



Guilford Free Library

Guilford, CT 06437



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Circa 1875



FOR 138 YEARS

WE'VE CALLED GUILFORD HOME.

HAPPY 375TH BIRTHDAY GUILFORD!

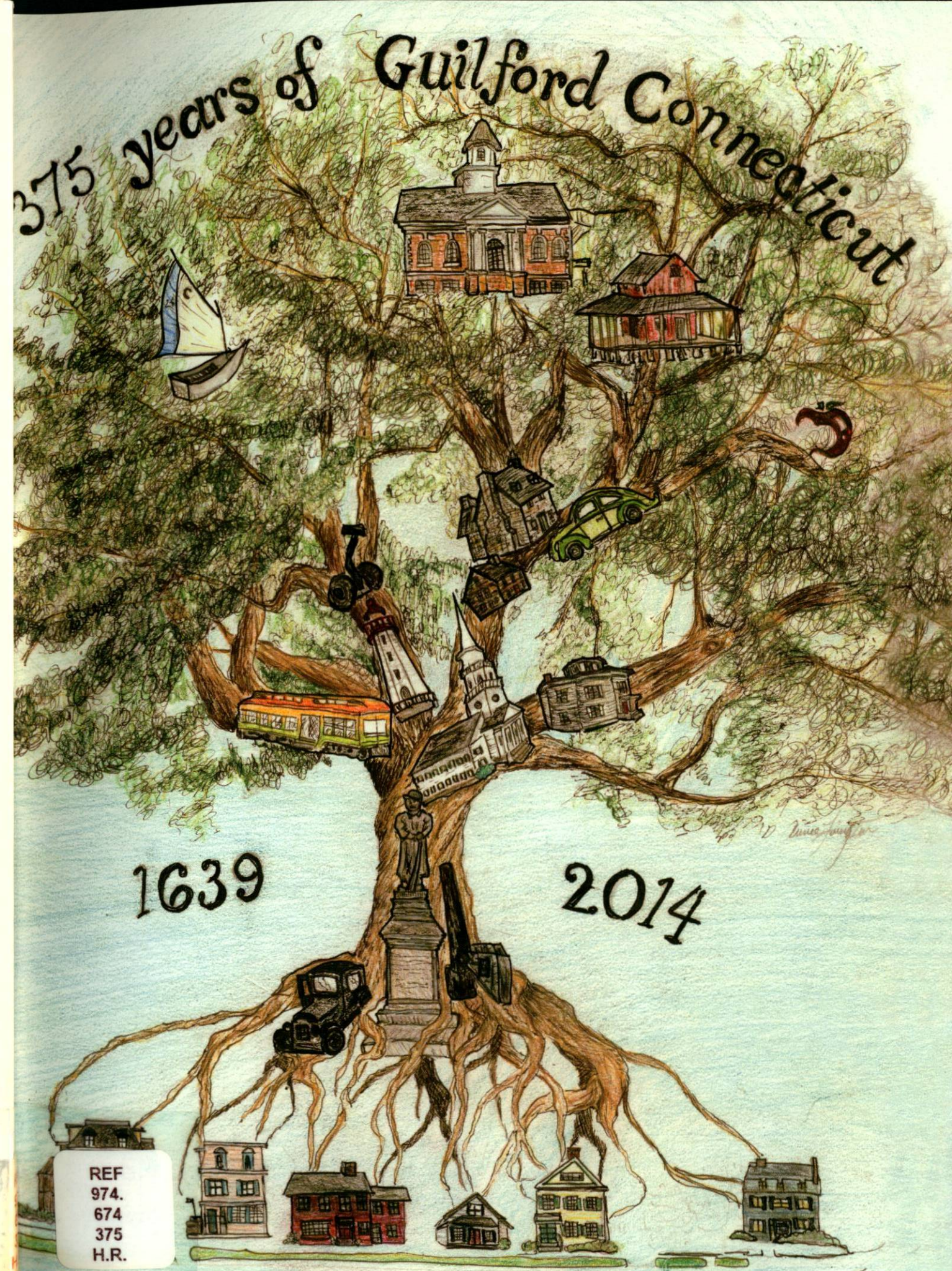


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Celebrating 75 Years on Guilford's 375-year-old Green



Page Employees L-R Back: Auggie Cavalaro, George Page Sr., Harry Page Jr., Sully Clark. Front: H. Logan Page III, Burt Landon. Circa 1947

Photograph from the Guilford Keeping Society Library Collection

Post Office, General Store,
Ice Cream Parlor, Meat Market
& Collins' Restaurant
1857-1984

Monroe's General Store &
E. H. Butler's Hardware
1858-1939

Guilford Trust Bank,
Guilford Savings Bank, &
Second New Haven Bank
1912-1973

Harry Page Jr. bought Butler Hardware from E. H. Butler in 1939 and changed the name to Page Hardware



Page's expanded the hardware floor into Collins' in 1984

The bank building became Page's appliance showroom in 1973

Page Hardware & Appliance Co. 1939-2014

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375 Years of Guilford, Connecticut 1639 – 2014

Preserving Our Heritage

Celebrating Our People & Places

Creating our Future

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Published by the Town of Guilford for the 375th Anniversary Celebration

Edited and compiled by Christina Kassabian Schaefer

Consulting by Joel E. Helander, Municipal Historian

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Special photography by Steven McGuire

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Dedicated to the Memory of Edith B. Nettleton

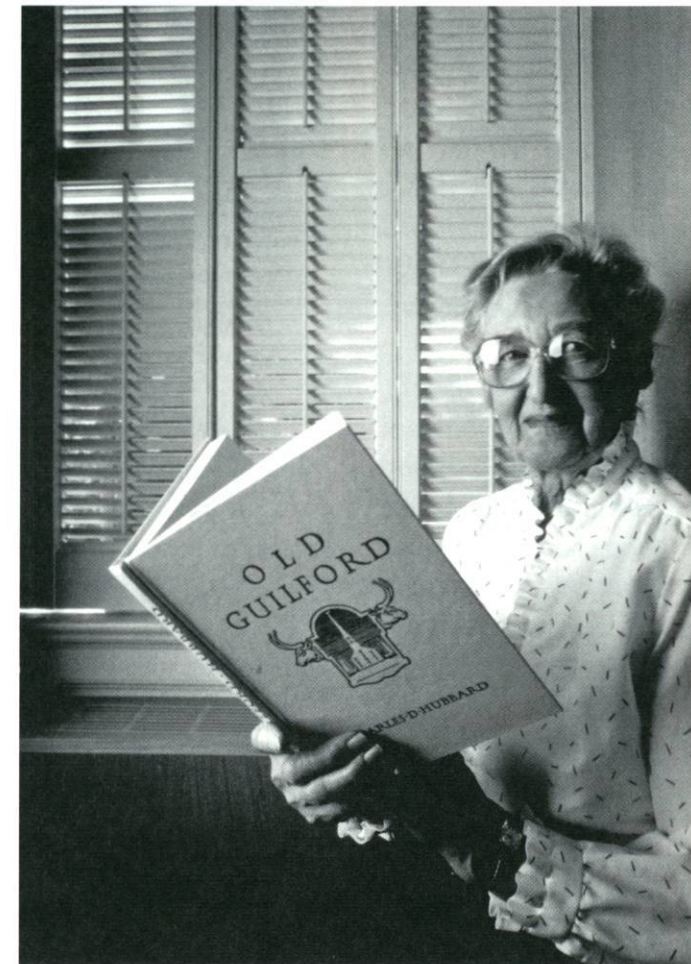


Photo by Stephen Muskie. May 1989

July 22, 1908 - January 26, 2014

Edith B. Nettleton, An Appreciation

by Patty Baldwin



Presentation of Library Keys to Rev. Moe (right), president of the Guilford Library Association by S. Leslie Spencer, First Selectman of the Town of Guilford. Standing in rear Lena Shelley, E.B. Nettleton, Martha Cornell. January 23, 1934. Photo courtesy of Edith B. Nettleton Historical Room, Guilford Free Library.

Edith Nettleton's life was devoted to providing answers to questions. In April of 2009 the library asked patrons to write down what the Guilford Free Library meant to them. The most eloquent response came from Edith: "It has been my life."

But that isn't the best answer she's ever given. The best answer was given in 1933, when she was working in Springfield, Massachusetts, at the Madison Square Branch of the public library. A letter from library supporter Martha Cornell described the need for a trained librarian in Guilford with the question, "Do you know anyone we could hire?" Edith's response, "How would I do?" marked the beginning of a remarkable career.

For 45 years, Edith was the town librarian. She began work in December of 1933 in the Whitfield Street building, sorting more than 5,000 books before moving to the new Park Street building. When the library opened in January 1934, and for several years after that, Edith was the only employee. The library was open three days a week, from 2:00 to 5:00 and 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Gradually more afternoon hours were added so that by 1939 the library was open five days per week. Edith

worked not only when the library was open but also when it was closed. With one eye on the minute details of organizing the collection and the other on the larger issue of what a library can offer a community, Edith's career was launched.

Her Yankee thriftiness was matched by imagination and creativity. For patrons who couldn't visit the library, Edith delivered books to their homes. The oil shortage of the war years placed limitations on everyday life. With characteristic ingenuity, Edith brought 100 books weekly to the Church Street School, a practice she continued until the mid 1940s, when the school day changed to allow time for the students to visit the library.

In the 1960s, with the town's population growing and the library collection up to almost 20,000 books, Edith spearheaded the campaign to expand the library. Architect Paul Mitarachi submitted a proposal that included demolishing the 1934 Georgian building and replacing it with a sleek design of glass and brick. At the hearing in July of 1970, the public declared this plan to be "in the category of crime." Edith said it was the hottest night of her life but she still wished she could see that building built somewhere. The new addition opened to the public in 1977.

After she retired in July 1978, Edith spent about three months pursuing other interests. But Guilford history was her primary interest, and she knew the work needed to establish the Historical Room was immense. With assurances from Director Jean Baldwin that Edith wouldn't be intruding, she hauled out boxes of carefully stored material that she had safeguarded over the years and began the labor-intensive process of building a collection.

The Connecticut Library Association awarded its "Excellence in Public Library Service Award" to the Historical Room in 2002, placing the collection firmly in the forefront of local historical collections.

A year later, the Library Board of Directors officially named the room the "Edith B. Nettleton Historical Room." The announcement came during a town-wide celebration to mark not only Edith's seventy years of service to the Library, but also the affection and esteem with which Guilford's townspeople regard Edith and the cultural legacy she created.

Edith's foresight in preserving the souvenirs of daily life, ferreting out bits and pieces of valuable history, was matched by her dedication to interpreting the wealth of materials so that they document the founding of the town, its family genealogies, and its house histories. Who but Edith would have known to create a subject entry for "Houses, moved?" And her penciled corrections strewn over documents stored in the vertical files attest to her glee in uncovering yet another connection, or a new fact.

When you and your heirs come to the Edith B. Nettleton Historical Room for answers to your questions, Edith's life's work will point your way.



Edith's birthday celebration, 2009. Left to Right: Tom Ginz, Joel Helander, Edith, Carl Balestracci, Pat Widlitz. Courtesy of Guilford Free Library.



THE OLD STONE HOUSE

Joseph S. Mazza
First Selectman

TELEPHONE (203) 453-8015
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TOWN OF GUILFORD

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www.ci.guilford.ct.us

Happy 375th Anniversary Guilford!

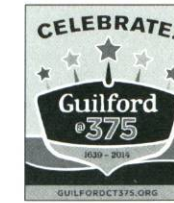
As we begin celebrating Guilford's 375th Anniversary, I am reminded once again how fortunate we are to live in such a vibrant community that is rich in history. The Guilford Covenant still resonates with the core values that have continued to sustain our community; working together to support and help each other in times of plenty and want. The spirit of cooperation is as strong now as it was in 1639, as is evidenced by the generous spirit of volunteerism that is such a large part of the fabric that makes up our wonderful town.

I hope you and your family will participate in the many celebratory events scheduled throughout the year. The 375th Anniversary Committee has been working hard to bring us five Signature Events beginning with the family-friendly Generations Jubilee and fireworks on December 31, 2013. In 2014, the 375th Anniversary Committee will also be hosting a Crystal Ball in March; a Civil War reenactment, and concert in May; numerous outdoor activities during the Covenant/Trail Weekend in June; and a Fife and Drum muster in the fall. More information on each of these events can be found throughout this book and on the 375th Anniversary website: guilfordct375.org.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many sponsors who are supporting these events. In particular the Diamond Sponsors: Bishop's Orchards, East River Energy, Guilford Savings Bank, Page-Hardware and Appliance Company, and Yale New Haven Hospital, have all generously contributed funds and personnel to insure that these festivities are a success. Without the support of our sponsors, these events would not take place, so as you travel through town and admire the banners along the road, please remember to show your appreciation by patronizing these businesses.

Allow me to express, on behalf of all our residents, our thanks and appreciation to the Guilford 375th Anniversary Committee for their tireless efforts in planning this year-long celebration. They have devoted countless hours of their time and energy planning and organizing fun and exciting events that will appeal to a variety of ages and interests. Please take a few minutes to browse through this book and to visit the guilfordct375.org website for detailed information on all of the extraordinary events that will be happening in celebration of Guilford's 375th Anniversary. I look forward to seeing you and your family at these events as we celebrate this momentous occasion in Guilford!

Joseph S. Mazza
First Selectman



As the 375th Year of the founding of Guilford begins, the 375th Anniversary Committee is pleased to present this commemorative book to residents and visitors alike. It is an eighteen month long labor of love come to fruition. We are grateful to the wonderful talent of Chris Kassabian Schaefer and Joel Helander for their content and editorial eye. We thank residents Anita Catardi, Peter Otis, Steve McGuire and members of the book committee for their efforts in bringing this all together. To Sue Weady and Royal Printing for the enormous amount of time spent in laying out the book, the committee thanks you one and all.

As I look back on 375 years of Guilford history, I can't help but think how much has changed and yet how much is still the same. Testimonies to those individuals who throughout our history have so painstakingly given of their time to volunteer in all aspects that have made Guilford thrive yet remain true to its history. Those efforts have been rewarded for Guilford still is home to wonderful significant buildings such as our museums, and many, beautiful historic homes. As well our notable Green and the businesses and churches that surround it. Let us not forget the beautiful churches in North Guilford that have long given respite to those in need. The agricultural history of our community has also been preserved for future generations with many working farms still harvesting. Our beautiful vistas, timberlands and beaches so painstakingly preserved for all eternity. Those are the visions of our predecessors as well as those individuals who work daily to continue this legacy.

The 375th Anniversary Committee met and created a mission statement to guide our work. We believe we have met the goals to solicit, plan and produce events, activities and programs that aid in achieving the Town's long range goals and objectives, such as an increased focus on Heritage Tourism. We have increased awareness and usage of our natural resources, and increased participation in the arts and cultural offerings in the community, and worked very hard to support the local businesses while providing an educational, entertaining experience for residents and visitors to the Town and the Shoreline. All of the events planned for 2014 have been done without any Guilford taxpayer money and through the efforts of fundraising and good will donations. This commemorative book is one such endeavor and it is hoped it will be received well. Seed money for our committee was available due to the thoughtful planning of the 350th Anniversary Committee and it is our intention to replace that funding for future celebrations. We are thankful to the many town departments that have worked to help this committee meet its goals for Guilford residents and visitors alike.

It is our sincere wish our fellow residents and visitors come together as a community to celebrate the founding of our beloved Guilford.

Sincerely,
Veronica C. Wallace
Chairwoman
Guilford 375th Anniversary Committee

Guilford 375th Anniversary Signature Events

Preserving Our Heritage, Celebrating Our People & Places, Creating Our Future

Guilford's Generations Jubilee

December 31, 2013

A New Year's Eve festival for young and old alike, launching a year of signature events that mark the founding of Guilford in 1639. The celebration includes a photo of residents and guests taken from the bucket of a firetruck overlooking the Guilford Green; a noise parade of merrymakers ringing commemorative bells, blowing horns and banging pots and pans; arts, crafts, games, ballroom dancing and demonstrations at the Nathanael B. Greene Community Center; glitter tattoos at the Guilford Free Library; a bonfire on the Green and a high-shoot fireworks display.

Crystal Ball

March 29, 2014

A black-tie gala at the Guilford Yacht Club. The evening comprises a cocktail hour and a sit-down dinner, followed by dancing to the live music of the acclaimed Eight to the Bar, winner of several live-band awards for nearly 10 years.

Guilford's Place in the Civil War

May 31, 2014

The recreation of a typical day in 1864 when Guilford was torn politically by Abolitionists, antiwar activists and people who wanted to continue to trade with the South for economic benefit. The event pays homage to Guilford's place in the Civil War while offering opportunities to learn about the participation of Guilford citizens in the events leading to, during and after that war. The day includes a Civil War re-enactment with professional actors, battlefield medical and cooking demonstrations, horse-drawn carriage rides, performances of instrumental and choral music, period dancing and dramatic readings.

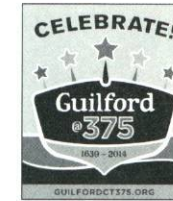
Covenant/Trail Weekend

June 6, 7, 8, 2014

A dual celebration commemorating the signing of Guilford's covenant and the dedication of the New England Trail, highlighted by a dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting, a family-friendly Trails Day hike on the New England National Scenic Trail in Guilford to Upper Guilford Lake plus tours, exhibits, kayaking, mural unveiling and more.

Sponsors

The Guilford 375th Anniversary events are made possible through the generous support of businesses and residents. Among these are the five diamond sponsors: Bishop's Orchard, East River Energy, Guilford Savings Bank, Page Hardware & Appliance Co., and Yale-New Haven Hospital.



Acknowledgements

Celebrating 375 years is a milestone that makes the entire community proud and gets everyone thinking about the years to come! As the 375th Anniversary Committee began its work, it became clear that, taking a lead from those who went before to celebrate the 300th and 350th years, leaving behind a legacy was both a desire and a responsibility. There were so many ideas (all of them wonderful) and it was difficult to decide which would see the light of day and which would have to wait for another time. Undertaking a publication such as this is similar to building a pyramid. The strong foundation was forged by many hands and each building block was added to support the end result – the Commemorative Book for the Celebration of the Town of Guilford's 375th Anniversary.

The many hands that made "light work" of the research and writing for this book include: Steven McGuire, John Van Epps, Peter Otis, Amy Earls, Janet Testa and Katherine Frydenbourg. They spent hours doing research, writing and editing text, gathering photos and making it all fit together into one history of Guilford. Each and every one deserves a special thanks and the town is fortunate to have people so dedicated to preserving its history. Extra special recognition for sharing the dream goes to Joel Helander for providing exemplary fact checking and Christina Kassabian Schaefer whose editorial skills made this book not only possible but substantive. Susan and Lou Weady provided printing expertise that made this book the beautiful piece of art that generations to come will cherish. Another tip of the hat goes to the Guilford Keeping Society, the Guilford Free Library and the many individuals for providing many of the historical photos contained herein and for so many more that were used throughout the year-long celebration. The original artwork that graces the cover of the book commemorates Guilford's history in a artistic way. Aimee Lovington was the winner of a competition to create a signature piece that would exemplify the theme of the celebration. Second place went to Linnea Geary. Linnea's drawing of "Then and Now" inside the book and Aimee's drawing on the cover are the products of two of Guilford's talented young artists. None of this would have happened at all but for the many hours dedicated by the 375th Anniversary Committee to making 2014 a year for Guilford residents to remember. The members of the committee are: Veronica Wallace, Chairperson; Brian McGlone, Vice-chairperson; Anita Catardi, Janet Testa, Carl Balestracci, Gene Bishop, Margaret Livingston, Ed Bartlett, Stephen Page, Karen Stephens, Roberta Flannery, Lisa Calderone, Heidi Samuelson and Paul Mei and lastly, our dedicated clerk, Bonnie Moore.

The 375th Anniversary Committee leaves this book as a snapshot of one moment in time in the history of a wonderful community. Its desire was to produce a publication that would be added to the ones that have come before and would serve as an inspiration for the generations that will celebrate in the future. So, here's to not only an auspicious past but a look forward to the next decades of Guilford history.

Anita Catardi

Book Committee Chairperson

Note from the Editor: Through the vision and tenacity of Anita Catardi, this book is one of the things that will be a permanent remembrance of this particular time in history. She took up the charge and brought a great many people along with her!



Guilford Harbor at twilight. Photo by C.K. Schaefer.

Message from the Municipal Historian

Town pride has prompted the citizens of Guilford to celebrate various milestone anniversaries of the old town's founding: in 1889, it was the quarto-millennial celebration; in 1939, it was the tercentenary celebration; in 1989, it was the sesquarcentennial celebration. And now, in 2014, it is the dodransquadricentennial celebration. Perhaps the Roman designation of CCCLXXVth would be less unwieldy, but we must listen to the lexicographers who use the Latin derivatives!

Celebration of Guilford's 375th anniversary not only fosters town pride, but promotes tourism and can stimulate economic development. Above all, it allows us to remember—and appreciate—the antiquity of the town, how the town began, and what distinguishes the town.

Nineteen years after the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Massachusetts, the Town of Guilford was founded. Until the first church was gathered or founded in 1643, the town was called the "Plantation of Menunkatuck." It is now distinguished as the seventh-oldest settlement in Connecticut (1639). The town's beauty is rare and its cultural resources are diverse.

Many private organizations work in virtual lockstep to foster this beauty and diversity. They include the Guilford Keeping Society, the Guilford Preservation Alliance, the Dorothy Whitfield Historic Society, the Dudley Farm Foundation, the Guilford Foundation, the Faulkner's Light Brigade, the Guilford Agricultural Society, the Guilford Garden Club, and the Leete's Island Garden Club. State agencies, such as the Henry Whitfield Historical Museum and Cockaponset State Forest, have compatible missions.

Other organizations, such as the Regional Water Authority, Guilford Land Conservation Trust, Audubon Guilford, and Audubon Connecticut are active land stewards.

Town leaders have shown equally remarkable stewardship of the land, such as the purchase and preservation of the 678-acre Timberlands tract and 535-acre East River Preserve. Moreover, town leaders have shown infinite wisdom in administering a master plan of development for the town, beginning as early as 1643 with the layout of the central common or "Green". The 7.75-acre Green is unlike any other in New England due to its size and majestic appearance. Relocation of the Old Boston Post Road (Route 1) in 1926–27 to bypass the village center reflects further wisdom in the town's plan of development, as well as the establishment of a Planning & Zoning Commission in 1952. All of these planning strategies ultimately sought to protect the character of Guilford.



View of Faulkner's Island. Photo by Steven McGuire.



Emblem of Guilford designed circa 1950 by Read I. Ripley of Guilford, having been commissioned by the Guilford Keeping Society.

Hardware Store, the Bishops of Bishop's Orchards, John Hubbard of Hubbard's "Tinker Shop," and the Leetes of Leete's Island. Mr. Fischer concluded by stating that in high school he learned about The Almost Perfect State from Don Marquis, one of his literary heroes. Ever since, he had been searching for it, and in Guilford, Connecticut he suggested that he found a close version of it.

It is easily concluded that Guilford's preservation of open spaces and older buildings, plus the constituency of its citizens, contribute largely to its character. The ethic of preservation is alive and strong. Unlike many towns and cities that are defined by asphalt and sprawl, the town has managed to resist many of the external forces that can threaten its character. There is a powerful theme of continuity and survival.

As the town rounds the bend into its 375th year, and as the "new" blends with the "old," we truly believe that Guilford's distinctive character can be maintained well into the future.

Joel E. Helander,

Municipal Historian,
Town of Guilford

The beauty and diversity of Guilford's built environment rivals its natural environment, with more than 700 surviving dwelling houses that are more than a century old. Through these structures, we can touch and experience history. And through these structures, we are able to connect with—and remember—those who came before us. We must believe that those of us who have feelings of veneration for our predecessors should expect the same from those who follow us.

Another contributing factor to Guilford's character is its citizens.

Direct descendants of at least fifteen (15) of the founding fathers and mothers live in Guilford to this day. The late John Fischer of Leete's Island, editor-in-chief of Harper's Magazine, wrote a column in 1969 about Guilford's "Manners, Morals, and Customs." Focusing closely, he wrote with intrigue about people like the Pages of Page



Bonfire on the Guilford Green, December 31, 2013, at the kick off of the Generations Jubilee Celebration. Photo by Peter Otis Photos.



Over 500 people gathered on the Green in front of the Town Hall for the aerial photo. Photo by Kiernan Photography.

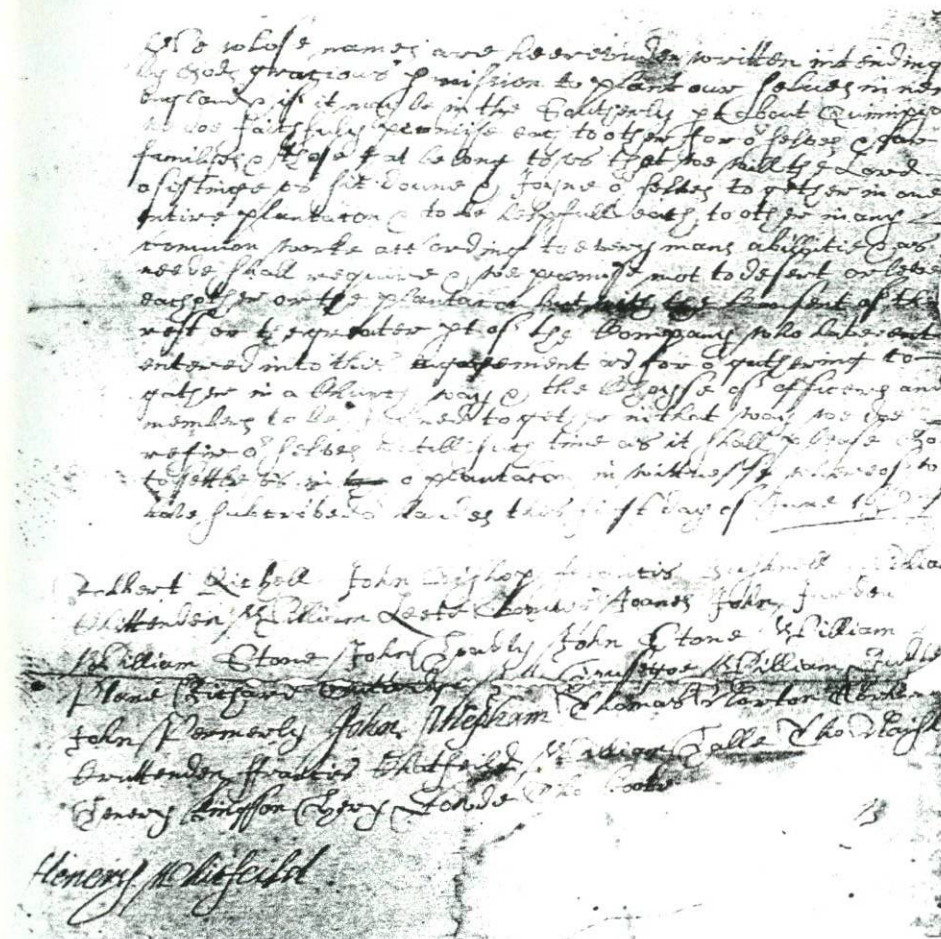


Fireworks were the finale for the Generations Jubilee evening celebrations. Photo by Peter Otis Photos.

History of the Guilford Covenant

By Reverend John Van Epps

The Plantation Covenant was written and signed by those 25 "planters" on board ship on its voyage from England to New Haven in 1639. The size of Henry Whitfield's signature indicates his prominent role in its drafting. Such covenants were common among the early New England settlers.



Clerk's copy (copied by William Leete) of the original "covenant," photographed at the Massachusetts Historical Society in April 1970. William Leete was the plantation's first secretary. Note how the hand-writing is distinctive and unchanging—with one exception—which is the name of "Henery Whitfeild" at the end or very bottom. This is not Whitfield's own signature; he would not have misspelled his own name. Whitfield's name is thought to have been added to this clerk's copy. Courtesy of J. E. Helander Collection.

"We whose names are here underwritten, intending by God's gracious permission to plant ourselves in New England, and if it may be, in the southerly part about Quinnipiack, do faithfully promise each, for ourselves and our families and those that belong to us, that we will, the Lord assisting us, sit down and join ourselves together in one entire plantation, and be helpful each to the other in any common work, according to every man's ability, and as need shall require, and we promise not to desert or leave each other or the plantation, but with the consent of the rest, or the greater part of the company who have entered into this engagement. As to our gathering together in a church way and the choice of officers and members to be joined in that way, we do refer ourselves, until such time as it please God

to settle us in our plantation. In witness whereof we subscribe our names, this first of June 1639."

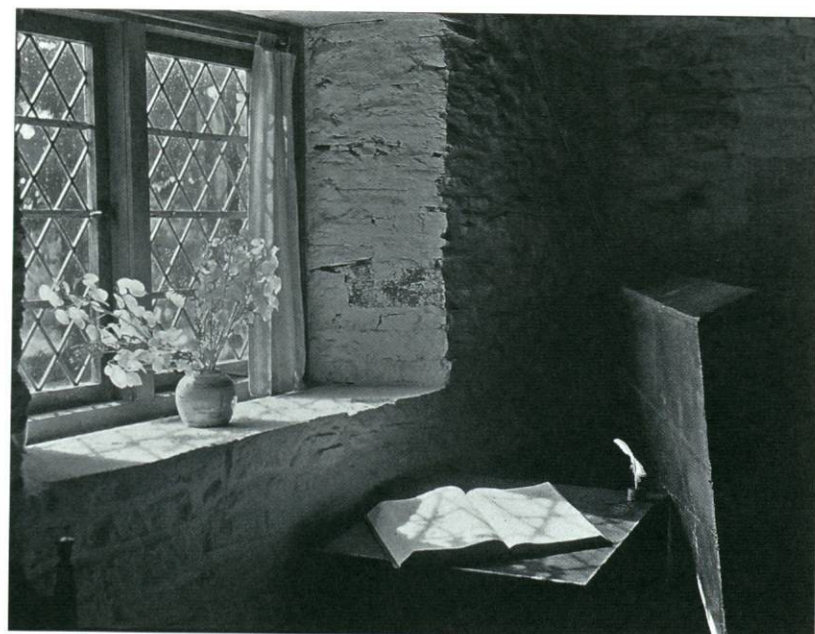
Robert Kitchell	John Bishop
Francis Bushnell	William Chittenden
William Leete	Thomas Jones
John Jordan	William Stone
John Hoadley	John Stone
William Plane	Richard Guttridge
John Housegoe	William Dudley
John Parmely	John Mephram
Thomas Norton	Abraham Cruttenden
Francis Chatfield	William Halle
Thomas Naish	Henry Kingnoth
Henry Doude	Thomas Cooke
Henry Whitfield	

The original name of this colony was Menuncatuck Plantation. With the building of the Old Stone House as the Whitfield home, it was also the place of worship and education.

There was a delay in establishing a church "until a later time." It was only in 1643 (June 19th) that the Congregational Church in Guilford was organized.

In May of that same year the Menuncatuck Plantation entered into a union with New Haven Colony (along with Branford, Milford, and Stamford). "Upon its own desire this plantation (was) called Guilford."

Even though all had covenanted to stay with the colony, without the consent of the others, Henry Whitfield himself returned to England in 1650. (Several of the planters followed him in his return in the coming years, and there was some sense that the entire plantation might soon also return to England.) Reasons for Whitfield's return were his failing health, his depleted financial situation, and the appeal from the Puritans under Cromwell to "give up what appeared to be economic failure and return to England." Whitfield died there in 1657.



Interior of Henry Whitfield House, by William Horton, courtesy of Tom Horton.

Several years ago, a group of citizens in Guilford held many meetings with community groups and individuals to revise and reaffirm the Guilford Covenant:

Our 21st Century Re-Affirmation of the Covenant

"We the citizens of Guilford, Connecticut, in reaffirmation of the promise made by the founders of our community in the Covenant signed June 1, 1639, are joined together by our common values: loyalty, wisdom, fairness and environmental stewardship. We agree to respect one another through all of our endeavors. Through collaboration and the use of our individual talents, we dedicate our work to the guidance and betterment of all our citizens, from the youngest members to the elders of Guilford. We will be responsible and accountable, each to the other and to the greater whole. We make this pledge as individuals, in the belief that each of us brings a richness, vitality and strength to our common home."—The Citizens of Guilford, 2009.

Museums in Guilford

Henry Whitfield State Museum, 1639

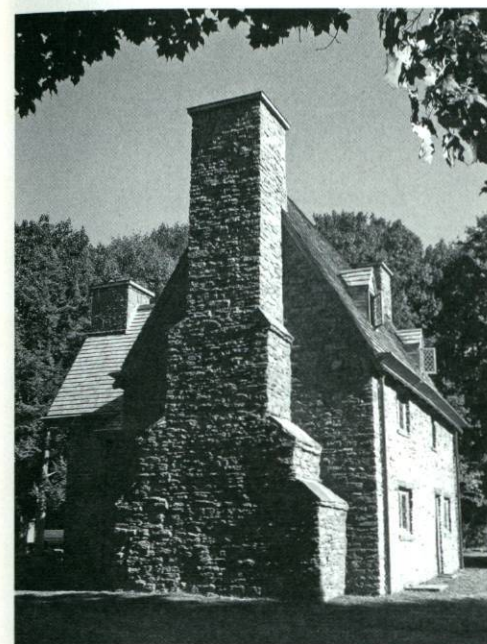
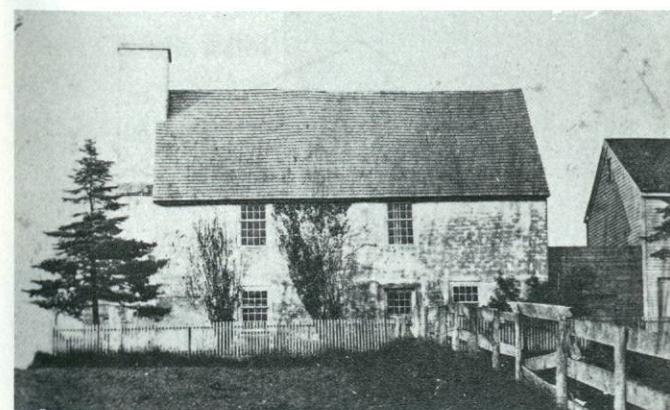


Photo courtesy of Henry Whitfield Museum.

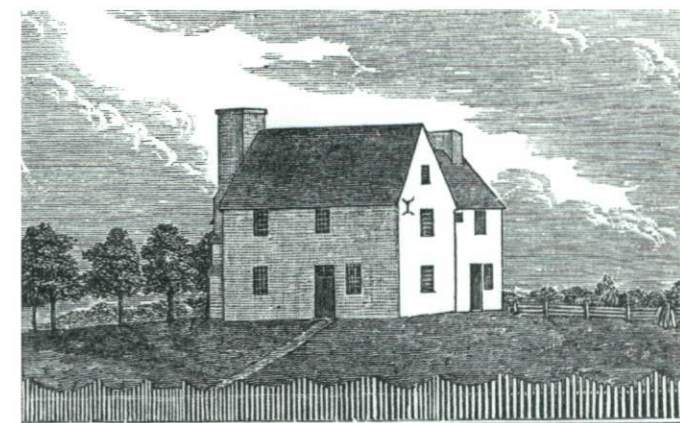
Nineteen years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, a group of English Puritans led by Reverend Henry Whitfield crossed the Atlantic Ocean. Their goal was to establish a community in the New World free from religious persecution. The Whitfield family home built in 1639, Connecticut's oldest home and New England's oldest stone house, also served as a fort for the community.



Henry Whitfield House, earliest photo c. 1850. Photo courtesy of Henry Whitfield State Museum.

Opened in 1899 as "the State Historical Museum," the building has been restored by noted architects and is a unique example of post medieval domestic architecture and colonial revival-influenced restoration work.

Visitors today can see 17th–19th century furnishings, weaving and textile equipment, the first tower



Henry Whitfield House – Barber image c. 1835. Drawing courtesy of Henry Whitfield State Museum.



Henry Whitfield House – the Tarr Family c. 1890s. Photo courtesy of Henry Whitfield State Museum.

clock made in the colonies (1726) and exhibits on local and state history. The museum also includes landscaped grounds, an herb garden and museum shop.

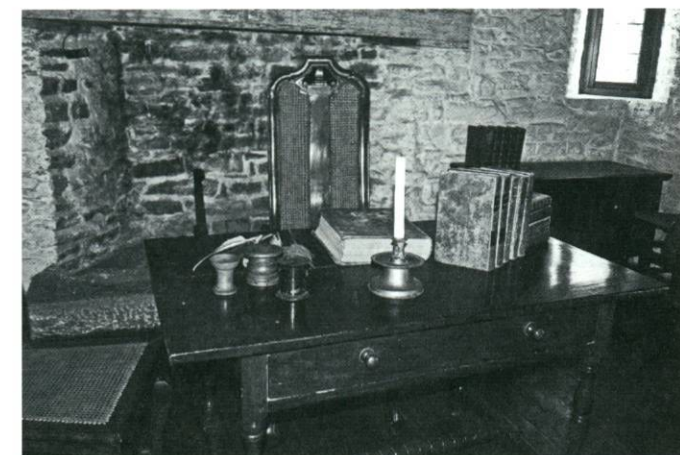


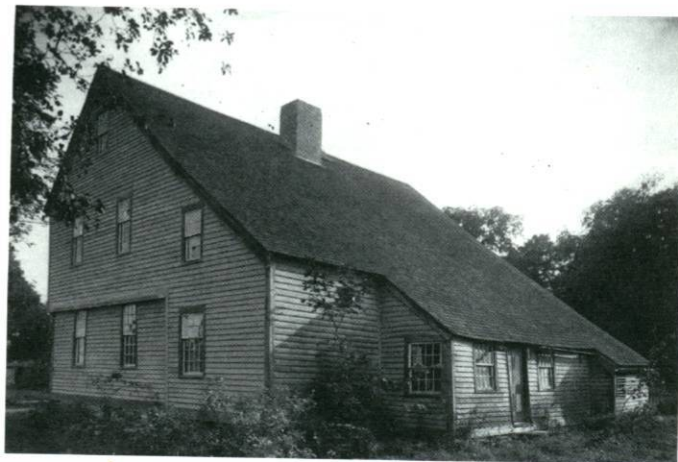
Photo by C.K. Schaefer.

The Hyland House, c. 1720



Early post card of the Hyland House courtesy of Dorothy Whitfield Society.

The house is named for sheep farmer, George Hyland, who purchased this home lot from John Meigs as early as 1660–65. The house was built as a two room-over-two room structure in the early 18th century by master carpenter/mechanic Ebenezer Parmelee. The saltbox style evolved when a shed or lean-to was added to the rear before the American Revolution, which involved additional side rooms and a sloping roof to enclose them all.



Hyland House rear view, c. 1910. Photo courtesy of Dorothy Whitfield Society.

Ebenezer Parmelee (1690–1777) was a shipwright and master of several trades, but it was as “the father of Connecticut clock-making” that he left his mark. He is remembered for his 1726 church tower clock on display at the Whitfield State Museum.

The Hyland/Parmelee house was due to be torn down in 1916 but was purchased and restored by the Dorothy Whitfield Historic Society and opened



Hyland House hall. Photo courtesy of Dorothy Whitfield Society.



Hyland House parlor bedroom. Photo courtesy of Dorothy Whitfield Society.

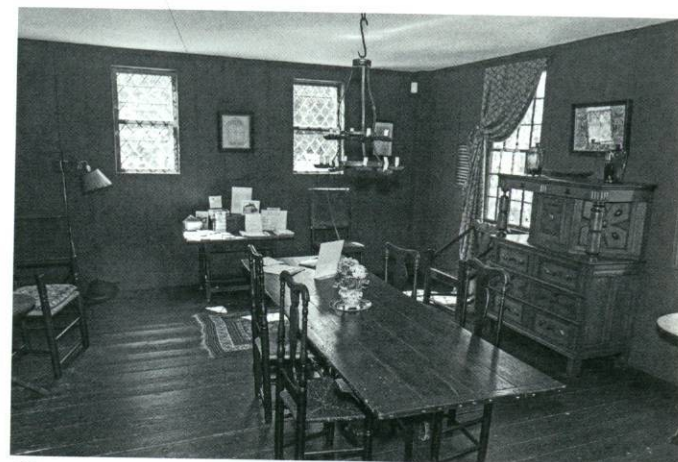


Photo courtesy of Dorothy Whitfield Society.

as a museum in 1918. With five fireplaces and hand hewn floors and original plaster walls, the house is remarkably close to its original condition. It is completely furnished with an exceptional collection of 17th and 18th century furniture and artifacts.

Thomas Griswold House, c. 1774

by Pat Lovelace



The Thomas Griswold House. Photo courtesy of Guilford Keeping Society.

The Thomas Griswold House is a classic New England saltbox dwelling standing on a commanding knoll along the old Post Road, now designated as a state scenic road. Thomas Griswold III built the house for two of his sons, John and Ezra, c. 1774, on land that had been in the family since Thomas Griswold II moved from Wethersfield in 1695. John Griswold, Jr. sold his interest in the property to his cousin George, who also inherited his father Ezra's portion. The house remained in the possession of descendants of George and his wife, Nancy Landon, until purchased by the Guilford Keeping Society in 1958. The Guilford Keeping Society has carried out two major restoration projects, one in 1974 and one



The Keeping Room. Photo courtesy of Guilford Keeping Society.

in 1995. The house is now furnished in the style of the early nineteenth century, representing the period of George and Nancy Griswold's occupancy. Several

items mentioned in George Griswold's inventory are still in the house, including a parlor mirror and a dressing table. One upstairs room is dedicated to



The Best Parlour. Photo courtesy of Guilford Keeping Society.

temporary exhibits of items from the Society's collections. The house along with an early blacksmith shop, a large barn filled with farm implements, two corn cribs and a Victorian three seat privy comprise the museum. The museum is open from June until

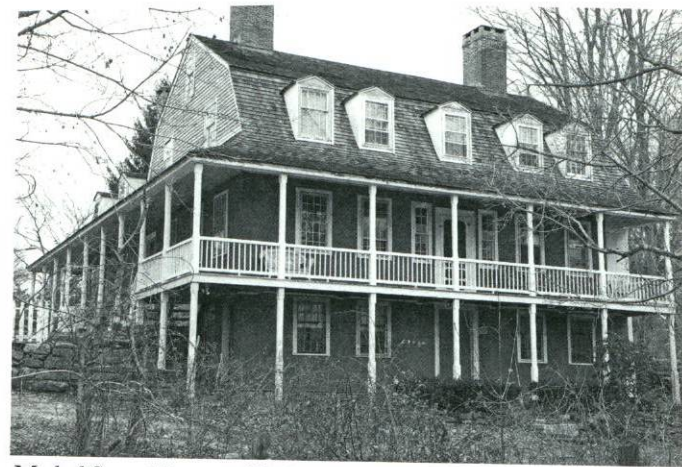


Photo courtesy of Guilford Keeping Society.

October and can be visited by appointment during the winter months. Annually in May, Guilford's fourth graders enjoy a full day of workshops and activities at both the Hyland House and Griswold House.

Medad Stone Tavern c. 1803

by Pat Lovelace



Medad Stone Tavern. All photos courtesy of Guilford Keeping Society.

Overlooking the salt marshes of West River in Guilford, stands one of the town's most imposing landmarks. In 1800 the roads were so bad that the State passed a law allowing private individuals to upgrade roads and charge tolls. So Medad Stone and his business partners petitioned the General Assembly in 1803, praying for a turnpike road between New Haven and New London.



According to local tradition, Medad Stone's lobby for relocation of the Post Road in Guilford stemmed from his desire to score a personal gain. Confident of the approval, he built a noble new tavern of Dutch gambrel design where the new toll road would be. When the new turnpike road never materialized, Medad's error in judgment landed him a second tavern with no prospects for guests and the tavern never opened. In 1811 he hired Joel Davis of Killingworth to farm the land. Eventually Joel Davis bought the property and his family lived there for four generations.

Len Hubbard, a descendant of Joel Davis, bequeathed the property to the Guilford Keeping Society in 2001. The historical society interprets the property as "The Tavern that opened 200 years late". Len's book "Old Tavern Tales" was published by the Keeping Society in 2012. In it, he tells the story of his 91 years living in the Tavern. The property also



holds a recently restored barn, a corn crib and extensive fields. It is located at 197 Three Mile Course. It is also the location of the Len Hubbard Community Garden.

The building with its 14 rooms and 10 fireplaces stands today with little alteration. It contains furnishings, diaries, ledgers, newspapers, letters and photos from over the entire 200 years of its existence! An archives room was recently completed at the Tavern to hold all of these treasures, as well as other archives related to Guilford history. The renovation of this room was greatly helped by a matching grant from the Guilford Foundation.



The Dudley Farm, 1844



The Dudley Farm as it is today. Photo by Peter Otis.

This dwelling in Greek Revival style was built by Erastus Dudley, a prosperous North Guilford farmer and gristmill and tannery owner. The property is now maintained as a late 19th century farm



The Dudley Farm as it was in the past. Photo courtesy of Dudley Farm Museum.

museum. Today, the house, barns and surrounding ten picturesque acres occupy a portion of the land farmed by the Dudley family for almost 300 years. The last family member, David Dudley, gave the farm to the North Guilford Volunteer Fire Company upon his death in 1991. Lamenting the disappearance of farm life in the face of the rapid development of the late 20th century, the Volunteer Fire Company decided to establish a farm museum to preserve the region's agricultural heritage.

The Dudley Foundation is a nonprofit, member supported organization that maintains the Dudley



Amy Dudley with her horses. Photo courtesy of Dudley Farm Museum.

Farm as a late 19th century farm museum through the work of volunteers. The restored farm house, barns and grounds allow visitors to experience life as it once was.

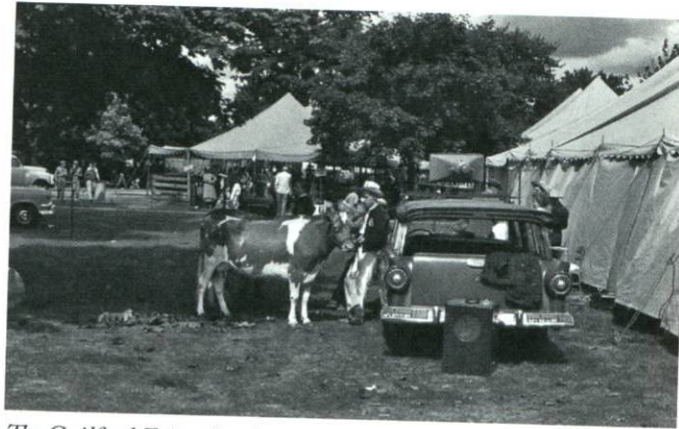
Tours of the farmhouse, including stories of the home's inhabitants, introduce visitors to life in the year 1900 and bring the past alive. The barns and outbuildings, along with animals representative of the period, give a unique glimpse of life and work on a family farm. Daily farm chores include care of



Photo courtesy of Dudley Farm Museum.

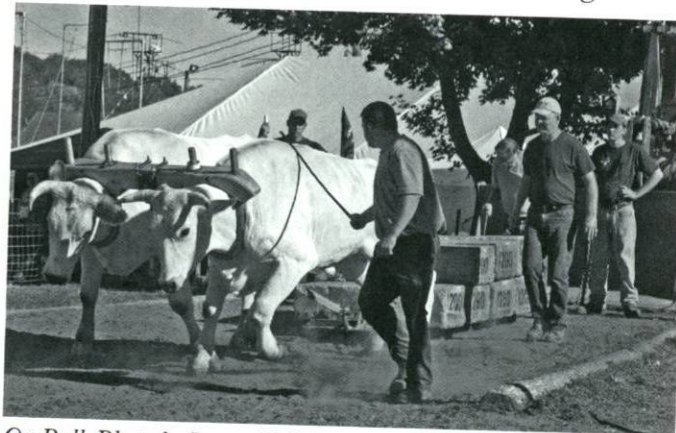
the chickens, sheep, and oxen. Period flower, herb and heirloom vegetable gardens, pastures, meadows, and woods evoke a gentle sense of the past.

The Guilford Agricultural Society, 1859



The Guilford Fair when it was held on the Green, 1959. Photo by William Horton, courtesy of Tom Horton.

Established in 1859 by four Guilford farmers whose "cupboards" were "full of the fat of the land," the Guilford Fair had its origin on the eve of the Civil War. Now, our fair is traditionally held on the third full weekend of September each year. The early agricultural fairs on the Guilford Green had become famous for their cattle shows, when the village was



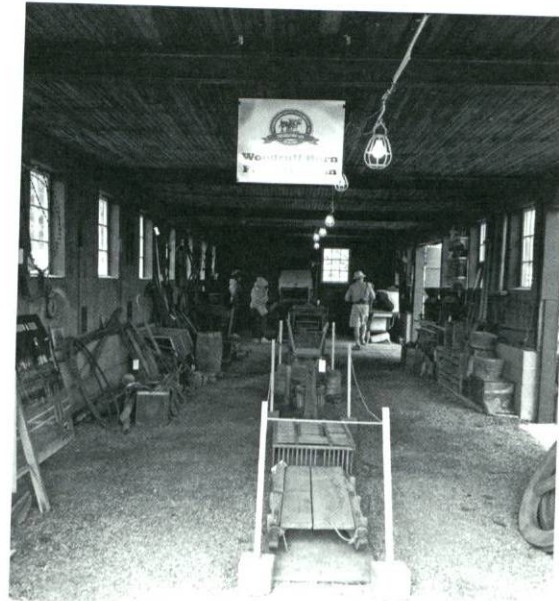
Ox Pull. Photo by Larry Kalbfeld.

crowded with strings of parading cattle. The competition among farmers



Photo by C.K. Schaefer.

was to send the largest possible "delegation" of animals.



Woodruff Farm Museum. Photo by C.K. Schaefer.

By 1903, indoor exhibitions featured Guilford merchants displaying meat, potted plants, millinery, and photographs; there were also displays of Indian arrowhead collections and quilts and needlework. The advent of the trolley car in 1910 contributed to an unprecedented Fair crowd of nearly 10,000 people. In 1969, the Guilford Fair outgrew the confines of 8-acre Guilford

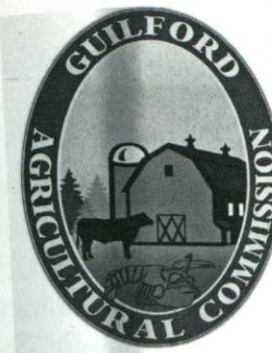


Children's Exhibit. Photo courtesy of Larry Kalbfeld.

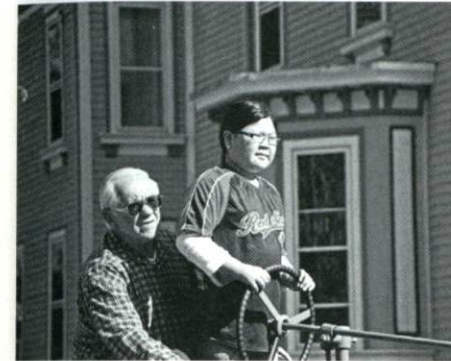


Baking Contest. Photo by Larry Kalbfeld.

Green and relocated to the 30-acre Hunter Farm off Lover's Lane. The Fair currently features many traditional agricultural programs year after year, as well as many new exhibits, activities and fair food items.



GUILFORD
An
Agricultural
Community
Since 1639



Citizens Day Parade. Photo by Peter Otis.



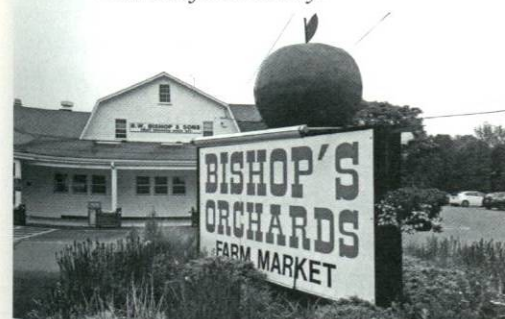
Tractor Brigade, Guilford Citizens Day Parade. Photo by Peter Otis.



The Knowles Lombard Co. employed more than 100 people during the busy season. Puritan brand hand-picked tomatoes, most of which were grown in town, were featured product. Photo by Henry Davis c. 1915. Photo courtesy of Guilford Keeping Society.



Label from Puritan Brand Sugar Pumpkin, packed by The Knowles Lombard Co. Photo courtesy of Edith B. Nettleton Historical Room Collection, Guilford Library.



Bishop's Farm Market. Photo by Peter Otis.



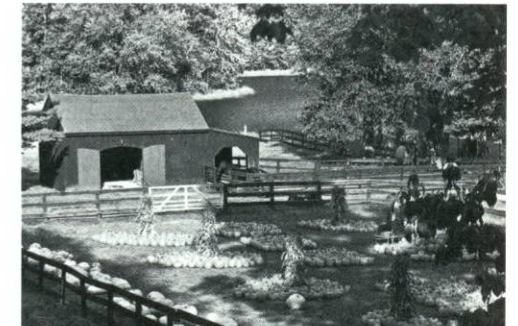
Vernon Dudley Farm, John Dwyer and Michael Berube, 1976. Photo courtesy of Edith B. Nettleton Historical Collection, Guilford Library.



Buster Scranton's Sugar House, North Guilford, 2013. Photo by Peter Otis.



Photo by Peter Otis.



Strawberry Hollow Farm. Photo by Thomas Bennicas.



Photo by Peter Otis.



Sachems Head Canning Co. Photo courtesy of Guilford Keeping Society.

Faulkner's Island: A Revered Landmark

By Joel E. Helander



Photo by Steven McGuire.

Four miles off the coast of Guilford, Connecticut, the gravelly banks of Faulkner's Island rise abruptly from the waters of Long Island Sound. In size, the crescent-shaped island contains less than three acres; in significance, no landmark on the soundscape could be more scenic or more beloved.

Faulkner's Island is a wildlife refuge owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Serene and stately, its historic lighthouse is owned by the U.S. Coast Guard as an active aid to navigation. It is a welcoming and friendly beacon, built in 1802 to light up the darkness, guide mariners, and save lives. Night and day, in calm or tempestuous seas, in warm sunshine, swirling blizzards, or howling nor'easter, Faulkner's Light has created a sanctuary of security and trust.

In the days of sail, when Long Island Sound served as a corridor for maritime traffic, the deceptive shoal ground around Faulkner's Island was dangerous. Some mariners considered it the greatest menace to navigation between New York and New London. The untold loss of ships and lives in this one location will never be known. The story of Faulkner's Island Lighthouse begins in 1789 when the first session of the new U.S. Congress gave the federal government the responsibility for the country's system of aids to navigation.

The hue and cry went out to establish a government light station at Faulkner's. At the Sixth Congress of the United States, March 3, 1801, President John Adams signed an Act authorizing construction of a lighthouse on the island. Thomas Jefferson was inaugurated President the next day.

Medad Stone deeded the island to the government for the sum of \$325 on May 12, 1801. Bids for lighthouse construction were solicited by advertising

in the Connecticut Gazette, June 3, 1801. The low bidder, Mr. Abisha Woodward of New London, executed a contract with Huntington on September 2, 1801, specifying a lighthouse to be built of stone, 40 feet high, and shaped in an octagonal "pyramid" or tapered walls. It further specifies four 12-pane windows in the west face of the octagon and an iron lantern enclosure with copper-covered dome, topped by a copper ball ventilator and large weather vane. The contract price of \$5,500 also included an oil storage vault, artesian well for water supply, and 15x30' frame dwelling house.

Captain Joseph Griffing of Guilford was appointed lightkeeper of the new lighthouse at Faulkner's, serving until 1812. The crude lighting system consisted of 12 spider lamps, fueled by sperm whale oil. A succession of hardy lightkeepers kept the light burning at Faulkner's Lighthouse for 175 years. The fundamental duty of the lightkeeper was to keep a good light burning, which entailed lighting the lights punctually at sunset and extinguishing them punctually at sunrise.

Before 1939, the lightkeepers at Faulkner's Island were civilians employed by the U.S. Lighthouse Service. They were usually accompanied by their families, who displayed remarkable resourcefulness and resiliency in turning a life of isolation and hardship into opportunities for unusual hobbies and vocations. The circumference of their world was their island home and they faced deprivations of all kinds. In stormy seas or wintertime, they could be cut off from the mainland for weeks at a time. Trips ashore for supplies could be perilous in fickle Sound conditions. The children of the lightkeepers often required home schooling and lacked social contacts. Repair and maintenance of buildings was part of the daily regimen due to harsh exposure to the elements. Subsistence farming was a matter of sheer necessity, involving a large garden, barnyard, and pasture for livestock. When shipwrecks occurred, heroic lightkeepers often distinguished themselves by making daring rescues.

Despite incursions by the British (1814), wild hurricanes (1938, 1954, 1985), and a devastating fire (1976), the original Faulkner's Lighthouse has been preserved for more than 210 years.

After the devastating fire of 1976, deferred maintenance and relentless winter storms, especially nor'easters, had taken their toll at Faulkner's Island. The lighthouse was falling from grace, neglected, and facing inevitable destruction from runaway erosion. Moreover, with the light station unoccupied for the first time in 174 years, vandalism could not be controlled.

In 1982, the U.S. Coast Guard started the nomination process for placing Faulkner's Island on the National Register of Historic Places. The Register is the official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation at the national level. When the nomination had not been submitted by 1989, the Connecticut Historical Commission facilitated the nomination. By 1990, Faulkner's Island was officially listed on the Register. Overnight, the argument for preservation was bolstered. Meanwhile, the jurisdiction of the island was transferred from the U.S. Coast Guard under the Department of Transportation to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service under the Department of the Interior.

A definitive history of the island, *The Island Called Faulkner's*, was published in 1988, which called attention to the plight of the historic lighthouse. Then President Al Hollingsworth of the Guilford Preservation Alliance helped establish the Faulkner's Light Brigade as a commission of the Alliance in 1991. Helander was its chairman for 11 years, succeeded by Fred Farnsworth and currently, Jeff Heinrich.

The Faulkner's Light Brigade's formidable agenda has been one of historic preservation. It has had enduring support from the Connecticut Historical Commission, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. But above all, it has had the support of its loyal membership, including individuals, clubs, businesses, and corporations. Early in the campaign, the Brigade riveted public attention to the island emergency by conducting annual "open houses" on the island, sponsoring a popular lecture series in the spring, and publishing the Octagon newsletter. The

Brigade researched the ways and means of erosion control and networked with local, state, and federal agencies, both in the public and private sectors, to develop a master plan of preservation. What began as a campaign to save an historic landmark soon became a dual campaign to also save an endangered species (Roseate tern).

Over the past 22 years, the Faulkner's Light Brigade has galvanized forces to restore the lighthouse, construct a new stairway leading from the wharf to the island top, and complete a comprehensive erosion control project. To restore the historic lighthouse on Faulkner's, the Brigade joined forces with the Town of Guilford as a municipal partner. The Town applied through the Connecticut Department of Transportation for ISTEA funds (Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act). This won \$250,000 for lighthouse restoration, using \$50,000 in cash raised by the Brigade for the match portion. The Town commissioned Sally Richards as chair of its Lighthouse Restoration Committee, responsible for the administration of the funds. It was necessary for the Town to enter into a license agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard to perform the work of restoration. The restoration was completed in 1999 by International Chimney Corporation of Buffalo, NY.

- Weathertight, breathable coating to exterior, using the 1871 color scheme.
- Re-mortaring and repair of masonry, including a brownstone lintel.
- Return of the original weathervane.
- Return of 12-pane casement windows & 3-panel entry door
- Construction of a wooden entry deck.
- New ventilation and lightning protection systems.

Time and tide wait for no one. Down through the years, erosion has diminished the size of Faulkner's Island from approximately eight acres (1639) to approximately 2.5 acres (2013). The un-vegetated east embankment abreast of the lighthouse has been particularly vulnerable. The undercutting action of pounding waves, torrential rainfall, and frost heaves have all contributed to steady island erosion. An annual inspection by government officials in 1839 noted that the island "is washing away." Scientific

measurements made by Keeper Oliver N. Brooks, 1851–1882, indicated that about five inches of soil was lost through erosion every year. Gallant proposals were made during the nineteenth century to encircle the island with stone bulwarks, but it was considered uneconomic to do so. At the inception of the Faulkner's Light Brigade, the foundation stones of the lighthouse stood just 34 feet from the brink of the east embankment. A geotechnical engineer from the firm of Haley and Aldrich in Cambridge, Massachusetts declared that unless intervention was made within ten years, undermining of the foundation was inevitable.

The Faulkner's Light Brigade's research into erosion control was inspired by the work of the Montauk Historical Society on the south fork of Long Island, New York, where a similar lighthouse was saved from similar erosion. The Brigade hired Montauk's erosion control contractor, Greg Donohue, as a consultant, who introduced them to an innovative biotechnical approach to erosion control. The Montauk model became a prototype for Faulkner's.

The pioneering survey work of George T. Gdovin confirmed the urgency of erosion on Faulkner's and provided critical scientific data that furthered the cause of preservation. Gdovin affiliated with Little Harbor Laboratory in Guilford, a non-profit marine research organization owned by Sarah W. Richards. Gdovin painstakingly developed a topographic map of the island with his own corps of volunteers known as the Faulkner's Island Research Project. An intensive geomorphic study of the island in transition became the subject of his Master's thesis at Antioch University. As an independent agency, Little Harbor Lab supplied data to the Brigade, the U.S. Army Corps and other agencies.

U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd issued a charge to the Brigade to form multiple partnerships with other groups and agencies before the federal government could provide assistance as another "partner." U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman drafted language for a line item for erosion control in a Congressional Bill (Water Resources Development Act), which was introduced in Congress. After the bill's authorization, it nearly stalled at the appropriation level. At the critical last minute, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro saved it. Congress appropriated \$4.5 million for the

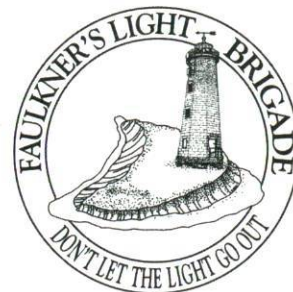
erosion control project on Faulkner's, to be administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Design plans were drafted by the Army Corps and the contract was awarded to Zenone, Inc. of Franklin, MA. The erosion control project was completed in March 2001, which now protects the east embankment with a massive stone wall or revetment wrapping the north end of the island and extending south for about 700 linear feet. The wall is constructed from igneous basalt quarried from the Tilcon Quarry in North Branford and barged to the island. It measures nearly 20 feet high and 50 feet wide, designed to break wave attack and stabilize the embankment. Armor stone in its outer layer contains individual pieces weighing up to three tons. The upper embankment has been re-contoured to a new pitch of 40-50 degrees and is further stabilized with plastic "geo cells" and a cover of hardy vegetation.

A second, major restoration—or re-restoration—of the light tower was initiated by the Brigade in 2010. This project once again retained International Chimney Corporation of Buffalo. They re-pointed and re-painted the entire structure, including window repairs.

The Faulkner's Light Brigade views its campaign as an ongoing one. Under a "Friends Agreement" with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the all-volunteer Brigade looks forward to future projects such as increased public access, development of an interpretive center, and assistance with the maintenance of the lighttower.

The efforts of the Faulkner's Light Brigade are primarily supported by member donations. Please consider becoming a member and/or buying an engraved brick for a new entry pathway on the island. You may visit the FLB website to see the new live web cam on the island: <http://faulkners-light.org/wordpress/> or simply Google Faulkner's Light Brigade. Don't let the light go out!



This is a Test!



Photo by Douglas Schaefer.

The Green is arguably the finest jewel in the crown of Guilford history. It has served generations for almost 400 years as a meeting place for worship, a center of commerce, a parade ground for militia drills, a pasture for grazing, a bandstand for concerts, a venue for corporal punishment, and, at the end of days, a final resting place for the deceased. How much do we know about its history? How many of these questions can you answer correctly?

1. How many acres did the Green have originally?
2. When was the first meetinghouse built ON the Green?
3. Approximately how many people are buried on the Green?
4. When was the last burial on the Green?
5. What were the last animals permitted to pasture

on the Green and when did that practice end?

6. What was the last year that the Green had a fence around it?
7. How many trees were either fallen or ruined during the 1938 hurricane?
8. What was the first year the Fair was held on the Green?
9. What was the last year the Fair was held on the Green?
10. What year was the Town Hall built next to the Green?
11. There used to be a bandstand on the Green. What year was it built?
12. What was the last year that a bandstand stood on the Green?
13. What was the first year that GHS commencement exercises were held on the Green?
14. When was the first flagpole erected on the Green?

15. What year was the Soldier's Monument (Civil War) formally dedicated?
16. When were the sidewalks on the Green, arranged in two star patterns, laid (span of years)?
17. When were the benches of concrete and slatted lumber placed?
18. What year was the horse trough installed on the Green (it was relocated 9 years later)?
19. What year were the first lighting fixtures installed on the Green (prior to electricity)?
20. What year were the replica Federal lamps installed?

The answers are taken primarily from Chapter Two of *A Treasury of Guilford Places*, by Joel Eliot Helander.
 1. Approximately 1,500, 4. 1818, 5. Horses, ca. 1907,
 6. 1899, 7. 98, 8. 1859, 9. 1968, 10. 1893, remodeled 1947–8 and again in 1974
 11. 1876, 12. 1945, 13. 1970, 14. During the Civil War, 15. 1887 (pedestal laid 1877)
 16. 1915–28, 17. 1931, 18. 1911, 19. Kerosene, 1874, 20. 2005



Photo by C.K. Schaefer.

A Timeless Green

By DeWitt "Tad" D. Smith

Tad was born and raised in the Major Lathrop House next to the public library, which is the home to which he refers in the poem. The shop with gifts is the former Greene Gallery at 21 Whitfield Street. This was written during World War II when he was at Okinawa. His daughters are Lorna Smith Buchta, Marilyn Smith Leslie, Babara Smith Goddard, and Cynthia Smith.

Stands stately lo these many years, windowed eyes still bright
through generations two have seen.
Parades of horse-drawn carts and horseless carriages have passed
on dusty hard dirt road, wide enough for four abreast
and laced in shadow from the elms and mired in clay the day it rains.

And now, reflects fluorescent light upon paved surface that glistens in the night.
Well-polished from belted tires and "tiger paws" that pass in front,
the same as when the ox clopped by at a much unhurried pace.

To look across a treeless green compared to yesteryear,
with long gone music stand, used year 'round sometimes by bands,
but more, a place of play for young—a resting place for old.

And, nearby stands the Civil Soldier, faded pink in granite,
eternally posed at rest position, that neither rain nor snow make him move.
Yet, the story goes, some years ago . . . he raised his gun
and fired a shot, as the old town clock tolled eleven.
Since then the old town tavern closed and into a shop of gifts was made.
Proof of this fantastic deed may well be never known, although—
some moonlight night, by chance, take a look yourself—it might be right.

Inside those many-windowed eyes were rooms so warm and bright . . .
from candles and the glowing hearth to kitchen heady smells,
of meals and bread at bake, that foretold a feast no one would miss.
But, as the years flew by in haste, memories drift in outer space—
as all things have a way to fade, from us and those who've gone before.

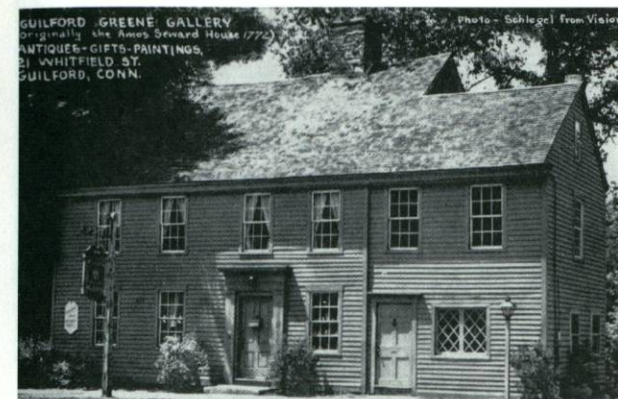
And then, the boom from foreign shores took many far away,
never to return, and yet, someday, they may.
To leave a home so quiet and safe—for dust and death and fetid air
to win an honor so remote . . . senseless.

Time away from home has passed to the point of no return, and yet, perhaps someday
it will come one quiet eve again upon the shaded green where air is fresh and clean;
to meet the one whose love was there.

Forget the coco palms and rolling sand and live once more upon our land
with open door and window light, just like days gone past.
The house is there, 'tis true, but gone are those who played the host.
Two hundred years and more it stands with memories sad and gay,
locked within its walls to stay and stay.



DeWitt (Tad) Smith. Photo courtesy of Lorna Smith Buchta, Marilyn Smith Leslie, Barbara Smith Goddard, and Cynthia Smith.



Dan Collins House 1772, 21 Whitfield Street. Photo courtesy of Guilford Library Historical Collection.



Former Methodist Church, 65 Whitfield Street. Photo courtesy of Guilford Library Historical Collection.

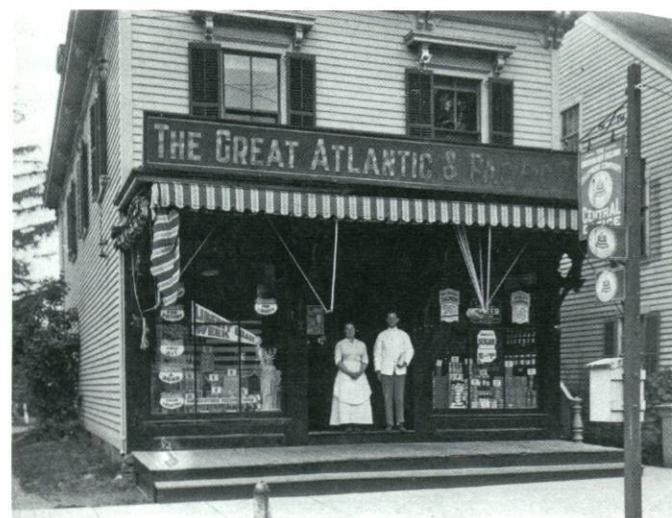


Photo taken by Henry Davis about 1916 of the A&P store at 25 Whitfield Street, with the proprietors Mr. & Mrs Goodwin on the front steps. Copy of original owned by David Dudley. Photo courtesy of Guilford Keeping Society Library Collection.



Looking north on Whitfield Street from SW corner of the Green, before removal (1899) of fence around the Green. Photo courtesy of Guilford Keeping Society Library Collection.



West side of Green looking north up Whitfield Street, circa 1935. Photo courtesy of Guilford Keeping Society Library Collection.



Monroe's Pharmacy, 5 Water Street, c. 1885. Photo courtesy of Guilford Library Historical Collection.



Elliot's Guilford Shopping Center, Whitfield Street. Photo courtesy of Guilford Library Historical Collection.



Ben Franklin Store exterior, Whitfield Street. Photo courtesy of Guilford Keeping Society Library Collection.



Interior of Mr. Beverly Munroe and H.S. Wedmore's store, west side of the Green in Kimberly Hall. Kimberly Hall was destroyed by fire in 1961 and is the present site of the Purple Bear. Photo courtesy of Guilford Keeping Society Library Collection.



West side of Whitfield Street, photo taken from the belfry of the First Congregational Church. Photo courtesy of Guilford Keeping Society Library Collection.



Boston Street, south end of Green. Left to Right Andrew Eliot house at 23 Boston Street, built circa 1818, A&P store (built by Eliot family as a dry goods store), Markham store and house built about 1902, Josiah Rossiter house built in 1710 (demolished in 1935). Copy of photo original owned by David Dudley. Photo courtesy of Guilford Keeping Society Library Collection.

Drugstore Cowboy

By Thomas D. Dorland



Photo by Steven McGuire.

Time is so much on my side that it is still a thing unnoticed. It's a late Sunday afternoon in spring or summer, almost evening. I'm standing on the corner outside of Monroe's Drugstore where Water Street meets Whit-

field Street, in my hometown of Guilford, Connecticut. There are no cars parked anywhere in sight or driving on the streets around the Green. No one is walking on the sidewalks. I'm alone, and being this alone in the center of town gives me the strange sense of being on a stage in the midst of an artificial set. Or in a dream.

I realize that I'm consciously noticing, perhaps for the first time, the elegant beauty of this old New England town; that I have absorbed its charm for all of my young life, but only now do I intentionally make a mental note of it. In years to come I will be so easily seduced by the dazzle of city lights, but never will the artificial suns of man burn brighter in memory than the soft, yellow sunlight of late afternoon on the buildings around the Green.

The setting sun reflects reddish orange in the slim, silvery lengths of exposed trolley tracks which lie in a small patch of old cobblestone road at this intersection. The brief rectangle of space is like a museum piece. The past is recalling itself in parallel streaks of sunset color flaming through the bricked geometry of another time.

Mr. Monroe comes out of his store. The store is open, but he is the only one there. He looks up and down the street, taking in the town where he has lived and worked his entire life. "What are you doing out here, Tommy?" he asks, "You should go home. It's getting late." "Right." I answer, as he

heads back inside the store.

The fire horn/whistle at the town hall goes off, as it does every evening, announcing that it is seven o'clock. Its sudden blast startles me, though I've heard it every night of my life. I look around to see if anyone saw me jump. I'm already worrying about being cool. But, there is no one there. Guilford is still the smallest of small towns, still capable of the grace of solitude, even at its center. For the rest of my life, when I hear a sound like that horn, I will think, for a quick flash of time, that it is always seven o'clock, that Guilford is the center of the world, and that I am eternally a young boy. I was just beginning to realize, then, that one prolonged blast each evening was music to my ears, a brief monotone song of belonging.

Siv Lupone comes out of his store on the opposite corner. I'm surprised to see him, because the store is closed on Sunday, but he has been in there, working. He sees me standing across the street and calls over to me, "What are you doing out here at this time of day, Tommy. You should go home."

"Yeah," I say. I'm a treasure of monosyllables. He walks to his car in the parking lot on the other side of the building. In the small town hush of an early Sunday evening, I hear the click and scuff of his footsteps, the car door opening and closing. He waves as he passes by.

There is a rattle of bottles as someone drops a case of empties on the back steps over at Collins's, a local bar and greasy spoon. A cat scurries away from the sound. Some birds scramble into flight at the movement of the cat. A dog barks in lazy acknowledgment of the



The Monroe Building at the beginning of the 20th century.

commotion. Then, all is quiet again. The air is warm. A few puffy clouds hang in a deep blue sky.

A car full of teenage boys roars by and someone throws a bottle of soda at me. It misses. I give them the finger. The car screeches to a stop, backs up, and two of its passengers get out and head toward me. I think about running into Monroe's, but I stand my ground; a brash little kid playing at being a drug store cowboy. "That's little Dorland," one of them says "Karen's brother. Leave him alone." They get back in the car and speed away, armed with a commitment to mischief in some other part of town. I breathe a sigh of relief, thankful that Karen saved me from whatever harm I might have come to, but I'm too embarrassed to ever tell anyone (until now) that my big sister not only saved me, but did so without even being there.

A car comes to a stop at the intersection, begins to turn onto Whitfield Street, and then stops again. A window rolls down. It's our neighbor, Mrs. Selby, "Tommy Dorland, what are you doing out here alone on the corner at this time of day?" she scolds. "You get home!" I nod my head in response as she drives away.

The sun is down, now. Crickets and tree frogs are chirping the sounds of nightfall as the first hint of dusk begins to pull its veil over the day. There is the sweet smell of flowers in the air, and of turned earth; of nature thriving and abundant after its long sleep.

A car full of teenage girls glides by, radio blasting, singing along. I'm just old enough, just beginning to feel the bewildering pull of sexual attraction. But, I'm just a little kid to them, invisible as the breeze and not as interesting, and I know enough not to spend much time thinking about them—a wisdom that will desert me in a few years. As the car disappears into the distance, the song weakens and dies away, ("I'd like to know that your love is love I can be sure of. So tell me now and I won't ask again. Will you still love"), and they're gone.

I hear my father's shrill whistle, calling to me. He waves an arm, motioning me home. I wave back and he returns to the house. Further down Whitfield Street a train rumbles through town, going from somewhere to somewhere, the sound of its motion inviting a boy's imagination to fill in the blanks of its journey, and of his own. Distance swallows its sound,

and quiet seeps back, fills the town, embraces it.

Someone is walking on the north side of the green, too far away for me recognize. But the figure is stooped and walking slowly; an old man, on the It is 1960 or '61. Or, '62. I don't remember the year. I'm eleven or twelve and years are strings of numbers and not yet a measure of time and of life. Opposite side of the Green—and of life—from me; reversing the flow of time perhaps, as he thinks backwards into the past thoughts that I am thinking forward into the future.

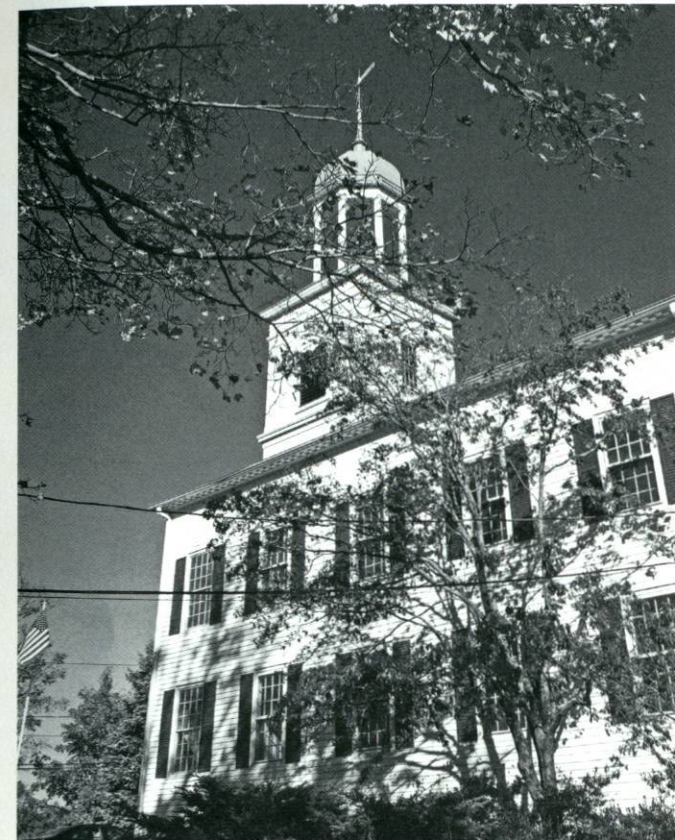
It couldn't have crossed my mind then, that at some unimaginably distant time, I would look back at this moment with the sweet ache of memory and see that Mr. Lupone and Mr. Monroe, the stores that bore their names, and Mrs. Selby, and my father, and so much else and so many others from those days—from that magical day—would be gone; couldn't have seen a time when the reality that seemed almost like a dreamscape then, would become a dream again; a dream of remembering, a dream of youth, a dream of a place that is still there, yet no longer exists.

I wonder if there are kids in other parts of Guilford—in other parts of the world—standing alone somewhere in their neighborhood with similar thoughts and feelings; discovering an inner landscape while glimpsing, as if for the first time, a very familiar world.

The day is fading into darkness, now. The curtain is coming down on this little slice of life that will be with me forever. Only a hundred yards or so from my front door, standing on a corner alone, going nowhere, I have absorbed a special time and place; and, been absorbed by it, become a part of its history and its heartbeat. (Maybe we are never really forgotten by our native earth, by the towns that we call home). It is an adventure without action, a short, quiet journey of self-awareness, frozen in an amber of sunlight and soft air. There may never be a time, in my life or anyone else's, when all is right with the world. But, this is close; a nearly perfect moment.

Something in me feels complete, fulfilled. Some other part of me senses—uneasily; excitedly—a beginning. I take one last, sweeping look around the town—my town—then turn and walk home under the first twinkling stars of night.

North Guilford and History of Meeting House Hill



All photos by Steven McGuire.

North Guilford was not settled until long after Guilford. It was first divided in 1705, and, as the Guilford historian Bernard Steiner records, "Soon after this, men were accustomed to go up from the First Society on Monday of each week to clear their lands and to return on Saturday. From the circumstance of their dwelling together through the week, the place began to be called Cohabit, a name which it long retained." Farms were widely scattered and the population thin, as they have remained to this day. Nevertheless, barely ten years later the "North farmers of Guilford" petitioned for a minister, and in 1717 land was allotted to them for a meeting house. A Green had been reserved as common land from the start, and in 1728–29 the town voted that "the land left for a Green in Cohabitation shall not be lessened nor the highway or square where the North Guilford Church is."

The Green served many purposes. It was both a common on which cattle grazed and a burying

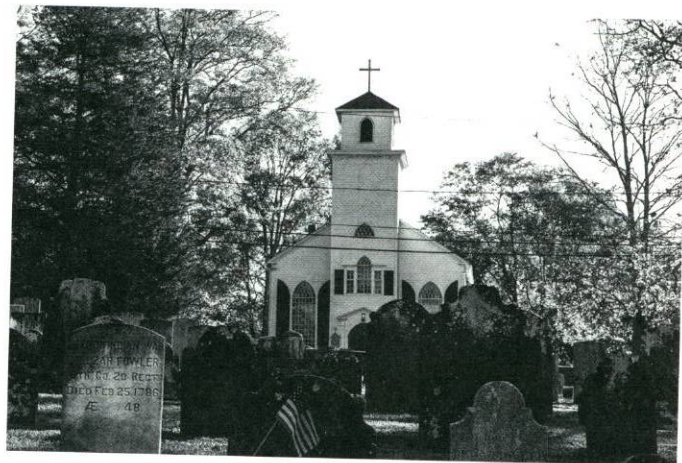
ground. It was also not only the religious center of community life but its civic and cultural center. Four years after the meeting house was built, a school was built beside it; a public library is mentioned by 1760 in a nearby house; and in 1831 an "academy" was established across the street from the present church. The meeting house, the academy, and later the parish hall provided space for many civic activities, including by the end of the 19th century that key organization in a rural society, the Grange.

In 1747, a group of families separated from the North Guilford Society and "declared for the Church" (i.e., the Church of England), and within three years it appears that they had built a building, the first St. John's Church, its location south of Meeting House Hill being remembered today in the name of Church Road. The distinction between the words "meeting house" and "church," so loaded with meaning to the 17th and 18th centuries, is clearly stated here.

Hostility between the two religious organizations developed almost at once and reached a climax during the Revolution when Anglicans were generally suspected of Loyalist sympathies, but with remarkable speed after the war and after the Anglicans' break with the Mother church in England in order to form the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, peace seems to have been restored. In 1812, both North Guilford congregations decided almost simultaneously to build new buildings, and the Episcopalians voted "to have a paper to carry to the inhabitants of the old Society in North Guilford to See if they are willing that we Should build a Church on their Meeting house hill."

The exchange is revealing, both request and consent suggesting that a plan had already germinated and that a conception of a common center of public life had been envisioned, and both are indicative of a new civic consciousness, a new drive to pool

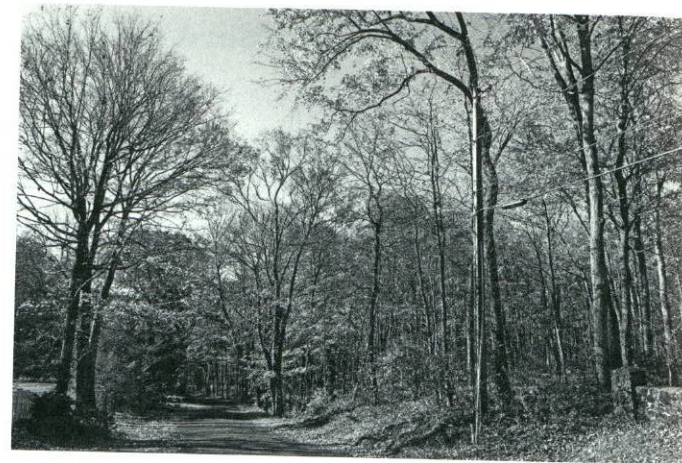
common energies in order to make a statement celebrating the identity of the community. Such concerted action by separate bodies, and especially by rival churches, was not common in the young Republic. That it was achieved here, despite former hostility and slim resources, should be read as an indication of its seriousness of purpose. Meeting House Hill is more than mere outdoor decoration, it is a community affirmation.



Meeting House Hill in North Guilford is a commanding site about six miles from town in a still rural part of Guilford). Farmed until modern times, North Guilford today is still little developed, and although its farms are disappearing, much of the land is held by the old families, and the memory of an agricultural past is still visible in the open landscape. The historic district is on the crown of the hill and comprises the North Guilford Green and Cemetery, Ledge Hill Road, the Congregational Church, parsonage, and parish hall, and St. John's Episcopal Church and former rectory.

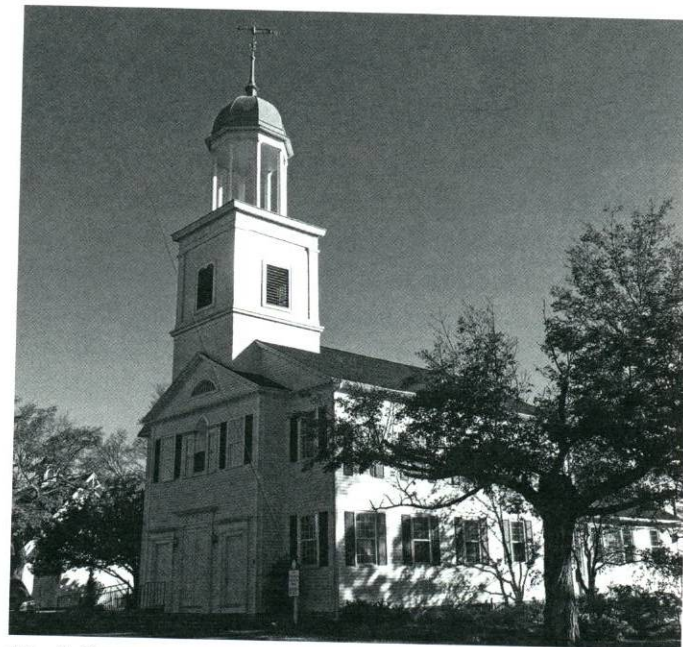
The Green and Cemetery, 3.5 acres, date of Green probably 1705 when North Guilford was surveyed; cemetery site probably designated in 1719 when land was allotted for first meeting house, which it adjoined; earliest stones 1730s. The oldest section, the "Old Yard," is to the left of the entrance. A fieldstone wall bounds the cemetery. Built in 1927, it replaced a post-and-rail fence.

Ledge Hill Road, date pre-1719 when the town granted the settlers liberty to build a meeting house "in the highway."



Ledge Hill Road, date pre-1719 when the town granted the settlers liberty to build a meeting house "in the highway".

Ledge Hill Road was the main road from Guilford until 1876-77 when, amid great controversy, Long Hill Road was extended to join Great Hill, by-passing the hilltop. The bridge was built in the Depression as part of a WPA project that gave North Guilford a distinctive group of "rustic" stone bridges designed to enhance the character of its small country roads.



North Congregational Church, 1812-14, Federal style. Chancel added and interior remodeled 1855, rear addition for parish activities, 1957.

The Congregational Church architect and builder was named Abraham Coan, who is the earliest Guilford builder known today and also Guilford's only known architect until modern times. He was a substantial citizen a justice, a Burgess of the Borough, a warden of Christ Church, and a captain in the militia. His works include the North Branford

Episcopal church, a number of houses in town, and possibly Christ Church. He operated a joiner's shop, and many a doorway or window head visible today in Clinton, Madison, and Guilford may show his hand. His own house is still standing at 29 Broad Street.



St. John's Episcopal Church, 1812-14, Federal style mixing classical and Gothic Revival traits. Interior remodeled and chancel, sacristy and vestry added 1870. Belfry replaced, 1920. Rear addition for parish activities, 1972.

St. John's is an equally advanced design and a more significant building than its modest appearance suggests, for it is an early example of the beginnings of an Episcopalian style in Connecticut, marked by the verticality of the tower and the pointed windows. So far no record has been found of the builder or designer, but the dainty ornament of the doorway recalls the work of Abraham Coan, and the fact that Coan belonged to a large North Guilford family and was an influential Episcopalian in Guilford suggests that this design may be his.

The Congregational Parsonage is another innovation, a pioneering example in Guilford of the radical new Federal house-type with gable-end facing the street. This novelty, although already familiar in New Haven, was stoutly resisted in Guilford for many years, and the North Guilford parsonage was probably a bolder gesture than its prim aspect now suggests.



Congregational Parish Hall, now a nursery school, 1887-88, Victorian Gothic; builder, Eugene Hill.



Episcopal Rectory, now a private house, 1851, Greek Revival.

Historical Sketch of the Guilford Police Department

by Joel E. Helander

The Guilford Police Department's origins can be traced to the former Borough of Guilford government, in the same manner as the Guilford Fire Department's origins. Public safety and orderliness were the over-arching concerns of the Borough government – a legal entity established by the Connecticut Legislature (1816) that co-existed with town government – but its jurisdiction extended to only the village center.

A charter amendment in 1874 granted Borough officials (warden and burgesses) the authority to appoint "special constables" with power and authority to arrest all such persons guilty of drunkenness, disorderly conduct, assaults, breaches of the peace, and other offenses. As has been noted, the constables of the Borough had authority to arrest and confine persons for offenses committed only within the geographic limits of the Borough.

The Borough's first constable served as "night watchman" in the business section of the Borough, making regular rounds with his badge and whistle. William Mullen and Alpha Morse, Jr. served as the earliest night watchmen, followed by Isaac Fry and Edmund S. Jillson, the latter of whom patrolled the streets with a large dog named "Curley." Charles Jillson succeeded his father. The front page of the *Shore Line Times* newspaper in May 1902 described in detail the heroic actions of Charles Jillson when he "attacked" burglars at the Guilford Post Office. It was a bright, moonlit night and upon his discovery, Constable Jillson chased the three burglars up Boston Street, with bullets from his pistol whistling through the air. The chase continued to Lover's Lane, where the men disappeared into the woods.

Constables had the authority to incarcerate prisoners – without warrants for arrest – until they could be tried by local justices or grand jurors. A shabby jail or "lock-up" was located in a small, one-story building behind the Town Hall on Park Street during the first quarter of the twentieth century. It was anything but a nice place, where transient persons or tramps nested when it was not in use. Such tramps were not infrequent visitors to Guilford 100

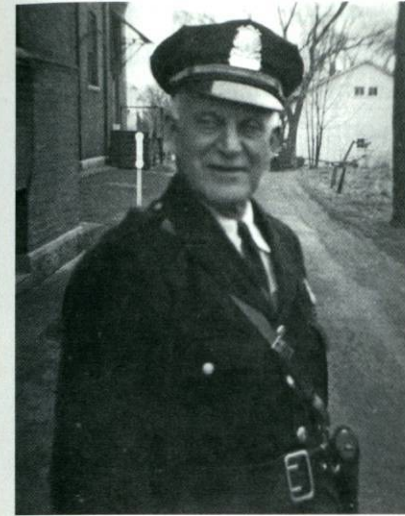
years ago. Most of them were peaceful and homeless, but many were rowdies and law breakers.

Soon after the railroad came through Guilford (1852), the grounds of the railroad station became an encampment for up to 100 or 200 men who labored by the sweat of their brows on the tracks of the railroad. Many of these men were picked up by the railroad company in the skid rows of Boston and New York. Their encampment became known as the "gandy camp" of Guilford with housing that consisted of long, one-story buildings or barracks clustered together closely on the south side of the tracks. These derelicts received wages on Friday and were allowed to go into the village center, which often caused big trouble for the Town, even as late as the 1940s. It is reported that the gandy dancers—as they were called—purchased wine and spiked it with aspirin.

Another source of trouble for the constabulary system of police protection was the advent (1910) of the trolley car. According to the pages of the *Shore Line Times* (September 1912), "a gang of young toughs" from New Haven rode the rails to Guilford on Sunday afternoons, and "raked up and down the streets insulting women and girls . . .," stripping window blinds from houses, and cracking glass windows. The toughies called Guilford "the bush town" and were quoted as saying "dere's no cop to do anything, so we'll do it." At this time, the *Times* implored officials to have a constable or officer on duty at all times. Subsequently, according to the annual reports for the Borough of Guilford, special constables were engaged for "police duty" at special events and as occasion warranted, in addition to the night watches. Sworn to an oath, constables consistently performed night watches and police duties for the remaining life of the Borough government. The annual Borough appropriation for their wages never exceeded \$400.

Local residents who variously served as constabulary police for the period, 1912–1933, include: Jerome C. Potter, Walter J. Potter, Daniel J. Sullivan, Alfred H. Supernor, Charles W. Murphy, Charles

Jillson, Frank E. Hubbard, and John B. Hubbard. The "bailiff" or chief constable (or police chief), was elected at the annual meeting of the Borough of Guilford.



Alfred H. Supernor, pictured in front of the first Guilford Police Department in the rear of the Town Hall. Photo courtesy of Guilford Police Department.

In 1931, the Borough constables were organized into one department with bailiff Alfred H. Supernor appointed as acting chief. It was not a regular police department inasmuch as none of the constables were assigned to regular duty, with the exception of the night watch

or police duty. Most of the police work was done on a volunteer basis. By 1932, serious problems with traffic flow on the Boston Post Road (before I-95) demanded special duty assignments at peak times on Saturdays and Sundays. To compound this problem, the Borough Police Department received demands for police service outside of the Borough limits. In the early part of 1933, a portion of the basement in Town Hall was renovated to create a police headquarters for the united police forces of both the Town and the Borough. Most of the



This photo taken facing the North end of the Green toward the First Congregational Church, in 1932. Left to right: Officers Charles Murphy, Henry Hill, John Hubbard, Alfred Supernor, and Garret Stack. Photo courtesy of Guilford Police Department.

materials and labor were donated.

Although the year 1939 marks the formal organization of the Town of Guilford Police Department, 1933 was the watershed year for change in police protection. Alas, it involved a fierce political wrangle. The first storm clouds gathered when a campaign to strengthen the police department and give



This picture is taken in 1932 in front of Christ Episcopal Church with the various police vehicles in operation at the time. The officers standing beside the vehicles are the same officers shown below. The house on the left of this picture is now the Town Hall's south parking lot. Photo courtesy of Guilford Police Department.

it more official standing was opposed by a group of taxpayers who feared the advent of a salaried police force. A contested campaign for bailiff or police chief developed in the Borough caucus between independent candidate Chief Supernor, who led the charge to strengthen the police force, Democrat Charles Kehrer, and Republican Charles Jillson. Supernor prevailed at the annual Borough election. The constables under Chief Supernor believed in his plan and his purpose to strengthen the police force. Immediately, they voted to form an association of all bonded law enforcements officers in town, which resulted in the new Guilford Constabulary Association. This action gave Guilford the distinction of being the only town in New England to boast an organized police force without cost to the town.

Another battle loomed in the matter of the new association, which lacked legal standing as a police department. Opponents of Chief Supernor questioned the right of the constables to organize. After five more years of political hiccups, the Town of Guilford Police Department was formally organized on October 1, 1939, appointing Alfred Supernor

as chief on an annual salary of \$2,051.42. After a year of trial as a one-man department, the Board of Police Commissioners appointed Thomas J. Loomis to keep the records and assist in investigations. By 1953, the department had four full-time officers, plus the chief, but always, there were part-time supernumerary officers to assist police activities.



Photo taken between 1971-1976 with Police Headquarters, 50 Boston Street, in the background. Photo courtesy of Guilford Police Department.

During the first year of its operation, the Town police department assumed control of the ambulance service, made 120 arrests, received 254 complaints, issued 43 gun permits, and conducted 23 investigations. One of the unique features of the police department in Guilford Town Hall during the decades of the 1940s and 1950s was the municipal town court system, which functioned in the same building. This court took jurisdiction in cases involving fines up to \$500 or one year imprisonment; other cases, including juvenile matters, were



New Police Headquarters at 400 Church Street, 1997. Photo courtesy of Guilford Police Department.

bound over to the Superior Court.

In 1969, the department relocated to its new \$150,000 headquarters at 50 Boston Street, which served until the department relocated to the Public Safety Complex at 400 Church Street in 1997. Today, the Guilford Police Department employs 37 full-time officers, civilian dispatchers, animal control officers, and clerical personnel. The department is commanded by Chief Thomas A. Terribile, who has served in this capacity since 2002.



This picture taken in 2013 in the same pose as the 1932 picture. Left to right: Officer Joanne Shove, Officer Scott Gardner, Sergeant Dane Lawrence, Officer Meredith Thornton, and Officer Kurt Fasulo. Photo courtesy of Guilford Police Department.



Taken in 2013 in front of Christ Episcopal Church, the same officers as above with their vehicles. Photo courtesy of Guilford Police Department.

Historical Sketch of the Guilford Volunteer Fire Department

By Joel E. Helander

Although the traditional date for the formation of the present fire department is usually given as "1852," there is evidence in the records of an earlier fire company.



Washington Engine Co. No. 1. Photo by C.K. Schaefer.

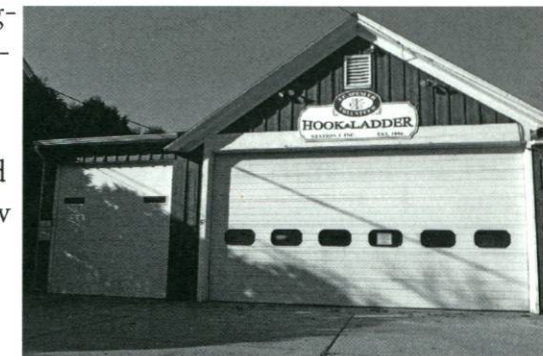
At the May 1822 session of the Connecticut Legislature, the warden and burgesses of the Borough of Guilford were authorized "to form, continue & regulate one fire company in addition to the one already there." The Borough government levied taxes and provided services in the village center of Guilford and co-existed with Town of Guilford government. Needless to say, this earliest Borough fire company only responded to fires within the territorial limits of the Borough! The New Haven Palladium newspaper reports on the "well-directed efforts of the firemen and others" in November 1839 in fighting a large fire on Broad Street. It was during this period of time that numerous fire wells were dug on the Green for a water supply—many of which still remain.

Twenty-five able-bodied Guilford men petitioned the State Legislature in April 1842 to adopt bylaws (or charter) for this Borough Fire Company, to be called "Fire Company No. 2", evidently as a successor to an earlier fire company. The draft charter required "firemen" in the company to contribute to the purchase of an engine as a condition of their membership.

The minutes of Guilford Borough in March 1852 refer to the existing "Guilford Fire Engine Company," their "engine", and their "engine house." At this time, Borough officials voted to purchase a fire engine i.e. Fire Engine no. 7 offered for sale by New Haven Fire Department and also to purchase the

old engine of the existing fire company. By March 1853, the Borough government established two fire companies, each to have a foreman, assistant foreman, and one of the two engines.

The original hand-drawn pumper purchased from New Haven earned its name, "Washington Engine"



F.C. Spencer Hook & Ladder Co. No. 3. Photo by C.K. Schaefer.

from the district in New Haven where the recycled engine had served. It has been restored several times and is a cherished artifact from Guilford's earliest Borough Fire Department. The town's fire department historian, the late Shelton W. Dudley, Sr., described the pump action of the old Washington Engine, which required water in leather buckets to be poured into the end sections of its box body. Firemen would stand on each side of this apparatus and pull back and forth on ropes attached to levers that operated the pump. Later, a suction hose was added, which could be dropped into a well or brook for supplying water supply. As late as 1908, the old Washington hand engine performed valiant service at the Cunningham House fire at 241 Water Street. Another cherished artifact of the Guilford Fire Department is the hand-pumping engine that belonged to the Borough Fire Department pre-dating the Washington Engine. This engine is owned and maintained by the Eagle Hose Company and, like the Washington Engine, often appears in parades.

Some of the disastrous fires that stand out in Guilford's long fire history are the dwelling houses torched by British invaders at Sachem's Head (1777) and Leete's Island (1781), Sachem's Head Hotel (1865), Button Shop (1884), Guilford Point House



Eagle Hose Co. No. 2. Photo by C.K. Schaefer.

(1897), E.C. Seward's Gablehurst mansion (1923), Our Lady of Grace Monastery (1955); Frione House in North Guilford (1971), and Faulkner's Island Lighthouse (1976). But the most disastrous fire in terms of scope—not in lives lost—was the fire on the west side of the Green in February 1872 when three dwelling houses in the 25-33 block of Whitfield Street were destroyed. It was only through the skill and valor of the firemen that Amos Seward's house at 21 Whitfield Street was saved.

A disastrous fire in 1887 became the catalyst for improvements in the languishing Borough Fire Department. It was an exceedingly cold night in March and a long row of old wooden buildings owned by Darwin Benton on the site of 11/15/17 Water Street started to burn. Despite gallant efforts by the two fire companies, the buildings were leveled to the ground. The old Washington engine had become unserviceable by this time and, although it was pulled to the scene of the fire, it sat abandoned in the gutter of the street. Old-timers stated that this fire resembled the fire of 1872, mainly because the buildings were in such close proximity to others, including the large Sherman's Hotel on the corner. A successful lobby was waged to repair the old engine as a result of the anxiety caused by this costly fire, including replacement of the old leather hose with cotton hose. During this same period, 1887-1892,



North Guilford VFD. Photo courtesy of Guilford Volunteer Fire Department.

the re-organization of the Borough Fire Department gave rise to the

origins of three volunteer fire companies still operating as Eagle Hose Company at 120 Whitfield Street, Washington Engine Company at 10 Graves Avenue, and F.C. Spencer Hook & Ladder Company at 51 Water Street. The North Guilford Fire Company was organized in 1946 and received its first engine in 1947, which was an Army surplus model nicknamed "Old Ironsides."

Modernization of the fire department in Guilford has been continual, beginning with the introduction of water mains by the Guilford Water Company in 1900. By 1902, fifty fire hydrants were leased from the Company by the Borough of Guilford (today, there are approximately 400 hydrants in town). During the first quarter of the last century, compromises in water supply and water pressure were a greater disadvantage than the lack of motorized fire apparatus. After a house on Upper Church Street was destroyed by fire in 1899, the Shore Line Times reported that the fire engines were prepared to direct streams of water on the fire, but not a drop of water was available because every well in the vicinity was dry. The newspaper quipped that "both engines were as useless as baby wagons..." In 1913, The National Board of Fire Underwriters still cited inadequate protection from fire due to pressures recorded as low as 40-50 pounds at the hydrants. As a result, the 500,000 gallon water tank or stand pipe was built on Clapboard Hill in 1914.

Subsequently, the time honored practice of ringing church bells to give alarm of fire was also reformed. A December 1915 edition of the Shore Line Times reports that the fire bell alarm on the Methodist Church awakened only one fireman at 5:00 a.m. in the morning. One month later, the newspaper again criticizes the Borough of Guilford for an inadequate alarm system, citing the destruction of a barn on Boston Street, together with seven horses, hay, and tools because only a few firemen heard the bell alarm at 2:30 a.m. The large bell in the belfry tower of the First Congregational Church was also rung to give alarms of fire. As a remedy to the antiquated alarm system, the *Shore Line Times* advocated a "compressed air screecher." By 1918, the Borough contracted Clarence Norton's automotive garage at 78 Boston Street to build one, which was a three chime steamboat whistle mounted on the roof of

the garage. It was activated by a lever in the local telephone exchange, where emergency calls were received, and served from this location until 1936. The air-powered fire horn was mounted on the Washington Engine Fire Company across the street until 1954. Afterwards, an omni-directional air horn mount on the east gable of Town Hall has served as the official fire whistle. It remains there to this day, truly a relic of yester-year, but still serviceable.

The year 1923 heralded the arrival of motorized

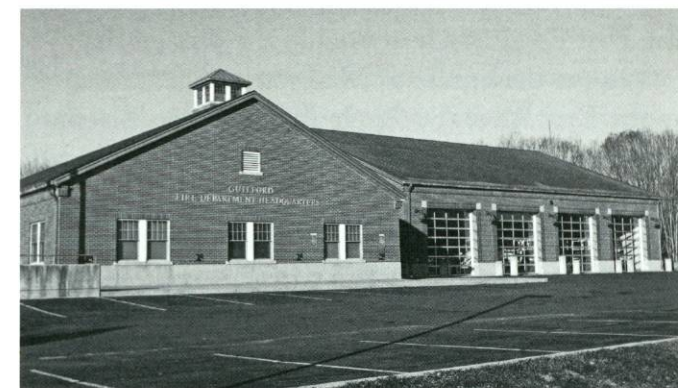


Assistant Fire Chief Frank (Zeke) Marlowe & Lieutenant Steve Shiner give orders to arriving fire apparatus at a truck fire on I-95, 1975. Photo by J.E. Helander.

fire apparatus for the two Guilford fire companies. Instead of pulling hose carts and pumping engines through rutted or muddy roads by hand or by horses, the men were now able to respond to alarms of fire outside of the Borough limits. Washington Engine Company acquired a Peter Pirsch hose truck on a Model T Ford chassis; Eagle Hose Company acquired a Pope-Hartford touring car that was outfitted with a 500 gallon per minute Silsby pump; F.C. Spencer Hook & Ladder Company acquired a Model T Ford Smith Form-A-Truck. Updated fire trucks were variously added over the years. Two-way radios were installed in all the fire apparatus in 1951.

During the 1950s, the fire department organized two emergency squads, one for downtown and one for uptown, which were composed of members from the four companies. In 1979, the two emergency squads were consolidated as one separate Rescue Squad Company known as Company No. 5 of the department. The standard training for pre-hospital

care of the sick and injured remained as American Red Cross first aid courses until Yale-New Haven Hospital sponsored Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training courses in 1971. Under a sponsor hospital program (Yale & St. Raphael's) inaugurated for Guilford in 1992, the town's first Paramedics were trained and certified, receiving advanced orders through hospital-based medical control. Soon after, the fire department assumed control of the Town Ambulance Service and also the central 911 dispatch center known as the Communications Department.



Guilford Fire Department Headquarters. Photo by C.K. Schaefer

A new, state-of-the-art central fire headquarters at 390 Church Street was dedicated in 2003, where the offices of the fire marshal are also located. Thirty-two paid firefighters work in four shifts and are augmented by approximately sixty volunteers. The department is commanded by Chief Charles E. Herrschaft, Jr., who has served in this capacity since 1984. Other officers in the department include two assistant chiefs, four deputy chiefs, six captains, and eleven lieutenants. The fleet of modern apparatus includes five engines or pumpers, two tankers, an aerial ladder truck, two brush trucks, two rescue trucks, four ambulances, a hazardous material command trailer, two utility trucks, three all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), a lighting truck, and two boats.

The Guilford Fire Department sponsors a Cadet Program for young people (aged 14-18 years). Cadet members are given training by members of the department and may, at age eighteen, join the fire company of their choice. Six of the department's present officers received their initial training as members of this Cadet or Explorer Post.

Railroads and Toll Roads

By C.K. Schaefer

The Boston Post Road was a system of mail-delivery routes between New York City and Boston, Massachusetts that evolved into the first major highways in the United States. A seventeenth century thoroughfare crossed East River at Foote's Bridge Road in lower Nut Plains, where one of the last unpaved sections of the original New York to Boston carriage road survives today. The bridge crossed the East River (Kuttawo Creek) and was the only connection to what is now known as Madison. The Post Road was re-routed to the present day crossing at the border of Madison and Guilford, on the East River (by Apple Rehab Convalescent Center) as early as the East Guilford Parish was settled (c. 1707).

Many of the roads were developed to Connecticut to other settlements and named accordingly. Some of them were toll roads, e.g. the Pettipauge and Guilford Turnpikes. In 1824, another turnpike was built from Fair Haven heading east; now known at Route 80, it ended in Killingworth. Other roads built were named by their destinations. Route 77 is known in Guilford as Durham Road and in Durham it is known as Guilford Road. It was extended from North Guilford to the Boston Post Road to enable delivery of crops to vessels at the wharf.



Concrete trolley viaduct over Water Street (house on far left is #468). Photo courtesy of J. E. Helander Collection.

The first rail service in Guilford was passenger train service in 1852 and was part of the New Haven, New London and Stonington Railroad

Company, whose name was changed to the Shore Line Railroad Company three years later. In the 1870s it became the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. That name did not last long after the rails were extended between New London and Boston, and it became the Shore Line Railroad Company again.

In 1910 the commercial building on the corner of River, and Water Streets was built for the Shore



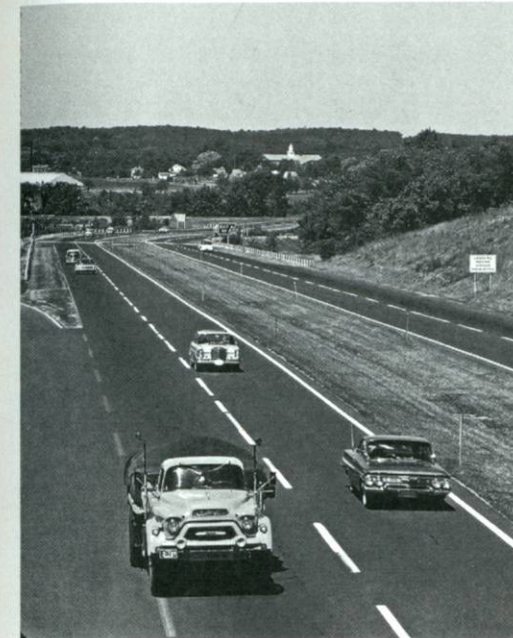
Remnants of the Shore Line Electric Railway at Wildrose Avenue. Photo by Chuck Hill.

Line Electric Railway Company. Trolley lines ran west from Guilford Center to Stony Creek and east to Madison, Clinton, and Old Saybrook. The trolley line was put in the natural environment so the trolleys adapted the woods, marshes and towns to suit the line. Remnants of the old concrete viaducts can still be seen along Route 146 at the Wildrose Avenue, Mulberry Point Road, and Water Street intersections. Although high speed (the electric



Post Card from Edith B. Nettleton Historical Room, Guilford Free Library.

cars could travel from Guilford to New Haven in 30 minutes), they were used mostly for freight and travel into the city. After buses were introduced in 1928, the trolleys ran until 1938, when the hurri-



I-95 as it looked in late 1950s. Note old high school (now Adams School) in the background. Photo by William Horton, courtesy of Tom Horton.

cane wiped out most of the tracks. One of the biggest impacts to Guilford was the construction of Interstate I-95. Most of the Turnpike opened January 2, 1958, but from New Haven east of the Quinnipiac River, it opened about 1951. Guilford became an accessible option for commuting and a "bedroom community" (sleep there, work someplace else). It was also a sandwich between two toll stations on the highway, in Branford and Madison.

Between 1950 and 1960, the population increased by more than 63%, and between 1960 and 1970 it increased by 65%. Again, from 1970 to 1980 it was almost a 70% increase. In 1972, Guilford was the second-fastest growing town in the state.

1900 2,785	1910 3,001
1920 2,803	1930 3,117
1940 3,544	1950 5,092
1960 7,913	1970 12,033
1980 17,375	1990 19,848
2000 21,398	2010 22,375

Figures for the last 110 years, from decennial census.

Guilford's new train station was opened in November 2005 as part of the Shore Line East (operated by the DOT under contract with Amtrak). The new facility offers access on both sides of the railway,



The new station. Photo by C.K. Schaefer.

with a pedestrian overpass allowing commuters to park or be dropped off on either side of the tracks. The Guilford Preservation Alliance (GPA) has been



The old station in its current state of disrepair. Photo by C.K. Schaefer.

working to preserve Guilford's 19th-century railroad depot buildings. Once the engine repair shop and water tower for steam-driven locomotives, the structures are said to be rare or unique artifacts of a by-gone era. Built in the 1870s, they have stood unused since the introduction of diesel power in the 1930s. The GPA is also working with the Connecticut Department of Transportation to install a permanent historical display in the vestibule of the commuter rail station on the south side of the train tracks.

Guilford High School

By Amy Earls



Guilford Institute, c. 1896. Photo courtesy of J.E. Helander Collection.

Guilford's original high school began soon after 1825 in the second story rooms of the Guilford Academy at 19 Church Street, which is one of the public buildings removed from the Guilford Green. By 1884, this structure was converted to a residence and now serves as the parsonage for the First Congregational Church.

The Guilford Institute at 120 North Fair Street opened in 1855 as a successor to the Guilford Academy. Stone used in its construction was quarried from the ledges to the north. The class of 1911



Photo courtesy of Guilford Library Collection.

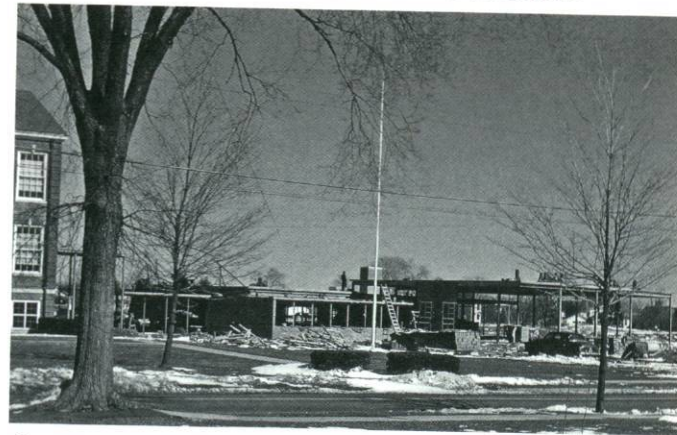
is shown here posing on these ledges for a graduation photograph. By the time of the Civil War, the faculty of the Institute consisted of a principal, two "assistant teachers" and a teacher of music. The school catalogue listed textbooks in Latin, Greek, mathematics, astronomy, botany, physiology, philosophy, geography, grammar, French and German. Pupils from all over New England attended this private institute of higher learning.

By 1890, the Institute's finances were failing, while at the same time the town desired to have a more formal, free public high school. As a result, the Institute became the Guilford High School supported by tax money, with the additional backing of the Institute's funds.



The Guilford High School c. 1936. Photo courtesy of Guilford Keeping Society Library Collection.

In 1936, a new red brick high school was built at 233 Church Street in Colonial Revival style. By the 1950s, the student population had outgrown the space, so an addition was added, followed by another one story addition in later years. When serving as the Guilford Junior High School (or middle school) in the 1970s, the old high school on Church Street was named for Doctor Elisabeth C. Adams.



Construction of addition of old high school, 1956-1957. Photo by William Horton, courtesy of Tom Horton.

The town purchased land on New England Road from the Cohen family that had been occupied by their chicken farm. In 1958, a new high school was built on the site. The expansive design was added onto several times, but in 2011, the town voted to



Photo by Diane Bickford VanSteenbergen

replace it, rather than renovate the fifty year old building.

In the spring of 2013, school officials held a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of construction on Guilford's fifth high school. Alex Beckett '13, Rick Misenti (GHS Principal), Joe Mazza (First Selectman), Liz Rubbo '15, Paul Freeman (Superintendent), Allison Breeze '14, and Anthony Palumbo '16 broke ground on the site of a baseball field, where the new building will be located. The town voted to make the school's design energy-efficient and serve as an emergency shelter, lasting for generations of future Guilford students.



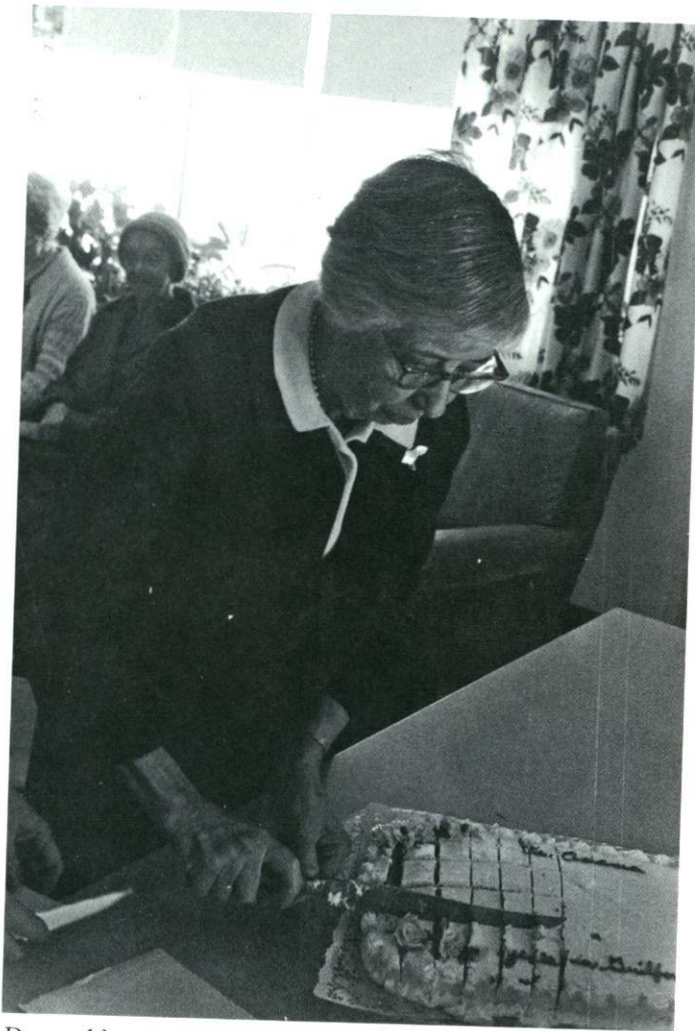
Groundbreaking for new Guilford High School May 14, 2013. Left to Right: Alex Beckett '13, Rick Misenti (GHS Principal), Joe Mazza (First Selectman), Liz Rubbo '15, Allison Breeze '14, Paul Freeman (Superintendent), and Anthony Palumbo '16. Photo courtesy of Guilford Board of Education. Photo by Lorri Hahn.



Architectural drawing of new Guilford High School

The Diaries of Dr. Elisabeth C. Adams

By Danielle Ott, E.C. Adams Middle School



Doctor Adams cutting her birthday cake, c. 1977. Photo courtesy of C.K. Schaefer.

We have all heard about great American heroes, but we do not always realize that these heroes could be in Guilford.

Recently, my uncle, Joel Helander, showed me the diaries of Doctor Elisabeth C. Adams, M.D., which are from the collections of the Guilford Keeping Society in the historical room of our public library. As I read through the diary entries, I came to understand how remarkable this doctor really was. She was truly a great American, and is Guilford's hometown hero.

Doctor Adams' diaries cover the years 1978 through 1985. The original entries were recorded on lined notebook paper and are written in her own penmanship. They illustrate her busy days and long nights. She was dedicated to her work and enjoyed

it as well. She would often be awakened at one o'clock in the morning—or all hours of the night—to attend to the sick or pronounce someone dead. Even though she worked 24/7, she still made time to enjoy nature, appreciate friendships, and make people happy. Her diaries clearly portray this.

She took patients into her big home at 1 Whitfield Street by appointment or at all hours of the night for emergencies. She made house calls and also visited prisons or nursing homes or wherever medical assistance was needed. Many of the diary entries tell about treating prisoners in the police department jail cell. As an honorary fire chief and honorary police chief, she responded to emergency calls, such as motor vehicle accidents. Her little Volkswagen bug was outfitted with a police radio and flashing blue light.

When my mother was a kid, they used to have to shut down the beaches and harbors in Sachem's Head every summer because sewage from the older summer cottages emptied into Long Island Sound. Doctor Adams put a stop to that and really made an important difference to the environment before it was a well-recognized issue.

She also investigated complaints for outdoor garbage or houses that might be uninhabitable due to filth or disease. Her diary entry of June 8, 1980 tells about going to North Guilford on a "silly horse manure complaint."

Cigarette smoking was one of Doctor Adams' pet peeves. She was known to confiscate cigarette packages from the pockets of patients and then lecture them on the subject. On April 30, 1978, she tells about writing a letter on "smoking" to a public official in Madison.

Doctor Adams tended to the spiritual needs of her patients as well as their physical needs. Often, she would bring flowers to her patients or read aloud to them if they were blind. Her diary entry of December 26, 1978 tells about gifting the book, *All Creatures Great and Small*. She also nourished the souls of her patients by giving bouquets of flowers, purchased at the Madison Flower Shop or picked from the roadside.

Doctor Adams loved Mother Nature. On May 12, 1978, she tells about going on a nature walk along West River and names what she saw: "carpets of wild violets, anemones, red alliums, cow slips, and fiddleheads." On May 2, 1978, she joyfully reported seeing Canadian Geese on a pond in North Madison. She particularly appreciated the beauty of skunk cabbages, which she dug up in swamps in the springtime and arranged into bouquets for patients. On April 21, 1978, she talks about her pleasure in setting up a skunk cabbage "arrangement" on the altar of St. George Catholic Church!

June 8, 1980 is a day from Doctor Adams' diary that my dad remembers quite well. He had arranged a car wash to be held as a fundraiser for the Adams School band. The event was rained out, but Doctor Adams did not forget about it. She personally brought a donation to my dad's house in recognition of his hard work.

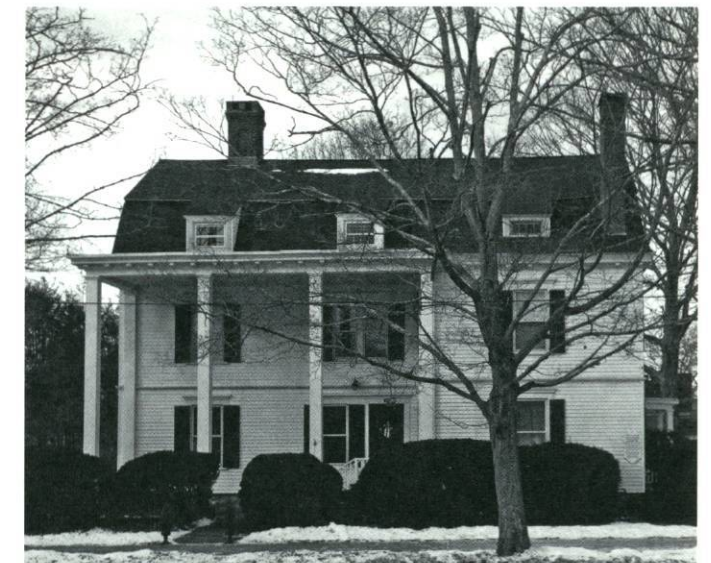
One is judged in this world
by the size of one's house,
by the wine that one serves,
by the height of one's spouse.

My dwelling is small,
I don't know about wine,
I've missed out on a spouse—
but this Guilford's divine!

Original poem by Elizabeth Adams in the possession of C.K. Schaefer.

Doctor Adams regarded the Adams Middle School as "her school" and her "family," which is why any reference to the "Adams Family" has special meaning. She was very proud of the students and faculty of Adams School and visited here often. On

May 6, 1978, she tells how she wrote letters to the "Adams leading scholars" for two marking periods. Her diary entry of June 16, 1980 tells about attending the awards ceremony at Adams School. She frequently mentions Mr. Duncan Craig, who was the principal in this school for many years. Clearly, Doctor Adams was more than just your average doctor. She was a great American in the purest sense; she did not seek fame or glory, but selflessly invested long years of her life ministering to the people of Guilford. She set many examples for us to live by and will long be remembered.



"On this site 1750-1885 stood the Minor Bradley Tavern. Here stopped stagecoaches which traveled the Post Road from Boston to New York, which ran diagonally across the Green. General Lafayette was a guest here at one time. Dr. Elisabeth C. Adams lived here 1950-1987, friend and physician to the people of Guilford". From plaque mounted on the lower right corner of 1 Whitfield Street house. Photo by Susan Weady.

Remembering Guilford's Men Who Died in War

All photos by Steven McGuire

French-Indian War

Eber Bishop
Joshua Bishop
Benjamin Bradley
Zenas Bradley
Samuel Chidsey
Adnah Crampton
Roswell Dudley
Samuel Field
Captain Giles Hull
Captain Ichabod Scranton

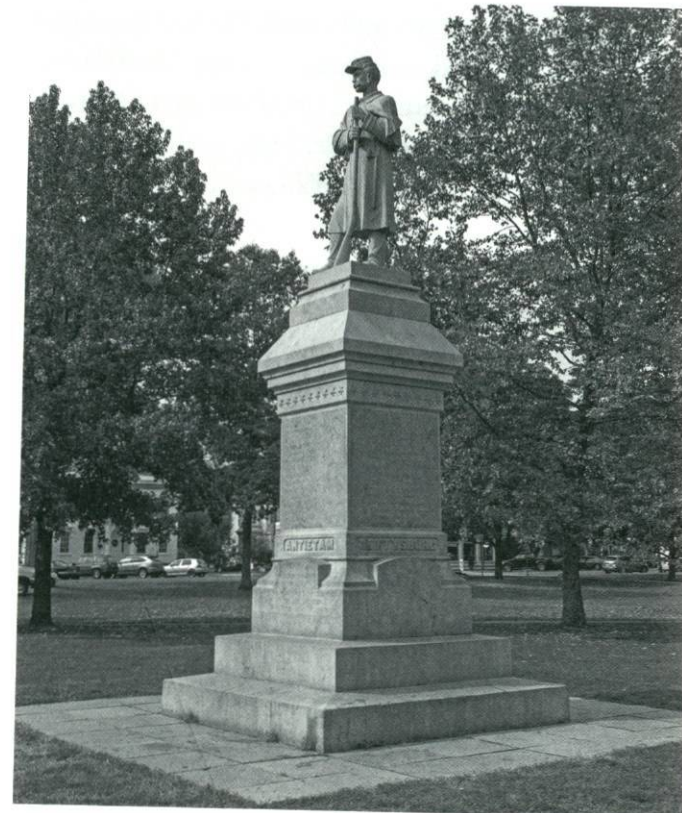
William Sabine
Abel Saxton
Samuel Stevens
Bela Stone
Daniel Stone
Joy Ward
Samuel Ward

Civil War

Revolutionary War



Timothy Barnes
William Dudley
Aaron Evarts, Jr.
Lewis Fairchild, Jr.
William Fairchild
David Field
Eber Hall
James Hall
Ebenezer Hart
Joseph Hotchkin
Abner Leete
Simeon Leete
Timothy Ludington
Captain Jehiel Meigs
Captain Phineas Meigs
Seth Morse
Wait Munger
Bridgeman Murray
Bethel Nichols

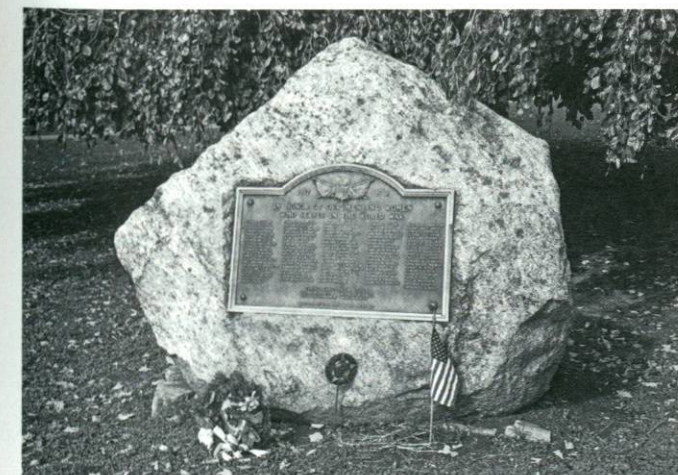


William N. Bartlett
Henry A. Beers
Charles H. Benton
Joel C. Benton
Joel E. Benton
Raphael W. Benton
Charles A. Bishop
George M. Blake
Lewis W. Blatchley
Henry B. Bullard
Joseph Coan
Fairfield Cook
Patrick Cox

Samuel R. Davis
William H. Dolph
Henry C. Dudley
Oliver W. Evarts
George A. Foote, Jr.
Samuel Fowler
Joseph Grosvenor
Samuel E. Grosvenor
Henry H. Hall
William H. Hubbard
H. Ellsworth Hull
Richard L. Hull
Samuel H. Hull
Abraham Jackson
Harmon B. Johnson
Charles G. Lee
Francis M. Norton
Jonathan G. Norton
Joel C. Parmelee
Captain Uriah N. Parmelee
Miles G. Richardson
Francis S. Scranton
Thomas M. Scranton
Abraham Tibbals
Charles Tucker
Hezekiah Tuttle
William H. Wright

Note: Non-residents of Guilford who enlisted or were recruited to fill Guilford's quota are not listed.

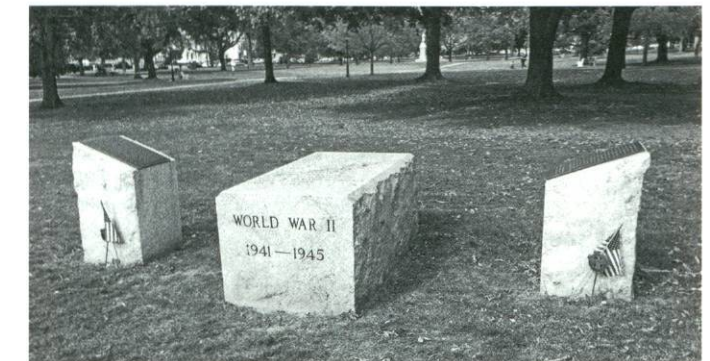
World War I



Frank H. Bishop
Charles F. Darrow

Herbert H. Hall
Burton M. Lee

World War II



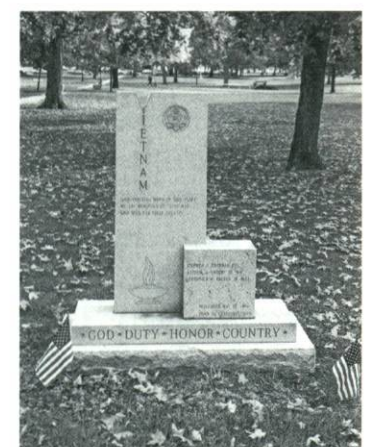
Robert J. Commeau
Peter D. Carrado
Pascoe C. Deaton
Nicholas J. Gervasoni
Arthur C. Hofrichter
John C. Larkin
Earl M. Lemley
Carl W. Lytle
Philip R. Mancini
Robert M. Newcomb
Edward D. Norton
Joseph J. Offredi, Jr.
John C. Rebuzzini
Donald C. Rood
Leroy W. Scranton, Jr.
James F. Spencer

Vietnam War

Stephen J. Brennan
Arthur Crosby Jr.
Fredrick W. Dauten, Jr.

Iraq

Richard S. Eaton, Jr.



Remembering Two of Our Own

The Vietnam Memorial on the Green bears the names of three men: Major Frederick W. Dauten USAF (killed in Pleiku Province 4 April 1970) and two boys who were Guilford High School graduates who were killed four months apart. They are WO Arthur Allen Crosby USA (killed Tay Ninh Province 1 March 1969), PFC Stephen J. Brennan USA (killed Quang Tri Province 15 July 1969). We honor our Guilford High School graduates here.

Arthur Allen Crosby

By his sister, Suzanne Crosby.

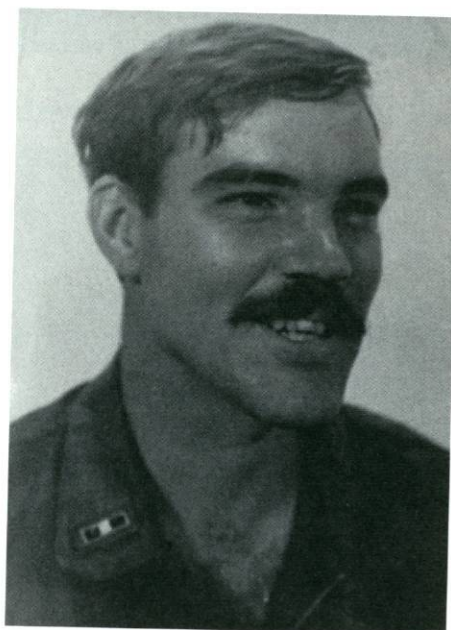


Photo courtesy of Suzanne Crosby.

Art Crosby graduated from Guilford High School in 1964. He was well liked and loved by his classmates, friends and family. He loved to travel, play pool, drive his MG, take photographs, and listen to "his" music! He

was a regular guy who played foot-

ball in junior high, and then played baseball in high school. Baseball was a big part of his life, watching games with friends and family or going to NY to see the Yankees play.

After high school, Art moved to New Orleans to attend college, but had his college days cut short by the military action in Vietnam. He believed in the words of John F. Kennedy when he said: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." He enlisted in the Army so he could go to officer's training school and learn to fly helicopters.

On March 1, 1969 Art Crosby lost his life in a helicopter firefight in Vietnam. As a tribute to him, his Army buddies played his music while packing up his belongings.

Art had a pleasant charisma about him that most people noticed right away. What I remember most about him was he was easy going and always willing to reach out and help whether it be with his little sisters, his mom and dad or a neighbor who needed his driveway cleared of snow or a lawn mowed . . . he was always available to lend a hand to do chores and always available to go fishing with his friends or play a backyard football game. Art loved to have fun, yet he seemed to know the meaning of service from an early age. Most of all he had a great smile and a wonderful teasing laugh that is still missed by his family and friends.

Stephen John Brennan

By C.K. Schaefer

Steve graduated from Guilford High School in 1968. Steve was a special, multi-talented individual: a poet, an artist, a musician and composer, and an athlete. He was a first baseman and a homerun hitter for his Little League team. According to his brother, Mike, he also had a wicked pitching arm, remembering "the time he was pitching to me and drilled me in the ribs with a pretty good fast ball."

His art teacher, Frances Swietlicki, remembers him as an exceptional artist, always thinking out of the box and striving to do the best possible. One such project was a bust he created of JFK, also, his many paintings which had a style so distinctive that those who knew him could instantly recognize his work. He lived and breathed art.

Steve's fiancée, Patricia "Tricia" Hardee Burton, shared his dream. "I can remember that we talked about having a design firm. I would decorate and he would draw and design because he was so good at it and I couldn't even draw a stick figure."

Steve composed many songs for the guitar, also writing his own lyrics. He was always creating something. One of his songs was to Tricia: "I may be lonesome, I may be blue, I may have trouble, Honey, but I still have you. I'm a lucky guy and you're the reason why." She recalls that "he was passionate about life which included his family, friends, his home town, and his country."

His brother, Mike says that "He also built what we called a 'fort' in the woods behind our house. However, this thing was built with 2 x 4s and he had a 55 gallon drum for a fire. It was near the pond we had there for ice skating." His sister, Kathy Brennan Smalldone, also remembers "the zip line he made in the woods near his fort, years before they were popular!"

Mike was eight years junior to Steve, and has the memories of little brother: "I guess, the best memory I have is the best Christmas. It was the year that I learned that there was no Santa Claus. After Mom and Dad had the basement refinished, they bought the family a pool table for a Christmas present. Steve and I stayed up till about one a.m. playing pool and my parents let me! It was something I'll never forget!"

Steve's sister, Kathy, was ten years younger and was only eleven when he was killed. "My memories of Steve (or Butchie, as he was known to his family) are kept alive by the music, poems and art he left behind. I am reminded of him daily by the painting of Jesus that hangs in my bedroom. It is a small example of Steve's incredible artistic ability at such a young age. Steve painted the painting for his aunt, Barbara Royka and I was fortunate enough to receive it after she passed away. In the daylight the painting is of Jesus. At night the picture would glow in the dark and change into the image of Mother Mary.

"The time he spent on this earth was a true gift to all that knew him. The heartbreak and devastation left behind when God called him home was unbearable to all, especially his mother. He left behind a fiancée he loved as much as life itself and looked forward to returning home to her and his family. In all of his letters home to us he always told us not to worry about him, he would be fine. After three short weeks in Vietnam he was killed in a senseless

war he didn't believe in, fighting for the country he loved."



Photo courtesy of Patricia Hardee Burton.

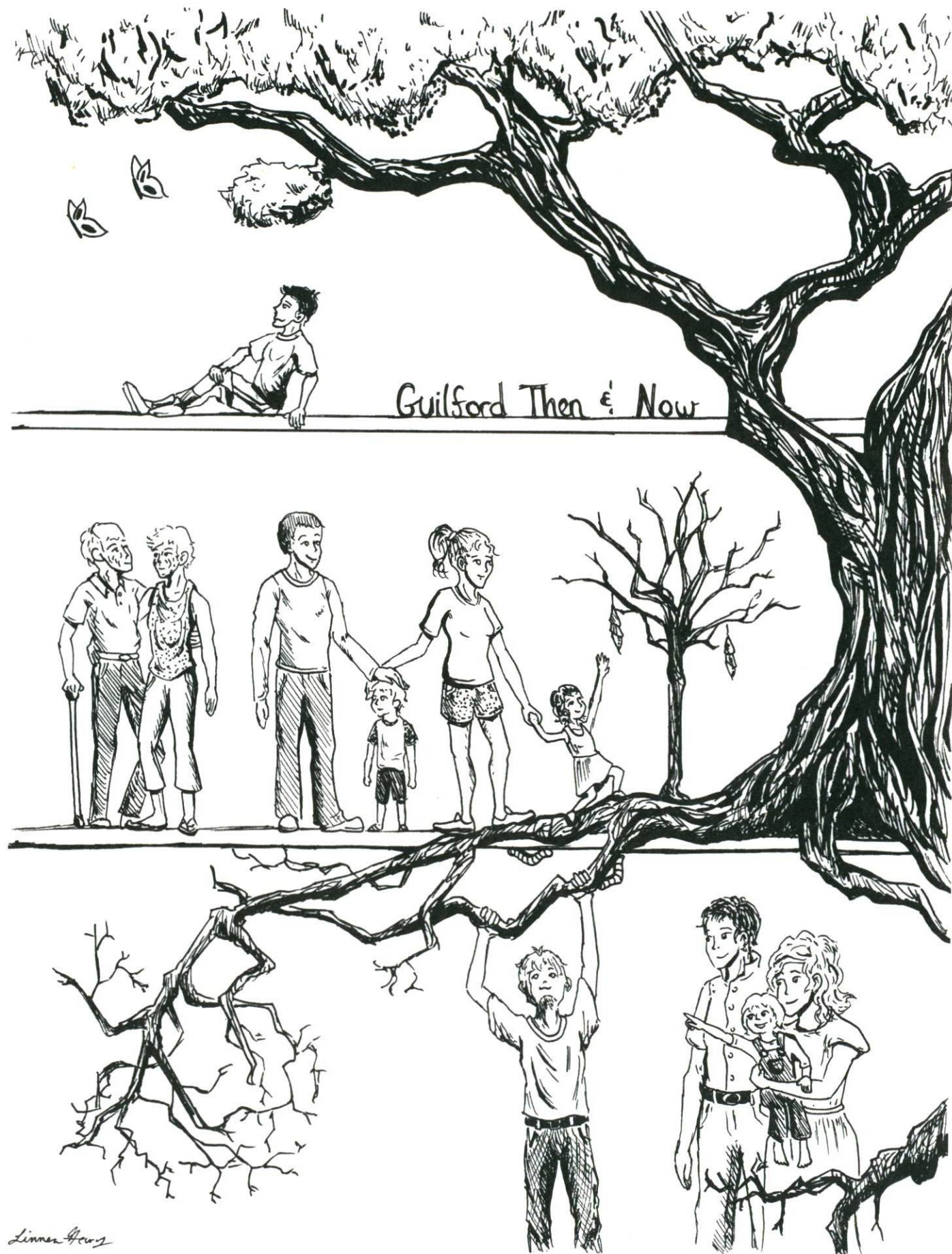
The photo, provided by Tricia, is one of those that is worth a thousand words. It was taken when they had to say goodbye after Steve completed basic training. She related. "They say a picture is worth a thousand words. The first word that came to me was pitiful, for the looks on our faces and then agony, to have to say goodbye."

This poem by Steve, provided by his brother, Mike, says volumes about his attitude about life. He is still missed every day.

Faith I Have

*There's a mountain standing tall
So strong, no one can climb it
No one at all
There's an ocean so deep and wide
No one can cross it to the other side
But I have faith
To move a mountain
I have faith
To cross the tide
I have faith
To swim the ocean
And find the other side*

*Steve Brennan
January 14, 1968*



Guilford Then & Now

Artwork by Leanna Geary, Guilford High School, Class of 2015



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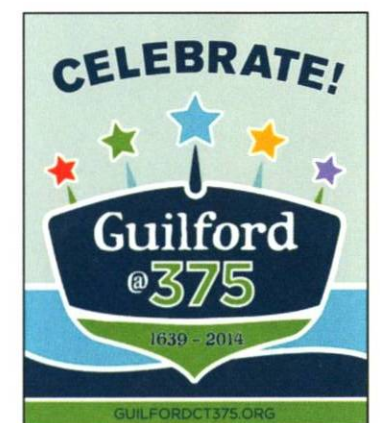
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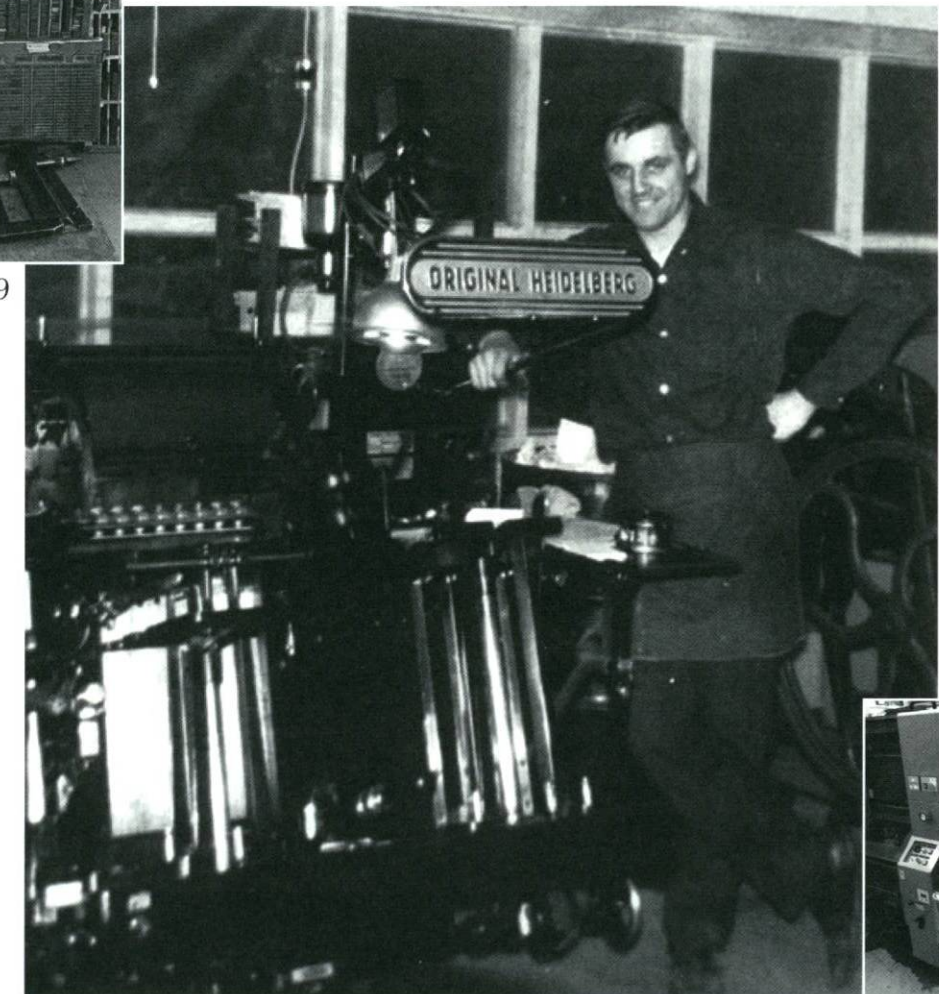


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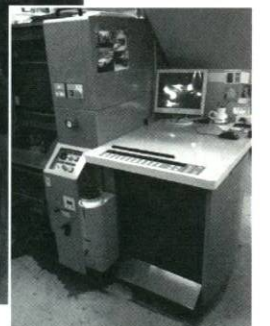
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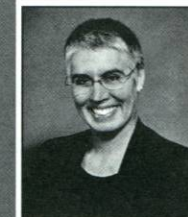
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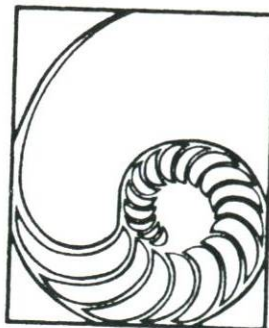
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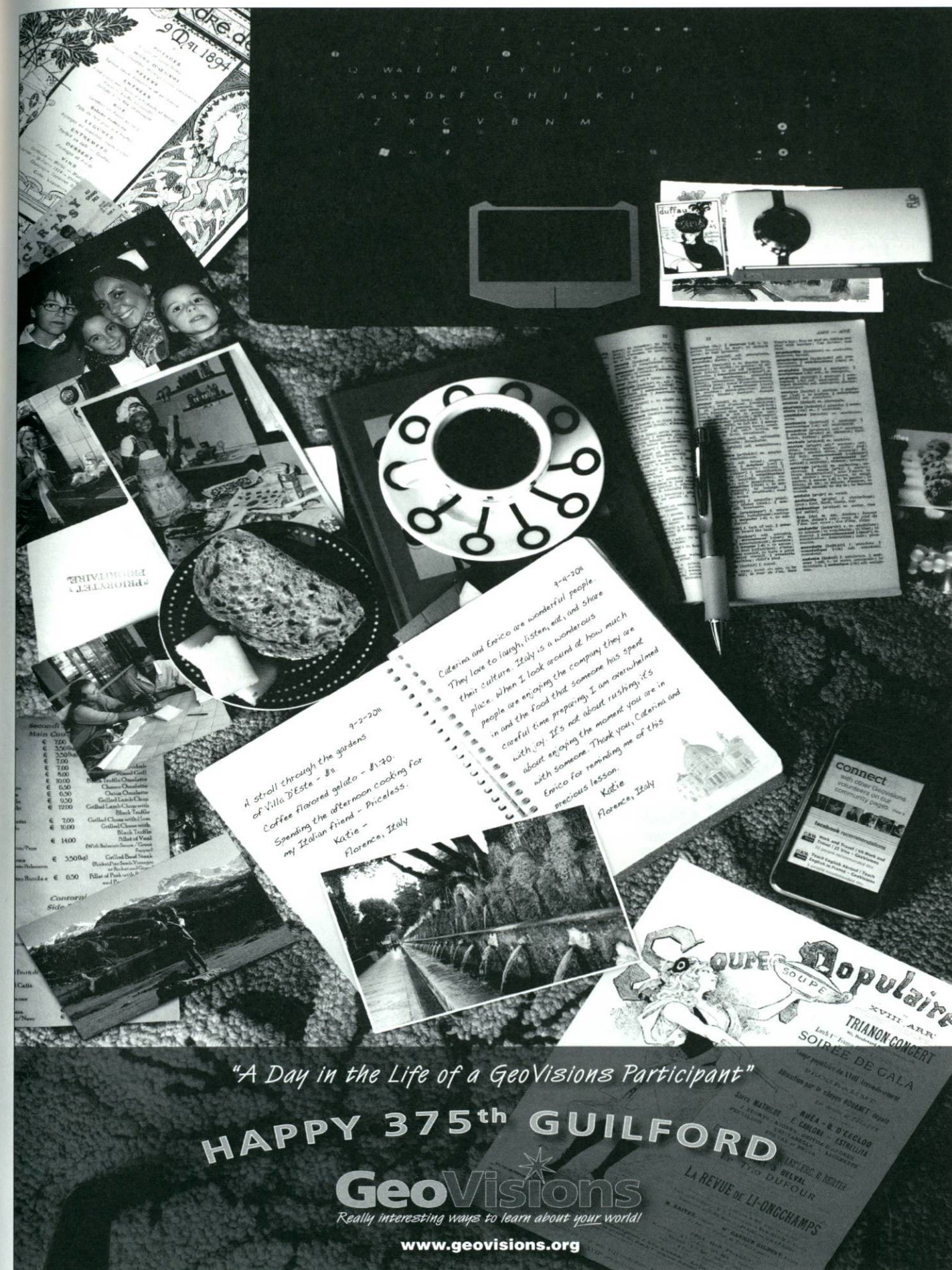
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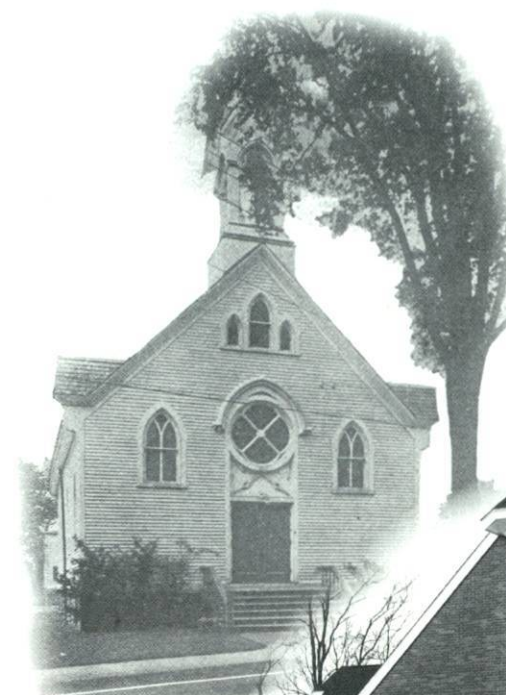
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Elizabeth Kozarec, Architect

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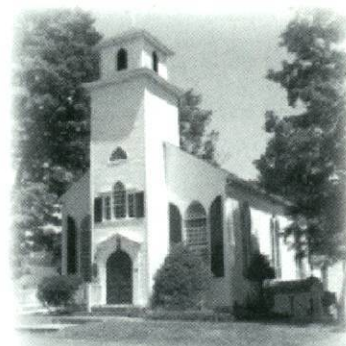
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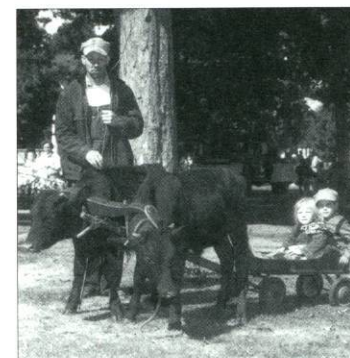
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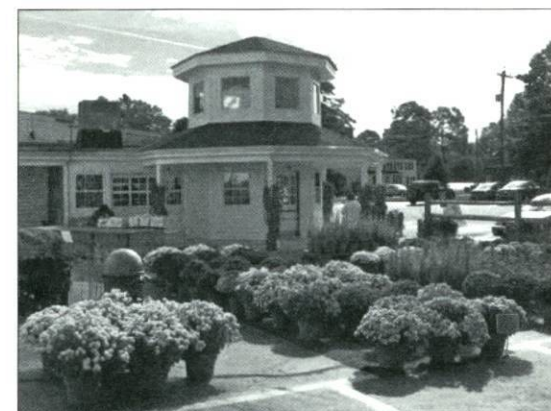
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