

HILLSIDE NAMESAKES

The present geographic area of the township became a part of "Elizabethtown Settlement" shortly after the land drawings by settlers of both Elizabethtown and Newark and later Union Township where it remained until it declared its independence in 1913.

During that period of time, areas were known by the families who occupied them and the name Lyons Farms was most generally applied to the present North Side. Today's West Side also was referred to as West Lyons Farms.

The place of origin of some of the settlers from Newark in Old Saybrook, Connecticut is found in today's Saybrook Section .

The word Hillside is apparently the result of the avenue's geographic position on a hillside and its use in the term "Hillside Manor" by early residential builders but Long Avenue, one of the longest streets in the township, was named for Dennis Long, a dairyman, whose farm was along today's street !

At least five pre-Revolutionary families are still remembered in other streets. These include Woodruff Avenue and Woodruff Place, Baker Street, Bond Street, Winans Avenue and Grumman Avenue.

Current history when the streets were being named may be found in today's Fairbanks Street in honor of the former vice-president of the United States under Theodore Roosevelt and Harding Terrace for the former president, Warren G. Harding.

In some cases streets honored famous personalities and were later changed. The second block of Coe Avenue was known as Roosevelt Avenue and Winchester Avenue's first title was Pershing Avenue in honor of the famous World War I general.

The Board of Education recognized two former presidents when naming George Washington and Calvin Coolidge Schools and the only two local soldiers who died during World War I in naming Hurden-Looker School in honor of Edward Hurden who died of influenza in France Sept., 1918 and Russell Looker who was killed by enemy shell fire in Nov., 1918.

Three former members of the board have been remembered in school buildings. The Central Grammar School erected in 1917 which subsequently served as the high school was renamed the Abraham P. Morris School, when the present high school was opened, in honor of Mr. Morris, a member of the first Board of Education and a former president of the board. Morris Place also received its designation from the Morris family.

Woodfield Stadium pays tribute to the first superintendent of schools, Arthur G. Woodfield, who served the community 31 years and was associated in the same capacity in Union Township for 10 years before that while Hillside was still a part of Union.

The Township Committee too has had its share in memorials. Hurden and Looker Streets also were dedicated to the two soldiers as was Russell Looker Park.

World War II influenced change of two streets. Osborne Terrace which had frequently been confused with Newark Street became Stanley Terrace in honor of Stanley Zitzner who was killed in 1944. He is only one of some 78 residents killed in World War II and 2 in the Korean Conflict to be so honored.

Appellations of many streets were apparently made because of their geographic positions such as Lakeview and Riverside Drives near Ursino Lake, a Polish place name given the lake by one of the Livingstons. Others are Spring Street near a spring, Church Street at the rear of Hillside Presbyterian Church and Summit and Highland Avenues at the top of the hill.

But probably the greatest number of streets, however, was designated for their developers. First of these are said to have been J. Edwin Conant, Christopher Columbus Bailey, Albert Mading, Jr., who gave us Conant Street, Bailey Avenue, Albert Street and Mading Terrace.

Sweetland Avenue for instance was site of the family home of William Sweetland, who subsequently named Buchanan, Paul, Arnold and Purce Streets for members of his family when he subdivided the area.

Thomas Fitzpatrick whose generous donations provided funds for the building of St. Catherine's Church as a tribute to his wife also has as his namesake, Thomas and Fitzpatrick Streets.

Executors of his estate, William M. Ryan and Michael Crann, contributed their surnames to two more streets.

Both Hillside's Township Clerks have given street areas their names. The late George Compton aided in the development of the Compton Terrace and Compton Place areas. Township Clerk Howard J. Bloy's family once operated a farm near on Liberty Avenue near today's Bloy Street.

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In addition, Bloy Street, Howard Street, Arthur Street and James Street were named for family members. Mrs. Howard J. Bloy's family also gave their names to Gurd, William, Gertrude and Tillman Streets. Mr. Bloy suggested the word for Plymouth for the road when it was being developed.

Occupants of dwellings on new streets also are responsible for Haviland Drive named for Douglas Haviland family whose house was first erected there and for Williamson Avenue for William H. Williamson when a street was cut through by his wheelwright shop at N. Broad Street.

Several other municipal officials have been remembered in street names by developers. These include Sanford Avenue for the family of former Police Chief Norman L. Sanford and Clifford Street for one of his sons: Trousdell and McLean Place for the late Township Committeeman John Trousdell and Donald H. McLean, first township attorney, McMichael Place for former Township Committeeman Samuel McMichael, Doremus Place for the former Assessor David H. Doremus, Emerson Street for the late Township Attorney Sigmund Emerson, Sterner Road for the former Magistrate Ellsworth J. Sterner, Dorer Avenue and Florence Avenue for the family of the late Fire Chief George P. Dorer.

Fancies of real estate developers also are observed. E. E. Meechem is credited with the collegiate and Indian nomenclatures including Princeton, Harvard, Columbia, Rutgers, Yale and Cornell, Hiawatha, Itaska, Mohawk and Minne-Ha-Ha later changed to Franklin.

The Crane-Dod real estate firm which developed the Hollywood section also gave family names to Frances Place, Miriam Place, Robert Street and Dod Place. They named Pennsylvania Avenue and for a time called a portion of Hollywood Avenue New York Avenue.

The misnomer, West Newark, was given the settlement in Long Avenue to encourage Newarkers to move into the area. It features several place names such as St. Louis Avenue and Baltimore Avenue.

The Lehigh Valley Railroad left its mark with Lehigh on two streets and Ramsey Avenue for a company engineer.

The group of English streets such as Windsor Way, Nottingham Way and Revere Drive were given to the Westminster area by the developer Edward J. Grassman.

Lastly....Evans Terminal too was named for David O. Evans, the contractor who developed it; Chapman and Leo Streets for the Chapman family; John Street for John Lum; Chester Street for Harry Chester; Elmer Place for Elmer Runyon; Norman and Voorhees Street for Norman Voorhees; Coe Avenue for a builder by the same name, and Ridgway Avenue for members of the family of Daniel L. Miller, III.