Happy 200th Birthday Darien!
Why I Love Living In Darien...

Living in Darien means a lot to me. All of the fun carnival activities, round ups and get togethers make our town great. I had the chance to take a break from Darien and it was not until I came back that I realized how awesome Darien is and will be forever.
During the Revolutionary War, the Rev. Moses Mather, minister of the First Congregational Church, was delivering a Sunday sermon when he and 26 of his congregants were kidnapped by British and Loyalist forces...

How long were they held in captivity?
During the Revolution, Mather and members of his congregation were held captive for five months in a New York British prison.
Bicentennial Trivia Question:

What was Darien called before it became incorporated in 1820?
Blizzard of 1888
Before 1820, this area was known as Middlesex Parish.
View from Post Road facing Tokeneke Road
George Dudley Tilley as a youngster with his pet goat
Why I Love Living In Darien...

I like living in Darien because my dad grew up on the same street as me, and there's lots of cool history.
Noroton District School
(which stood across the street from Hindley Elementary School)
The Old Holmes School
Edwin Stone, principal of Center School, takes a selfie... circa 1910
Which Darien author remained on the New York Times bestseller list for 80 weeks in 1955?
Anne Morrow Lindbergh for “Gift From the Sea”
Anne Morrow Lindbergh at home in Darien in 1956
Bicentennial Trivia Question:

What almost became the name of our town?
GEORGE WASHINGTON

PASSED THIS SPOT ON HIS WAY TO BOSTON
FEBRUARY - 1756
JUNE - 1775
OCTOBER - 1789

ERECTED IN HIS MEMORY BY THE CIVIC
PATRIOTIC AND MEMORIAL ORGANIZATIONS OF BOSTON
NOVEMBER 11, 1932
I love living in Darien for its close-knit community. It is very welcoming, and small, but perfect for that reason. I've been living here for all of my 13 years of life, and I wouldn't move anywhere else.
This town was almost called Bellville, in honor of Thaddeus Bell, who championed the town’s independence...

No one knows the true reason why Thaddeus crossed out the name Bellville and replaced it with the name Darien... but theories have abounded for 200 years.
1976 — The Launch of the Middlesex to Celebrate the Nation’s Bicentennial. Honoring the Whaleboat Men... Our Heroes of the Revolution.
To Celebrate Darien’s 200th Birthday, the Darien Historical Society is Bringing the Middlesex Home in 2020!!
Thank you to The Darien Foundation for the generous grant supporting this project!
Why I Love Living In Darien…

I have had a great time living in Darien my whole life. In Darien, I feel safe due to the low crime rates and the friends I have made along the way. Family, friends and peers in school make me feel happy. Darien also gives me a good education and athletic skills.
Thank you to Kathleen Millard & Lisa Thoren for compiling this 2020 slideshow presentation...

Thank you to Lucy Berry for compiling students’ “Why I Love Darien” responses and Michelle Saldivar for capturing “Darien Memories.”
One of my favorite things about Darien is that it is extremely safe. Just walk to a store and you meet nice people everywhere - it's great how small the community is, and how it's closely knit together.
Bicentennial Trivia Question:

Prosperous New Yorkers built summer homes in Tokeneke and Long Neck Point after which war?
Peartree Point Beach
After the Civil War, train connections allowed Darien to become a popular resort and affluent suburb.
Why I Love Living In Darien…

I like living in Darien because it offers so much as a town - all the stores, restaurants, parks, and waterways. But - my favorite part of Darien is definitely the LI Sound. I honestly wouldn't want to live anywhere else!
1913 DARIENT PAGAENT,
DARIEN, CONN.
Why I Love Living In Darien…

I like living in Darien because there is an amazing community here and great schools with teachers who want to help you.
Darien Memories: Dan Dolcetti

Dan is an avid historian, proud of the positive changes he sees happening in the Darien of today.

“Through the 1940’s Darien was very rural; most people had a back garden where they grew all sorts of vegetables...There were country gentlemen who cared about the town for generations to come. I see this same philosophy in today’s residents.”
Benjamin Fitch, a local Darien philanthropist and one of America’s first millionaires, established a home for soldiers who served in the Civil War and for children whose fathers were killed in that war. How much money did he donate during his lifetime?
Benjamin Fitch and his grand-nephew, Augustus B. Fitch, circa 1860
It was estimated that Fitch gave more than $500,000 of his wealth to charity, a huge sum for the time.
Darien Memories:
Rosemary & David Mace

Rosemary and David graduated from DHS class of 1956 and got married at Noroton Presbyterian Church on Saturday, June 24th 1961.

Their daughter also married at Noroton Presbyterian Church on a Saturday, June 24th ...forty years later.

Both receptions were held in the back yard of their Darien home.
Bicentennial Trivia Question:

The New Haven Railroad's first scheduled train line came through Darien in what year?
In 1848, the New Haven Railroad began service to Darien.
Bicentennial Trivia Question:

When did I-95 become a major roadway?
Old Town Hall on Post Road... and that's the first Police Department near the auto.
Bicentennial Trivia Question:

What year did a town theater open?
Darien Theatre on Boston Post Road, Darien, Conn.
In 1929, a theater with seating capacity for 700 opened to provide entertainment to Darien residents and surrounding towns, along with movies and community events.
Darien Memories:

Charlie Severine

At 91 years young, Charlie still works every day drawing blueprints, surrounded by photos, baseballs and his loyal saxophone. He played professional baseball for 8 years in the Minor Leagues. "As a professional player, I lived in so many US cities, but every time, my heart was happy to come home. People would ask me: Charlie, where are you from? and I would respond: I am from The Heights... in Darien, CT."
Bicentennial Trivia Question:

Name five celebrities who called Darien home...
Here are just a few who called Darien home...

Andrew Carnegie
Charles and Anne Lindbergh
John Frederick Kensett
Christopher Plummer
Margaret Burke White
Helen Frankenthaler
Kate Bosworth
Chloe Sevigney
Thank you to DHS students Charlie Callery, Will Henry Harmon & Kelly Niederreither for designing the official town Bicentennial logos!
Photos Courtesy of
The Darien Historical Society
DARIEN
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