Prominently located on an elevated site along the east side of Main Street, the Lewis-Miles House is set on a well-manicured lawn. The surrounding neighborhood, which lies at the north end of Farmington’s historic Main Street, comprises primarily eighteenth-and nineteenth-century residential architecture.
Capped with a hip roof, the Lewis-Miles House features a three-bay facade with centered gable. The central entry door is protected by a large, elaborate, balconied entry portico with classical columns and modillioned cornice. Above the entry is an ornate Palladian window. The facade also exhibits four symmetrically placed, full-height Ionic pilasters separating the bays. The one-over-one sash exhibit louvered shutters and projecting window crowns. An ornate modillioned cornice extends around the house beneath the eaves. Matching single-story porches extend from the north and south elevations. Note the hipped-roof dormers and projecting brick chimneys. Alterations include the enclosed second-story porch on the south elevation. An integral two-and-one-half story ell extends from the rear elevation.

The Lewis-Miles House has a most unusual history. The internal core of this elegant Colonial Revival-style house is actually an early-eighteenth-century farmhouse originally built along the east side of High Street. The original house was erected around 1710 by William Lewis on land he acquired from Isaac Moore (FLR 3:85). Lewis sold his homestead to his son, Isaac in 1716 (FLR 3:266). The next owner, Stephen Andruss, purchased the house and surrounding acreage in 1726 (FLR 4:332). The property was willed to Andruss's two sons, Eli and Timothy (FLR 20:385). In 1766 Timothy sold Eli "my half of the homelot formerly belonging to our honored father" (FLR 15:9). William Hart, Jr. owned the house between 1782 and 1794 (FLR 24:266, 30:328). The next owner, Josiah Huntington, owned the house for four years before selling it to Dr. Eli Todd in 1798 (FLR 33:296). A 1787 graduate of Yale, Todd established a small POx hospital in Farmington, at which he inoculated his patients. In 1819 he left Farmington to become the first superintendent of the Connecticut Retreat for the Insane in Hartford. It is believed that Dr. Todd was one of the first men to teach and practice psychiatry in the United States. In 1819 the house was sold to Dr. Asahel Thomson for $2000 (FLR 40:357). In 1860 Thomson's wife, Harriet sold the homestead to Isaac Miles (FLR 71:356). A native of Bristol, Miles (1825-1880) was a farmer. His wife, the former Rebecca Gallagher (1832-1914) was born in Belfast, Ireland. Miles willed the homestead to his wife and son, Frederick in 1881 (FPF 16:72). Almost twenty years later in 1899, Frederick and his mother sold the land to wealthy iron magnate, Alfred A. Pope "reserving to the grantor the option to remove the buildings on said premises on or before October 1, 1899" (FLR 71:426). Frederick did indeed move the house to a lot along the east side (see cont pg)

Sources:
of Main Street which he had purchased from Sarah L. Gruman (FLR 71:423). It was at this time the house was completely remodeled to its present Colonial Revival style appearance. Frederick Miles (1866-1921) was the seventh child of Isaac and Rebecca Miles. He attended Farmington schools as a boy and graduated from Williston Academy in 1882. He lived in the South for a number of years before returning to Farmington at the turn of the century. He was employed as the New England Sales Manager for R. & J. Dick Company, leather merchants. In 1920 Miles sold the house to Elbert L. Couch (FLR 79:185). The property has passed through a number of owners since that time.

One of the finest early twentieth-century homes in Farmington, the Lewis-Miles House is historically significant for its unusual background and association with numerous local families, particularly Dr. Eli Todd.
OWNER'S NAME  CLARK, WILLIAM D. AND EDITH A.

Garage & recreation house in rear of res. - 1950

ADDRESS:  37 Main Street

DATE BUILT:  ca 1720  FOR:  ?William Judd?

ARCHITECT

MASTER-BUILDER

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACME 56453-8P


REFERENCES:

"Farmington, Conn., 1906" p 29 the small house in the rear. "J. S. Rice" in Baker & Tilden Atlas, p 33

(over)
will dated 4/29/1898 Prob. Vol 26, p 94; Rice, Eliza from the estate of her first husband, Augustus Cowles by will dated 10/14/1850 recorded Prob. Rec. Vol. 11B p. 84. "My homestead where I now dwell of 1 1/2 acres with all the buildings (now New Place) Also the piece called the Judd Lot with all buildings of five acres bounded west on "main Street and east on Mountain or High Street". Eliza W. Langdon Cowles married as her second husband, Judge John Rice. Cowles, Augustus from his father Elijah Cowles. Augustus and his brother James inherited also the house on the corner of "main Street and Mountain Road where they lived together. Augustus also inherited the "Judd Lot", so-called because it had been a part of the Judd property when that family lived on High Street in the house now occupied by the J.E. Hewes family. There was no distribution or any other return of the Estate of Elijah Cowles only the will giving his real estate to his two sons, Augustus and James. Cowles, Elijah from Jesse and William Judd and Ruth (Judd) Kellogg, five acres "bounded west on Town Street and east on back lane" 3/24/1773, Vol. 19, p. 265, with all buildings. The land of over eight acres with this house on Main St and the Judd house (now Hewes) on High St, were all in the Judd family since before 1700. This house, moved back to a jog in the line in the rear was used as a tenement until moved again to its present location back of the main house (Barch Knoll). It has heavy chestnut and oak frame, all pegged, and originally had a central chimney. There is bark on the roof beams. Judd, Jesse from his father Thomas. Thomas from William Judd, 11/23/1720.
**Owner's Name:** Clark, William D. & Edith A. - cont.

**Address:** 37 Main St. - cont.

**Date Built:**

**For:**

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**Additional Information**

William Lawrence, who was working on the Todd House before and after it was moved, said Barcellus of Middletown did the moving of the Todd House and also of the Judd House.

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**Former Owners:** of Main house (known as Todd house) cont.

5/2/1726, Vol. 4, p. 335; Isaac Lewis from his father William Lewis, six acres and dwelling house bounded e. on mountain, w. on a narrow highway, n. on ye homelott of Daniel Judd and s. in part on Capt. Ebenezer Steel & part on land of Stephen Hart.

6/2/1716, Vol. 3, p. 266; William Lewis from his father-in-law Isaac in consideration of a bond for the care of 1/4 yearly maintenance of him & his wife so long as they live in this world, one piece of land, being 6 acres more or less of pasture e. on the mountain, w. on highway, s. on land of Capt. John Stanley and n. on land of the heirs of Wm. Judd, 1/28/1712, Vol. 3, p. 85.

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**References:**
ADDRESS: 37 Main St.

DATE BUILT: ca. 1715 FOR: William Lewis
re: 1899 on present site FOR: Frederick Miles

Present Garage, the former JUDD house, built ca. 1750?

ARCHITECT

MASTER-BUILDER for present house Gallagher


REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 29 for JUDD HOUSE, now garage, (the small house in rear of main house); also p. 149, 'the property of Fred Miles'. Same, pp. 28 & 29, for main house, formerly known when on High St. as the Dr. ELI TODD HOUSE.
Former Owners, cont.:

Cowles by will dated 10/14/1850, recorded Prob. Vol. 11B, p. 84. (Eliza Cowles 2nd husband was John Rice). August Cowles inherited from his father Elijah the "Judd Lot" 2/7/1826. There was only the will - no dist.; Elijah Cowles from Jesse & Wm. Judd & Ruth Kellogg, the Judd Lot 3/24/1773, Vol. 19, p. 265, with all bldgs. Cowles, Elijah from Est. of father Elijah 7/24/1813, Vol. 37, p. 560.

TITLE FOR MAIN HOUSE: The main house has same title as JUDD house back to Frederick Miles who, with his mother, acquired full title 8/22/1898, Vol. 71, p. 367 from other children; Frederick & Rebecca Miles sold the land on High St. to A.A. Pope 10/1/1899 Vol. 71, p. 426, retaining the house which was moved to Main St. that yr.; Fred & Rebecca inherited from the intestate est. of Isaac Miles 3/26/1881, Vol. 16, p. 72, Prob. Rec. ; Isaac Miles from Harriet Thomson 1/10/1860, the deed not indexed & no record found, but referred to in a mortgage from Isaac Miles to Asahel Thomson 1/14/1860, Vol. 58, p. 39, for $1500; A. Thomson from Dr. Eli Todd for $2000 6/26/1819, Vol. 40, p. 357; (Dr. Todd had previously sold to Z. Swift who quit claim back); Eli Todd from Josiah Huntington of Wethersfield 10/31/1798, recorded 7/28/1800, Vol. 33, p. 296, the same description as in previous & subsequent deeds; J. Huntington from William Hart, his home lot "where I now dwell east side of back lane, 7 acres 2 roods, e. on mountain, w. on back lane, n. on James Judd and s. on Solomon Whitman, T. Pitkin & heirs of Elijah Cowles with a dwell- inghouse, barn & shop,"for 200 pounds 2/28/1794, Vol. 30, p. 328; Todd mortgaged the above to J. Huntington for 1500., 11/1/1798, recorded 1/5/1799, Vol. 32, p. 206; Hart, Wm. from Eli Andrus, same, but no shop mentioned 8/27/1782, Vol. 24, p. 261, for an exchange of land & bldgs.; Eli & Timothy Andrus a division of the homestead formerly our honored father's Stephen Andrus 6/27/1766, Vol. 15, p. 9; also a division of the property where each took half of the Homelott 3/16/1774, Vol. 20, p. 385; Eli Andrus from his father Stephen "the north half of my dwellinghouse and one acre and using with me the Seller under the house and the gardens near the house" 5/29/1754, Vol. 9, p. 518; Stephen Andrus from Isaac Lewis 7 1/2 acres with all bldgs."it being ye lot on which I ye sd Lewis now live
This house is pictured in the Farmington Book twice, first on page 28 as the Eli Todd house, standing on High Street, and again on page 29, after having been moved from High Street to Main Street and much altered, as the residence of Fred Miles. Another house originally stood on this site, probably the one pictured on page 149 as the residence of both Charles Risley and Jasper Williams. Baker and Tilden's Atlas of 1869 shows the latter house on this site, indicated as "J. S. Rice", husband of the widow Mrs. Augustus Cowles who had inherited it in 1851 and then married Judge John Strong Rice in 1853. The Atlas shows the Eli Todd house as it was on High Street, and designated as "I. Miles".

It will be noted that three houses show in the photo on page 29. The one to the left is the Charles Risley and Jasper Williams residence, on its present site. That in the center is the re-modeled Dr. Todd house. The one to the right is the residence of John Hurley and Frank Chidsey, also pictured on page 149, and mentioned in the sketch of 47 Main Street.

Regarding early settlers on this property, Mrs. Hurlburt has mentioned William Adams and Joseph Kellogg. On page 356 of "Town Clerks" is the following:

"William Adams was an original proprietor and one of the earliest settlers in Farmington. He lived on the Town Path (Main Street), about opposite the home of Miss Florence T. Gay, the record of ownership being dated 1653. Little is known of him. He died in Farmington July 18, 1655, and his widow Elizabeth died two weeks later on August 3, 1655".

Joseph Kellogg is mentioned only incidentally at the bottom of page 365 as the cousin of Nathaniel Kellogg, who owned several acres between Main Street and High Street.

Edward Stebbins also appeared to hold property here. On page 372 the following is noted:

"Stebbins sold his home in Farmington in 1659 to Isaac Moore. It was a one-acre piece with a spring on it, and about opposite the home of Miss Florence Gay". (36 Main Street). Edward Stebbins moved to Hartford, and was "one of the prominent and more wealthy men of the colony". He may also have an ancestor of a well-known Farmington family, as it has been stated that his daughter Elizabeth married one Thomas Cadwell of Hartford in 1658.

Mrs. Hurlburt wrote up the history of this house in 1953 for the Colonial Dames Society, under the title of "Clark-Lewis House", and all the information directly following this paragraph, and through the first mention of Dr. Eli Todd, has been taken from that account, although arranged differently.

A house which had probably been built in 1720 or earlier, the Risley and Williams house mentioned above, had previously stood on this site, on a five-acre piece of land which Elijah Cowles purchased from Jesse and William Judd and their sister Ruth Judd Kellogg, in 1773.

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The ancestry of the Judes is given in the account of 40 High Street. Elijah Cowles was at that time in business with four brothers. The property was inherited by Elijah's sons Augustus and James. It was later inherited from Augustus Cowles by his wife, the former Eliza Wadsworth Langdon. Widowed in 1851 she was married in 1853 to John S. Rice, as noted on the previous page. After his death she willed it to her niece, Sarah Gruman. Frederick Miles purchased it from Sarah Gruman on June 15, 1899.

Mr. Miles had it moved from its original site, and it has later been converted to a combined garage, recreation room and change room for the swimming pool which is now located nearby. It has ancient oak framing, pegged, and shows that it had a central chimney. When it was being repaired in 1951 some old sheathing was found under the vertical boarding, apparently made of hair, seaweed or other pliable material, resembling heavy paper when it was found.

The residence known as the Fred Miles house, much altered of course by the time its photo was taken in 1906, was probably built between 1712 and 1716, on six acres of land acquired from his father-in-law by William Lewis. He received it from Isaac Moore as consideration for the promise that Lewis would bear one quarter of the yearly care of Mr. Moore and his wife "shall live in this world".

When William's son Isaac Lewis inherited it from his father on June 2, 1716, the property was six acres and a dwelling house.

In 1726 Stephen Andrus purchased this land with all its buildings, bounded on the west by "a narrow highway", and on the south by the property which is now the site of the Farmington Museum.

Eli Andrus in 1754 inherited from his father Stephen the "north half of my dwelling house".

In 1766 Eli and his brother Timothy recorded an agreement whereby Eli received from Timothy one-half of the homestead "formerly of our honored father".

William Hart acquired the property in 1782, exchanging for it some other land and buildings.

Josiah Huntington purchased it from William Hart, "on the east side of Back Lane" in February 1794.

Dr. Eli Todd obtained it from Josiah Huntington on July 28, 1800. The house stood at that time on what was later known as "the snake lot", just across the street from the site of the house now known as 32 High Street, which was built in or near 1902.

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The village of Farmington was very fortunate to have had Dr. Todd settle here. One of the reasons for such consideration was the establishment of the smallpox hospital which he and Dr. Wadsworth of Southington started, which was very beneficial to the health of the residents. Mrs. Hurlburt reports on Page 113 of "Town Clerks" that a petition was presented by these two doctors at the town meeting of December 12, 1791, asking "permission to establish and open a hospital at some convenient place within the limits of the town and near the Southington line, for the purpose of inoculating for the smallpox during the ensuing autumn".

This hospital was established on the eastern edge of the mountain toward New Britain, and they did inoculate successfully many of the young people of the village.

The treatment was described by James Shepard in an article in the Connecticut Quarterly, Volume 1, page 50, of 1895. He says:

"In these days of vaccination and anti-vaccination, inoculation for smallpox is not a familiar subject. The first known cases (of smallpox) appeared in the 6th century. A person once having it is usually protected for life against a second attack, but not always, as cases have occurred where persons have had it three times. Formerly it proved fatal to a bout a quarter or a fifth of all who were attacked. Inoculation is the introduction under the cuticle, of a minute portion of the virus of the real smallpox, and it is remarkable that when thus communicated the disease is far less violent than if communicated by a natural contagion, and yet a second attack is as improbable as in cases where persons take the disease in any other way. When taken by inoculation in some retired (meaning secluded) hospital, everything could be prepared for, and the physician in charge could begin with the proper treatment without waiting for symptoms. The mortality was rarely greater than one in six or seven hundred. The operation was introduced into Europe from the East by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, and was first performed in London in 1721".

The treatment given by Drs. Todd and Wadsworth was probably much the same as described above. Most of this treatment was probably given by Dr. Todd, as he lived here, but Dr. Wadsworth likely came up to treat the patients from his town of Southington. Dr. Theodore's son Dr. Harry Wadsworth purchased in 1805 the house at 122 Main Street, having married Ann Goodwin Mix of the house across the street at number 123.

The only remaining physical reminder of this hospital is "Hospital Rock", on which many patients and their visitors carved their names or initials, and sometimes the date. Mrs. Hurlburt has covered this thoroughly in "Town Clerks", on pages 195 through 197. The writer knows of only one Farmington resident who was able to find the rock during the six years of the writer's residence in Farmington.

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Julia Cowles of Oldgate, in a letter of March 29, 1797, tells of a group of five girls and two married women who are going up for inoculation, and says: "Mr. Sweet is not going to take any boys or men on this trip". On November 3, 1799, she says of another group recently inoculated: "I have just returned from visiting the hospital --- they have the symptoms".

Eras tus Scott, who lived in the house now owned by the Wallace MacDonalds on Main Street, and born in 1787, was one exception to the rule. He had been given smallpox by inoculation but later, looking after a smallpox patient, he took it again. He recovered and lived a long and useful life, as mentioned by Julius Gay on page 79 of the Farmington Book.

Mr. Gay introduces Dr. Todd on page 26 of the Farmington Book as follows, first mentioning his house as: "The gambrel-roofed house where lived Dr. Eli Todd from 1796 until his removal to Hartford in 1819. (Photo #52 on page 28). Of this eminent man you will find appreciative notices in two addresses of President Porter (of Yale) and in the article on the "Connecticut Retreat for the Insane", by Dr. Stearns in the Memorial History of Hartford County. He will probably be longest remembered as the first superintendent of the Connecticut Retreat for the Insane in Hartford, where his system of minimum restraint and kind treatment opened a new era for suffering humanity".

Note: Julius Gay found this house on High Street, walking down from what is now 49 High Street, passing the Whitman house, now the Farmington Museum, but he was speaking in 1895, not 1905, as was erroneously stated on page 7, therefore Dr. Todd's house had not yet been moved to its present site at 37 Main Street.

Dr. Todd played the violin, and led the orchestra consisting of violin, bass viol, flute, clarinet and bassoon, which furnished church music for the Congregational Church until an organ was installed in 1861. He was also a member of the "Conversational Club" of Farmington, probably not a club at all, but merely a group which included Deacon Edward Hooker of the house on Mountain Road which stood west of what is now 50 High Street, in the latter of which Deacon Hooker lived his married years.

Among the members of what the Deacon called the Conversational Club, were the following well known men of the community of Farmington:

- Egbert Cowles of 185 Main Street,
- Chauncey Deming of 80 " "
- Epaphras Goodman Principal of the Farmington Academy,
- Capt. Luther Seymour 19 Main Street,
- Dr. Asahel Thomson 15 " "
- Gov. John Treadwell Farmington Avenue at Great Rock.

John Hooker, Deacon Edward's son, writing of his father's conversations with the above gentlemen, includes the following:

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“Of all the conversations he so laboriously reported, none can compare for clearness of thought, breadth of range, liberality of sentiment, and nobility of heart and mind, with those of Dr. Eli Todd. He says Dr. Todd is hardly willing to rank the pleasures of music with those of sense, for he thinks them intimately connected with the best affections of the heart. When in Trinidad he daily saw a tiger of prodigious fierceness confined in a cage, so rapacious that if a piece of meat were put to him he would instantly tear it into shreds. He (Dr. Todd) played airs on a flute by the cage day after day, and the beast every day seemed less wild; till in a short time he would purr like a cat and roll and rub and be apparently the subject of inexpressible delight. An experience which may have profited the doctor in his new and kindly methods of treating the insane in after life”.

Dr. Eli Todd was born in New Haven on July 22, 1769, the son of Michael and Mary Todd. He was graduated from Yale in 1787, then spent some time in the West Indies. Upon his return he studied for two years under Dr. Beardsley of New Haven. He started his practice in Farmington in 1790, buying in 1800 this house on High Street. Where he had lived for the first ten years of his residence here, and when he was married, are not presently known. He practiced in Farmington until 1819, perhaps his most noted work here being that of inoculation for smallpox, mentioned earlier in this account. He was one of the first members of the Connecticut Medical Society, and was at its first meeting in October 1792, together with Dr. Theodore Wadsworth of Southington. Dr. Todd was 50 years of age when he started practice in Hartford in 1819, but he was of course already well known. He immediately became active in the movement to found a Retreat for the Insane, to give them more humane treatment, which might lead to their recovery. His efforts resulted in the construction of the hospital for them, and his own appointment in 1823 to be its first superintendent. It opened in 1824 and made very good progress toward the objectives set up.

Dr. Todd is said to have been the first man to teach and practice psychiatry in the United States.

He was aided in his work at Hartford Retreat by a Farmington descendant, Dr. Thomas G. Lee of New Britain, a sixth generation Lee, an uncle of Charles Northam Lee who lived from 1902 to 1919 in the house at 31 Main Street.

Dr. Todd's wife died in 1825 and he later re-married, but left no children from either marriage at his death in November 1833.

Dr. Asahel Thomson eulogized him with much praise. Among his comments on Dr. Todd were that "he was a man of rare mental endowments, of uncommon conversational power, and of strong religious character”.

A handsome portrait of Dr. Todd hangs in the Connecticut Historical Society's headquarters at 1 Elizabeth Street in Hartford.

Dr. Todd's first wife was Rachel Hills, born in East Hartford in 1775, the daughter of Amos Hills and Rachel Lewis, who came to Farmington around 1779 and whom he married in 1796. Rachel Todd died in 1825 and in 1828 Dr. Todd married her sister Katherine, born in Farmington in 1788. She lived until 1866.
begun, I am convinced that mental disorder is as definitely a manifestation of disease as is a fever or a fracture . . . Let us make diligent inquiry, find out how prevalent this disease is and then establish an institution for its treatment and cure.” — Dr. Eli Todd, in an 1820 address to the Hartford Medical Society
This article, first in a series of four, has been excerpted from the first chapter of Institute of Living, a book written by Dr. Francis J. Brace lands and just published in connection with the Institute's 75th anniversary this week.

Dr. Brace lands was the Institute's psychiatrist-in-chief from 1952 to 1965 and since then senior consultant and chairman of planning and development.

No one can fix upon the first appearance of that great enigma, mental illness—it is as old as man. Mysterious as the sources of the Nile, it always was; there never was a time when it was not. Known variously as the workings of magic, sorcery, demons, witchcraft, and diabolism, it has evidenced itself in some form and, more often than not, it has called forth fear in the minds of the beholders, for the fact that a mind can be unsound is a disturbing thought. This holds true even to this present enlightened day.

Thus, even those individuals who are sympathetic and want to be understanding of mental illness prefer to be away from those whose thinking and behavior are different. Despite the fact, therefore, that mental illness is ubiquitous, plays no favorites, and spares no age, group, creed, or culture, the victims are at a disadvantage in the very milieu in which, because of their illness, they have become dependent.

To attempt to trace the history of the treatment of the mentally ill throughout the years would take us too far afield in this presentation. We would become lost in a world of specious cruelty, clanking chains, and unbelievable evidences of man's inhumanity to man.

Also, the detailed history of these events would be only indirectly suited to our purpose here, which is to show briefly the background factors and the needs which led to the founding of institutions for the care of the mentally ill in our own country. Particularly are we interested in the first hospital of any kind in Connecticut which was founded in 1832 as "The Connecticut Retreat for the Insane," and became known popularly for years as "The Retreat." It is now "The Institute of Living."

Hospital Needed

There were numerous evidences of mental aberrations in high and low places in the turbulent seventeenth-century Europe that the Pilgrims left. The continent was beset with religious wars and violent hatreds; it is said that over 100,000 persons lost their lives in the 300 years that witchcraft mania raged. The mentally ill, the eccentrics, the poor, the ignorant, and the politically deviant were the scapegoats of the day, as the unhappy, obsessed populations projected its anxieties and guilt upon them.

It may be assumed that the Pilgrims would not bring with them anyone who was obviously mentally ill. They would be left behind as were the young children, the physically ill, the aged, and the infirm because of the hazards that might be encountered in the perilous Atlantic crossing. It did not take long, however, as the colony grew, before irregularities of behavior began to appear, and local records indicate that colonial villages soon were plagued with the same type of mental difficulties that always had worried European communities.

The first notation of public attention to the mentally ill in Connecticut is in the records of New Haven Colony in 1645 when Sister Lampson was made a public charge.

After 1715 when the General Assembly again made the selectmen responsible for "distracted or impotent persons," nothing else official was done about these sick people for the next century. Meanwhile, any surroundings (however, cramped or forbidding) and any devices deemed as proper measures for confining or restraining the insane were adopted without exciting any more than a passing interest.

The shocking custom of selling the poor with the insane among them was widespread. They were put on the auction block, like so many chattel slaves, except they were sold to the lowest bidder. The idea and the custom was to get rid of all public charges at the lowest possible cost and with the least amount of trouble.

Hopeful Sign

The first hopeful sign that something might be brewing to help the mentally ill came in the 1812 meeting of the Connecticut State Medical Society. At the meeting Dr. Nathaniel Dwight of Colchester, a clergyman-physician, suggested that the subject of a hospital for the mentally ill in the State of Connecticut be brought before the society. A committee was formed to collect information concerning the "lunatics" and report at the next convention. Nothing happened, and the committee was simply reappointed year after year. In December 1820, when a few members of the Hartford County Medical Society were meeting in the old Hartford Hotel, however, something did happen.

One of those at the meeting, Dr. Eli Todd of Hartford, discussed the prevalence of mental disease in Connecticut and the sad condition under which patients lived. He believed there was a tendency to mental illness in a number of New England families for several reasons, one of which was that "the easy transition from one rank of American society to another, and the facility with which wealth is accumulated, serve to cherish even in humble life, those hopes, which in other countries are repressed or entirely subdued." He felt that these high expectations were precursors of disappointment and when the advance did not materialize numerous cases of insanity were thereby produced.

Todd then described what he envisioned by way of an asylum for mental patients. "Such an asylum should be the reverse of everything which usually enters into our conceptions of a mad house. It should not
be a jail in which . . . the unfortunate maniacs are confined. Nor should it be merely a hospital, a place where they may have the benefit of medical treatment — for without moral management, the most judicious course of medication is rarely successful. Nor should it be merely a school where the mind is subject to discipline . . .

At the next State Medical Society convention, in May 1821, Dr. Todd was placed on a committee to consider the subject of a "lunatic hospital." Dr. Todd apparently was the stimulus the committee needed, for on October 3 a resolution of the May meeting was held and it was voted to accept the constitution for the organization of the Society for the Relief of the Insane. News of the purpose of the society was to be spread about and its first task would be to determine the number of "lunatics" in the state. Early figures were deemed unsatisfactory but the committee obtained enough information to announce with confidence that there were more than 1,000 persons with mental derangement scattered throughout Connecticut.

The petition, praying for the establishment of an asylum in order that the sufferings of the insane might be mitigated, was presented to the General Assembly in 1822. To demonstrate its substantial interest, the State Medical Society "emptied its coffers" of $600, all that it had, in support of the cause.

On the evening on May 7, 1822, the medical and county committees met in the State House in New Haven. The necessary funds had been collected from about 1,700 people, and amounted to $12,000 in cash or pledges. "The Connecticut Retreat for the Insane" was chosen as the name of the proposed establishment, and it was decided that the time had come to petition the legislature then in session for an act of incorporation and a grant of money.

The joint resolution of the assembly which granted the charter is an historical document. The legislators seemed to be so completely captivated by it that they vied one another in promoting the cause.

The committee set to work with fresh vigor sending agents into every town in the state. By October $20,000 had been subscribed. On Oct. 28, 1822, the subscribers met at the courthouse in Middletown to organize the society and choose directors, and a subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Bishop Brownell, was charged with selecting the proper site in the city.

During this time, there were stirrings and spontaneous waves of humanistic concern about the mentally ill in other parts of our own nation and in foreign lands.

The poor, the lame, the benighted prisoners, and the "lunatics" were beginning to be looked upon in a new light. There were the beginnings of optimism regarding curability of illness; also, a beginning shift from medical to psychological forms of treatment. The strict observance of Calvinistic thought was waning; man was seen in a more understanding light. Internal constraint was seen to be preferable to rigid doctrinaire external restraints.

Focus on Hartford

We find Hartford a small but bustling city as Bishop Thomas C. Brownell's search committee weighed various prospects for a site for the founding of the Retreat. On Dec. 27, 1822 he reported to the directors that they had examined nine different places and gave the price for which each could be obtained and enumerated their several advantages and disadvantages.

The ninth place examined was Ira Todd's place (no relation to Eli Todd) — "one and a quarter miles southwest from the State House, 15 acres of land, a house, two barns, crib, and cider house, price: $2,400.

The directors agreed to buy the land and the society voted on January 7, 1823 that the Todd land be fixed upon as the site for the Retreat, and on the same day appointed Eli Todd to be its superintendent.

Todd's salary was set at $1,000 per year providing he move into the dwelling house and perform the duties of both superintendent and resident physician. All of this imposed a stiff financial sacrifice but Todd was inspired and the matter was so close to his heart that he accepted the task.

The directors' over-all building plan was adopted. Soon an imposing building of stone and white cement crowned the long high western ridge. It faced the rising sun. From this eminence the eye ranged more than a hundred miles; from the Green Mountains of Vermont to the winding Connecticut River with its busy watercraft and the heights of Middletown beyond.

The Retreat consisted of a center building, with two wings.

The whole cost was not to exceed $12,000, which is approximately what it did turn out to be, short of $600. Each wing opened out into an enclosed half acre of courtyard laid out in the style of pleasure gardens in order to afford exercise, recreation, and air "to those who cannot safely range abroad." There were "sixty commodious, and some of them spacious apartments capable of accommodating from forty to fifty patients."

Costs for patients were to be as follows: citizens of Connecticut, $3 per week; for those living outside the state, $4 per week; and $10 to $12 per week for those requiring a suite and an exclusive personal attendant. By spring the walls were dry, and on April 4, 1824, "a day soft with the promise of growing things, the Retreat was formally opened with prayers and hymns."

Under these favorable auspices the Retreat began its mission. Its first patients were a male, single, 30, suffering from the result of "fanaticism," and a young woman, 28, who had "broken down recently from over-exerting the intellect with difficult studies."

Thus began the long procession of the emotionally distressed who would appear at the Retreat's door through generations to come.

Next: Eli Todd and his Retreat.
Dr. Eli Todd, a New Haven native who practiced medicine in Farmington, was the man most responsible for the founding of the Institute 150 years ago, and was its first superintendent. The original building of The Institute of Living, known in its earlier days as the Hartford Retreat, still stands as the hospital's Center Building. It cost about $12,000 to build and could accommodate 40 to 50 patients. The building was completed in the spring of 1824.

Shortly before 1800, travelers passing through the Town of Farmington on the road to Hartford "would observe a little cage set in a bank near the turnpike"; in the cage was a man obviously mentally ill "staring and shouting to the passing travelers; subsequently, he was removed to a barn nearby where he sat crouched on his limbs till . . . they could not be straightened. Here he sat year after year covered over with an old blanket. and had his food given him as it was to the chickens in the barnyard.

An unpleasant and shameful idea? To be sure, but incidents like the one above (which, incidentally, is true) weren't uncommon in Connecticut in the late 1700s and early 1800s, for Connecticut . . . and most other states . . . had no hospitals where the mentally ill could be treated.

Before the end of the 18th century (when Hartford was a city of 4,000 people) the mentally ill were looked upon as victims of witchcraft, sorcery, demons, and other forms of occultism. They were beaten, starved, imprisoned, or driven from town to town. Medicine was a fledgling science then, about 150 years ago — mental aberrations weren't often
treated by doctors: the mentally ill, when they were cared for at all, were the special province of the clergy — or of kindly relatives or town officials.

How then, out of the confused and occasionally cruel ideas about mental illness that prevailed at the time, did the Hartford Retreat, now the Institute of Living, come to be founded?

It's a long story, a story that's still unfolding 150 years later. And much of the credit for the founding of the hospital goes to one man, Dr. Eli Todd, and to one group, the Connecticut Medical Society.

The mistreatment and nontreatment of the mentally ill had bothered a number of people over the years, but it wasn't until 1820 that anything concrete was proposed for their relief. (In 1812, a Colchester doctor had prodded the State Medical Society to form a committee to collect information on the mentally ill throughout Connecticut, but the committee reconvened for years without accomplishing anything.) In December of 1820, though, a meeting of the Hartford Medical Society in the old Hartford Hotel, things started happening. After a long dinner, Dr. Eli Todd, a 51-year-old New Haven native who practiced in Farmington and who had moved to Hartford only the previous year (and whose special interest was mental illness), took the floor and spellbound his listeners with a long discourse about such illness. He talked about the history of mental illness, listed cruelties perpetrated on the mentally ill, discussed on the effects of the illness on both the sufferer and his family. He lauded asylums in Paris and England where the mentally ill were treated as human beings — and were sometimes cured of their illnesses (an unheard-of idea at the time).

Then he spoke about his own vision of an asylum for the mentally ill: not a jail for confinement, not a hospital for medical treatment only, not a school where the mind is disciplined, but a place where humane care and treatment (he called it "moral treatment") combined with the use of certain medicines would restore the ill to their former mental health. He concluded with these historic words: "Gentlemen, I am convinced that mental disorder is as definitely a manifestation of disease as is a fever or a fracture. It is our duty to attack this disease. Let us make diligent inquiry, find out how prevalent this disease is and then establish an institution for its treatment and cure."

Todd's words stirred the group to action. The time was ripe for ending the abuses perpetrated on the mentally ill, and Todd was the right man for the time. The group moved — they brought the case for an asylum before the whole State Medical Society, and within a year, a Relief Society was formed to collect both money and facts about the number of mentally ill in the state.

The group eventually determined that there were in Connecticut at the time at least a thousand mentally ill people, out of an overall population of less than a quarter of a million. Society members managed to collect $12,000 in cash and pledges (The State Medical Society emptied its coffers of $500), and then they petitioned the General Assembly for an act of incorporation and a money grant to found "The Retreat," the chosen name for the asylum.

On the evening of May 22, 1822, Todd received a jubilant note from Hartford's representative to the Assembly. The note said, "I have just marched from the battlefield in full triumph. Today after a long and animated debate, the petition was granted — $5,000 from the Treasury and a brief for five years of liberty to solicit public contributions."

The Retreat was close to becoming a reality. The Society went to work soliciting still more pledges, and by October, 1822, $20,000 had been collected — enough money, it was thought, to found the Retreat.

Things moved quickly — on October 28, 1822, directors of the Relief Society met in Middletown to formalize arrangements; they elected Dr. Nathaniel Terry, President of the Retreat (the present Terry Building is, of course, named after him); they unanimously chose Hartford as the site for the Retreat, and they named a site selection committee.

After some weeks, the site committee had settled on Ira Todd's farm (he was no relation to Eli Todd) as the ideal location. The nucleus of what is now the Institute property was described then as "one and a quarter miles southwest from the State House, fifteen acres of land, a house, two barns, a crib, and a cider house; price twenty-four-hundred dollars; advantages, excellent prospect, good building spot, good grounds for walks, gardens, meadow, half the land very good, the other half of a poorer quality, facility of obtaining water and building materials, easy of access, ... at a proper distance from the city and at a good price: disadvantages, the only objection of any moment in the opinion of the committee ... the contiguity of the burying ground."

The site was officially chosen on January 7, 1823; on the same date, Dr. Todd was chosen as Superintendent of the Retreat. He was reluctant to accept, for he didn't want people to think that he had urged the founding of the Retreat just to aggrandize himself, but he was persuaded to take the appointment. The salary proposed was $600 per year, but after strenuous objection from Todd's medical colleagues, it was raised to $1,000 per year (a stiff financial sacrifice for Todd). It was stipulated that he live on the grounds and act as both Superintendent and Resident Physician.

So the Retreat had a charter, a site, a Superintendent, and a President — now it was time to begin building.

The building committee selected a mason, and directed him to use Chatham freestone covered with white cement on the building. Soon what is now the core of the Institute's Center Building rose. It was fifty feet square, three stories high, had two wings, each 50 by 30 feet, was heated by air flues from the cellar furnace (a real luxury at the time) and cost $12,000 to build. It could accommodate 40 to 50 patients at a time, the patients to be segregated according to sex; the nature of their illnesses; "their habits of life and the wishes of their friends." The cost: three dollars a week for Connecticut citizens and four dollars weekly for out-of-state patients.

On April 4, 1824, formal opening ceremonies, with prayers and hymns, were held. The Rev. Thomas Robbins of East Windsor prayed that God make the Retreat "eminently successful in restoring reason to the distracted, in comforting the desponding, releasing the tempted, and restoring the broken in heart to comfort and peace."

Sunday, The Hartford Courant Magazine
Dr. Asahel and Harriet Thomson, man and wife, purchased this house on June 26, 1819, when Dr. Eli Todd left Farmington for Hartford. Dr. Thomson had become acquainted with Dr. Todd in medical school, and came here afterward to settle down. He was perhaps the leading physician here from the time Dr. Todd left, until his own death in 1866.

In 1845, on December 9, Dr. and Mrs. Thomson purchased the house on Main Street at what is now #15, pictured on page 27 of the Farmington Book as the Dr. Thompson place, and lived there from then on.

On January 10, 1860, Mrs. Thomson gave a deed for the High Street house to Isaac Miles. Who had occupied it during the intervening 15 years is not presently known.

Isaac Miles' wife was Rebecca Gallagher. One of the largest families to have been descended from the Gallaghers, nine brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of William Gallagher, 1798-1850, and Jane Lamb, 1798-1880, was probably that of Isaac Miles and Rebecca Gallagher who were married in 1853.

Isaac Francis Miles, 1825-1880, had been born in Bristol, England. Rebecca Gallagher, 1832-1914, had been born in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

As has been stated previously, Isaac Miles received a deed for this property from Harriet Thomson, a deed dated on January 10, 1860. The Miles family may have lived in the house prior to that time, as the Thomsons had moved to Main Street in 1845. Mr. Miles did not have the deed recorded, and it was not entered in the town records until on May 25, 1898, long after his death.

Isaac Miles was a farmer, and someplace has been recorded as a butcher. He is said to have owned considerable land at one time. Not much specific knowledge regarding Mr. Miles is available. His name appears in the list of members of Robert Treadwell's Cornet Band of 1876, as mentioned by Mrs. Hurlburt on page 251 of "Town Clerks". It is possible however that the band member was his son, bearing the same full name, born in 1858.

The children of Isaac and Rebecca were:

George born 1855    Sarah born 1852
William " 1857    John " 1864
Isaac Jr " 1858    Frederick " 1866
Henry " 1859    Alexander " 1869
Abraham " 1860    Edward " 1877

December 17, 1973
George F. Miles, 1855-1923, may have been the member of the family best known in Farmington, as he was the butcher and meat market owner of the village for many years. In addition to the fact that he was a butcher by vocation, all his brothers and sister nicknamed him "Butcher" also, and always called him that.

What was perhaps his first butcher shop was located in the Finnegan building, across the street from 10 Main Street. It is pictured in a photo on page 88 of the Farmington Book, and is the building to the right, in that photo. The family is believed to have lived upstairs, the shop being on the first floor, but other tenants also lived on the second floor in addition to the Mileses. The building was purchased by Henry Steinmetz on June 20, 1907, and was sold on that same day to Alfred A. Pope of Hillstead. The building was razed soon after ward, and a few years later the building now known as 11 Main Street was built on its site.

George Miles and his family then moved to the house at 101 Main Street, in fact they had already moved to that house sometime prior to its sale. It is pictured on page 21 of the Farmington Book as the Deacon Simeon Hart place, residence of George F. Miles. Here he operated his butcher shop in a small building to the rear of the house. He also, with his horse and wagon, made weekly trips through the village and the outlying areas, selling meat from the wagon.

Mr. Miles' wife was the former Amelia (sometimes written as Emelie) Rudolph, born in Germany in 1854 and coming to Farmington in 1870, the daughter of John Rudolph and Christine Hoyer. Married in 1878, their daughters Jennie and Louisa were twins, born in 1880. Jennie, who died in 1903, was never married. Louisa, who lived until 1939, married Frederick Blinn. See the account of 101 Main Street for more regarding their family.

Mr. and Mrs. Miles also took in and reared Isaac F. Miles, born in 1894, the elder son of George's brother John. Isaac later moved to Thomaston where he lived his working life in the grocery and the meat business.

After the death of George Miles in 1923, his widow spent a short time with her brother-in-law's family in Glastonbury, the home of Edward Miles, but returned to her own home where her daughter had continued to live. She died in 1925.

December 17, 1973
William Samuel Miles, 1857-1927, the second child, was married on October 21, 1876, to Ida M. Lawrence, daughter of the Robert Lawrence of Waterville Road, and sister of Emeline and Electa. The Lawrences had moved to Farmington from New Haven, living here first on Garden Street, later on Waterville Road.

Two children were born of this marriage. The first child was William George Miles, 1877-1920, nicknamed "Pete". The second child was Isaac Francis Miles III, born in 1878, and designated as III to distinguish him from the other bearers of that name, the first his grandfather, and the second his uncle. This marriage soon ended in divorce. Mrs. Miles moved to New York City, taking her younger son with her and re-marrying, becoming Mrs. Van Asbeck. She had a daughter, Elsie, who lived on Staten Island after her marriage. Isaac F. Miles III was always known as Frank. He died in the late 1930's.

On July 4, 1882, reversing the celebration of freedom, William Miles re-married, marrying Lila M. Gallagher, daughter of Thomas. She reared William's son "Pete" together with her own children whom she bore. Pete started work early in life, learning from A. J. Parker the trade of plumber. By the age of 16 he moved to New York where he lived with his mother. In Farmington he had met a New York girl, Mary Lyng, a governess with the Pembroke family which was summering in Farmington. Mary, born in Ireland, was the daughter of Elizabeth Murray and her Belgian husband. One child was born of this marriage, Elizabeth Miles. She married Thomas M. Moran and lives on Randal Avenue in West Hartford, Connecticut.

We do not know where William Miles had lived during his first marriage and the early years of his second, but in 1889 his wife Lila Miles purchased the house (now much changed) which is known as 88 Mountain Road. They may have lived in this house prior to purchase, as William's brothers Abraham and Isaac had in turn owned this house before his wife's purchase. Mrs. Lila Miles made a statement in the early 1950's, saying that all of her children had been born in this house at 88 Mountain Road. The children were:

Mabel H. Miles, b. 1883,  
m. 1906 Charles H. (Chet) Brockway, who died in 1928,

Lila S. Miles, 1885-1921,  
m. 1912 Harry L. Hart,

Howard T. Miles, 1887-1888,

Ernest S. Miles, b. 1890, now deceased.  
m. 1915 Mary A. Sears. In 1927 they were living in Htfd.  
Mrs. Miles presently resides on Beacon Street.

Sarah M. Miles, b. 1892, known as Sally,  
m. 1912 Arthur E. Burnham. In 1927 they were living in Oakland Gardens, Farmington. He died in 1950.  
m. 1971 Karl Dupree, presently reside in Southington.

Rebecca Miles, b. 1894, died ca 1970,  
m. 1920 Raymond F. Flynn.  
In 1927 they were living in Hartford.

January 13, 1974
William Miles' daughters Mabel and Sally say he was a house painter, interior and exterior.

The Brockways built a house near that of William Miles and lived there during their early married life. They raised dogs, Boston Terriers, on a commercial basis. They later lived on Scott Swamp Road, about across from the present Geri-Care Convalescent Hospital's location. They continued the breeding of dogs here also.

The William Miles house on Mountain Road was sold in 1920 to Genevieve Chase Hewes of 50 High Street. Mr. and Mrs. Miles took up residence in the Brockway's part time home in Florida's Daytona Beach, and it was there that Mr. Miles died in 1927. His widow lived her later life with the Brockways.

Mr. Brockway died in 1928. His widow, Mabel, and Mr. and Mrs. Karl Dupree, presently reside in a mobile home in Southington, Connecticut.

January 13, 1974

Karl A. Dupree, mentioned on the previous page, died in Southington at the age of 79, and was buried in Riverside Cemetery on May 13, 1974. He had been born in Vergennes, Vermont, was a veteran of World War I, and had been employed by Whitney Chain in Hartford prior to his retirement in 1960.

Raymond Flynn, also of the previous page, died in March 1974.
Isaac Francis Miles, Jr., third child, 1858-1921, was married in 1880 to Sarah Gallagher, 1856-1944, the daughter of George Gallagher of 16 Mountain Road.

Isaac's father died in that same year, and Isaac, Jr., inherited a house which his father had purchased in 1878, the house now known as 30 Mountain Road. Isaac, Jr., probably lived here during his first married years, but in 1882 he sold the house to Karl Klauser, owner and occupant of the large house just above this one, who taught music at Miss Porter's School. Two years later Isaac, Jr., purchased from Abraham Miles the house farther up the hill now known as 88 Mountain Road, which had been owned successively by his brothers William and Abraham. He may have lived there until 1889, when he sold to Lila Miles, second wife of William Miles, after which she owned it and she and her husband and family occupied it until she sold in 1920.

Although the above would indicate that he did live at 88 Mountain Road from 1884 until 1889, a statement made by Lila Miles would make us doubt this. She has stated that all her children were born at 88 Mountain Road, and the first one was born in 1883. Perhaps both families lived in the house together, or more likely Isaac, Jr., moved to New Britain several years prior to 1889.

We do know that he moved to New Britain, although the date may be unknown. His obituary stated that he had come to New Britain as the representative of a marble quarry of Barre, Vermont, and that he engaged in the monument business in New Britain. He served as a member of the State Legislature in 1903 and 1904, and afterward worked as a member of the legislature's staff.

His children were Harry Edward Miles, born in 1881; Gracie, born in 1883 who lived only five years; and Marguerite, always known as Rita.

Rita Miles married Harold Prentice, a longtime employee of Aetna Life of Farmington Avenue, Hartford, assistant personnel manager, and they lived near there until retirement. They died probably in the late 1960's or early 1970's.

Isaac Miles, Jr., died in New Britain General Hospital in December 1921, less than an hour after he had been admitted suffering from a sudden attack of indigestion. His widow continued living in New Britain after his death, her later years spent in a Masonic Home, where she died at the age of 88.

Henry Miles, born 1859, the 4th child of Isaac, Sr., and Rebecca Miles, died on September 24, 1860, at the age of 10 months.

January 13, 1974
Abraham Miles, 1860-1904, lived a fairly short life, but not much is known of it. His wife was Mary, 1869-1902, with an even shorter life.

In 1881 he received title, from his mother, to the house now standing at 88 Mountain Road. This was pictured, much different from its present appearance, on page 128 of the Farmington Book, and captioned as William S. Miles, which should read Miles. Abraham held title to the house only for three years, and then it went to Isaac Miles, Jr. We do not know where Abraham lived thereafter.

It has been surmised that he was a farmer. His niece, the former Mabel Miles, daughter of William, states that he did outside work, which could mean much the same thing.

Abraham had a daughter, Nettie Miles, 1881-1963, who married a Mr. Jean, given name unknown. Mrs. Jean worked for many years at the Sage-Allen Store in Hartford, a buyer of women's hats.

January 13, 1974
John Miles, 1864- , sixth child, was married to Augusta Schmidt sometime prior to 1893. He was living in Farmington as late as 1888, as he was mentioned on page 264 of "Town Clerks" in regard to the attempt that year to split Farmington into two towns. By 1893 however, he was living in Wallingford, where he was employed in the forge shop of a silver company, probably International Silver. Mr. and Mrs. Miles had two children, Isaac Francis Miles IV, born 1893, and Frederick A. Miles, born in 1894. Mrs. Miles died in that latter year and the two children were taken in by the Miles family back in Farmington.

Isaac F. Miles IV was cared for by George Miles and his wife Amelia, and reared as their own. He probably helped out in his Uncle George's butcher shop, which work he followed throughout his own working years. Around 1917 he took up residence in Thomaston, where he worked many years for the Fulton Market. Later he had his own store, "Miles Market", where he sold meats and groceries. His son William kept the store for a while after his father's retirement, but later sold it.

Isaac's wife was the former Margaret Martin, and their children were Amelia, William and Margaret. Amelia married Eugene Thorpe of New Haven. Among their children were two sets of twins, of whom one child died by drowning at the age of three. William is presently a meat cutter at the A & P store in Winsted. Margaret (Peggy) married Frank Gleason, and they live in Dunedin, Florida. Isaac Miles IV retired in 1956, a decision based on his brother Fred's death earlier that same year, and he and his wife moved to Largo, Florida. It appears to have been a wise decision, as it gave him three years of retirement, his own death coming in December of 1959.

Frederick A. Miles, always called "Ted", was taken into the old Miles family home, inhabited at that time by his grandmother, his Aunt Sarah, and his uncles, Fred, Alex and Edward, living then on High Street, but then moving to Main Street with the house, when it was moved and so greatly remodeled. Ted served in World War I in the 101st Yankee Division as a machine gunner, and all the family rejoiced when he came home. He was married to Genevieve , 1900-1960, and they lived in Philadelphia, where he was salesman for Arrow, Hart & Hegeman of Hartford. They had one son, Frederick, Jr. Ted's Aunt Sarah lived with them a few years before her death in 1938. Ted died of a heart attack in January 1956 after shoveling snow away from his car.

John Miles, father of Isaac and Ted, left Connecticut after the death of his wife, and lived in or near Norfolk, Virginia. He re-married, and it is believed that he died some time in the 1930's.

January 14, 1974
Frederick Miles, 1866-1921, the seventh child, attended Farmington Schools and Williston Academy, from which he was graduated in 1882. He spent about thirteen years in and around Atlanta, Georgia, where he was in electrical construction work when Coca-Cola was first made and the company organized, although unfortunately he passed up the opportunity to buy into it. He later became salesman and then New England Sales Manager for the R. and J. Dick Company, leather merchants.

The heirs of his father had sold the land on which their old home was situated on High Street, on January 20, 1899, to the industrialist Alfred A. Pope, but retained ownership of the house. The Pope family wished to include this land in the large holdings that they were building up to enhance the value of what was later to be known as Hillstead Farm, now Hillstead Estate.

At this time the Miles family living at home were Mrs. Miles, her daughter Sarah, and sons Frederick, Alexander and Edward. Frederick was the eldest of the sons, and the most affluent. He bought out the rights of his mother, sister and brothers, and thus took title to the house. He then bought from Sarah Gruman two acres and the other house, mentioned in the sixth paragraph of the first page of this account. He moved to older house, and then in 1899 had the Miles house moved down from High Street to its present site, 37 Main Street. William Lawrence, who was working at the house on High Street, remained with it as it was moved across the road and down through the fields, and was placed on the site on which the old Judd, or Cowles, house had stood.

Mrs. Hurlburt states the situation a little differently, but perhaps more accurately. She states, in a short, unpublished account of this house, that:

"Frederick Miles and his mother, acquiring full title to the house, sold the land to Alfred A. Pope who was about to build the house now Hillstead, and it was then that Fred Miles moved the old house across Back Lane, across the intervening fields, and onto its present site."

As will be seen in a comparison of the photo of this house on page 29 with the photo on page 28, you will see the extent of the alteration of the house by Fred Miles. It was almost a total transformation. The former front of the house was what is now the dining room. The dining room, breakfast room and two upstairs bedrooms are all of what was the original house. The front part of the house, the porches and the kitchen, all these had been added.

Although the house was under the ownership of Fred Miles, his mother and sister and two brothers lived here, and Fred spent much of his time on the road, selling, being at home here only between these trips.

December 23, 1973
Edward Miles moved to Glastonbury after his marriage in 1905 to Elizabeth Anna Malone.

Mrs. Miles, Sr., died in June 1914, her residence at that time being given as Newbury, New Hampshire, near Lake Sunapee, where she had a summer home.

It seems likely that the Main Street home in Farmington may have been idle much of the time from then until 1920. Edward had been married and moved away, Sarah was doing nursing, and Alex also being sometimes engaged in work away from home. Fred's unofficial home after his mother's death was with his brother Edward and family in Glastonbury, although he liked to maintain his own official residence as Farmington. He kept a man on the Farmington property at all times, keeping up the house and grounds, both in readiness for any of the family to stay when they wished.

"Uncle Fred" of course was a great favorite with Edward's children, his family of four daughters. Being a bachelor and a traveling salesman he always drove a coupe, a romantic car in those days. Edward's family always reserved a room for him in Glastonbury, and he was in turn very generous to the whole family. He entered into many of their home activities, including Christmas celebrations, when he helped in the preparations and the trimming of the tree, including the hanging of the small red felt Santa Claus at the top of the tree each year.

Fred sold the large Farmington house on June 28, 1920, and in 1921 purchased from Miss Florence Gay the house at 4 Porter Road, perhaps to maintain as a Farmington headquarters, and perhaps also as a home base for his sister Sarah and brother Alex, both unmarried. Unfortunately he died in June of that same year, from a heart attack suffered in Lee, Massachusetts, while on a business trip. He was buried in Farmington's Riverside Cemetery, from the Lawrence house on Waterville Road.

In 1923 the title to the house on Porter Road passed to his sister Sarah.

December 23, 1973
Alexander Miles, 1869-1940, the eighth child, never married. He lived at home probably much of the time until his mother's death in 1914, and made it his official residence until its sale in 1920. In 1921 his brother Fred purchased the house at 4 Porter Road, and Alex may have lived there sometime until its sale in 1923, although it was his sister Sarah who held title to it after Frederick's death, and who sold it in 1923.

Library records show that Alexander did have a house built for him in 1901, the house now known as 72 Mountain Road, on land to which his mother had passed title to him on September 2, 1900. He perhaps never lived in that house, as the records show that he sold it on April 12, 1901, to William Rhodes, who kept title to sometime in 1923.

Alexander, or Alex as he was usually called, was the organist for the Congregational Church, and joined in its other activities also.

His nieces Mabel and Sally say that he had a milk route as a young man, and that later he was somewhat in the nature of a male nurse, caring for elderly gentlemen who were in need of home care. He also did some interior house painting, and one of the houses on which both he and his brother Edward worked, was Hillstead, probably its first painting after its construction.

Alex moved to Plainville, perhaps in the later 1920's. There he bought a little land and built two houses directly across the street from each other, living in one until he sold it, and then the other, which he retained. He kept up his membership and activities in the Farmington church.

Alexander Miles died in Cheshire in July 1940.

He left his Plainville house to his nephew Frederick A. Miles, who rented it to his uncle Edward L. H. Miles who had been living in Glastonbury. A small dwelling at the rear of the property was remodeled by George V. Tolve for the use of himself and his wife, the former Marion Miles, daughter of Edward.

Both houses were sold by the Miles family in 1957.

February 9, 1974.
Sarah Miles, 1872-1938, was the ninth child and the only daughter in the family. She attended Miss Porter’s School, studying music, and later taught music for a while. Later she trained and became a registered nurse, usually working on private duty cases. She took care of Mrs. Hepburn after the births of three daughters, one of whom was Katherine. She always checked the teeth and postures of her nieces and nephews when she saw them, and it turned out very beneficially.

Sarah never married. She took title to the house at 4 Porter Road in Farmington after the death of her brother Fred in 1921, but sold it in 1923. She lived at one time with her brother Alex on Farmington Avenue in Plainville, later lived with her nephew Ted Miles in Philadelphia. She has a summer home at Newport, New Hampshire, near Lake Sunapee, and she died there in August 1938, having earlier been operated upon for a breast cancer which had entered her lungs.

She had willed the summer home to her brother Alex, and after his death two years later it went to their nephew Ted Miles, of Philadelphia.

February 9, 1974
Edward Lucas Hart Miles, 1877-1957, the tenth and last of the children, was given all three names of a prominent neighbor, Deacon Edward Lucas Hart, of 45 High Street. While Deacon Hart was living the only house between his and that of the Miles family was the Franam house, now the Farmington Museum. Deacon Hart had a private boys' school in a small building to the rear of his residence, and probably taught some of the boys of the Miles family. The old school building is now one room of the former Robert Brandegee house at 36 High Street.

Edward Miles spent his eighteenth year in Atlanta, Georgia, with his elder brother Fred, who was then working in Atlanta, and was working there when the Coca-Cola bottling company was formed. The year in Atlanta was a very pleasant one for Edward, and his fond memories of it never faded. He was very interested in sports, especially baseball, and was also an enthusiastic hunter and fisherman. He played baseball quite well, and at one time declined an invitation to play with the New York Yankees. While still living in Farmington in 1901, he was one of those chosen to serve as special constables during President "Teddy" Roosevelt's visit to Farmington on October 22 of that year. He once mentioned to his daughter of speaking with Mark Twain at the Elm Tree Inn.

Edward of course lived with his mother and the unmarried members of the Miles family in the large house at 37 Main Street, and it was he who went into the woods and found and transplanted what is now the huge and beautiful birch tree which stands in the front yard and inspired Mrs. Clark to name their home "Birch Knoll". It was a fair sized tree when moved and it is thought now to be between 80 and 84 years old.

Edward L. H. Miles was married on January 25, 1905, to Elizabeth Anna Malone, born in Drumshaabo, County Leitrim, Ireland, her father having been a cattleman and a butcher. Edward had worked for his elder brother George in his butcher shop in his early adulthood, and it was while making deliveries to a wealthy New Haven family summering in Farmington, that he met Elizabeth Malone who was working for that family. After their marriage they lived in Glastonbury, where Mr. Miles became foreman for the Williams Bros. silver manufacturing company, for which he worked until 1926. Their four daughters; Olive, Doris, Marion and Elizabeth were born in Glastonbury. Mrs. Miles was an excellent cook and always had a barrel of flour and one of sugar, in the pantry. During World War I when food was scarce Uncle Fred would bring home sugar cubes from restaurants. One of the girls caught her mother crying in the pantry one time when the flour barrel was empty.

The Miles daughters remember a usually very happy childhood, most of their entertainment being self made. They remember a magic lantern with which their father showed pictures, games that they played indoors and out, and the places that their parents took them before they had a car, which was not until the 1920's.

February 9, 1974
The Edward Miles family lived near the baseball park in Glastonbury, their house lot adjoining it in the rear. The girls sat in the stands cheering their father, who played as either the pitcher or first baseman. Sometimes they had to run home for his rule book while he argued a decision with the umpire. On Sundays the whole family often rowed across the river to Wethersfield, where they picnicked and swam in the cove with other families of neighbors. Sometimes when Mrs. Miles took the girls to Hartford on the trolley she would bring them home by way of the boat which traveled down river from Hartford to Middletown and way points. It was only a ten minute walk from the dock to their home. On summer evenings they could hear the bells of the Wethersfield prison ring out at nine o'clock from across the river, and it was their signal to come home -- curfew time. Some evenings Mr. Miles would play his violin and they would all join in song.

Frederick Miles, especially after his mother's death in 1914, stayed often with Edward and his family, who always reserved a room for them. At Christmas he helped decorate the tree, would place the small red felt Santa Claus at the top, and would be very generous with his gifts. He often took the girls in his coupe, to Hartford to a nice place for lunch, and afterward for some shopping. His early death in 1921 was the loss of a great friend and companion, as well as a close relative.

In October of 1926 the Edward Miles family moved to Bristol, where Mr. Miles worked for the American Silver Company until they went out of business around 1935. The family then moved to West Hartford while Mr. Miles was employed by Royal Typewriter, but they soon moved to Hartford. In 1940 they moved to Plainville, occupying the house which had been owned by Mr. Miles' brother Alex, and now belonged to his nephew Ted, of Philadelphia. Alexander had died in July of that year. Three of the girls were married by 1940, and although Marion and her husband lived in a small house on the same lot, Betty was the only one at home with the parents.

Edward Miles was critically injured by an automobile in 1945, hospitalised for nearly a year, and crippled for the rest of his life. Mrs. Miles suffered a stroke in December 1945 and died in April 1946, before her husband had been able to return home to live after his accident. He and Betty continued residence here. By 1956 his condition was such that he had to be placed in a convalescent home in Thomaston, and Betty then moved to Bristol. Edward Miles died in January 1957. Having been the last child of the family to have been born, he was the last to die also, and attained the longest life of any of them, the age of seventy-nine.

February 9, 1974
Olive Susan Miles was married in 1934 to George A. Nelson, 1893-1960, a widower with two children. They lived their early married life in Bristol. Mr. Nelson had served in Europe in World War I and had been a prisoner of war for a time. He was a master plumber, and during World War II he was in charge of the construction of the Bermuda Naval Base. They lived in Bermuda during this construction, and after their return to Connecticut lived in Forestville. Later he was in charge of the installation of the plumbing during the construction of King Philip School in West Hartford.

Olive had started a working life early, first with the Connecticut Mutual, and then with a law firm, and was working as the secretary for the plant engineer at New Departure in Bristol by the year 1929.

One child was born of Olive's marriage to George Nelson, Miles Arthur Nelson, born in Bermuda during their residence near the naval base. Miles served four years in the U. S. Airforce and later returned to the Orient as a civilian, repairing aircraft, visiting Japan, Thailand and other countries.

Olive Nelson resuming working again after their son was out of childhood, and when she retired due to ill health two years after her husband's death, she was secretary to an officer of the Aetna Life Insurance Company. Born in 1906, she died in 1964.

Miles Arthur Nelson was married in 1969 to Jo Ann Finkell of Daytona Beach, Florida, and they live in Erlanger, Kentucky. He is employed as sales representative by Postal Instant Press in the city of Cincinnati, just across the river from their home. Their children are Michael John and Sandra Lynn.

February 10, 1974

A third child was born to Miles and Jo Ann on April 2, 1974, a son, James Edward Nelson.
Doris Margaret Miles was married in 1936 to George J. Disney, 1914-1952, of Philadelphia. They first lived in Hartford, where Mr. Disney was employed. He was at that time a traveling salesman, later worked at Remington-Rand. He served in the Navy in World War II. At the time of his death he had been employed by the Superior Electric Company of Bristol. Their daughter, Elizabeth Miles Disney, was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, during a period of residence there. It was also while they were there, that Mrs. Disney's career as a writer was begun, with the publication of her first book, "A Compound for Death", published by Doubleday Crime Club.

Mrs. Disney even as a young girl had been a great story teller, and often made up stories to tell her two younger sisters at bedtime. The sisters all loved "Little Women", and identified themselves with Louisa Alcott's girls, Olive as Meg, Doris as Jo, Marion as Amy and Betty as Beth, but not yet knowing that Louisa Alcott's father had been born in nearby Wolcott, Connecticut.

Doris Miles Disney is now well known as an author, a writer of mystery stories, and has been very successful. Some of her books have been made into movies, and one was on television's "Studio One" some years ago. Helen Hayes, Myrna Loy, Sylvia Sydney and Mildred Natwick did a television show from her "Do Not Fold, Spindle or Mutilate", two or three years ago. Many of her books have been reprinted as paperbacks, and in foreign languages. She has had about 44 books published, many of them having been condensed in magazines, and her latest one is titled "Only Couples Need Apply".

The current TV series called the "Snoop Sisters", with Helen Hayes and Mildred Natwick, is in some respects patterned after the same book earlier used, but there is no direct connection.

Mrs. Disney lived for a time in Plainville, and then in April 1966 purchased from Gualtiere and Johnson Construction Company the House at 373 Main Street, Farmington. She lived there for two years, continuing her writing, and doing book reviews occasionally for the Hartford Courant. In May 1968 she sold her house to N. Arthur Johnson Construction Company, and it was then sold to Joseph and Cecelia Popovich, formerly of Lexton Drive. Mrs. Disney moved then to Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Mrs. Disney and her daughter still live there. Her daughter Elizabeth however, is now Mrs. Martin Laing, her husband employed in Fredericksburg.

February 10, 1974
Marion Catherine Miles was first employed as secretary to the superintendent of the coaster brake department of New Departure in Bristol, and was there from 1930 until 1941. She was married in 1940 to George B. Tolve, 1914-1960. They first lived in a small house next door to her parents in Plainville, owned by house cousin Ted Miles. Mr. Tolve's work was usually as a sales-man. He was with Blodgett and Clapp, a steel warehouse in Hartford, and later with C & S Distributors, home building and sheet metal suppliers, and having customers in many sections of Connecticut.

Not having done any outside work since 1941, Mrs. Tolve re-entered the business world in 1955, in the Bristol Sales Office of Bay State Abrasive Products Company of Westboro, Massachusetts. She has presently been fourteen years with Associated Spring of Bristol, first in the department of Research and Development, but for the last year or so in the Direct Mail Advertising Department.

Since 1945 she has lived in Forestville and Bristol, having lived in Plainville from 1940 until 1945. In 1970 she visited the town of her mother's birth in County Leitrim, Ireland, but was prevented by the war from visiting the home town of her grandmother Rebecca Gallagher, in Belfast. Her children are:

Susan Elizabeth Tolve, living at home, service representative in Bristol for Southern New England Telephone Company,

George Bennett Tolve, whose wife is the former Gloria Moffo, and whose children are Kathleen Marie and Stephen George. Mr. Tolve is employed by Bauer Manufacturing Company of Farmington's Industrial Park, and

Lawrence Edward Tolve (Larry), who married Judy Fowler, lives in Bristol, and has just last summer gone in as a partner in a business of repairing heavy machinery.

February 10, 1974
Elizabeth Helen Miles, Betty, who has never married, has worked in the secretarial field most of her working life. She first started work however, as the first female timekeeper at New Departure in Bristol, and even worked split hours so she could get both shifts. She was later with Royal Typewriter, and after that was two and one half years with the Unemployment Compensation Division, State Labor Department. In 1940 she returned to New Departure, but in 1945 she became employed by the company for whom she presently works, General Electric of Plainville. She still lives in Bristol, but is secretary to the General Manager at General Electric.

Elizabeth has a painting of which she and all her sisters are very proud, of their great-aunt Susan Gallagher. It was painted probably when she was in her fifties, and by either Maude or Mildred Cowles, daughter of James Lewis Cowles of what is now 130 Main Street.

In the former Miles home at 37 Main Street, Farmington, was found, during some remodeling, a newspaper clipping dated sometime in 1908, regarding the death of General Nelson Miles, Indian fighter, born in Wisconsin. Betty believes that there is a family relationship with him, but just how is not known.

February 10, 1974
This concludes the account of the Miles family, and we now go on to subsequent owners.

As stated on page 19 of this account, this house was sold in 1920. The purchaser at that time, on June 28, 1920, was Elbert L. Couch of Hartford. What happened to Mr. Couch is not known, but this property was sold in 1922 by "J. Lena Couch, wife of Elbert Couch, married after 1877."

Purchaser of this house on September 20, 1922, was George Lisle Forman. He was the head of Forman and Company, a Hartford brokerage firm. Mr. Forman perhaps did not alter the interior of the house, but he improved the grounds with good landscaping, including the planting of shrubbery. Mr. Forman was not to be here very long however. He was in the investment business. The stock market crested in 1929, and its subsequent crash, put him into great financial difficulties, as it did many others. On August 3, 1932, the Farmington Savings Bank foreclosed his mortgage and took possession of the house. It was rented for six or seven years to the Insley family, and it was then vacant for two or three years, becoming very run-down.

William D. Clark, a real estate owner in West Hartford, had the Sedgwick Heights Investment Corporation purchase this house on March 26, 1941, and on August 18, 1941, the Clark Investment Corporation took title. On September 30, 1947, William D. Clark and his wife Edith Adams Clark, purchased it in their own names.

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Although Mr. and Mrs. William D. Clark only took title to the property in their own names in 1947, they had been the occupants since mid 1941, moving in as soon as renovation and redecoration had been completed.

Mr. Clark is the son of Josiah Clark, of Cornwall-on-Hudson, and the former Eleanor Owings of Baltimore. Mr. Clark, Sr., was in the insurance business. Mrs. William D. Clark is the former Edith Adams, daughter of Fred Adams of Poughkeepsie, New York, and the former Minnie Wooster of Goshen, Connecticut. The Adams family goes back to John Quincy of Boston, and the Woosters have been in Goshen since the 18th century.

The Clarks had lived in Avon after their marriage in 1935, but Mr. Clark was in the investment business, with office and real estate holdings in West Hartford, so they wished to be slightly nearer to his headquarters. When they were shown this property they first thought its run-down condition was too far along to be corrected, but closer study showed the house as having a very good potential so they purchased, and never regretted it. Their first two children were born in Avon, the next two born here.

They renovated and redecorated entirely but the structure was not changed. It was Mrs. Clark who gave it the name of "Birch Knoll", as none of the houses had numbers at that time, and the beautiful birch transplanted by Mr. Miles seemed to lend great distinction to the property.

Mrs. Clark's interest in civic affairs is noted by an article in the Farmington Valley Herald of December 14, 1944, telling of Dr. Hartley Cross speaking before the Farmington League of Women Voters at the home of Mrs. William D. Clark on "The Relation of Peace to World Economy".

Mr. and Mrs. Clark have now separated and are divorced, Mr. Clark now spending the greater part of each year in Florida. Their children are:

Eleanor, now Mrs. George Taylor, Winter Park, Florida,
Sally, now wife of Dr. Hugh Bower, Norwich, Vermont,
David, in Italy, studying,
William, at home.

In 1952 the Clarks converted the building to the rear, the old 1720 Judd house, making of the upstairs a five-room apartment. It had formerly been an open loft, but they divided it into rooms, keeping in sight however, the hand-hewn chestnut beams. It has quite a bit of charm, and is now occupied by a young intern and his wife, who are connected with U-Conn Medical Dental Center.

Mrs. Clark, in 1968, had Charles Brown of West Hartford build for her a smaller house to the east of both the other two, on the site of their former vegetable garden, and then sold Birch Knoll on March 3, 1969, to Dr. and Mrs. John G. Freymann. Mrs. Clark and her son now live in the smaller house, known as 39 Main Street. The apartment, in the other building, has the same number.

March 26, 1972
Owners and occupants of this house since June 25, 1969, are Dr. and Mrs. John Gordon Freymann.

Dr. Freymann was born in Omaha, Nebraska. He is the son of Dr. John Joseph Freymann, an Omaha physician, born in Dyersville, Iowa, and Marian Wicks, born in Los Angeles, California. Dr. John J. Freymann's father was Nicholas Freymann, born in eastern Iowa about 1850, son of an immigrant from Luxembourg. Marian Wicks is the daughter of Moye Wicks who had been born in Aberdeen, Mississippi in 1855. He lived in Arizona Territory some time, was a judge, a newspaper publisher, and a member of the Territorial Legislature before moving on to California. Most of Dr. Freymann's maternal ancestors were of southern states, but who had originally lived in New England or the New York area, one of whom had originally been a Wethersfield settler. One of these ancestors had been "old Mr. Jarvis of Long Island, who shot a Hessian", presumably during the Revolutionary War.

Mrs. Freymann is the former Ruth Ellen King. Her father was Reginald George King, born in Jackson, Minnesota, a man who had a capability for many things, but was never especially well off in a financial sense. His father had been William Porter King, one of the early settlers in the Jackson area, whose brother was source of much of McKinley Cantor's research material for the writing of "Spirit Lake". Ruth King's mother was Serena Leverson, the daughter of Albert Leverson, of the Trondheim area of Norway.

Dr. John G. Freymann is a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Medical College. Mrs. Freymann is a registered psychiatric nurse, graduated from the University of Minnesota. They were both doing post-graduate work at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, when they met. After their marriage in 1950 they moved to Boston where Dr. Freymann was with Massachusetts General Hospital. They lived in Boston until 1955, when they built a house in Wayland, Massachusetts. From 1959 until 1965 he was Director of Medical Education at Memorial Hospital in Worcester, Massachusetts, and from 1965 until 1969 was Director of the Boston Hospital for Women.

The Freymanns moved to Farmington in 1969 after Dr. Freymann had been appointed Director of Education at Hartford Hospital, the post he presently holds. When the Freymanns started their search for a home, Mrs. Freymann says: "I knew exactly what I wanted, a modern house, one story, with a two-car garage and all modern conveniences". When they saw this house, exactly the opposite, they could not resist its charm, and the whole family loves it. She now says: "I feel very closely associated with this house in that I am a psychiatric nurse and was already familiar with the story of Dr. Eli Todd and the Hartford Retreat". The whole family agrees with her when she says: "Part of the joy of living here is treasuring this old house, and being a chapter in its history".

They have not changed the house very much, but they did add two bathrooms upstairs and one off the kitchen, or rather, converted the butler's pantry to a lavatory.

June 15, 1972
The Freymanns brought with them from Massachusetts two mementos of their home in Weyland. One is "Piney", an eight-foot white pine which their son Vance won when he was in the first grade. Another is a blue spruce which they bought as a Christmas tree, and stands near the southwest corner of the front porch.

A gingko tree at the northwest corner of the house might have been given to Fred Miles by Henry Martin Cowles. Is it the sapling which shows at the left in the photo on Page 297 or was this the beech tree which stands farther from the house than does the gingko?

The Freymanns say that the barn siding on the pantry indicates that this was part of an addition to the house. They believe that the kitchen and whole rear section was added in 1925, plus the master bedroom and one other upstairs, and the porches. Gables were put in also, and the attic finished. The living room ceiling, two feet lower than that of the dining room, indicates to them that the living room must have earlier been the kitchen. There is no longer any kitchen-type fireplace in the house. A wooden peg is in their possession --- one which had been used to join joists to beams. Floor joists are flattened only on one side.

An old 1908 newspaper clipping found in the attic mentions the death of General Nelson Miles, Indian fighter, born in Wisconsin. Could he have been an uncle, or brother, of Isaac Miles?

When the new bathrooms were put in by the Freymanns there was a boxed-in projection in one of the rooms, which upon uncovering was found to be the end of a hewn beam --- perhaps a part of the old roof support, left there when the roof was raised earlier to add rooms in 1925.

The Freymanns have four children, all born in Boston.

Amanda Wicks Freymann is a junior at Elmira College, Elmira, New York.

Martha Gordon Freymann is a freshman at the new Kirkland College of Clinton, New York, the women's co-ordinate of Hamilton College, which graduated its first class last month.

Sarah Hilton Freymann is in the 10th grade of Farmington High School and is the family genealogist, and

Vince Gordon Freymann is in the seventh grade at Irving Robbins in Farmington, and is the house historian.

Mrs. Freymann, while in Boston, was president of a community mental health program, and later was First Executive Director of the Greater Framingham Mental Health Association. In the Hartford area she has worked with adolescents at Marian Hall, and since its closing has worked with them at "The Bridge".

June 15, 1972
Mrs. Hurlburt has written a short, but very interesting account of this house, and it is quoted below, verbatim, almost.

"An excellent example of how a very old house can be hidden away in modernization is this lovely house overlooking Main Street, with its trade-mark tree "Birch Knoll" as carefully tended as modern tree care knows how. Inside the house, if one is looking for traces of ancient lines, can be seen part of the house built about 1715 for William Lewis on High Street, then Back Lane, just north of the Stanley house, now the Farmington Museum. There the Lewis house was the home for many years of many of Farmington's best known families. Just for the fun of it, to list them from William Lewis would be: in 1712 William Lewis from his father-in-law Isaac Moore in consideration that Lewis would take one-quarter of the care of said Moore and his wife so long as they shall live on this earth and bounded on the south by the homelot and house of John Stanley (now Farmington Museum); Isaac Lewis, from his father William; Stephen Andrus seven acres with all buildings; Stephen's sons Eli and Timothy each one half by 1766; then William Hart. In 1798 Josiah Huntington with the land bounded west on Back Lane, and south on land of Solomon Whitman all for $1500; Eli Todd, long a favorite Farmington physician was the next owner, taking his place in town, church affairs until his removal to Hartford to put into practice his thoughts of the care of the mentally deranged growing over the years into the present Institute of Living. Zephaniah Smith was a resident there, in 1819 Asahel Thompson and his wife Harriet were owners, Harriet later selling to Isaac Miles.

Frederick Miles and his mother acquiring full title to the house sold the land to Alfred A. Pope who was then about to build the house now Hillstead and it was then that Fred Miles moved the old house across Back Lane, across the intervening fields and onto its present site, land which he had purchased from Sarah Gruman, who had it from her aunt, Eliza Wadsworth (Langdon)(Cowles) Rice. Eliza's first husband was Augustus Cowles and she married for the second time, Judge John Rice. Fred Miles sold to the Thomas Couch family who later sold to William and Edith Clark.

If this title seems tedious to read, our reader can appreciate the time involved in every change of property, boundaries, dates, mortgages, quit claims and inheritance, but the old house, now so beautifully remodeled, is well worth the knowledge of its vital history in Farmington architecture and home life over the two hundred and sixty years.

Another old house, on the property when Frederick Miles moved into the Eli Todd house as it was commonly called for many years because of the affection and trust inspired by that modern humanitarian, is now an apartment and garden house on the edge of the swimming pool, moved to its site to accommodate the Todd house. Its rugged frame of beams with the bark still showing, was a Judd house on adjoining land.

Eli Todd was an impressive, vital man as shown in an old diary where he could converse on any subject of the day, always expressing his opinions convincingly, particularly on the needs, injustices of neglect of children, the poor, and the ill and elderly. He was never a member of the Congregational Church, but played the flute and led the choir when such music was finally admitted in church services".

Written perhaps around 1953.
The Ginkgo Tree, or Nothing to Sneze At

What scientists all over the place have been trying to do for years — find a cure for the common cold — a West German doctor thinks he may finally have achieved. And you’d never guess how. Ginkgo leaves, that’s the answer (he says). A few sniffs of prepared ginkgo leaves and presto! Our cold is gone in 10 to 15 seconds. Makes you happier even than sniffing glue.

Of course you know what ginkgo trees are. Botanists refer to them as a “living fossil.” The ginkgo has existed essentially unchanged for millions of years, or probably longer than any other tree known today. For centuries ginkgo trees have been planted around Chinese temples, and why not, since they have leaves shaped very much like fans. Goethe, as a naturalist, was utterly taken with these trees and largely responsible for their introduction into Europe.

From now on, if our West German doctor proves to be on the right track, Goethe will be remembered not only as the author of “Faust” but the father of the common-cold cure. The German scientist has not been alone in his interest in the ginkgo tree for medical reasons, actually. A number of Japanese researchers and chemists have been looking into the curative properties of ginkgo leaves. And an international biochemical congress in Stockholm recently heard a discussion of ginkgo-likes, described as a highly intriguing group of natural substances.

Here for a moment, the matter stands. The West German doctor reports fabulous cures of colds, bronchitis, asthma and hay-fever. Now scientists are closing in on his studies to find how the ginkgo does its stuff — when, as and if. For doctors it’s not enough that something cures. You’ve got to find out why, of course makes sense. Now, if it turns out that ginkgo leaves can cure colds, etc., in jig time, we’ve news for you. Do you know where there is a gingko tree hereabouts? Right over in Bushnell Park. Don’t rush; stand in line and hold your own ticket.

Hartford Courant
Nov. 21, 1966
This house is pictured on page 149 of the Farmington Book as the residence of Charles Risley, Jr., and Jasper Williams. The house can also be seen in the photo of 37 Main Street on page 29, to the left of the main house.

The use of the number, 37 Main Street rear, for this house is to avoid confusing it with a relatively new home built for Mrs. Edith A. Clark in 1968, which stands to the east of this. The new house is known as 39 Main Street, but it has been noted that a late tenant of this Risley-Williams house also uses 39 Main Street as his address.

The former Risley-Williams house, quoting from page 1 of the account of 37 Main Street "had probably been built in 1720 or earlier, and by a member of the Judd family". The succession of ownership, following the Judds, seemed to be as follows:

Elijah Cowles,
Augustus Cowles, son of Elijah,
Eliza Cowles, widow of Augustus,
Sarah Gruman, Eliza's niece,
Frederick Miles.

Mr. Miles purchased this house, and the land on which it stood, in 1899, and had it moved to the east, so that upon its site he could place the Eli Todd house, which he moved down from its former site on High Street. This Risley-Williams house had been rental property for some years, and Mr. Miles continued its use in that manner.

Charles Risley, Jr., later took up permanent residence at 11 Colton Street, but the writer knows nothing of Jasper Williams.

Some other tenants remembered by local residents are the following, but dates and sequence are not known:

Mrs. S. K. Loomis, see 829 Farmington Avenue,
Joseph Parolis and family,
George Bryant and family,
Mr. Carlson, shoemaker,
A family named Post,
Albert Hart, later of Maple Street.

Ownership passed to the William D. Clark family in 1941. They put in a swimming pool and this house was used as a combined garage, recreation room and change room. Around 1951 or 1952 the upper floor was converted to a five-room apartment, and still remains as such, and rented. The present owner is Mrs. Edith A. Clark, who lives in the new house to the east of this, but who in 1969 sold the large house on the street, 37 Main Street, to Dr. and Mrs. John G. Freymann.

May 5, 1974

The tenant here, according to the 1972 phone book is Pedro A. Arlant.