

The Neighborhood House in Weatogue Part 2: Antecedents in the Work of Weatogue's Three Ministers

The preceding part of this article dealt with the founding of Weatogue's Neighborhood House in 1905, the moving and refurbishing of the donated building and a sampling of the dinners and cultural programs given in the house. This second part will explore some of the events that preceded the founding of this institution, which was dedicated to the wellbeing of all residents of the community and town.

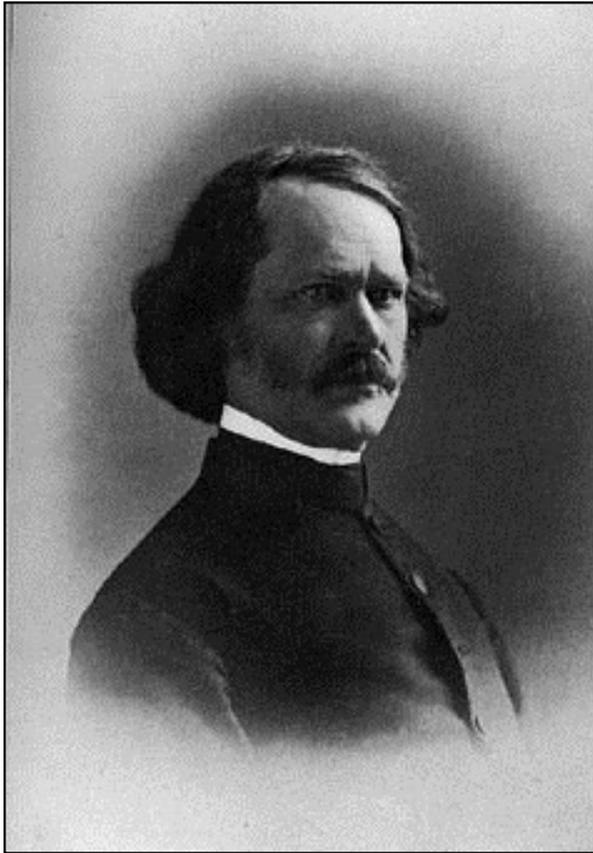
In the early twentieth century, the Weatogue section of the town of Simsbury was fertile ground for the planting of an institution that had for its mission the assimilation of recent immigrants and the betterment of society's less fortunate peoples. Rev. Charles Pitman Croft and his wife Julia Mather Croft were the prime movers behind this effort, but they were substantially aided by many in Simsbury who had generous natures and either time or money to be of help. It was particularly fortunate that there were two other Protestant ministers living in close proximity, who, like Rev. Croft, were not pastors of any church, and who helped each other in their chosen civic projects. These were the Reverends Horace Winslow and D. Stuart Dodge and they arrived in Weatogue and Bushy Hill, respectively, in the early 1880s.

Rev. Horace Winslow (1814-1905) was the eldest. Born in Massachusetts, he earned his Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, and attended the Theological Seminary at Auburn and the Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He began his career in 1842 as a Presbyterian minister, but after about three years he accepted a call to be the minister at the Congregational Church in Rockville in Tolland County, Connecticut. It was there that he recruited three hundred children for the "Cold Water Army" and became a noted advocate for the Temperance Movement. In this and his subsequent pastorates in Congregational churches in New Britain, Connecticut; Great Barrington, Massachusetts; Binghamton, New York; and Willimantic, Connecticut, he also became known for his work to establish parks, enlarge church buildings and build new ones.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Rev. Winslow joined the army and was appointed chaplain of the Fifth Connecticut Volunteers, but served less than a year because ill health prevented him from following his regiment. (Later in Simsbury he became chaplain, then commander, of the Joseph R. Toy Post, Grand Army of the Republic.) Rev. Winslow had even more severe health problems for a time after being struck by lightning in Willimantic in 1876, but continued his work there until 1881, when he was sixty-seven.

Rev. Winslow's wife had grown up in Weatogue. She was the former Charlotte Henrietta Pettibone, daughter of Capt. Jonathan and Fanny Rosanna (Phelps) Pettibone. Charlotte Winslow inherited property from her uncle John Owen Pettibone and in 1879 tore down the colonial-era house that stood there and built the house that presently stands at 348 Hopmeadow Street.¹ Without a congregation to attend to after he retired to Weatogue, Rev. Winslow continued to perform weddings, christenings and funerals and occasionally filled in for vacationing pastors. Simsbury's Congregational Church persuaded him to supply their pulpit for more than two years until they could settle a permanent minister in 1890. That minister was Harriet Beecher Stowe's son, Rev. Charles B. Stowe.² Rev. Stowe became such a supporter of the Neighborhood House that, even after he was no longer the pastor of the Simsbury church, he sometimes returned to fill in when Rev. Croft was ill or had to be out of town.

The achievement that graced the latter part of Rev. Horace Winslow's life was his founding of the Connecticut Forestry Association. As an early article on the organization put it, "The chief objects of the Association are: To develop public appreciation of the value of forests and woodlands and of the need for preserving and using them rationally; to forward the establishment of forests, parks, and reservations; to disseminate information regarding forestry and kindred topics."³ Now called the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, it is the oldest private, nonprofit conservation organization in the state.



Reverend Horace Winslow

The group's first meeting was held in the Winslow home in December 1895. When it met in Memorial Hall in Hartford in December 1896 to formally elect officers, Rev. Winslow was made president and his daughter Mary "Daisy" Winslow became secretary and treasurer. The original members were predominately from Simsbury.⁴ Rev. John B. McLean, head of the McLean Seminary, and Richard B. Eno served on the Advisory Board along with Hartford men Judge Dwight Loomis and Dr. J. R. Lewis. Other members from Simsbury, in addition to Rev. Winslow and Mary Winslow, were his wife Charlotte and their other daughter, Fannie Winslow Smith. The head of the Ensign Bickford Company, Ralph Hart Ensign, and his son Joseph R. Ensign were there; also Mary H. Humphrey, a young woman from East Weatogue who would teach at Simsbury High School for many years. A member from Hartford, Antoinette R. Phelps, would donate her Weatogue summer home in 1905 to become the Neighborhood House.

George Chester Eno was listed; his cousin Antoinette Eno Wood became the only Life Member. (Her nephew, Gifford Pinchot, whose family fortune was built on large-scale logging operations, would, with the help of his father, James Pinchot, establish the Yale School of Forestry in 1900. He later became the first Chief of the United States Forest Service.)

Weatogue's two other resident ministers were among the first to join: Rev. Charles Pitman Croft and his wife Julia Mather Croft, and Rev. D. Stuart Dodge, his son Francis Phelps Dodge, and Rev. Dodge's brother Norman White Dodge. The Phelps-Dodge family fortune was also founded in large part on the cutting of hundreds of acres of forest, particularly in Pennsylvania, Georgia and Canada.

Rev. D. Stuart Dodge (1836-1921) was younger than Rev. Winslow by twenty-two years, but they both had attended the Union Theological Seminary and both had wives with ties to Simsbury. Rev. Dodge's wife, Ellen Ada Phelps Dodge, the daughter of John Jay Phelps, was well acquainted with Simsbury, having spent summers on her father's estate, across the road from her grandfather Alexander Phelps's farm, her father's birthplace.⁵ John Jay Phelps (1810-1869) had left this farm at the age of thirteen to seek his fortune in New York, where he was eventually hailed as an early railroad baron, financier, real estate mogul and one of the "merchant princes" of that city.

Rev. Dodge's mother, Melissa Phelps, was the daughter of Simsbury native Anson Green Phelps (1781-1853), who also had established himself in business in New York. He eventually took as his partner his daughter Melissa's husband, Hartford native William Earl Dodge (1805-1883), forming Phelps, Dodge &

Company. By the end of the nineteenth century, this conglomerate had vast holdings in timberlands and lumber mills; railroads; copper, iron and coal mines and more. With William Earl Dodge at the head and with all but one of his seven sons employed as his lieutenants, the company generated immense wealth which was shared among all members of the family.

Rev. Dodge was the one son who hadn't gone into the family business. With his father's encouragement, after he graduated from Yale College in 1857 he entered Union Theological Seminary in New York City. This seminary, founded in 1836 by members of the Presbyterian Church, was from the outset a nondenominational Christian institution. On completing his ministerial studies in 1860, he married Ellen Ada Phelps on June 20 and they embarked on a honeymoon trip to Europe and the Near East. It was in Syria that they encountered the missionary Rev. Daniel Bliss and his wife Abby. Rev. Bliss would soon conceive the idea of opening a Christian college in that country, then a part of the Ottoman Empire.⁶ Rev. Dodge's father, William Earl Dodge, backed the Syrian Protestant College (now American University of Beirut) by helping to have it incorporated in the state of New York and by contributing generously to its endowment fund. He served as the treasurer of the Board of Trustees for the rest of his life.⁷

With a master's degree in hand, awarded by Yale in 1864, Rev. Dodge became the first registered professor at the college when it opened on December 3, 1866. He taught modern languages there during the next nine years.⁸ His father journeyed to Syria in 1871 for the laying of the cornerstone of the college's first permanent building. On that occasion, Rev. Bliss stated a guiding principle that applied thirty-four years later to the Neighborhood House in Weatogue:

This college is for all conditions and classes of men without regard to color, nationality, race or religion. A man, white, black, or yellow, Christian, Jew, Mohammedan or heathen, may enter and enjoy the advantages of this institution....⁹

Unlike the college, the Neighborhood House had women as members and well as men, and apparently didn't have any black, Asian, Jewish or Muslim members. However, the group actively tried to be inclusive with its open invitations to events and charitable projects and would not have turned away anyone who came.

Rev. Dodge and his wife Ellen Ada acquired the John Jay Phelps estate at Bushy Hill from her brother, William Walter Phelps, on June 1, 1880.¹⁰ Mrs. Dodge died suddenly on June 22. Despite the loss of his wife, Rev. Dodge continued with plans for improving Bellehurst, as the property was called, and began buying other properties in Bushy Hill and Weatogue. He was well known as a summer resident by November 1882 when he officiated at Lucy Jane Phelps Eno's internment in Simsbury Cemetery.¹¹ She was the wife of Amos Richards Eno, a cousin and early partner of John Jay Phelps in New York business ventures. The Enos had long spent their summers in her family home on Hopmeadow Street in the center of Simsbury.¹²

After the sudden death of Rev. Dodge's father in February 1883, his mother, Melissa Phelps Dodge, began to accompany her son to Bellehurst in Bushy Hill each summer. He, in turn, lived with her during the winter in the family's cluster of homes in Manhattan's Murray Hill district. Mrs. Dodge's four-story stone house at 225 Madison Avenue was next door to the home of financier J. Pierpont Morgan. (As soon as Melissa Dodge died at the age of ninety-four in 1903, Mr. Morgan bought her house, demolished it, and built the present Morgan Library and Museum on the site.)¹³ During a summer excursion in Simsbury to the Bartlett Tower on Talcott Mountain, Melissa Dodge recalled that on her bridal trip, fifty-five years before, she had visited Monte Video, Daniel Wadsworth's tower that had stood south of the Bartlett Tower.¹⁴

Before long, Rev. Dodge built an addition to Bellehurst and began enlisting his sons and brothers to establish homes on his acquired Bushy Hill and Weatogue properties. He seems to have had in mind forming a Dodge family summer community. In fact, the *New York Times* later referred to Weatogue as the Dodge family's "country town."¹⁵

"Simsbury's Old Houses," a feature article in the August 10, 1894 *Hartford Courant*, tells of Rev.

Continued on page six.

The Ministers, the Monuments, and the Campaign for Governor

During the 1890s the Weatogue section of Simsbury gained two landmarks, the Memorial Fountain dedicated to the memory of Roderick Adams White, M.D. (1809-1887), and the Soldiers Monument dedicated to the Simsbury men who served in the Civil War. Weatogue's trio of ministers played significant roles in erecting both and went on to do more.

In her will, Elizabeth Hungerford White (1817-1890), widow of Dr. White, bequeathed a fund to erect a fountain in memory of her Yale-educated husband's fifty-five years as a physician, about forty-five of them as the "country doctor" to the townspeople of Simsbury. She named her brothers Edward and Frank Hungerford and Charles P. Croft, her "neighbor and friend," as trustees to accomplish the task. Rev. D. Stuart Dodge donated the pure water from a spring about a mile away on his property to supply the fountain. At the dedication ceremony on September 6, 1892, Rev. Dodge, chairman of the program, said that among the three trustees "our chief thanks are due to the one, who, though not a relative, enjoyed for so many years the warm personal confidence of Dr. and Mrs. White, and whose energy and public spirit have brought this work to a successful completion, — our friend and fellow-townsmen, the Rev. Charles Pitman Croft."¹

Rev. Dodge and other speakers stated that the inspiration for fountain came from those seen abroad that, although decorative, were used as a public water supply. Dr. White's fountain would augment the wells with "old oaken buckets" found on each homelot in Weatogue. Another speaker, Dr. Melancthon Storrs, noted that the Farmington River had become so polluted that the fish were dying. He said, "Dr. White, you may remember, when he found a case of typhoid fever or any malignant disease in any of these dwellings, looked to the water supply."²

Rev. Horace Winslow accepted the fountain on behalf of the town and added his praises of Dr. and Mrs. White to those of the other four ministers who spoke, including Mrs. White's brother Rev. Edward Hungerford of Burlington, Vermont, four doctors, and Mrs. White's brother Frank Hungerford, a lawyer of New Britain, Connecticut. A representative of the Connecticut Humane Society spoke of the kindness shown to animals by the fact that the fountain supplied water to troughs for horses and dogs, also. Lastly, William N. Flynt added his remarks. He was the head of the W. N. Flynt Company that operated the quarry in Monson, Massachusetts, that had supplied the dark granite from which the fountain was fashioned. Those assembled on that pleasant afternoon, some of whom had come from distances, were entertained after the ceremony in Rev. Dodge's home.³

Three years later, on the 4th of July 1895, a crowd of about 2,000 came on a rainy day to witness the unveiling and dedication of the Soldiers Monument erected in recognition of the Simsbury men who had served in the Union Army during the Civil War, which had ended thirty years before. The committee in charge of building the monument was Rev. Horace Winslow, once chaplain of the Fifth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers; John Wesley Phelps, who was one of the first men in Connecticut to volunteer and who served throughout the war; Alonzo Grove Case, John Elam Case and Gavette Burt Holcomb, all of whom served in Company E, Sixteenth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers. John E. Case was wounded at Antietam, causing him to have a leg amputated.

The monument was erected on Hopmeadow Street, almost directly across from Rev. Winslow's house on land owned at that time by Rev. Croft.⁴ This monument, too, was made of granite from the quarry at Monson, Massachusetts. The *Hartford Courant* reported that it "cost about \$3,000, \$500 of which was raised by the Joseph R. Toy Post and the balance was contributed by wealthy residents of Simsbury."⁵ The Joseph R. Toy Post, G. A. R., was Simsbury's own, named after the son of Joseph Toy, head of the Toy-Bickford Company (later the Ensign-Bickford Company). Capt. Toy died of disease during the war.

After the veterans paraded around town with bands playing, they took their places on the grandstand

and the onlookers seated themselves in a temporary pavilion. Rev. D. Stuart Dodge presided and made the opening address. The flag was raised, the National Anthem sung and Frank L. Hungerford, brother of the late Elizabeth Hungerford White, made a speech honoring the flag. George P. McLean spoke of the men who volunteered, Philip Bacon being the first from Simsbury. Among the many other speakers was Rev. Winslow, who estimated that 500,000 men had died in the war, and that the Confederate monuments that had been erected were monuments to the "Lost Cause." "The nation [is] one and inseparable now and forever," he said.⁶

By 1900, Rev. Winslow's health was in decline, but the latter part of that year found the Reverends Croft and Dodge orchestrating support for Simsbury's George P. McLean's bid for Governor of Connecticut. As the president of the town's Republican Club, Rev. Croft staged rallies and torchlight parades. When McLean was under political attack by several newspaper editors, Rev. Croft defended him on the floor of the Republican convention, to which he was a delegate. After that attack, Rev. Croft and Selectman William H. Whitehead organized a nonpartisan show of support at an evening event at the Simsbury Casino and Rev. Dodge served as the master-of-ceremonies.⁷ The 1900 election was a sweep for the Republicans, re-electing William McKinley with Teddy Roosevelt as his running mate and, in Connecticut, Governor George Payne McLean. His victory celebration in Simsbury, with all the buildings and houses festooned with flags, bunting, and Chinese lanterns, and bands and groups from all over the area parading, was certainly the largest event ever seen in the town until then.⁸

Just eight months after Rev. Winslow's death at the age of ninety, the Weatogue Neighborhood House opened in November 1905. Founded by Charles and Julia Croft, throughout its existence it had the support of Rev. Dodge and his sons, especially Frank, and Norman Dodge's son, Marcellus. Rev. Winslow's daughters Mary and Fannie and the latter's husband, William Preston Smith, and the Smith's daughter, Lillian, also figured heavily in the success of the project.

1. *History of the Memorial Fountain Erected to the Memory of Roderick Adams White by His Wife Elizabeth Hungerford White and the Dedicatory Service, Sept. 6, 1892* (Hartford, Conn.: Press of the Case Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1893), 12, 16.
2. Ibid, 37-38. Historian John E. Ellsworth tells of attempts to pipe water to homes in Simsbury. The earliest successful private enterprise, the Simsbury Water Company, supplied stockholders in the Hop Meadow section of town by 1872. See Ellsworth's *Simsbury: Being a Brief Historical Sketch of Ancient and Modern Simsbury, 1642-1935* (Simsbury: The Simsbury Committee for the Tercentenary, 1935), 167-168.
3. *Hartford Courant*, September 7, 1892, 6.
4. "Connecticut's Civil War Monuments: Simsbury," www.chs.org/finding_aides/ransom/110.htm
5. *Hartford Courant*, 5 July, 1895, 6. In today's currency, this amount would be valued at more than \$84,000.
6. Ibid. More recent figures indicate that about 750,000 men died, including both Union and Confederate. See "New Estimate Raises Civil War Death Toll" by Guy Gugliotta, *New York Times*, April 3, 2012, D 1.
7. *Hartford Courant*, September 10, 1900, 3.
8. *Hartford Courant*, November 12, 1900, 3.

The Dodge Family in Historical Fiction: *The Beloved Invader*

Eugenia Price's 1965 novel *The Beloved Invader* was inspired by the story of Rev. Anson Green Phelps Dodge Jr., who married in 1880 his first cousin Ellen Ada Phelps Dodge, the eighteen-year-old daughter of Rev. D. Stuart Dodge and his wife Ellen. His bride's death in India on their honeymoon trip around the world spurred the young man to become an Episcopal minister and to rebuild Christ Church, desecrated by Union troops on St. Simons Island, Georgia, in Ellen's memory.

Continued from page three.

Dodge's estate and the properties that two of his sons owned by that time. The reporter marveled,

Driving about, one comes to the vast estate, two miles across, of the Rev. D. Stuart Dodge, known as "Bushy Hill" and extending from Talcott Mountain to Stratton Brook. There are miles and miles of driveways [well-groomed carriage roads] on his property, shaded on either side by great trees that make so large a part of the beauty of the town, and much of the way over looking pleasant, shady dells full of fern fronds and masses of bright hued wild flowers. On a hill overlooking the hundreds of acres stands the magnificent Dodge mansion. Everything that wealth and taste can do has been done to make a perfect home, and its spacious walls are always full of guests of the master, who is now there; his mother, Mrs. William E. Dodge of New York, is also at Bushy Hill.

It rarely happens that a man of so wholly estimable a character is the possessor of such vast riches and power as the Rev. D. Stuart Dodge. So generous and benevolent that there is simply no limit to his kindness toward the worthy unfortunate, thoughtful and considerate of everyone about him and unbounded in the peculiar attributes of fatherhood, it is a small wonder that the name of D. Stuart Dodge never fails to inspire love and admiration whenever it is spoken, whether it be among friends, servants or casual beneficiaries.

The article also states that the oldest of Rev. Dodge's sons, Walter Phelps Dodge, had just built a showplace home near his father's. This English-style mansion is described in a later newspaper article as having sixteen bedrooms while his father's house had twenty.¹⁶

According to the 1894 article, Rev. Dodge's twenty-one-year-old son, Francis "Frank" Phelps Dodge, who had just completed his sophomore year at Yale, was building onto one of his houses. "[It is] a handsome house, a combination of old and new – that is, enough of the old mansion is left to be treasured as a bit of antiquity. This is in a pretty part of Weatogue," the reporter wrote. It was here that Frank Dodge lived for a time after he had to discontinue his studies because of poor health. A Yale alumni publication reported that he suffered from rheumatism, while a history of the Dodge family says that he had multiple sclerosis.¹⁷ He was cared for by a valet, cook, maid and coachman, all of them Swedish, according to the 1900 U.S. Census. This house (now the Linden House bed and breakfast at 288/290 Hopmeadow Street) was south of Rev. and Mrs. Croft's home, with just the Hartford Road and former Pettibone Tavern in between.¹⁸ (At the time, the tavern building was the summer home of Hartford resident Appleton H. Hillyer, who founded Hillyer Institute, now the University of Hartford.)

The same 1894 *Hartford Courant* article reported on another house that this son owned in Weatogue,

Frank Phelps Dodge is a young man of modest and retiring character and in his quiet way is constantly following in the footsteps of his father in doing good. He has been instrumental, together with his cousin, Miss Grace Dodge of New York, famous for her efforts to better the condition of working girls, in establishing a home "Woodside" where tired teachers who cannot afford a summer's outing can go and rest.

"Woodside," formerly known as the Deacon Wilcox place, was purchased by Frank Phelps Dodge and turned over to Miss Grace Dodge, who sees that ten teachers at a time are entertained at the pretty cottage. A bright young woman, a New York teacher, Mrs. Franklin, is the "house-mother," and flits busily about, looking after the comfort of the sweet-faced girls in her charge. The cottage is very prettily fitted up and artistically adorned. Each room is named, and the apt little "house-mother" has with her brush and palette designated the apartments poetically; thus, one room has over the door the legend "Sunrise," another "Sunset," etc. Above the fireplaces in the different rooms one reads appropriate mottoes admirably lettered.¹⁹



**Simsbury Free Library
Board of Trustees**

James P. Flynn
Chairman

Tara D. Willerup
Vice-Chairman

Paul F. McAlenney
Secretary

Martin Geitz
Treasurer

Richard Schoenhardt

Mary Jane Springman

Arthur House

Thomas J. Donohue

Jennifer McKeen

David Richman

Grace Hoadley Dodge (1856-1914) was the daughter of Rev. Dodge's older brother, William Earl Dodge Jr, and a lifelong New Yorker whose family home was on Murray Hill at 262 Madison Avenue. Grace Dodge remained single and devoted her life to one good cause after another. At the time that this newspaper article appeared, Miss Dodge was thirty-eight years old and, though schooled by tutors and not formally educated beyond a couple of years at Miss Porter's School in Farmington, she had demonstrated impressive executive skills. J. Pierpont Morgan once said of her, "She had the finest business brain in the United States, not excepting any man."²⁰

From experience gained in New York's Kitchen Garden movement, which used kindergarten methods to train young girls in New York's slums basic domestic skills, she founded a Working Girls Society that became the Association of Working Girls' Societies, then she was instrumental in forming the Industrial Education Association, then the New York College for the Training of Teachers, which soon became Teachers College of Columbia University. During the summer of 1894, the new building for this college was being erected on Morningside Heights in Manhattan.

Grace Dodge retained the unpaid position of treasurer of Teachers College for most of the rest of her life and raised the funds necessary to keep this and all her projects afloat. George W. Vanderbilt was the most generous contributor to Teachers College in its earliest days. Miss Dodge asked for no recognition for her own large contributions, often saying that she had received funds from an anonymous lady in the West.²¹ Only those closest to her would guess that this lady was the Phelps-Dodge "Copper Queen" mine in Bisbee, Arizona, from which she received a share of profits.

While leading the drive for professional training for teachers, Miss Dodge also championed recreation reform, which must have been her motive for opening a summer home for teachers in Weatogue. She once wrote, "The street claims hundreds, the cheap dance halls, theaters and concerts offer attractions to hundreds more, while many sit at home in morbid despondency, feeling forsaken, lonely and sad."²² Miss Dodge also applied her organizational skills to link disparate Travelers Aid societies into one international organization. This society was especially helpful to arriving immigrants and unaccompanied women who were often preyed upon by unscrupulous people posing as wanting to assist them.

In her fifties, she made peace between two factions trying to dominate the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and was elected its first national president. The men in the Dodge family, beginning with her grandfather, William E. Dodge Sr., were noteworthy contributors to the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).²³ In 1900 Miss Dodge's father, William Earl Dodge Jr., donated \$160,000 to erect Earl Hall on the Columbia University campus in memory of his late son and namesake. The building was meant to be used by the YMCA, which had Columbia college men volunteer in settlement houses around New York City.²⁴ When Rev. D. Stuart Dodge's youngest son, Clarence Phelps Dodge, spoke at the Weatogue Neighborhood House in 1907, his topic was YMCA work in the mining districts of Colorado.

Most relevant to the Weatogue Neighborhood House, Grace Hoadley Dodge played a prime role in founding the Riverdale Neighborhood House. In the 1850s, her family built their country home, Greyston, overlooking the Hudson River in the Riverdale section of the Bronx.²⁵ Her father, William E. Dodge Jr., also helped to found the Riverdale Presbyterian Church. Beginning with a lending library on the Dodge property for workers in the area, Grace Dodge eventually marshalled the members of the church into establishing the Riverdale Neighborhood House.²⁶ That vital community center and others like it surely provided an inspiration and model for Charles and Julia Croft's Weatogue Neighborhood House.

In the fall of 1894, Rev. D. Stuart Dodge sold his younger brother Arthur Murray Dodge (1852-1896) sixty acres in Weatogue, on which he built a grand summer home that he called Wanakawin, meaning Wigwam Place.²⁷ Arthur Dodge was at that time involved in the Phelps, Dodge & Company lumber operations in Ontario, Canada, being a director of the Georgian Bay Lumber Company.²⁸ His wife, the former

Josephine Jewell, was the daughter of Marshal Jewell (1825-1883), who had served two terms as the governor of Connecticut and who became the U.S. Consul to Russia and later the Postmaster General of the United States. The couple had six sons. One son had died at age three, and the others ranged in age from eighteen to eight when the family became summer residents in Weatogue. Arthur Dodge was fated to enjoy his new house for less than two years. He succumbed in 1896 at age forty-four to a kidney condition called at that time "Bright's Disease."

After a period of mourning, Josephine Jewell Dodge returned to the winter social scene in New York and lavished attention on her summer estate. A feature article in the *Hartford Courant* reported that Mrs. Dodge and her landscape gardeners had developed a rose garden rivaling the one in Hartford's Elizabeth Park. She kept dairy cows, as did Rev. Dodge, and also grain-fed chickens for the table and fresh eggs, as well as a few pigs for smoking in her smoke house.²⁹

Mrs. Dodge's philanthropic work centered on providing day care for children of working mothers in the crowded tenements of New York. She became a recognized leader of the Day Nursery Movement and in 1890 opened the Jewell Day Nursery at 20 MacDougal Street; then in 1902 she helped to found the Hope Day Nursery for Colored Children.³⁰ Initially there are a few mentions of Mrs. Dodge supporting projects at the Weatogue Neighborhood House, but she soon found herself on the opposite side from Rev. Croft when the issue of women's right to vote began to surface.

In 1911 the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage was formed at a meeting in the living room of Mrs. Dodge's New York home. Rev. Croft, on the other hand, earnestly supported giving women the vote. He almost always attended the pro-suffrage meetings in Simsbury, which were often held in Antoinette Eno Wood's summer home.³¹ He could tell those gathered about entertaining Elizabeth Cady Stanton when she came in January 1870 to speak about "The Women's Question" at Simsbury's Congregational Church.³² At least one pro-suffrage meeting was held in the Neighborhood House, in December 1916.

One gathering that would never have taken place in the Weatogue Neighborhood house was one that featured alcoholic beverages. Rev. John B. McLean wrote in 1895 that Bushy Hill was "a *bushy* hill no longer." He commented, "Her ill-kept farms, where men often failed in the struggle with nature because of the heavy tribute paid to 'King Alcohol,' have come into the possession of the Rev. D. Stuart Dodge, and Messrs. Arthur, Norman, and Walter Phelps Dodge, the sons and grandson of William E. Dodge."³³ William E. Dodge Sr. was a founder of the National Temperance Society and Publishing House in 1865 and its first president. His son Rev. Dodge served as the president of that group from 1903 until his death. It should also be noted that one of the country's earliest temperance groups, "The Aquatic Society," was organized in Simsbury in 1805 by Cambel Humphry and Benjamin Ely.³⁴

In the decades before the Eighteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution went into effect in January 1920, thereby instituting national Prohibition, the issue of whether or not to allow the sale of alcohol in Simsbury was often put before the town's all-male voters at the October annual meeting. There were several periods during which Simsbury was a "no license" town, meaning that no one could obtain a license to sell liquor in any form. Horace Belden, one of the town's most generous philanthropists, closed down the successful distillery on Hop Brook that he had inherited as his statement against alcohol.³⁵ However, an 1886 report disclosed that the three distilleries in operation in the town had produced in the previous year 15,738 gallons of cider brandy.³⁶

Even when the townspeople voted "license," they wanted the sale of liquor limited to one part of the town. When word spread that a new building on the West Simsbury Road was going to be used as a liquor-serving club rather than as a grocery store as first thought, the building's owner and his lawyer got a surprise when they appeared at the county commissioners office in Hartford to apply for a liquor license. According

to the *Farmington Valley Herald*,

...they found a large portion of the residents of Simsbury from Hop Meadow streets and the sections of the town about the proposed saloon present, to protest against a license being granted, and they prudently withdrew their application. It seems to be an unwritten law in Simsbury that no license will be tolerated in any part of the town but Tariffville and only two licenses in that section, one a hotel and the other a saloon.³⁷

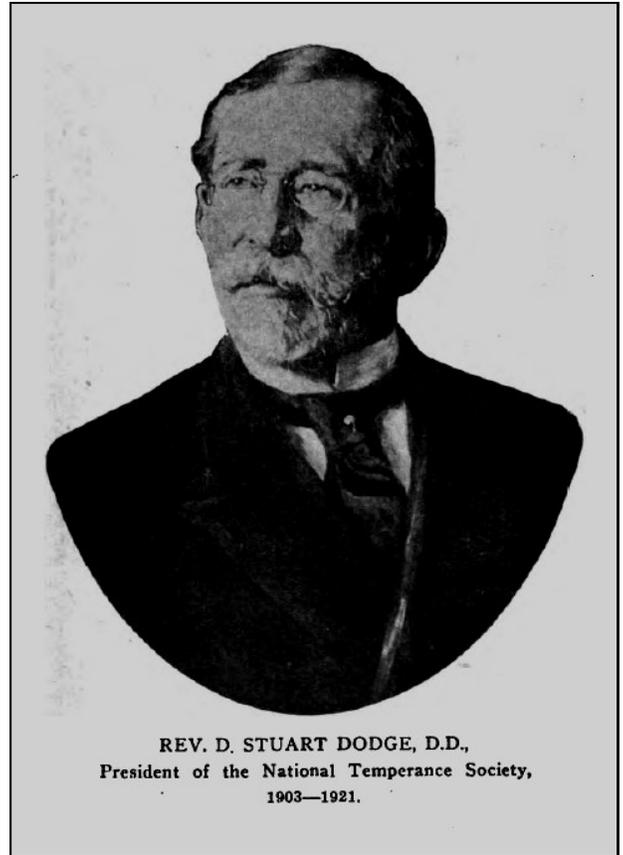
The places to which the article referred were the Tunxis House and Pinney's Saloon in Tariffville. The newspapers of the day also reported about beer wagons coming from Hartford into the Farmington Valley. Providing alcohol-free social events at the Neighborhood House was in keeping with the lifestyle that Rev. Croft and his great supporter Rev. Dodge, the president of a national temperance organization, would want to encourage.

The last of the Rev. Dodge's brothers to join him in Simsbury was Norman White Dodge (1846-1907). He built the grand house called Nassahegan that once stood near the intersection of Bushy Hill and Stratton Brook Roads, at that time called Four Corners. Norman Dodge was deeply involved with the Phelps, Dodge & Company's lumber operations. On the death of his father in 1883 he became the head of the Georgia Land & Lumber Company, which owned 300,000 acres of timberland. The State of Georgia had created a new county that encompassed the land and named it Dodge County; one of the new towns in the county was called Normandale. The Dodges, with their partners, built several lumber mills, which together were said to be able to cut over a million feet of lumber a year. The most noted of these were the mills on Gascoigne Bluff on St. Simons Island, Georgia. At the time it was the third largest lumber mill operation in the world. Buyers came from all over Europe, Russia and South America. Lumber from these Georgia mills was used in the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge.³⁸

The lumber business was not without serious problems. Local people challenged the company's right to the land in Dodge County in court and when that didn't go well, conspirators resorted in 1890 to assassinating the company's agent, Capt. John C. Forsyth, in his home in Normandale. Two years later, the mill in that town burned down.³⁹

By Mary Jane Springman

This account of the people who supported and who were served by the Weatogue Neighborhood House will continue in the Fall issue.



REV. D. STUART DODGE, D.D.,
President of the National Temperance Society,
1903—1921.

Notes

1. Abigail Eno Ellsworth, comp., *A Record of the History of Some of the Old Homes of Simsbury*, unpublished study done in 1936 in connection with Simsbury's celebration of Connecticut's Tercentenary, 219.
2. John E. Ellsworth, *Simsbury: Being a Brief Historical Sketch of Ancient and Modern Simsbury, 1642-1935* (Simsbury: The Simsbury Committee for the Tercentenary, 1935), 147.
3. Mary Winslow, "The Connecticut Forestry Association: Short History of the Organization that is Promoting the Cause of Forestry in Connecticut," *Forestry and Irrigation*, vol. 11, no. 7, July 1905, 305 (Google Books)

4. *Hartford Courant*, December 31, 1896, 4.
5. The Alexander Phelps House is on the west side of Bushy Hill Road on the Ethel Walker School property. See Abigail Eno Ellsworth, 264-65.
6. Phyllis B. Dodge, *Tales of the Phelps-Dodge Family: A Chronicle of Five Generations* (New York: New-York Historical Society, 1987), 142.
7. Brian VanDeMark, *American Sheikhs: Two Families, Four Generations, and the Story of America's Influence in the Middle East* (Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2012), 46.
8. Phyllis B. Dodge, 144.
9. Website of the American University of Beirut: <http://www.aub.edu.lb/main/about/Pages/history.aspx>
10. Simsbury Town Records (STR), 50:200. On June 1, 1880, William Walter Phelps and his wife for \$1 transferred to Ellen Phelps Dodge, Mr. Phelps's sister, "all that portion of the old homestead, a farm in Simsbury" that was left to Phelps by his father John Jay Phelps in his will. The deed states that Ellen and D. Stuart Dodge were then residents of Columbia, South Carolina.
11. *Hartford Daily Courant*, November 21, 1882, 2.
12. This house is now the Simsbury 1820 House, 731 Hopmeadow Street.
13. *New York Times*, April 29, 1903, 9.
14. *Hartford Daily Courant*, July 24, 1883, 4. This is the first Bartlett Tower, not the later one built above Tariffville.
15. *New York Times*, June 16, 1901, 38.
16. *Hartford Courant*, May 24, 1914, Z5. The Spring / Summer 2011 issue of this publication tells how William M. Ketchin oversaw the construction of this house in 1892 and gives a brief biography of Walter Phelps Dodge.
17. Clarence S. Day Jr., comp., *Decennial Record of the Class of 1896* (New York: De Vinne Press, 1907), 667; Phyllis B. Dodge, 146.
18. Rev. and Mrs. Charles P. Croft lived at 332 Hopmeadow Street. The Pettibone Tavern is now Abigail's Grille and Wine Bar on the corner of Hopmeadow Street and Hartford Road.
19. The house called "the Deacon Wilcox place" for its late owner, Deacon Thomas J. Wilcox, is at 15 Stratton Brook Road. This property was bounded on the east by the property that became the Neighborhood House in 1905.
20. Abbie Graham, *Grace H. Dodge: Merchant of Dreams* (New York: The Women's Press, 1926), 328. Most of the information about Grace Hoadley Dodge is taken from this biography.
21. Frederick Paul Keppel lists contributions to Teachers College of Columbia University from Grace H. Dodge totaling \$575,000 or somewhat over \$14 million in today's dollars. Frederick Paul Keppel, *Columbia* (New York: Oxford University Press, American College and University Series, 1914), 283. (Google Books)
22. Grace Dodge, "Working Girls Societies." *Chautauquan* 9 (January 1889), 223; as quoted in *Cheap Amusements: Working Women and Leisure in Turn-of-the-Century New York* by Kathy Lee Peiss (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1986), 164.
23. D. Stuart Dodge, *Memorials of William E. Dodge* (New York: Anson D. F. Randolph and Company, 1887), 233.
24. Koppel, 174, 281-82.
25. The Dodge family donated Greyston to Teachers College of Columbia University in 1961, but the university has since sold it. The 14,000-square-foot High Victorian Gothic style stone house at 690 W. 247th Street was designed by James Renwick Jr., who also designed St. Patrick's Cathedral.
26. Kenneth Jackson, et al, *Encyclopedia of New York City*, 2nd edition (New Haven: Yale University; New York: New-York Historical Society, 2010); Website of the Riverdale Neighborhood House: www.riverdaleonline.org/about-us/history. The Riverdale Neighborhood House moved in the 1930s to 5521 Mosholu Avenue.
27. Nancy Dunnan and Pauline Dodge, *The Jewells and the Dodges: An American Saga, 1635-1928*, (New York: The Jewell Trust, 1987), 187.
28. *Report of the Secretary of the State of Canada for the Year Ended 31st December 1893* (Ottawa: S. E. Dawson, Printer, 1894), 25. (Google Books)
29. *Hartford Courant*, July 5, 1914, X2.
30. Dunnan and Dodge, 134-142.
31. See note 12. Amos F. Eno, oldest son of Amos R. Eno, inherited the house upon his father's death in 1898 and leased it to his younger sister, Antoinette Eno Wood, with the right of lifetime occupancy.
32. *Hartford Courant*, January 29, 1870, 4.

Simsbury Free Library Updates

Come to read the letters that Simsbury soldier George L. Hall sent home from France during World War I before he was killed in action on October, 28, 1918, at the age of twenty-one. The letters are full of descriptions of life in the trenches as well as references to events in Simsbury at that time. Copies of the forty-four letters, newspaper clippings and other documents are on display in a fine leather binder. They are now part of the library's permanent collection, thanks to Hall's grandnephew, Joe Hall, who has generously donated the materials. The Hall family has farmed the same land on Terry's Plain Road since 1860.

The portrait of Julia Ensign Darling (1878-1943) painted by noted artist Albert Herter (1871-1950) has been given to the library by Mrs. Darling's granddaughter Elizabeth Darling White and her husband George C. White. Caleb Ensign White presented the oil painting to the library on behalf of his parents, along with funds for its care. Art restoration specialist David Kimball donated his services to repair some minor damage and the portrait now hangs in the library. Julia Ensign Darling was the granddaughter of Joseph Toy, founder of what became the Ensign-Bickford Company. She and her husband, Robert Darling, a former chairman of the company, built the brick home that now contains medical offices at 720 Hopmeadow Street.

The library is indebted to Richard Lawrence for donating the volume *The History of Cass County, Michigan* by Alfred Mathews (Chicago: Waterman, Watkins & Co, 1882).

Judy Regan has our thanks for donating *Genealogy of the Dodge Family of Essex County Massachusetts and Allied Families* by Robert Livingston Dodge (Lakewood, Colorado: The Dodge Family Association, 1998).

Nancy Poole has donated *A Description of the Country: Virginia's Cartographers and Their Maps, 1607-1881* by E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra [which has a portfolio of large facsimiles of eight maps from the period] (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1975); *Mayflower Descendants and their Marriages for Two Generations After the Landing*, 2nd ed. (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Military and Civic Achievement, 1922); several guides to researching ancestors in Pennsylvania; *The Emory Family*, Judith E Burns, ed. (October 1984) and *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*, 2nd ed. by Val D. Greenwood. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, Inc., 1990). She has also given periodicals published by the New England Historical and Genealogical Society, including recent issues of the *NEHG Register*, *American Ancestors* and *New England Ancestors*.

In addition, Mrs. Poole has given *Research Outline: England* (Salt Lake City Utah: Family History Library, n.d.); *Reading Tudor and Stuart Handwriting* by Lionel Munby (Chichester, Sussex: Phillimore for British Association for Local History, 1988); and *Clan History: Campbell of Breadalbane, Colquhoun, Duncan, Maclachlan* (Baddeck, Nova Scotia: Gaelic College Foundation, n.d.). [Swatches of tartan plaid fabric are included.] We at the library appreciate the gift of these very useful materials.

-
33. Rev. John B. McLean, "Simsbury," *The Connecticut Quarterly*, vol. 1, no. 2, April, May, June 1895, 147. For a biography of Rev. McLean, see the Spring 2008 issue of this publication.
 34. *Standard Encyclopedia of the Alcohol Problem*, vol. 6, Ernest Hurst Cherrington, ed. (Westerville, Ohio: American Issue Pub. Co., 1930) 2439-43. (Google Books)
 35. For a biography of Horace Belden, see the Fall 2006 issue of this publication.
 36. *Hartford Courant*, July 7, 1886, 4. The entire state produced 100,994 gallons of cider brandy.
 37. *Farmington Valley Herald*, November 6, 1914, 6.
 38. Carlton A. Morrison, *Running the River: Poleboats, Steamboats & Timber Rafts on the Altamaha, Ocmulegee, Oconee & Ohoopee* (St. Simons Island, Georgia: Saltmarsh Press, 2003), 112-135.
 39. Morrison, 116-133.

Come to Celebrate Gifford Pinchot's 150th Birthday!

With Birthday Cake....

Tuesday, August 11, 2015 ~ 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Stop by the library and enjoy a free piece of birthday cake in celebration of the 150th birthday of Gifford Pinchot. Born in Simsbury on August 11, 1865, at his Eno grandparents' summer home (now the Simsbury 1820 House, 731 Hopmeadow Street), Gifford Pinchot went on to cofound the Yale School of Forestry and became the first Chief of the U.S. Forestry Service. Pinchot was conservation advisor to President Theodore Roosevelt and served two separate terms as Governor of Pennsylvania. Simsbury's Pinchot Sycamore tree was named in honor of Gifford Pinchot in 1965.

With the Pinchot Sycamore Art Contest....

The library is sponsoring a contest to find the best artwork portraying Simsbury's Pinchot Sycamore tree. Children and teens living or attending school in Simsbury are invited to join in the competition. Prizes will be awarded in two categories: Children (12 and younger) and Teens (13-18). Prizes in each category are \$25 for first place, \$15 for second place, and \$10 for third place.

Submissions must be original and can be in the form of paintings, drawings, collage (must be two-dimensional), prints, mixed media, computer generated art, or photography. Competing artists may drop off their artwork during the library's regular hours, with a completed release form affixed to the back. Release forms are available at the library or online at www.simsburyfreelibrary.org. **The deadline to deliver submissions is September 1.**

The artwork will be displayed from September 8 to 26. There will be an open house on Thursday, September 17 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. to honor the artists. Winners will be announced at 6:30 p.m.

FIRST CLASS

SIMSBURY FREE LIBRARY
Simsbury Genealogical and Historical Research Library
749 Hopmeadow Street • P.O. Box 484
Simsbury, CT 06070
860 408-1336 E-mail: info@simsburyfreelibrary.org
Website: www.simsburyfreelibrary.org
Hours : Tuesday & Thursday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Second & Fourth Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
And by appointment Closed major holidays.
Mary Jane Springman, Editor, SFL Quarterly

