



Happy 200th  
Birthday  
Darrien!





DARIEN

200

1820-2020™



Charter Oak  
1671

1671

This land was bought from the Indians Sagamores Ponus and Wescuses by Captain Nathaniel Turner for the Town of Stamford in 1640.

In 1670 Stamford and Norwalk men started to fight for land between Pine Brook and Five Mile River, bought from Chief Pimiakin, but were persuaded to settle by law.

Indiantack lived in a cabin in the woods, and sold baskets and bows and arrows to the school children, 1840.

Middlesex Parish protested being a part of the Stamford congregation and was made a separate parish in 1737.

Prudence Weed shot off the alarm gun for the minute men in defense of her brother Benjamin who was hiding in the attic when the British came to take him prisoner during the Revolution.

Charter for the new town of Darien was brought from the General Assembly in New Haven by Thaddeus Bell on horse back - 1829

From England to Boston Harbor 1630.

Going to School 1840.



Jonathan Bell, first white child born in Stamford 1641.

Raid on the Middlesex Meeting House by the British. The pastor Moses Mathew and the men were made prisoners, and taken across Long Island Sound. 1781.

Designed by Lucy Walmesley, 1942. After a survey of 1867, by F.W. Beers.



# DARIEN, CONNECTICUT: 1640 TO 1840

**SAVE**  
*the*  
**YEAR**  
**2020!**



06882000



# 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.

## Bicentennial Trivia Question:

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...

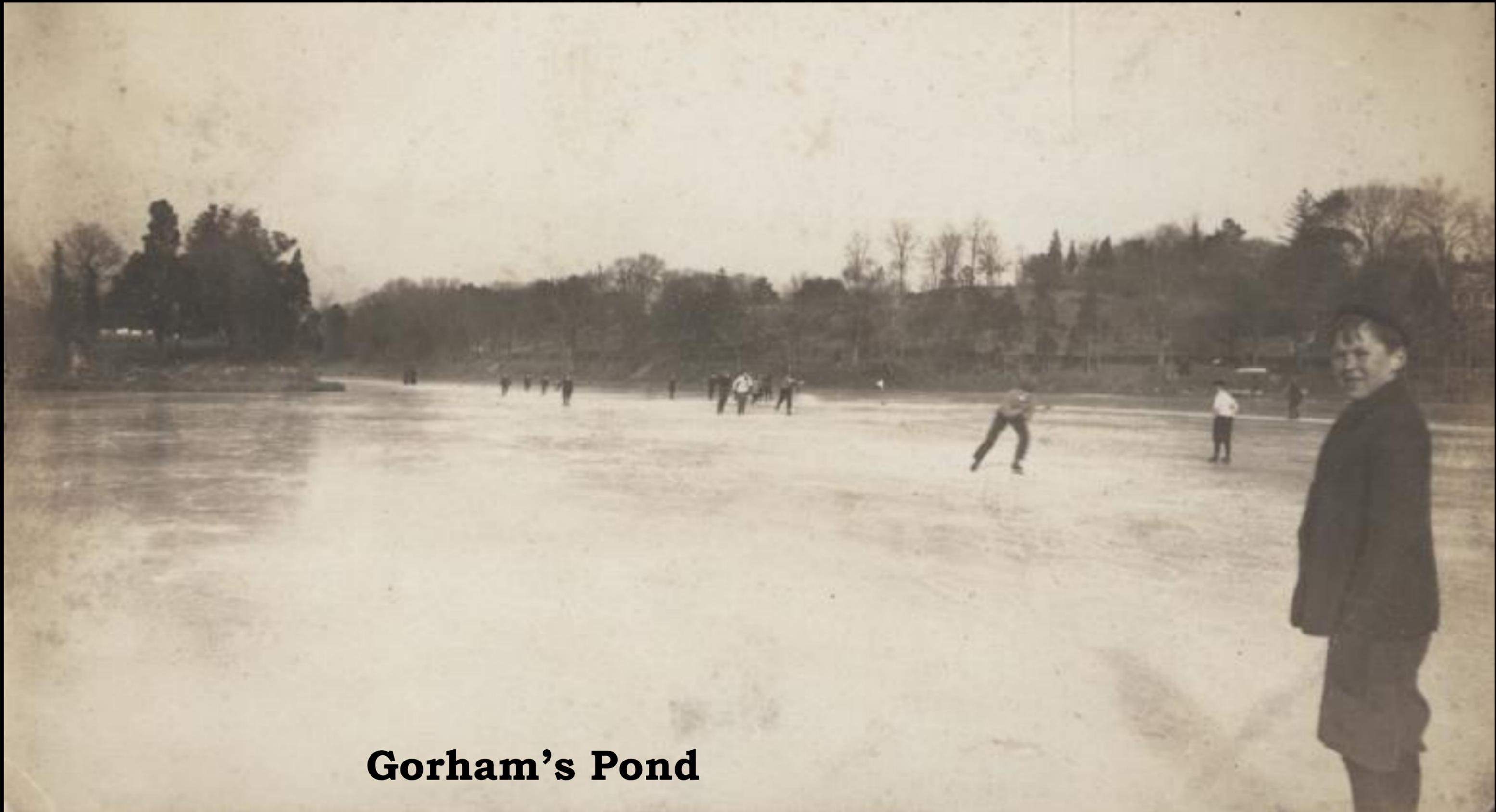
How long were they held in captivity?







During the Revolution, Mather and members of his congregation were held captive for five months in a New York British prison.



**Gorham's Pond**

## **Bicentennial Trivia Question:**

What was Darien called before it became incorporated in 1820 ?



**Blizzard of 1888**

G. S. NORTH.

SNOW STORM OF MARCH 12, 13, 14, 1888.

SOUTH NORWALK, CONN.



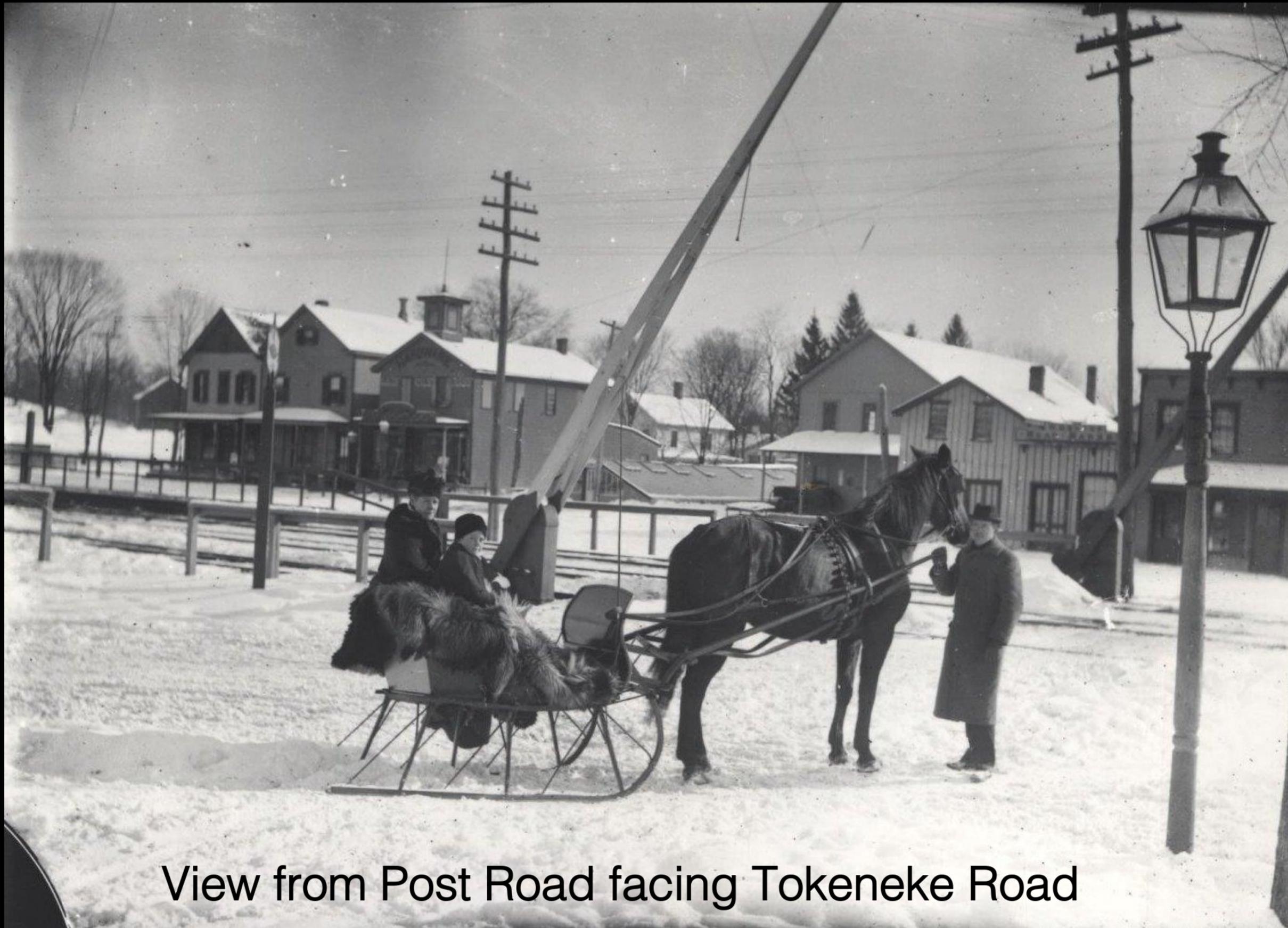
G. S. NORTH.

SNOW STORM OF MARCH 12, 13, 14, 1888.

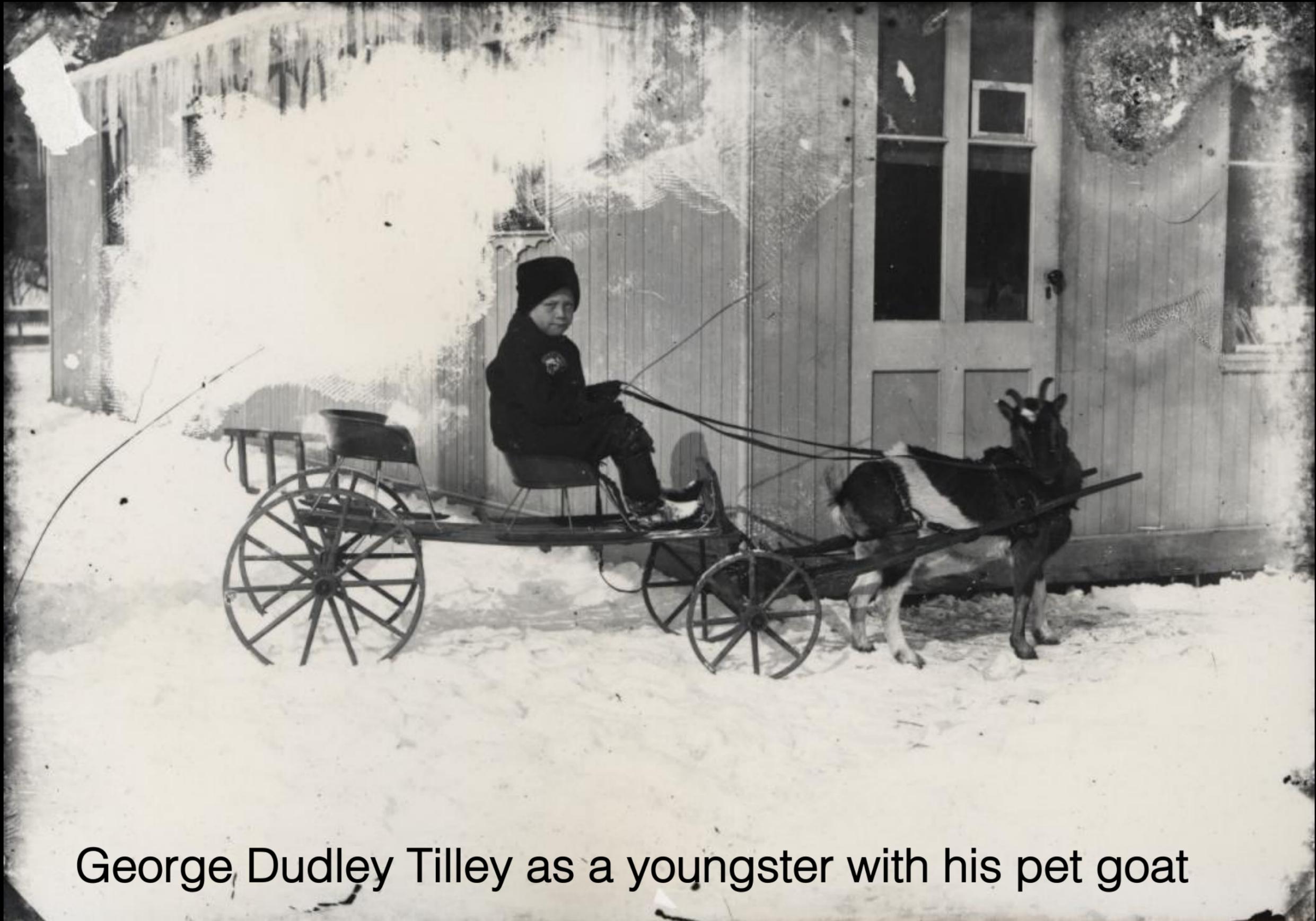
SOUTH NORWALK, CONN.

Before 1820, this area was known as Middlesex Parish.





View from Post Road facing Tokeneke Road



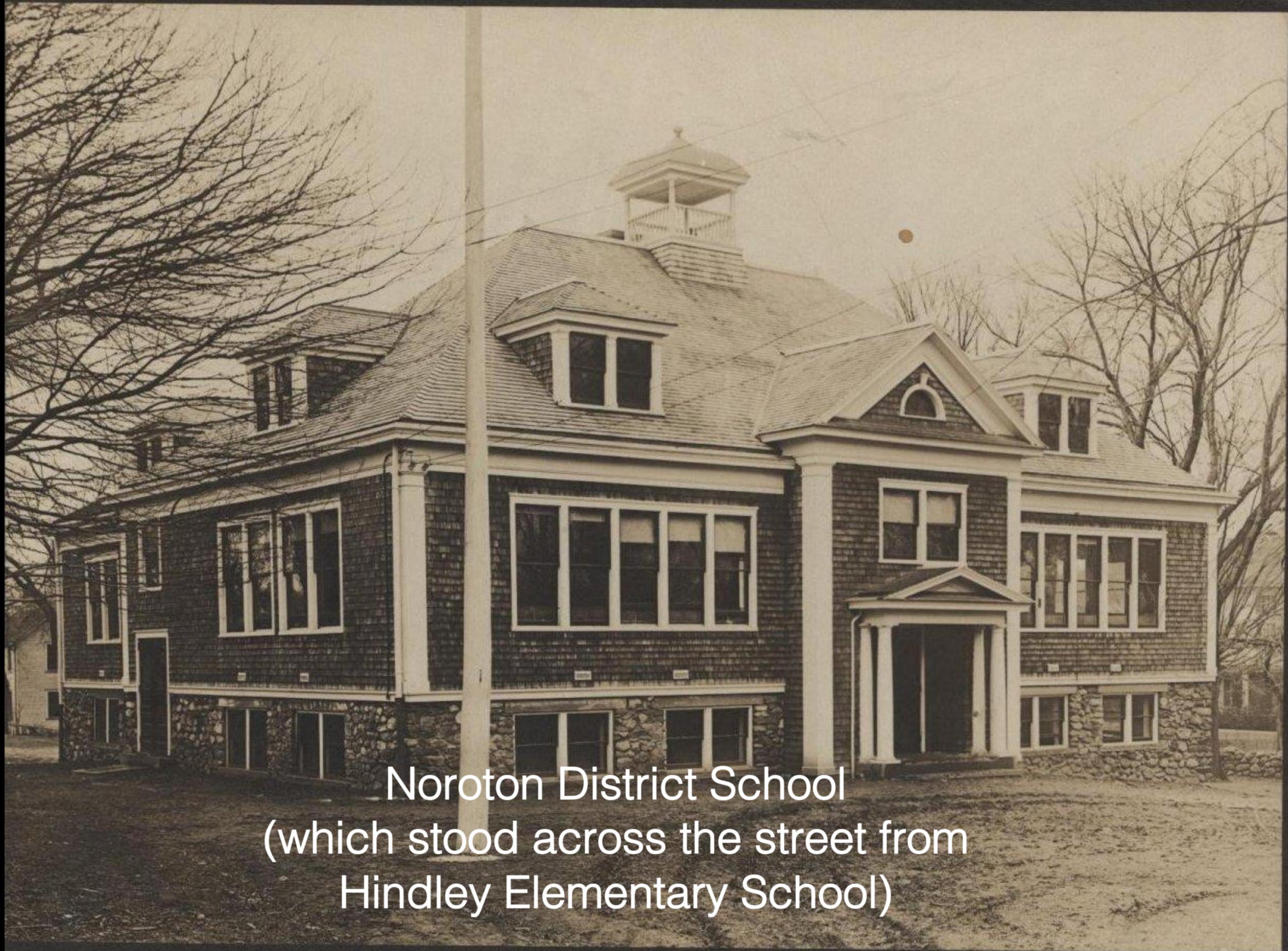
George Dudley Tilley as a youngster with his pet goat



## 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.

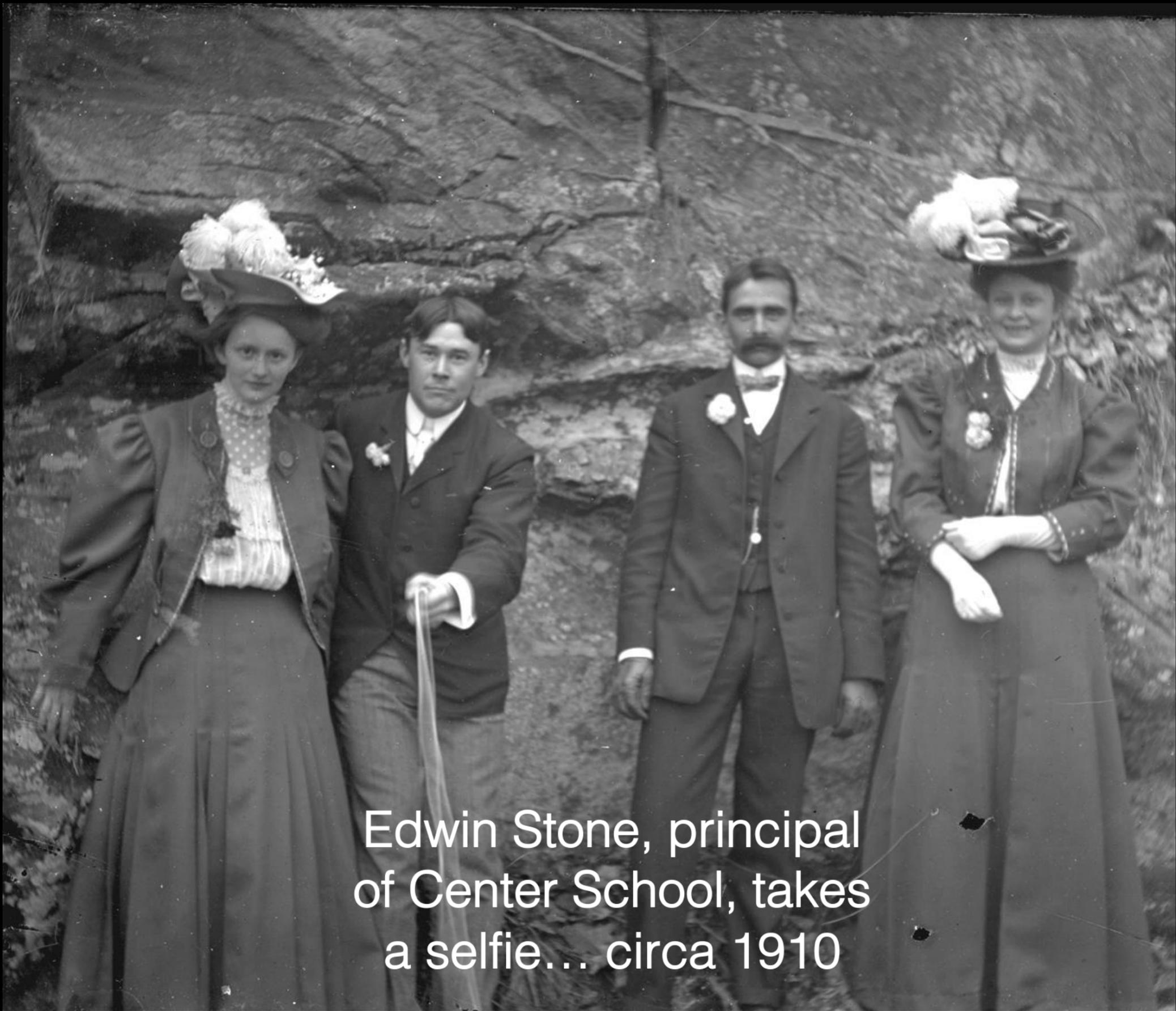


Noroton District School  
(which stood across the street from  
Hindley Elementary School)



**The Old Holmes School**

L. DERAK STUDIO  
STAMFORD, CONN.



Edwin Stone, principal  
of Center School, takes  
a selfie... circa 1910



DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL,

## **Bicentennial Trivia Question:**

Which Darien author  
remained on the New York Times bestseller list  
for 80 weeks in 1955?



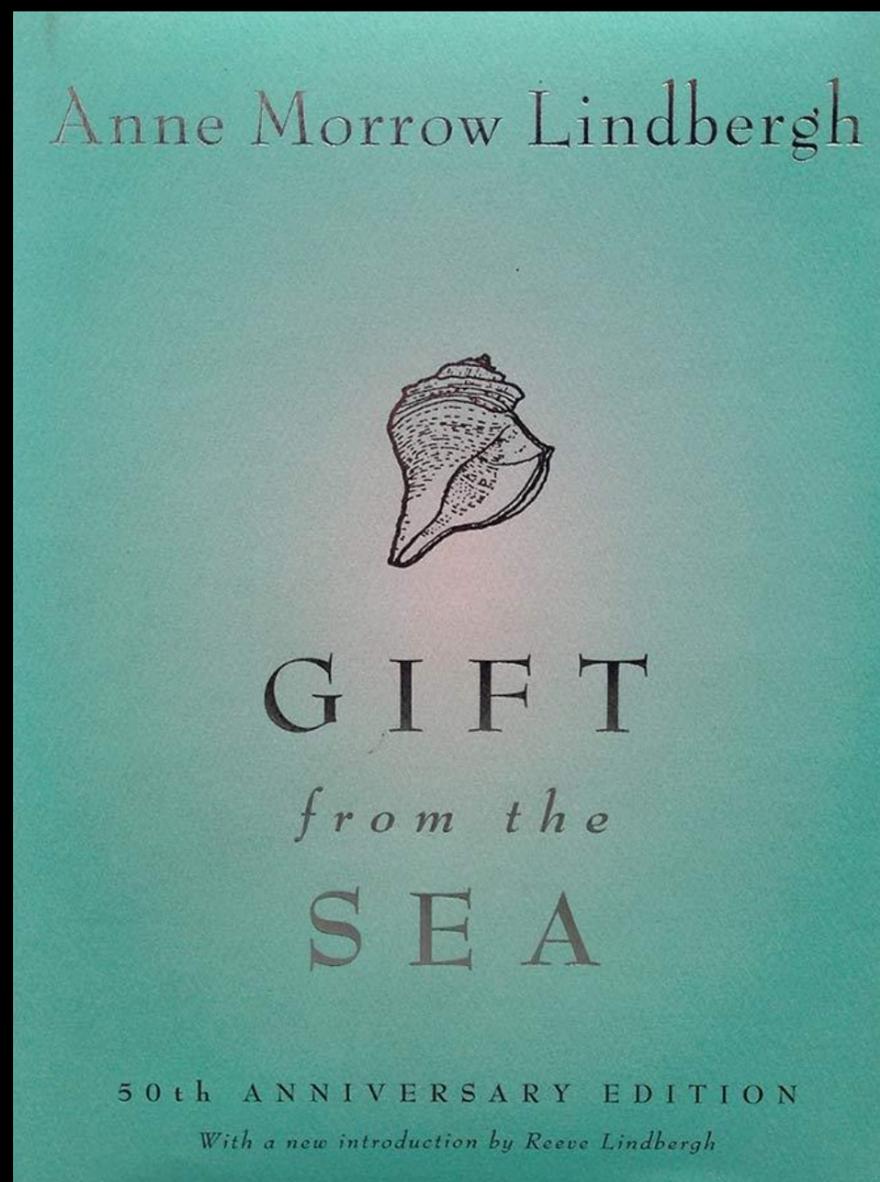




Anne Morrow Lindbergh for “Gift From the Sea”



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 FRATERNAL  
ORGANIZATIONS OF DARIEN  
NOVEMBER 11, 1932



**Peartree Point  
Beach**

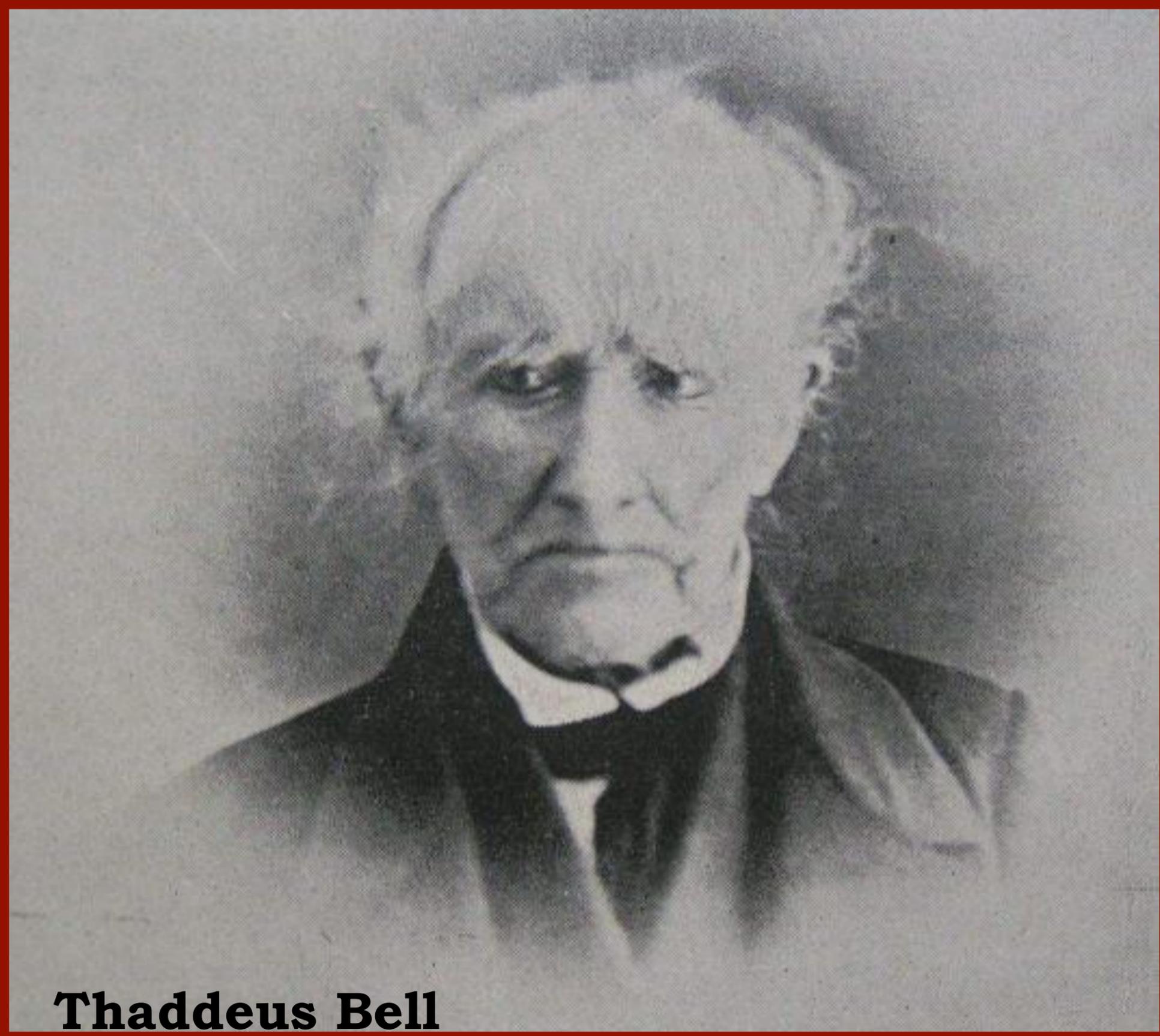
## Why I Love Living In Darien...



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.



**Thaddeus Bell**



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 200<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Bicentennial Shout Out!

Thank you to Kathleen Millard &  
Lisa Thoren for compiling this  
2020 slideshow presentation...

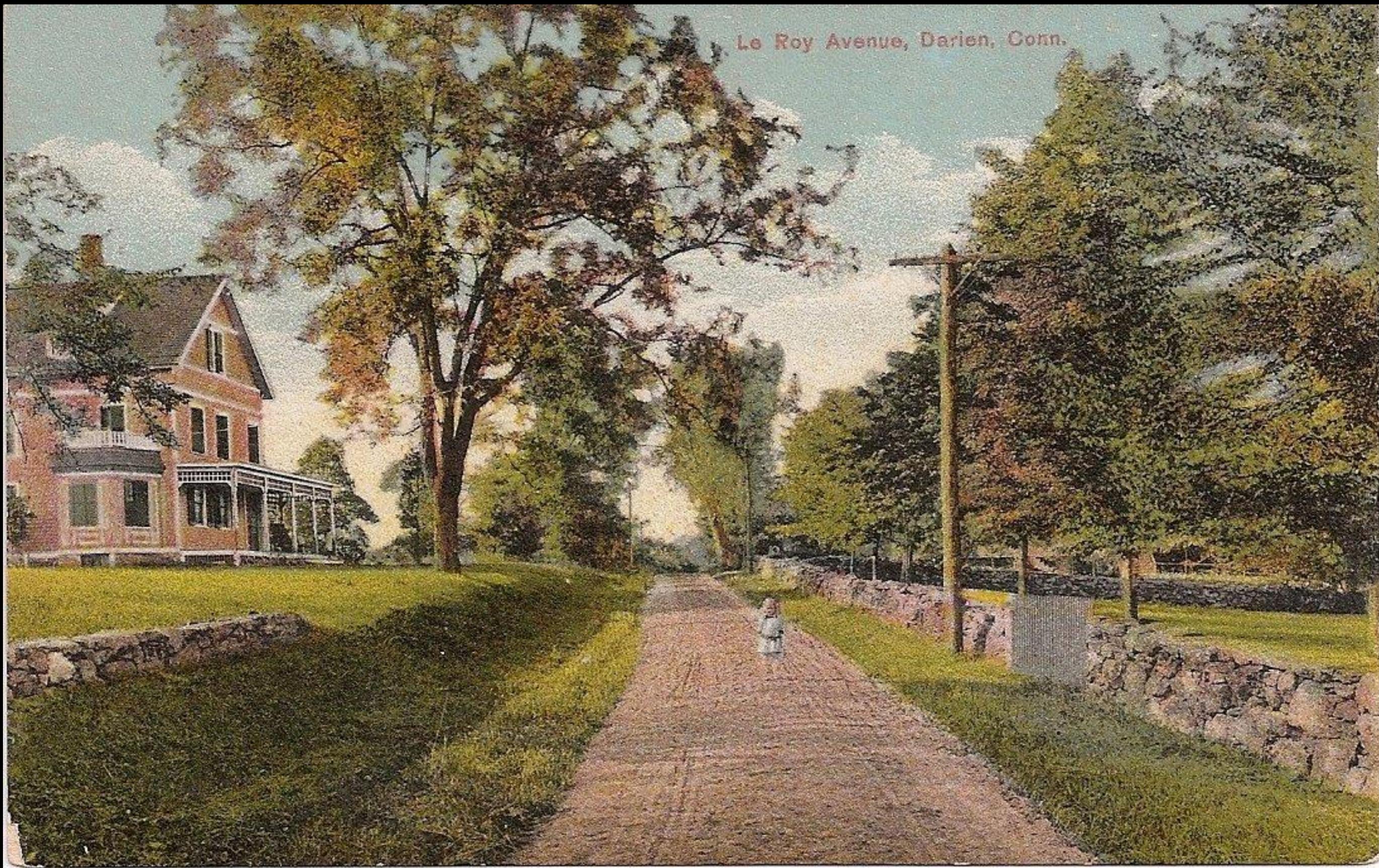
Thank you to Lucy Berry for compiling students'  
“*Why I Love Darien*” responses and Michelle  
Saldivar for capturing “*Darien Memories.*”



Norwalk Turnpike, Darien, Conn.



Le Roy Avenue, Darien, Conn.



## Why I Love Living In Darien...



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:**

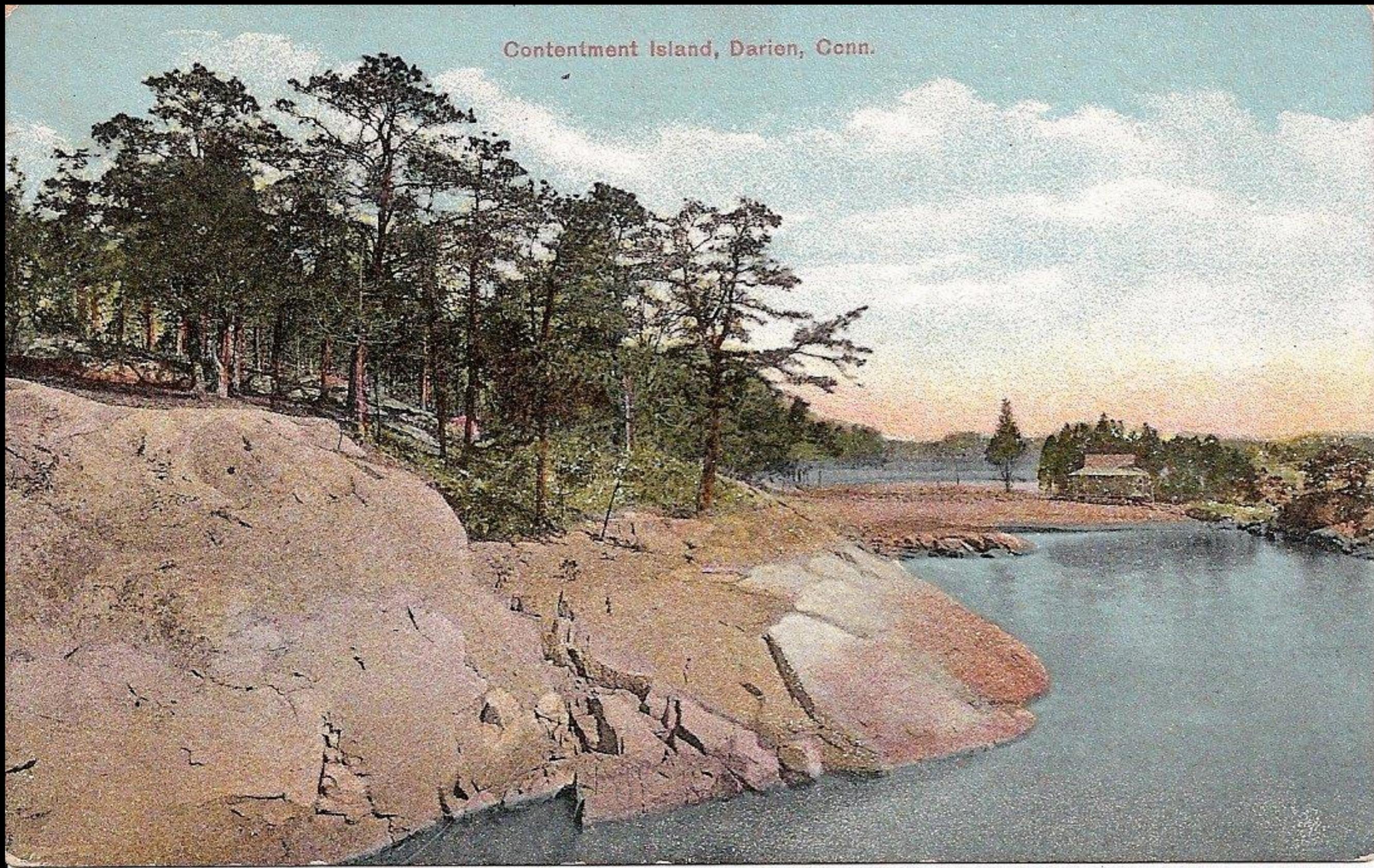
Prosperous New Yorkers built  
summer homes in Tokeneke and  
Long Neck Point after which war?



**Peartree Point Beach**



Contentment Island, Darien, Conn.



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!







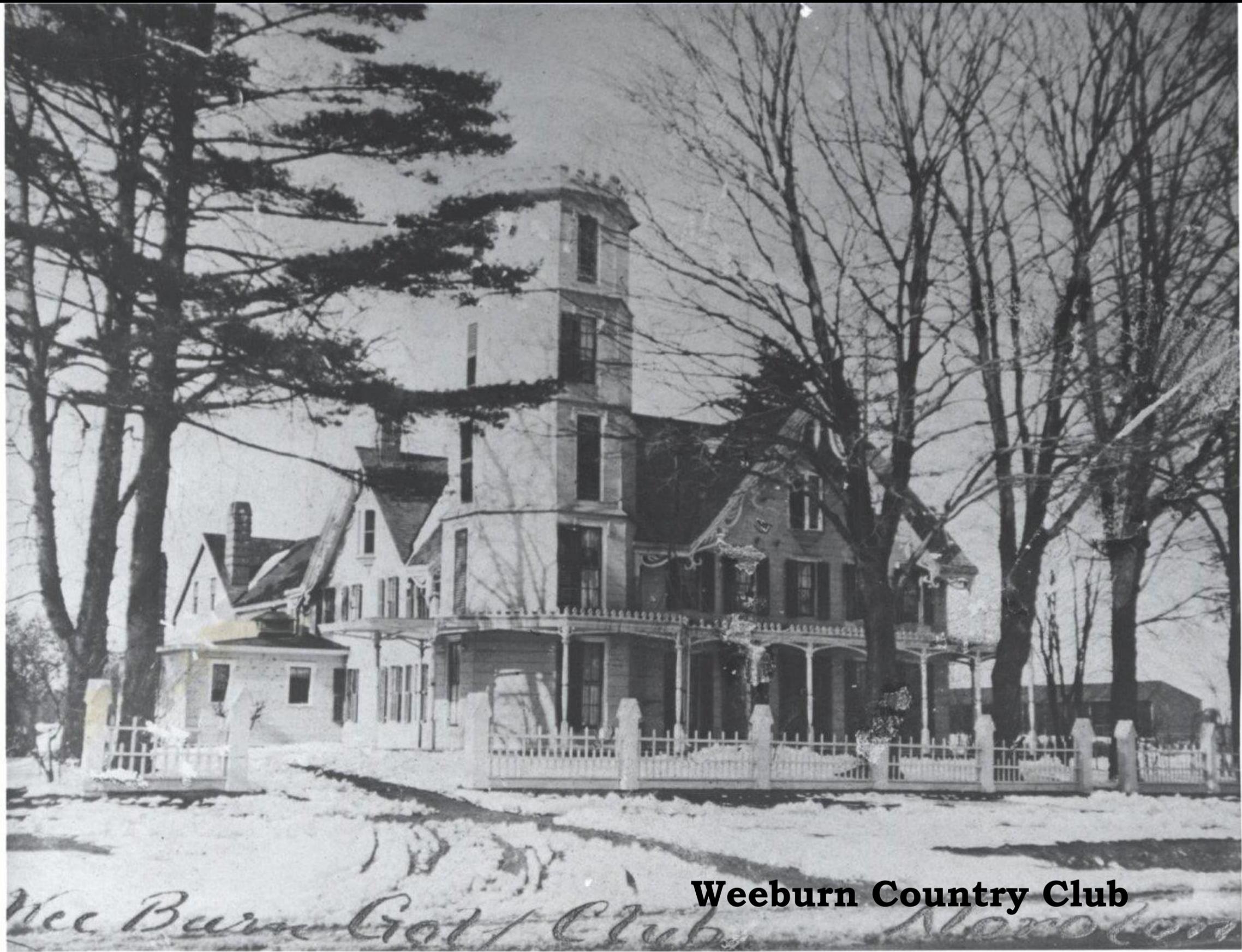
1913 PACAENT, DARIEN, CONN.  
P. 4303.



Photo by  
Underwood &  
Underwood N. Y.

P.4297. 1913 DARIEN PAGAENT,  
DARIEN, CONN.





**Weeburn Country Club**

*McC Burn Goff Club*

*November*



TOKENEKE BEACH INN, TOKENEKE PARK, DARIEN, CONN.



CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART

NOROTON HEIGHTS, 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.



TOKENEKE CLUB, TOKENEKE, DARIEN, CONN.



# Darien Memories: Dan Dolcetti

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

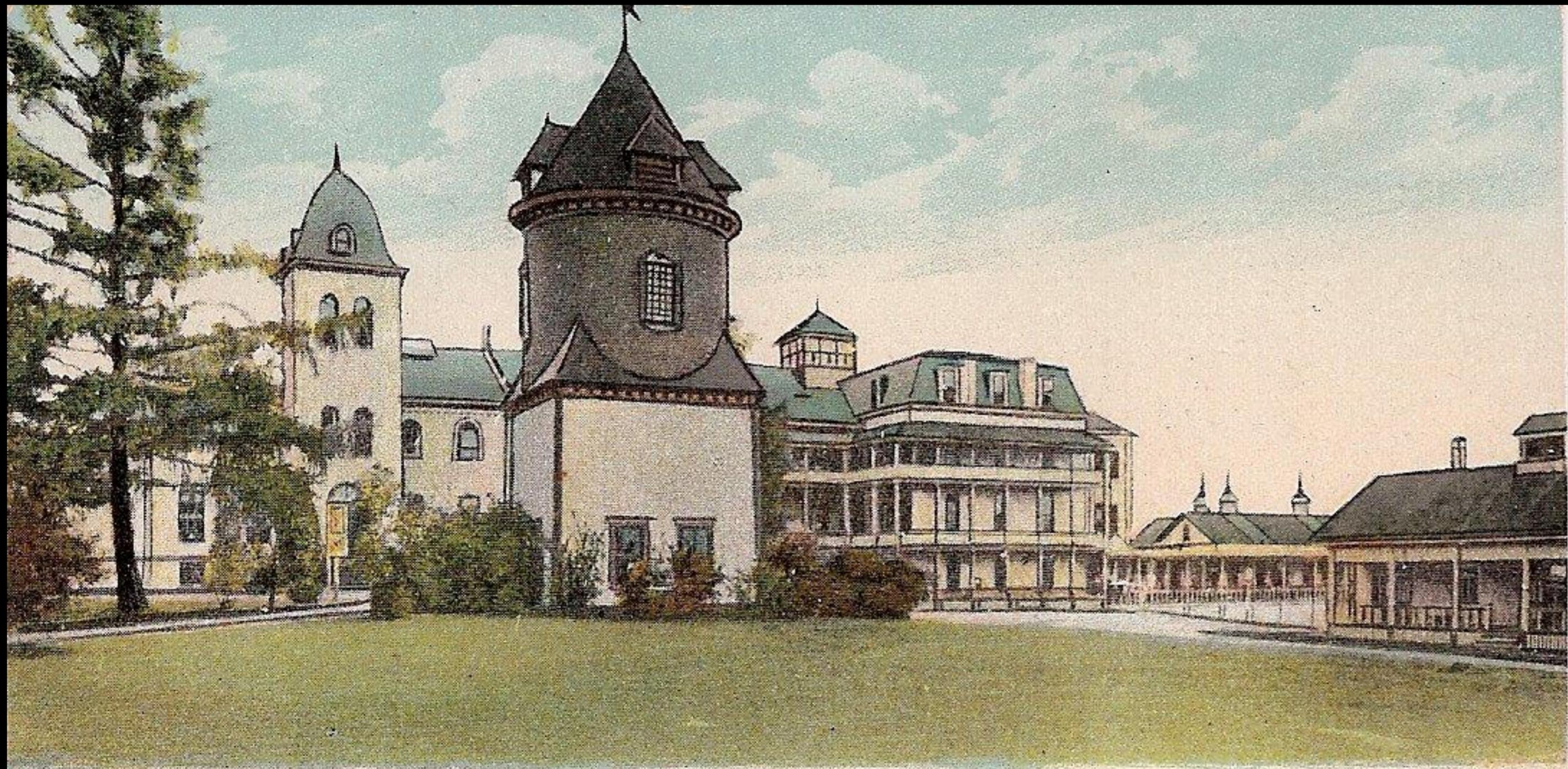
“Through the 1940’s Darien was very rural; most people had a back garden where they grew all sorts of vegetables...There were country gentlemen who cared about the town for generations to come. I see this same philosophy in today’s residents.”



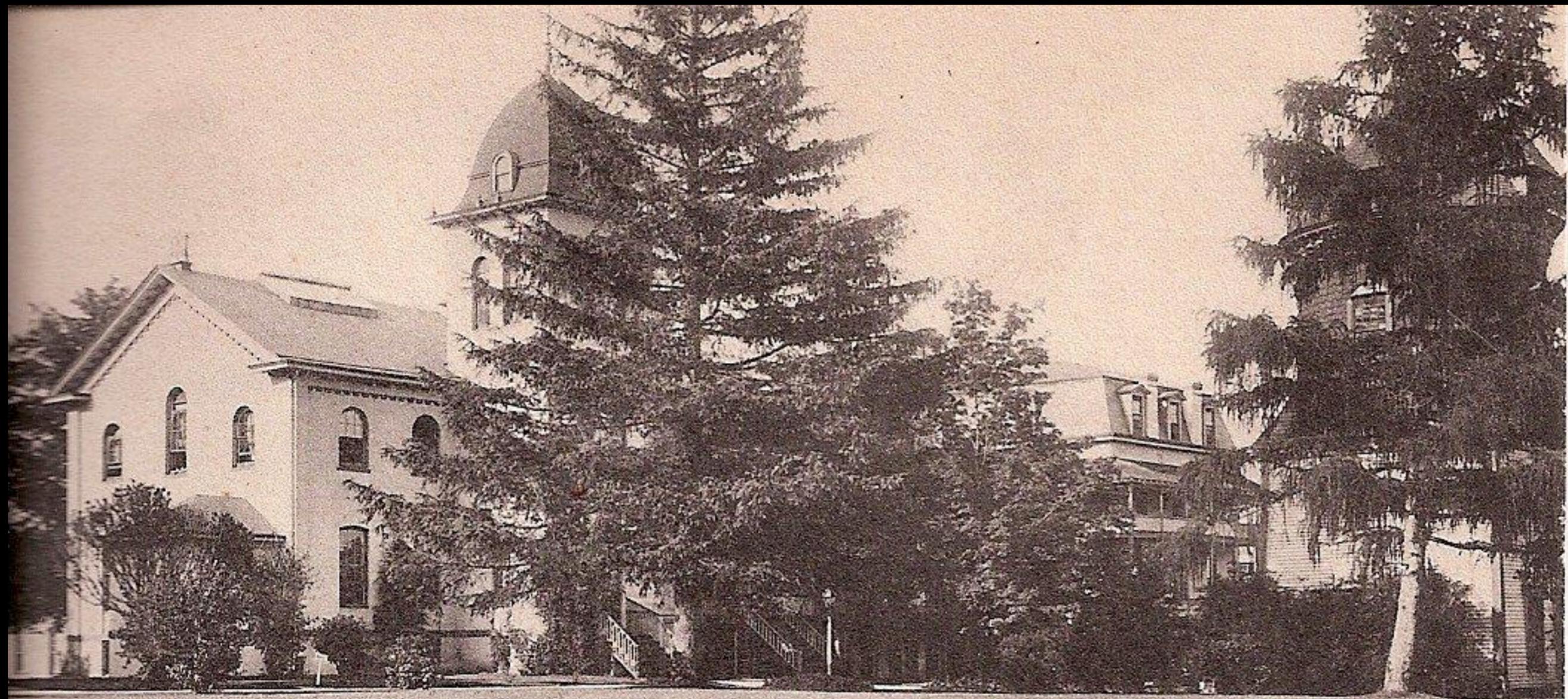


## Bicentennial Trivia Question:

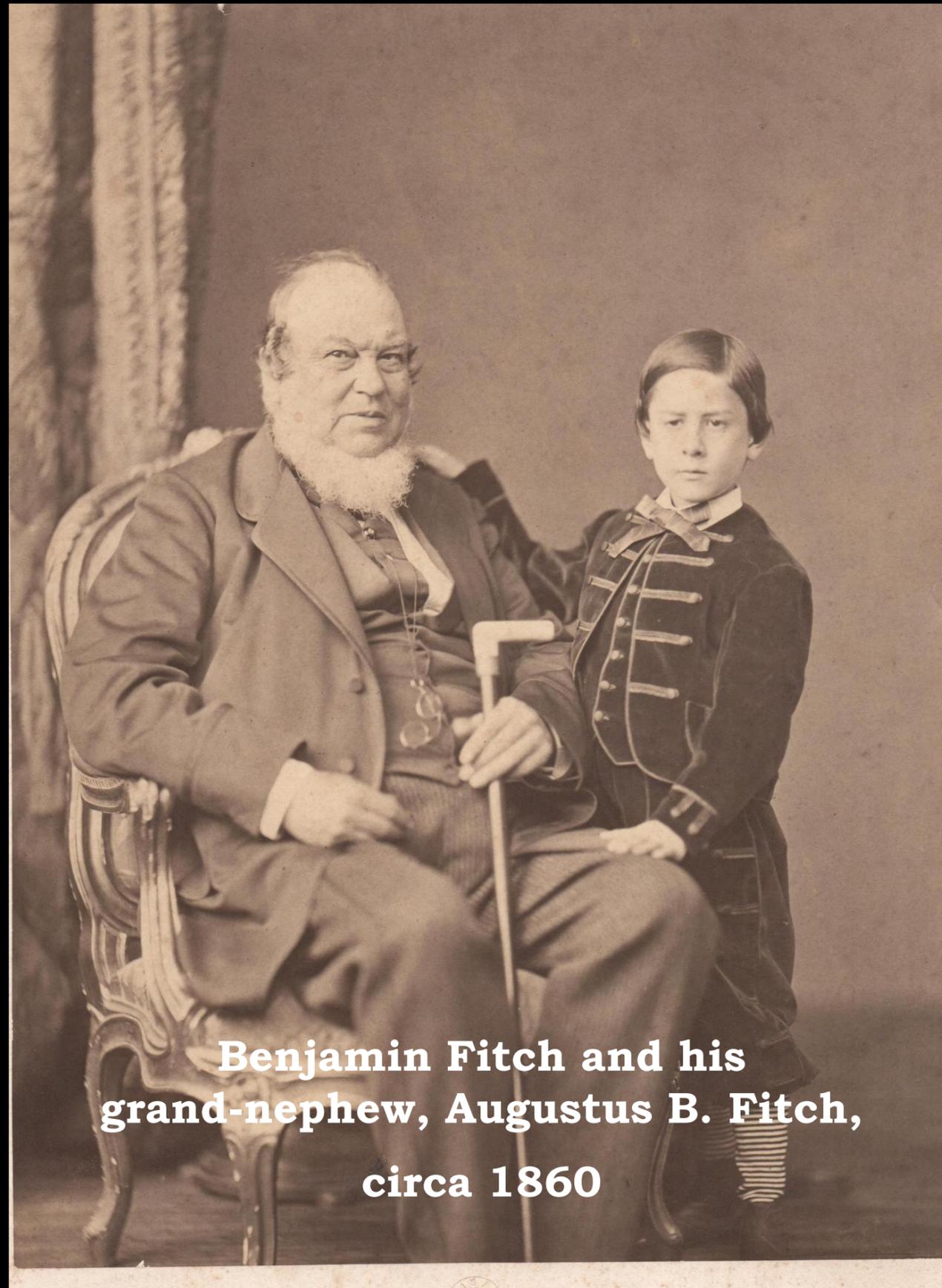
Benjamin Fitch, a local Darien philanthropist and one of America's first millionaires, established a home for soldiers who served in the Civil War and for children whose fathers were killed in that war. How much money did he donate during his lifetime?



Fitch Home for Soldiers, NOROTON HEIGHTS, CONN.



Fitch's Home for Soldiers, Noroton Heights, Conn.



**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.



**Rings End Bridge**



# Darien Memories: **Rosemary & David Mace**

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

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

Both receptions were held in the backyard of their Darien home.





## **Bicentennial Trivia Question:**

The New Haven Railroad's first scheduled train line came through Darien in what year?



Noroton Heights Train Station



Darien's East-Bound Train Station (no longer exists)

In 1848, the New Haven Railroad  
began service to Darien.





## **Bicentennial Trivia Question:**

When did I-95 become a major roadway?

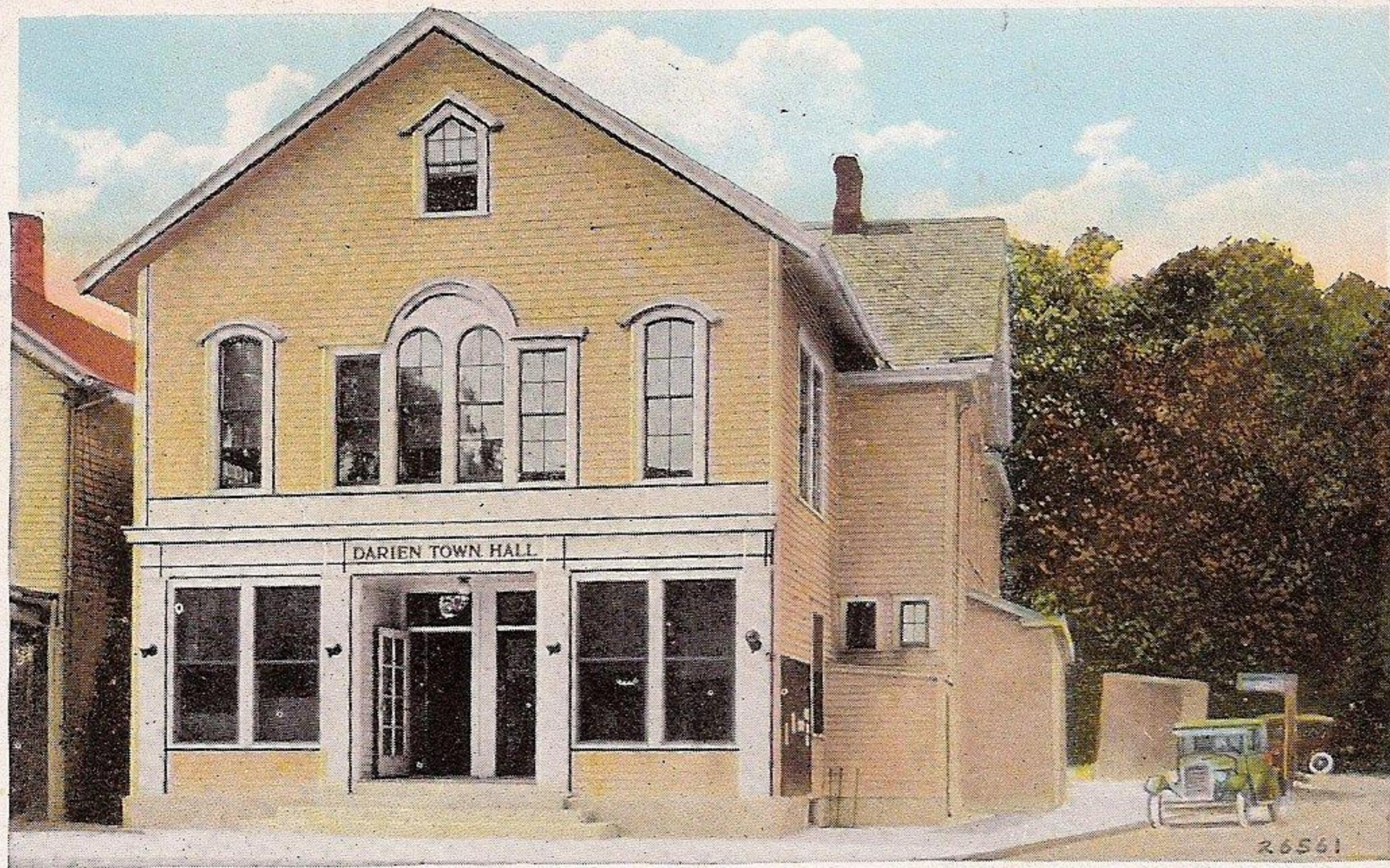




Old Town Hall on Post Road...  
and that's the first Police  
Department near the auto.

1958

TOWN HALL, DARIEN, CONN.



**Bicentennial Trivia Question:**

What year did a town theater open?

Darien Theatre on Boston Post Road, Darien, Conn.

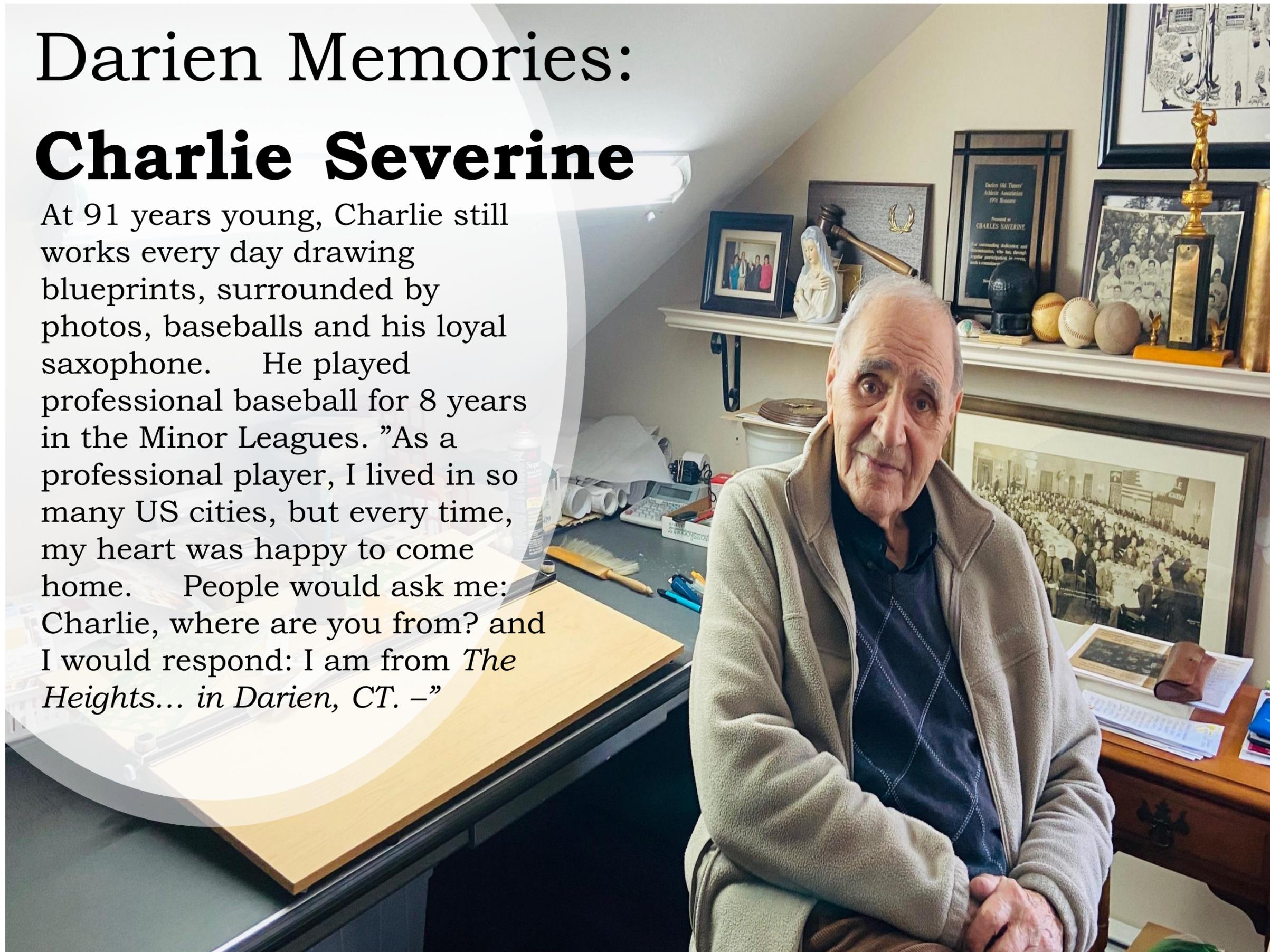




In 1929, a theater with seating capacity for 700 opened to provide entertainment to Darien residents and surrounding towns, along with movies and community events.

# 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 Sevigny

## Bicentennial Shout Out!

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





