

Woodstock Recorder[®]



Tercentenary Edition

APRIL 1986

\$2.00

A Word About the Woodstock Recorder

We are sending a free copy of the **Woodstock Recorder**, Tercentenary Edition, to every residence and post office boxholder in Woodstock.

In this newspaper you will find details of official activities of Woodstock's Tercentenary year. We have also included news of Tercentenary projects planned by private organizations, articles by town residents on subjects related to Woodstock's history, as well as photographs, drawings and prints. All of these materials have been contributed by volunteers.

An all-volunteer staff has assembled the **Woodstock Recorder** through every stage of writing, editing, typesetting and layout. The Tercentenary Newspaper Committee is proud of the result.

We are also grateful for the assistance of so many townspeople in sharing information, welcoming us into their homes, and contributing original material.

Our January printer's deadline has meant inevitable date changes, additions or cancellations after the **Woodstock Recorder's** publication in April. For some activities, Fourth of July festivities among them, plans were still in preliminary stages as we went to press, and we were unable to include details.

Please check area newspapers and other publications or call the Town Hall for up-to-date information through the year.

Additional copies of the **Woodstock Recorder** will be available for \$2.00 per copy at the Town Hall, with profits to benefit Tercentenary activities.

Woodstock Celebrates 300th Anniversary

Woodstock's 300 years, from the town's establishment as the Massachusetts Bay Colony wilderness settlement to New Roxbury in 1686, to its 1986 status as a rural Connecticut community, will be the focus of a seven-month celebration to begin this month and continue through November.

With the theme of "Heritage and Horizons — Woodstock Remembers 300 years," the official Tercentenary celebration has already involved hundreds of townspeople in two years of planning. The Rev. James Harrison, Chairman of the 40-member Tercentenary Committee appointed by town selectmen in 1984, says his committee hopes the wide range of activities scheduled will "touch every corner of Woodstock culturally and physically".

In addition, a number of organizations in town have cooperated with the committee to sponsor official projects or have planned their own activities in honor of the town's 300th year.

Funding for official events has come from a town grant, donations from individuals and businesses, and profits from a variety of fundraising projects sponsored by the Tercentenary Committee and other groups.

Outlining the year's events, Harrison expressed satisfaction with the cross section of volunteers and their desire "to celebrate Woodstock - what we have here and what we will leave for future generations."

Opening ceremonies and placement of a historical marker at the Town Hall on Sunday, April 13, will begin the official celebration. Adding a festive tone to the first month, the Rose Petal Ball on Saturday, April 19, will feature dinner, dancing to live music and a drawing for a

trip for two to Woodstock, England, and other door prizes.

The most comprehensive official event will be the Tercentenary Exhibition, scheduled for Saturday, July 19, through Sunday, August 3, at the Woodstock Academy Fieldhouse. The exhibition will amass hundreds of artifacts from the town's 300 years, as well as an archaeological exhibit containing, among other items, Native American precolonial artifacts discovered in Woodstock and collected over almost a half century by a town resident.

Exhibition displays, to be arranged thematically, will chronicle the unique position of Woodstock and northeastern Connecticut, where ten or more generations have experienced society's changes against a backdrop of continuity unique in American history.

With participation of several families having direct lines to the town's beginnings, Exhibition Committee members have located what they believe are invaluable sources of local and national history. Personal artifacts, many lent by the early settlers' direct descendants who still live in this area, provide a continuing intimate view of rural American life since the early 18th century.

Assisted by the Woodstock Historical Society, the Exhibition Committee plans to publish an extensive catalogue of Exhibition items as a record of artifacts preserved as of 1986 from the town's history. The catalogue will be on sale at the Exhibition.

Other official events planned for 1986 include placement of historical markers at six locations around town between April and October, a tour of gardens at Roseland Cottage and several private

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Gala Rose Petal Ball to Begin Festivities

A gala celebration of the town's 300th birthday will bring citizens of Woodstock together for the Rose Petal Ball on Saturday, April 19th, 1986.

Open to the public at \$35 per couple, the event will take place in the Woodstock Academy Fieldhouse, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., with tickets and reservations by advance sale.

A highlight of the evening will be the drawing for a trip for two to Woodstock, England, and other door prizes. The ball will also feature a buffet dinner and dancing to the music of the Dick Campo Orchestra.

Anyone purchasing a ticket to the Rose Petal Ball will be eligible to win the trip to Woodstock,

England, and other door prizes, including a trip for two to Woodstock, Vermont, bed and breakfast for two at the Samuel McClellan House on the South Woodstock Common, dinner for two at Bald Hill Restaurant, a limited edition Tercentenary plate by Woodstock Pottery, and a Tercentenary bag filled with souvenir items.

The Tercentenary Committee has sent special invitations to dignitaries from the ten-town area and the state.

For information on ticket reservations, call Jeanette Werstler, Rose Petal Ball Chairwoman at 928-2200. Proceeds from ticket sales will help to finance other Tercentenary activities.

Tercentenary Exhibition Set For Summer

For two weeks this summer, Woodstock residents and visitors will have the chance to become time travelers. From July 19 to August 3, the Woodstock Academy Fieldhouse will house the Woodstock Tercentenary Exhibition and become, in effect, a giant time machine that transports all who enter back into the past to explore 300 years of the town's social, cultural and economic history.

The celebration of Woodstock's history is not a new idea, as the town has traditionally reviewed and redefined its history in 50 or 100-year intervals.

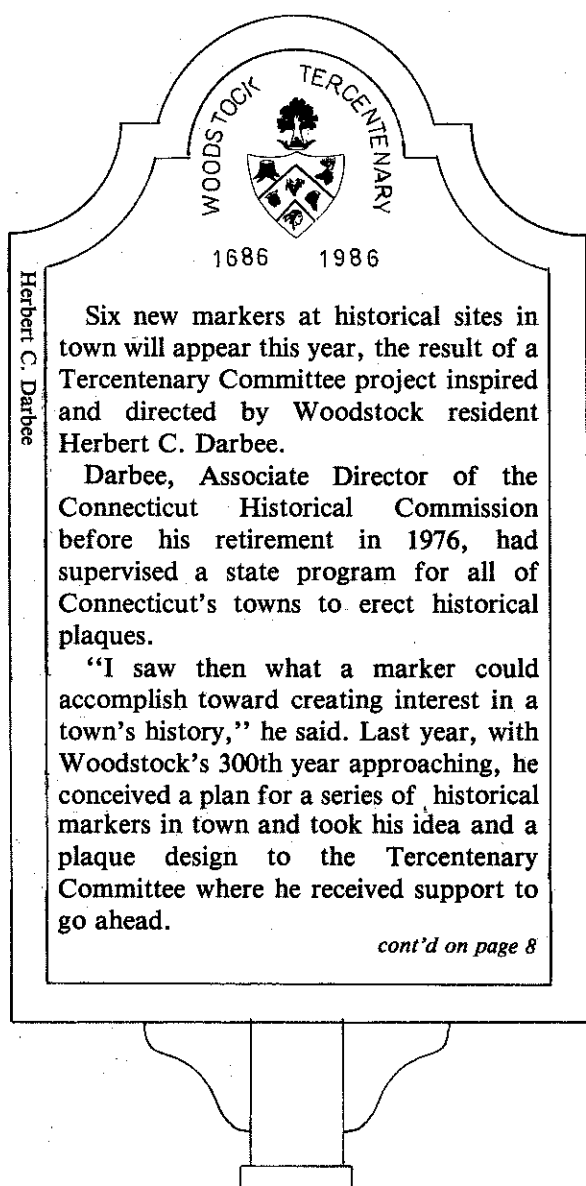
This year's exhibition will be similar to the one organized in 1886 for Woodstock's Bicentennial celebration when individuals brought hundreds of items for display.

For the Tercentenary Exhibition, volunteers and professionals have joined over the past two years in a project to locate and organize items around ten themes: textiles, Native Americans, agriculture, industry, communications/transportation, professions/crafts, religion, immigrants, education and natural history.

The ten themes, explained Exhibition Committee Chairman Schuyler Bridgman, will allow visitors to follow the relationship between continuity and change throughout Woodstock's history.

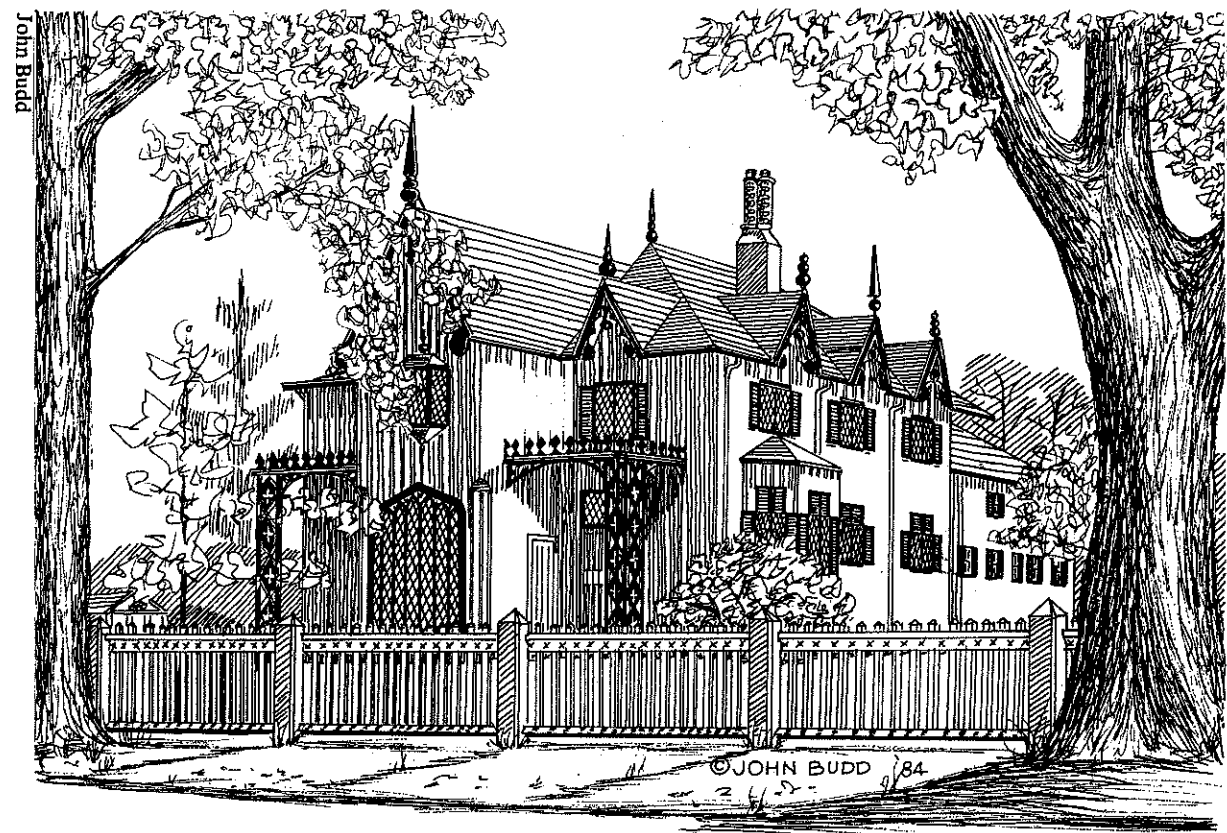
"People still farm . . . and manufacturing continues in Woodstock," added Bridgman. "But the way in which we farm and the products we manufacture are very different from 300 years ago."

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Herbert C. Darbee

cont'd on page 8



Roseland Cottage

Roseland Cottage to Recreate Bowen's 1886 Garden Party

If Henry Chandler Bowen were to celebrate the Fourth of July at Roseland Cottage in 1886, it would surely be a media event.

This July 3, Roseland Cottage will host an evening garden party to recreate the famous Independence Day receptions Bowen used to have in the 1800's.

The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, current owner of the "Pink House," will host the event as part of Woodstock's anniversary celebration and will donate profits to the Tercentenary Committee.

While Bowen's events were "card receptions" (by written invitation only), their 1986 counterpart will be open to the public with an admission fee.

Brown notes that some of the same lanterns described with flourish in the *Patriot* of 1886 will be used for the public reception on July 3.

The *Patriot's* reporter seemed impressed with Bowen's elaborate decorations:

"The house inside was handsomely decorated with flowers in every part, while were seen in all directions scores of American flags, small and great, over the doors, windows, mantles, pictures and apparently in every nook and corner of the house.

"...The entire grounds and a large portion of the park in front of Roseland were decorated with flags and illuminated with Chinese and unique colored glass lanterns and street lamps..."

A Woodstock native and descendant of the first settlers of Woodstock, Henry Bowen left town in 1834, at the age of 21 to seek his fortune in the silk and dry goods importing business.

He had helped in the dry goods store his father operated in a section of their home on Woodstock Hill. The family lived in Sunset Tavern, which is still located near the Woodstock Academy next to where Bracken Memorial Library now stands.

After moving to Brooklyn, New York, Bowen eventually became publisher of the Congregationalist newspaper, the *Independent*.

Local Garden Tour Planned

Several of Woodstock's private gardens will be featured in a late spring tour on June 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tour coordinator Arleen Bradley, whose garden of 18th century herbs and plants on Old Hall Road will be part of the tour, said a number of Woodstock residents have agreed to allow the public to view their gardens as part of the official Tercentenary celebration.

Also on Old Hall Road, the home and garden of Margaret McClellan Tourtellotte will be open for the tour. Known as "Old Hall," a section of the McClellan home is one of Woodstock's earliest buildings and has been owned by the McClellan family since the 1700's.

On Woodstock Hill, according to Bradley, visitors will have the chance to tour the formal gardens of Roseland Cottage and the extensive floral plantings in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. James Milnor's residence.

Other properties opened to the public that day are the grounds of Linemaster Switch Corporation and the private gardens at the home of Mrs. Nancy B. Simonds. Mr. and Mrs. Alan Houghton will open the Cornucopia Crafts Shop and herb and flower gardens at their home on Dugg Hill Road.

Bradley added that she is still contacting residents about including their gardens on the tour and expects a variety of properties from all sections of town to be added to the list by June 7.

Tickets for the tour are \$5.00 each. A rain date had not been determined by publication date.

Tercentenary Firsts

Woodstock's first Tercentenary baby was Tiffany Monique Germain, daughter of David and Thelma Germain. Born on January 3, 1986, at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, Tiffany was also the first baby of the region in 1986.

Clayton Luther Triick, whose parents, Joyce and William Triick, are involved in Tercentenary Committee projects, was Woodstock's first male baby of 1986. He was born on January 5 at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge.

State Celebrates 350 Years

-Excerpt from *The Hartford Courant's* editorial of October 11, 1985, reprinted with permission.

... This year's celebration of our heritage is not the first such gala the state has seen. Fifty years ago, Connecticut's historic tercentenary helped lift spirits hard-worn by a brutal Depression. It began with a grand parade in Hartford on April 26, 1935, to mark the day 299 years earlier when the General Court of Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield - Connecticut's first settlements - first met. It was the harbinger of constitutional government in America.

As was his habit, Gov. Wilber L. Cross at Thanksgivingtime in 1935 issued a proclamation, but this one had special poignance. "Especially during this year in the festivals of our founding," he said, "we have felt beside us the presence of souls unseen who have rendered the story of Connecticut worthy of grateful honor, and have entrusted to us its children in their patience, their courage, their faith, their charity, their work and the joy of their being."

"We have drawn closer the ties of blood and of neighborhood," he said. "We have been stirred afresh to love for this plot of earth that holds us as in the hollow of a hand; and to loyalty for the high aim, still hard beset, still strong and unyielding, to raise upon this earth a just, friendly, and enlightened community - the fairest of all our portions."

In 1985, Connecticut's 350th year, we could do no better than to keep and cherish our heritage, to recall our pioneering democratic roots, and to renew the pledge to make of the state - for all her people - as just and enlightened a haven as our collective ingenuity and compassion permit.

General George B. McClellan, who led the Union's Army of the Potomac in the Civil War, was a great-grandson of one of Woodstock's Revolutionary Army soldiers, Samuel McClellan, who also became a general.

THE ROSE BUD.

WOODSTOCK, CONN., TUESDAY, SEPT. 7, 1886.

GRAND FIREWORKS! ENTERPRISE

Everybody talking about the

GREAT MARK-DOWN SALE

OF FINE

CLOTHING,

Hats Caps and Gent's Furnish-

ing Goods at

CHURCH, THE CLOTHIER'S,

PUTNAM.

AN INDIGO BLUE SUIT for \$7.00. Just the thing for summer wear.

Burton's Shoe Store

IS THE PLACE TO GO FOR

BOOTS, SHOES & RUBBERS.

You will find a great assortment, receive polite attention and get the

MOST FOR YOUR MONEY

at any place in Windham county.

Call and Examine Goods

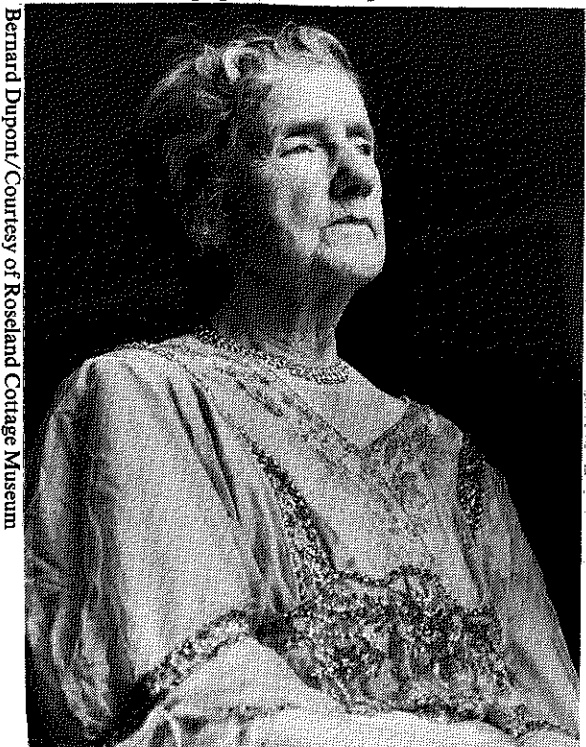
and prices, and you will be convinced that you can save money by buying your boots and shoes at

ROBERT H. BURTON,

3 Central Block, Putnam.

TERMS CASH! ONE PRICE.

Geo. E. Shaw & Co., Putnam, Conn.



Constance Holt (1879-1968), granddaughter of Henry Chandler Bowen and last family member to reside in Roseland Cottage.

Since he and his family always spent holidays and summer vacations in Woodstock, he commissioned English architect Joseph Collin Wells to design a summer residence, which was completed in 1846 and named Roseland Cottage.

Experts consider Roseland Cottage one of the most important examples of Gothic revival architecture in New England today. According to its administrator, the house ranks among the three most frequently visited of the 27 properties SPNEA owns.

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Courtesy of the Woodstock Historical Society

Grand Olde Ladies of Woodstock Hill



by Margaret McClellan

At the time when I came as a bride to this picture-postcard town 50 years ago, the stately mansions surrounding the Common were presided over by single ladies, either widowed or old maids, still in their prime.

They had a *joie de vivre* that made an afternoon tea party an event, a dinner party a state occasion, and a trip to Boston to the opera a social triumph. Their staffs of servants, culled from second-generation Swedish settlers in Woodstock, were impeccable as cooks, maids, gardeners and chauffeurs.

The ladies' lineage, notoriety, and wealth acquired in two generations were quite dazzling, so they had the unquestioned position of a Christian holding four aces. But chiefly they were fun.

The Queen Mother, so to speak, by virtue of her age, was Mrs. Grace Aspinwal Hardy, Henry Bowen's daughter, who lived in the natural-shingled brown mansion on the south end of the street across from what is now Woodstock Orchards. Her husband, Arthur Sherbourne Hardy, had been head of the American Archeological Institute in Greece, a position of great prestige because of the digs that were going on in the Near East in the early 1900's.

I had scarcely unpacked my trousseau when Mrs. Hardy sent her chauffeur with an invitation to lunch inscribed on grey-lined stationery.

True gentlewomen always put the young at ease, and finding myself in her home and surrounded with furnishings from the Near East, I lost no time in announcing that I had been born in Jerusalem. Even my slipping on the highly polished floor could not undo a tie that binds as strongly as that.

People said that Mrs. Hardy had a morning wig for running in to Putnam for shopping, another for afternoons, and a very special one for state occasions. She was a bit on the rotund side, so her clothes were cut to flow. She wasn't beautiful, but she was distinguished.



"People said that Mrs. Hardy had a morning wig for running in to Putnam for shopping, another for afternoons, and a very special one for state occasions..."

I loved her and suffered her loss when she died in 1940, much too soon, though she was in her nineties.

Mrs. Hardy's mansion went to her niece, Lucy Lythgoe, whose husband was also of the Institute in Greece. He had been one of the group who in 1920 discovered the tomb of King Tut-anh-a-men in the Valley Tombs near Luxor, Egypt.

Every one of the discoverers had died mysteriously after entering the tomb, so Lucy was widowed and spent many years in with the servants, carrying on the traditions of hospitality.

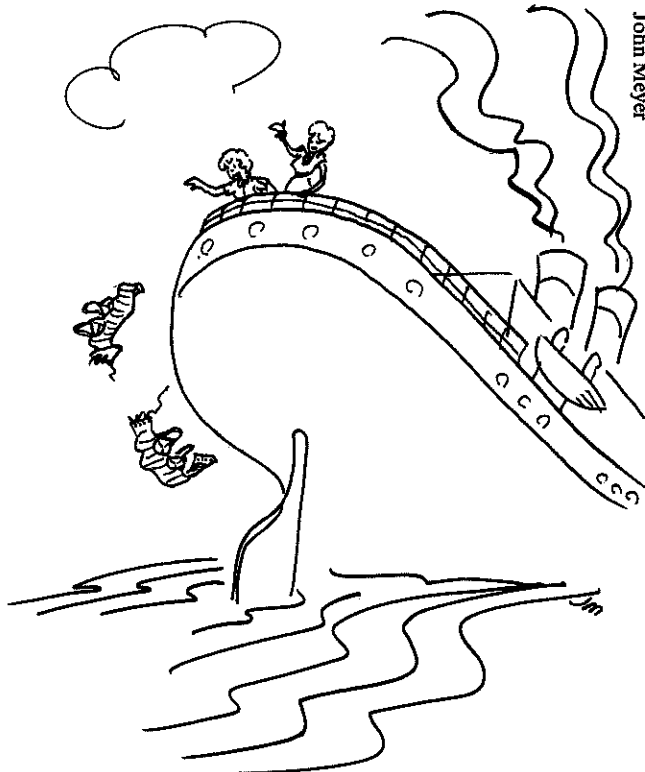
She spent her winters in London, making her crossing in the great Atlantic liners of the time, and taking trunks filled with her own silver and linens for gracious hospitality in her suite in one of London's prestigious hotels. Her hats alone required numerous hat boxes.

Many years later, when I was packing to go to a castle in Italy, Lucy had her chauffeur drive her down the street so she could "run in" to pack for me, using feather-stitched lawn cloths which she laid carefully between the layers so that things wouldn't mess and could be pulled out as needed without disturbance. I have kept these cloths carefully put away in loving memory of Lucy.

Lucy was a great golfer and used to coax her nephew George's wife, Dorina Holt, who lived

across the street, to go with her to Roseland Golf Course (bequeathed to the town by their family). On these rounds she suggested that they stop at the bench at the seventh hole for a rest. As they chatted she pointed out the ravine behind them with a running brook.

Her voice dropping to a whisper, she said, "Now, my dear, this is where we throw our corsets. When my cousin and I used to cross to Europe regularly, we would throw them overboard, and we do miss that opportunity. So we have hit on this spot as quite convenient, don't you think?"



"Now my dear, this is where we throw our corsets..."

Her niece agreed, visualizing the two ladies tiptoeing to the deck, peering carefully to right and left to assure themselves that the coast was clear, dashing to the rear railing, and sending the corsets sailing like great birds above the vessel's wake. The question I often pondered was — did the corsets ever get caught in the cross current and come sailing back to nestle in an unoccupied steamer chair, or better, in the lap of a poor seasick male passenger?

Lucy was a great talker and could regale her guests with amusing anecdotes, but as she aged, this social virtue gained speed until the talking was like a tape being respun on a recorder. It was such a travesty of her nobility that one's heart was filled with pity, even though the lilt was always there.

She spent her last Christmas in bed, surrounded by lavish bouquets of red roses.

When Lucy died, at age 94 in 1973, there was no niece or nephew to inherit the house. All of her priceless belongings were auctioned off to a public with little or no sense of their historic or sentimental value.



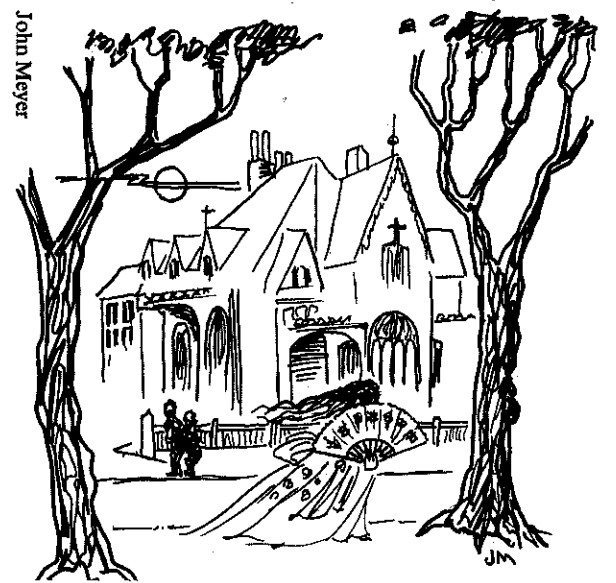
Mike Gilbert/Courtesy of James Milnor

Lucy's cousin, Dorothy Lincoln, in the yellow Federal house right next to Roseland Cottage and across the street from the First Congregational Church, had the distinction of a husband who was still alive, a great boon to me because he was a physician and brought me safely through two pregnancies.

Dorothy and he had a charming, oblique view of life, touching troubled waters like skipping stones. One Halloween she went flitting about alone among the shadows of trees and bushes on the Common, dressed in an exquisite butterfly Japanese dress and fluttering a giant fan before her face as a mask - this when she was in her sixties.

The one who really made a big thing of Halloween was Mrs. Carolyn Bowen, in the white mansion now known as the Richardson house, at the south end of the street. One of the men of the

family had found her when he was in the diplomatic service in Brazil, where she was known to her fellow Americans there as "Lamby".



"One Halloween she went flitting about alone among the shadows of trees and bushes on the Common, dressed in an exquisite butterfly Japanese dress and fluttering a giant fan before her face as a mask..."

The State Department had given him the choice of his career or Lamby. He chose her and in the 1930s brought her to Woodstock, where her unwonted beauty and flamboyance caused considerable disturbance of the peace. She liked men. It was as simple as that. And of course, they liked her.

After her husband gave up and died, she amused herself in various ways, among them making elegant candies for Halloween trick-or-treats. The children on their rounds, with mothers to mind them, would save Lamby's house for last. She would greet them at the door with a great display of alarm at their boggy-man costumes, welcome them into her elegant parlor with flourish, set them down and pump them for their life statistics, regale them with stories, and then fill their trick-or-treat bags with her handmade candy people that she had spent hours creating, and send them off into the night wiggling and squirming with delight.

Lamby's scandalous reign came to an inevitable end, the stately white mansion went to Gardiner Richardson, a cousin retired from diplomatic service, and his wife Dorothea.

Dorothea was very impressed with her rise in status from middle-class Toronto to European diplomatic posts. Informed of Lamby's Halloween traditions of hospitality, she prepared for the onslaught of troublesome children, braced herself for the ordeal, and greeting them curtly at the door, saying crisply, "Well, then, come in. Now, wipe your feet and follow me," leading them like foot troops to the kitchen. "Now," she said, "Help yourselves and don't be greedy."

Cowed, they took an apple, an orange, and a piece of fudge that hadn't "come", and followed their hostess in short order to the door, where she said a curt goodbye.

Whereupon one of the brighter boys turned, and, in a clear, ringing voice, said, "Mrs. Bowen was a lovely lady. Too bad she died."

Editor's Note: Margaret McClellan moved to town when she married a direct descendant of John McClellan, the seventeenth-century lawyer whose Woodstock office now stands in Old Sturbridge Village. She has written other memories of Woodstock in her book, "Winds of Change." Eliot Rock and Pulpit Rock are located on her family's land.

Did you know that Nathan Hale is the official Connecticut state hero?

Mountain Laurel is Connecticut's state flower.

The Connecticut state bird is the American Robin.

Connecticut has a state mineral, the garnet.

The European mantis is the Connecticut state insect and the sperm whale is the state animal.

Did you know that the USS Nautilus is our Connecticut state ship?

The Charter Oak is Connecticut's state tree.