elaine Sansone when they bought the property four decades ago. After Khan noted the connection in the Historic Neighborhood News newsletter in 2011, the Sansones got a call from a Houdini buff in California.

"He always said he was going to come back on Halloween, maybe we should have a séance," Elaine jested during the call.

"I think he took me seriously, (saying) 'Well if you do, could you get in touch with me?'"

For years, the couple and their three children watched summer fireworks from Rye Playland over the treetops from their back deck. A curtain of trees now block such vistas, along with Houdini's view of the Sound.

The rebuilt home retains the bones of the original saltbox,

with twin wells bookending the property, a surviving carriage house, a broad hearth fireplace and a "spooky" well pit in the basement.

David Sansone traced in the air where a road once ran through the back of the property. At the bottom of the hill are two homes on Long Ridge Road, near Madonia restaurant.

Judging by Houdini's descriptions and property records Sansone obtained in the 1970s, it appears the magician made trees disappear to build a Long Ridge driveway that is now shared by neighbors.

Additionally, stone stairs match an Aug. 18, 1905, diary entry in which Houdini writes about finishing steps to the henhouse.

"The house has a good vibe," Elaine Sansone said. "I'm not spooked."

Something did seem to spook Houdini. Just weeks after he told The Advocate about his plans for the property, he took out an ad lauding the farm as "positively the healthiest place on a hill this side of Denver" and detailing its stable, duck house, piggery and "one of the finest chicken houses in Connecticut," which had just been built.

The asking price was \$7,500, but Houdini said "I want to sell at once on any reasonable terms."

The undated ad was tucked between autumn pages of Houdini's diary. That Oct. 19, The Advocate reported a land transaction of 68 acres from "Erich Weiss" of New York to Nathan M. Parker of Greenwich. As far as Stamford was concerned, Houdini had vanished.

'I didn't recognize' Stamford

Houdini was back on American stages immediately after selling the property, under a contract that guaranteed him \$1,000 a week.

He did return to Connecticut, notably to his brother's Ridgefield estate, which Leopold eventually lost in the wake of financial ruin. It was subsequently owned by actor Robert Vaughn and considered as a possible United Nations site. The peak of Sunset Hall is some 900 feet above sea level, nearly triple that of the Stamford farm. Ridgefield Realtors have speculated that Houdini once practiced underwater escapes in the swimming pool.

He performed one such stunt on June 17, 1917, when his



John Breunig / Hearst Connecticut Media

David and Elaine Sansone, above, live on the Webbs Hill Road property where Houdini once owned a farm. The original house burned down in the 1960s, but the rebuilt home is on the original foundation and in the same saltbox style.

Submarine Box Mystery was featured as part of the Fairfield County Fete at a residence in the Saugatuck section of Westport. Irons were shackled around his legs, handcuffs encircled his arms and he was tossed into Long Island Sound inside a box packed with 300 pounds of weight and wrapped with ropes and steel bands and nailed shut.

A few months before his death at age 52 in 1926, he played at the Palace Theater in Norwalk. As part of the show, he was locked in a trunk and dumped into the Norwalk River. Elaine Sansone says her mother, Connie Marotto, 94, has always reminded her of the day the world's most famous magician performed in her native Norwalk.

About six years after Houdini's death, in April 1932, his brother Theo (aka "Hardeen") brought the family act to the Strand on Atlantic Street in Stamford. In The Advocate, he marveled at how much Stamford had changed since Houdini lived there.

"We used to drive into town on Sunday and stop over at Main Street where they had a combination bakery and ice cream parlor so that we could have cream for dessert, and there was a small brick building in the square where that large building is now located," he said, referring to the Gurley Building across from Old Town Hall at Main and Atlantic streets. "I didn't recognize the town. I thought I had gotten off at the wrong station."

The unsolved mystery

Houdini's motivation for breaking free of Stamford may

be a secret he took to his grave in Queens, N.Y.

Stamford of 1905 was known as "Lock City" because it served as headquarters of Yale and Towne, manufacturers of many of the devices thwarted by the escape king. After being shamed by his inability to unlock handcuffs filled with buckshot in 1899, Houdini briefly considered accepting his brother-in-law's offer of a job with Yale locks.

Kalush said he believes Houdini's restless spirit just wasn't meant for farm life. "I think he didn't initially realize just how much work there was to do and he was the sort who was always working," he speculated. "A farm just multiplied his responsibilities."

Houdini escaped milk cans, the belly of a whale and the Chinese Water Torture Cell, but he may have felt trapped in the solitude of a saltbox at the top of a Connecticut suburb.

John.breunig@scni.com;
203-964-2281;
twitter.com/johnbreunig.



File Photo

Harry Houdini in the 1919 silent film "The Grim Game." Houdini's films were screened during the era in Stamford theaters.

Houdini haunts the stage

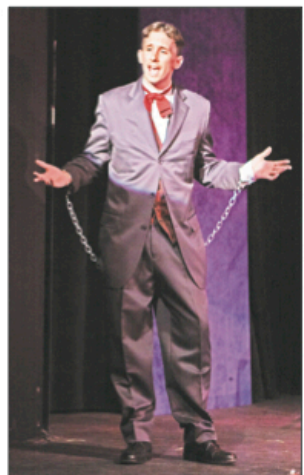
There are no known records of Houdini performing in Stamford, but his act has made cameo appearances in city theaters over the past century.

His silent films were screened down-town circa 1919; his brother Theo returned to the city as Hardeen in 1932, and Hardeen's assistant brought his version of the act to Stamford High in 1949. But it wasn't until a few weeks ago that "Houdini" performed escapes on a Stamford stage.

Ian Barto had to learn a few tricks for his role as Houdini in Curtain Call's production of "Ragtime." He initially hoped to free himself from a strait-jacket while suspended upside down, but decided to stay on his feet.

"Logistically, I would have been hanging there for far too long with blood rushing to my head," said Barto, who lives in Stamford and grew up in Greenwich. "... A couple of times I got nervous on stage thinking, 'Wait a minute, what if I can't get out of this?'"

John Breunig



Contributed Photo

Ian Barto as Houdini in Curtain Call's recent production of "Ragtime" in Stamford.

THE ADVOCATE

Monday April 3, 2017 | Since 1829 | www.StamfordAdvocate.com | \$2.00



Skulls, bones and other tales

Documentary unearths secrets of Stamford's 375 years

ANGELA CARELLA
CITY BEAT

“People aren’t always sure what they have, or whether it has historical value, so we have to sort through a lot of stuff. Sometimes we hear about people who have things in their attic that could be of interest, and we ask them if we can go through it. For the rest of it, I crawled around in the dust at the historical society — we have so much stuff piled up that no one has had a chance to catalog it all.”

Stamford Historical Society volunteer Dan Burke

STAMFORD — At the start of a new year, people often look back, but this is way, way back, and not so cheery.

Stamford celebrated its 375th anniversary in 2016 and there’s a chapter in its story few people know.

The portion of history, focused on Columbus Park, is featured in a documentary Stamford Historical Society volunteer Dan Burke compiled with his wife, Kathleen Sheehan Burke, to mark the anniversary.

Columbus Park, known for the Alive@Five summer concerts downtown, was Stamford’s first cemetery that came to an indelicate end.

Stamford residents most likely were buried in the cemetery since the settlement was founded in 1641, and certainly through the 1700s.

The cemetery was close to the Post Road, the mail route between New York and Boston that became one of the country’s first highways.

By the late 1700s, the Post Road was busy with traffic, the Burkes explain in the DVD, and one of the worst stretches was in downtown Stamford.

The road there was a crazy zigzag that created confusion and cost travelers time. So, in 1800, the Connecticut legislature passed a measure mandating the Post Road in Stamford be rerouted.

The legislature then decided the straightest line was through the cemetery. Despite Stamford residents complaining that their loved ones were buried there, legislators said uprooting the cemetery was necessary and construction began.

Grim discoveries

Bodies were disinterred and headstones were reset in other cemeteries. Officials assured families that all the bodies were removed.

But the descendants of the dead were angry. When the road opened, Stamford residents assembled teams of oxen and, in the middle of the night, dragged huge stones into the road to block traffic in the morning. They did it several times.

Their acts, though defiant, were not without reason, the years would show.

After construction, a small triangle of the cemetery site between the old Post Road and the rerouted Post Road remained. It became West Park. In 1855, workers were digging a trench in the park to lay gas pipes along West Park Place and turned up a human skull and several bones.

Over the next 20 years, as the downtown grew and more ground was dug for setting utility lines, more skulls and bones were upturned.

No one can say what remains in the earth beneath the park now known as Columbus.

“We have some fascinating stuff at the historical society,” said Dan Burke, 68, a retired production and purchasing manager with HBO in New York City. “We made the DVD because we thought it was time to get it out there.”

History donated

Burke’s wife, Kathleen, who does audio and video production for GE, narrated and

edited the 90-minute DVD, which was screened at the Stamford Historical Society in conjunction with an exhibit on the city’s 375th birthday.

Many of the photos, videos, handbills, century old railroad tickets, posters and other material used in the DVD were donated by Stamford residents, Dan Burke said.

“People aren’t always sure what they have, or whether it has historical value, so we have to sort through a lot of stuff,” Burke said. “Sometimes we hear about people who have things in their attic that could be of interest, and we ask them if we can go through it. For the rest of it, I crawled around in the dust at the historical society — we have so much stuff piled up that no one has had a chance to catalog it all.”

He compiled a DVD that explains how the land that now is Stamford first was home to the Siwanoy, Rippowam and Mahackeno Indians, who used the Mianus and Noroton rivers as boundaries between their territories.

In 1640, English settlers in Wethersfield got into a dispute and, a year later, a number of them headed south for the territory then known as Rippowam.

Stamford was soon formed, it had a witch trial. But the woman sentenced to hang in 1692 was saved by townspeople who refuted the charges against her.

Revolutionaries

During the American Revolution of the 1770s, the British attempted to land at Shippan Point. But Stamford minutemen grabbed their muskets and shot from shore until the ships retreated.

The Burkes tell other Revolution tales — one Stamford man crossed the Delaware with Gen. George Washington, and another was a bodyguard for Washington when he was president.

The DVD explains how an opera house opened on Atlantic Street in 1893 and one of its featured stars was Sissieretta Jones, a black woman nicknamed Black Patti because her talents matched those of Angelina Patti, the great Italian opera singer of the time.

In 1903, a slave in the Carolinas who was loading wood onto a ship slipped in among the cargo, headed for Stamford. The slave owner found out and took a train to Stamford to meet the ship and recapture him. But the slave managed to run to a downtown Stamford church, where the pastor helped him escape.

The DVD shows the Stamford residents who survived the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, and a young Stamford sailor named John Coulter serving aboard the USS Cyclops, which disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle in 1918.

There are videos of Stamford parades in the 1920s and ‘30s, and ice skating on Cove Pond, sledding at Hubbard Heights and swimming at Cummings Park in the 1950s and ‘60s.

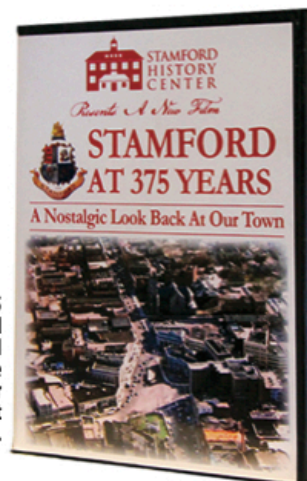
The DVD shows Stamford residents farming, braving floods and blizzards, running ground-breaking businesses, marching in parades — even dancing on “The Ed Sullivan Show.”

There are segments on sports, wars, famous residents, celebrity visitors, police, firefighters and “just kids.”

“A lot of it is a nostalgic look back,” Burke said. “Most of the video is from people’s home movies. We were aiming for that Stamford audience that remembers the city back when.”

angela.carella@scni.com;
203-964-2296;
stamfordadvocate.com/
angelacarella

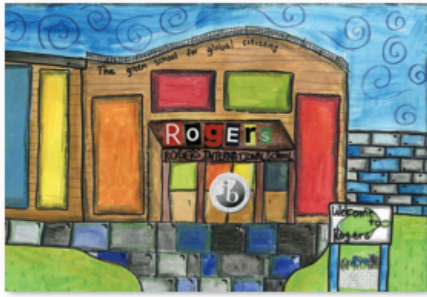
The DVD, “Stamford at 375 Years,” can be purchased at the Stamford Historical Society, 1508 High Ridge Road, for \$15, or mailed for \$20. Contact the society at 203-329-1183.



My Favorite Place in STAMFORD is...



SEP • 2016



Rogers International School
Kate Telesca, Grade 5, Rogers School

OCT • 2016



Scalzi Park
Chad Johnson, Grade 2, Roxbury School

NOV • 2016



Colony Grill
Andrea Barron, Grade 3, Davenport Ridge School

DEC • 2016



Landmark Cinema
Richard Portilla, Grade 4, Springdale School

JAN • 2017



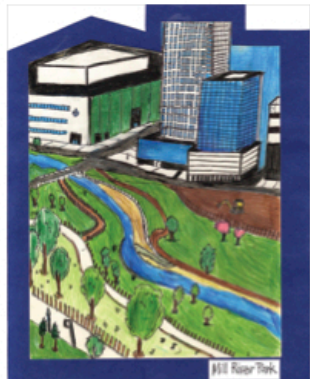
Westover School
Austyn Bufford, Grade 2, Westover Magnet School

FEB • 2017



The Ferguson Library
Namratha Prasanth Kamath, Grade 2, K.T. Murphy School

MAR • 2016



Mill River Park
Matej Tepy, Grade 5, Northeast School

APR • 2017



Pet Smart
Avila Ang, Grade 4, Stillmeadow School

MAY • 2017



Mill River Park
Ananya Devpura, Grade 5, Hart Magnet School

JUN • 2016



Cove Beach
John Euceda, Grade 2, Toquam School

JUL • 2017



Cove Beach
Christina Faubel, Grade 3, Julia A. Stark School

AUG • 2017



Cove Beach
Emily Skoumbros, Grade 3, Newfield School

STAMFORD YEARS
375 STRONG
1641-2016



The cover features a dark blue background with a radial pattern of white and pinkish-red streaks emanating from the center. The text is centered and reads: STAMFORD, 375, YEARS STRONG, 1641-2016, and COMMEMORATIVE BOOK. The number 375 is stylized with different colors for each digit: 3 is blue and red, 7 is yellow and pink, and 5 is green and yellow.

STAMFORD

375

YEARS
STRONG

1641-2016

COMMEMORATIVE
BOOK